



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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November–December 2022

President's Message

It's the time of the year to celebrate the changing colors of leaves, from golden to red, spiraling from the trees with each breeze, carpeting the landscape yellow, then dimming to brown. I envision these same leaves slowly sinking, shrinking, and becoming soil. Change is happening in nature around us all the time, but especially as Earth transitions from one season to the next. As I write this, autumn is in full swing up at the higher elevations. The aspens, birches, willows, and alders have been putting on a lively display in the mountains, and the valley is not far behind. Winter will be here soon and hopefully it's a good one.

Before we get too far into "fall yard cleanup", it's important to consider our invertebrate companions. In his book "Nature's Best Hope", Doug Tallamy describes how and what we should be doing to support pollinators in our yards and gardens. We need a better understanding of who our pollinators are and what they need to thrive; how they live and where they nest. We also need to understand that our fall cleanup practices are often completely opposite of what native pollinators need to survive the winter. You might wonder where insects spend the winter in our area—usually exactly where they lived during summer, just concealed and mostly inactive. They rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and protect them from the elements. Some overwinter in the hollowed-out stems of dead or dormant plants. Others live in brush piles or dead trees with hollow branches. This is also true for reptiles and many small mammals.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation recommends "fall cleanup in moderation". This means leaving the leaves and debris in some areas of your yard while cleaning up others. This maintains

critical habitat for insect pollinators and other small wildlife. Avoid shredding or mulching leaves with a mower, as this process can kill insects and destroy eggs in the leaves. Also, many insects need intact leaves for the best protection from weather and predators. Instead of deadheading and trimming back perennials and bunchgrasses, keep those stalks on the plant—I think they can be visually attractive, providing texture in the yard during winter. This year try leaving the yard just a little less tidy—"Leave the Leaves" and "Save the Stems". It's ok for us to change our habits too.

Change is also happening in the Bristlecone Chapter: our long-time Vice President Michele has moved on to other pursuits. We need to fill the education and conservation chair positions also. Membership chair also recently opened and, just as quickly, was filled by new chapter member Sue Carter. Would you like to know more about what these available positions entail? Do you have some time you can donate to fill or partly fill one of these roles? Please contact me at kbahr@cnps.org or any one of the board members listed in the directory on page 5. The chapter needs your help, which is to say, the plants, pollinators and the land need you. Thank you!

—Kelly Bahr

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Joint Holiday Potluck and Presentation (TBA) with Eastern Sierra Audubon Society

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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

RSVP to conservation@bristleconecnps.org.

Seating limited.

Many Thanks to the Outgoing VP

On behalf of the Bristlecone Chapter, the Board would like to extend our deep gratitude to Michele Slaton for her years of service to the Chapter. Michele is stepping down from the Vice President role, and leaving the Board, at least for now, while she explores some other things. Michele has provided our members with a multitude of great programs for our general meetings over the years, seeking out speakers with interesting topics to share. She has also been the Chairperson for the DeDecker Grant Committee for several years, soliciting proposals from schools and students, and leading the review and selection of grantees along with the Grant Committee. She has contributed in many other ways beyond her specific roles as well. We will truly miss her ideas and the energy she brought to our chapter. Thank you, Michele!!

—Kathleen Nelson

Conservation Update



The Comprehensive Wild and Scenic River Management Plans for The Cottonwood Creek and Owens River Headwaters were recently completed and the Inyo National Forest (INF) initiated the 45-day objection period on October 20, 2022. The objection period is intended for parties

that participated in the previous comment periods on this issue. An important aspect of Wild and Scenic Rivers are their “Outstandingly Remarkable Values” and the goal of the Plan is to protect and enhance these values, which may include scenery, wildlife, fisheries, recreation, geology, historic and prehistoric/tribal culture, and of course, botany.

Of the 21.5 miles of Cottonwood Creek designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System in 2009, 17.4 miles occur within the INF and 4.1 miles occur within the lands managed by the Ridgecrest Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (RFO). The length of the designated corridor begins high up the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest at 11,200 feet and descends through an astonishing variety of plant communities before its terminus in Fish Lake Valley. According to the Plan, habitats include meadows, aspen forests, willow shrub communities, and cottonwood forests. Rare plant taxa within the riparian corridor include triangle-lobed moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*; 2B.3), scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*; 2B.2), western single-spiked sedge (*Carex scirpoidea* subsp. *pseudoscirpoidea*; 2B.2), valley sedge (*Carex barbara*; Forest Service Sensitive), Hall’s hawksbeard (*Crepis runcinata* subsp. *hallii* 2B.2), male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*; 2B.3), Poison Canyon stickseed (*Hackelia brevicula*; 3.3), blue nodding locoweed (*Oxytropis deflexa*; 2B.1), Rolland’s bulrush (*Trichophorum pumilum*; 2B.2), and Dedecker’s clover (*Trifolium dedeckerae*; 1B.3). Potential visitors should be aware that access to upper Cottonwood Creek is difficult, particularly in areas of dense riparian vegetation.

The Owens River Headwaters Wild and Scenic River begins at San Joaquin Mountain and includes Deadman and Glass Creeks. The designated area is 19.1 miles long and is entirely within the INF. The rare western single-spiked sedge (*Carex scirpoidea* subsp. *pseudoscirpoidea*; 2B.2) is known from here and more surveys are needed to locate additional rare plant occurrences. A trail leads to Glass Creek Meadow where visitors can admire abundant wildflowers. The area is also home to a regionally important old growth red fir forest.

One of the Plan requirements is to estimate daily user capacity with the intent of balancing resource protection with other allowed uses, such as recreation. This is essentially an estimate of how many visitors the area can accommodate without negatively impacting the Values set forth in the Plan. The Cottonwood Creek Plan sets the user capacity for the INF portion at 30 visitors per day and the RFO portion at 75 visitors and 30 vehicles per day. The Owens River Headwaters Plan set the user capacity for the upper portion at 18 visitors per day and the lower portion at 672 visitors per day, in large part due to the number of campsites in the area. These



Upper Cottonwood Creek. Photos by Evan Frost.

estimates are based on the maximum use developed sites can accommodate, but dedicated monitoring and adaptive management action are needed to prevent, and quickly respond to, serious impacts. Though the comment period is closed to the public, it is possible those with standing will take advantage of the open objection period to negotiate lower user capacity rates. Regardless of the final user capacity numbers, visitors to these areas who notice recreational impacts to these Wild and Scenic Rivers are encouraged to report them to the appropriate managing agency and/or conservation@bristleconecnps.org.

—Maria Jesus

Volunteers Needed

We need helping hands to work in the CNPS Native Plant Plot at the Bishop Community Demonstration Garden in the city park. Sue Weis will coordinate work days once a month. If you are interested in coming out to help, contact Sue at treasurer@bristleconecnps.org.

—Sue Weis

Backyard Stories: Success in a Native Plant Garden

A friend of mine in Independence has been working diligently on her property to create a narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) field for monarch butterflies. This area on the north side of the house was filled with non-native and invasive grasses with just a few milkweed plants. Over the past two summers, we've slowly and gently removed the grasses from around the milkweed, opening bare soil, allowing the milkweed to spread. This year she had monarch butterflies!

—Kelly Bahr



The monarch life cycle photographically recorded this year by Leah Kirk from her backyard's field of narrowleaf milkweed planted over two summers.

Greenhouse Update

Things have quieted down at the greenhouse. We held our last potting day on October 20th. It was a small affair with just a few tree seedlings that needed to be moved to larger containers and seedlings I have planted for the spring sale needing thinning. Since we had such a successful plant sale in August, I have had to plant a lot of new plants. I am hoping they will make it through the winter so we will have a good selection for the spring plant sale in May.

After the plant sale I often have people ask me if they could come and buy leftover plants. Usually these are people who contacted me before the sale who could not buy during the week-long online sale for some reason or another. I try and accommodate these requests by choosing a certain day and time for them all to meet me and buy their plants. Basically, what people are asking of me is for a personal in-person plant sale. I don't mind planning to give up one morning to help people get their plants but to have to continually meet people on different days and times to accommodate their schedules really takes a lot of my time and I feel is an imposition to make that kind of request of me.

Some people have felt that they can just go out to the station, pick out their plants and leave money when I am not present at the station. THIS IS NOT OK! The station does not want people wandering around. The staff will not know who you are or why you are there. They may presume that a random person alone in the greenhouse area may be stealing plants. Theft may not be your intention, but how are they to know? Also, some plants are reserved for other purposes besides the sales. After the plant sale, I move plants around to make watering easier. So, plants designated for other projects are mixed in with leftover plants from the sale. You may think you are taking leftover plants, but instead, you could be taking someone else's plants.

We cannot be a retail nursery open five days a week with regular hours. However, the plant sales do happen at about the same time twice a year so you can plan on making purchases at these times. The spring sale is held on one the first three Saturdays of May (I can't give a more definitive date because this sale is coordinated with Eastern Sierra Land Trust's staff schedules). And as long as we are able, this will be a one-day, in-person sale. The fall sale will continue to be a multi-day online sale in the third

week of August with pick-ups scheduled on the third Saturday. Notifications of when this online sale opens are posted on our Facebook and web pages and sent out to our members who have opted in for email notifications from CNPS.

We are very lucky to now have a member, Gaylene, working at the station who is willing to help people who couldn't come on pick-up day to get their purchased items. Remember, Gaylene works full-time for the station, and she is taking time away from her job to help you get your orders. You must make prior arrangements with her either by calling (760) 873-4344 or emailing wmrcinfo@ucla.edu. She will leave your orders on the front porch of the office if you can't come during her work hours. Please respect her time and show up as scheduled—don't make her repeatedly contact you to remind you to get your orders. We are volunteers and appreciate all of our members' help to keep our Chapter's activities running smoothly.

—Katie Quinlan

Thanks for Joining the Bristlecone Chapter

It is our pleasure to welcome the new members who signed up with our chapter recently: Rachel of Aberdeen; David in Big Pine; Christy, Greg and Nora in Bishop; Mary from Davis; Beverly of Ridgecrest; Samuel and Elizabeth in San Francisco; Kate in Santa Rosa; and Celeste of Spring Valley.



Hooded lady's tresses, *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*, Family Orchidaceae, in Yosemite National Park (Aug. 22, 2022). Photos by Bob Zimmerman.

Up-Coming Events

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

Nov. 16, Wednesday, 6:00 pm

Chapter Board Meeting

All members are welcome to join. Contact our Secretary, Kathleen Nelson, at secretary@bristleconecnps.org for the Zoom link.

Dec. 7, Wednesday

Holiday Potluck and Presentation

White Mountain Research Center

3000 E. Line St.

Bristlecone Chapter and Eastern Sierra Audubon Society will hold our joint potluck again! Maximum 30 people for potluck, and 40 people for the talk.

RSVP to conservation@bristleconecnps.org.

More information TBA. Stay tuned.

Other Events

Nov. 10, Thursday, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m, ONLINE

A Preview of The “Pinnacles Jewelflower” – an undescribed species – and other botanical rarities of Pinnacles

Speaker: Amelia Ryan, Vegetation Ecologist, Pinnacles National Park

Though identified nearly 20 years ago as a probable new species, the “Pinnacles jewelflower” has languished undescribed. At last, this species is in the process of being described. As an extremely rare endemic species, describing it is the first step to making sure it is preserved. Pinnacles has also been allocated funding to begin systematic surveys of this rare species because we lack data on sizes, number, and extent of populations. In this “preview” talk, we will look at what we know so far about this species, its characteristics, and its preferred habitat.

Amelia studied botany at UC Davis and later acquired a MS in Ecology from San Francisco State. She has been working in habitat restoration and resource management for over 20 years, the last 5 of which has been at Pinnacles National Park as the Vegetation Ecologist. She is a long-time member of CNPS and served on the Marin Chapter Board.

Register for the Zoom meeting at

<https://www.cnps.org/event/a-preview-of-the-pinnacles-jewelflower-an-undescribed-species-and-other-botanical-rarities-of-pinnacles>

Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit
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Nov. 14, Monday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m, ONLINE

Planning and Growing a California Native Garden **Speaker: Carl Hill**

Carl is a member of CNPS North San Joaquin Valley chapter. In 2010, Carl and his wife Patty moved from the city to a country property outside of Oakdale (Stanislaus County) with nearly nothing planted. So, their goal was to have beautiful, low maintenance, low-water plants of interest—not just the normal “store nursery” plants. Thus began their journey with, and learning of, California native plants and, subsequently, the establishment of Blossom Hill California Native Plants in 2014. Since 2021, the nursery has expanded the varieties available and nursery area, and now has over 100 species and 3,000 plants available annually. Registration for the Zoom meeting is at:

<https://www.cnps.org/event/planning-and-growing-a-california-native-garden>

**Please send any submissions to us by
December 15, 2022 for the next issue.**

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Kelly Bahr kbahr@cnps.org

Vice President: **OPEN**

Secretary: Kathleen Nelson secretary@bristleconecnps.org

Treasurer: Sue Weis treasurer@bristleconecnps.org

Chapter Council Delegate: Stephen Ingram

stephen@ingramphoto.com

Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**

Education: **OPEN**

Programs: **OPEN**

DeDecker Grants: Kathleen Nelson

secretary@bristleconecnps.org

Field Trips: Sue Weis treasurer@bristleconecnps.org Bishop

Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan

plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org

Publicity: Gaylene Kinzy gkinzyreische@gmail.com

Newsletter: Elaine Chow newsletter@bristleconecnps.org

Membership: Sue Carter membership@bristleconecnps.org

Website: Maggie Riley webmaster@bristleconecnps.org

T-shirt Sales: Katie Quinlan plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org

DeDecker Gardener: Kelly Bahr kbahr@cnps.org

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 www.cnps.org and select JOIN/RENEW (at the top of the webpage or select it after clicking the menu button) or mail the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter: _____

Other: _____

Membership Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Student / Fixed 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	_____

Membership Type: ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal

Mail To / Make Payable To:

California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816

Gift Contribution: _____ Wherever needed ☐
Specific Area: _____

Go Perennial! To become a monthly sustaining (perennial) member, join or renew online at www.cnps.org/perennial