



## 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. 4**  
**July-August 2015**

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## President's Message July 2015

My crossing paths with Jamie Pawelek from the Urban Bee Lab has changed my life, or at least my gardening habits. Jamie has shown me how to see the myriad of bees that exist in my garden. When I was at the nursery in early May and ran into someone I knew, she was all upset because her apple trees were exploding with moths. She wanted something she could use to deal with all these moths because she was afraid they would do in her fruit.

Frankly I had been too busy to pay much attention to my blooming apple tree, but I went home and checked my tree out. Yep, sure enough my tree was awash in swarming insects. The sphinx moths were defiantly the most notable but there were at least 2 other kinds of moths and honeybees and then some smaller native bees. When I looked closely at all those insects however, they were all just drinking nectar and pollinating my tree, so I was happy about that.

I have noticed the bees seem to move in clouds through my garden. During April and May they were filling the cherry and peach trees with their buzzing and then they moved over to the apple as it came into bloom. They seem to bounce through the yard swarming around whatever is in bloom at the time.

The cilantro is a real favorite, the flower heads are covered with different bees. My red bud and lilac leaves have a beautiful ruffled pattern from the leaf cutter bees cutting their perfect circle and half circles along the edges of the leaves. I now know that in the spent stems of the apricot mallow *Sphaeralcea ambigua* *Melissodes* bees are making their nests.

Now I let my cilantro go to seed so the bees can enjoy the longest blooms. I also look in the California poppies and watch the bees literally rolling around in the flowers. I leave more dead stems so the *native* bees can nest in them and I watch the holes in the

ground to see what might emerge and no longer assume that all those holes are anthills.

It is amazing that with a little new knowledge of one part of the ecosystem my whole view of the environment changes. CNPS has some great field trips planned for the summer and fall where you can learn some new detail that can change your perspective. Check out the calendar and go on one!

*--Katie Quinlan*

## Summer is for Pollinators

For more information about the amazing number and diversity of California's native bees and how to help them in your garden, visit the Urban Bee Lab's website at <http://www.helpabee.org/> and on facebook TheUrbanBeeLab.

And from our Bristlecone members Richard Potashin and Nancy Hadlock:

Insects & Plants: An Ecological Marriage for the Ages  
Mono Lake Seminar, July 17-19, Friday evening through Sunday mid-afternoon.  
<http://www.monolake.org/visit/seminars>

Richard Potashin & Nancy Hadlock  
\$165 per person / \$150 for Mono Lake Committee members  
Explore the complex, intimate relationships and attractions between insects and plants, including the threats to this essential relationship and how cultures, artists, and poets have interpreted this "marriage for the ages."

Richard Potashin is a longtime Eastern Sierra resident who, in a previous life as a landscape gardener, developed a passion for native flora. Nancy Hadlock has been a naturalist, interpreter, and educator for the National Park Service and US Forest Service for over 30 years.

## Conservation Updates

### Inyo National Forest Plan Revision - Wilderness Recommendations

The Inyo National Forest held a public workshop in Bishop on June 9, 2015 presenting results of the Wilderness Evaluation. Here are the results to be considered in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS):

- 3 potential new recommended wilderness areas, one each in the Glass Mountains, Deep Springs South and the Deep Springs North areas
- 1 potential addition to the eastern side of the South Sierra Wilderness
- 2 potential additions to the White Mountains Wilderness

A map showing these areas was also presented at the meeting however, it is not available electronically at this time. What do you think of these recommendations? Do you know of other potential areas in the Inyo National Forest that meet Wilderness designation requirements, or a different designation such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)? Now is the time to present your feedback and your own recommendations to the INF to help guide the process. Send your responses to: Edward Armenta, Supervisor  
Inyo National Forest  
351 Pacu Lane Bishop, CA 93514

The Bristlecone Chapter is working with Friends of the Inyo and the Sierra Club to help identify potential additional areas. Our Chapter's focus is on sensitive plant communities, rare plants, and rare plant assemblages. We welcome your input.

More information about the Wilderness inventory and evaluation can be found on-line:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid>

*--Julie Anne Hopkins*

### OWENS LAKE MASTER PLAN NOP RELEASED

Comment Deadline – August 7, 2015 by 5 PM.

Many Bristlecone Chapter members are familiar with this controversial project. Now is our opportunity to provide input to LADWP.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report and Notice of

Public Meetings for the proposed Owens Lake Master Project (Master Project). The NOP has been prepared to notify interested parties and individuals that LADWP is beginning the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Master Project and is soliciting input from the public on the content of the NOP to be evaluated in the EIR.

The LADWP is currently managing the implementation of the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program (OLDMP) to reduce dust emissions in compliance with the Great Basin Unified Air and Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) and in accordance with the 2014 Stipulated Judgement (Stipulated Judgment in the matter of City of Low Angeles v. California Air Resources Board, et al., Cane No. 34-2013-800015451-CU-WM-GDS). The proposed Master Project includes modification of existing water-based dust control measures (DCMs), limited to 53.5 square miles, while also planning for the potential need to control dust on an additional 4.8 square miles at Owens Lake.

The CNPS Bristlecone Chapter has participated in the development of the Master Plan as members of the Habitat Working Group (HWG), (including the Habitat Suitability Model which was developed as a tool to quantify, track, and maintain habitat value at Owens Lake, and the Resource Protection Plan). Our intention is to assist LADWP in protecting sensitive vegetation communities and critical wildlife habitat (e.g. alkali meadows) that have established on the Lake by years of water-based dust control methods. We thank Steve McLaughlin for his detailed and hard work on the HWG.

The Master Plan includes the evaluation of groundwater use beneath the Owens Lake for dust suppression. While supporting protection of sensitive plant communities and wildlife habitat, CNPS Wetlands Policy (adopted in 1991) explicitly states that “we support all efforts to preserve and conserve wetlands of all types;” and “opposes projects that adversely affect wetlands of any type unless there is a demonstrated net gain, in-kind, of wetlands prior to project impacts:” and “recommends avoidance of impacts to wetlands.”

The Bristlecone Chapter will provide comments on the NOP consistent with CNPS Wetlands Policy. To help Bristlecone members prepare comments please see the links below. Also, feel free to contact Julie Anne Hopkins at [conservation@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:conservation@bristleconecnps.org) with questions or assistance in your comment preparation. Keep in mind that this is not the EIR and your comments should address what is missing or insufficiently addressed in the NOP. Thank you all for submitting your comments!!

## IMPORTANT LINKS

To locate the NOP:

<https://ladwp.com>

Then click on the following tabs:

LADWP>About Us> Finances & Reports> Reports  
>Environmental Reports

CNPS Policy

<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/policies.php>

Owens Lake Master Plan:

<http://www.ladwp.com/docs/OPLADWP050832>

Public Meetings and Comment Submission

Two public meetings will be held:

July 15, 2015 - Bishop

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

LADWP Multi-Purpose Room

300 Mandich Street

July 22, 2015 - Lone Pine

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Statham Hall

138 Jackson Street

Send comments by August 7, 2015, 5:00 p.m. to:

Ms. Julie Van Wagner

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

111 North Hope Street, Room 1044

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Julie.VanWagner@ladwp.com

--Julie Anne Hopkins

## Greenhouse Update

What I like about growing plants is the chance to use the scientific method. Every year I think up new experiments to try, and since I am growing for production, I have enough plants to have a decent sample size for whatever I am experimenting with. It is what keeps the growing year after year fun and interesting.

Last year, I tried different soil mediums with the bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentat*). One medium I used had peat moss, sand, vermiculite and perlite. The other had Sunshine #4 with mycorrhizae, sand and perlite. I have been real impressed with the fertilizer I have been using in my vegetable garden with mycorrhizae. So far having mycorrhizae in the soil doesn't seem to make much difference to the *Purshia* plants.

This year one of my experiments has been with water temperature. In talking to Jim Roberts from Sierra Gardens Nursery he has been watering his seedlings with 120 degree water. The plants seem to like it and

the bugs don't, so there are no pests. My challenge has been getting enough water heated in an efficient way – so I haven't been real good about always using hot water. However, when I see aphids out on the plants in the shade house I am now trying to spray hot water on them with a pump sprayer, or if the plant is big enough just dipping it in the hot water.

My old pests, the mice, weren't much of a problem this year. I set traps in the greenhouse as soon as there were plants in there and caught 6 before they did any damage. We have a new feral cat that someone dropped off so I have been leaving the mice around to encourage the cat to stay and find some more. So given the results of old experiments it pays to be proactive not reactive.

Another experiment this year was moving plants out of the greenhouse earlier and planting some directly outside. This worked for the grasses. If I wait until it warms up to where it isn't freezing at night and plant the grass directly in the shade house it seems to sprout just fine. By doing this I saved a bunch of space in the greenhouse. Moving some of the plants out a little earlier allowed me to get more plants started so there are a lot more plants in the shade house now. Of course I will have to run this experiment a few more years when we don't have such a mild winter to see if it consistently works.

Starting the seeds a little later may have caused some failures, or it could have just been the weird weather this year. I had very few penstemon seeds sprout. Most of the penstemons I will have for sale this year are due to Julie Anne Hopkins potting up the extra volunteers that came up in her yard. I had a few other seeds that are usually very easy to start like *Solidago* and *Stanleya* that I also didn't have any success with which is a complete mystery and gives me more opportunities to hypothesize and test in the years to come.

--Katie Quinlan

## Seedlings for Swall Meadows Fire Victims

Volunteer CNPS members are growing 1,000 bitterbrush plants for Swall Meadows fire victims. We will donate these plants to people who are interested in planting them. The plants will be ready to plant in the fall of 2016. Please contact Karen Ferris-Ingram through i-neighbor or at [easternsierra.kfi@gmail.com](mailto:easternsierra.kfi@gmail.com) if you are interested in receiving some of these plants .

## Bristlecone CNPS Gift Certificates

The Bristlecone Chapter now has Gift Certificates available. Contact Katie Quinlan at [kquinlan16@gmail.com](mailto:kquinlan16@gmail.com) to purchase one. See sample on page 7.

## Bristlecone Volunteers, Step Up!

HELP WANTED

### Communication chair

This volunteer position is responsible for advertising upcoming Bristlecone chapter CNPS events to the media. A few newspaper articles about upcoming events would be nice but not necessary.

### Webmaster

This volunteer position is responsible for maintaining and updating the Bristlecone chapter's website.

Contact Bristlecone CNPS President Katie Quinlan at 760-873-8023 more information.

## Up-Coming Events

### CNPS Field Trips and Events

**July 4, Saturday, Golden Trout Lake**, Leader: Sue Weis. Strenuous 3 mile hike (6 miles round trip), but we may find some RPTH plants that haven't been visited for a long time. New trail for me, but sounds interesting. Bring a lunch, sun gear, good shoes, for a full day hike. Meet at Forest Service west parking lot, off West Line on Pacu Lane, at 8:30 AM. For more information call Sue Weis at 760-873-3485 or email [sueweis@aol.com](mailto:sueweis@aol.com)

**July 6-8, Tuesday-Wednesday: Introduction to Plant Family Identification, CNPS Plant Identification Workshop**  
Taught by: David L. Magney  
Location: Sagehen Field Station, Truckee

**July 18, Saturday. Upper Convict Creek and Mildred Lake Basin.** Leader: Jerry Zatorski. Mildred Lake basin is known as one of the few locations for two rare California native shrub species, Short-fruited willow, *Salix brachycarpa*, and Kinnikinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. Aside from these rare shrubs there are also an additional handful of other rare species, hard to find elsewhere in the Eastern Sierra. The hike up to Mildred Lake is about 6 miles one way with a round trip of 12 miles, beginning at 7621' going up to 9800'. This is a moderate to strenuous trek for most hikers, and participants should be in good hiking condition at high elevation. We should be back down by late afternoon. Participants should bring lunch, snacks and plenty of fluids, field guides, hand lens. Don't forget binoculars! This is also an excellent place to see and hear many breeding bird species. Dress for the weather, hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes... We will meet at 7:00 AM at the Convict Lake trail head (1.7 miles S of US 395 on Convict Lake Rd the parking lot is a right turn before Convict Lake Resort). For more information contact Jerry at 760-387-2920 or [jerryzat@gmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@gmail.com)

**July 18, Saturday, Joint Bristlecone Chapter-Friends of the Inyo Field Trip: Coyote Plateau. Leaders: Julie Anne Hopkins and Jora Fogg from Friends of the Inyo.**

The Bristlecone Chapter will join Friends of the Inyo for a rigorous hike, hopefully full of wildflowers and birds, on the Coyote Plateau. Contact Julie Anne Hopkins at [conservation@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:conservation@bristleconecnps.org).

## Up-Coming Events

**July 24-25, Saturday (optional Friday). Glass Mountains and Sawmill Meadow.** Leader: Michael Honer and Julie Anne Hopkins. We will explore the eastern flank and summit plateau of this obscure volcanic peak following a vague hiking trail near Sawmill Meadow. Starting in lodgepole and Jeffrey pine woodland, we'll quickly ascend a deep pumice valley passing things like *Penstemon newberryi*, *Monardella odoratissima*, and *Eriogonum lobbii*. We'll lunch on the wide summit plateau accompanied by dwarfed *Pinus albicaulis*, *Penstemon speciosus*, *Astragalus monoensis*, and *Raillardella argentea*. Stupendous 360-degree views of the Mono Basin, Adobe Valley, Long Valley, Sierra and White Mountain crests will be unavoidable.

The hiking distance is only about 2 miles, but with a 2000-foot elevation gain. So bring plenty of water, lunch, sun protection, and warm / wind breaking clothing because the weather could be quite variable. Good hiking boots and GAITERS are recommended. The trip back down will be a fun cross-country glissade down steep slopes on crunchy pumice the size and texture of Kix cereal. Meet 9:00 AM Saturday July 25 along Sawmill Meadow road, ¼ mile NW of the meadow. We should return to the cars around 3:00.

OPTIONAL Overnight camp at Sawmill Meadow: Friday July 24, starting around 2pm: we'll poke around this spring-fed meadow & nearby slopes looking for other interesting things. Contact Julie Anne Hopkins at [julieann@cruzio.com](mailto:julieann@cruzio.com).

### **August 1, Saturday, 9am-Noon: Second Mammoth Area Native Plant Sale of the summer**

Mammoth holds 2-3 smaller sales of plants that will grow well in the Mammoth area each summer. Contact Mammoth Plant Sale Coordinator, Sherry Taylor, [plant.sales@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant.sales@bristleconecnps.org) and ask to be put on her mailing list for future updates.

## Up-Coming Events

**August 8, Saturday. Mono Pass (north).** Leader: Michele Slaton. We will explore Bloody Canyon that leads to Mono Pass, between the Mono Lake Basin and Yosemite National Park. The hike will begin at about 8000 ft. at Walker Lake, and proceed up the steep trail about 5 miles, toward Mono Pass, at over 10,000 ft. We will hike through spectacular Jeffrey pine, fir, and western white pine forests, up into whitebark pine, mountain hemlock, and alpine zones. Our purpose will be to pursue a number of botanical mysteries! We will be looking to find and record the health of populations with sparse or uncertain occurrence and/or threat information on the Inyo National Forest, including alpine bentgrass (*Agrostis humilis*), Congdon's sedge (*Carex congdonii*), Tioga pass sedge (*Carex tiogana*), and rock sandwort (*Minuartia stricta*). We will also explore the mysteries of 1880's collections of Hall's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus hallii*), and Sierra milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *sierra*) ... the latter of which would be an extremely rare and important find if identified correctly!

There are options to day hike a short route, or to backpack in for 1 or 2 nights, so please contact Michèle Slaton (760-920-8693 or [mslaton02@gmail.com](mailto:mslaton02@gmail.com)) if you are thinking of coming, so that we can discuss logistics and secure permits.

### **August 29, Saturday, 9am-Noon: CNPS Native Plant Sale - Bishop, White Mountain Research Center**

A wonderful array of native plants is offered every year. We've been busy coaxing from seed dozens of brittlebush, various buckwheats, penstemons, Mojave aster, lupine and many more favorites!! Check back for updates on what will be available this year. To see what plants have been available in the past, explore our sortable database of species that have been available at our plant sales for ideas of what to expect.

Prices: Plant prices are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00 for Super Cells, \$5.00 for small tree pots, \$8.00 for gallon pots, and \$10 for tall tree pots.

Proceeds from the annual native plant sales provide funding for our Mary DeDecker Botanical Grants.

The grant program is a fitting way to remember Mary DeDecker's many contributions to the people and plants of the Eastern Sierra.

Visit [plant.sales@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant.sales@bristleconecnps.org).

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

**Bristlecone Chapter Directory**

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023  
Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258  
Secretary: Rosemary Jarrett 760-387-2782  
Treasurer: Nancy Hadlock 760-263-5022  
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: Nancy Hadlock 760-263-5022  
Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485  
T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392  
DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022



# California Native Plant Society Bristlecone Chapter



## Native Plant Sales

**Where:** Sherry Taylor's 107 Sugar Pine Dr., Mammoth Lakes

**When:** August 1<sup>st</sup>, 9-11 AM

**Where:** White Mountain Research Station, 3000 E. Line St., Bishop

**When:** Saturday, August 29th, 9-11 AM

A complete list and quantities available will be updated on the web site:

[www.bristleconecnps.org](http://www.bristleconecnps.org).



Gal. Pots

ass) \$2.00 ea. or 3 for \$5

\$5.00

\$5.00

\$8.00



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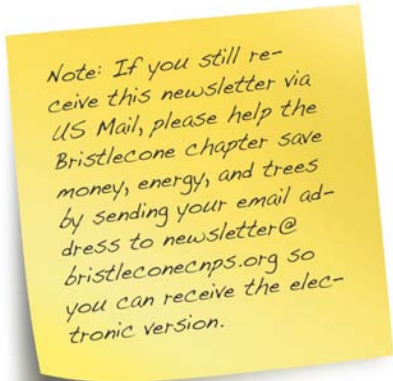
Bristlecone Chapter California Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 364, Bishop, CA 93514

Bristleconecnps.org

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_ Patron \$300
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**Mail To / Make Payable To:**  
CNPS Membership Coordinator  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816

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