



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 37, No. 3

May-June 2016

President's Message May 2016

I have been enjoying walks along the alluvial fans of the Sierra and White Mountains. It is fun to see the dormant bushes greening up and flowering. Tucked in among the shrubs are the flowers that are starting to bloom as well. Although we didn't get as much rain as Death Valley, the rains that fell in October and December were enough to get these guys excited and growing. Up in the Whites, the *Astragalus coccineus* (scarlet milk vetch) is blooming along with the *Mirabilis multiflora* (desert four o'clock).

After the previous very dry years, this year seems moist. We need to enjoy all those plants that are blooming. Some excellent field trips leaders have planned trips for the upcoming months to make learning about all those plants easier. Karen Ferrell-Ingram, our new publicity chair, is putting together an email events page to highlight upcoming events every month. We hope that this will get the word out rather than relying on local news media that don't always publish announcements of field trips. If you didn't get your first notice of this event page let Edie Trimmer and Tom Brill know at newsletter@bristleconecnps.org. They will add you to the email list.

--Katie Quinlan

Wednesday, May 25, 7 PM, General Meeting, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop "Mary DeDecker Grant for Eastern Sierra Land Trust Demonstration Garden", Kay Ogden and Sara Kokklenberg

In 2015, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) was awarded the Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant to create native plant and pollinator gardens that enhance biodiversity and increase understanding and appreciation of native plants in the Eastern Sierra

region. With the help and support of the California Native Plant Society Bristlecone Chapter and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, ESLT met their 2015 goals. Come hear Kay and Sara talk about their work on the garden.

Kay Ogden was appointed to the position of ESLT Executive Director in May 2013 after working as Associate Director for the Sierra Nevada Alliance. She brings great passion for the Eastern Sierra landscape and experience in project management, strategic planning, fundraising, building connections, and leading effective programs. She also enjoys gardening, canning fresh food grown in her garden, and hiking and cycling with her new husband, Jeff Boone, and their rescued German Shepherd, Rush Creek

After spending two years with Eastern Sierra Land Trust as an Education Coordinator AmeriCorps member, Sara Kokkelenberg is pleased to join the team full-time and continue her work restoring landscapes on the eastside. She is most excited to resume work on the Benton Ponds restoration project involving the native Owens Speckled Dace. Having fallen in love with life in Bishop, she now spends most of her time outside of the office wandering backcountry trails, attempting to pebble-wrestle, and soaking in hot springs.

--Michèle Slaton

March General Meeting Presentation Update on Lower Owens River Project

On March 23, 2016 I presented an update of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). One of the goals for the LORP is reintroduction of native woody riparian species--willows and cottonwood. The desired species are Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Black Willow (*Salix goodingii*), Red Willow (*Salix laevigata*),

Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and Coyote Willow (*Salix exigua*). Cottonwood and black and red willow are trees and therefore add upper canopy layer. Currently, there are a few invasive plant species which were present prior to the implementation of the LORP. Two species in particular Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramossima*) and Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) are being treated with the goal of eradication or at least containment.

I took the audience through a virtual tour of the 57 miles of re-watered river using imagery from 2005 (pre-project), 2009, and 2014. Along with the imagery slides were two vegetation mapping surveys done on the LORP. The first was in 2000 and represents pre-project vegetation cover and conditions, and the second was in 2014 and represents more current vegetation cover and conditions. During this period, there have been fires within the project.

The primary method to detect desired riparian species is to walk the length of the river and look for recruitment. This is done using the annual Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS), a fairly quick two week survey that covers the river and the additional off river lakes, ponds and wetlands. Along with looking for willow and cottonwood recruitment, the field staff also is looking for impacts ranging from presence of wildlife to invasive plant species and various management-related impacts. The many years of RAS have yielded data that pertain to the health of the recovering river corridor.

A question for project managers has long been are we getting recruitment of willow and cottonwood? In September and October of 2015, the entire river was surveyed and every recruitment site recorded which survived at least one year was revisited. The survey counted 476 sites persisting the year following initial detection. These sites were revisited in 2015. Of the original 476 sites, 275 sites (57.8%) had persisting recruitment. There were approximately 1985 individual recruits found. Tree species found were 8 Fremont Cottonwood (0.4%), 1341 Black Willow (67.6%), 182 Red

Willow (9.2%), and 79 Black x Red Willow hybrids (4.0%); shrub species found were 367 Coyote Willow (18.5%) and 6 Arroyo Willow (0.3%).

The river is broken up into management reaches. These reaches represent areas of similar habitat prior to the project implementation. Reaches two and three in the upper portion of the river had the most available recruitment locations with proximity to mature seed producing plants and represented over 80% of all recruitment sites. Recruitment rose in the first three years and has slowly decreased since then as the best locations filled in the earlier years and now seed has to travel further to get to remaining potential recruitment sites.

The Lower Owens River is recovering from a long, human-made drought. This stretch of the river is recolonizing the river bank with the native woody riparian species. You can be certain someone will be patting themselves on the back for this recovery, but more important than anyone's hubris is that we are slowly getting a long forgotten part of the Owens River back.

--Jerry Zatorski

Greenhouse Update

With the warm weather, I pulled the row cover off the shade tables early. It is fun to have this unveiling and to see the tables covered in green plants. The greenhouse is packed with new seedlings; the season is getting into full swing.

There will be two Bishop plant sales this year. The first one will be on April 30 at the Eastern Sierra Land Trust's "Gardenfest" 250 Home St. from 11 to 2. The fall one will be on September 10 from 9 to 11 at the White Mountain Research Center. I had to change the date of the fall sale because the original date was the day I take my son to college.

--Katie Quinlan

*Congratulations Katie Quinlan and son Marty
-editors and the Bristlecone Chapter.*

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Death Valley Field Trip

Over the weekend of March 12, the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society sponsored a week-end field trip to view the annual spring bloom in Death Valley. Twenty-two people from many parts of the state (and an Oregonian) attended the event, which was led by Mark Bagley, assisted by Scott Hetzler and Ann Howald. This year's bloom was being characterized as a "once in a decade event" in the media, so there were many folks visiting the park.

Mark, Scott and Ann had braved gale-force winds on Friday scouting out locations to take the group, and the work paid off. At eight different stops during the weekend, four dozen different species of plant were observed. Thanks to the brainpower and books on hand, every species was identified or keyed out on the spot.

Among the most common annuals flowering were "Desert Gold" (*Geraea canescens*, Family: Asteraceae), "Gravel Ghost" (*Atrichoseris platyphylla*, Family: Asteraceae), "Mojave Suncup" (*Chylismia brevipes*, Family: Onagraceae), "Desert Five-Spot" (*Eremalche rotundifolia*, Family: Malvaceae), "Caltha-Leafed Phacelia" (*Phacelia calthifolia*, Family: Boraginaceae) and "Knotch-Leafed Phacelia" - flowers (*Phacelia crenulata*, Family: Boraginaceae). Most spectacular, perhaps, were the patches of Desert Gold that covered acres.

Perennials were also putting on a show, though they tended to be more localized in their distribution. These included "Velvet Turtleback" (*Psathyrotes ramosissima*, Family: Asteraceae), "Death Valley Sage" (*Salvia funerea*, Family: Lamiaceae), "Sweetbush" (*Bebbia juncea*, Family: Asteraceae), and the dioecious "Desert Holly" (*Atriplex hymenelytra*, Family: Chenopodiaceae).

A few rarities also presented themselves. In some cases, only a single specimen was observed: "California Fagonbush" (*Fagonia laevis*, Family: Zygophyllaceae), "Golden Carpet" (*Gilmania luteola*, Family: Polygonaceae) and "Rambling Milkweed" (*Sarcostemma hirtellum*, Family: Apocynaceae).

Every season is different in Death Valley and this year's bloom was certainly impressive. Climate

change means that an already harsh and unpredictable environment will become more so. The 2016 event might have been even more historical than we know. Only time will tell.

--Kollibri terre Sonnennblume
Kollibri terre Sonnennblume is the author "Wildflowers of Joshua Tree Country," available through Macska Moksha Press: www.macska.com

Bicycle Botanizing

On March 19, 2016 the Bristlecone chapter expanded their sense of adventure and botanized by bike. The leaders of the trip were Michele Slaton and Katie Quinlan. We left from the Aberdeen Station Road bridge where it crosses the lower Owens River and rode down the eastside of the river. Along the way we stopped and looked at shrubs as we were a little early for the flowers, although there was a lot of *Lepidium flavum* blooming and some *Phacelia fremontii*.

The bushes were leafing out and the alluvial fans along the base of the Inyo mountains were looking green. We saw and got a lot of practice telling *Atriplex confertifolia*, *A. parryi* and *A. polycarpa* apart.

We also explored the ruins of the towns of San Carlos and Chrysopolis. There was an unknown citizen of Chrysopolis that we took our hat off to for the beautiful skill in building rock walls, perfectly straight on one side and tapered wider toward the base on the other. Truly a master craftsman who cared for his work. The group thought this was a fun way to do a botany field trip and we should try some more by bike!

--Katie Quinlan



Bicycling Botanists
--Photo by Katie Quinlan

Baker Creek Field Trip

On March 26, 2016 I led a group of eleven to visit my backyard on Baker Creek just west of Big Pine. Three years ago I led a trip to this vicinity and drought conditions made it unspectacular. Although this year is considered below normal in precipitation, conditions are the best they have been for five years.

Two weeks earlier my wife Eileen Burger and I had espied *Muilla coronata* and hoped it would stick around a bit longer. All we found was a bit of fruit and a few withered leaves. Still, there was plenty to be seen, beginning with *Lupinus excubitus* and water birch, *Betula occidentalis* right next to Baker Creek.

Amazing displays of *Leptosyne bigelovii* (Bigelow's coreopsis) and *Malacothrix glabrata* (desert dandelion) can be found here in wet years, but there were still decent populations of both. Other members of the Sunflower family (Asteraceae) such as *Eriophyllum wallacei*, *Layia glandulosa*, *Anisicoma acaulis*, and *Chaenactis steveoides* also vied for our attention.

Best for me was the educational portion of the trip wherein Steve McLaughlin pointed out how he tells the difference between *Gilia sinuata* and the less common *Gilia ochroleuca*. The forget-me-not family (Boraginaceae) was well represented with *Cryptanthus*: *circumscissa*, *pterocarya*, and *barbigera*. *Amsinckia tessellata* was very common and robust, *Pectocarya penicillata* and *setosa* was less common as was *Plagiobothrys arizonicus*. *Phacelia distans* was too pretty to be overlooked but often hiding within shrubs.

We wandered north to a narrow wash above which *Salvia columbarae* was very at home on a warm south facing slope, as was *Purshia tridentata* var. *glandulosa*. *Acmispon strigosus* was ignored as few care for the newer name ("farewell sweet Lotus"). A bit of *Caulanthus cooperi* and *Sphaeralcea ambigua* appeared next to bigger rocks and a wee bit o' *Eucrypta penduliflora* hid in the shadows.

We had been traversing a slope of quartz monzonite and leucogranite. At noon, we settled in on a bit of calc-hornfels. We discussed the contact zone between this metamorphic island and the surrounding intrusive granite. A nice seam of calcite brought about a discussion of the Mohs scale and made a nice digression from botany.

An easy walk back to our cars rounded out this early-season foray. I provided a plant list but was a bit rusty with some of the taxa. Others were happy to fill any void in taxonomic knowledge.

--Steve Matson

Trip to Tunawee Canyon

A group of nine had an excellent venture into Tunawee Canyon in the South Sierra on April 16. We saw many annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees, and were lucky enough to find the rare Charlotte's phacelia (*Phacelia nashiana*) in full bloom.

The group assisted as Forest Service volunteers to install a transect initiating monitoring for this species. In under an hour, we were able to capture nearly the entire population in sampling, which will serve as a useful baseline for detecting future trends. As we left the canyon, the generous and knowledgeable property owners who had granted us permission to cross their land capped our day with a tour of the historic features of their property. Thanks to all who attended for contributing their time to Forest Service monitoring!

--Michèle Slaton



Charlotte's Phacelia (*Phacelia nashiana*)

--Photo by Michèle Slaton



Volunteers at Tunawee Canyon
--Photo by Michèle Slaton

Volunteer Opportunity

Erin Nordin with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Martin Oliver with the Bureau of Land Management are working on the Fish Slough milk-vetch census to be conducted this summer. The goal is to re-census the entire population (the plant only occurs at Fish Slough).

The census is expected to take place over two weeks. The survey is planned for the last week of June (week of the 27th) and continuing through the first two weeks of July. They are looking for people willing to commit some time. Availability for 2 or 3 days (or more) is preferred, but even one day will help. Fish Slough in July can be a hot place!

Contact Martin Oliver if you have questions
"Martin Oliver, BLM Bishop Field Office 351 Pacu Ln,
Suite 100 Bishop, CA 93514 mpoliver@blm.gov"
760.872.5035"

Calflora May Photo Contest

All plant observations with photos in the month of May will be considered in our 2nd annual Calflora Photo Contest.

Last year's winner was this *Silene laciniata* (Cardinal catchfly) by Kristin Soba.

Let us know if you'd like to be a judge for the photo contest!

How to submit your photos

1. Register as a [Calflora data contributor](#)
2. Use our free [android](#) or [iPhone](#) applications to log and upload your wild plant observation photos, or go to the Calflora web application [Plant Observation Entry](#).
3. Include photos and scientific name and any other details you'd like to include such as location description or notes.
4. [Publish](#) your records so others can see them.

The High Country Responds to a Changing Climate

Thursday, June 16, 1 to 5 PM FREE!

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, Lee Vining

Learn about climate issues from local experts

Sponsored by 350 Mono as a prequel to the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

Call 760 647-6461 or email with any questions.

Up-Coming Events

May Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 6 PM Conference Room, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop.

All members are welcome.

May Bristlecone Chapter Meeting and Program

Wednesday, May 25, 7 PM, General Meeting, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop

“Mary DeDecker Grant for Eastern Sierra Land Trust Demonstration Garden”, Kay Ogden and Sara Kokklenberg

Bristlecone CNPS Field Trips (for updated information, visit bristleconecnps.org)

April 30, Saturday: Vaughn Gulch, Inyo Mountains. Leader: Steve Matson. Last year I found *Penstemon fructiformis* and *Peucephyllum schottii* in this canyon and we should find them again. These are possible range extensions for these taxa. Also reputed to be a good location for fossils. Meet 8:30 AM next to the campground at the junction of 168 and 395 in Big Pine. Second meeting at 9:00 AM at the park at the south end of Independence on the west side of 395. We will drive the Mazourka Canyon road east. Final access is tricky as last mile will be over rough 4 wheel drive high clearance track. We will hike off trail up canyon, not too rough or steep. Bring lunch and water. Return to vehicles by 2PM. Contact info: Steve Matson, ssmat@sbcglobal.net, 775-843-0389, or 760-938-2862.

May 7, Saturday: Union Wash. Leader: Jerry Zatorski. This will be part driving tour and part hiking tour of this rarely botanized southern Owens Valley alluvial fan. The bottom of the fan is down in the Owens Valley's Great Basin flora. As we ascend up the alluvial fan, we will enter into Mojave flora. There are also a few spring ecosystems with perennial water. We can expect annuals alongside the persistent drought adapted perennial shrub flora. This will be a full day of exploring, so you will need to bring lunch, snacks, fluids and dress to be outside all day. Also have hand lens, field guides, and binoculars. We will meet at Independence Park, on the south end of Independence, on US 395 (Edwards St) at 8:00 am, and we should be done by late afternoon. Contact info: Jerry Zatorski, jerryzat@gmail.com.

Up-Coming Events

May 28, Saturday: Black and Marble Canyons, White Mountains. Leader: Steve Matson. Right in the Bishop backyard, Marble Canyon has some rare finds like *Glossopetalon spinescens* and *Philadelphus microphyllus*. Meet at 9:00 AM at the White Mountain Research Station on East Line Street. We will car pool from there on both paved and not too rough dirt roads. Bring lunch and water. We will hike up Marble canyon on a use trail, somewhat rough, some slick rock. Contact info: Steve Matson, ssmat@sbcglobal.net, 775-843-0389, or 760-938-2862.

July 16, Saturday, 9:45 – approx. 2:30: Valentine Reserve, Old Mammoth, Mono County. Leader: Ann Howald. Valentine Camp, a University of California Natural Reserve, covers about 150 acres, is rich in habitats, supporting over 250 plant species. On this leisurely hike we'll see montane forest, wet meadows, seeps and springs, montane riparian woodland along Mammoth Creek, sagebrush scrub on a small moraine, and a slope of montane chaparral with red firs. Wildflowers will be abundant, especially in the sagebrush-meadow transition zone. Historically, the legendary skier Hans George operated his ropetow on the slopes above Valentine Camp, and the property was a summer fishing camp for the original owners. The Valentine family donated this property to the University of California. Since 1972 it has been included in U.C.'s Natural Reserve System, dedicated to research and public education. Easy hike. Bring water, lunch, sun protection. All attendees will need to sign a waiver before entering the reserve. Space is limited, so please contact Sue Weis (sueweis@aol.com or 760-873-3485) to sign up. Sorry, but no dogs or folks under 18.

Up-Coming Events

July 30, Saturday. Shepherd Pass trail, Symmes Creek. Leader: Sue Weis. We will hike up the Shepherd Pass trail to the population of DeDecker clover on the ridge between Symmes and Shepherd Creek. We'll clarify the subspecies of *Petrophytum caespitosum* present on the walls of Symmes Creek so bring hand lenses to look at small petals. Mary DeDecker reported an Erigeron from a rocky south facing slope on Symmes Creek and we will try to re-locate it. Meet at 8:00 am at Dehy Park at the north end of Independence for carpooling. The road to the trailhead is a rough dirt road, so 4WD and high clearance will be needed. We will walk 3-4 miles mostly on an easy trail, with several stream crossings, but there are steep switchbacks going to the clover population. Bring lunch, sun protection, and lots of water. For questions, contact Sue Weis, sueweis@aol.com, or 760-873-3485.

August 13, Saturday. East of Mono Lake, Anchorite Hills. Leader: Sue Weis. Last year we re-located populations of several CNPS listed species in the Anchorite Hills area, including *Astragalus kentrophyta* var. *ungulatus*, *Mentzelia torreyi*, and *Eriogonum alexandrae*, and also found that the area had an infestation of halogeton, which we pulled. We will be again pulling any halogeton we find while visiting this diverse corner of Mono County. Meet at the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 167 at 9:00 am. Part of the trip is a few miles on a sandy bumpy road that needs 4WD and some clearance, with a short hike on sandy soil. Bring lunch, water, gloves, and sun protection. For questions, contact Sue Weis, sueweis@aol.com, or 760-873-3485.

CNPS Workshops (for more information, visit cnps.org/workshops)

May 3-5. Dye Creek Preserve, Los Molinos. "Introduction to Plant Identification". Taught by Josie Crawford.

May 18-20. Taft Gardens, Ojai. "Wetland & Riparian Plant Identification". Taught by David Magney.

July 19-21. White Mountains. "Vegetation Rapid Assessment". Taught by Julie Evans.

Up-Coming Events

Summer 2016. San Francisco Bay Area. "Vegetation Mapping". Taught by Julie Evans.

Other Events of Interest

May 14, Saturday. Eastern Sierra Audubon yard sale to benefit 2016 Senior Scholarships. Location to be determined. Contact Ann Hoffmann at hoffmann@qnet.com or at 760-937-1862.

June 16, Thursday 1 to 5 PM

The High Country Responds to a Changing Climate

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, Lee Vining

Learn about climate issues from local experts
Sponsored by 350 Mono as a prequel to the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua
Call 760 647-6461 or email with any questions.

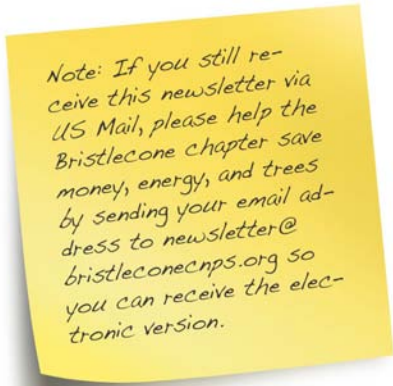
Please have your articles or information to us by June 15, 2016.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258
Secretary: Kathy Duvall 760-387-2122
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: Karen Ferrell Ingram 760-937-9918
Newsletter: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702
Membership: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702
Website: 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 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: _____

- __ 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: _____