



Bristlecone Chapter

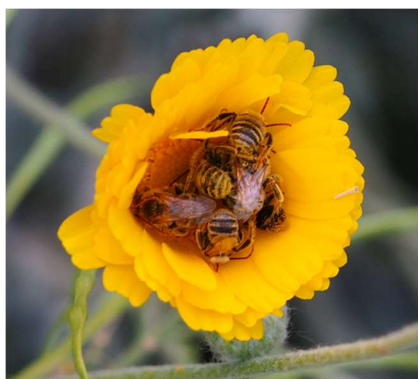
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora
The California Native Plant Society
Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

Volume 41, No. 5
September–October 2020

Editor's Message

What a strange spring and summer wouldn't you say? As we still need to cautiously head into fall, in this issue you'll find more about virtual events to help get through our, nowadays, life in front of video screens; perhaps a book, vegetable garden or oven; and views of the great outdoors. Whether we are quarantined, sheltered-in-place, or forming our own little pandemic pods, hang in there everyone and we'll all make it to the other side. Be safe to be well for yourself and for others. In the meantime, enjoy the lovely photos of "pods" of bee pollinators and bright red-orange cactus flowers courtesy of a fellow chapter member.

—Elaine Chow



Sometimes in the evening hours, long-horned bees "huddle" in a flower (Desert marigold, *Baileya multiradiata*), August 14.



Echinocereus mojavensis (Mojave mound cactus) in bloom on July 2 at White Mountains. Photos by Bob Zimmerman.

General Meeting—Virtual Presentation Wednesday, September 23rd, more details TBA

 **Co-Speakers: Bryan Hatchell & Maria Jesus**



Bryan Hatchell, the Desert Lands Organizer with Friends of the Inyo, will be informing us of energy development threats in the California Desert Conservation Lands. Plans that guide conservation and renewable energy development in the desert may rapidly change under the current administration, which strengthens the need

of continued advocacy for conservation and science. We will learn of the landscape level issues and then narrow in on what neat desert plants that exist at each site of concern.



Maria Jesus, a graduate student in Botany at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden/Claremont Graduate University, is completing a flora of the southern Inyo

Mountains. She has completed several field seasons monitoring plants in the Chihuahuan Desert, Sonoran Desert, Southern Plains, Southern Cascades, and the Great Basin. Most recently, she managed a multi-agency vegetation monitoring program aimed at informing adaptive management of public lands. Maria is a Switzer Fellow (2019) and is passionate about advancing native plant conservation in California. She'll be sharing her botanical knowledge of the diversity of plants in our local desert areas.



More of the Virtual but Don't Forget the Non-virtual

Many organizations, local and beyond, have been holding virtual events, posting recordings of past events, and the like. And all are available online.

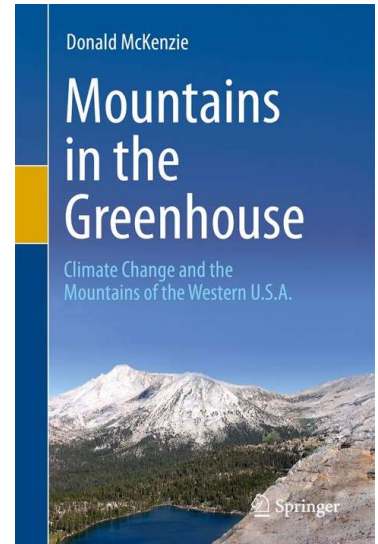
One of our local conservation organizations, Friends of the Inyo, held a virtual talk presented by our soon to be September co-speaker, Maria Jesus. Many members missed this talk introducing some of the unique plant species found in Conglomerate Mesa, but we now have the chance to view the recording online at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj3-tYb1wE&feature=youtu.be

This is a time when we can now more easily see what other chapters have been up to by going to CNPS.org's Calendar of Events, where you'll find a list of the many events happening in the virtual realm, as well as links to videos, podcasts, etc. on topics such as Social Justice in Conservation, Gardening, and Fire Ecology.

Did you know the Jepson Herbarium began a youtube series www.youtube.com/c/Jepsonherbarium? The *Jepson Videos: Visual Guides to the Plants of California* are 2–3 minute videos where you can learn about a different native species in each one.

And if you're tired of the virtual and find you can't make it up into the mountains, the good ol' fashioned book may be in order. The newly published *Mountains in the Greenhouse* by Dr. Donald McKenzie, research ecologist at University of Washington, will interest those wanting to understand how climate change affects mountains of the American West.



Whichever way you find to learn, explore, or entertain yourselves about all things plants, please post it on our facebook page to share it with other members.

—Elaine Chow

Sierra and Bristlecone in the Future?

The Sierra Foothills Chapter of CNPS held its first 2020 fieldtrip in Mono County the last week of July. Our chapter has been very careful about COVID-19 safety considerations, and our socially-distanced group wore masks, stayed appropriate distances, and in contrast to so many CNPS photos where multiple heads are close together to get a good look at the flowering details, we remained politely removed until the observer before us had completed their viewing. We did not share paper or books, nor food and water, making sure that we were not transmitting unwanted organisms. Our chapter has been very cautious about field trips and the double-header was our first of the season.

We could not have hit the flowers better perhaps for both the Warren Fork of Lee Vining Creek and Glacier Canyon on the backside of Mt. Dana. We saw a large and diverse amount of wildflowers and grasses which

you can read about in the chapter newsletter, *The Shooting Star* (www.sierrafoothillscnps.org/newsletter/).

The hikes were relatively easy, even given the starting elevation and elevation gain of the walk, and so worth the effort. It occurs to me that it might be of interest for our two chapters to share an outing once a year in our overlapped territories? Although our Sierra Foothills team hikers are remarkably capable at identification to the species and subspecies level, sharing of knowledge between our two groups could be of value.



Warren Canyon: A special treat was seeing the brook saxifrage (*Micranthes odontoloma*) in bloom.



Left: A fen along the trail had hundreds of Sierra bog orchid (*Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys*). Right: *Pedicularis* sp.

Some of the spectacular plants blooming include: Columbia monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum* ssp. *columbianum*), alpine columbine (*Aquilegia pubescens*), elk thistle (*Cirsium scariosum* var. *americanum*), Anderson's thistle (*Cirsium andersonii*), giant mountain larkspur (*Delphinium glaucum*), Coulter's Daisy (*Erigeron coulteri*), Sierra gentian (*Gentianopsis holopetala*), Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), alpine gold (*Hulsea algida*), Sierra linanthus (*Leptosiphon pachyphyllus*), Brook saxifrage (*Micranthes odontoloma*), Sierra bog-orchid (*Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys*), Sierra podistera (*Podistera nevadensis*), western polemonium (*Polemonium occidentale*), as well as monkeyflowers—seep-spring (*Erythranthe guttata*), Tiling's (*E. tilingii*), primrose (*E. primuloides*), and the one that we all used to call Lewis' but is now pink monkeyflower (*E. erubescens*).

—Shelly Davis-King



Glacier Canyon looking towards Mount Gaylor, with *Allium validum* in the foreground. These onions were abundant in the canyon. Photos courtesy of Shelly Davis-King.

In Praise of Old Trees

Our part of the world has many individual trees that are so large, so old, so majestic, that they can't fail to impress. The huge, long-dead bristlecone (*Pinus longaeva*), with its bare branches pointing skyward, that one encounters on the downhill stretch of the Discovery Trail at Schulman Grove is one such tree. How many times has it been photographed and remembered? The enormous Jeffrey pine (*P. jeffreyi*) near the entrance to Valentine Camp, looked at in

awe by so many school children, still talked about although it fell many years ago, is another memorable tree. I'm sure every Bristlecone Chapter member has a favorite big, old juniper, pine or hemlock encountered on the trail at some past moment that caused them to stop, speechless at its beauty.

One to add to the list is the stately and ancient western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) pictured below. Western white pines are typical denizens of the upper montane and lower subalpine forests in Mono County, where they grow in mixed forests with white fir (*Abies concolor*), red fir (*A. magnifica*), Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine (*P. contorta* subsp. *murrayana*), and occasionally mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*). There are some places where western white pine forms pure stands, as along the Dunderberg Road above Sinnamon Meadow, and on high north slopes above Mono Lake.



Western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) and bark resembling alligator-skin-patterns rising above a large burl-like knob.
Photos by Ann Howald.

This giant stands beside the Hilton Lakes trail, about a mile or so in, on a granite slope overlooking the upper Rock Creek drainage, surrounded by lodgepole pines appearing much younger. It is certainly hundreds of years old, so old that the alligator-patterned bark has become thick and gnarled, and it has even produced a huge burl-like knob at the base. Dozens of its cones are scattered over the ground below. The view from this tree's outpost is magnificent, encompassing the middle ridge above Rock Creek, the Wheeler Crest, Mount Morgan, and the high peaks beyond. A monumental giant whose age-old calming presence some of us need now more than ever. A fine tree to seek out in the cooler fall months, when the aspen scrub is turning pinkish-gold.
—Ann Howald

Membership Housekeeping: Email Preferences

Whether you have just joined, are renewing your membership, or haven't looked into the details of your membership in a long time, please update your mailing preferences to make sure you are subscribed to receive email from our local chapter by 1) going to www.CNPS.org, 2) logging in to your membership profile to manage your email preferences, and 3) checking the box!

Email Preferences

☒ Yes, I would like to receive email from California Native Plant Society.
☐ Deselect to unsubscribe from all CNPS emails.

Once checked and that preference is saved, you'll be subscribed to receive the types of emails you can select on the same page under the section of "Email Interests," such as your Local Chapter News. Don't check the "Email Preferences" box if you do not want to receive any emails at all from CNPS, and this includes your local chapter's emails even if you've checked that box under "Email Interests."

Please note that if you don't check the box, then by law we cannot email you notifications about our events and such, for example online plant sales and virtual presentations, unless you contact us to explicitly give us permission to email you for each specific notification.

If you are not sure what your mailing preferences are currently, take a few minutes and update them by logging into the CNPS site online. If any corrections/updates to your membership information need to be made and updating through the CNPS website is not an option, then you can contact CNPS staff directly at cnps@cnps.org or by calling 916-447-2677. You can also contact me, the Bristlecone Chapter's membership chair, at membership@bristleconecnps.org.

—Elaine Chow

Hello New Members!

A warm summertime welcome to John, Kathryn, Jeff, and Raven in Bishop; Cade in Ridgecrest; Jennifer and Francesca from Santa Barbara; Cynthia from Reno; Jane from Los Angeles; Patricia and Will in Sonoma; Killian from Oakland; Sarah from Newcastle; Aileen from Olympia; and Jim from Vancouver. Thanks for choosing Bristlecone as one of your chapters to support!

Send your articles and other information by October 15, 2020 for the next issue.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: **OPEN**

Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693

Secretary: Kathleen Nelson goatheads@aol.com

Treasurer: Sue Weis treasurer@bristleconecnps.org

Chapter Council Rep: Stephen Ingram
stephen@ingramphoto.com

Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**

Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693

DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-920-8693

Field Trips: Sue Weis treasurer@bristleconecnps.org

Historian: **OPEN**

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan
plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org

Mammoth Plant Sales: **OPEN**

Publicity: Gaylene Kinzy gkinzyreische@gmail.com

Newsletter: Elaine Chow newsletter@bristleconecnps.org

Membership: Elaine Chow membership@bristleconecnps.org

Website: webmaster@bristleconecnps.org

Hospitality: **OPEN**

T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram stephen@ingramphoto.com

DeDecker Garden: Kelly Bahr

Up-Coming Events

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

Thursday, August 27–Thursday, September 3

ESLT 12th Annual Lands & Legacy Celebration

Register with a fee to get access to live and virtual events for Eastern Sierra Land Trust's exciting annual celebration. Go to: www.eslt.org/events/ to learn more!

Wednesday, September 16th, 6:00 pm

Bristlecone Chapter Board Meeting

Zoom Meeting. All members welcome. To join, contact Kathleen Nelson at goatheads@aol.com

Wednesday, September 23rd

Bristlecone Chapter Virtual General Meeting

Virtual presentation by co-speakers Bryan Hatchell and Maria Jesus. Details TBA.

Saturday, October 17, 2020, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

Spatial phylogenetics: A "big data" approach integrating ecology, evolution, and conservation

Hosted Online with Lecturer Brent Mishler, UC Berkeley

Advances in digitization of natural history collections, broad-scale DNA sequencing of many taxa represented in public databases, and scaling-up of methods for building phylogenies have made it possible to apply a phylogenetic approach to assessment of biodiversity and endemism that can be termed "spatial phylogenetics." Learn new methods to identify hotspots of diversity and endemism, assess their make-up, and characterize similarities and differences among them. These new phylogenetic methods are also useful in conservation assessments by identifying complementary areas of biodiversity that have unique evolutionary histories. This workshop has been approved for 2 Professional Development Credits by the California Consulting Botanist Board of Certification. Course Fee: \$75 For more information and to register, visit: <https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>

October 27–30, 2020

Cal-IPC Symposium ONLINE

Recovery and Resilience: Confronting Fire, Weeds, and Forest Pests

Register now! Early bird rates through Sept. 1
www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter

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Bishop, CA 93515-0364

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	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$10,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution	_____