



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

**Volume 38, No. 4
July-August 2017**

President's Message, July 2017

Many hands make light work was definitely proven this month at the greenhouse. The Forest Service organized a volunteer work party on June 7th. Twenty volunteers came out and did a flurry of maintenance around the propagation center in an hour. They spread seven yards of gravel to keep down the weeds, sanded the wooden ends of the hoop house and potted 400 of the spring plants. I had been thinking about many of these projects for a while but was dreading to do them because they were very labor intensive. However, 20 pairs of hands and great attitudes got the jobs done very quickly.

The workday left me smiling from ear to ear and reminded me that if we all take on a little bit of a job then the task becomes fun rather than odious. Speaking of which, Stephen Ingram, Jerry Zatorski and Sue Weiss took on the task of coming up with a new T-shirt design and we will soon have a new T-shirt for sale at the plant sale and Spellbinder books. Look for the new shirts near the end of June.

Most of our board positions have been filled, but we still have three in need of filling: Secretary, Webmaster and Conservation Chair. The secretary position requires that you take notes and type them up at five board meetings a year, send out agendas a week prior to upcoming meetings and record decisions that are made via email between meetings (sometimes). It's not really a big commitment of time and Sue would really like to pass on the secretary position because she is also holding the treasurer position. Please become the pair of hands that lightens her load.

Maggie Wolfe-Riley is holding on as Webmaster, but she has a new full time job so the postings don't happen real fast. She would also like to pass the job along.

Finally, Julie Anne Hopkins has had to resign as the Conservation Chair due to family obligations. The Conservation Chair goes to the environmental meetings and keeps the board up to date on important issues.

--Katie Quinlan



The Forest Service volunteers lending many helpful hands.

--Photos by Katie Quinlan

General Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 20th, 7 p.m.
White Mountain Research Center,
3000 E. Line Street, Bishop.
Speaker: TBA

Spring Field Trip Reports

May 20. Ainslee Spring and Round Fire Burn with Jerry Zatorski

A bright sunny Eastern Sierra day greeted the 14 of us for this six-mile round trip stroll. After the formal introductions, we took a side trail to view a stunning display of the white-flowered form of sand blossoms, *Linanthus parryae*, mixed with a few of the more common blue-flowered plants. Nearby was a small seepage area from the record-breaking precipitation this past winter where many Suksdorf's monkeyflower, *Mimulus suksdorfii*, were in full bloom. Also in the area was the cryptic Arizona fluff-flower, *Filago arizonica*, in its subtle full flower.

On our way to Ainslee spring, we saw many expected spring flowering plants and noticed the extent of the Round Fire that roared up this draw back in February 2015. Re-sprouting well were a few shrub species that are adapted to fire, such as Nevada ephedra, *Ephedra nevadense*; desert peach, *Prunus andersonii* (with many fruits); and dotted dalea, *Psoralea polydenius*. However, the mainstay species, bitter brush, *Purshia tridentata*, and big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata*, will have to reseed back into this habitat because they usually do not re-sprout after fires. This led us to a large re-vegetation project implemented by the BLM of mostly bitterbrush along with a few other species, and the plants were doing quite well at this time.

Once at Ainslee Spring, we saw that the fire completely engulfed the whole area, and the long-standing ponderosa pine, *Pinus ponderosa*, and Sierra juniper, *Juniperus occidentalis*, were reduced to burnt snags. However, many other shrubs and forbs had re-sprouted and were growing vigorously, possibly due to a combination of reduced competition and heavy winter rains and snow. Needle-and-thread grass, *Stipa comata*, was four feet tall. Large stunning mounds of Washoe phacelia, *Phacelia curvipes*, and skunky monkeyflower, *Mimulus nanus* var. *mephiticus*, dotted the landscape. In the meadow, a wild onion, *Allium* sp. (pos. *A. fimbriatum*), was in full bloom. The group made it back to the cars by about 1 p.m. just as the temperature began to reach the mid 70's.

--Jerry Zatorski

May 25. Volcanic Tableland with Ann Howald
Fifteen participants came from as far as Carson City, Pasadena and Ventura to see the spectacular bloom on the Volcanic Tableland. We visited the Mono County part of the Tableland, along Gorge Road, in mixed desert scrub at about 5000' and in "old growth" pinyon woodland at about 6500', seeing more than 60 species total.

At the lower elevation site, we were engulfed by thousands and thousands of painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) butterflies as we made our way toward the rolling hills covered with bright yellow shining blazing star (*Mentzelia nitens*). Researching the butterflies later, I found that this species, like monarchs, can produce enormous populations in northern Mexico, which then migrate north. We saw them visiting many plant species from desert pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*) to spineless horsebrush (*Tetradymia glabrata*). Doubtless, there will be good seed crops for those lucky plants popular with painted ladies!

We saw dozens of annual species in flower, as well as perennials like sky blue desert larkspur (*Delphinium parishii*), and bright pink beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris*). The Volcanic Tableland is one of only a few locations for this cactus in Mono County. We searched for and found the minuscule annual, stonecrop phacelia (*Phacelia saxicola*), which looks like little black balls growing out of the bedrock. In California, this species may be endemic to the Bishop tuff formation in Mono and Inyo counties. (It's also found in Nevada.) We added several new localities to its known distribution in California. CNPS will be reviewing the status of stonecrop phacelia to determine if it deserves placement on the CNPS list.



--Photo by Janet Carle

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Up in the “old growth” pinyon woodland we saw carpets of sand blossoms (*Linanthus parryae*), which were more abundant this year than I can ever remember and almost entirely in the white-flowered form. We saw purple-marked yellow violet (*Viola purpurea* ssp. *venosa*) in a sandy swale, huge stands of Death Valley phacelia (*Phacelia vallis-mortae*), extensive flowering mats of Purpus’ wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum kennedyi* var. *purpusii*), desert paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*), skunk monkeyflower (*Mimulus nanus* var. *mephiticus*), and many more. How many eriogonums have been collected somewhere on the Volcanic Tableland? Fourteen so far, compared with 54 in all of Mono County. Here in the Eastern Sierra, we are rich in wild buckwheats among so many other things!

We wrapped up our wildflower extravaganza by early afternoon. I’ve made a preliminary list of the plant taxa seen (so far) on the Mono County portion of the Volcanic Tableland. This will soon be available on our website or contact me for an electronic copy.

--Ann Howald

June 10. Whippoorwill Flat with Michèle Slaton

We had 13 participants in lovely weather (despite the no-see-ums) in the pinyon-juniper woodland of Whippoorwill Flat. The uncommon yellow mariposa lily (*Calochortus kennedyi* var. *munzii*) was in bloom,

Yellow mariposa lily
(*Calochortus kennedyi*
var. *munzii*)



but the real highlight was finding the hybrid mistletoe (*Phoradendron juniperinum* x *bolleanum* var. *densum*) on two separate trees. I don’t think I’ve seen botanists looking upward so often on a field trip (see photo)! With the help of mistletoe expert Del Wiens, and his wife, Carol (Mary DeDecker’s daughter), we were able to track down the vicinity visited by Mary and family where the hybrid was originally observed in 1960. Mary *et al.* had monitored the site about every five years until the mid-1990s, without any documentation since, so we were pleased to find it persisting. Its features are intermediate between the leafy dense mistletoe (*P. bolleanum* var. *densum*) and

the leafless juniper mistletoe (*P. juniperinum*) – all three were nicely embossed from the original specimens (photo). Many thanks to Del and Carol for convincing the group that there are indeed “good infections” to be found!

-- Michèle Slaton



The group looking up for mistletoe.



Mistletoe expert, Del Wiens in front of a mistletoe-splattered juniper.



Embossed mistletoe specimens: (left to right) *Phoradendron bolleanum* var. *densum*, hybrid and *P. juniperinum*.

-- Photos by Michèle Slaton

Greenhouse Update, July 2017

I have had many volunteers help this spring. My regular crew of volunteers has been busy getting all the little seedlings potted up into larger pots and we finished the task before the beginning of June. This is earlier than usual and will give me more time to collect seed this year.

The plant list that tells what and how many of each plant that is available at the sale will be updated around the beginning of August. New plants this year are *Penstemon rostriflorus* (scarlet penstemon) and *Eriastrum densifolium* (heavenly blue). I didn't have any luck germinating *Eriogonum fasciculatum* or *E. umbulatum* so there won't be any of those at the sale.

Julie Fontaine will be at the sale with her magical compost tea. If you have your garden ready for your new plants when you come to the sale, adding the tea will really help the plants take root.

As a reward for people keeping up their membership this year, people with current membership cards (remember to bring them) will be able to buy plants starting at 8 a.m. If you need to start a membership or renew one, then you can do that at 8 a.m. as well.

--Katie Quinlan

Up-Coming Events
<p>Bristlecone Board meeting Wednesday, September 13, 6 pm. Location: Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop All members welcome.</p>
<p>Bristlecone General meeting Wednesday, September 20, 7 pm. White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop</p>
<p>Bristlecone Chapter Native Plant Sale Saturday, July 15. Mammoth Lakes More details TBA</p>

Up-Coming Events
<p>Bristlecone Chapter Native Plant Sale Saturday, August 26, 9-11 am. White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop</p>
<p>Bristlecone CNPS Field Trips (for updated information, visit bristleconecnps.org/events)</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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 <i>Penstemon newberryi</i>, <i>Monardella odoratissima</i>, and <i>Eriogonum lobbii</i>. We'll lunch on the wide summit plateau accompanied by dwarfed <i>Pinus albicaulis</i>, <i>Penstemon speciosus</i>, <i>Astragalus monoensis</i>, and <i>Raillardella argentea</i>. Stupendous 360-degree views of the Mono Basin, Adobe Valley, Long Valley, Sierra and White Mountain crests will be unavoidable. Logistical details TBA.</p>
<p>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).</p>

Up-Coming Events

August 19, Saturday. Glass Meadow. Leaders: Julie Anne Hopkins and 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, visit
bristleconecnps.org/events)

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: **OPEN**

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: Gaylene Kinsey

Website: **OPEN**

Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

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

DeDecker Garden: Richard Potashin 760-263-5022

Please send your articles or information to us by August 15, 2017 for the next issue.

New Bristlecone Chapter T-shirt Design

We are excited to announce our new CNPS Bristlecone Chapter T-shirts! Our T-shirt design contest brought in many strong submissions, making it a difficult decision, but we went with a simple three-color, realistic line drawing of an ancient bristlecone pine by local artist, Gina Webber. The state CNPS logo will be printed on the back of the neck. Men's and women's long- and short-sleeve shirts will each be available in four colors and several sizes. Look for them at Spellbinder Books and at upcoming events.



CNPS Bristlecone Chapter's Native Plant Sale



When: Saturday, August 26th, 9-11 a.m.

Where: White Mountain Research Center
3000 E. Line St.

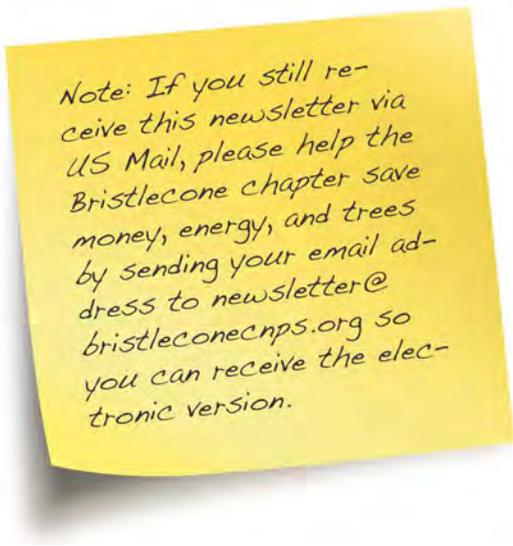
Show a current membership card to get in at 8 a.m. A complete list with quantities is available on the website: www.bristleconecnps.org

Plant prices:

supercells (grass)	\$2.00 ea. or 3 for \$5.00
small tree pot	\$5.00
cactus pots	\$5.00
gal. pots	\$8.00

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter
P.O. Box 364
Bishop, CA 93515-0364
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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 | _____ |