



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 39, No. 2
March-April 2018

President's Message, March 2018

A January 8, 2018 article on NPR talked about how the grass of the Great Plains, which feed the cattle that supply "grass fed beef," is losing its nutritional content. Scientists from Texas to Montana have studied the grasses and all have found that, between 1994 and 2016, the levels of crude protein in the plants have dropped by nearly 20 percent. These scientists hypothesized that rising levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere are contributing to the drop in nutrients. Increased CO₂ levels have also been linked to fewer nutrients in plants like rice, wheat and potatoes. If this reduced plant nutrient problem continues then it will take more plant matter to produce less beef.

As global stewards we should do whatever we can to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we add to the atmosphere. We should ride our bikes instead of driving our cars, rethink how often we use cement (curing cement produces the most CO₂), reduce the amount of electricity we use, buy local to limit how far our food comes and eat lower down on the food chain.

We should also replenish the earth's surface with plants. Those of us who live in the desert have special plants. Desert plants are able to sequester carbon deeper into the soils due to their extremely deep roots. Scientists also believe that the calcareous soils of the desert lock up carbon better than other soils.

The beginning of the growing season is a good time to plan where you are going to add a native plant or two to your garden. The BLM has planted a lot of bitterbrush plants on their land in the Round Fire which with this dry winter need some extra help. So on March 13th we are looking for a few strong bodied volunteers to spend the morning watering some of these plants. If you are interested in helping out, contact Katie at president@bristleconecnps.org to let her know you are coming.

It looks like we are in for another dry year, so let's do what we can to help these plants (and our planet) along.

--Katie Quinlan

March General Meeting

Wednesday, March 21st, 7:00 p.m.

**George Lozito Conference Room, Jill Kinmont
Boothe School, 166 Grandview Dr., Bishop**

 **Speaker: Jen Schlaich**
Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program
Overview: Highlighting the Program's Work with
Native Food Plants

Food Program Specialist for the Bishop Paiute Tribe's Food Sovereignty Program, Jen Schlaich, will be sharing an overview of the program's work. Jen will highlight partnerships and educational events that have focused on native food plant establishment and use. Jen's perspective will also be shared regarding easy-to-grow native food plants for personal use around your home, how to prevent over-harvesting, and cooking ideas for a few common 'weeds' (non-native plants) that are high in nutrients and can be incorporated into weekly meals!

Jen Schlaich has been the Food Program Specialist since the start of the Bishop Paiute Tribe Food Sovereignty Program in 2015. She has been involved in small-scale food and seed system work for more than ten years including two years in Senegal, W. Africa. She holds a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Community Herbalist Certification from Pacific Rim. Currently, she is working towards certification by the American Herbalist Guild.

Conservation

Restoration Site Maintenance in the Round Fire Burn Area—Call for Volunteers

Last fall, the BLM and partners, the California Deer Association, CNPS Bristlecone Chapter, and Eastern Sierra Land Trust with the help of volunteers planted bitterbrush seedlings in the burned areas of the 2015 Round Fire. With the dry winter so far, we need volunteers to help water those young plants to help them establish. Then once again, the area can provide better habitat for mule deer and other native fauna.

We meet at 9:00 a.m. on March 13th at the corner of Boundary Road and Lower Rock Creek Road at the start of our day. Please make sure to contact Katie Quinlan before the 13th if you will be joining. Email Katie at president@bristleconecnps.org for more information.

CNPS 2018 Conservation Conference

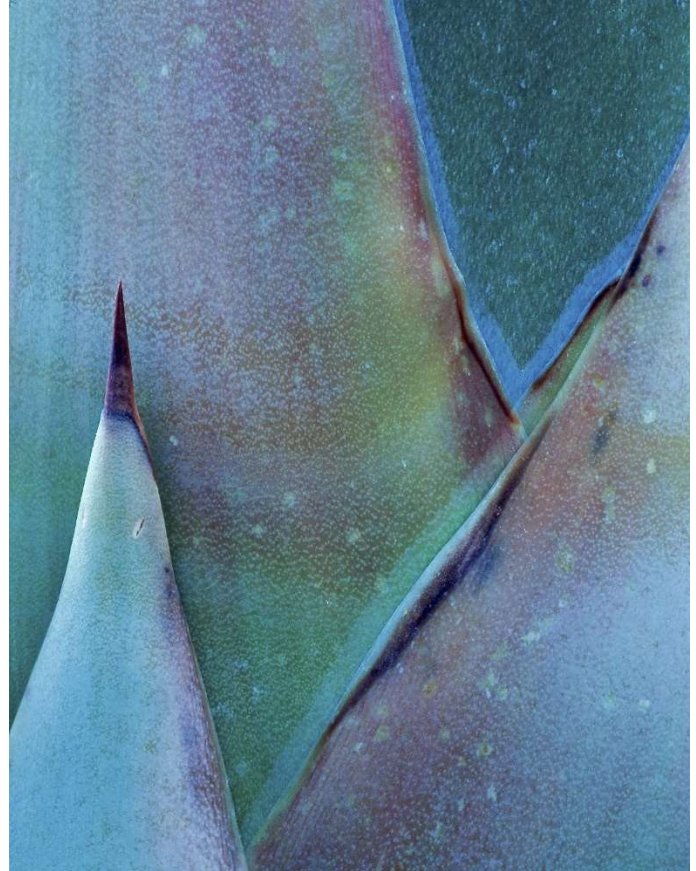
CNPS held their Conservation Conference in early February this year in Los Angeles. Over 1,000 people attended, including career professionals, plant enthusiasts, gardeners and artists. Many Bristlecone Chapter members attended, which made for a fun and



DeDecker Grant recipient, Sophia Winitsky, presented at the Conservation Conference.
Photo by Michèle Slaton.

successful conference. 2017 DeDecker grant recipients Sophia Winitsky, Meagan Oldfather, and Katherine Ross all did amazing jobs presenting their work. Way to go ladies! Our own Stephen Ingram donated a photo to the silent auction, and Steve

Matson also displayed photos, taking second prize for fringe cup (*Tellimia grandiflora*). We heard updates on conservation issues and many research and gardening projects that our members have contributed to. I came away feeling proud of our chapter!



"Agave Blue," a canvas photo print donated by Stephen Ingram to the Conference's silent auction.
Photo by Stephen Ingram.

Professor Doug Tallamy from the University of Delaware gave an inspiring opening plenary presentation on the important links between native plants, insects, and birds. I'm pretty sure all attendees went straight home to see how many types of caterpillars they could find on the plants near their home. Take a look at some of his work and a short video here as well as some great educational resources: www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter

I presented some recent work on the health and status of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), and participated on panels for vegetation mapping and for the student luncheon. I also shared a poem at the open reading—see below.

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially those who volunteered at the event!!!

--Michèle Slaton



Steve Matson displayed photos (top, columbine) at the conference's Photography Show & Contest where his detailed photo of a fringedcup, *Tellimia grandiflora*, (bottom) won second prize.
Photos by Steve Matson

Whitebark Pine

by Michèle Slaton

I could be rooted in mountain peaks
among whitebark pine
where time runs unopposed
and finds me
alone
this place says, "find a way to stay
for the sake of the pines
their needle-work time
the sake of this perfect morning ray shine.
Whitebark, how did you know?
To grow
among lodgepole and limber
currant and sagebrush
lupine and paintbrush
how did you know to set your roots here?

A girl amazed with the trees
I go to them often
to my family, not forgotten
a lacework of leaves, life, a graveyard
still springs forward in leaves
the shimmering work-horse jewels of the crown
captors of sunlight
branches their birthright
ornaments hung without need for holiday
content to live for
soil, sun, and snow
those whitebark ethics
I wish I'd known
sooner to live by a leaf-built philosophy

Field Trips, Just Around the Corner

After our field trip planning meeting last month, we came away with some great trips scheduled for this spring and summer. Field trips are open to all, non-members included—sorry, no pets. Please note some things to know before you go. Be sure to bring plenty of water and wear good walking shoes or boots, a hat, and appropriate clothing for the hot sun or inclement weather. Day trips last most of the day, so don't forget to pack a lunch. Other useful things to have on hand would be a hand lens, a pair of binoculars, a camera, and some floras and plant lists.

Trips will leave at the time listed, so please arrive at the meeting site a few minutes early. Carpooling is encouraged.

Do not hesitate to contact the trip leader for more details about a trip. If you would like to lead a field trip, then please contact our field trips coordinator, Sue Weis (760) 873-3485.

Information for more trips will be added in the Events section of our next newsletter and updates for all trips will be posted on our website at bristleconecnps.org/events.

May 12th, Field Botany and More by Geographical Fault. Leader: Jerry Zatorski

In the middle of the Owens Valley, the Earthquake Fault of 1872 has a prominent mark on the landscape. There are places where the offset is an obvious drop off, others with spring fed sag ponds, and others with elongated meadow habitats. We will explore several of these areas beginning with a fault line meadow north of Twin Lakes. There will be brief stops at Goose Lake and Billy Lake to compare the two lakes; one is natural and the other is man-made. After that we will look at two mitigation projects that have taken advantage of the Fault's physical geography. Finally we will stop at a more classic precipice overlook as one might expect along a fault line. Naturally there will be a good dose of early season valley floor botany along with other natural features. There will be about five miles of moderate hiking at a botanist's pace and expect to be done by late afternoon. 4WD vehicles are recommended as the dirt roads on the Valley floor are always unpredictable. Participants should bring lunch, snacks and plenty of fluids. Dress for the weather conditions (hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes...). There is a downloadable version of an Owens Valley plant list on the Bristlecone Chapter web site which can be printed out or uploaded to a smart device. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Blackrock Rest stop, about 15 miles south of Big Pine and about 10.5 miles north of Independence. For more information contact Jerry at jerryzat@gmail.com.

May 19th, Harkless Flat and Blake Mine. Leader: Steve Matson

This trip takes us by car east up Death Valley Road out of Big Pine and into the Inyo Mountains. We may stop at the Waucoba Lake beds briefly, and then again at Devil's Gate before turning off on a generally well-graded dirt road. We hope to take in all the shrubs

and annuals along the dirt road as we cross over to an outstanding overlook of the Owens Valley. We will focus on limestone outcrops and seek out *Erythranthe calicicola*, *Hecastocleis shockleyi*, and *Eriogonum glandulosum*. If time allows, we will walk down a steep rough trail to a mine site perched high above the valley. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the visitor kiosk on the corner of 395 and 168 in Big Pine. Contact: ssmat@sbcglobal.net, 760-938-2862.

May 26th, Waucoba Wash Exploration.

Leader: Jerry Zatorski

Waucoba Wash drains the southeast side of Waucoba Mountain into Saline Valley. The wash doesn't drain into Saline Valley proper but joins others as they make their way down a long alluvial drainage to the NW corner of Saline Valley. This is fortunate as we begin our trip at just over a 5,700' elevation, away from the searing weather that can plague Saline Valley by late May. We will explore the wash from Saline Valley Road and make our way upslope visiting four different spring and seep areas. Naturally where there is water in the desert there is usually interesting things to discover, especially plants and animals. According to a 1973 Mary DeDecker plant list, there was Narrow-leaf Cottonwood, *Populus angustifolia*, up in the canyon, although a search on the internet was not successful in showing any records of this species in Waucoba Wash or the canyon. Nor are there any records of Black Cottonwood, *Populus trichocarpa*, for this location on the Calflora website either. So if there is a cottonwood up there with narrow leaves, which is it? There will be about five miles of moderate hiking at a botanist's pace with about 975' of elevation gain and loss, and expect to be done by the afternoon. 4WD vehicles are recommended as the dirt roads into Saline Valley can be unpredictable. Participants should bring lunch, snacks and plenty of fluids. Dress for the weather conditions (hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes...). There is a downloadable version of an Inyo Mountains plant list on the Bristlecone Chapter web site which can be printed out or uploaded to a smart device. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Glacier View Campground just north of Big Pine (US 395 x SR 168). For more information contact Jerry at jerryzat@gmail.com.

June 2nd, Bodie Hills, Masonic area.

Leader: Ann Howald

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Bridgeport Forest Service Office on Highway 395, a few miles south of Bridgeport. Going in on the Masonic Road, we'll make a couple

stops to look for pinyon-juniper understory plants, then continue on to do some easy to moderately strenuous hiking in the Masonic town area and/or lower Masonic Mtn. We'll be looking for some not-too-commonly seen taxa like: *Astragalus oophorus* var. *lavinii*, *Boechera bodiensis*, *Collomia tinctoria*, *Lathrocasis tenerrima*, *Lupinus brevicaulis*, *Muilla transmontana*, *Nemacladus rigidus*, and *Phacelia monoensis*. We'll return on Masonic Road at the end of this all-day trip. High clearance vehicles needed. This will be a joint trip with the Range of Light Chapter of the Sierra Club, but conducted at our usual botanist's pace! Questions? Contacts: Ann at (707) 721-6120, annhowald@vom.com; or Dick Hihn at 760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu.

 **June 23rd, Botany for Beginners, Mammoth/Long Valley**
Leader: Michèle Slaton

Have you ever wished you knew the names of the native plants near your home or on your favorite outings? Do you ever wonder how to figure out a plant's name? Now is your chance! We will explore places in bloom from Long Valley meadows to Convict Creek and the Sherwins, and get to know the common plants in flower.

The general public, including adults and kids of all ages are welcome on this field trip to learn some basic skills to get you started in identifying plants. Experienced botanists are also welcome to share their skills. We will focus on learning common wildflowers, starting with common traits used to recognize plant families. You'll learn how to identify plant parts and how to use a plant key.

We will meet at 9 a.m. at the Green Church at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Benton Crossing Road, and carpool to the extent possible. Bring everything you need for a full day in the field. All instructional materials will be provided, but bring a hand lens or magnifying glass, and plant guide/key if you have one. Contact Michèle Slaton (760-920-8693 or mmlaton02@gmail.com) with questions.

Michèle taught college botany for two years and has worked for the past 18 years as a Forest Service and Park Service botanist and ecologist in eastern California.

 **July 21st Wyman Canyon, White Mts.**
Group leaders: Courtney Collins & Michèle Slaton

We will explore the areas in bloom from the bristlecone pine forest down into pinyon-juniper woodlands and riparian areas. We can expect to see several showy wildflowers, and also rare plants, including Dedecker's clover (*Trifolium kingii* ssp. *dedeckeriae*), small-flowered rice grass (*Stipa divaricata*), and Nevada ninebark (*Physocarpus alternans*). We'll spend time searching for the limestone daisy (*Erigeron uncialis*) – a treasure first seen in Wyman 30 years ago, but not documented since.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in Big Pine at the intersection of 395 and 168, and regroup again at 10 a.m. at the top of Wyman Canyon (the southern intersection of the Bristlecone Road with Wyman, ca. 2.5 mi. north of Schulman Grove). 4WD will be required. Bring everything you need for a full day in the field. Contact Michèle Slaton (760-920-8693 or mmlaton02@gmail.com) with questions.

Garden Updates

Running the propagation center is an opportunity to conduct small science experiments all the time. I may be successful in growing a certain plant, but I constantly ask myself, "Is there a way to be more certain of the outcome or get it to grow in a different season?"

Last September I tried starting columbine and some buckwheats in my high tunnel greenhouse. But this environment's temperatures swing from freezing at night to about ten degrees above the outdoor temperature during the day.

The pots have sat all winter with no sign of life. Then towards the end of January, as the temperatures started to rise, I started to see a few sprouts. The sprouts that came up were not only the seeds I had planted but also some sage that hadn't sprouted the spring before.

My conclusion is that I got better germination from those species when they were seeded in the spring, although maybe a bit of time in cold stratification will increase germination. I have always directly seeded them in the past, now I will have to run my experiment again and see if I get similar results.

--Katie Quinlan

Welcome New Members!

The Bristlecone Chapter would like to welcome new members to the CNPS and our chapter.

Paige Austin
Janet Barth
Maria Jesus
Whitney Logue
Kristie Nelson

Also, many thanks to all who have renewed their membership!

Up-Coming Events (For updated information, visit bristleconecnps.org/events)

Bristlecone Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 6:00 pm
Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop
All members are welcome.

Bristlecone Chapter General Meeting
Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 pm
George Lozito Conference Room, Jill Kinmont
Boothe School, 166 Grandview Dr., Bishop.
Food Program Specialist for the Bishop Paiute
Tribe's Food Sovereignty Program, Jen Schlaich, will
be sharing an overview of the program's work.

Volunteers Needed
Tuesday, March 13, 9:00 am
Come help water the bitterbrush seedlings planted
in the Round Fire burn areas. We meet at the corner
of Boundary Rd. and Lower Rock Creek Rd. Let Katie
know—before the 13th—if you are coming so that
we can plan for you. Contact Katie Quinlan at
president@bristleconecnps.org.

CNPS Field Trips (Check online for the most up-to-date info bristleconecnps.org/events)

**Saturday, May 12. Field Botany and More by
Geographical Fault.** Leader: Jerry Zatorski
Explore several lake areas beginning with a fault
line meadow north of Twin Lakes. There will be
brief stops at Goose Lake and Billy Lake. Meet at
8:00 a.m. at the Blackrock Rest stop, about 15 miles
south of Big Pine and about 10.5 miles north of
Independence. For more information contact Jerry
at jerryzat@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 19 Harkless Flat and Blake Mine.
Leader: Steve Matson
Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the visitor kiosk on the corner of
395 and 168 in Big Pine. Contact:
ssmat@sbcglobal.net, 760-938-2862.

Up-Coming Events
(For updated information, visit
bristleconecnps.org/events)

Saturday, May 26. Waucoba Wash Exploration.

Leader: Jerry Zatorski
Meet at Glacier View Campground just north of Big Pine (US 395 x SR 168) at 7:00 a.m. For more information contact Jerry at jerryzat@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 2. Bodie Hills, Masonic area.

Leader: Ann Howald
This will be a joint trip with the Range of Light Chapter of the Sierra Club. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Bridgeport Forest Service Office on Highway 395, a few miles south of Bridgeport. For answers to trip questions, contact Ann at (707) 721-6120 or annhowald@vom.com. Range of Light Chapter contact: Dick Hihn at 760-709-5050 or rhihn@skidmore.edu.

Saturday, June 23. Botany for Beginners, Mammoth/Long Valley. Leader: Michèle Slaton
We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Green Church at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Benton Crossing Road, and carpool to the extent possible. Contact Michèle Slaton (760-920-8693 or mslaton02@gmail.com) with questions.

Saturday, July 21. Wyman Canyon, White Mts.
Leaders: Courtney Collins & Michèle Slaton
We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in Big Pine at the intersection of 395 and 168. 4WD will be required. Contact Michèle Slaton (760-920-8693 or mslaton02@gmail.com) with questions.

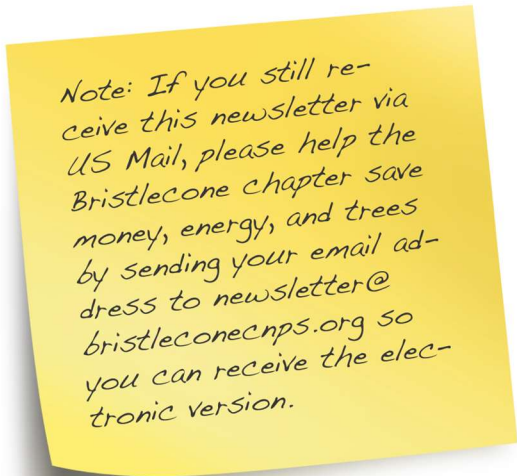
Please send your articles or information to us by April 15, 2018 for the next issue.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693
Secretary: **OPEN**
Treasurer: Sue Weis 760-873-3485
Chapter Council Rep: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918
Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**
Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693
DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693
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: **OPEN**
Newsletter: Elaine Chow newsletter@bristleconecnps.org
Membership: Elaine Chow membership@bristleconecnps.org
Website: webmaster@bristleconecnps.org
Hospitality: **OPEN**
Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485
T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram
DeDecker Garden: Steve Dickinson

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: _____

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

Gift Contribution: _____ Wherever needed
Specific Area: _____

Membership Category

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| _ Student / Limited Income | \$25 |
| _ Individual | \$45 |
| _ Family | \$75 |
| _ Plant Lover | \$100 |
| _ Patron | \$300 |
| _ Benefactor | \$600 |
| _ Mariposa Lily | \$1500 |
| _ Additional Contribution | _____ |