



## Bristlecone Chapter

*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora*

# The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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**Volume 45, No. 6**  
**November–December 2024**

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## Nominations for Chapter Officers

Since launching our new website earlier this year, we have been going through all the old files and digitizing them. It has been an eye opener to go back and look through the old newsletters. Our chapter started in 1982. At the first meeting, five people sat on the executive board or committee chairs. By 1990, 11 people served on the four-seat board or a committee chair. In 2006, we reached our peak with 18 volunteers running our chapter. Since 2006, the number of members serving on the board or as chairpersons has been in a steady decline. We have been without a Vice President for the past two years and a President for one year. There are only six people now who are trying to fill as many jobs as they can to keep the Bristlecone Chapter going so we need more help.

We are seeking nominations from members in good standing who are ready to help with our chapter's mission to promote the enjoyment and preservation of our local native plants and plant communities. Nominees for executive board positions must be or have been active volunteers of this chapter. Send your nominations for board seats or express your willingness to serve in a committee chair to [secretary@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:secretary@bristleconecnps.org) or [plant\\_sale@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org) by **November 29<sup>th</sup>** for consideration.

We will hold our bi-annual elections online. Current members will receive an email with further voting instructions, and those who have opted out of receiving emails can send in their vote by emailing [plant\\_sale@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org). **The voting deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Current nominations of officers for the Executive Board are:

President: Stephen Ingram

Vice President: OPEN for nominations

Secretary: Kathleen Nelson

Treasurer: Sue Weis

In addition to the Executive Board, the following is a list of Committee Chair positions that are also open:

Conservation/Partnerships: OPEN for assistant to help Chairperson Maria Jesus with this program.

Contact Maria at [conservation@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:conservation@bristleconecnps.org)

Education: OPEN

Field Trips: OPEN

Publicity: OPEN

Newsletter: OPEN

Descriptions for all of the positions, such as for Vice President\* shown below, can be found on our chapter website on the About Us/Chapter Leadership page:

<https://chapters.cnps.org/bristlecone/about-us/leadership/>

\*Vice President: Attends meetings of the membership and the Executive Board, and assists President as needed. Reserves meeting spaces for board and General meetings. Serves as Program Chair, identifying speakers and facilitating logistics for presentations for Chapter General Meetings and other public events. This includes arranging speakers/programs for five General Chapter Meetings per year, arranging lodging and dinner for speakers as necessary, introducing speakers, and providing a description of each program for the bi-monthly Chapter newsletter.

Contact any officer in the directory (page 4) if you have any questions, have a nomination to make, or are interested in volunteering in any capacity. We'd love to have you join us!

—Katie Quinlan

## December General Meeting Holiday Potluck and Presentation, Bristlecone CNPS Chapter and Eastern Sierra Bird Alliance

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 8:00 pm  
White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E Line St,  
Bishop, CA. South Classroom

 **Speaker: Ryan Garrett, Education Director,  
Mono Lake Committee**

Mono Lake and Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina are sister lakes that play a crucial role in providing habitat for Wilson’s Phalaropes as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. In response to the growing need to conserve saline ecosystems, Experiencia Ambientalía was launched in 2021 to involve youth in the conservation of Laguna Mar Chiquita. By 2023, international partnerships with organizations in the Eastern Sierra led to the formation of a “flock” at Mono Lake, where students from both hemispheres collaborated in environmental activities. This work culminated in an international exchange focused on saline lakes conservation. Join us for a presentation on these efforts, the unique ecosystems of these lakes, and the inspiring youth collaboration through Experiencia Ambientalía.

The potluck begins at 5:30 pm and program begins at 7:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share, a place setting, and BYOB.

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## Brittlebush and Invertebrates



Brittlebush along Death Valley Rd. out of Big Pine.

Brittlebush (*Encelia actoni*) is an example of the increase in productivity of plants along vehicular routes. The increase in abundance has been attributed to many factors<sup>1</sup>. It has created an exciting habitat, with a diversity of insects and arthropods. Over 21 species from six orders of insects and some spiders were observed this spring on brittlebush along Big Pine Death Valley Rd. to Piper Mountain Wilderness. They have been observed collecting pollen and nectar, mating, and as predators and prey.

—Bob Zimmerman



Diversity: Ornate checkered beetle, small moth, and western flower thrips.



Top, northern white skipper (*Heliopetes ericetorum*) and, bottom, flower beetle (Buprestidae).

Top, mating bees and, bottom, yellow flower spider with captured tachinid fly. All brittlebush photos by Bob Zimmerman.



<sup>1</sup> Brooks, M. L., & Lair, B. (2005). Ecological effects of vehicular routes in a desert ecosystem. Las Vegas, NV, USA: US Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center.

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## Chapter Spring and Fall Plant Sales

The plant sale at Eastern Sierra Land Trust's GardenFest in May was a resounding success. There was so much positive energy and excitement among the participants for native plants—it was quite a lot of fun. This year, the Land Trust placed the food truck at the front of the building instead of the back as in previous years, giving us more room to set up and organize the payment lines at our booth. We sold 828 plants to 115 customers. Most of the sales happened within the first hour where we were making two sales a minute. We had more volunteers this year, which also helped. Thank you, Marty, Kathleen, Scott, Julie and Sue.

It was a bit rough at the beginning of this growing season. There was a lot more mice predation of the first plantings (they ate all the golden forget-me-not, bitterbrush and lupine seedlings). To thwart them I put peanut butter bait in 5-gallon water bucket traps out under the tables. They worked really well as the mice seemed to be more interested in the peanut butter and never made it up onto the tables. Another crux of these homemade mousetraps is the aluminum can attached to the opening of each bucket. The mice step onto the side of the can and spin off into the bucket like a logger with poor balance trying to stay on top of a log floating on water. In two of the buckets,

pairs of tree frogs moved into the soda cans and would peak their heads out when I walked by.

Because the fall sale returned to an in-person only sale, I expected there to be fewer customers. That didn't turn out to be the case. We had pretty much the same number as we have had in the past. Giving members the first hour to shop prevented the mad rush we have seen in the past and a lot of people were just standing around visiting. I think it was great for people to be able to socialize again while they shopped. We sold more plants than last year but made less money because more of the plants were in the \$5 pots. With nine volunteers, things went very smoothly and we had the whole sale packed up by lunchtime. (This was the earliest I have ever been able to go home after a fall sale.) Thanks to Scott, Marty, Ella, Sue W., Jerry, Stephen, Fran, Irene and Sue C.

—Katie Quinlan



(Top and bottom) Plant shoppers perusing the selection of native plants at the Fall Sale at the White Mountain Research Center. Photos by Stephen Ingram.

## Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is pleased to request applications for the Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant. This small-grants program is named in memory of a local botanist renowned for her many contributions to the botany and history of the Eastern Sierra Nevada and northern Mojave Desert.



Bristlecone Chapter

Our goal is to promote research and projects that increase understanding and appreciation of native plants and ecosystems in the Bristlecone Chapter area. Anyone may apply, but we are especially interested in helping graduate and undergraduate college students as well as elementary, middle, and high school pupils and their teachers. The only requirement is that the project include studies within the Bristlecone Chapter area – generally defined as Inyo and Mono Counties, but including adjacent biogeographic areas of the northern Mojave Desert, Sierra Nevada, or western Great Basin. Subjects appropriate for funding cover a wide range, from basic taxonomic or ecological research to native plant gardens. The committee evaluates applications based on the extent to which the proposed project is specific to our regional flora, fills information gaps, and contributes to public awareness of native flora. We seek well-organized proposals that demonstrate a clear objective and a pathway to achieve success.

The program will award grants of up to \$1,500 each. Proposals exceeding \$1,500 may still be considered, contingent on chapter funding and project justification; in such cases, applicants are advised to develop their project acknowledging that only \$1,500 or less may be available, and line-item the budget accordingly.

### Criteria and Procedures

Submit written proposals to the Mary DeDecker Grant Committee. Each should contain 1) title, 2) objectives, 3) methods, 4) expected final product, 5) relevance to chapter area (at least part of the project should be conducted in Inyo or Mono Counties), 6) proposed budget, 7) permitting plans for collection and research from relevant land managers, and 8) applicant's resume. Student proposals must include a letter of support from their adviser or teacher. Electronic files may be in Word or pdf format, and should be named using the format: LastNameFirstName\_2025application (or \_2025letter). Proposals should not exceed three pages in length, excluding resume. The deadline for complete proposal packages is **January 17, 2025**. All applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by **early March, 2025**.

A progress report explaining how Bristlecone Chapter funds were used is due at the end of the calendar year. Applicants are encouraged to give a talk about their project at a chapter evening meeting and/or to write a brief explanation of their work for the Bristlecone Chapter newsletter.

### Send proposals or requests for information to:

[grants@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:grants@bristleconecnps.org) (electronic submissions are preferred but not required)

OR:

Kathleen Nelson  
Mary DeDecker Grant Committee Chair  
P. O. Box 364  
Bishop, CA 93514

*You can find more information about the Bristlecone Chapter Grants Program, including this Request for Proposals, at*

[DeDecker Grant - Bristlecone Chapter CNPS](#)

## Up-Coming Events

### Chapter Events

**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm**  
**Chapter Board Meeting (Zoom)**

All members are welcome to join. Contact our Secretary, Kathleen Nelson, at [secretary@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:secretary@bristleconecnps.org) for the Zoom link.

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**Holiday Potluck and Presentation, Bristlecone CNPS Chapter and Eastern Sierra Bird Alliance**  
White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E Line St, Bishop, CA 93514. South Classroom

See page 1 for more details.

### Other Events

**2024 – 2025**

**Citizen Science Opportunity: Collect Data to Monitor the Solitude of the Eastern Sierra**

The U.S. Forest Service wants to make sure everyone visiting our wilderness areas has opportunities for solitude. It all begins with research, and Friends of the Inyo is assisting and needs your help. Friends of the Inyo conduct visitor data collection for the Forest Service in various designated Wildernesses on the Inyo National Forest. While we will be collecting data across the Inyo National Forest in 2025, for the end of 2024 we are focusing on just the South Sierra, Inyo Mountains, and Boundary Peak areas.

Hike specific trails in specific areas, recording how many other people you encounter—that's it!

If you have any questions, please email [lindsay@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:lindsay@friendsoftheinyo.org) or get more info at:

[https://smartmailerview.bisglobal.net/SendMail/1143/2024/11/15/823069/CampaignInitiativeEmail\\_78545385.html?sm\\_guid=ODIzMDY5fDc4NTQ1Mzg1fC0xfHdlbmR5QGZyaWVvZHNvZnRoZWlueW8ub3JnfDc1OTc2MTV8fDB8MHwyMzY5ODA4Njd8MTE0M3w wfDB8fDgxODAxNXww0](https://smartmailerview.bisglobal.net/SendMail/1143/2024/11/15/823069/CampaignInitiativeEmail_78545385.html?sm_guid=ODIzMDY5fDc4NTQ1Mzg1fC0xfHdlbmR5QGZyaWVvZHNvZnRoZWlueW8ub3JnfDc1OTc2MTV8fDB8MHwyMzY5ODA4Njd8MTE0M3w wfDB8fDgxODAxNXww0)

## Up-Coming Events

**October 2024 – January 2025**

**Citizen Science for Monarch Monitoring in Saline Valley, CA**

If you're an adventurous citizen scientist, avid hiker, or have wilderness experience, then volunteer to help count monarchs in Saline Valley. Organizers and volunteers head out weekly from October through January to count monarchs. During the overwintering period, monarchs congregate in clusters along coastal California and in a few inland spots like Saline Valley. This is the best time to survey the population since the butterflies generally stay in one place and are not active in the early morning hours. The data is used to estimate the western monarch population. For more details on these survey opportunities, visit:

[www.salinemonarchcount.org/home](http://www.salinemonarchcount.org/home)

All new volunteers are required to survey with an experienced person prior to surveying on their own. If you are interested in surveying, but have not surveyed before, please reach out to Rachel Laura so she can pair you up with an experienced surveyor: [salinemonarchcount@gmail.com](mailto:salinemonarchcount@gmail.com)

### Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: **OPEN**

Vice President: **OPEN**

Secretary: Kathleen Nelson [secretary@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:secretary@bristleconecnps.org)

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

Chapter Council Delegate: Stephen Ingram  
[delegate@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:delegate@bristleconecnps.org)

Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**

Education: **OPEN**

Programs: **OPEN**

DeDecker Grants: Kathleen Nelson  
[grants@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:grants@bristleconecnps.org)

Field Trips: **OPEN**

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan  
[plant\\_sale@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org)

Publicity: **OPEN**

Newsletter: **OPEN**

Membership: Sue Carter  
[membership@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:membership@bristleconecnps.org)

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

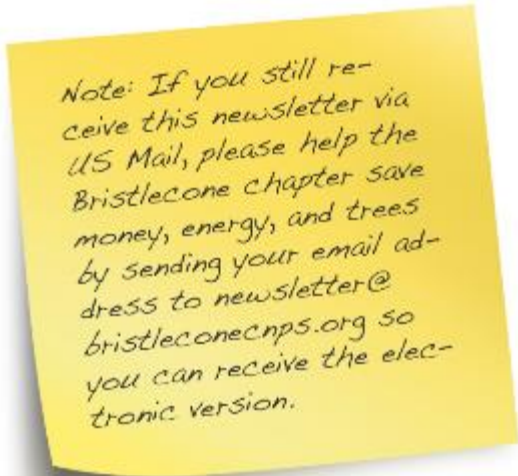
T-shirt Sales: Katie Quinlan

[plant\\_sale@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org)

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

**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 [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and click JOIN/RENEW (at the top-right or select it after clicking the menu button of the webpage) or mail the form below:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:** \_\_\_ New Member  
                                  \_\_\_ Renewal

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

**Membership Category**

- \_\_\_ Student / Limited Income                   \$25
- \_\_\_ Individual                                   \$50
- \_\_\_ Plant Lover                                 \$120
- \_\_\_ Supporter                                  \$500
- \_\_\_ Patron                                       \$1,000
- \_\_\_ Benefactor                                 \$2,500
- \_\_\_ Steward                                    \$5,000
- \_\_\_ Guardian                                  \$10,000
- \_\_\_ Additional Contribution                 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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