

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 40, No. 2 March-April 2019

President's Message, March 2019

Heraclitus, who was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, said, "The only thing that is constant is change." In the last few months, that has certainly been true of some of our key people involved in the Bristlecone chapter.

The first change was the resignation of Kathy Duvall from the board in her role as Historian; Kathy is one of the original founding members that started the Bristlecone chapter. Over the years Kathy has worn many hats, from planning and running the Sojourn, co-leading field trips, helping in the DeDecker garden, Historian, as well as participating on many committees. Her participation has been invaluable, and we look forward to seeing her at future meetings and field trips.

The next change is that Steve Dickinson has had to resign as the DeDecker gardener due to health reasons; his expertise will also be greatly missed. Steve has been the gardener for the last three years. During his tenure he has repaired the drip system and rebuilt the valve manifold for the watering system. His weekly tending has kept the garden thriving and looking nice and neat. We look forward to Steve's help at the propagation center.

Peter Anderson has stepped up to take Steve's place so the garden will continue to be cared for. Pete has also been working with Sue Weis in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Bishop Community Garden.

Our last change is that long time member, Kathleen Nelson has volunteered to become the secretary. Kathleen has been involved with the chapter since its inception, but now that she has retired from the Forest Service, she has time to serve on the board.

--Katie Quinlan

Maturango Museum's Annual Wildflower Exhibit, April 5–7, 2019

With earth-long rainbows and wondrous scents, Indian Wells Valley pledges otherworldly blossoms this spring. Eager spotters are sounding off as the first wildflower sprouts of the year are rearing their heads. Soon hundreds of varieties and colors will bedazzle the region's every corner. Fortunately, a team of collectors will bring the pomp and glory to us. The Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, CA will host its annual Wildflower Exhibit. In the Coso Room you can view more than 200 wildflower species from over 40 plant families. Exhibit hosts will be present to help guide guests and answer questions, and our featured guest speaker Nick Jensen will present on Saturday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the museum.

Nick Jensen, Southern California Conservation Analyst for CNPS, will present his topic: "A Botanist Comes Full-Circle: From Studying to Defending Tejon Ranch, California's Largest Private Landholding."



Nick coordinates the activities of the Conservation Program in Southern California. He earned his BS degree in Environmental Horticulture at UC Davis, and recently completed his PhD in botany at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG)/Claremont Graduate University. As a graduate student, Nick produced the first Flora of Tejon Ranch and studied evolutionary patterns in perennial *Streptanthus* (jewelflowers). From 2006–2010, he was employed by CNPS, first as a Vegetation Program Assistant, and later as the Rare Plant Program Director. Nick has also worked as a botanist for the U.S. Forest Service, Chicago Botanic Garden, and the private consulting industry. Nick has taught botany classes to professionals and interested members of the public for CNPS, RSABG, the Jepson Herbarium, and Theodore Payne Foundation. As a volunteer he has served on the Rare Plant Program Committee and the board of Southern California Botanists, serving as president in 2015–16. Nick is a fellow of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, hiking, rock climbing, and photographing wildflowers, activities that are often not mutually exclusive.

The Maturango Museum Wildflower Exhibit runs Friday, April 5 through Sunday April 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an admission fee of \$2.00. For more information, visit the Maturango Museum website at www.maturango.org or call 760-375-6900. Maturango Museum is located at 100 E. Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

Bristlecone Chapter Field Trips, 2019

Each year, the Bristlecone Chapter organizes field trips that are open to the public (sorry no pets) to explore the greening and blooming plants in our local area during the spring and summer seasons. These trips are typically day hikes that require at least comfortable walking shoes or boots and clothing appropriate for the trip's current weather. Always bring plenty of water and your own food (lunch and snacks); plant books and hand lens are useful but not required. The group leaves at the announced time so arrive at the meeting location a few minutes early. We encourage carpooling among those attending. Before you go, check our website (bristleconecnps.org/events/index.php) for potential field trip updates. Contact Sue Weis (760-873-3485) if you have future trip ideas or would like to lead a trip.

Ճ March 30, Tungsten Peak. Leader: Steve Matson.

This hike is considered strenuous as it gains 1,286 ft. in just over a mile, a little exercise before the Banff Film Festival's second evening of films at the Tri-County Fair Grounds. We will be perusing early annuals and shrubs in their winter to spring aspect.

Expect to see *Grayia Spinosa* (hopsage), *Atriplex canescens* (four-winged saltbush), *Menodora spinescens* and others of this ilk. With luck I hope to find *Muilla coronata*. I plan on generating a plant list for this hike, so bring sharp eyes, a notebook, and writing implements!

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office Parking lot, 351 Pacu Lane (off West Line Street behind the DMV). We will drive from there to the Millpond Recreation Area on Sawmill Road and proceed on dirt roads to the trailhead in the Tungsten Hills.

I am allowing well-behaved dogs along. Bring a lunch, some water, sun hat.... the usual for a day's outing. Contact: Steve Matson, ssmat@sbcglobal.net; 775-843-0389

May 11. Botany for Beginners. Leader: Michèle Slaton. TBA

May 24, Lower Rock Creek. Leader: Ann Howald.

Meet at Lower Rock Creek trailhead in Paradise (at the hairpin turn) at 9:00 a.m. This is an easy hike until 1:30 p.m. or so. View interesting shrubs, Mojave wildflowers, and the largest stand of Ponderosa pine in Mono County. Bring lunch and water.

May 25, Northern Owens Valley Springtime Botany. Leader: Jerry Zatorski.

This will be an exploration of some wildflower areas between Bishop and Laws. The diversity of habitats from alkali meadows to ancient upland sand dunes to White Mountain alluvial fans will not leave us short on places to explore for springtime blooms. The upland areas have numerous annuals and drought hardy desert shrubs. The meadows down in the river floodplain have an assortment of perennial forbs and grasses. The actual route will depend on where the blooms are happening and will be mostly accessible by roads and some short overland hiking. Expect up to about five miles of hiking at a botanist's pace, which should take us most of a day (6-8 hrs). Participants should bring lunch, snacks, fluids and a pack to carry personal items. Dress in appropriate clothes for the weather conditions including a hat, sunscreen, and hiking shoes. Bring field guides, hand lens, binoculars, topo maps, and a willingness to hike and explore. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of US 6 and Silver Canyon Rd, just east of Laws. There is an Owens Valley Master Species List available to

download from the Bristlecone Chapter web site at bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/checklists/, which works well as a paper list or on a small tablet. For more information contact Jerry at jerryzat@gmail.com.

TBA

Ճ June 22, Upper Summers Meadow watershed exploration. Leader: Ann Howald.

Enjoy driving and hiking in a botanically little-known area south of Bridgeport. View previously grazed meadows, "enriched" montane sagebrush scrub, aspen groves, and possibly conifer forest, if we get that far. Meet at the Bridgeport Humboldt-Toiyabe Ranger Station at 9 a.m. This is an all-day trip. Bring snacks, water, lunch, etc.

Garden Updates

We have been busy at the greenhouse this winter. Last summer the fan that inflates the two layers of plastic died (it had lasted about 20 years). While up on the ladder replacing the fan, we noticed some small tears in the plastic and realized replacement was necessary. So this winter, a few volunteers and I replaced the plastic on the hoop house as it had been 10 years since it was last replaced. With the plastic was off, we also put metal screen along the bottom and over the fans to keep the bugs and, hopefully, the mice out. The wire tabletops were also replaced with rigid plastic tops from Mammoth.

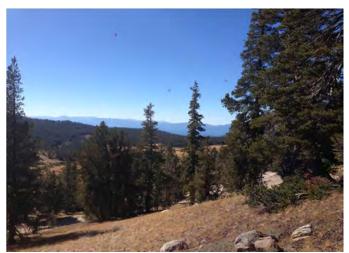
Propagation has already started as well. By mid-February we have had two pot parties to plant sagebrush and oaks. I tried direct seeding the *Prunus* seeds I had collected last summer; so far they are doing great. Expect desert peach at our sales this year.

Now is the time to start thinking about your garden and what you want to plant and where. Events to help plan your garden include the Eastern Sierra Land Trust's Pollinator Garden workshop on April 6th from 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m. (location TBD). If you are interested in putting in a native garden, this is a good workshop to attend. The Land Trust is also celebrating their annual event GardenFest at their office (250 N. Fowler) on May 4th, where we will hold our Spring Plant Sale from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. --Katie Quinlan

Mary DeDecker Grant Recipient Progress Reports

Trevor Carter, Changes in leaf morphology in Pinus albicaulis using decades of herbarium specimens

Throughout the 2018 field season I have collected data from 30 whitebark pine trees at four different populations. Two of my original seven field sites did not have enough trees to be valid study sites, and one of my original seven field sites was not currently accessible. The field sites I was able to visit include Mt. Rose, the eastern Sierras, Jarbidge, and the Ruby Mountains. All of these sites were incredibly beautiful. I have begun the lab analysis of my field samples; I am in the process of counting leaf quantity on each of my samples. Lab analysis has been slow and steady. I aim to finish all my analysis mid-March to begin a write up of my results.



A lovely view overlooking the Lake Tahoe Basin on top of Mt. Rose while collecting data on whitebark pine.



The Jarbidge Mountains were an incredibly beautiful gem hidden in eastern Nevada, another one of my populations was found here. Photos courtesy of Trevor Carter.

M Keir Morse, Taxonomy and conservation of the genus *Malacothamnus* (Malvaceae)

The genus *Malacothamnus* (the bush-mallows) is a taxonomically controversial group with 16 taxa currently included in the CNPS Rare Plant Ranking system. For my PhD dissertation, I am using morphometric analyses, DNA Sequencing, comparative phenology, and extensive field evaluations to resolve the taxonomy of the genus and evaluate the conservation status of each taxon. During the 2018 season, I made significant progress in my research, surveying much of the state. I mapped over 1,600 points of Malacothamnus on Calflora, collected over 100 voucher specimens of 21+ possible taxa for morphometric and DNA analyses, and made 19 seed collections of 15 possible taxa to deposit in the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden seed bank. My first batch of DNA has been sequenced and the data from this will be used to help clarify where I need to focus my efforts for the coming season.



Malacothamnus orbiculatus in flower.



Abundant *M. orbiculatus* growing along Lone Pine Creek after the 2016 Lone Pine Fire. Photos by Keir Morse.

In the Bristlecone Chapter area, I found seven populations of *Malacothamnus orbiculatus* from the Chimney Peak area in the south to the Big Pine area in the north. Only one population was found east of Highway 395 on Hunter Mountain. Any observations of additional populations east of Highway 395 or north of Big Pine would be most welcome.

Sophia Winitsky (Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Claremont Graduate University): A vascular flora of the Adobe Hills and Valley, Mono County, CA

Fieldwork is complete for the Flora for the Adobe Valley project, thanks to the CNPS Bristlecone Chapter! Throughout 2016–2018, a total of 59 days were spent in the field documenting the plants of the Adobe Valley and surrounding hills, with the majority of the specimens collected in the months of May, June and July in 2017. Currently, identifications are wrapping up of these collections and the results of this inventory will be presented in an annotated checklist, which will include a vegetation map and descriptions.



So far, a total of 394 minimum-ranked taxa (species, subspecies, varieties, hybrids) were documented throughout this study, representing 59 plant families, 189 genera, and 367 species (sensu Jepson eFlora 2018). The most diverse families were Asteraceae (71), Poaceae (35), Boraginaceae (31), Brassicaceae (25) and Polemoniaceae (24). The largest genera in the study area are Eriogonum (14), Cryptantha (10), Carex (11) and Astragalus (9). There are 27 taxa included in this study that have a sensitive status according to the California Native Plant Society. One species of sensitive taxa was not rediscovered: Goodmania luteola collected by Dean Taylor. Seven sensitive species had not been collected from within the study area before: Boechera dispar, Boechera

cobrensis, Astragalus oophorus var. oophorus, Micromonolepis pusilla, Thelypodium milleflorum, Thelypodium integrifolium subsp. complanatum and Eremothera boothii var. intermedia.





Photos courtesy of Sophia Winitsky.

Cal-IPC 28th Annual Symposium, Oct. 15–18, 2019 in Riverside, CA

The California Invasive Plant Council provides science-based tools and information to help land managers and others make the best choices for California. Join Cal-IPC for another dynamic gathering of California colleagues to network, learn, and celebrate everyone's hard work!

Share your work—natural resource managers from across the state come together at the Symposium to hear about the latest in invasive plant management and ecological restoration. Start planning now to submit your abstract for a poster or oral presentation to share your work with colleagues.

The Call for Abstracts will open in April.

Take pictures for the photo contest. Your pictures help us tell the story of restoration work. Get ready to submit your best images to our 2019 Photo Contest by taking pictures while you're in the field this spring!

The 2019 Photo Contest will open in July.

Field trips on Friday will explore invasive plant management projects and restoration efforts in the region.

We will be meeting at the Riverside Convention Center and staying at the historic Mission Inn. Both are located in downtown Riverside, steps away from restaurants and entertainment.

Registration opens this spring. Please visit www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/

Share Sightings of Wildflower Blooms on our Facebook Page

We expect this wet winter will give us bountiful blooms throughout the eastside and beyond. If you've witnessed some blooms, please post on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bristleconecnps) your pictures and/or descriptions of sightings as soon as you get home from that walk, hike, run, climb, or backpacking or fishing trip through our local areas.



A few early blossoms of *Ranunculus andersonii* on a northfacing slope near Tungsten Peak on March 7, 2018. Maybe we'll find more this year! Photo by Elaine Chow.

CNPS Membership Privacy Policy Update

We are ever evolving to better maintain confidentiality of personal information entrusted to us by all members. Our policy now includes not printing the full names of members who join new chapters, for instance, in the Welcome section in a newsletter. However, the traditional greeting of welcoming anyone new to a chapter, family, home, etc. is something that we loathe to give up. So in welcoming all those who are new to our chapter, we will print only first names and cities where new members are coming from. And without further ado...

Warm Welcome!

The cold winter calls for a warm welcome to recent additions to our Bristlecone Chapter. Welcome,

Melissa, El Portal Elisabeth, Irvine Patrick, Lacey Samanda, Napa Christina, Forestville Frederique, Sebastopol Amanda, San Rafael Deborah, Santa Barbara Cecelia, Berkeley Anita, Mountain View

Thank you all for your support of our chapter!

Up-Coming Events

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

March 30, Saturday, DEADLINE: American Penstemon Society Grants

The American Penstemon Society is once again seeking proposals for funding. The purpose of the APS Special Projects Program, \$1000 maximum, is to stimulate activities that promote knowledge and appreciation of penstemons

(penstemons.org/index.php/society/grants). Many kinds of projects will be considered. In addition, APS provides a grant for graduate students, with funding up to \$2000, whose research directly involves penstemons

(penstemons.org/images/Grants/scholarship 2019.pdf).

April 5-7, Friday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Maturango Museum Wildflower Exhibit

100 E. Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

The annual Wildflower Exhibit displays over 200 species of wildflowers from over 40 different families. Nick Jensen, Conservation Analyst for CNPS, will be presenting on "A Botanist Comes Full-Circle: From Studying to Defending Tejon Ranch, California's Largest Private Landholding." The talk is on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the museum.

Admission fee is \$2.00. For more information, visit the Maturango Museum website at <u>maturango.org</u> or call (760) 375-6900.

April 6, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pollinator Garden Workshop

Location TBD.

The Pollinator Garden Workshop is a free public event put on by the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. Come and learn about how to create your own pollinator-friendly garden from presentations on a variety of topics relating to creating pollinator-friendly habitat. If there are any questions, they can be directed to Marie Ring at marie@eslt.org or at (760) 873-4554.

Up-Coming Events

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

May 4, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. GardenFest Celebration

Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop

A fun family-friendly community event to celebrate spring with Eastern Sierra Land Trust, right in the office's backyard. Purchase native plants, learn gardening tips and tricks, and enjoy local food and kids activities and more. GardenFest will also offer opportunities to learn about ESLT's Eastside Pollinator Garden Project, which is helping local gardeners bring their gardens to life by attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and other important pollinators. Questions can be directed to Marie Ring at marie@eslt.org or (760) 873-4554.

May 15, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Bristlecone Chapter Board Meeting

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

May 22, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bristlecone Chapter General Meeting

US Forest Service Supervisor's Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop

Three DeDecker Grant recipients will present their work: Sophie Winitsky of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden; Trevor Carter of University of NV, Reno; and Isaac Marck of UC Berkeley.

Oct 15–18, Tuesday–Friday, Cal-IPC Symposium, Riverside Convention Center, CA

Cal-IPC provides science-based tools and information to help land managers and others make the best choices for California. The symposium is the annual gathering of colleagues from across the state to network, learn, and celebrate everyone's hard work.

Registration opens this spring! More information and updates at www.cal-

ipc.org/resources/symposium/

Up-Coming Events

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Bristlecone Chapter Field Trips

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Leader: Michèle Slaton Cancelled

May 24, Friday, 9:00 a.m., Lower Rock Creek hike

Leader: Ann Howald

May 25, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., Northern Owens Valley Springtime Botany

Leader: Jerry Zatorski

June 8, Saturday, Beginning Botany hike

Leader Michèle Slaton

June 22, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Upper Summers Meadow watershed exploration

Leader Ann Howald

Please send your articles and other information to us by April 15, 2019 for the next issue.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023 Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693 Secretary: Kathleen Nelson <u>goatheads@aol.com</u>

Treasurer: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

Chapter Council Rep: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918

Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693
DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693

Field Trips: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

Historian: **OPEN**

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Mammoth Plant Sales: OPEN

Publicity: **OPEN**

Newsletter: Elaine Chow newsletter@bristlconecnps.org Membership: Elaine Chow membership@bristlconecnps.org

Website: webmaster@bristleconecnps.org

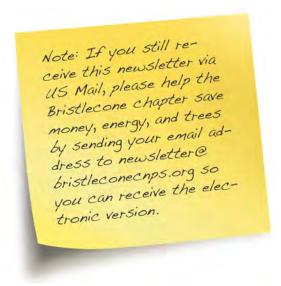
Hospitality: **OPEN**

T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918

DeDecker Garden: Peter Anderson

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 cnps.org and click on the JOIN/renew button at the top of the page, or mail in the form below:

| Name:Address:State:State: | | Mail To / Make Payable To: CNPS Membership Coordinator 2707 K Street, Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95816 | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | Email: | | | |
| | | | | I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter: | | Gift Contribution: | Wherever needed L |
| | | | | Other: | | Specific Area: | |
| Membership Category _ Student / Limited Income _ Individual _ Family _ Plant Lover _ Patron | \$25 \$45 \$75 \$100 \$300 | | | | | | |
| _ Benefactor | \$600 | | | | | | |
| _ Mariposa Lily | \$1500 | | | | | | |
| Additional Contribution | | | | | | | |