



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 35, No. 4
July-August 2014

President's Message

There are 34 California Native Plant Society chapters throughout California and Baja. Four times a year representatives hold chapter council meetings to determine CNPS policies and conduct strategic planning for the political positions CNPS will hold.

This September 5-7, 2014, the Bristlecone Chapter is hosting the State Chapter Council meeting at the Sierra Adventure Center at Bernasconi Ranch near Big Pine. The last time we hosted the Chapter Council meeting was June 2006, when the meeting was held in Ridgecrest with the Kern County Chapter as a co-host. So we are overdue for showcasing the Eastern Sierra. The focus of the September meeting is conservation.

The Eastern Sierra is a great location for a conservation meeting since we have a long history of issues that have statewide and national implications. Among the most important are water conservation and habitat restoration from the Lower Owens River Project to Owens Lake, the push to put renewable solar and wind energy projects in the desert and rewriting the Inyo National Forest Plan.

The delegates will be meeting all of Saturday and half of Sunday but there is interest in a Friday field trip to the White Mountains for people who can get here early. For everyone, there is a happy hour before the catered dinner on Saturday, provided by Classy Cowgirls Caterers (we have a commitment but no contract yet). Jim Andre of the Granite Mountains Desert Research Center will be the after dinner speaker. Local chapter members can join on the field trip and may register for the Saturday evening dinner and talk. More details will be distributed as we get closer to the date.

We need local members to help greet the delegates when they arrive on Friday night, help serve on Saturday night and help clean up Sunday after lunch. If you would like to meet native plant lovers from the west side of the state and show them some eastside hospitality contact Katie Quinlan kquinlan2@verizon.net or Steve McLaughlin spmjeb@qnet.com

Bodie Hills Field Trip with Jeff Hunter

With a third consecutive drought year, expectations for a spectacular bloom were not high, but the group was treated to a pleasing spectacle of wildflowers and blooming shrubs. Our first stop of the day was near the Cheung Mine, and Indian Paintbrush was growing in great profusion in the Low Sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*). Also blooming in this area was Western Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and Desert Peach (*Prunus andersonii*).



The Crew
Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

We moved on to a nearby Aspen grove, and surprising found a wildflower not listed on Steve McLaughlin's Bodie Hills plant list. Blooming in the grove, we found several spectacular clumps of Brown's Peony (*Paeonia brownii*). We also saw a wide variety of Buckwheat and Phlox blooming in the hills.



Brown's Peony
Photo by Jeff Hunter

We enjoyed a lunch in a hilltop grove of Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus intricatus*) before we explored the ruins of the old stamp mill in Masonic. The weather cooperated, and all in attendance seemed to have a grand time. We closed the day by driving across the vast, windswept Sagebrush Steppe, exiting the Bodie Hills via Aurora Canyon Road.

For more information about the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership please visit bodiehills.org or contact Jeff Hunter at 423-322-7866 or jeff@bodiehills.org.

--Jeff Hunter

Pleasant Valley Meadow Field Trip Report, June 14, 2014.

Jerry Zatorski shared his knowledge of alkali meadow natural history on an unseasonably mild Saturday morning. I particularly enjoyed this outing because most of my time in alkali meadows has been spent at Owens Lake, and it was quite a change to observe such meadows in Pleasant Valley with vegetation and flora in good ecological condition. The meadows probably benefitted from the March 2008 Bluff Fire and subsequent rest from grazing. Livestock utilization here appears to be moderate in contrast to many heavily grazed areas at Owens Lake. Palatable perennial grasses such as creeping wildrye (*Elymus triticoides*) and alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*) dominate here with a subdominant component of the relatively unpalatable Mexican rush (*Juncus mexicanus*).

Jerry led us to some large populations of Owens Valley checkerbloom (*Sidalcea covillei*, CNPS list 1B.1), meadow hawksbeard (*Crepis runcinata* ssp. *hallii*, CNPS list 2.1), and alkali cordgrass (*Spartina gracilis*, CNPS list 4.2), all rare plants found only in alkali meadows. Also found was small-flowered stinkweed (*Cleomella parviflora*), one of relatively few annuals confined to alkali meadows, and plants of Nevada blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium halophilum*) in fruit.

We walked back to our vehicles along the Owens River, where we spend some time identifying several of the submerged aquatic species. We found common waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), water milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*), and a species of pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.). Thanks, Jerry.

--Steve McLaughlin

Inyo National Forest Planning—Need for Change

The U.S. Forest Service is currently writing a new management plan for the Inyo National Forest. The new plan will shape the Inyo for the next 20 years and have a big impact on water, recreation, fish, wildlife, native plants and the forest's special natural areas. A strong plan will safeguard the forest for current and future generations to come, but the Forest Service is

facing many pressures and competing uses as it plans the Inyo's future.

The Forest Service held a public workshop in Bishop on Thursday, June 19 and was attended by over 70 citizens. The agency heard responses from a wide array of interests including conservationists, recreationists, and ranchers to three fundamental questions: 1. What do you want the forest to be like in the future? 2. What do you think needs to change from the way the forest is managed now? 3. What areas on the forest do you think are potentially suitable for protection as congressionally designated wilderness areas? The responses to these questions will shape the new plan, the health of our ecosystems, and affect our ability to use and enjoy the Inyo in coming years.

In advance of this critical public meeting, the Sierra Club and Friends of the Inyo hosted a briefing for their members and others who care about the Inyo. Steve McLaughlin, Chapter Delegate, represented the CNPS Bristlecone Chapter. Participants discussed key background information about the importance of forest planning and how community engagement can affect the future of the Inyo National Forest on key issues including how the agency manages the Inyo in the face of climate change.

Over the course of the next few months, the Forest Service will continue its planning efforts and will make many critical decisions about our forest's future between now and May of next year. The agency needs to hear from us. Even if you have only a few hours to spare in the coming months, you can help make a difference. Please contact Fran Hunt at fran.hunt@sierraclub.org or Julie Ann Hopkins at conservation@bristleconecnps.org to learn how you can help.

--Fran Hunt, Sierra Club

Your Time to Comment on County Planning for Renewable Energy Plan Amendments- Don't miss the deadline

Please read and prepare comments for the Inyo County Renewable Energy General Plan Amendments for submission by the July 10, 2014 deadline. If you need assistance you may contact Julie Anne Hopkins at 831-566-6012 and we can work this together – *just don't miss the deadline!* All comments submitted for prior REGPA discussion should be re-submitted to be

considered part of the legal record for the CEQA analysis (previous comments were submitted prior to initiation of CEQA and so won't be considered part of the CEQA record unless resubmitted during the CEQA process). Next meeting: West-Wide Energy Corridors workshop with Inyo County Board of Supervisors Tuesday July 15 in Independence, tentative start time 1:30 PM.

--Julie Anne Hopkins

News from the Greenhouse

"... seeds sleep deep in the heart of the earth's darkness until someone among them is seized with the desire to awaken."

--Antoine de Saint-Exupery

This spring has been a clear indication the secret desire of seeds to awaken. The late winter rains changed what we were all expecting to be a dry barren spring into an exciting wild flower season.

The secrets the seeds hold close to their hearts always amazes me. Some seeds I put in the refrigerator in December when their need for dark and cold is the greatest. Others, I directly sow into the soil in March. I have found that if the seeds of a given plant haven't sprouted in March and new seeds are sown in mid April they often don't sprout either. I wonder what secret key is embedded into these seeds that lets them know April is too late even when I am trying to trick them in the artificial environment of the green house.

Seedlings planted in March were transplanted into deep pots by the end of May and moved out to the shade house. The greenhouse is now shut down for the season. The shade house extension is up and running and I now have two more tables and much more flexibility with watering and locating plants in more optimal locations for their needs. Having a little more space has allowed me to plant more plants for the sale. Of course, what will be at the sale is still dependent on their "secret desire to awaken and grow."

The Bishop Native Plant sale is scheduled for Saturday September 13 at the White Mountain Research Center from 9-11. Go to http://bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/sale/nativeplant_db.php for a list of what plants will be available.

--Katie Quinlan

DeDecker Garden clean up

On May 16 Steve McLaughlin, Katie Quinlan and Richard Potashian arrived to do a spring clean up of the DeDecker Garden. Richard has been busily trimming back some of the over-grown sagebrush and clearing out dead wood from the larger shrubs. We loaded up Steve's wonderful trailer twice and hauled all the brush to the dump. Due to time constraints (we all had other commitments in the afternoon) we were only able to tackle the brush piles and talk about plans for a larger clean up to take place in the fall. At that time we hope to remove the barbed wire fence that separates the garden from the parking lot and replace it with a split rail fence and plant many more plants to fill in places where old plants have died. We also talked about expanding the garden so there would be a trail that enters from the street, but our fall dreams will depend on how many people we can rustle up for a work day.

--Katie Quinlan



**Celebrate your Wilderness!
Saturday, July 5, 2014, Noon to 6 PM.
The 50th Anniversary of the Passage of
the Wilderness Act of 1964.**

Join us for a festive day with music, creek explorations, exhibits and hourly guided walks at Mammoth Creek Park in Mammoth Lakes. This event is sponsored by the Sierra Club, Friends of the Inyo and the Wilderness Society. The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will also have a table at the event.

GLORIA!

There are still several opportunities this summer to participate in California's GLORIA project.

2014 Summer Opportunities:

July 11-15 Public Workshop / Field Trip--For the second year, the California GLORIA field crew is holding an open-invitation field trip. Interested parties are encouraged to join us and learn about the alpine environment (no experience needed). Educational walks, hiking tours, and lectures will be led by some of the scientists who know the White Mountains best.

July 21-26 Yosemite - Dunderberg Area Resurvey--This is a week of volunteer scientific survey work at the tops of four high peaks on the Sierra crest near Tioga Pass and Lee Vining. Attendees are mostly volunteer botanists, natural science students, and research scientists.

July 31 - August 6 White Mountains GLORIA Resurvey This is a week of volunteer scientific survey work at the highest peaks in the White Mountains. Attendees are mostly volunteer botanists, natural science students, and research scientists.

For more details, visit

website: <http://www.gloriacalifornia.org>

Email contact: adelia@gloriacalifornia.org

New Yosemite Wildflowers App now available

Sierra Foothills CNPS chapter members Judy and Barry Breckling have developed a wildflower identification app for Yosemite National Park. Sierra National Forest botanist Joanna Clines said, "There is a new iPhone (and Android) app called Yosemite Wildflowers and it's awesome!!! My friends Judy and Barry Breckling collaborated with High Country Apps and the Yosemite Conservancy to produce this nifty tool. I just downloaded it and I think it's great!"

To learn more about the app, visit www.highcountryapps.com. You can buy the app for \$7.99 at Amazon, Apple, and Google app stores. For more information, contact Barry or Judy at breckling@garlic.com or call 209-878-3041.

Editor's note: Many photos by the Bristlecone Chapter's Steve Matson are in this application.

Android apps for California Wildflowers on the Google Play Store.

Flora ID Northwest has developed new three new apps for California wildflowers in a "field friendly format" that is the culmination of nearly 20 years producing interactive keys. The apps are titled "2950 N. California Wildflowers," "3050 C. California Wildflowers," and "2800 S. California Wildflowers." They are much more comprehensive than the usual wildflower book or app, with many more species, with over 8500 to 9300 photos, and sophisticated interactive keys with all the functionality of the keys in our PC programs. The apps include around 85% of all the native and naturalized, non-grasslike flowering species in each region. Nomenclature is mostly consistent with Jepson 2nd ed, with synonyms included.

For more details, see our web site, or the web page for a specific app on Google Play Store (select apps, then do a search for "wildflowers" and scroll down to the solid green icons
flora.id@wtechlink.us
<http://flora-id-northwest.com>

Up-Coming Events

Bristlecone Chapter Events

July 10, Deadline for submission of Abstracts for the 2015 California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference 2015, January 15-17, 2015 in San Jose.

The entire event will celebrate 50 years of progress in plant conservation and work toward mapping a promising future. More information is available <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2015/>.

~~CANCELLED: July 12, Saturday, 7 AM, Field Trip: Wineduma Monument, Inyo Mountains, Leader: Jerry Zatorski~~

~~We all have gazed up at this pinnacle rising up from the saddle in the Inyo Mountains, and this trip is as much a destination as it is a field trip. The hike begins in Mojave flora and quickly turns to Great Basin as we ascend, and here shrubs will make up most of the flora. The Inyo Mountains also host outlying populations of some species that are usually found further south and east. The monument sits at 8,000 feet. With no roads or established trail leading to it we will be mostly hiking cross country. Hiking cross country allows us to discover many plants that are not usually along the roadside. Because we begin hiking at 5200 feet for a round trip of about 10 miles (the route is moderate to difficult) all participants should be in good hiking condition at high elevation. Bring plenty of fluids, food, sunscreen and appropriate clothing. We should return by late afternoon.~~

~~We will meet at the Citrus St. Park on the south side of Independence at 7 AM to carpool, with high clearance vehicles and 4WD recommended. For more information contact Jerry at 760-387-2920 or jerryzat@gmail.com.~~

July 15, Early registration opens for the 2015 California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference 2015, January 15-17, 2015 in San Jose.

Join over 1,000 conservation and native plant enthusiasts in San Jose! Attendees include scientists, conservationists, university professors and students, policymakers, professional and amateur botanists, landscaping professionals, and land-use planners from California and beyond.

Up-Coming Events

July 19, Saturday, 7 AM, CNPS Field Trip:

Aspendell to North Lake, Leader: Michael Honer

This hike will travel along a vague stock trail from Aspendell to North Lake, stopping here-and-there to catch our breath, note native plants, and take in big views of the Bishop Creek Canyon and Sierra divide. It'll be an 800 feet climb, but we will do it at a botanically-leisurely pace. Wear good hiking boots, dress for exposed sun (could get hot), bring a sack lunch and drinks.

First we'll explore a wet seep near Bishop Creek with *Epipactis*, *Helenium*, *Arnica*, and a "bunch-o-grasses-n-sedges." Then we'll climb an exposed south-facing rocky trail above Cardinal Village, passing through classic dry sagebrush vegetation including *Purshia*, *Artemisia*, *Ribes*, *Caulanthus*, *Senecio*, and even some *Opuntia*. Winding our way up *Cercocarpus* slopes we'll break-out into an Aspen woodland before stopping at North Lake, where we'll have lunch. Retracing our tracks back down, we'll pick-up a few additional species, and plan to get back to the cars around 3 PM.

July 26, Saturday, CNPS Native Plant Sale, Mammoth Lakes.

The second Mammoth region plant sale for the summer will be on Saturday, July 26. For the latest information on what plants will be available and where to go, contact Mammoth Regional Plant Sale Coordinator Sherry Taylor at mammoth.plant.sales@bristleconecnps.org and ask to be added to her mailing list.

August 16, Sunday, CNPS Field Day: Weed Day, Leader: Sue Weis

We will be working on an invasive type of *Dietera* (*Macheranthera canescens* that has been introduced in wildflower mixes. Exact location to be determined. Contact Sue Weis at suweis@aol.com or 760-873-3485.

August 30, Sunday, CNPS Native Plant Sale Mammoth Lakes.

The third and final Mammoth region plant sale for the summer will be on Sunday, August 30 (Labor Day weekend). For the latest information on what plants will be available and where to go, contact Mammoth Regional Plant Sale Coordinator Sherry Taylor at mammoth.plant.sales@bristleconecnps.org and ask to be added to her mailing list.

Up-Coming Events

September 13, Saturday, 9-11 AM, Bishop Native Plant sale, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 East Line St, Bishop.

A wonderful array of native plants is offered every year. We've been busy coaxing from seed various buckwheats, penstemons, lupine and many more favorites!! Go to

http://bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/sale/nativeplant_db.php for a list of what plants will be available at the sale this year.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

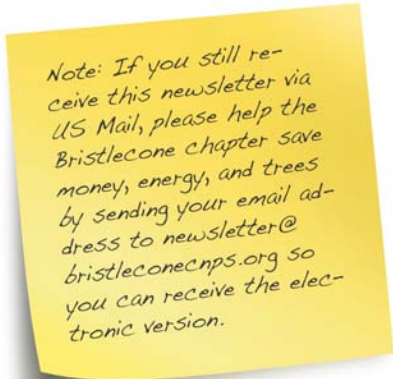
President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
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Treasurer: Paul Satterthwaite 773-208-7858
Creosote Ring Sub-chapter: Kathy LaShure 760-377-4541
Chapter Council Rep: Steve McLaughlin 760-938-3140
Conservation/Partnerships: Julie Anne Hopkins
831-566-6012
Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258
DeDecker Grants: Holly Alpert 760-709-2212
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: Kristen Luetkemeier 703-862-4395
Newsletter: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702
Membership: Edie Trimmer/Thomas Brill 760-920-3702
Website: Maggie Riley <webmaster@bristleconecnps.org>
Posters: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918.
Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485
T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392
Highway Clean-up: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392
DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022

Next Newsletter Deadline

Please have your articles or information to us August 15, 2014.

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
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__ Mariposa Lily \$1500
__ Additional Contribution _____

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

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