



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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President's Message September 2015

When I picked berries earlier this week, I knew fall was on the way. Each passing day plant production dropped in half. Peaches hard and green two weeks ago are now colored and falling off the tree. I am amazed at how fast the seasons change.

This summer we had dire expectations. The fourth year of drought started out with a heat wave. But it turned out not so bad. A few summer rains kept most of the high lakes full, and flowers got enough water to keep their blooms. As summer wanes there are still plenty of flowers to enjoy on the trails.

This time of year is when I collect seeds for next year's plants. As I hike the trails I make note of what and where plants set seed and when they will be viable and ready to collect. Timing a collection can be tricky: pick them too early and they won't sprout, wait a day or two and they might all be blown away or eaten by critters.

Most of the native flowers in my garden have finished blooming and set seed. But the *Epilobium canum* is starting to bloom and the *Sphaeralcea ambigua* is putting out its second bloom. I have a lot of *Rubeckia* that the bees love. I have one volunteer plant in my strawberry patch that has about 12 flowers on it. When it first started blooming the male Long-horn bees *Melissodes ssp.* chose one blossom to sleep in and even though that flower is now past its prime the boys still go back to that flower every night; it is quite the bachelor pad as it seems every night more bees show up to hang out.

Although we make dire predictions about the future, nature still pleasantly surprises us. We need to remember to enjoy whatever is happening in the world and not get wrapped up in the negative stuff that is going on.

--Katie Quinlan

Wednesday, September 30, 7 PM, General Meeting, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop "A Native Plant Garden in Big Pine Honoring Alice Piper and Mary DeDecker"

Alan Bacock, from the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (BPPT), will present the success story of planting a native garden in collaboration with the Big Pine Unified School District (BPUUSD). The garden surrounds the monument to Alice Piper, whose efforts led to her and her Owens Valley Paiute classmates' admission into the school in 1924. This project was funded in part with a Mary DeDecker botanical grant from the Bristlecone Chapter. The Chapter is especially pleased to assist in a project that honors both Alice and Mary.



Photo of Big Pine School site before planting

Mary DeDecker stated the following about the Paiute people: "They had developed a simple form of agriculture in the Bishop, Big Pine and Independence areas which was an ingenious way of using the natural resources to advantage. Although they lived

on the land, harvesting both natural and their cultivated native foods, they were wise enough to allow for replenishment. No resource was exploited to the point of no return. Above all, they had a high respect for water. They realized that it must never be polluted.”

In this presentation, we will learn about the native species used, the installation and watering design, the interpretive features, and the participation of students and community members.

--*Michèle Slaton*

Greenhouse Update

As fall quickly rolls around the corner I'm taking some time to evaluate summer experiments. As you recall, I tried seeding the grasses a little later, so I could do it outside and not take up greenhouse space. It seemed to work in the spring, the grass sprouted and started to grow, but in the end it hasn't spread out and filled the pots like it usually does. I don't know if this is because starting a month later or because this was such a weird weather year. Next year I will split my grasses so some will start in the greenhouse and the rest I'll start outside. That way I'll have a better comparison.

The conclusion of my experiment with using soil with or without mycorrhizae for the bitterbrush seedlings was that I couldn't tell the difference. When I look at the tables of plants there are some plants doing well and others that are not doing as well, but I have to look at tags in the pots to see what soil they are in.

I also tried planting some of the plants in Styrofoam containers. We got these containers from another restoration nursery and their plants had done well in them. The Styrofoam keeps the roots cooler and they don't require as much water, but for whatever reason, the plants didn't do as well in the styrofoam for me; only one of the plants grew enough to be able to be planted out this year.

The experiment with watering with hot water was a success. Although I didn't consistently water plants with the 120-degree water, spraying the insects with it certainly was a great method of control. The apricot mallow became infested with a very small orange bug and aphids. Weekly sprays of hot water kept the pests off and allowed the plants to recover. This was also true of the milkweed and its constant pest of the yellow aphids. I ignored the penstemons for about a

week and they were then infested with a punk bug with spikes all over its back. I took it into the agricultural office, but no one in there or the UC extension Office had seen one before. It is on its way to the state office to get identified. Even without an identity, an application of dormant oil spray and then regular spraying of hot water after that and I was able to keep the bugs at bay. Next year I would like to try and use the hot water more but will need to find a way to make it easier to water.

The plants are looking good for the plant sale. Unfortunately, I will have to overwinter more of the plants marked for restoration that didn't do so well in my experiments. Now the tables are full. I will try to figure out how the overwintering plants are going to fit under the row covers.

--*Katie Quinlan*

Conservation Updates

Inyo National Forest Plan Revision

Inyo National Forest (INF) has formally announced the delay of the DEIS for the Forest Plan revision to the fall – maybe November 2015. The DEIS not only covers the INF but also the Sequoia and Sierra. The Bristlecone Chapter will continue to work with CNPS and the Sierra Nevada Forest Planning Coalition by providing comments to the Forest Supervisors to help guide the DEIS process.

Owens Lake Master Project

The Bristlecone chapter submitted scoping comments (Notice of Preparation—NOP) in August, 2015, providing LADWP with our environmental concerns regarding the development of the DEIR for the implementation of the Owens Lake Master Project. The proposed project would modify dust control methods to reduce emissions, while also reducing the amount of water used for dust suppression on the lakebed, in compliance with agreements with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. The LADWP is evaluating the use of groundwater from beneath Owens Lake for dust suppression, which CNPS opposes. Expect the OLMP DEIR to be released in September 2015. The Bristlecone chapter will try to host a comment letter writing workshop during the comment period once the DEIR is released. Check our website for background information—<http://bristleconecnps.org>. Contact Julie Anne Hopkins with questions: conservation@bristleconecnps.org.

--*Julie Anne Hopkins*

Mule Springs, June 6 Field Trip Report

Twelve of us met in Big Pine on June 6, because we knew the trip leader, Steve Matson, would harp all day on four species of shrubby *Atriplex*. It just doesn't get any better than that! You all know those gray-green mounds that grace the Owens Valley and beyond in all their shrubby majesty.

Our first stop was on Highway 168 beyond the Owens River. A large specimen of tamarisk, *Tamarix parviflora*, overshadowed the road and is easy to ignore, but in April it was nicely in flower. It is an invasive exotic, but at least in this location it does not seem to be spreading. Maybe Tom Dudley's bugs (biological control via salt cedar leaf beetle) are effective after all. Nearby was some *Atriplex polycarpa*, which got everyone excited, along with a bit of *Atriplex torreyi*. Neither was flowering, so enthusiasm was muted.



http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?enlarge=0000+0000+0415+0767

--Photo by Steve Matson

We drove the old railroad grade south and made a stop next to the Owens River. The *Atriplex confertiflora* was there but a bit sad with the drought. In better shape was a close relative, *Sarcobatus vermiculatus* otherwise known as greasewood. A big stand of *Glycyrrhiza lepidota*, wild licorice with its more traditional flowers perked up the group. (Eileen thought that the spelling of this plant's scientific name was like the spelling of glycogen, so her advice that the pronunciation was a hard "c" was incorrect. It is pronounced with a soft "c" like glycerine. We learn something new every day.) A large willow went

unidentified because attention was drawn to the "beach" with its very tall bullrush, *Schoenoplectus acutus* var. *occidentalis*, and the weedy *Heliotropium curassavicum*. Some mosquito fern (*Azolla* sp.) grew on a quiet backwater.

Our third stop brought us close to Mule Springs, out in the middle of "alkali flats" where we could find prince's plume, *Stanleya pinnata* var. *pinnata*, as well as both types of indigo bush, *Psoralea argophylla* var. *minutifolia* and *Psoralea polydenia*. The abundant glands on the later species was a great feature. The best plant here was *Atragalus serenoii* var. *shockleyi*, a CNPS list 2B.2 rare plant. It has a diagnostic feature described as "Terminal leaflet generally not jointed to midrib" or unlike other leaflets, as illustrated here:



http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?enlarge=0000+0000+0615+0955

--Photo by Steve Matson

We moved on to a parking area below Mule Springs. Mining activity above and around are evidence of the Rossi Limestone Mine. Steve insisted on observing one more shrubby *Atriplex*, this one *A. parryi* with its two ranked cordate leaves. On our way up to running water we found matchweed, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*; California buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*; Mormon tea, *Ephedra nevadensis*, and much else.

The springs here have their water directed into two pools where two rare fish populations are maintained. As such, they are surrounded by riparian vegetation that is a rarity on the west slope of the Inyo Mountains. More interesting here are populations of sandpaper plant, *Petalonix nitidus*; prickly leaf, *Hecastocleis shockleyi*; Heerman's

buckwheat, *Eriogonum heermannii*; and desert rock nettle, *Eucnide urens*.



Mule Springs Group
--Photo by Steve Matson

A pleasant lunch break near the mine adit wrapped up the field trip. We scrambled back down the steep trail, past the fish ponds and back to our cars. It was unseasonably cool for June and that made the trip much nicer. Thanks to Nikki Nedeffor for maintaining a plant list.

--Steve Matson

Glass Mountain – July 25, 2015

Some of you missed out on a great hiking field trip to the summit (south) of Glass Mountain – it was amazing! The weather was perfect and the plants in bloom were spectacular – not to mention the rocks and vistas!



Glass Mountain Summit
--Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

Along the trail we saw the skunky monkeyflower (*Mimulus nanus* var. *mephiticus*), hot-pink (can also be vibrant yellow), brilliantly contrasting against

black obsidian. Another showy plant was the “lazy buckwheat”, *Eriogonum lobbii*, which has a fragrance reminiscent of cheese and seems to just flop across the substrate (so some folk informally call it lazy), just to name a couple of obvious flowering species.



Skunky Monkeyflower
--Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

Above treeline we admired a very cool, low-growing rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa* var. *speciosa*), though not in flower its lime-green color stood out against the dark rocky background. Want to know more? Next year, July 2016 we plan to lead this trip again – hope you join in!

--Julie Anne Hopkins

Walker Lake Field Trip Report, August 8, 2015

We had an excellent trip to Walker Lake in the Mono Basin, sneaking into the area just a week before the Walker Fire began. We were hoping to find a number of rare plants that hadn't been seen in some time and for which the Inyo National Forest is seeking information. Thanks to all attendees who assisted in the search and in the installation of a long-term riparian monitoring plot in Bloody Canyon.

The hero of the day was 10-year-old Jackson Thun, who when tasked with wading out to find the rare aquatic plant, Robbins' pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii*), promptly returned to shore with a fine specimen in hand. Jackson reported that he would like to name the prized plant “Cheeseburger monkey potion,” and the Bristlecone Chapter is pleased to accept the new common name for this pondweed. Hats off to you, Jackson!

--Michèle Slaton



Young botanical discoverer, Jackson Thun, cheers at his find as botanists assist with the identification.
 --Photo by Michèle Slaton



Mammoth Native Plant Sale, 2015
 --Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

Mammoth Region Bristlecone Chapter 2015 Plant Sales

Two CNPS Bristlecone Chapter native plant sales were held in Mammoth Lakes this past summer, 2015. With the help of 13 volunteers, Sherry Taylor, potted, tended, and sold over 350 luscious native plants for high elevations. Additionally, in April Sherry and volunteers potted up 800 bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata* var. *tridentata*) for the Round Fire – Swall Meadows restoration. In May at a second potting session seedlings were potted for the plant sale including, Wax Currant (*Ribes cereum*), Five-finger Cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), Crimson Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), Whorled Penstemon (*Penstemon heterodoxus*), Common and Mountain Monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*, *M. tilingii*) and Pennyroyal (*Monardella odoratissima*), among others. Sherry kept these plants thriving even with the strict water restrictions in Mammoth with revenues from both sales exceeding \$1800.00 for our chapter. Thank you Sherry and all of you Mammoth Lakes volunteers!

--Julie Anne Hopkins

Bristlecone Volunteers, Step Up!

HELP WANTED—STILL OPEN

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
September Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 6 PM Conference Room, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop. All members are welcome.
September Bristlecone Chapter Meeting and Program
Wednesday, September 30, 7 PM White Mountain Research Center, 3000 East Line St., Bishop. “A Native Plant Garden in Big Pine Honoring Alice Piper and Mary DeDecker,” Alan Bacock.
CNPS Events and Field Trips
Saturday, September 1 , 9 AM to 3:30 PM, Creekside Building Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Stockton St, Sonora Calif. “Gardening with Natives ” Sponsored by Sierra Foothills Chapter CNPS. Registration deadline September 1 but call to see if space is available after that date. See brochure below.
Saturday, October 3, BLM-CNPS Indian Fire Bitterbrush Planting Day Join in again this year, on Saturday, October 3, to team up with BLM Botanist Martin Oliver for a bitterbrush planting in the footprint of the Indian Fire—south of Mono Lake in Mono County, California. Martin has several hundred young bitterbrush—grown out by our Bristlecone Chapter president, Katie Quinlan and volunteers, from seed—to be placed and planted. Join in on this opportunity to continuing helping with this post-fire Bi-state Greater Sage-Grouse habitat restoration project. Prepare for diverse weather conditions: sunblock, layered clothing, boots, and sun hat Bring your lunch, water and any other creature comforts. Trip leaders will bring treats and extra water. We should be finished by 2 – 3 PM. Meet at Mono Mills off Hwy 120 at 9:30 AM. Contact: Julie Anne Hopkins (831) 566-6012

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

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
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 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
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 Newsletter: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702
 Membership: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702
 Website: Maggie Riley <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

The Sierra Foothills Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society
and Tuolumne Utilities District Present:

Gardening with Natives

Helping our Foothill Gardens
Survive the Drought

Saturday,
September 12, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Creekside Building,
Mother Lode Fairgrounds,
Stockton Street,
Sonora, CA

With California in the fourth year of unprecedented drought, all Californians have been called upon to make sacrifices, reducing water use everywhere possible. The impacts of drought on our foothill landscapes have been substantial, and in some cases, devastating. We are challenged with keeping our trees healthy and our yards attractive while minimizing our water use. Many of California's native plants are drought tolerant and can be used to create beautiful and resilient landscapes.

Our two keynote speakers are Janet Cobb and Arlie Middlebrook.

Janet Cobb is the Executive Officer of the California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks. Since 1988, she has been advocating for and pursuing the preservation of oak woodlands, speaking up about the importance of California oak ecosystems. One of her early projects with the California Oak Foundation was to oversee the 1993 publication of *Oaks of California* by Bruce Pavlik, Pamela Muick, Sharon Johnson and Marjorie Popper.

Arlie Middlebrook is the founder and President of California Native Garden Foundations and her award winning design and build company Middlebrook Gardens, which has built over 500 gardens. She co-authored with Dr. Glenn Keator the book *Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens.*

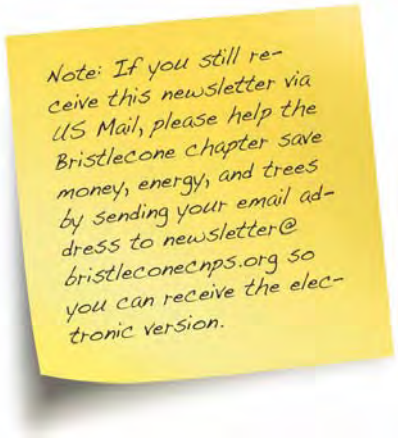
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The California Native Plant Society

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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: _____

- __ 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

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Specific Area: _____