



## Bristlecone Chapter

*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora*

# The California Native Plant Society

## Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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**Volume 42, No. 2**  
**March–April 2021**

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### President's Message

Spring is just around the corner, at least in the lower elevations of our chapter area. Today, working at the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, I observed tiny fresh green leaves emerging from some of the plants. Desert and Palmer's penstemon, fernbush, California goldenrod and green rabbitbrush all exhibited the lushness of approaching spring. Diminutive shoots pushed up through the soil in the shelter of the largest bushes. Even the small amount of recent precipitation has been eagerly absorbed, plumping the cactus pads. The garden displays the telltale signs that winter is fleeing.



Top left to right and bottom, respectively: Sign at the entrance to the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, tiny yarrow shoots peeking out through the litter, and an assortment of other natives found along the trails of the garden. Photos by Kelly Bahr.

The DeDecker Garden is a peaceful place—a pleasure to work in, to take a walk in, or to sit on one of the benches and soak up the surrounding beauty. Independence Creek flows gently in the background this time of year, with a thin layer of ice lining the edges in the morning. The Sierra Nevada mountain range provides the magnificent backdrop. Most days a variety of birds are out, flitting and foraging amid the big sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, riparian vegetation, and other less common native plants that call the garden home. I've developed a friendship with a quirky Scrub Jay who lurks in the willows, scolding me noisily whenever I get too close.


The pandemic has affected each of us in different and often difficult ways. At times I feel as though stability has vanished; keeping up with constant changes is a challenge. But so far one thing has not changed for those of us that live in this area—the land is still here. For me, the best thing that I can do is to walk the land, feel the solid earth beneath my feet, and really take the time to appreciate the native plant life – beautiful even in its dormant state. I reach gratefully for connection with wild animals and plants, soil and rocks, and the vast sky.

The DeDecker Garden is one place you can go to connect with nature and enjoy a variety of the plants that live in the surrounding desert and mountains. Hopefully, we'll be able to hold volunteer workdays at the garden this year again. Please come for a visit!

—Kelly Bahr

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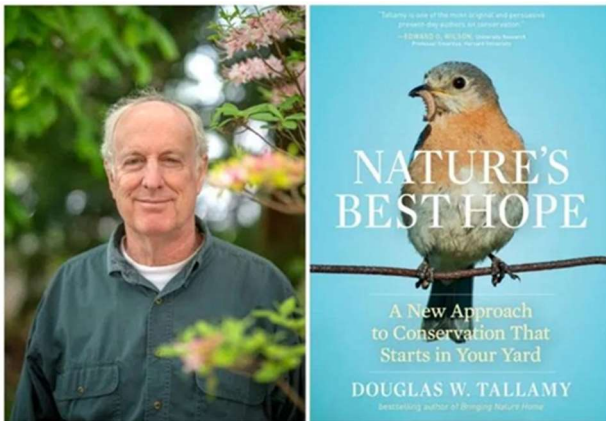
**General Meeting—ONLINE**  
**Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:00 pm**  
Meeting link will be made available beforehand.


 **Nature's Best Hope, A talk by Doug Tallamy**  
Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak

reality check about how ineffective our current land management practices have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Doug Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can—and must—take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature’s best hope.

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 103 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. The *Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014.


Doug’s new book, *Nature’s Best Hope*, released by Timber Press in February 2020, is a New York Times Best Seller.



 **Elaine Kabala, Associate Planner for Bishop**  
Ms. Kabala has agreed to join our meeting to discuss planned or potential garden projects around town.

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## Winter Conservation Updates


 **Tracking Impacts from Off Road Driving**  
Have you ever seen tire tracks where they shouldn’t be? When vehicles travel off road, they leave lasting impressions (literally) on the landscape. Destruction of individual plants, spread of invasive species, and

soil compaction are just a few of the possible impacts to our native flora. Even a single instance of vehicle trespass (driving off road) can leave a visible route and fool future drivers into thinking it is a legitimate road.

Although seeing the impacts of vehicle trespass can be disheartening, reporting your observations is an important first step that can prevent future impacts. Alerting the appropriate land manager can lead to closures of illegal routes, improved signage, and even restoration. Important details to report include the time and date, GPS coordinates or detailed location description, and any observed impacts.

For damage caused specifically by off-highway vehicles (OHVs), such as motorcycles, quads, and ATVs, you can report your observations at [www.stopohvdamage.com/](http://www.stopohvdamage.com/). Your information will be added to a growing database that aims to provide an accurate assessment of the extent of OHV trespass in the Eastern Sierra. The volunteers who run the website are especially interested in OHV damage that occurs near routes that are part of the pilot Adventure Trails System – a network of streets and roads maintained by Inyo County that are open to OHVs. These include five routes in Bishop, one in Independence, and one in Lone Pine (full routes are linked in the “Background” paragraph on the Inyo County website [www.inyoltc.org/ab628impl.html](http://www.inyoltc.org/ab628impl.html)).

 **Exploratory Drilling at Conglomerate Mesa**  
Conglomerate Mesa is home to thriving Joshua tree woodlands and at least 15 rare plant species. As you might know, this important native plant habitat is threatened by mining. K2 Gold completed their first round of exploratory drilling and wants to expand their operations into a roadless and ecologically intact portion of Conglomerate Mesa. In a February press release, K2 Gold stated they have requested permission from the Bureau of Land Management to expand their exploratory gold drilling project and build a new road. Important updates, including opportunities for public comment, will be posted to our website and/or Facebook page.

 **LADWP Pumping Plan**  
On April 20th, LADWP (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) will release their plan of operations for 2021-22 which will include important information about pumping plans and mitigation projects. Inyo County will have 10 days to raise concerns which LADWP must attempt to resolve

within the following 10 days. Operations have the potential to adversely impact vegetation and rare plants such as the Owen’s Valley checkerbloom (*Sidalcea covillei*) and the Inyo County star tulip (*Calochortus excavatus*). To read the entirety of the Annual Operations Plan, as well as past plans and comments, please refer to the Inyo County Water Department’s website: [www.inyowater.org/documents/pumping/dwp-annual-operations-plans/](http://www.inyowater.org/documents/pumping/dwp-annual-operations-plans/). Check our website and/or Facebook page for important updates that may arise between newsletters!

Volunteer needs: Are you interested in helping our chapter monitor and respond to how water extraction impacts native plants? Contact Maria Jesus at [conservation@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:conservation@bristleconecnps.org).

—Maria Jesus

## Mary DeDecker Grantee Progress Reports

### Maria Jesus, California Botanic Garden Master’s Student

I am happy to report that I was able to make considerable progress on my floristic research in the southern Inyo Mountains despite several unforeseen disruptions. Like many others, I made the difficult decision to postpone my spring field research in accordance with California’s “stay-at-home” order.



Top left: Inyo milkvetch (*Astragalus inyoensis*). Top right to lower right: Pinyon mariposa (*Calochortus bruneaunis*) and another Badger Flat threadplant (*Nemacladus inyoensis*) sighting on Conglomerate Mesa. Photos by Maria Jesus.


Thankfully, the blooms persisted at the higher elevations of Malpais Mesa and Conglomerate Mesa through the end of May when I was able to make my first collecting trip of 2020. Throughout the field season, I documented several new occurrences of CNPS-ranked taxa including *Astragalus inyoensis*, *Eremothera boothii* subsp. *alyssooides*, *Ericameria nana*, *Eriogonum mensicola*, *Hecastocleis shockleyi*, *Nemacladus inyoensis*, *Oxytheca watsonii*, *Perityle inyoensis*, and *Sclerocactus polyancistrus*. In total, I made five collecting trips and have plans to thoroughly collect in the low to mid-elevations during spring 2021.



Maria searching for plants near Malpais Mesa. Photo by Maria Jesus.

Given the pandemic-related restrictions and other delays (e.g., Keeler earthquake, washed-out road, blown head-gasket), I shifted some of my efforts towards public outreach and herbarium work. I wrote several articles, including one that appeared in CNPS’s Flora, and gave five online webinars which collectively reached over 300 viewers. I completed 99% of my species determinations and observed that CNPS-ranked taxa comprise nearly 9% of the flora of the southern Inyo Mountains! Additionally, I reviewed many historical herbarium specimens and observations. Preliminary results indicate nearly 50 species may be added to the Inyo Mountain vascular plant checklist that was first compiled by Mary DeDecker.

\*\*\*Note: Funds were not fully expended in 2020 and will be applied to 2021 field work following the budget outlined in the 2020 DeDecker Grant proposal.

 **Marty Purdy, California Botanic Garden  
Master's Student  
Flora of Coyote Ridge and Coyote Flat, Inyo County,  
California**

Although truncated on both ends from challenges introduced by COVID-19 and widespread catastrophic wildfires in California, I was still able to have a successful 2020 field season and remain on track to finish fieldwork this coming summer. As of February 2021, I have made 14 trips to my study area which has resulted in 53 days of personal fieldwork, 779 plant collections, and 611 georeferenced iNaturalist photo observations. Sixteen different field assistants have generously volunteered their time over the last two years, amounting to an additional 50 person-days of fieldwork. I am currently identifying collections made during the last two field seasons and continuing to upload observations of collections and associated species to my iNaturalist project ([www.inaturalist.org/projects/flora-of-coyote-ridge-and-coyote-flat](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/flora-of-coyote-ridge-and-coyote-flat)). A preliminary review of my collections data reveals the documentation of seven new rare plants (as ranked by CNPS) within the study area and two new records for the southern half of the Sierra Nevada range.



Left to right: Marty collecting a *Mentzelia* sp. to add to his towering collection of specimens. Photos courtesy of Marty Purdy.

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## Greenhouse Update

As we head into longer days, I have begun to prepare for a spring plant sale. My yard is full of experiments of trying new ways to start seedlings, and my refrigerator is full of seeds that need cold stratification to sprout. The greenhouse is slowly filling with new plants for the sale.

This year's spring sale will be online like last fall's sale. In partnership with Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT), I will give a live webinar from 12:00–1:00 pm on May 3rd, sharing what plants do well in a garden and highlighting which plants will be available. The online store will go live from May 10–14th and people will be able to pick up their orders at White Mountain Research Center on Saturday the 15th. When the sale goes live, we will share the URL to the online sale through our chapter's Facebook page and website, ESLT's website, and an email send to members who have chosen to receive emails from our chapter. If you are not sure whether or not you have opted in for email notifications, you can check your current membership information by going to [www.cnps.org/](http://www.cnps.org/) and clicking "My Profile" (the top of the page) or "Profile Login" (bottom of the page). To make changes to emailing preferences unavailable on the site, contact at [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org).

—Katie Quinlan

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## Thank you for Joining!

We are delighted to welcome all new folks who recently joined our chapter: Beth in Lee Vining, Christina in Inone, Eileen in Sonoma, Gale in Truckee, Krista in Oakdale, Mark in Burbank, Mary in Carlsbad, Nancy in Sonoma, Paula in Los Angeles, Rachel in Ridgecrest, Sandra in Meadview, and Steve in Davis.



A big Sierra wave to new members. Photo by Marty Purdy.

## Up-Coming Events

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

### Chapter Events

**March 17, Wednesday, 6:00 pm**

**Bristlecone Chapter Board Meeting—ONLINE**

All members are always welcome to join the Zoom meeting. To obtain a link for the meeting, contact Kathleen Nelson ([goatheads@aol.com](mailto:goatheads@aol.com)).

**March 24, Wednesday, 7:00 pm**

**Bristlecone Chapter General Meeting—ONLINE**  
***Nature's Best Hope*, Speaker: Doug Tallamy**

The evening's program will be a talk on nature's best hope according to Doug Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. The Zoom meeting link will be emailed to members and available on our Facebook page as we get closer to the meeting date.

**May 3, Monday, 12:00 pm–1:00 pm**

**Eastern Sierra Land Trust Zoom Meeting**  
**Webinar Speaker: Katie Quinlan**

The Plant Sales and Greenhouse Manager of the Bristlecone chapter, Katie Quinlan, will share with us by live webinar what plants do well in a garden locally and highlight what plants will be available at the Spring Plant Sale. Stay tuned to your email and our website updates for more information.

**May 10–14 sale, May 15 pickup**

**Spring Plant Sale—ONLINE**

Our online store will go live from May 10<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> to make your orders. We will share the URL for the site by email to members, on our website and Facebook page, and the Eastern Sierra Land Trust's website as we get closer to the sale date. Once orders are submitted, buyers will receive instructions to pick up their orders at White Mountain Research Center (3000 E. Line St., Bishop) on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Other Events

## Up-Coming Events

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

**March 4, Thursday, 5:30 pm**

**CNPS Webinar**

***Naturehood Gardening: Maximizing Habitat***

Hear from habitat-gardening experts with a range of experiences and perspectives on ways to boost the habitat power of your native plant garden. Using regionally appropriate plants and adding a few habitat accessories -- such as small fountains and shelter -- can make a big difference. Find the link to register for the virtual talk at

<https://www.cnps.org/event/naturehood-gardening-maximizing-habitat>

**March 3, Wednesday, 7:00 pm**

**Mt. Lassen Chapter, CNPS—Virtual Program**

***Cultivating Place: How a Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places and Their People*, Speaker: Jennifer Jewell**

Jennifer Jewell will explore the philosophy of her Cultivating Place podcast that gardens/gardeners are powerful agents and spaces for potentially positive change in our world, helping to address challenges as wide ranging as climate change, habitat loss, cultural polarization, and individual and communal health and being. She will explore how this power of gardens and gardeners is exemplified in the important plant-based work being done by women around the world featured in *The Earth in Her Hands*, and the innovative place-based gardens that celebrate western landscapes in her upcoming book, *Under Western Skies*. For more information go to <https://mountlassen.cnps.org/>

## Up-Coming Events

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

**March 4, 2021, Thursday, 7:30 pm**  
**Yerba Buena Chapter, CNPS—Webinar**  
***Effects of Altered Wildfire Regimes on California Plant Diversity*, Speaker: Jesse Miller**

Wildfires are becoming larger, more frequent, and/or more severe in California. However, the impacts of larger, more severe fires on plant diversity remains incompletely understood. Learn about recent research exploring how plant community responses to wildfire may vary across different ecosystems and environmental conditions. Jesse will also discuss whether plant lineages respond differently to fire and how wildfire patterns at both local and landscape scales may affect plants. Ecologist Jesse Miller is a lecturer at Stanford Univ. who loves sharing his passion for the natural world with others. <https://jesseedmiller.com/>

Registration is required using the link  
<https://www.cnps.org/event/effects-of-altered-wildfire-regimes-on-california-plant-diversity-with-jesse-miller>

**March 13, Saturday, 11:00 am–12:00 pm**  
**California Botanic Garden Online Class**  
***Eating California! Using Native Plants in your Diet and Garden*, Speaker: Antonio Sanchez**

Native food enthusiast Antonio Sanchez, Nursery Manager of the Santa Monica Mountains Fund, discusses the ancient and emerging field of California native foods and their cultivation. Learning from and paying honor to many living traditions that have been passed down by local indigenous peoples, this unique lecture explores how old ways can combine with new ways to find a place in local gardens and kitchens. Explore some of the many native California plants that you can grow at home and incorporate into your diet. You may be surprised that among the more than 6,000 plants native to California, hundreds are not only edible, easy to use and delicious, but great low-water additions to your home garden as well!

Register at: [www.calbg.org/event/eating-california-using-native-plants-in-your-diet-and-garden](http://www.calbg.org/event/eating-california-using-native-plants-in-your-diet-and-garden)

Pricing: Public \$25 | CalBG Members \$20

## Up-Coming Events

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

**March 16, Tuesday, 6:30–7:30 pm**  
**Friends of the Inyo and Sierra Club Virtual Event**  
***Conglomerate Mesa: Overflight + Castle Mountain Mine Comparison*, Speakers: Bryan Hatchell and Kris Hohag**

Join Friends of the Inyo and Sierra Club as we virtually explore Conglomerate Mesa and refresh ourselves on why we work so hard to protect this beautiful landscape. This event will be hosted by Bryan Hatchell from Friends of the Inyo and Kris Hohag from Sierra Club. They will highlight a recent flyover tour of Conglomerate Mesa and then dive into the recent threats to this landscape.

To register, go to  
<https://friendsoftheinyo.org/event/conglomerate-mesa-overflight-and-comparison/>

**March 23, Tuesday, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm**  
**Friends of the Inyo—Virtual Event**  
***Behind the Scenes: Trail Ambassadors in Death Valley National Park*, Speakers: Alex Ertaud and Lindsay Butcher**

Look behind the scenes at the work to erase vehicle trespass on the delicate dry lake beds of Death Valley National Park. Join Friends of the Inyo Stewardship Director Alex Ertaud and Trail Ambassador Lindsay Butcher as they share their experiences working in Death Valley National Park erasing vehicle trespass on the delicate desert playas. Because of the unique geography and climate of Death Valley, tire tracks left by travelers who decided to drive off the designated road scar the landscape. In partnership with the National Park Service, our Trail Ambassadors work to remove these scars to restore the beautiful landscapes as well as prevent others from following those tracks and further damaging the lake bed. This work is a one of a kind experience. Learn about the techniques, triumphs, and challenges of working in the remote Death Valley National Park.

Please register at:  
<https://friendsoftheinyo.salsalabs.org/bts-death-valley-national-park/index.html>

## Up-Coming Events

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

**March 23, Tuesday, 7:00 pm**

**El Dorado Chapter, CNPS—Virtual Program  
*Living with Wildfire*, Speaker: Alice Cantelow**

Is it possible to garden with native plants and still have a fire safe landscape? Is there a way to balance the desires to foster habitat, conserve water, and still have effective defensible space? Yes and yes! It can be tricky though. Alice Cantelow, chapter president, will share her extensive reading of what works and what doesn't work to help homes survive—from statistical studies of recent, large wildfires to research using actual experiments. Living in the Sierra foothills comes with the responsibility to be fire smart and fire ready, from the plants in your yard to your home itself. Alice will give practical tips to help you make your home more resilient to wildfire, whether you live in oak savannah, chaparral, oak woodland, or forest ecosystems.

This presentation is open to the public and free of charge. Find the Zoom Meeting link at  
<https://eldoradocnps.org/news-events/meetings>

**April 7, Wednesday, 7:00 pm**

**Mt. Lassen Chapter, CNPS—Virtual Program  
*Living with Bumble Bees*, Speaker: John Whittlesey**

John Whittlesey, proprietor of Canyon Creek Nursery & Design, has been photographing, observing, and learning about flower visitors of all kinds for over a decade. He will share photos taken from his homestead of bumble bee inhabitants while weaving a discussion of their life history and anecdotes of “living with bumble bees”. He will conclude with plants to plant that invite bumble bees to live in your garden.

For more information about John, his talk, and the Zoom link for the meeting, go to  
<https://mountlassen.cnps.org/>

**Please send any submissions to us by  
April 15, 2021 for the next issue.**

### Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Kelly Bahr [kbahr@cnps.org](mailto:kbahr@cnps.org)

Vice President: Michèle Slaton  
[vicepresident@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:vicepresident@bristleconecnps.org)

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

Treasurer: Sue Weis [treasurer@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:treasurer@bristleconecnps.org)

Chapter Council Delegate: Stephen Ingram  
[stephen@ingramphoto.com](mailto:stephen@ingramphoto.com)

Conservation/Partnerships: Maria Jesus  
[conservation@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:conservation@bristleconecnps.org)

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DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton [grants@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:grants@bristleconecnps.org)

Field Trips: Sue Weis [treasurer@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:treasurer@bristleconecnps.org)

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

T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram [stephen@ingramphoto.com](mailto:stephen@ingramphoto.com)

DeDecker Gardener: Kelly Bahr

Historian: **OPEN**

Mammoth Plant Sales: **OPEN**

Hospitality: **OPEN**

We need volunteers to help keep our chapter going and growing. Please contact any one of us to find out how you can volunteer as a committee chair and other ways to be a more active member.

## The California Native Plant Society

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

Note: If you still receive this newsletter via US Mail, please help the Bristlecone chapter save money, energy, and trees by sending your email address to newsletter@bristleconecnps.org so you can receive the electronic version.

## 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 [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and select JOIN/RENEW (at the top of the webpage or select it after clicking the menu button) or mail 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:

California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Gift Contribution:** \_\_\_\_\_ Wherever needed   
Specific Area: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Student / Fixed Income	\$25
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<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$10,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution	_____

**Go Perennial!** To become a monthly sustaining (perennial) member, join or renew online at [www.cnps.org/perennial](http://www.cnps.org/perennial)

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