



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 38, No. 2
March-April 2017

President's Message March 2017

It is raining again today, a strong steady rain. Although the weather has changed my plans about skiing I can only smile and think how the plants must feel soaking up all this much needed moisture. I am anxious to see how this winter water will affect the restoration plantings that were put into the burned areas last fall and hope that the added soil moisture will increase the success rate of the seedlings. I imagine all this water will make for a pretty good flower season this year as well and we have some good field trips lined up to enjoy the spring bloom; so check those out in this newsletter and mark the dates on your calendars.

To get ready for the spring gardening season we have compost master and compost tea guru Julie Fontaine for our March speaker. She will address soil health and how to keep the natives that you plant happy. On the gardening front as well is the Eastern Sierra Land Trust Pollinator Garden Workshop on April 8th at 10a.m., at the Inyo Council for the Arts. You can learn about how to design a native garden that will attract native pollinators and get information on how to apply for the grant that gives you \$125 in native plants. Our first spring plant sale will be held May 6th at the Land Trust's Gardenfest.

I would like to welcome Elaine Chow on board as our newsletter editor. Elaine volunteered to fill the position at the last meeting. She is a former recipient of the DeDecker grant who studied the effects of Russian thistle competition on the Eureka Valley evening-primrose.

We are still in need of a secretary. The position involves coming to the five board meetings a year and taking notes, which are sent out for corrections and then the final copy brought to the next meeting for approval.

There is also some correspondence of thanking donors once in a while. If you would like to take on the role, contact Katie at president@bristleconecnps.org.

"It is the action, not the fruit of the action that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there will be any fruit. That doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result." — Gandhi

— Katie Quinlan

Wednesday, March 29, 7 PM, General Meeting, White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop:

"The Wonder Down Under! Soil Ecology and its Influence on Plant Succession, Habitat Restoration, and Your Garden"

Speaker: Julie Fontaine

Habitat restoration ecologist, Julie Fontaine, will explore the nuances of soil ecology and its influence on plant succession, and the restoration of native habitats. The right foundation improves the survival of new plantings, reduces invasive weeds, and enables plants to adapt to the environment faster, resulting in better habitat restoration success. Translating this information to a pollinator garden, or even edible plantings, Julie will provide soils-based applications and tips that will help any garden or native area flourish.

Julie has been living in Mammoth Lakes for over 10 years. She is a professional environmental consultant in the fields of soil science, habitat restoration and regulatory permitting. She holds a Master's Degree in Soil Science with a focus on Habitat Restoration.

Julie's passions lie in helping people take care of their land, whether it is for improving plant productivity on a farm, or restoring habitat. Recently she has been retained to assist in providing cutting edge soils-based solutions to manage the devastating impacts of the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer on riparian habitat in Southern California. In addition, she also runs PositivelySustainable.com, a blog focusing on sustainable living.

On a personal note, Julie landed in Mammoth Lakes because she's also passionate about Nordic skiing, hiking and biking, which is a perfect fit for her lifestyle.

— Michèle Slaton

Greenhouse Update, February 2017

A year with slightly more moisture followed by a record wet month of January has brought back the rodent wars. In December the signs of mice biting the bitterbrush seedlings off at the base started to show. There was so much damage that I was sure there was a packrat involved. But with repeated trapping I have only come up with one pack rat amid the 40 mice, and still counting. It is pretty discouraging to lose at least half of the crop to the rodent damage. However, gardeners are the unbridled optimists. With the proper knowledge and supplies and growing conditions, the plants will take hold and prosper. February brings me to stratifying the seeds for this upcoming season where I hope the plants will fare better than 2016.

— Katie Quinlan

Bristlecone Seedlings

Our very first newsletters, which are on the website by the way, tell us the story of the beginnings of the chapter. An organizational meeting was held almost 35 years ago on March 31st, 1982 in Independence where Mary DeDecker, founder, lived. Original board members, Francis Cholewa, Kay C. Wylie, Mike Prather and Evelyn Mae Nikolaus are still in the Owen's Valley today. Thank you, friends, for working with Mary and for your many contributions over the years. The newsletters, printed and mailed 6 times a year, cost "regrettably" \$2.50 a year.

The very first field trip was on May 1st to Mazourka Canyon via Citrus Road as Mazourka Road was called then. "Bring a hand lens for added enjoyment." An enthusiastic crowd showed up for carpets of flowers

on the alluvial fans coming out of the canyon all the way down to Independence's town boundaries.

The second field trip was with the Marin Chapter at the end of August in the White Mountains. Almost 50 people from 7 different chapters (including Nevada NPS) joined this trip. They stayed at the old Cedar Flat Group Campground where the CARMA project resided until recently. Folks braved an electrical storm the first night that lasted for 5 hours, non-stop, with an inch of rain recorded. The next day was clear for a hike in the Methuselah Grove and then it rained and hailed in the afternoon. The second night of this exciting trip was much more pleasant, but someone was heard to have said, "The Bristlecone Chapter certainly starts things off with a bang!"

Here's to many more wonderful adventures for our chapter.

— Kathy Duvall, Historian

Bristlecone Chapter T-shirt Design Contest

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) needs a new t-shirt design! We are soliciting artwork that will be used on our new t-shirts.

Contest Guidelines:

The original artwork should be approximately 8"x11". A bristlecone pine must be central to the work but may include other native plants and artistic features. The words "Bristlecone Chapter California Native Plant Society" should be incorporated. Artwork can be in any reproducible medium, and can be full color, but will ultimately be printed with six or fewer colors. The main work will be printed on the shirt front, and a smaller tag image will be printed on the back below the neck. The tag image should be simpler. It could be derived from the larger piece, or it could be something different suitable for printing in one color.

Email entries to teeshirtdesign@bristleconecnps.org by midnight on April 1, 2017. Please send artwork as PDFs or JPEGs and include your contact information. The winner will be selected by the Bristlecone Chapter Board of Directors, and will be awarded \$200 and a new t-shirt.

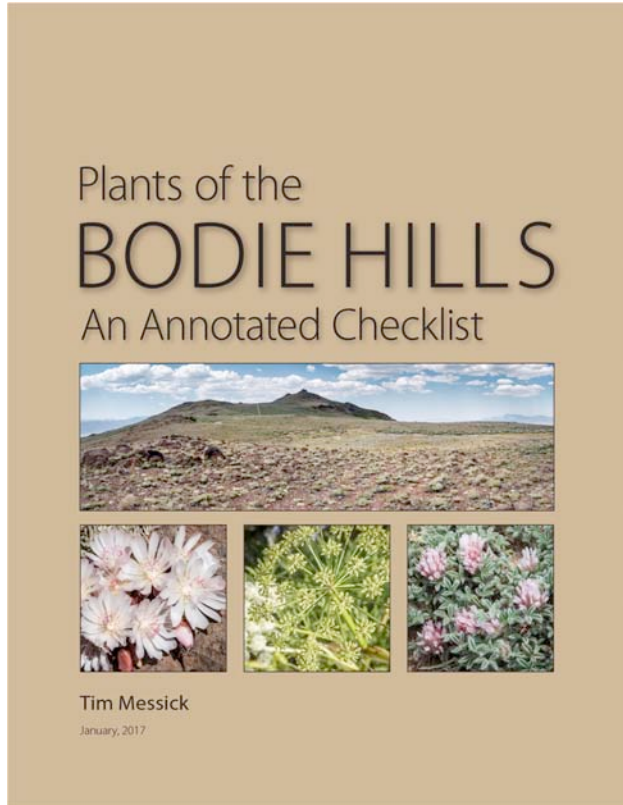
For more information, contact Stephen at teeshirtdesign@bristleconecnps.org or (760) 937-9918.

Plants of the Bodie Hills: an Annotated Checklist

Available to download is the latest update (January 2017) of Tim Messick's annotated checklist of plants in the Bodie Hills, north of Mono Lake. This is an ongoing project to update the local flora he prepared for the area for his MA thesis at Humboldt State University in 1982.

The Bodie Hills encompass about 417 square miles in northern Mono County, California, western Mineral County, Nevada, and southern-most Lyon County, Nevada. The checklist includes 679 taxa of vascular plants, of which 575 are definitely known to occur in the Bodie Hills and 104 others are considered likely to be present. The list includes 52 families of dicots, 15 families of monocots, and 8 families of vascular cryptogams.

Please visit www.bodiehillsplants.com for more information, including occasional posts on the botany, geology and history of the Bodie Hills and nearby areas.



This list and many others are also on our website:
www.bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/checklists/

Always wanted to learn grasses? Here's a great opportunity!

Course: *Identification of Grasses*

Dates: March 21-22, and March 23-24, 2017

Location: Room 300G, Fleischman Agriculture, University of Nevada, Reno

Cost: \$150 non-student, \$80 student

This course covers the unique taxonomy of grasses and some grass-like plants. Basic terminology, dissection skills, and use of keys are the focus of this class. You will learn to identify grasses, and also how to collect and press them. You can anticipate working with about 48 different grass genera, along with "grass-like" plants such as sedges, rushes and lilies. For more information contact Jerry Tiehm.

Instructor: Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm, M.S.

Great Basin Specialist and UNR Herbarium Curator

Contact: atiehm@att.net

Volunteers Needed!

Lucy Ellis of Death Valley National Park is working to obtain population data for the impending USFWS decision to delist two endangered species:

Swallenia alexandrae and *Oenothera californica* ssp. *eurekaensis*. Both are rare endemics of the sand dune systems in Eureka Valley, which lies at the northern end of the Park.

Volunteers will hike 12 miles a day over sandy, rugged terrain under various, potentially inclement conditions and camp at Eureka Dunes Dry Camp. A commitment of at least two days is preferable but any help is appreciated. Tentative dates are: Mar 20-23, Mar 27- 30, Apr 3-6, and Apr 10-13.

Contact Lucy Ellis, Death Valley NP Botanist, at lucy_ellis@nps.gov for more information.

Up-Coming Events

Bristlecone Board meeting.

Wednesday, March 22, 6 PM.

Pizza Factory, 970 N. Main St., Bishop.

Join us at 5:30 PM for dinner. All members welcome.

Bristlecone General Meeting.

Wednesday, March 29, 7pm.

White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop

Bristlecone CNPS Field Trips

For updated information: www.bristleconecnps.org

March 25-26, Saturday-Sunday: Death Valley and/or Panamint Valley. Leader: Mark Bagley.

With good rains this year it should be a good, perhaps very good, wildflower year. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Panamint Springs on Hwy. 190 in Panamint Valley, about one hour east of Lone Pine. Camping Saturday night will probably be primitive (no water, no toilets, no tables). Trip locations are dependent on the blooms and will be scouted and determined just before the trip. Locations will be announced at Sat. morning meeting. Easy to moderate walking. Trip will end on Sunday about 3 p.m. Standard car OK, but we will be on some dirt roads; don't forget to gas up ahead of time (there is very expensive gas at Panamint Springs and in Death Valley). Bring good walking shoes, plenty of water for the whole weekend and everything else you need for primitive camping. There's a \$25 per vehicle park entrance fee (good for 7 days) if you don't have one of the Park Service passes. Mark is a consulting botanist with more than 30 years of experience in the Mojave Desert and has led many wildflower trips to Death Valley. Contact Mark Bagley at 760-920-2211 for more information.

April 2, Sunday: Blooms and Bugs for Beginners – Dedecker Garden, California Museum, Independence. Leaders: Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin. 9:30 AM – noon.

This program will offer beginning botanists and bug enthusiasts a chance to find and identify the blooming wildflowers around the Eastern California Museum. Bring good walking shoes, water, a snack, and loads of questions, we will have lots of resources to refer to!

April 8, Saturday: Division Creek and Sawmill Trailhead. Leader: Steve Matson.

Meet at 9:00 AM at the Kiosk and Redwood tree at the corner of 395 and 168 in Big Pine. If you are coming from the south you may meet us at 9:20 at the junction of Tinemaha Road and Division Creek Road, about 2 miles south of Aberdeen. We will drive west on decent dirt roads to the Sawmill Pass Trailhead. From there we will hike slowly south along the trail and feast upon one of the best Lupine displays in the Owens Valley. A rarer plant we will seek out, among many others, is *Collinsia callosa*, desert mountain blue-eyed mary, and *Tricardia watsonii*, three hearts. Also present will be more Cryptanthas than you can shake a stick at! Contact Steve Matson at 775-843-0389 or ssmat@sbcglobal.net for more information.

May 20, Saturday: Ainslee Spring and Round Fire Burn. Leader: Jerry Zatorski.

At 5500' elevation, Ainslee Spring sits against the Wheeler Crest at the top of the alluvial fan. In the past the spring area was host to many Sierra plants, but in February 2015 all that changed as the Round Fire rapidly consumed everything in its path. Today the spring and associated wetland still shines bright green amid the devastated landscape around it. Due to the dense sagebrush that covered much of the landscape prior to the fire, this area has been spared much of the disturbances from ranching, suburbanization and heavy ORV use in past years, and as a result there are relatively few exotic weeds. Despite the meager rains in spring of 2015, the spring flowers were big and bold. We will begin at the dirt loop road (Alison Ln. in Google maps) on the west side of Paradise and hike along the Ainslee Spring road making stops as the flora dictates. We will also visit a Bitterbrush planting implemented by BLM in October of 2016 and view the extent of the fire scare on the alluvial fan. There will be about 3-4 miles of moderate hiking at a botanist's pace. Participants should bring lunch, snacks and plenty of fluids. Dress for the weather conditions: hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes... We will meet at 8:00 AM at the dirt loop road, which is 0.5 mile up Lower Rock Creek Rd/Old Sherwin Grade where it crosses Rock Creek and the trailhead (old Paradise Resort) or 0.3 mile down from the Paradise Fire House. For more information contact Jerry at jerryzat@gmail.com.

May 25, Thursday: Volcanic Tableland. Leader: Ann Howald.

Meet at 9:30 am at the pullout near the intersection of Gorge Road and Old Sherwin Grade Road (west side of Hwy 395). We'll make several stops along Gorge Road to see mainly spring annuals. There was a spectacular bloom here in 2016, and 2017 may be similar. One thing we'll look for is colonies of *Phacelia saxicola*, which is known from only 7 collections in CA. We'll be walking over uneven ground 1-2 miles, and should wrap up by early afternoon. For more info contact Ann at (707) 721-6120 or annhowald@vom.com.

June 10, Saturday: Whippoorwill Flat. Leader: Michèle Slaton.

We will visit the pinyon-juniper woodlands of the Whippoorwill Flat area in the Inyo Mts. After driving up the Death Valley Road out of Big Pine, and out on the Saline Valley Rd. ca. 12 mi., we will hike in the vicinity of 7500 ft., exploring the Whippoorwill Flat Research Natural Area. We should see a variety of annual and perennial wildflowers, including phlox (*Phlox stansburyi*), blazing-star (*Mentzelia* sp.), bitter-root (*Lewisia rediviva*), buckwheats (*Eriogonum* sp.), and rockcress (*Boechera* sp.). Our prize will be re-discovery of the juniper and dense mistletoe hybrid, *Phoradendron juniperinum* x *bolleanum* ssp. *densum*, which was visited by Mary DeDecker ca. every five years 1968-1995, and so will be our opportunity to carry on the trend of long-term monitoring (see Wiens, D. & M. DeDecker. 1972. Rare natural hybridization in *Phoradendron* (Viscaceae). *Madroño* 21:395-402). Delbert Wiens (expert of mistletoes; author of Viscaceae treatments, and Mary's son-in-law) is planning to join us! We will meet at 9am at the parking lot at the junction of Hwy 395 and Hwy 168 in Big Pine, and carpool to the extent possible to the field trip area. Bring everything you need for a full day in the field. Please contact Michèle Slaton (760-920-8693 or mslaton@gmail.com) with questions.

June 17, Saturday: Conglomerate Mesa. Leader: Jerry Zatorski.

Nestled in the southern Inyo Mountains, Conglomerate Mesa is the second most southern peak in the Inyo Mts., and has the most southern pinyon/juniper woodlands in the range. Unlike the basalt covered Malpais Mesa to the south or the granitic pluton of Cerro Gordo to the north, Conglomerate Mesa is composed of older Permian sedimentary rock. This part of the Inyo Mts. has great potential to hold numerous botanical treasures as much of the Inyo Mts. have not been explored botanically especially away from established roads. We will begin at the northeast side of the mesa and hike and botanize our way up to the summit and mesa flat above 7000'. There will be about 7-10 miles of moderate to challenging hiking at a botanist pace which should take us a full day, eight hours or so. Participants should bring lunch, ample snacks and plenty of fluids, as this is a dry hike. Dress for the weather conditions: hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes, and appropriate clothes. Bring field guides, hand lens, binoculars, topo maps, and a willingness to hike and explore. We will meet at 7:00 AM at the intersection of SR 190 and Saline Valley Rd. Alt. Route (34.5 mi E of US 395 near Lone Pine or 17 mi. E of SR 190 x SR 136), we then have a 1 hr. drive to the beginning of the hike. 4WD vehicles with clearance are required because the dirt roads can always be unpredictable. For more information contact Jerry at jerryzat@gmail.com.

July 8, Saturday: Bodie Hills. Leader: Ann Howald.

This will be a driving loop trip going in on the Masonic Road and returning on the Aurora Canyon Road. Meet at 9 am at the Bridgeport Forest Service Office on Highway 395, a few miles south of Bridgeport. On the Masonic Road we'll be stopping to look at pinyon-juniper woodland, seasonal wetlands, aspen groves, and montane sagebrush scrub. Easy walking. An all-day trip. High clearance vehicles needed. Road conditions after a snowy winter could cause rescheduling of this trip so check with Ann the week before: (707) 721-6120 or annhowald@vom.com.

July 15, Saturday: Glass Mountain Peak and Sawmill Meadow. Leader: Julie Anne Hopkins.

We will explore the eastern flank and summit plateau of this obscure volcanic peak following a vague hiking trail near Sawmill Meadow. Starting in lodgepole and Jeffrey pine woodland, we'll quickly ascend a deep pumice valley passing things like *Penstemon newberryi*, *Monardella odoratissima*, and *Eriogonum lobbii*. We'll lunch on the wide summit plateau accompanied by dwarfed *Pinus albicaulis*, *Penstemon speciosus*, *Astragalus monoensis*, and *Raillardella argentea*. Stupendous 360-degree views of the Mono Basin, Adobe Valley, Long Valley, Sierra and White Mountain crests will be unavoidable. Logistical details TBA.

August 12, Saturday: White Mountains-Sagehen Flat. Leader: Courtney Collins.

Join us in plant identification with a focus on plants from the GLORIA survey list. Meet at Crooked Creek research station at 9 am and we will do a short hike up to Sagehen Flat. Bring comfortable shoes and water. Pack lunches will be available at Crooked Creek station. Please be prepared for high altitude conditions (3258 m, 10698 ft).

August 19, Saturday: Glass Meadow. Leaders: Julie Anne Hopkins, Sue Weis.

Glass Creek Meadow is a beautiful spot about 1.5 to 2 miles west of Obsidian Dome. We should see lovely summer meadow flowers, a few Mono Lake lupines in sandy open spots among the pines, and some riparian flowers along Glass Creek, including Lewis' monkeyflower. The hike is sandy and uphill. Meet at the parking area next to 395 at 9:00 am and we will carpool from there. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

October 7, Saturday: Klondike Lake. Leader: Steve Matson.

This is not a spectacular flower show trip. Late season shrubs and a few special plants like *Chloropyron maritimum*, *Cleomella plocasperma*, *Ericameria albida*, *Pyrrocoma racemosa*, and *Stutzia covillei* will be seen in all their understated glory. We will walk about a half mile out and back near the west shore of Klondike Lake. The low level alkaline habitat with a shallow water table presents an important component to the suite of plant habitats in the Owens Valley. Meet at 9 AM at the junction of 395 and 168 in Big Pine, or at the Klondike lake turnoff a mile or so north of Big Pine. Contact Steve Matson for more information at phone: 775-843-0389 or email: ssmat@sbcglobal.net.

Other Local Events

For updated information: www.bristleconecnps.org

Pollinator Garden Workshop

Saturday, April 8. Registration & refreshments at 9:45 am, presentations begin at 10 am.

Inyo Council for the Arts, 137 S. Main St., Bishop. Learn how to get your pollinator-friendly garden growing this spring with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. Guest speakers will share insights on Eastern Sierra gardening topics ranging from drought-tolerant native plants, to composting, to watering systems, and more. For more information and to RSVP, contact Indigo Johnson, ESLT Education Coordinator & AmeriCorps Member, at indigo@eslt.org or (760) 873-4554.

GardenFest

Saturday, May 6, 11am-2pm.
Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler Street, Bishop.

Learn from Master Gardeners, swap gardening tips and stories, share seeds, and purchase plants from local nurseries and organizations. Pizza and refreshments available. Save the date and celebrate the growing season with us! The Bristlecone Chapter will be at the GardenFest with some native plants available for purchase – get a head start on your garden!

CNPS Workshops

For more information, visit
www.cnps.org/workshops

Mar 1-3. Vegetation Mapping.

Location: Redlands, CA

Instructors: Julie Evens, John Menke, Diana Hickson

April 4-6. Introduction to Plant Identification - Part II: A Beginner Look at Nine Plant Families

Location: Auburn, CA

Instructor: Josie Crawford

April 18-20. Introduction to Plant Identification

Location: Frazier Park & Tejon Ranch (Southern CA)

Instructors: Nick Jensen

May 1-4. San Luis Obispo County Flora

Location: San Luis Obispo County, CA

Instructor: David Keil

May 17-19. Introduction to Plant Identification - Part I: A Beginner Look at Eight Plant Families

Location: Berkeley, CA

Instructor: Josie Crawford

June 7-8. Rare Plant Survey Protocols

Location: Redding, CA & Hog Lake, near Red Bluff, CA

Instructors: Heath Bartosh, Aaron Sims

August 28-30. Wetland/Riparian Plant ID

Location: Sacramento, CA

Instructor: David Magney

Please have your articles or information to us by April 15, 2017.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

Chapter Council Rep: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918

Conservation/Partnerships: Julie Anne Hopkins
831-566-6012

Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

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: Karen Ferrell-Ingram 760-937-0620

Newsletter: Elaine Chow

Membership: Margaret Lamb

Website: Maggie Riley webmaster@bristleconecnps.org

Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392

DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter

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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 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	_____