



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 39, No. 6
November-December 2018

President's Message, November 2018

On September 7th–9th the Bristlecone chapter hosted the Statewide Chapter Council Conservation Conference in Lee Vining. Saturday was filled with talks about statewide issues in the morning, and then local organizations presented issues dear to folks of the Eastern Sierra in the afternoon. I counted 60 people listening to the presentations on Saturday, 11 of them were college students from around the state.

The presentations covered statewide political and scientific conservation issues. The state office tracks legislation that can affect native plants and has helped create and get passed the Biodiversity Initiative (see the proclamation in the newsletter and go to <http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20180907-CaliforniaBiodiversityActionPlan.pdf> for the full text of the initiative). Sam Young, CNPS Important Plant Areas Coordinator, presented how he is identifying and mapping important plant areas for conservation while Brent Mishler, director of the University and Jepson Herbaria, UC Berkeley, demonstrated that identifying phylogenetic diversity can be used to measure biodiversity. Nick Jensen, CNPS Southern Conservation Coordinator, talked about opposing an ill-advised development in Tejon Ranch.

I often wonder why those of us in the Eastern Sierra should be involved with the State CNPS. After all, we are not even in their California floristic province and many of the programs that happen on the “other side” of the mountains don't apply to the high desert. I get the feeling that many of us Eastsiders often feel that way. Sitting in these meetings, however, I saw the value of being associated with an established statewide agency. CNPS has been growing since the 1960's and, over the years, they have developed connections in the legislature, legal support and an entire network of experts that we can call upon to help with our local issues. Having the might of a statewide-recognized agency with their experts in writing letters and testifying at meetings gives a lot

more credence to our comments at scoping and EIR meetings. Read our letter we recently sent to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power regarding the Long Valley scoping in this issue.

To keep our small chapter going, we need volunteer help. Ideally, our board would consist of seven people; however, we are currently running with five. November is when we start looking for new board members and we have our elections in January. We desperately need a secretary. This is a pretty easy job; we have five 1–1.5-hour board meetings a year. The secretary records the minutes and sends them out to board members. A Conservation Chair would also be very welcome. There are some pretty big issues occurring in our area and it would be good if we could keep our membership updated on issues and the actions they can take. If you would like to fill one of these positions, then please let Katie know at president@bristleconecnps.org

Hosting of the Conservation Conference could not have been done without the help of volunteers so I would like to thank Sue Weis, Elaine Chow, Rosemary Jarret, and Kathy Duvall for providing goodies and helping to serve meals; Barshe Miller, April Sall, Amy Patten, Cathy Rose and Ann Howald for leading the field trips; and Cathy Rose for giving the evening presentation. Stephen Ingram and Karen Ferris-Ingram deserve a huge thank you for shouldering the burden of organizing lodging, meeting places, and speakers; planning and buying food; and lining up the field trip leaders.

--Katie Quinlan

CNPS Privacy Policy

The California Native Plant Society are in the process of reviewing our data privacy and email security procedures organization-wide to ensure compliance with regulations such as CAN-SPAM. For more information, please see the following link:

www.cnps.org/about/privacy

Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 12th
White Mountain Research Center
3000 East Line St., Bishop

6:00 p.m. Bristlecone & ESAS Potluck Dinner

We are excited to have our annual potluck as a joint event with Eastern Sierra Audubon Society. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. Bring your favorite potluck dish, drink, and your own place settings.

7:00 p.m. Speaker: Barshe Miller

Barshe Miller of ESAS will be presenting about the Mono Basin area. Program details TBA. Additionally, please bring on a thumb drive up to 10 slides of botanical interest, especially related to the Mono Basin area, to share with the group.

Conservation

Governor Jerry Brown established September 7th as California Biodiversity Day in an executive order directing state agencies to work towards protecting California's diverse flora and fauna from potential threats such as climate change. CNPS summarized important points below.

California Biodiversity Initiative

BACKGROUND

Early in 2018, Governor Jerry Brown convened a task force of 26 experts to draft a native biodiversity charter and outline an action plan further described in the governor's recent California Biodiversity Initiative. The Initiative is part of a series of actions on the part of the Governor's office that establish a bold and unprecedented framework for protecting California's native flora.

CNPS Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp was instrumental in this work as a lead author of the charter. Dan worked closely with California herbaria, NGO, and agency partners to secure feedback, ideas, and accurate information. Participating partners included long-time CNPS allies: the Jepson Herbarium, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and key plant scientists from the University of California.

TIMELINE

September 2017

Louise Bedsworth (currently the executive director for the Strategic Growth Council) convenes a native plant biodiversity task force on behalf of the governor along with CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham and CA Dept. of Food and Ag Secretary Karen Ross.

February 2018

Task force presents "A Charter to Secure the Future of California's Native Biodiversity" to Governor Brown and the Governor delegates a select working group to draft a biodiversity Action Plan.

May 2018

Gov. Brown issues Proclamation Declaring International Day for Biological Diversity and allocates \$2.5 million to establish the California Biodiversity Initiative.

Sept. 7, 2018

Gov. Brown issues executive biodiversity order and releases the California Biodiversity Initiative: A Roadmap for Protecting the State's Natural Heritage. He also declares Sept. 7 to be California Biodiversity Day.

Sept. 10, 2018

Gov. Brown signs the landmark Senate Bill 100, calling for California to be 100 percent carbon neutral by 2045. He also issues an accompanying executive order that specifically requires climate change solutions not harm native plant biodiversity.

OVERARCHING TAKEAWAYS AND TALKING POINTS

- ✓ While other orders and plans address the topic of biodiversity, these documents are among the first to unambiguously emphasize the critical importance of saving California's globally-important native plants.
- ✓ As clearly stated in the executive orders, climate change goals and biodiversity preservation are equally important for California. We don't choose one over the other and instead will seek "win-win" solutions to our environmental challenges.
- ✓ The Initiative roadmap specifically calls for many of the projects and programs CNPS is leading or partnering, including:
 - Important Plant Areas
 - Mapping California's plants and natural communities

- Rare Plant Treasure Hunts and other citizen science
 - Native plant landscaping
 - Student Engagement
- ✓ The Biodiversity Initiative is an important starting point for the state of California.
- ✓ It validates important work already being done and gives native plant and biodiversity advocates the momentum to bring current project to a larger scale.

CONTACTS

Partners and interested donors — Please contact CNPS Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp (dgluesenkamp@cnps.org).

Media and Communications Professionals — Please contact CNPS Senior Director of Communications and Engagement Liv O’Keeffe (lokeeffe@cnps.org).

Garden Updates

This year's growing season is coming to an end and I am looking forward to a couple of months off. As the leaves turn their gorgeous colors I am finishing up collecting the last seeds of this year and cleaning them.

My experiments have continued; I tried planting fresh lupine seeds and found that if I soak them overnight and plant fresh seeds, then I don't have to poke each seed with a push pin. This is a really exciting discovery as you can imagine me sitting at the table poking a hole each in at least 125 seeds. The down side of this experiment was that I put the young sprouts out on the tables at the propagation center and some critter came along and ate them! So it seems that in warmer weather there are more insects to chomp on the plants as well. Moving on with my success, I came across some large leaf lupines that had set seed this fall and went ahead and popped them in the ground. I now have 16 little sprouts going that I am vigorously protecting from critters.

While I was at Mono Lake this summer I hit the desert peach season just right. The bushes were loaded with little peaches and they had split their skins but had not dropped their seeds—this is critical when you collect the seed. If they haven't split, then getting them out of their skins is a lot of work, and if you wait too long, they will be infested with bugs that will have eaten all the kernels. So for those of you

who have wanted peach the last few years, I am tentatively hopeful that I will be able to grow some for next year's sale.

Our fall work projects at the greenhouse involve weeding out the bassia in some of the surrounding areas near the propagation center, planting some natives, replacing the plastic on the greenhouse, putting metal screens along the bottom to try and keep the rodents out, and painting the ends of the hoop house with water-seal.

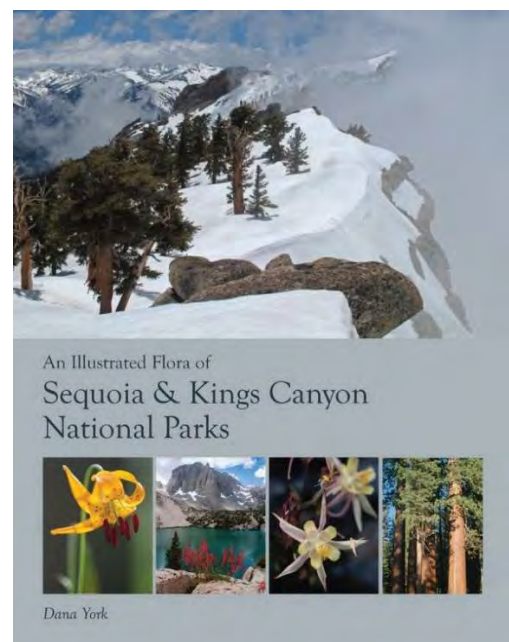
Once all of this fall work is done I will sit back and enjoy the snowfall until January, when stratification for the spring seeds begin.

--Katie Quinlan

New Flora of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

The latest flora published by the CNPS Press is: *An Illustrated Flora of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* by Dana York. This is the first comprehensive guidebook of the Southern Sierra Nevada and is available now at store.cnps.org.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks feature a range of diverse flora, from the legendary giant sequoias to pygmy alpinegolds that grow on desert-like ridgetops. Capturing this biodiversity, York's book covers 1,809 species, subspecies, and varieties of plants with more than 1,500 illustrations and species descriptions.



California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter
P.O. Box 364
Bishop, CA 93515

October 14, 2018

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Attn: Jane Hauptman
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Hauptman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Mono County Ranch Lease Renewal Project. We, the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, are commenting for this scoping process.

In March 2018, Los Angeles Water and Power (LADWP) announced that ten leases to ranchers, encompassing 6,400 acres in Long Valley and Little Round Valley, would be reissued without assurances of water for stock use or irrigation. This summer, LADWP provided approximately 4,500 acre-feet of water for those leases. This was an abrupt change in policy from providing water based on the annual run-off, with up to 32,000 acre-feet possible.

The Bristlecone Chapter believes this abrupt reduction of irrigation water in Long Valley and Little Round Valley could result in a rapid transition from native meadow and wetland species to invasive species and thus potential losses of important meadow and wetland habitats. This transition threatens biological resources and thriving ecosystems of native wildlife and human inhabitants alike. What follows could be cycles of fire, increased generation of dust, and loss of wildlife habitat as well as damage to grazing lands. We have seen this in Inyo County at the Five Bridges area, where 320 acres have never recovered from groundwater pumping in the early 1990s. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement must determine, before the withdrawal of water, the likelihood of this cascade of events.

In the broader view, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power must consider the long-term impacts of the extraction and export of water from the Owens Valley in Mono and Inyo Counties. That means striving for solutions that are sustainable in practice and promote thriving ecosystems. For over 100 years, a diverse group of Native American tribes, ranchers, environmentalists and long-time residents of the valley have battled Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to ensure that water transfer to Los Angeles did not damage beyond recovery our water and the biological resources dependent on groundwater and riparian habitats. We won over and over again; each win cost Los Angeles ratepayers far more than the costs of working collaboratively toward sustainable management of water resources. These unnecessary higher costs to ratepayers are unlikely to be sustainable in the long run.

We understand that water delivered to Los Angeles from the Owens Valley is remarkably affordable compared to other water sources available to the city. But these costs will inevitably increase because water is a finite resource and environmental costs must be paid. The citizens and government of the City of Los Angeles must come to terms with this. We praise the City of Los Angeles for all that you are doing in water conservation and recycling. Working with the citizens and officials of Mono and Inyo Counties for a comprehensive approach to water export is an important strategy that is also available to you.

Please explain your vision in the Environmental Impact Statement, beyond the project-by-project battles, for a sustainable water policy for the Eastern Sierra while serving the City of Los Angeles, we ask that this vision also protect our valley and rural communities. Protecting our water and biological resources is one and the same as protecting your resources.

Thank you for your time.

Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit
bristleconecnps.org/events)

Bristlecone Chapter Board Meeting **Wednesday, November 14, 6:00 pm**

Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop
 All members are welcome.

Bristlecone & ESAS Potluck Dinner **Wednesday, December 12, 6:00 pm**

White Mountain Research Center
 3000 East Line St., Bishop
 All are welcome to join our dinner with the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society and enjoy a presentation given by ESAS. Please bring on a thumb drive up to 10 slides of botanical interest, especially related to the Mono Basin area. Don't forget a potluck dish and your own plate, cup, and utensils.

Special presentation on the Forest Service's forest plan on the Inyo National Forest **Friday, November 2, 6:00 pm**

The Fort, Sierra Center Mall, 452 Old Mammoth Rd, 1st Floor, Mammoth Lakes, CA
 The Inyo National Forest has released its final forest plan that will shape the future of wilderness, water, wildlife, recreation, fire management, and other essential Inyo Forest resources and activities for decades to come. Sierra Club and Friends of the Inyo are hosting this special presentation to discuss what's at stake with this flawed plan that has received many objections from groups such as the Board of Supervisors of both Mono and Inyo counties, Mono Lake Committee, off-road vehicle groups, and more. Sierra Club and its allies are committed to encouraging public involvement and promoting protection of our forests, and they will continue to be involved in the Forest Service's objection resolution meetings that will be held in Bishop in the next few months. All are invited to attend to learn more. Refreshments will be served.

Welcome New Members!

Warm welcome to our newest members and those who rejoined our Chapter, Clifford Besbers, Manuela Cerruti, Debbe Eilts, Ann Logan, Jill Miller-Alert, and Juanita Smith-Nakao. And many thanks to all who have renewed their memberships!

Please send your articles or information to us by December 15, 2018 for the next issue.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
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 Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**
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 DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693
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 Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023
 Mammoth Plant Sales: Sherry Taylor 760-934-2338
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 Website: webmaster@bristleconecnps.org
 Hospitality: **OPEN**
 T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram
 DeDecker Garden: Steve Dickinson

Late September reflection of fall colors in North Lake.
 Photo by Kim Cash.



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

<input type="checkbox"/> Student / Limited Income	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$600
<input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily	\$1500
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution	_____