



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 35, No. 6

November-December 2014

President's Message

When my son was young, we were involved in parent-participation pre-school. We were a group of 12 parents with a vision and not a lot of money. To increase enrollment the parents got the word out every way that they could; building floats for the Christmas parade, selling cotton candy at Mule days, and even creating a "Play Dough" booth at the Tri-County fair. Every parent also volunteered a day each week in the classroom as the teacher's assistant. Because there were so few of us, everyone participated in all the activities, which allowed us to develop strong relationships. Twenty-three years later many of these initial families are still friends.

Seven years after my first son graduated from the pre-school, my second son attended. This new group of parents chose to pay more and participate less. Although the parents still worked in the classroom every week, they no longer did the other activities that the first group had done. The sense of community never developed, and neither did the relationships.

The long-lasting lesson from this experience is that the time working together with people of a similar interest is what builds a community. The Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS is a community of people whose love and interest is native plants. That passion can take many paths, just like the branches of a tree: one branch is conservation, another gardening, or field trips, even planning meetings.

In order for our native plant community to grow and be strong we all need to be a little branch on a larger limb. If you have the expertise, lead a field trip; if you are interested in gardening, volunteer to help with some aspect of the plant sale or a garden clean-up day. Participating on a highway cleanup is a great way to learn some of the native buckwheats. If you have secretarial skills, a good number sense or can

run meetings, volunteer to be a board member. You don't need to have a great knowledge of plants to be an integral member of this community. Check out the calendar section of the newsletter to see how you can get involved.

We are adding a new sign up sheet to our meetings and on the website. The sheet will have a place to put your contact information and write down just which activities are of interest to you. Then when those activities are happening we can contact you.

- Katie Quinlan

November 13 General Meeting and Annual Potluck, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 East Line, Bishop Potluck at 6 PM

General Meeting at 7 PM

"The CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: understanding the California flora through citizen science."

Since the publication of the First Edition of the CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* in 1974, the CNPS Rare Plant Program has been committed to tracking California's rarest and most threatened native plants. In 2010, the program expanded to include the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, providing volunteers with a way to make valuable contributions to the Rare Plant Program by searching for rare plants and reporting their observations. In this evening's program, Danny Slakey will provide an overview of the rare plants from the Bristlecone Chapter Region, highlighting in particular some species for which CNPS urgently needs updated data. Danny will cover the various ways that volunteers can participate in the program and learn rare plant survey methods. This exciting program is a great way for volunteers to learn more about the California flora while helping to ensure that California's unique flora is preserved well into the future.

Danny Slakey works for CNPS as a coordinator for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt project and also as assistant botanist for the CNPS Rare Plant Program. Before working for CNPS, he studied plant invasion ecology for his master's and worked several seasonal botany jobs throughout the West.

– Michèle Slaton



Photo of Danny Slakey, November Speaker

September Program: A River Runs Through It (And How Is That Working Out)

Our September program, held in Independence, was given by Larry Freilich who manages more than 50 water agreement mitigation projects for Inyo County. Larry's presentation focused on the largest of these projects, the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). That project covers 78,000 acres and includes lakes and ponds, 1,500 acres of wetlands, and 62 miles of river and river delta.

The central component of the project is the Lower Owens River and its developing riparian strip. Since flow was established in the river 7 years ago the riverine environment has really improved; meadows are retaking the floodplain from the upland species that came in when water was cut off in 1913, clonal recruitment of Coyote Willow (*Salix exigua*) is now widely observed, and a healthy warm water fishery has developed.

What hasn't been observed is the expected

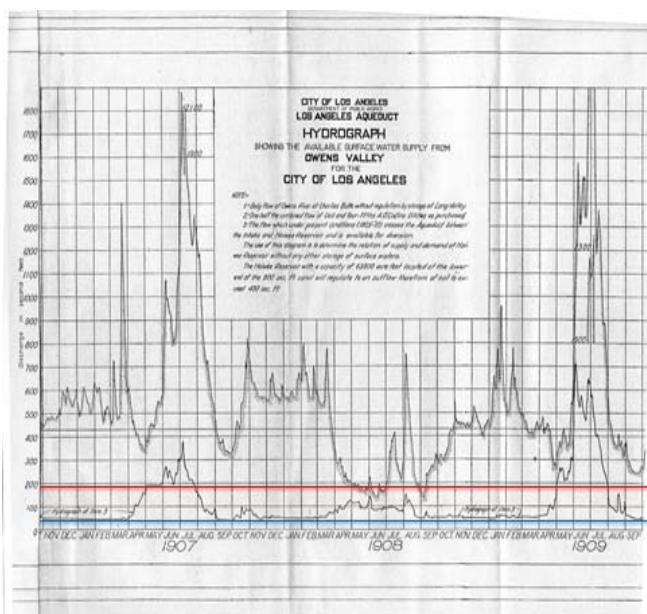
recruitment of tree willow and cottonwood. It was predicted that more than 800 acres of willow and cottonwood would develop in response to the re-watering, yet likely less than an acre has actually developed. Each year, field staff walk nearly 250 miles to survey the river, wetlands, and lakes and ponds. This past August they found only eight sites with woody recruitment.

The talk followed along the lines of what's working and what's not. There are a lot of both in this ambitious restoration project. It seems that river flows have a lot to do with the project's successes and failures. The river flow is constrained by court order to 40 cfs year-round, with a Seasonal Habitat Flow (SHF) of up to 200 cfs depending on predicted run-off. During the recent drought there has been no SHF. The SHF was predicted to carry out all of the functions of a spring runoff in a natural river: scour the banks and expose open soil for seed germination, control tules, and improve water quality by flushing out organic material. But this is not a natural river and the flow varies so little that even the SHF does little of the work it was designed to do.

Larry presented the river's current hydrograph against its pre-aqueduct hydrograph and the difference is stunning. The former unregulated river fully challenged its floodplain with seasonal flows that were 100 times greater than what is possible under the court-ordered flow. The 200 cfs flow that is possible today barely creep up onto the floodplain. Although we're not likely to see huge flows in the river, there is hope that a new hydrograph can be developed that can better maintain the river we have today.

Larry also touched on the LORP as recreational resource. He presented slides that showed the remarkable beauty of the area and its abundant wildlife. You can see why the LORP is being discovered by birders, anglers, hikers, bikers, hunters, and picnickers. To get ahead of challenges presented by increased use Inyo County is developing a recreation use plan for the area. The plan includes trail signage, wildlife viewing areas, fishing access, and even two paddle trail routes.

I'm sure the talk helped motivate many of our members to get out and spend time exploring the LORP and to stay informed of the project's developments. More pictures are on our website.



Current flows vs. historic hydrograph for the Lower Owens River. The red and blue lines placed on the historic graph delineate the current range of stipulated flows.
 - Larry Freilich

Greenhouse and Plant Sale Update

To the general public, the plant sale seems to be a two-hour once-a-year event. Actually it is a year-long project invested in by numerous people. There is a cadre of people who show up every time I put the word out that I need help. The process starts with collecting and cleaning seeds, then planting the seedlings and finally repotting the seedlings. Of course, there is the maintenance of the facility itself.

Once the plants are grown, they have to be organized and labeled for the sale. Posters and newspaper articles need to be written and distributed and the radio announcements have to be sent out. On the day of the sale itself, there need to be the people who will write up a sales ticket, or give advice on what plants would do the best in a garden. Other folks need to be there to take the money, sell a t-shirt and encourage membership. It is our largest fund-raiser and it takes a community to make it happen. I would like to thank all the folks who have contributed a total of 145 hours to this year's sale; Kathy Duvall, Prudence Carr, Kay Wilson, Marti Holton, Ryan Renfro, Bryce Tiernan, Margaret Phelps, Tim Tiernan, Trish Schilting, Fran Hunt, Rosemary Jarrett, MaryAnn Salyards, Steve McLaughlin, Martin Oliver, Alison Collin, Jim Varnam, Julie Anne Hopkins, Hilary Parish, Margaret Lamb, Paul Satterthwaite, Nancy Hadlock,

Tyler Starbard, Edie Trimmer, Scott Hetzler, Jerry Zatorski, Sue Weis and Kristen Luetkemeier. All those hours of work were well worth it as this year's sale was one of the best we have ever had. Thirty -five more people came than in the past, we sold 330 more plants and made \$1400 more than last year. Many plants that I thought wouldn't sell at all sold out! I think the increased interest in native plants is due to a few factors. One of course is the drought and people realizing that we need to reduce our water usage. Another factor was the Eastern Sierra Land Trust's pollinator garden project and Jamie Pawelek's presentation on native bees (see her article in the September 2014 issue of the Bristlecone newsletter). The final factor is we expanded the shade house, which gave me three more tables to work with. All that extra space allowed me to have more plants for people to buy. Even though it is a year-long project to get the plants to the point of the sale, those two hours are a lot of fun – to see everyone excited and interested in planting native plants.

The proceeds from all the plant sales are donated back to the community in the form of the DeDecker Grants. The call for applications has already gone out, if you missed it here is the link for the application that is due December 5:

bristleconecnps.org/dedecker/grant/

- Katie Quinlan

October 4 Field Trip to Prospect X

We had beautiful, warm weather on our field trip to "Prospect X," on the East side of the White Mts., above Deep Springs Valley. Twelve of us took the hike in, through diverse geology in sagebrush and pinyon-juniper, to the spectacularly sculpted dolomite canyon below a well-preserved silver mine at the end of the route. We saw mound cactus, wild crabapple, and several rare plants, including Shockley's rockcress, little cutleaf, and Nevada ninebark, and had views from the Sierra Nevada to the Last Chance Range. It was a great bunch of plants and people, with one participant best describing the exceptional landscape as "totally wiggged out".

For a plant list of the area visit bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/checklists/ and view the plant index under P for Payson to Prospect X.

- Michèle Slaton

Bristlecone - BLM Bitterbrush Planting Workday – We Got ‘Em In!

On October 18, 2014 the Bristlecone Chapter teamed up with Bishop BLM botanist Martin Oliver, wildlife biologist Sherri Lisius, and Bodie Hills Conservation Foundation members to plant 500 bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) and Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). The purpose of the planting was to help re-establish habitat for the Bi-State Greater Sage Grouse in the Indian post-fire which burned 12,600 acres in 2012. The seedlings were grown out by Katie Quinlan with the help of volunteers.



*Planting Crew
Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins*

It was a gorgeous day with panoramic views encompassing Mono Lake and Sierra Nevada mountains to the West and Montgomery Peak and White Mountains to the east. We were fortunate to have fire crews from both the BLM and the Forest Service – along with a water-tender rig – to help dig, plant *and* water the seedlings in. Although volunteer participation was low (four Bristlecone Chapter members), counting the fire crew there were 18 of us and we had a great time working in a beautiful place on an important restoration project.

Watch our newsletter, website and Facebook page for upcoming restoration projects, field trips and other events. It is a great way to get to new or familiar locations with great company! Thanks to all who participated.

– Julie Anne Hopkins

Conservation Alerts! November – December 2014

This is a busy time for those of us concerned with environmental issues in the Eastern Sierra and it is difficult to keep up-to-date. Following are several critical issues with deadlines for comments in the very near future. We will continue to keep updates posted on our Facebook page and website.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP): the DEIS is out, and it is huge and cumbersome. The document is available for review at <http://drecp.org>, local libraries and our Bishop BLM office. **The 90-day comment period ends January 9, 2015.** Instructions on how to submit comments are on the DRECP website.

A good way to start your review process is to review the following:

Executive Summary (60 pages)

All Maps for visual comparison of Alternatives and locational information

Preferred Alternative (450 pages)

Appendices B, C, D, H – and all others that you are concerned about.

Time is short for public input on this document. Please call Julie Anne Hopkins, 831-566-6012 with questions.

Inyo County Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment

The Bristlecone Chapter and CNPS State submitted our scoping comments and we are still waiting for the Draft Environmental Impact Report to be released. It is expected to be available November 5, 2014. The comment period dates will be posted on the Bristlecone website and facebook page. Also, check the County website at <http://www.inyoplanning.org>.

It is important to keep in mind that the REGPA and DRECP are two separate planning documents. They will **not be combined** into one document. Our comments on both documents are important to protect rare plants and plant communities, animal habitat, and rich cultural values of Inyo County. Contact Julie Anne Hopkins, 831-566-6012 with questions.

Owens Valley Solar Development Study

Although the proposed Owens Valley solar energy

development areas (SEDAs) were removed from the REGPA planning they are not "gone." The Inyo County planning department will begin working on the study this coming December 2014 – January 2015. Check the <http://www.inyoplanning.org> website for scheduling. There should be a public comment opportunity that will follow release.

Inyo National Forest Plan Revision

Scoping comments were submitted by our Bristlecone chapter and CNPS State office. We expect the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be released in early November 2014. A public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014 at the Tri-County Fairground, Tallman Pavilion here in Bishop. Please attend and be prepared for a quick turnaround comment period. For more information go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/landmanagement/planning>. Remember, this planning document will direct management of the Inyo (Sierra and Sequoia as well) for the next 20 to 30 years.

– Julie Anne Hopkins

Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative

A new recreation dialogue, the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESRC), has been formed for Inyo and Mono Counties, spearheaded by Mammoth Lakes Town Council member (and former Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation Chief Executive Officer) John Wentworth and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Mount Whitney Area Representative, Danna Stroud. The intent of the ESRC is "... to enhance regional recreation opportunities through focused engagement and collaboration with community stakeholders and the gateway communities of the Eastern Sierra." Organizers envision the ESRC as an ongoing effort, which could be periodically "activated" to foster a public dialogue in local land use planning and decision making efforts. Initially, the ESRC is held three public forums in October to focus a community dialogue on influencing the U.S. Forest Service's revised plan for the Inyo National Forest. The final meeting will be a November 12 meeting at Cerro Coso College in Bishop from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Please help ensure that pro-conservation voices supportive of the protection of the Inyo's native fish, wildlife and plants, and special wildlands are clearly heard during this important effort. The meeting on

November 12 will help shape the ERSC's final recommendations to the Inyo Forest. Please attend this key meeting and bring your friends, colleagues, and family. The success of our efforts to get a strong, protective future for the Inyo forest will hinge in part on the signals sent to the Forest Service by the ESRC.

For more information, please contact Fran Hunt at fran.hunt@sierraclub.org.

– Fran Hunt

International Sage-Grouse Forum

On Thursday, November 13, and Friday, November 14, an International Sage-Grouse Forum being held in Salt Lake City, Utah will be live streamed at the Lee Vining Community Center located at 296 Mattly Ave, in Lee Vining, CA. The event will begin at 7am each day and is free and open to the public. The forum will feature a session on sage-grouse conservation efforts focused on the Bi-State distinct population segment (DPS) of Greater Sage-Grouse, which are found locally in Mono & Inyo County, CA and adjacent Mineral County, NV. That session will take place on Nov 13 at 9:30am. To view the full conference agenda, please visit <http://sage-grouseforum.org/Agenda.cfm>. For more information, email info@bodiehills.org or call Jeff Hunter at 760-935-3960.

Board Member Steve McLaughlin Receives CNPS Award

Steve McLaughlin joined the Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS seven years ago after moving to Inyo County



and retiring from a 35-year career as a Professor of Botany at the University of Arizona. He quickly became an integral member of many of the environmental organizations in the county, including

Audubon and Friends of the Inyo.

Steve started as the Chapter President and Chapter Council Representative. He then created a new chair, "Partnerships," to help us work more effectively with other organizations on mutually-beneficial projects. His quiet yet persistent voice of reason has been instrumental in keeping native plants and their habitats on the table with the Owens Dry Lake negotiations. His ability and willingness to read through copious volumes of documents and sit through hours of meetings has made him a very valuable and respected member of the environmental community in Inyo County.

– Katie Quinlan

A Note of Appreciation for Steve and Jan

We must send thanks to Steve McClaughlin and Jan Bowers for their years of service to our chapter and honor them as two rare and unique "species" from the Eastern Sierra. Steve McClaughlin and Jan Bowers have resigned from our Bristlecone board and are contemplating a move to the Bay Area. Jan left the board first but continued to write the Birch Creek Journal for our newsletter. Steve recently resigned in his last role as CNPS Chapter Delegate.

It is hard to lose the leadership on our board of such wonderful folks, and difficult to show just how much they are appreciated. And respected. And liked. And just how much they will be missed. Both are educated, interesting, erudite, and just darned good people.

State CNPS is honoring Steve with a well-deserved VIP Award. The award referred to his "decades" of work for the Bristlecone Chapter. It is hard to believe, but Steve and Jan have only been involved in the Bristlecone Chapter for only seven years! It's easy to understand the mistake, though, because the work they have done in that short time makes it seem like decades – and not only for CNPS, but with other organizations such as Friends of the Inyo and Eastern Sierra Audubon as well.

Steve has been our Chapter President, Chapter Delegate, and Partnerships Chair (a position he created for his work as a liaison with other organizations). As part of the Conservation committee he started conservation alerts. He has been a program presenter, and a leader of many wonderful field trips.

Steve's always rational and gentle admonitions have garnered much respect. He has helped guide our direction as an organization. He re-wrote our by-laws (now chapter guidelines) to come into line with the State CNPS bylaws. He helped organize and present Sojourns, banquets, and the recent Statewide Chapter Council meeting hosted by the Bristlecone Chapter.

Jan led the Mary DeDecker Botanical Grants program for several years, has led field trips, and has written a regular column for our newsletters: *Birch Creek Journal*, a bitter-sweet account of seasons and changes on Birch Creek. In addition to all of this, she has written a book about the area (*Fish Springs and Black Rock: Forgotten Towns of Owens Valley*, a well-researched and sympathetic portrayal of early Inyo County settlers – [see our book review in the September-October 2014 Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter](#)).

Jan and Steve put down roots in our area quickly, and sunk them deep into the local environment and history. They are loved and respected by so many, even those whose views differed with them on the issues.

These are two amazing people whom it has been all of our privilege to know, to work with on the board, and to count as friends. We will miss them greatly when they leave our valley.

– Maggie Riley and the Bristlecone Chapter board



*Steve McClaughlin and Jan Bowers
Photo by Julie Ann Hopkins*

Up-Coming CNPS Events

Wednesday, November 12, 7 PM, November Board Meeting, Conference Room, Interagency Building, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop.

All members are welcome.

Wednesday, November 13 General Meeting and Annual Potluck, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 East Line, Bishop

Potluck at 6 PM

General Meeting at 7 PM

Danny Slakey, CNPS Coordinator for Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, presents The CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: understanding the California flora through citizen science

For further information contact Michèle Slaton (mmlaton02@gmail.com)

Saturday November 22, CNPS Work Day: DeDecker Garden Clean Up, DeDecker garden at the Eastern Sierra Museum in Independence.

We will be cleaning up the fall leaves and planting new plants into the garden. If you are interested in helping we will meet at 8:00 AM in Bishop, on Mandich across from the DWP building. Bring rakes, gloves, water and hats. We will have a picnic lunch afterward.

For more information, contact Katie Quinlan at plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org or 760-873-8023

December 5, 2014, Deadline for *Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant Applications*

Grants for research and projects that increase the understanding and appreciation of native plants and ecosystems in the Eastern Sierra are available to graduate students, college students, and primary and secondary students. Research projects need not be academic or scholarly but must be relevant to the native plants of the northern Mojave Desert, Sierra Nevada, and Great Basin portions of eastern California. Applications must include written support from a major advisor or teacher.

More information and application: bristleconecnps.org/dedecker/grant/

Up-Coming CNPS Events

January 13-17, 2015: [CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference - Celebrating 50 Years of Progress and Promise, San Jose, California](#)

Join over 1,000 conservation and native plant enthusiasts in San Jose! Attendees include scientists, conservationists, university professors and students, policymakers, professional and amateur botanists, landscaping professionals, and land-use planners from California and beyond.

Other Events of Interest

Wednesday, November 12, Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative, 5:30 to 8:30 PM, Cerro Coso College.

Thursday November 13 and Friday November 14, an International Sage-Grouse Forum being held in Salt Lake City, Utah will be live streamed at the Lee Vining Community Center located at 296 Mattly Ave, in Lee Vining, California.

The event will begin at 7am each day and is free and open to the public. If you would like to attend all or part of the program, please email info@bodiehills.org or call Jeff at 760-935-3960.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

Secretary: Rosemary Jarrett 760-387-2782

Treasurer: Paul Satterthwaite 773-208-7858

Creosote Ring Sub-chapter: Kathy LaShure 760-377-4541

Chapter Council Delegate:

Conservation/Partnerships: Julie Anne Hopkins
831-566-6012

Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

Field Trips: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

Historian: Kathy Duvall: 760-387-2122

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Mammoth Plant Sales: Sherry Taylor 760-934-2338

Publicity: Kristen Luetkemeier 703-862-4395

Newsletter: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702

Membership: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702

Website: Maggie Riley webmaster@bristleconecnps.org

Posters: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918.

Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

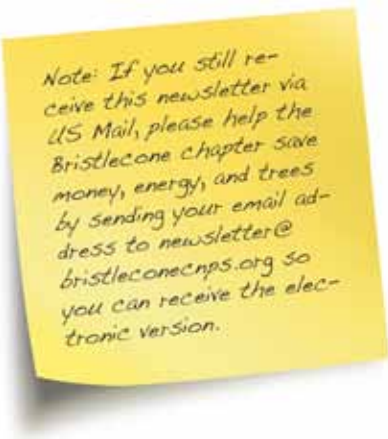
T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392

Highway Clean-up: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392

DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter
P.O. Box 364
Bishop, CA 93515-0364
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Membership

The California Native Plant Society is an organization of laypersons 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.

To Join or Renew Online: Go to cnps.org and click on the JOIN/renew button at the top of the page, or mail in the form below:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip Code: _____ **Phone:** _____
Email: _____
I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter: _____
Other: _____

Membership Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Student / Limited Income	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$600
<input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily	\$1500
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution	_____

Mail To / Make Payable To:

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

Gift Contribution: _____ Wherever needed
Specific Area: _____