



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 37, No. 4
July-August 2016

President's Message July 2016

This spring has been a flurry of field trips enjoying lots of flowers. I have had plenty of help at the pot parties every time I ask. (Lucky we are not in Colorado or that would take on a whole different meaning).

Despite the enthusiasm that a good spring bloom generates, we are at a crossroads for our chapter. There are lots of people who enjoy going on field trips, lots of people who enjoy gardening and potting up little seedlings. I believe most of us have concerns about conserving native plants and their habitat, but only a few of us are willing to sit through meetings and write letters. Unfortunately, there are only seven people willing to take on the leadership roles that being a chapter in the Native Plant Society requires. These same seven people trade the board positions; unfortunately, we don't see any new faces at our board meetings.

Many of the people who currently serve on the board are giving up their roles in leadership this year. At the beginning of the New Year we will need a new Treasurer, Newsletter editor and Membership chair. Michèle Slaton has offered to take on the role of newsletter/membership if someone else will take on Vice President and programs. We are still looking for a web page chair. Julie Ann Hopkins said she would give up conservation if someone else wanted to take it on and Katie Quinlan would love for someone else to take on the Presidency.

I know we are a small chapter with a limited number of volunteers. I think it is time for us as a group to evaluate what activities are important to us, focus on those, and let the other things slide. Since we often have such a poor turn out at our general meetings, (at our last one there were only four people), I am thinking that the best way to hear from people is to

do an online survey. Look for an email with questions about where you think our chapter should go.

Consider becoming a board member or committee chair. It would be nice to see some new faces and ideas at the board meetings.

--Katie Quinlan

Saturday and Sunday, August 13-14, Compost and Compost Tea Making Class, Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program Food Program, and will be held at their gardens at 50 Tu Su Lane, Bishop

Note: Bristlecone CNPS does not have a general meeting during the summer. Consider this workshop instead.

Growing and maintaining healthy plants doesn't have to be a frustrating experience. Adding compost and compost teas to your garden or indoor plants will provide nutrients to improve plant growth, and will also fight against plant diseases. Say goodbye to stunted or slow growing plants, detrimental leaf molds, and plant diseases! Whether you grow outdoors or indoors, you will actually enjoy building soil health and killing diseases after you learn how to make high quality compost and compost teas, using recipes specific to your plant.

This two-day class will help you to:

- Provide a slow release, sustainable, organic nutrient source for indoor and outdoor plants.
- Grow stronger, healthier and more productive food.
- Fight off plant diseases including leaf molds and damp off.
- Build soil structure, so your plants can thrive.
- Improve the soil food web by adding beneficial microbes.
- Cut your nutrient and fertilizer inputs costs.

Join us for this two-day hands-on course! You'll feel like a super gardener or farmer after this class, as you learn to make high quality compost and compost teas. Watch your plants grow healthier and stronger

In this class we will cover:

1. Building and maintaining an aerobic thermal compost pile;
2. Plant-specific compost tea recipes;
3. Compost tea making and application; and
4. Fundamentals of the soil food web and composting.

Julie Fontaine, a local soil scientist, will be leading the class. For over 20 years she has specialized in habitat restoration and organic food production, with the focus on soil health. Be prepared to build and turn the pile, improve your understanding, and become a master compost tea maker in just 2 short days.

Class is offered by the Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program Food Program, and will be held at their gardens at 50 Tu Su Lane in Bishop. Normally this two-day class is \$350, but it is being offered at discount of only \$100 for the event. Scholarships are available. Contact Jen Schlaich for registration (760) 920-5254, jen.schlaich@bishoppaiute.org, or message at www.facebook.com/bishoppaiutefoodsovereigntyprogram. Class size is limited. We'll see you there!

May Bristlecone Chapter General Meeting Eastern Sierra Land Trust's Native Plant and Pollinator Demonstration Garden

After receiving the Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant from the California Native Plant Society, Bristlecone Chapter (CNPS), Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) set out to create a demonstration garden in the front yard of our new office, located at 250 N. Fowler St. in Bishop. This learning space was created to serve as an outdoor classroom for our community by increasing appreciation of native plants and understanding of the ecological services they provide.

ESLT first sought advice from landscaping experts, botanists, and soil scientists in the area and contacted friends, volunteers, and advisers to help create the demonstration garden. CNPS members and participants in the Inyo-Mono Master Gardeners Program were deeply involved in the creation of this Native Plant and Pollinator Demonstration Garden, providing advice and materials for solarization, and

later helping with irrigation and the planting process. We were able to complete the demonstration garden in late August 2015 after receiving a donation of landscaping materials from Chalfant Big Trees Farm and Feed and 94 plants from CNPS.

ESLT's finished Native Plant and Pollinator Demonstration Garden has already increased understanding and appreciation in others for horticultural uses of native plants and will continue to in the future. In 2015 and 2016, we used the demonstration garden as the platform for an education program we run with three Bishop Elementary School 3rd grade classes each year, connecting kids to pollinators and the natural cycle through educational activities and games. As a result of this program, we plan to continue passing on the knowledge of pollinators and their importance in the ecosystem to future generations.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust plans to use this demonstration garden as a model for anyone interested in participating in our Eastside Pollinator Garden Project. Now in our third year of the Project, we have already helped create and certify 53 pollinator-friendly gardens; our goal in 2016 is to add another 20 gardens by October. We would like to thank CNPS for their ongoing, generous support of this project. Together with our Eastside Pollinator Garden Project and educational programs, the Native Plant and Pollinator Demonstration Garden will allow community members to become important players in the protection of our Eastern Sierra ecosystems and the biodiversity that sustains them.

Alice Piper Dedication

On Thursday June 2, Big Pine Unified School dedicated the Alice Piper Native Garden. The Garden is placed around the base of the statue of Alice Piper and is in front of the Big Pine High School building. Alice Piper was a Paiute girl who took the Big Pine School District to court. At the time Paiute students could only go to the Indian School which only went to the fifth grade. Alice won her case in court and was allowed to go to the Big Pine High School. Her case was the precursor to "Brown vs. the Board of Education".

The making of the statue and creation of the garden has been a joint effort between the school and the Big Pine tribe. These two organizations jointly received a Mary DeDecker grant last fall for the memorial

garden. Just like the creation of the garden, the dedication was a multi-person effort. The second graders sang a song, the fourth graders took turns speaking about Alice Piper, a high school student sang a song in Paiute and three other High School students performed dances. Then everyone formed a circle around the garden and sang a song that local musician Dan Connor wrote.

Alice Piper's Dream

*Every vision of the future owes a favor to the past.
Every step of human progress must be built upon the last.
Every day has its awakening; even justice waits its time.
Time was ready for Alice Piper,
And she made her moment shine.*

*California, end of summer, nineteen-hundred twenty three
Into Big Pine Public High School, seven students came to see
If the flag outside the windows included everyone
But admission was denied them; Alice Piper's time had come.*

*Some are certain: things will worsen if you try to take a
stand.
It's an open invitation for every hardship known to man.
Yes, the high road's steep and scary, and there is no
guarantee.
Alice Piper's quiet courage lifted all humanity.*

Chorus

*Alice Piper's dream
How light and frail it seemed.
But now the world knows what it means.
To share Alice Piper's dream
We're living Alice Piper's dream*

by Dan Connor



Student sign

--Photo by Katie Quinlan

The students are very proud of their alumnus, Alice. The fourth grade students planted the plants and did research on their plant and made informative signs for the garden. All this work has increased the interest in native plants in Big Pine. At the School's Earth Day celebration, the sixth grade students had a booth where people could plant some native seeds

and take them home to plant them in their own garden; the Bristlecone chapter provided seeds for this activity.

--Katie Quinlan

July 2016 Greenhouse update

This has been a weird weather year to say the least. A nice cool and reasonably wet spring was followed by a week of instant 100 degree weather and then dropping back into the 80's. The poor plants are so confused they don't know what to do.

Many of the seeds I sowed this year didn't sprout. I have reseeded the ones that don't require any extra seed treatment and am holding my breath hoping that they sprout and grow large enough for the fall sale.

On top of having fewer plants sprout, I had to throw away 64 Apricot mallow plants as the aphids had transmitted a disease that caused the leaves to curl and grow deformed. On a happier note, I sprayed some of Julie Fontaine's compost tea that I got at the Garden Fest on many of the plants and they have been going gang busters. I hope we can have Julie at the plant sale in September with her magic tea.

Because of how the plants are responding to this year's weather I am waiting until the beginning of August to update the plant sale list on the web page for what will be available this year. We will send out an email to alert you to the updated list when that happens.

The Mammoth plant sale is July 30 at 107 Sugar Pine Dr. and the fall Bishop sale will be on September 10 at the White Mountain Research Center, 3000 East Line St.

--Katie Quinlan

Conservation Update June 2016

Draft National Forest Plans for Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

The Forest Service has begun the 90-day public comment period for the draft environmental impact statement and draft forest plans for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. The public can now have its say and affect how the agency manages these publicly owned lands in the decades to come. Making science-based decisions has never been more critical. The forest planning underway for these three national forests, encompassing nearly 4.6 million acres, is the best opportunity to improve conservation of at-risk species and biological diversity at a landscape scale. It is also the means by which we can ensure preservation of the many other

amenities, such as clean air, clean water, beauty, and healthful outdoor recreational opportunities.

Species of Conservation Concern lists: Corrected species of conservation concern lists have been posted to the project website: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>. For more information about these forest plan revisions, visit the project website: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>

Public Meetings: Starting on June 13, the Forest Service hosted a series of public meetings to discuss the plan revisions with the public. These meetings continue through early August. The agency will be accepting verbal and written comments at these meetings as well. The following locations and times are subject to change; please be sure to check in with the agency beforehand if you are traveling to one of these. The contact person for the plans is Deb Whittall, 707-562-9121.

- August 1: Inyo National Forest Public Meeting, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 6-8 PM, Mammoth Lakes Cerro Coso Community College, 101 College Pkwy, Mammoth Lakes, CA.
- August 2: Inyo National Forest Public Meeting, Bishop, CA, 6-8 PM, Cerro Coso Community College Eastern Sierra Campus, 4090 W Line St, Bishop, CA
- August 3: Public Meeting, Bakersfield, CA, 6-8 PM
Doubletree-Hilton (At junction of Hwy 178 and Hwy 99) 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA
- August 4: Public Meeting, Clovis, CA, 6-8 PM
Clovis Memorial Veterans Hall, 808 4th St, Clovis, CA

Comments from the public will be accepted until August 25, 2016.

Comments may also be submitted in writing to: Planning Team Leader, Forest Plan Revision
1839 South Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257
or via e-mail to r5planrevision@fs.fed.us.

--Julie Anne Hopkins

Vaughn Gulch Field Trip

On a cold and windy April morning, and in a place perhaps more famous for its fossil rich limestone, an intrepid group of flower-seekers ventured up Vaughn Gulch on the west side of the Inyo Mountains and were not disappointed. Fossil hunters search for ancient corals, sponges, and bryozoans in this

wonderful rocky canyon but we were looking for some of the special plants that prefer limestone rock. Our leader, the energetic and knowledgeable Steve Matson, guided us to the canyon mouth, just south of Mazourka Canyon, and we wandered up until a vertical rock wall convinced us it was time to stop for lunch.

Despite the relentless drought, we found many gems including good showings of annuals such as *Gilia* and *Cryptantha* but a favorite was the red birdnest buckwheat, *Eriogonum nidularium*. Tough desert shrubs such as pygmy cedar, *Peucephyllum schotti*, and peach thorn, *Lycium cooperi*, were perched on the limestone walls among the abundant cottontop cacti, *Echinocactus polycephalus*. *Penstemon fruticiformus*, *Lupinus excubitus* and *Cryptantha racemosa* were blooming in the canyon wash. Finding favorites, *Phacelia perityloides* and *Emmenanthe penduliflora* were special treats on an already flower-filled spring morning in the beautiful Inyo Mountains.

--Karen Ferrell-Ingram



Vaughn Gulch Field Trip
--Photo Karen Ferrell

Hiding in Plain Sight

Sometime in the last few years I have mentioned wanting to find some seldom-seen plant species. One of these is *Oryctes nevadensis*. Jerry Zatorski and Ann Howald have both suggested locales, and Mark Bagley once took Eileen and I to a possible site right off East Line Street next to the Owens River. This is a plant that needs more rain than you would see in the drought years of late. It is also not a very showy plant. In fact, it is downright homely.

So, after a recent (Marble Canyon) field trip, I was driving back from the White Mountain Research Center into Bishop along East Line Street near the Owens River. This is where Mark had walked us around years ago, where little but shrubs and OHV tracks could be found. I decided to have a second look. Yep, plenty of shrubs (*Atriplex*, *Ericameria*, etc.), plenty of OHV tracks, but WAIT A MINUTE!, what are these little green annuals poking up from the sand? I fall to my knees and thanked the spirit of Mary Dedecker because this little ugly 3 inch tall tomato relative is *Oryctes nevadensis*. It had mostly gone to fruit but a few unspectacular flowers remained. AWESOME!!! CNPS gives this a rarity rank of 2B.1, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.



Oryctes nevadensis
--Photo by Steve Matson



Aliciella lottiae
--Photo by Steve Matson

Now hold on!, something else is growing among the shrubs, something I had never seen before except in CalPhotos images by my friend Aaron Schusteff. It appears to be a *Gilia*. But there is a group of *Gilias* that were segregated from that genus to form a new genus, *Aliciella*, to honor Alice Eastwood. This particular plant had basal leaves with top (adaxial) surfaces that were glabrous (no hairs or glands). This is unusual for *Aliciellas* and *Gilias*. I knew I had found *Aliciella lottiae*. This seldom collected annual is known from scattered collections in the Owens Valley, the Mojave Desert, and in the Great Basin further north. Like *Oryctes*, it seems to prefer sandy soils or dunes.

Two amazing plants found within 100 yards of a paved road many Bristlecone members drive on regularly. Hiding in plain sight, as the saying goes.

--Steve Matson

Pollinator Grant Notice

Are you interested in attracting bees, butterflies and other pollinators to your garden? Local non-profit Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) is here to help! Now in its third year, ESLT's *Eastside Pollinator Garden Project* is assisting gardeners throughout the Eastern Sierra who want to create blooming native plant habitat. Sign up to have your garden certified as pollinator-friendly! Once you've met the certification requirements, you'll receive 5 Showy Milkweed and a voucher for \$100 of native plants, in addition to a Certified Pollinator Garden plaque to display near your garden. As part of their project, Eastern Sierra Land Trust will provide guidance, information, and resources from experts in the area. For more information, please contact Catherine Tao at catherine@eslt.org or (760) 873-4554.

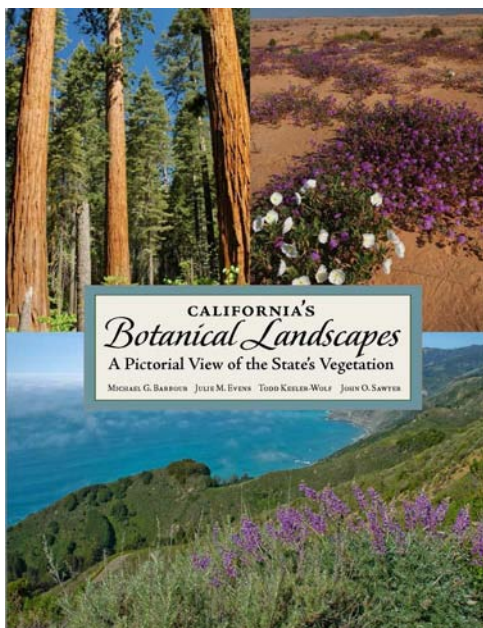
Rock Creek Wildflowers Author Presentation

Bristlecone Chapter members, Cathy Rose and Stephen Ingram, will be giving a presentation on their new book, *Rock Creek Wildflowers*, at two upcoming events. On Sunday, July 24 at 2:00 pm, they will be speaking and showing photos at the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series in Tuolumne Meadows as part of the High Sierra Natural History

Celebration Weekend. On August 3 at 7:00 pm, they will give another presentation featuring their book at the Page Center at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL). Both events are free and everyone is welcome.

California's Botanical Landscapes

"California's Botanical Landscapes: A Pictorial View of the State's Vegetation" is the California Native Plant Society's important new publication on the plant communities of the Golden State. Written and edited by more than a dozen of the state's leading plant ecologists, the book explores, through vivid photographs and naturalist prose, California's vegetation and the complex web of interactions that both create and sustain them.



"Vegetation is the fabric of ecosystems, and California's vegetation is one of the richest and most intricate tapestries of various forests, shrublands, and grasslands anywhere on Earth," states Susan Harrison, a professor of environmental science and policy at UC Davis. "By beautifully describing and explaining this colorful tapestry, 'California's Botanical Landscapes' will inspire people to keep studying, appreciating, and conserving California's exceptional vegetation."

This beautiful book is available for purchase through the CNPS online store at store.cnps.org. Please check it out and thanks for your support of CNPS!

Up-Coming Events

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

July 16, Saturday, 9:45-2 pm Valentine Reserve, Old Mammoth, Mono County. Leader: Ann Howald. Valentine Camp, a University of California Natural Reserve 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. Historically, the legendary skier Hans George operated his ropetow on the slopes above Valentine Camp. The Valentine family donated this property to the University of California. Since 1972 it has been included in U.C.'s Natural Reserve System. 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 **before July 5**. After July 5, contact Ann Howald at annhowald@vom.com. Sorry, but no dogs or folks under 18.

July 30, Saturday, 9-11. Mammoth Plant Sale, 107 Sugar Pine Dr, Mammoth. Contact Sherry Taylor 760-934-2338

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 relocate it. Meet at 8:00 am at Dehy Park at the north end of Independence. 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.

Up-Coming Events

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.

September 10, 9-11, Saturday. Bishop Plant Sale at White Mountain Research Center, 3001 E Line St, Bishop. Contact Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023.

Other Events of Interest

July 24, Sunday, 2 pm and August 3, Wednesday, 7 pm. Bristlecone Chapter members, Cathy Rose and Stephen Ingram, will be giving a presentation on their new book, *Rock Creek Wildflowers*, at two upcoming events. On Sunday, July 24 at 2:00 pm, they will be speaking and showing photos at the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series in Tuolumne Meadows as part of the High Sierra Natural History Celebration Weekend. On August 3 at 7:00 pm, they will give another presentation featuring their book at the Page Center at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL). Both events are free and everyone is welcome.

August 13-14, Saturday and Sunday. Compost and Compost Tea Making Class, Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program Food Program, and will be held at their gardens at 50 Tu Su Lane, Bishop. Contact Jen Schlaich for registration (760) 920-5254, jen.schlaich@bishoppaiute.org, or message at www.facebook.com/bishoppaiutefoodsovereigntyprogram.

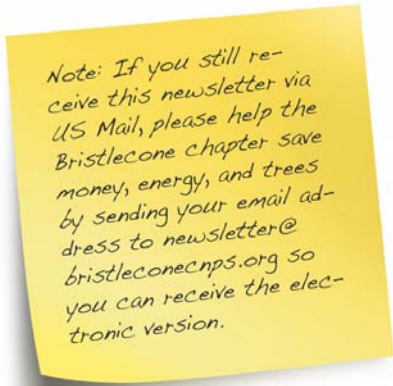
Please have your articles or information to us by August 15, 2016.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258
Secretary: Sue Weis 760-873-3485
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 760-937-0620
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T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392
DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter
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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: _____