

**DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE FLORA**

## The California Native Plant Society

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**Volume 30 No. 2  
March/April 2009**

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### Bristlecone Chapter

#### Next Chapter Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday March 25, 2009, at White Mountain Research Station, 3000 E. Line St. in Bishop. Conservation Chair Daniel Pritchett will present: *Bad Day at Blackrock\**: A Case Study in Groundwater Management Under the Inyo LA Long Term Water Agreement. Daniel will discuss monitoring data documenting deterioration of native meadow near Blackrock, our chapter's efforts to have management modified, and responses of Inyo County and DWP to our efforts. Come and learn about this important chapter conservation issue. The public is welcome.

*\*"I think something kinda bad happened here, something I can't quite seem to find the handle to"  
..... Spencer Tracy as Macreedy in Bad Day at Black Rock, 1954.*

#### Next Board Meeting

The Bristlecone Chapter Board will meet on March 18 at 7:00 at the USFS/BLM Building at 351 Pacu Lane. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Before we were eventually able to move to the Owens Valley a few years ago, we made several trips here over a 25-year period. Coming from Tucson, we drove north up Highway 395. It was a long drive, but when we reached Little Lake we always felt that we had at last reached the Eastern Sierra. Little Lake has that combination of desert and water that makes the whole Eastern Sierra unique. For us it has always been a special place.

Thus I've become very concerned about a real and imminent threat to Little Lake's future. The Coso Operating Company is seeking a Conditional-use Permit to pump and export the entire annual recharge of the Rose Valley from their Hay Ranch property to their China Lake geothermal facility. The Rose Valley aquifer is what sustains the aquatic systems at Little Lake. The Inyo County Water Department apparently supports the project. Besides the critical wildlife habitat, there is abundant ground-water dependent alkaline meadow vegetation, especially at the south end of Little Lake.

## Sierra Summer Sojourn – Save the Date!

The Bristlecone Chapter will host its second Sierra Summer Sojourn at White Mountain Research Station Crooked Creek Facility July 17-19, 2009. We hope you will save the date and plan to come. Participants can register to stay at the facility Friday and Saturday nights or just Saturday night. Field trips will be conducted on Saturday beginning both in Big Pine and at Crooked Creek Facility and shorter field trips on Sunday from Crooked Creek.

There will be an evening program focusing on the flora of the White Mountains on Saturday. You can count on lots of blooms, interesting conversations, spectacular vistas, an outstanding evening speaker, varied field trips and great food. More details and the registration form will be available on the Bristlecone Chapter website [www.bristleconecnps.org](http://www.bristleconecnps.org) in April. Space will be limited. Please note: Crooked Creek Facility is located at an altitude of 10,200 feet and some of the field trips will be conducted at an even higher elevation. You will want to consider the effects of altitude on your health before you plan to come.

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## CONSERVATION

### The Coso Water Grab

In his President's message, Steve McLaughlin noted some of the problems with the groundwater pumping project in Rose Valley proposed by owners of the Coso Geothermal Plant. This project is a classic example of what economists call "externalizing costs to the environment." Currently much of the water used at the Coso power plant is lost through evaporative cooling. It is both technically and financially feasible, however, for Coso to close its cooling system to prevent water loss and preclude the need for a new water

supply. Rather than improving their plant by investing in a sustainable, closed cooling system, Coso owners have decided to continue wasting water with the existing system and acquire a new water supply: Rose Valley groundwater. Coso will thus slightly increase its energy production at the expense of Rose Valley surface and groundwater dependent ecosystems such as Little Lake. And when they evaporate the Rose Valley aquifer, Coso owners will have to find yet another water supply to deplete.

The mere fact that the proposal makes neither economic nor environmental sense doesn't mean it isn't being taken seriously (remember, this is Inyo County). To the contrary, Inyo County Supervisors, through their compliant Water Department, have implicitly endorsed the proposal. As a result, there is now an EIR for the project and the Inyo County Planning Commission will soon decide whether to accept it and issue a Conditional Use Permit. Whatever the Planning Commission's decision, it will undoubtedly be appealed to Inyo County Supervisors.

The EIR for this project doesn't withstand even cursory scrutiny, and hundreds of pages of objections have been written. Such diverse groups as the Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS, the Kerncrest chapter of the Audubon Society, DWP, and Rose Valley property owners have all noted deficiencies. A particularly egregious one is the fact that the EIR would allow Coso to decrease water flow to Little Lake by up to 10% (on the grounds that this would not create a significant impact under the California Environmental Quality Act) without disclosing how it determined this threshold. Why not 9%, or 11%, or any other percent? Project proponents didn't bother to gather sufficient data to adequately characterize the ground- and surface-water-dependent ecosystems at Little Lake and, therefore, couldn't even begin to perform a serious analysis of potential impacts. In other words, project proponents have no

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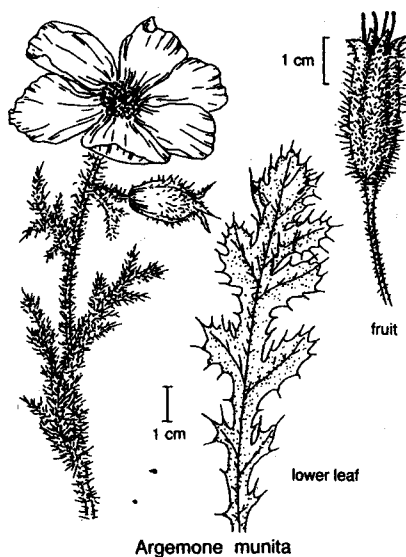
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biologically defensible basis for asserting any given flow reduction would or would not create significant impacts.

The only defense of the 10% threshold is the assertion, "This groundwater flow rate reduction...of 10% has been set such that the observed variation in flow rates at Little Lake would remain largely within the natural envelope already experienced on the property." Big deal! Don't project proponents know that seemingly small changes in ecosystem inputs can have large, cascading effects over time? Would you accept a decades-long reduction of up to 10% in your salary?! Because flow rates on any given day may fall within the "natural envelope" in no way guarantees significant impacts won't occur over the decades of the proposed flow reductions and in no way obviates the need for a credible impact analysis.

Please contact Inyo County Supervisors and tell them that this project is an enormous waste of water, and that the Coso Geothermal plant can well afford to redesign its cooling system so it will not need Rose Valley water. Contact information for Inyo Supervisors is at; [www.inyocounty.inyocounty.us/county\\_directory.htm](http://www.inyocounty.inyocounty.us/county_directory.htm).

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair.



## NEW MEMBERS

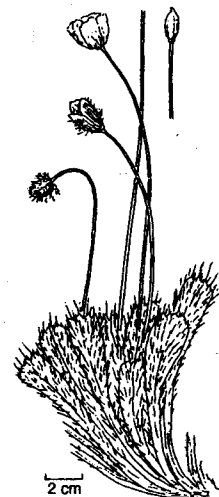
The Bristlecone Chapter warmly welcomes the following new members!

Holly Alpert  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Sharon Martinson  
Santa Cruz, CA

Amy Concillio  
Santa Cruz, CA

Ben Grady  
Madison, WI



*Arctomecon merriamii*

Next Newsletter Deadline: April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - Membership Application**

The California Native Plant Society is an organization of lay persons and professionals united by an interest in the plants of California. It is open to all. The society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase the understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Varied interests are represented.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box or Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Bristlecone Chapter Directory**

**Membership Category**

___ Student, Limited Income	\$25.00
___ Individual	\$45.00
___ International	\$45.00
___ Family, Group, or Library	\$75.00
___ Supporting	\$75.00
___ Plant Lover	\$100.00
___ Patron	\$300.00
___ Benefactor	\$600.00
___ Mariposa Lily	\$1,500.00

Please make membership checks payable to and send to:

CNPS - Membership Coordinator  
2707 K. Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816

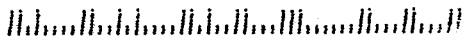
President - Steve McLaughlin (760) 938-3140
Vice President - Sally Manning (760) 873-3790
Secretary - Connie Spenger (760)-938-2159
Treasurer - Rosanne Higley (760) 387-2803
Membership - Diana Pietrasanta - (760) 873-6262
Newsletter Editor - Anne Halford - (760) 873-6714
Conservation - Daniel Pritchett - (760) 873-8943
Plant Communities - Sally Manning - (760) 873-3790
Education - VACANT
Programs - Sally Manning (760) 873-3790
Field Trips - Sue Weis (760) 873-3485
Decker Native Plant Garden - Jerry Zatorski (760) 872-3818
Publicity - Sally Gaines (760) 935-4088
Historian - Ann Fulton (760) 873-9261
Librarian - EvelynMae Nikolaus - (760) 878-2149
Rare Plant Committee - 2008 Chair. - Anne Halford (760) 872-5022
Plant Sale Committee - Anne Halford, Diana Pietrasanta, Sherryl Taylor (924-8742), Denise Waterbury (873-4344)
Book Sales - Sue Weis (760) 873-3485
Posters - Stephen Ingram (760) 387-2913
Kathy LaShure, Creosote Ring Sub-chapter Coordinator, (760) 377-4541

**Gift Contribution:** Where most needed \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

**THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY** ([www.bristleconecnps.org](http://www.bristleconecnps.org)) Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter comes out bimonthly. It is mailed free to members of the Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS. The subscription is \$5.00 per year for non-members and can be obtained by sending newsletter subscriptions to CNPS, P.O. Box 364, Bishop, CA 93515-0364. Send newsletter articles not memberships to Newsletter Editor Anne Halford at 312 Shepard Lane, Bishop, CA 93514 - or email to: [kasch@cebridge.net](mailto:kasch@cebridge.net)

**The California Native Plant Society**  
Bristlecone Chapter  
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## 2009 Bristlecone Chapter Spring and Summer Field Trips



**March 22, Sunday - Poison Cyn** (between Ridgecrest & Trona). **Leader: Judy Breitenstein.** Poison Canyon was the outlet from China Lake into Searles Lake when it was full (~10,000 years ago), as evidenced by many tiny fossil shells and fish bones. The canyon is mostly dry. What waters it has are rich in magnesium sulfite and surface as seeps. In the main canyon, chenopods and some Asteraceae grow. In side canyons, things usually found in, or at least closer to, Death Valley are common. The side canyon we will visit has seen a great deal of ORV use in the last several years. Still we hope to find twining snapdragon, *Tiquilia*, *Nemacladus* and a host of other die-hards. There is wild life as well, enough to feed rodents, birds and reptiles and signs of a kit fox are not uncommon. The main wash is also worth taking a look at, and, if time allows or the side canyon is disappointing, we might drive east a little to check on what is growing there and on the sand bars. Meet at the Maturango Museum (100 E. Las Flores, Ridgecrest) at 8:00 am to carpool. Bring lunch or snacks, water, jacket, good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, camera. Contact person: Judy Breitenstein; 375-2158; [ebreit@ridgecrest.net](mailto:ebreit@ridgecrest.net)

**March 28, Saturday - Kelso Valley.** **Leader: Naomi Fraga.** Kelso Valley is located between the Piute and Scodie Mountains in the southern Sierra Nevada in Kern County. We will have several stops to see a variety of desert annuals, including an abundance of *Linanthus*, *Eriophyllum*, and *Phacelia* species in Joshua Tree Woodland. Noteworthy plants species include the Kelso Creek monkeyflower (*Mimulus shevockii*), and white pigmy poppy (*Canbya candida*). Bring lunch, ample water, sunscreen and a camera (hiking will be minimal). We will carpool from the Chevron in Onyx at 10:00 am and will leave promptly at 10:15am (23822 Highway 178 Onyx, CA 93255). We will be traveling on paved and dirt roads. Contact Naomi Fraga for details at [naomi.fraga@cgu.edu](mailto:naomi.fraga@cgu.edu) or (909) 625-8767 x231. If you wish to carpool from the Indian Wells Valley to Onyx contact Kathy LaShure; 760-377-4541; [desert\\_encelia@verizon.net](mailto:desert_encelia@verizon.net)

**March 29, Saturday. Mary Dedecker Native Plant Garden Spring Cleaning.** Leader: Jerry Zatorski. This is an annual spring cleaning for the garden. March is a great time to jump on any exotic weeds and get them out before they drop their seed as well as trim up anything that might need it. We'll meet at the garden at the Eastern California Museum in Independence at 9:00 AM, bring garden gloves, trowels, hand pruners, and wear sturdy work clothes. For more information contact Jerry at (760) 872-3818 or [jerryzat@verizonmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@verizonmail.com).

**April 3, and April 17- Friday Field Trips to the Alabama Hills** Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Whitney Portal and Movie Flat Roads. These field outings are designed to watch the spring blooms emerge and change throughout the month of April which is an optimal month to see a range of local species favorites' such as scarlet locoweed, golden gilia, and sand blossoms. Field trips will last until 12:30 – Bring a lunch and standard field trip items listed below. Contact Anne Halford at 872-5022 or email at [ahalford@ca.blm.gov](mailto:ahalford@ca.blm.gov) for more information. All trips are easy to moderate and are a combination of driving and walking, usually not more than a mile or so.

**April 4, Saturday. Death Valley.** Leader: Jerry Zatorski. With the February rains in the Death Valley area there is potential for some great wildflower displays. This trip will be a driving journey exploring the upper fans and mid elevation areas all accessible by car, although there will be short hiking excursions to explore certain areas. Exact locations are yet to be determined, but with any luck annuals and shrubs should be blooming. We will meet at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center at 8:00 AM and go from there. For more information contact Jerry Zatorski at (760) 872-3818 or [jerryzat@verizonmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@verizonmail.com).

**April 4, Saturday - Wildflower hike at the Desert Tortoise Preserve.** Leader: Dr. Kristen Berry. Meet at 9 am. This hike will involve a car shuttle and will start at the top of the West Rand Mountains and proceed down a ridge and wash to the valley northwest of there. Reservations required: RSVP to Melissa Nicolson (Preserve Manager) at [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net) or 951-683-3872. People who would like to carpool from Ridgecrest may also contact Jane McEwen at [mcewanmj@gmail.com](mailto:mcewanmj@gmail.com) or 760-384 2615.

**April 10-12, Friday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm - Wildflower Show at the Maturango Museum,** 100 E. Las Flores, Ridgecrest, 760-375-6900. Come see what wildflower treasures have been uncovered within a 50-mile radius of Ridgecrest. Volunteer teams with BLM permits will search for flora on the east-facing slopes & in the canyons of the Sierra Nevada, in the Coso and El Paso Mountains, as well as the Indian Wells Valley itself. With the mild but damp winter weather we've had, it looks to be a floriferous spring! On Sat. April 11 at 2:00 pm Ileene Anderson, Biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity, will speak on *Teeny Tiny Desert Beauties*. The West Mojave Desert is a great place to look for "belly" flowers (you have to be on your belly to see them) of the creosote bush scrub. Ileene's presentation will show the diversity of species in the most ubiquitous desert plant community. She promises lots of colorful images that will have us all planning excursions to look for these beauties.

**April 12, Sunday. Highway clean-up.** Leader: Scott Hetzler. Meet at the intersection of Highway 395 and Pine Creek Rd., west of 395, at 9.00 AM. We will try to be done by 1:00 PM. For more information contact Scott at (760) 873-8392.

**April 18, Saturday. Revisit of Mountain Springs Cyn, Argus Range on China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station.** Leader: Janet Westbrook. We visited this burn area twice in the spring of 2006. It will be interesting to see how recovery has progressed since then. High clearance vehicle required. Because this is a military base, **we will be limited as to the number of vehicles.** Participants will have to provide Social Security numbers (do NOT email SSN's) and other information for base clearance. **Reservations are required & must be made by April 8.** Meeting place & time will be given after you reserve. This is an all day trip & no one may leave early. Bring lunch, ample water, sunscreen, hat, camera. Trip access to the base may be cancelled on short notice. In that event we will have an alternate trip lined up for a nearby eastside canyon in the Sierra or the west side of the Coso Range on BLM land. Contact person: Kathy LaShure; 760-377-4541; [desert\\_encelia@verizon.net](mailto:desert_encelia@verizon.net).

**April 19, Sunday. The second annual "Celebrating Community Connections" event** will be held at the Bishop City Park on Sunday, April 19, 2009, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be food, entertainment, activities for kids, arts and crafts vendors, and more than 40 booths set up by local conservation groups and businesses. The Bristlecone Chapter will once again have a booth, where we'll have information, t-shirts and caps, and some plants for sale. We need volunteers to help with the booth; for more information contact Steve McLaughlin (938-3140).

**April 25, Saturday. Oak Creek fire and flood.** Leaders: Sue Weis, Connie Spenger. We'll visit Oak Creek and inspect the recovery from the fire of 2007 and flooding of 2008. There should be some displays of annuals and recovery of some of the perennial shrubs. Meet at the casino/gas station at Fort Independence at 9:00 am. Bring water, lunch, and the normal outdoor stuff. For more information, call Sue at 760 873-3485, or email [sueweis@aol.com](mailto:sueweis@aol.com).

**May 10, Sunday. Whippoorwill Flat.** Leader: Michèle Slaton. We'll explore the lower sagebrush-pinyon pine interface in the Inyo Mountains after a good snow year. Expect plenty of blooming perennials and great shrub diversity. Depending on flowers, we'll walk toward Jackass Flat or lower in Waucoba Canyon, and look for the unusual Shockley's prickly-leaf, and rare cushion daisy and broad-shouldered milkvetch. Meet at 8:30 am at the Big Pine campground at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Westgard Pass Road. We will carpool from there on a paved road to the Saline Valley turnoff, and then drive about 12 miles on a dirt road (high clearance, 4WD not required). Expect about 2 miles of walking on moderate terrain with no trail or along old roads. We'll depart for Big Pine around 3pm. Bring sunscreen, water, hat, lunch, and snacks. For more information, contact Michèle at (760) 938-3258, or [mslaton@schat.com](mailto:mslaton@schat.com).

**May 16, Saturday. Benton Hot Springs Ranch.** Co-led by the Eastern Sierra Land Trust, California Native Plant Society, and the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society. Enjoy a walk through alkali meadow and through a sage brush scrub canyon on an ESLT conservation easement. Last year a peregrine falcon was spotted, so we'll have to keep our eyes open. Trip will be an open-ended half day, with 2-3 miles of moderate hiking through hills. Bring plenty of water, your lunch, sunscreen, hat, and make sure to dress for varied weather. Meet in Benton at the intersection of HWY 6 and SR 120 at 9 am. To carpool from Bishop, meet at the "Y," HWY 6 and Wye Rd. at 8 am. Call Serena at 873-4554 or email her at [serena@eslt.org](mailto:serena@eslt.org).

**May 23, Saturday. Swall Meadows, Wheeler Ridge Wildlife Migration Corridor.** Led by Karen Ferrell-Ingram of the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. Spend a morning discovering new plants, spotting birds, and exploring the biodiversity of the Wheeler Ridge Wildlife Migration Corridor. 2-3 miles of moderate hiking off trail from 9 to noon. Bring a lunch, water, hat, appropriate clothing for weather, and ESLT will provide drinks. Meet at the gravel pit on Sky Meadow Rd in Swall Meadows at 9 am. Call Serena at 873-4554 or email her at [serena@eslt.org](mailto:serena@eslt.org).

**May 30, Saturday. Birch Creek weed bashing and botanizing day.** Friends of the Inyo and CNPS will have a joint project removing mullein, bull thistle, and some of the other weedy species from the riparian area near the Birch Creek trailhead. We may see some *Calochortus excavatus* in the area; other plants of interest we'll see include *Comandra umbellata* and *Lotus crassifolius*. At this time last year there was a spectacular bloom of several lupine species in the watershed. In the afternoon, we will explore up the trail. Bring gloves, your favorite mullein rosette-removal tool, lunch, and water. Warning, mullein wool can be irritating. For more information contact Paul McFarland at FOI, Steve McLaughlin at 760 938 3140, or Sue Weis at 760 873-3485 or [sueweis@aol.com](mailto:sueweis@aol.com).



**June 6, Saturday. Blackrock meadows: the good, the bad, and the ugly.** Leader: Daniel Pritchett. In July 2007 the Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS formally requested DWP and Inyo County to modify groundwater management in the Blackrock area due to degradation of rare alkali meadow habitat. Shortly after we made our request, a fire burned part of the area. On this field trip we will learn about the ecology of alkali meadow ecosystems and their responses to groundwater drawdowns, fire, and non-native trout. We will explore an area from Blackrock Spring south toward Independence. Sense of humor and capacity for outrage required. 4x4 not necessary but high clearance may help. Meet at Blackrock Fish Hatchery raceway parking lot at 8:45AM. Bring water, snacks, hat, and sunscreen. Trip will end by noon. For more information contact Daniel at 873-8943.

**June 7, Sunday. Highway clean-up.** Leader: Scott Hetzler. Meet at the intersection of Highway 395 and Pine Creek Rd., west of 395, at 9:00 AM. We will try to be done by 1:00 PM. For more information contact Scott at (760) 873-8392.

**Early to Mid-June - Piute Mountain Fire Recovery.** Leader: Fletcher Linton, Sequoia NF Botanist. Contact: Janet Westbrook. During last summer's extreme fire season, Indian Wells Valley residents observed this conflagration, starting on June 18. The fire burned both Sequoia National Forest & BLM lands. Contained on July 20, it consumed over 37,000 acres. We will visit areas deemed safe by Forest Service personnel, to see how thoroughly the woody flora was burned & to observe fire-following annual wildflowers. Meet at Inyokern Post Office at 8:00 am to carpool. Bring lunch, ample water, sunscreen, hat, camera. Return mid afternoon. Exact date to be set by Sequoia NF officials after the scoping process is complete. Contact person: Janet Westbrook; 760-375-8371; [jwest@ridgenet.net](mailto:jwest@ridgenet.net).

**June 13, Saturday. Parker Lake.** Leaders: Cathy Rose, Steve McLaughlin. The walk to Parker Lake is easy, with some steep uphill at the beginning. In addition to beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers (we hope for masses of early Phlox), there are lots of birds and superb views. About 4 miles round trip. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:15 at the old kiosk on the Rock Creek Road just above Tom's Place or at 10:00 at the trailhead. To reach the trailhead from Bishop, go north on 395, and go left on the NORTH June Lake Loop exit. Quite soon you'll see the right hand turn for Parker Lake. For more information contact Steve at 760 938-3140.

**June 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday. Bodie Hills.** Meet at 10:00 at the Toiyabe National Forest Office parking lot just south of Bridgeport on U.S. Hwy. 395. High-clearance vehicles recommended. This trip will explore a transect across the Bodie Hills, a Great Basin landscape containing diverse plant communities and rare plant species unique to this region. We will be starting the trip by going up the Aurora Canyon road and descending over Geiger Grade road which ends at Bodie State Park (an approximately 14 mile one-way trip at elevations ranging between 5,000-9,500 ft.).

**June 20, Saturday. Tamarack Canyon & Badger Flat, Inyo Mts.** Leader: Jerry Zatorski. This trip can also be called Inyo Mountains Odyssey, part deux. We will drive to Badger Flat, just east of Mazourka Peak, and take the hike up Tamarack Canyon from there. From Pinyon/Juniper woodland at Badger Flat we will make our way up into the sub-alpine forest zone of Limber and Bristlecone Pine. Many botanical wonders big and small await us. Because we'll begin hiking at 8700 ft and go up from there and the route is moderate to difficult, all participants should be in good hiking condition at high elevation. Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and appropriate clothing. We should be down by late afternoon. We will meet at the Citrus St. Park on the south side

of Independence at 8:00 AM to carpool, high clearance vehicles and 4WD recommended. For more information contact Jerry Zatorski at (760) 872-3818 or [jerryzat@verizonmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@verizonmail.com).

**July 11, Saturday. McGee Creek.** Leaders: Cathy Rose, Steve McLaughlin. We'll wander up the flowery McGee Creek trail below colorful metamorphic mountains with no particular destination in mind. Besides abundant plant life, we should see birds of sagebrush, streamside, meadow, and coniferous forest. Bring lunch and water. About 4 miles round trip. Meet at 9:00 at the McGee Creek trailhead, a left turn from 395 north of Tom's Place and south of Convict Lake. For more information contact Steve at 760 938-3140.

**July 17-19. Sojourn, Crooked Creek Research Station.** Elevational transect in the Whites, butterflies, bristlecones, alpine ecology, and more. See separate Sojourn information.

**July 24, Friday. Rock Creek – Mosquito Flat to Ruby Lake.** Leaders: Cathy Rose, Steve McLaughlin. This walk proceeds gradually uphill to beautiful Ruby Lake, situated below granite cliffs. The pace will be leisurely as we stop often to look down on Little Lakes Valley and enjoy the plants. Plant and bird list supplied. Bring lunch, water, and camera. About 4 miles round trip. Meet promptly at 8:30 at the old kiosk on the right side of the Rock Creek Road just above Tom's Place for **MANDATORY CARPOOLING** due to crowding at the trailhead. For more information contact Steve at 760 938-3140.

**July 31, Friday. Rock Creek – Mosquito Flat to Long Lake.** Leaders: Cathy Rose, Steve McLaughlin. Rock Creek is famous for flowers and scenic beauty. We'll take a walk past five of the many lakes on this easy botanical ramble. Plant list supplied. Bring lunch, water, and camera. About 4 miles round trip. Meet promptly at 8:30 at the old kiosk on the right side of the Rock Creek Road just above Tom's Place for **MANDATORY CARPOOLING** due to crowding at the trailhead. For more information contact Steve at 760 938-3140.

**Mid to late Sept - Kern River south of the Kennedy Meadows bridge. Leader: Judy Breitenstein.** If there are summer thunderstorms, this area can have a surprising number of late season flowers in bloom. More details in future newsletters.

**October 18, Sunday. Highway clean-up.** Leader: Scott Hetzler. Meet at the intersection of Highway 395 and Pine Creek Rd., west of 395, at 9:00 AM. We will try to be done by 1:00 PM. For more information contact Scott at 873-8392.

**FIELD TRIP POLICIES:** For all field trips, be sure to bring plenty of water, lunch, good walking shoes or boots, and appropriate clothing for hot sun and/or inclement weather. Also useful would be a hand lens, binoculars, camera, floras, and plant lists. Trips will leave at the time announced, so please arrive at the meeting sites a few minutes early. Unless indicated, the average car should do fine. Car pooling is encouraged. Everyone is welcome, but not pets. For general question on field trips or if you would like to lead a trip, please call Sue Weis at 760 873-3485, or email [sueweis@aol.com](mailto:sueweis@aol.com).



Erigeron glaucus