



## Bristlecone Chapter

*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora*

# The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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**Volume 36, No. 1**  
**January-February 2015**

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## President's Message—January 2015

As I sit watching the rainfall, I hug myself in anticipation of what this much needed water will bring. It may have been my imagination but after the first December storm, as I walked in the desert, it seemed to me the plants were standing a little perkier. They didn't look hunkered down for the long haul, but were lifting up their branches in anticipation. With the promise of more storms rolling in before Christmas, and hopefully more afterward, I begin to dream that this year we will have a colorful spring.

The cold wet weather puts me in the mood to hole up next to the fire and take stock of the year. It is when I tally up my hours, look at numbers to see which plants should be planted for the next year and write up lists of projects to be done before the next growing season.

In the mood for taking stock, after listening to Daniel Slakey's talk at our last meeting on rare plants, perhaps the Bristlecone chapter should put more effort into taking stock of the rare plants in our area. These recent storms give me hope that some of those plants that hunkered down in the drought will show their faces this spring and summer.

Before our January meeting is the annual planning meeting for next year's field trips. Come share pizza, sign up to lead a field trip or suggest one. We will try and focus more of our trips toward finding some rare plants.

--Katie Quinlan

## 2015 Field Trip Planning Meeting

Were you inspired by Danny Slakey's Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) talk (see story below)? Would you like to visit a favorite place or a new one with fellow plant enthusiasts? Anyone can lead a trip. Just find a partner if you are interested but you haven't done it before. Visit the plant lists on our website or the Wildflower Hot Spot booklet, also on the website, for ideas and a start on lists.

Contact Sue Weis at 760-873-3485 for a list of species on the Inyo National Forest that are possible targets for a RPTH and look at the RPTH information on the statewide CNPS site. The meeting will be at the White Mountain Research Center at 6:00 pm before the January general meeting. Pizza and salad will be available.

--Sue Weis

## January 28 General Meeting, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line St. Bishop, 7 PM.

### "Climate Change Impacts in the Eastern Sierra: Where do we go from here?"

Holly Alpert will offer an overview of the climate change analysis she has done for the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management region, focused on water resources but with some analysis of climate change impacts on ecosystems. She will talk about how this information can be used, what needs to be done next, and what other information is required.

Holly was our previous vice president. Come hear Holly's talk and take a chance to say hello as she visits us from her new home in Colorado.

## November Program: CNPS Rare Plant Program Report

Last month I discussed on the CNPS Rare Plant Program to the Bristlecone Chapter after the annual potluck. It was great to meet such a friendly group of people who are dedicated to conserving their local native flora.

I began the talk with an introduction to the CNPS Rare Plant Program and rare plants of California. A recent focus for the work I do in the Rare Plant Program has been to identify serious data gaps in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Given the vast area, incredible biodiversity, and sparse human population in the Bristlecone Chapter's region, I wasn't surprised to find that a lot of these data gaps are concentrated in this area. For example, the Bristlecone region has 16 different rare plants that haven't been seen anywhere in California in over 20 years, and many of those are known from just one or two populations. Likewise, some of our "Watch List" rare plants from the region are known from very few populations in California. Without more data, we don't really know if these plants are truly rare in California, or merely under-documented.



*Penstemon barnebyi* is a Rank 2B plant, meaning that it is rare in California, but common elsewhere. This plant is only known from one location in the White Mountains. It hasn't been seen in the State since 1987.

--Photo by Jim Andre

I was pleased to find that some of the Chapter members had personal knowledge of a few of them. The Rare Plant Program has a long history of seeking input on the Inventory from botanists around the state. One solution that we've taken to help bridge the data gap has been the CNPS Rare Plant Treasure

Hunt, in which volunteers search for and document rare plant populations that haven't been seen in decades. I'm always looking to recruit more botanically-minded folks for this project, especially in regions like this that have so many unanswered rare plant questions! I encourage anyone interested in getting more involved with rare plants to email me at [dslakey@cnps.org](mailto:dslakey@cnps.org).

--Danny Slakey

## DeDecker Garden clean up

November 22 dawned cloudy with a forecast for high winds, but a hearty group of nine volunteers showed up for the DeDecker Garden clean up. We were treated to a calm morning and started the day with a rainbow dropping through the clouds to the west.



*Rainbow over volunteers Katie Quinlan and Sue Weis*  
--Photo by Stephen Ingram

The crew started by cleaning up the dead branches and leaves that had piled up along the fence line that separates the garden from the parking lot. Stephen then dug a new posthole for the broken fence post and repaired the barbed wire fence. Meanwhile Kathy and Nancy re-stained the kiosk while the rest of us hauled the cut brush that Richard then piled up into Steve's trailer.

Once the trailer was full and the garden tidied up we focused our attention on making sure all the drippers worked and planting the 45 plants we had brought to replace ones that had died. This is where the youngest member of our crew, five-year-old Wacoba, really shone. He dug holes and carefully planted plants for 3 hours, until the plants were in place and his stomach said it was time for lunch. Once the plants were in the ground we made sure all the new plants were surrounded with chicken-wire rabbit

fences, not only to keep the rabbits from munching on our tender new plants but to protect them from two footed and wheeled accidents. The day before our work day a couple of kids were learning to drive a golf cart and used the garden path as their road. Unfortunately, they found that real-life driving is a little different than video games. They had a hard time staying on the path causing them to run over a few of the plants and churn up a few rocks.

All in all, it was a great work day and we would like to thank all the volunteers who showed up: Sue Weis, Kathy Duvall, Kristen Luetkemeier, Steve McLaughlin, Stephan Ingram, Karen Ferris-Ingram, Katie Quinlan, April Zrelak and Wacoba.

*--Katie Quinlan*

## **REGPA Conservation Update**

This November, Helix Environmental Planning completed a draft Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Inyo County. Inyo County Planning Department maintains that the project is necessary to protect the county from a proliferation of county-wide energy development proposals. The draft PEIR also indicates that the REGPA could result in significant and unavoidable impacts to county aesthetics, biological resources, and cultural resources. The draft PEIR includes eight Solar Energy Development Areas (SEDAs) and an Owens Valley Study Area, as well as five alternatives to the project. The draft PEIR is available for review at the Inyo County Planning Department website, at <http://www.inyoplanning.org/projects/REGPA.htm>

Public comments are welcome, and are due by January 14, 2015. The Bristlecone Chapter CNPS has concerns about the project, and will provide comments. Contact Julie Anne Hopkins at 831-566-6012 for questions.

*--Kristen Luetkemeier*

## **Owens Lake Master Plan Update**

The announcement in November of an agreement between Great Basin Air Pollution Control District (GBAPCD) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) on dust control measures on Owens Lake was a surprise to many following this issue. The stipulated agreement will allow an alternative dust control measure (referred to as Tillage with Shallow Control Back-Up) on Owens Lake that will reduce the

amount of water needed for dust control. Ted Schade of GBAPCD attributed this breakthrough to new leadership in Los Angeles that wants to reduce imported water to the city and to be more proactive in solving water supply conflicts from all its many sources, including the Owens Valley.

The Advisory Committee on the Owens Lake Master Plan was assigned these primary these goals: 1) control dust on Owens Lake; 2) reduce the use of Owens River water for dust control by 50 percent; 3) protect habitat; 4) protect cultural resources; and 5) develop recreational access. The Advisory Committee, relying on work groups, developed recommendations on these issues, which will now be sent to LADWP for consideration as they begin a process under the review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Outstanding issues remain. No position has been taken by work groups on whether ground water pumping should be used to reduce Owens River water for dust control. Resource protection protocols for habitat monitoring and impacts of groundwater pumping on non-LADWP wells are still in the development stage. No agreement exists about monitoring and management of habitats outside of the dust-control areas. Other questions such as diversity of plant species in habitat areas or changes in traditional uses such as grazing also remain.

What's next? The Advisory Committee's recommendations go to LADWP to guide them in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report under CEQA. The LADWP Commission will be meeting with the Advisory Committee in coming months and visiting sites on Owens Lake. Refinements in the Resource Protection Protocols for habitat and the impacts of ground water pumping will continue.

What can you do? Stay informed by following this issue in local newspapers and Conservation Committee reports by Bristlecone CNPS and other environmental groups. Visit Owens Lake to become familiar with its habitats. A great opportunity will be the Owens Lake Bird Festival on April 25.

*--Edie Trimmer*



## Chapter to Sponsor Hudson Intern 2015

The Bristlecone Chapter is pleased to announce that it will sponsor a Botany Intern to be working out of the Bishop area in 2015. Thanks to a generous bequest of Robert (Bob) Hudson, we will be able to provide a first-rate educational and work experience in the field of botany for an individual to be selected. Bob Hudson was an avid birdwatcher and native plant enthusiast, whose observations of Owens Valley fauna and flora contributed much to their conservation.

The intern will be working with the Inyo National Forest and local UC staff to investigate how plant species composition is changing at the desert-sagebrush interface. The intern will play a key role in helping to determine what climate effects may be at play, how pollinator interactions operate, and if any rare plants in particular are being affected. The intern will provide assistance to the Forest Service, and will have a variety of opportunities to assist with other local agency, non-profit, and university-related plant projects.

Please spread the word to students and recent graduates about this opportunity, and contact Michele Slaton ([mslaton02@gmail.com](mailto:mslaton02@gmail.com)) with any questions. The announcement is planned for posting in January through The Student Conservation Association. We are excited for this opportunity to honor Bob Hudson's wishes to further the knowledge and protection of California plants.

--Michèle Slaton

## Grass Identification Workshop, February 6-7

Instructor: Travis Columbus, Research Scientist, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and Professor of Botany, Claremont Graduate University.

Location: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Lenz Classroom.

Times: February 6-7 (Friday/Saturday), 9:00-5:00 (one-hour lunch break).

Cost: \$250. Coffee, tea, water, and snacks provided. Lunch not provided.

Description: Participants will be instructed in detail on the vegetative and reproductive features of grasses (Poaceae). Aspects of anatomy, physiology, and ecology will also be addressed. Most time will be spent learning to use the identification keys in the

second edition of *The Jepson Manual*. Special attention will be given to difficult couplets and taxa. In addition, participants will learn how to identify common genera by using diagnostic characteristics.

What to Bring: *The Jepson Manual* (2nd ed.) is required. Bring a dissection tool kit if you have one (minimally, fine-tipped forceps, dissecting needle, and metric rule/scale). If you have a portable dissecting scope and light, please bring it.

How to Register: E-mail [j.travis.columbus@gmail.com](mailto:j.travis.columbus@gmail.com) and send a \$250 check (made out to Travis Columbus) to Travis Columbus, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont California 91711 OR use Square Cash (<https://square.com/cash>) to freely and securely send the registration fee to 909-294-0002 or [j.travis.columbus@gmail.com](mailto:j.travis.columbus@gmail.com).

The workshop will be limited to the first 20 registrants. Feel free to bring grass samples for the group to work on. Questions? Contact Travis Columbus at [j.travis.columbus@gmail.com](mailto:j.travis.columbus@gmail.com) or 909-294-0002.



## Up-Coming Events

**January 13-17: CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference—Celebrating 50 Years of Progress and Promise. San Jose, California**

**Wednesday, January 21, 7 PM, January Board meeting, Conference Room, Interagency Building, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop.**  
All members are welcome.

**Wednesday, January 28, 6 PM, Field Trip Planning Meeting, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 East Line Street, Bishop.**  
Pizza and salad provided. This year's field trips will focus on locating rare plant species in our area. Contact Sue Weis ([sueweis@aol.com](mailto:sueweis@aol.com)) for more information.

**Wednesday, January 28, 7 PM, General Meeting at White Mountain Research Station, 3000 East Line Street, Bishop.**  
**“Climate Change Impacts in the Eastern Sierra: Where do we go from here? ”**  
For further information contact Michèle Slaton ([mmlaton02@gmail.com](mailto:mmlaton02@gmail.com))

**February 6-7, Grass Identification Workshop, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.**  
Contact Travis Columbus ([j.travis.columbus@gmail.com](mailto:j.travis.columbus@gmail.com)) for more information.

Looking for a way to give back to your public lands this holiday season? The Bishop BLM is looking for volunteers to help with planting some native plants in Long Valley. If you are interested please contact Sarah Purcell [spurcell@blm.gov](mailto:spurcell@blm.gov) 760-872-5028. This a great opportunity to help care for a great place.

## Up-Coming Events

**April 25, Owens Lake Bird Festival**

### **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 Rep: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918  
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](mailto:webmaster@bristleconecnps.org)>  
Posters: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918  
Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485  
T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392  
DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022

### **Next Newsletter Deadline**

Please have your articles or information to us by February 15, 2015.

## Yes I Would

As I read other chapters' newsletters, we all seem to be struggling with the same issue – How do we get more people involved? So last month we started to use the sign up sheet of “Yes I Would” where people gave their contact information and list potential activities. It seemed to work pretty well as we had a great turn out for the DeDecker Garden clean up. If you can't make the meetings, but would like to be included in notices of things that interest you, send me your contact information ([president@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:president@bristleconecnps.org)) and I will add your name to the master list.

### YES, I WOULD LIKE TO...

Contact will be made through email unless you would prefer a call.

**Get email notifications for:**

- A. When the newsletter is online
- B. Reminders of upcoming events
- C. Conservation alerts

**Volunteer for:**

1. Lead a field trip
2. Staff a table at an event
3. Serve in a Board position
4. Serve as a committee member (plan special events like the Sojourn or address conservation issues)
5. Grow plants for the sale/ give garden advice
6. Help maintain the demonstration gardens
7. Pull invasive weeds
8. provide refreshments

Your name...	Your phone...	Your e-mail address.....	Your Choices A,B,C,1,2,3



*April and Wacoba volunteer at DeDecker Garden Clean-Up  
Photo by Kristen Luetkemeier*

## Reluctance

Out through the fields and the woods  
And over the walls I have wended;  
I have climbed the hills of view  
And looked at the world, and descended;  
I have come by the highway home,  
And lo, it is ended.

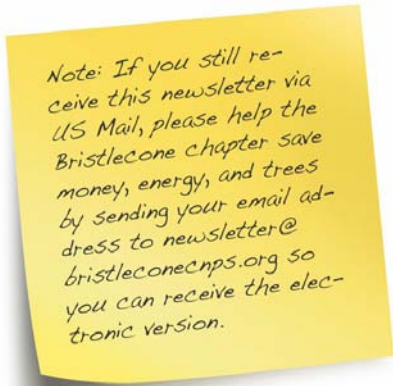
The leaves are all dead on the ground,  
Save those that the oak is keeping  
To ravel them one by one  
And let them go scraping and creeping  
Out over the crusted snow,  
When others are sleeping.

And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,  
No longer blown hither and thither;  
The last lone aster is gone;  
The flowers of the witch hazel wither;  
The heart is still aching to seek,  
But the feet question 'Whither?'

Ah, when to the heart of man  
Was it ever less than a treason  
To go with the drift of things,  
To yield with a grace to reason,  
And bow and accept the end  
Of a love or a season?  
*--Robert Frost*

**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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$300  
 Benefactor \$600  
 Mariposa Lily \$1500  
 Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To / Make Payable To:**  
CNPS Membership Coordinator  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Membership Category**  
 Student / Limited Income \$25  
 Individual \$45  
 Family \$75  
 Plant Lover \$100

**Gift Contribution:** \_\_\_\_\_ Wherever needed  
Specific Area: \_\_\_\_\_