



## Bristlecone Chapter

*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora*

# The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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**Volume 40, No. 3**

**May–June 2019**

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## President's Message, May 2019

I went for a walk in the Tungsten Hills today and I was thinking about how I like to hike. The first time I hiked this trail, I had to go explore every little side road that branched off the trail I had discovered to every piece of mining artifact that I came across. Now I have hiked this nice little loop a few times and I don't need to go to every hole in the ground or rusty piece of metal, I am satisfied that I already know where those explorations will lead. The joy of this trail now is seeing how the plants change with the seasons. Today, the slopes were predominantly yellow with scale bud, desert dandelion, and fiddleneck; the white layia and purple chia accented the slopes. It was interesting to see that at lower elevations the dandelions were the dominate flower, but as I moved up the slope, they were replaced by scale bud.

If you would like to learn more about the native plants that are gracing our slopes, then these upcoming months are the time to do it. Bristlecone CNPS has a plethora of field trips in May and a couple in June (see our events calendar). If you would like to purchase some native plants for your garden, I will be selling them at the Eastern Sierra Land Trust's "Gardenfest" on May 4th from 11–2pm. The Land Trust is also hosting a pollinator garden tour on June 8th where you can view established pollinator gardens and see how native plants can look in various gardens.

On May 22nd we will be hosting a potluck for three of our DeDecker Grant recipients who will be presenting their research at the Forest Service Supervisors' Office building at 6 p.m. Come socialize with other plant enthusiasts and hear what these students have learned in their studies.

--Katie Quinlan

## May General Meeting and Potluck

**Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m. potluck,**

**7:00–8:00 p.m. presentations**

**U.S. Forest Service Supervisor's Office,**

**351 Pacu Lane, Bishop**

Three recipients of the CNPS Bristlecone Chapter DeDecker Grants will present the findings of their botanical explorations and research of eastern California. Please join us for a potluck beginning at 6pm and presentations at 7pm with desserts. Bring a dish to share if you can.

 Speakers:

Sophia Winitsky,

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden  
*A Flora of Adobe Valley, Mono County*

Trevor Carter, UN Reno

*The changing needles of whitebark pine through  
decades of collections*

Isaac Marck, UC Berkeley

*Systematics of rock daisies of Inyo County*



## Field Notes

*Cymopterus* is a genus of tap-rooted perennials with basal leaves within the carrot family of plants, Apiaceae. In and around the Westgard Pass locale of our White Mountains you can find three species of this family. June might be a good time to look for them, at least for two of them. The third species is a bit odd and much harder to find.

This “odd” little “carrot” is *Cymopterus purpurascens*. I first found a few plants of it in 2016 along a limestone outcrop just south of the Grandview Campground on White Mountain Road. It was late May and it had already flowered and developed fruit. I was quite excited to find this plant as I had never before seen and seldom collected it in the White or Inyo Mts. (actually, just once). It is far more common in desert ranges further south in California, although more widespread in Nevada, Arizona and Utah.

The crinkled or wavy edges of the wings on the fruit of most *Cymopterus* is one character of this genus, hence the name of the genus, which is of Greek derivation from “Kyma” or “Kuma” meaning “wavy” and “pteron” meaning “wing.” I have always pronounced it SIGH-MOP-TERIS. Apparently a more authentic pronunciation would be KEE-MOP-TERIS or KU-MOP-TERIS.



Winged fruit (left) and divided leaves (below) of *Cymopterus purpurascens*.



This is the name of a genus of about 45 species in central and western North America. There are 10 species currently recognized for California (and 14 taxa, two of the species each have two varieties). Eight of these taxa show up in Inyo County, with just

three (in my reckoning) occurring close by, meaning in this case, the White and Inyo Mountains.

I was determined to find this plant in flower, so I searched in my one known location in early May of 2017. Once again, I found fruit only. Fast forward another year and mid-April this time. Hiking along with my wife Eileen, I spotted it on an open gravel slope between pinion pines. This was a new location (closer to Westgard Pass) and completely unexpected. Also, by the way, it's not easy to see being rather small, growing close to the ground and not conspicuously colored. The unremarkable flowers are subtended by large showy white bractlets. The leaves are also distinct in being glaucous, fleshy, and less divided than other species.



*C. purpurascens* have flowers subtended by white bractlets (top) and glaucous, fleshy leaves (bottom).  
Photos by Steve Matson.

This is a great early season plant to find, with *Cymopterus aboriginum* and *Cymopterus terebinthinus* var. *petraeus* easy to find right along the Westgard Pass road in the Narrows but two or three months later.

--Steve Matson

## Greenhouse Update

The growing season is now in full swing with the greenhouse full of little seedlings and the first round of plantings moved out to the shade tables. With all the rain we had this year I have had lots of volunteer lupine come up in my yard, which I have been potting up, so I will have plenty of lupine at the fall sale and a few at GardenFest.

One of the graduate students finished an experiment on phenology at the research station and donated the plants she was using. These are nursery-grown cultivars of current, serviceberry, wild rose thimbleberry and dogwood; we will have all of these for sale as well.

Our hard work from earlier this year seems to be paying off, putting up metal screen along the bottom of the greenhouse has kept the mice out so far. I have also not seen any rodent damage to the plants outside. Considering the wet year, I can't imagine that the rodent population has dropped, so I am hopefully assuming that the barriers are helping to keep them at bay.

--Katie Quinlan

## Welcome New Members!

Our Bristlecone Chapter would like to welcome our newest members,

Andrea, San Rafael  
Carie, Clovis  
Donald, Costa Mesa  
Hilary, Mission Viejo  
Jen, Wheat Ridge  
Joyce, Independence  
Rose, Felton

Thanks for joining our chapter!

## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit [bristleconecnps.org/events](http://bristleconecnps.org/events))

### Bristlecone Chapter Events

**May 15, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Bristlecone Chapter Board Meeting**  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop  
All members are welcome.

**May 22, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bristlecone Chapter General Meeting**  
U.S. Forest Service Supervisor's Office,  
351 Pacu Lane, Bishop

Three DeDecker Grant recipients will present their research: Sophie Winitsky of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden; Trevor Carter of University of NV, Reno; and Isaac Marck of UC Berkeley. Please join us for a potluck before the presentations at 6pm.

### Bristlecone Field Trips

~~**May 11, Saturday, Botany for Beginners**~~  
Leader: Michèle Slaton **Cancelled**

**May 24, Friday, 9:00 a.m., Lower Rock Creek hike**  
Leader: Ann Howald

Meet at 9 am at the Lower Rock Creek trailhead in Paradise (at the hairpin turn) next to the old Paradise Resort on Old Sherwin Grade Rd. This is about a mile north of the Inyo-Mono Co. line. Carpooling to the trailhead is appreciated because parking is limited. On this easy walk up the canyon we will see some interesting shrubs at or near the northern limit of their Eastern Sierra range - desert olive (*Forestiera pubescens*) and California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica* ssp. *cuspidata*); a variety of Mojavean wildflowers, including the only Mono County location for desert thistle (*Cirsium neomexicanum*); one of the largest Eastern Sierra stands of Ponderosa pine south of Lake Tahoe; and an assortment of riparian shrubs and wildflowers, including Kelley's lily (*Lilium kelleyanum*) and stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*). Bring water and lunch to enjoy on the trail. We should be back to the cars by 1:30 pm or so. For more information, contact Ann: [annhowald@vom.com](mailto:annhowald@vom.com) or 707-721-6120.

## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit [bristleconecnps.org/events](http://bristleconecnps.org/events))

### May 25, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., Northern Owens Valley Springtime Botany

Leader: Jerry Zatorski

This will be an exploration of some wildflower areas between Bishop and Laws. The diversity of habitats from alkali meadows to ancient upland sand dunes to White Mountain alluvial fans will not leave us short on places to explore for springtime blooms. The upland areas have numerous annuals and drought hardy desert shrubs. The meadows down in the river floodplain have an assortment of perennial forbs and grasses. The actual route will depend on where the blooms are happening and will be mostly accessible by roads and some short overland hiking. Expect up to about five miles of hiking at a botanist's pace, which should take us most of a day (6-8 hrs). Participants should bring lunch, snacks, fluids and a pack to carry personal items. Dress in appropriate clothes for the weather conditions including a hat, sunscreen, and hiking shoes. Bring field guides, hand lens, binoculars, topo maps, and a willingness to hike and explore. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of US 6 and Silver Canyon Rd, just east of Laws. There is an Owens Valley Master Species List available to download from the Bristlecone Chapter web site at [bristleconecnps.org/native\\_plants/checklists/](http://bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/checklists/), which works well as a paper list or on a small tablet. For more information contact Jerry at [jerryzat@gmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@gmail.com).

## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit [bristleconecnps.org/events](http://bristleconecnps.org/events))

### June 8, Saturday, Beginning Botany hike, 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 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. 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. Experienced botanists are welcome to join and share their skills.

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. 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](mailto:mmlaton02@gmail.com)) with questions. An RSVP at least one week in advance is requested but not required.



Blooms of orange California poppies, yellow goldfields, and purple phacelias at the Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve in Lancaster in early April. Photo by Elaine Chow.

**Up-Coming Events**  
(For updated information, visit  
[bristleconecnps.org/events](http://bristleconecnps.org/events))

**June 22, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Upper Summers Meadow watershed exploration**

Leader Ann Howald

Enjoy driving and hiking in a botanically little-known area south of Bridgeport. View previously grazed meadows, "enriched" montane sagebrush scrub, aspen groves, and possibly conifer forest, if we get that far. Meet at the Bridgeport Humboldt-Toiyabe Ranger Station at 9 a.m. This is an all-day trip. Bring snacks, water, lunch, etc. For more information, contact Ann: [annhowald@vom.com](mailto:annhowald@vom.com) or 707-721-6120.

**Other Local Events**

**May 4, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. GardenFest Celebration**

Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop

A fun family-friendly community event to celebrate spring with Eastern Sierra Land Trust, right in the office's backyard. Purchase native plants, learn gardening tips and tricks, and enjoy local food and kids activities and more. GardenFest will also offer opportunities to learn about ESLT's Eastside Pollinator Garden Project, which is helping local gardeners bring their gardens to life by attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and other important pollinators. Questions can be directed to Marie Ring at [marie@eslt.org](mailto:marie@eslt.org) or (760) 873-4554.

**May 10-13, Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, Conglomerate Mesa BioBlitz**

Join CNPS, Friend of the Inyo, and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to document the flora and fauna of Conglomerate Mesa in order to help conserve this amazing place. Meet us for camping and naturalizing in small groups May 11-12, or explore on your own Friday May 10th through Monday May 13th. We'll search for rare plants, birds, reptiles, insects, and more and record our findings in iNaturalist. Habitats include stands of Joshua trees, pinyon-juniper, and desert hillsides.

Visit <https://www.cnps.org/events> for more info.

**Up-Coming Events**  
(For updated information, visit  
[bristleconecnps.org/events](http://bristleconecnps.org/events))

**May 11, Saturday  
Black Lake Birding Tour**  
Black Lake Preserve

To celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, Eastern Sierra Land Trust is partnering with the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society to host a birding tour of the beautiful Black Lake Preserve. We will spend a morning alongside birding experts. All experience levels are welcome - kids included! RSVP to [marie@eslt.org](mailto:marie@eslt.org) or by calling (760) 873-4554.

**June 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.  
Pollinator Garden Tour**

Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N Fowler Street, Bishop.

Locals across the Eastern Sierra have been hard at work creating beautiful native plant and pollinator gardens. During the Garden Tour, you can see these lovely gardens in bloom, and learn more about pollinator-friendly gardening.

**Please send your articles and other information to us by June 15, 2019 for the next issue.**

**Bristlecone Chapter Directory**

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693

Secretary: Kathleen Nelson [goatheads@aol.com](mailto:goatheads@aol.com)

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: **OPEN**

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Mammoth Plant Sales: **OPEN**

Publicity: **OPEN**

Newsletter: Elaine Chow [newsletter@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:newsletter@bristleconecnps.org)

Membership: Elaine Chow [membership@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:membership@bristleconecnps.org)

Website: [webmaster@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:webmaster@bristleconecnps.org)

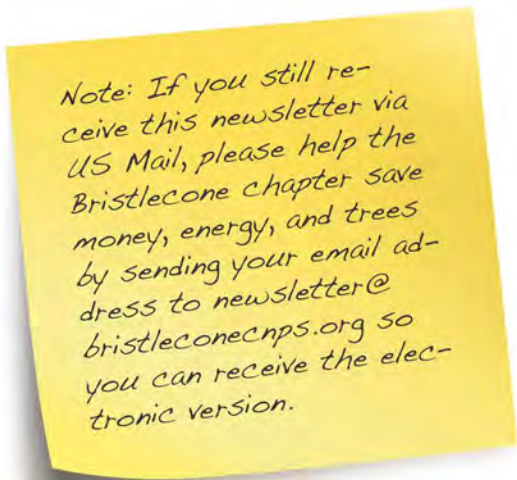
Hospitality: **OPEN**

T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram

DeDecker Garden: Peter Anderson

**The California Native Plant Society**

Bristlecone Chapter  
P.O. Box 364  
Bishop, CA 93515-0364  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Membership

*The California Native Plant Society is an organization of laypersons and professionals united by an interest in the plants of California. It is open to all. The society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase the understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations.*

**To Join or Renew Online:** Go to [cnps.org](http://cnps.org) and click on the JOIN/renew button at the top of the page, or mail in the form below:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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 \_\_\_\_\_