

The California Native Plant Society



Bristlecone Chapter

Volume 24 No. 2
March/April 2004

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will host a slide show by Jeanette Sainz at the general meeting on March 31, 2004, at 7pm at the White Mountain Research Station. The talk will focus on *Calochortus* lilies. This genus includes the beautiful Mariposa lilies, fairy lanterns, star-tulips, and sego lilies. The speaker is an amateur botanist who has photographed all 68 species north of Mexico. For more information call Sherryl Taylor at 924-8742.

NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The next chapter board meeting will be at 7:00 p.m on Monday, March 22, Anne Halford's residence. Please call Anne at 873-6714 or 872-5022 for directions. All are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:.

If you happened to be driving on the Sherwin grade on Sunday, February 8th, as I was, you would have seen at least 30 big bags of litter along the edge of the section of #395 adopted by our chapter awaiting pickup on Monday morning by CalTrans. We have five tireless members to thank for what developed into an all day event. Thanks Rosanne and Tom Higley, Kathy Duvall, Jerry Zatorski and our new highway cleanup leader Scott Hetzler for donating a weekend day to this important task! Scott is talking about another cleanup in spring when the native plants they saw just sprouting will be in bloom!

Speaking of blooms, take a look at the great schedule of field trips planned for this spring and summer and mark your calendar. Thanks to the field trip leaders for planning and leading these trips and to Karen Ferrell-Ingram for coordinating our field trips. You don't have to be a botanist to lead a trip. If you have a favorite walk to see blooms, we can hook you up with a co-leader who can help with the botanizing. Call Karen. And if you look on the back of the newsletter you will see a new addition to our board. Ann Fulton is enthusiastically assuming the job of Historian for our chapter. We warmly welcome Ann to the Board. Again, our Board meetings are open to all members. Please join us and learn how you can become more involved in the Bristlecone chapter.

.....Sherryl Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the Complete 2004
Bristlecone Chapter Field
Trip/Activity Schedule
Please See Newsletter Insert

Upcoming Bristlecone Chapter Spring Field Trips and Activities

April 3, Saturday, Alkali Meadow Rare Plant Transplant and Salvage Project. Leaders: Anne Halford and Kathleen Nelson. Please help us transplant the State Rare Owens Valley checkerbloom (*Sidalcea covillei*) and Inyo County Mariposa lily (*Calochortus excavatus*) from an area slated for development on the Bishop Paiute Reservation. We will remove the plants and move them directly to our new office complex which contains the suitable habitat components for both species. Please bring a lunch, gloves and hand trowels (some will be provided). Meet at 9:00 AM in front of the BLM/USFS building on 351 Pacu Lane (just west of the hospital, on West Line Street) in Bishop. Call Anne for details at 872-5022.

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May 22, Saturday. Inyo Mountains Loop, Cerro Gordo to San Lucus Canyon. Leader: Anne Halford. This trip will be an all day auto tour with many stops along the way to look at plants such as the diminutive limestone daisy (*Erigeron uncialis* var. *uncialis*), paperbag bush (*Salzaria mexicana*), *Calochortus kennedyi* var. *kennedyi* and Mojave fish hook cactus (*Scelerocactus polyancistrus*) as well as many others. Please bring a lunch and plant enjoying paraphernalia. A high-clearance vehicle is required and a 4WD recommended. Car-pooling will be encouraged. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Lone Pine Visitor's Center. We will plan on returning to the Visitor's Center between 4:00 or 5:00 PM. Call Anne at 872-5022 for more information

June 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday, Wildrose Peak and Tetracoccus Ridge. Leaders: Cathy Rose and Stephen Ingram. Meet at Wildrose Peak trailhead at Charcoal Kilns, Wildrose Canyon, Saturday morning at 10 am. The hike up Wildrose Peak is a moderately strenuous 8.4 mile round-trip hike with an elevation gain of 2200 feet, with frequent botanical stops, of course. Bring your own food, water and camping

equipment if you plan to camp at Mahogany Flat Saturday night. On Sunday morning we'll plan to leave the Mahogany Flat Campground at 9 am for the short but tough hike (no trail, rough footing) out Tetracoccus Ridge to see the rare and elusive *Tetracoccus ilicifolius*, a rare shrub (CNPS List 1B) in the Euphorbiaceae Family. We'll plan to drive home in the early afternoon. People are free to join us for either day or both. Contact Stephen at 387-2913 or ingram@telis.org.

The Great Owens River Clean Up Celebrating Earth Day

Along with Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Bishop Rotary, Caltrans, and the Sierra Club, we will be cleaning the banks of the Owens River in Bishop to celebrate Earth Day. The event will take place on Saturday, April 24th. Meet at the junction of East Line Street and the Owens River Bridge at 9 am. The clean up will be followed by a potluck picnic at the Bishop City Park.

Wear sturdy shoes or boots and leather or other heavy-duty gloves. Bring drinking water. We will work until 11:30, gather the trash, and then proceed to the Bishop City Park for a potluck lunch. Do join us to do good work in celebration of our Planet Earth.

After lunch, those planning to attend the grand opening of the auditorium at Manzanar National Historic Site can car pool down to Independence. National Park dedication will begin at 1:30 pm., with the auditorium open for exhibit viewing until approximately 5 pm. For more information, contact Joan Benner at 938-2929.

FIELD TRIP POLICIES: For all field trips, be sure to bring plenty of water, lunch, good walking shoes or boots, and appropriate clothing for hot sun and/or inclement weather. Also useful would be a hand lens,

binoculars, camera, floras, and plant lists. Trips will leave at the time announced, so please arrive at the meeting sites a few minutes early. Unless indicated, the average car should do fine. Car pooling is encouraged. Everyone is welcome, but not pets. For general question on field trips or if you would like to lead a trip, please call Karen Ferrell-Ingram at (760) 387-2913 or write ingram@telis.org.

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW APRIL 9 – 11, 2004 Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest

It's looking good for the wildflowers this year! You won't want to miss the annual Wildflower Show that attracts visitors from all over California and other states to pay homage to the seemingly miraculous transformation of our desert from browns, grays, and dusty greens to a rich array of colors and complexity of designs. Could it be the surprise of such beauty blooming forth from so drab a background, that enhances the appreciation felt by everyone for nature's offering?

If you have never before attended, the results of last year (a very dry one) will give you some idea of the glories to expect. A total of *191 species representing 43 plant families* were identified and displayed with their common and scientific names, as well as general locations where found. Bringing in this bounty were 16 teams of collectors assigned to the surrounding area within a 50-mile radius that included the facing slopes and canyons of the Sierra Nevada, Coso, and El Paso Mountains.

As many of you know, the gem of Short Canyon is one of the eastern Sierra canyons covered. It is an ACEC and the site of the plaque dedicated in November 2002 to Mary Ann Henry. Bristlecone Chapter can be proud of having helped to make possible this special honoring of Mary Ann whose surveying of the flora over a twenty year

period brought protection to this area of uniquely high biodiversity.

This year, as in the past, the collecting, botanizing, and preparing days of Wednesday and Thursday, prior to the Wildflower Show itself, are also open to the public.

The Maturango Museum is located at 100 E. Las Flores Ave in Ridgecrest and is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. www.maturango.org

Charlotte Goodson
(760)375-6449
nature4all@verizon.com

**CNPS Desert Field Spring 2004 Field Trip
Notice
April 23-25**

Co-Leaders: Steve Hartman and Joan Stewart
Vegetation Survey: Ileene Anderson, CNPS
So Cal Regional Botanist

CNPS members are invited to attend a field trip on April 23-25 at Joshua Tree National Park. We will be camping at the Lost Horse Campground, reserved especially for our group. The Friday morning agenda is optional, so it is OK to arrive late Friday afternoon or evening or to arrive Saturday morning by 9am. The campground has a pit toilet but no water and limited parking, so RSVP soon to get a spot. Some dirt road driving (4-wd not required).

The agenda will be:

Friday, April 23, 8:00am meet at Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve for bird watching and nature walk. At around noon we will leave Big Morongo and drive into Joshua Tree NP as a caravan, stopping along the way if there are flowers, and then on to Lost Horse Campground to set up camp. Friday afternoon around 3pm we will drive a short distance to the vicinity of the following day's

sampling project where we will identify plants and get ready for the next day's vegetation surveys. Friday night will include a night hike.

Saturday, April 24. At 9:00am sharp, drive to nearby site where we will perform vegetation surveys using the modified Whittaker plot technique to replicate previous surveys done for the "Vertical Vegetation" project. Will eat lunch at sampling site. Meeting around the campfire in the evening.

Sunday, April 25. Drive south to Cottonwood Springs with stops on the way at various places and visit "Native Canyon". Go home.

Space is limited so please RSVP to naturebase@aol.com or call 818-881-3706. Detailed instructions will be sent via email to all respondents prior to trip.

**Jepson Herbarium Weekend
Workshops in 2004**

The *Friends of the Jepson Herbarium* are please to present a broad range of topics for this year's weekend workshop series. For more information on the workshops, or to register, please consult <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html> or phone Cynthia Perrine, Public Programs Coordinator at the Jepson Herbarium, (510) 643 - 7008.

Feb 21-22: Bryophytes; Feb 28-29: Molecular Phylogenetics; Mar 6: Describing New Species; Mar 6-7: Flowering Plant Morphology and Identification; Mar 13-14: Basics of Botanical Illustration; Mar 20-21: Digital Photography at Close Range; Mar 27-28 and April 3-4: Fifty Plant Families in the Field; April 8-11: Death Valley Flora; April 23-25: Mt. Diablo Flora; April 24-25: Poaceae; May 1-2: Plant Evolution; May 6-9: Kern County Flora; May 8-9: Angiosperm Phylogeny; May 12-16: Painting Klamath Wildflowers; May 15-16:

Basic Field Techniques; May 20-23: Big Bear Valley; June 4-6: Fire and Oak Ecology; June 17-20: Spring Mountains (Nevada) Flora; July 22-25: Mt. Lassen Flora; Sept 8-12: Vegetation Mapping and Classification in Yosemite

CHAPTER NEWS

2004 Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant Program Awards

The Bristlecone Chapter was happy to award three grants this year for the Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant Program. As in the past we had very good proposals and it was a difficult to select the winners. The Grant Committee consists of Anne Halford, Edyth Irvine, Sally Manning, Kathleen Nelson and Karen Ferrell-Ingram. We chose the following three projects to fund:

- Aaron Gabbe, University of California, Santa Cruz – Why do hummingbird-pollinated plants produce dilute nectar? Plant fitness tradeoffs between nectar concentration and pollination in Scarlet gilia, *Ipomopsis aggregata*
- Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve's Outdoor Education Program - The Native Plant Project
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley – Native American Garden Project

The Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant Program is an annual program with proposals due about the middle of December. We encourage local groups, graduate students and others who are involved with native plants to contact us for more information about applying. Please contact Karen at 387-2913 or at ingram@telis.org.

Native Plant Project at Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve a Success

The bright, energetic faces of ten fourth and fifth graders watched intently as we told them what they would be doing for the next two weeks at Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve (part of the University of California's reserve system) in Mammoth Lakes, California. They had all signed up to participate in the Outdoor Science Education Program's first Native Plant Project. Eight months had passed since we applied and were awarded the Mary DeDecker grant from the California Native Plant Society's Bristlecone Chapter and the idea of teaching kids about native plants was becoming a reality.

As the snow fell, materials were purchased and lesson plans were developed. The first component of the new program was scheduled to take place at the end of April, a difficult time to depend on good weather for a walking field trip. Fortunately, teachers and volunteers remained flexible, and we managed to squeeze in three days between storms when fourth grade students walked from Mammoth Elementary School to the local park to participate in a two-hour lesson on plant communities and, then, learn to plant willow cuttings.

Now it was the middle of July. We were on the verge of two weeks, four hours a day, hoping that in the end these ten students would leave with an understanding of native plants, their beauty, benefits and amazing survival strategy and, yes, have fun at the same time. Valentine Reserve is a wonderful place to teach a class on native plants. Each day was spent exploring one of five plant communities; meadow, sagebrush, riparian, forest and chaparral. The students used thermometers, moisture and light meters, and tested soil samples to discover what habitat specific plants preferred. Food was consumed every hour and often in inspirational places where we could have lively discussions about topics such as

invasive species or fire ecology. Wildflowers were in abundance and the students were given special permission to cut one flower each to create a herbarium page for the notebooks they would take home. Seeds were examined, collected by hand or by walking in a sock, and, after some discussion and voting, planted in a potting soil mixed with a combination of vermiculite, sand, perlite or peat. Often at the end of a busy day of hiking, testing and planting, we played games which taught valuable lessons in ecology. Sadly, the two weeks were over too quickly but we are all looking forward to doing it again next summer.

.....Sherry Taylor

CONSERVATION

During the recent campaign for Inyo County Supervisor our chapter tried an experiment. To focus attention on environmental issues we sent a set of six questions regarding the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) to all nine candidates in late January. The questions and answers were (and still are) posted on our website at www.bristleconecnps.org/Conservation. The Inyo Register also printed the questions in its election supplement of 2/21/04. At press time – two days before the elections – six of the nine candidates have sent in responses to our questions

We learned several things: 1) three of the candidates did not bother to respond; 2) several candidates who responded took strong positions regarding enforcement of the LTWA; and 3) the sole incumbent who responded provided information which to my knowledge had not previously been disclosed to the public.

We also learned that there is a need for accurate information about the LTWA, disagreements with DWP regarding the LTWA's implementation, and results of

environmental monitoring. Because I have been following these issues closely for more years than I care to think about, I am now working on expanding the conservation pages of the Bristlecone Chapter website (www.bristleconecnps.org/Conservation) to try to address this need.

This is a long term project. It will take months to outline all the information clearly, write the discussions of the outline items, check the discussions for accuracy, and make appropriate graphics. The sad part, of course, is that the need for the website (i.e. our difficulties with DWP) will be with us for years, so a few months to develop a website is nothing. There is already important information posted so please visit the LTWA pages if you haven't seen them recently.

.....Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair

PS: If there are any graphic artists out there who like to take websites heavy with text and redesign them to make them more accessible please contact me!



COREOPSIS

An Update on The Vascular Flora of the Owens Peak Eastern Watershed

Short Canyon is a popular destination for wildflower enthusiasts as well as one of the locations within the confines of the study area for my master's thesis. This canyon is located within the 74,640 acres of the Owens Peak Wilderness area in Kern County, and has been of particular interest to me since I was an undergraduate student with a budding interest in botany. I selected my current study area with the intentions of including Short Canyon, not only because it is a charismatic location, but also because the surrounding area (namely the Southern Sierra Nevada) has had little botanical documentation. Given the known existence of phylogeographic "black holes" (e.g. areas that have not been collected extensively) in California, it is evident that floristic research is of great importance.

The Owens Peak Eastern Watershed (approximately 50 square miles) lie at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada within the BLM Wilderness Area. Owens Peak is the highest in the Southern Sierra rising to more than 2,600 meters; the prominent locations within the study site include three canyons that make up the watershed and three peaks that define the ridgelines that enclose the canyons (Grapevine Canyon, Short Canyon and Indian Wells Canyon; Owens Peak, Mount Jenkins and Morris Peak from north to south respectively). This small area contains a diverse and unique flora, due to its converging floristic influences and great elevational variation. This region sits where the Mojave Desert meets the Great Basin and Sierra Nevada, and the elevation within the site ranges from 2600 ft., where lie the Creosote bush filled bajadas, to 8400 feet where you will find White Fir, Junipers and Jeffrey Pines.

This past field season has proved to be an excellent year for collecting, with an abundance of spring annuals blooming. I spent 25 days in the field sampling in as many areas as possible, and collected just over one thousand specimens. The species list for the site stands currently at 356 taxa, and continues to grow as I identify collections. Within the next year my aim is to focus on collecting at the higher elevations, as it is challenging to get good

coverage over the area and I have collected extensively within the canyons this past year. Floras are dynamic and floristic studies are never complete, but conducting and publishing such studies is vital to the understanding and conserving of. The prospective date of completion for this project is the Fall of 2004. It is my hope that this study will form a foundation upon which more extensive botanical work may be conducted in the Owens Peak area, and the Southern Sierra Nevada in general.

I would like to thank the CNPS Bristle Cone Chapter for their contribution to my project by granting me funds from the Mary Dedecker Botanical Grant Program. With their generous contribution I was able to acquire dissecting forceps, film and processing, and aid in travel costs.

.....Naomi S. Fraga.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. 1500 N. College Ave. Claremont CA 91711. naomi.fraga@cgu.edu



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 28th

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - Membership Application

The California Native Plant Society is an organization of lay persons 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. Varied interests are represented.

Name _____ P.O. Box or Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
 I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter _____ Other _____

Bristlecone Chapter Directory (Partial List)

Membership Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Retired/Limited Income	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Library	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Group	\$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1,000.00

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Vice President – Sue Weis (760) 387-2349
Secretary – Sally Manning (760) 873-3790
Treasurer - Rosanne Higley (760) 387-2803
Membership - Kathy Duvall - (760) 387-2122
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Conservation - Daniel Pritchett - (760) 873-8943
Plant Communities - Sally Manning - (760) 873-3790
Invasive Exotics - Brian Cashore - (760) 387-2789
Legislation - VACANT
Education - Edyth Irvine (760) 924-5778
Programs - Sue Weis (760) 387-2349
Field Trips - Karen Ferrell-Ingram (760) 387-2913
Native Plant Sales - Karen Ferrell-Ingram - (760) 387-2913
DeDecker Native Plant Garden – Jerry Zatorski (760) 872-3818
Publicity – Cheryl Chipman – (760) 872-7636
Historian – Ann Fulton (760) 873-9261
Librarian - EvelynMae Nikolaus - (760) 878-2149
Rare Plant Committee - 2004 Chair. – Anne Halford (760) 873-6714 hm., (760) 872-5022 wk.
Book Sales - Sue Weis (760) 387-2349

Please make membership checks payable to:

The California Native Plant Society.
 -Mail to: Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS

P.O. Box 364, Bishop, CA 93515-0364

Gift Contribution: Where most needed _____ Conservation _____

THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (www.bristleconecnps.org) Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter comes out bimonthly. It is mailed free to members of the Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS. The subscription is \$5.00 per year for non-members and can be obtained by sending newsletter subscriptions to CNPS, P.O. Box 364, Bishop, CA 93515-0364. Send newsletter articles not memberships to Newsletter Editor Anne Halford at 312 Shepard Lane, Bishop, CA 93514 - or email to: fkhalford@earthlink.net

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Bristlecone Chapter Activity Schedule for 2004

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May 9, Bristlecone Chapter Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup. Leader: Scott Hetzler. Help us keep up the great work volunteers have done to date in keeping our Chapter's section of U.S. Hwy. 395 free of litter. Meet at 9:00 at the junction of U.S. Hwy. 395 and Pine Ck. (Round Valley) Road. Call Scott at 873-8392.

May 16, Sunday, Swall Meadows Wildflower Walk. Leader: Karen Ferrell-Ingram. Our annual walk will take us to see the wide variety of shrubs and wildflowers that inhabit the upper edges of the Owens Valley. We will also take a look at the recovery from the 2002 Birch fire. We will walk about 3 miles on moderate roads and trails. Meet at 9AM at the gravel pit on Sky Meadow Road in Swall Meadows. Take the Swall Meadows Rd. turnoff off of Lower Rock Creek Rd. and take the first right, Sky Meadow Rd. After the road turns to dirt, take the first right turn and you will see the gravel pit. Bring water and a snack. We will finish by lunchtime. Contact Karen at 387-2913 or ingram@telis.org for more information. Dogs ok on this trip, if friendly!

May 22, Saturday. Inyo Mountains Loop, Cerro Gordo to San Lucus Canyon. Leader: Anne Halford. This trip will be an all day auto tour with many stops along the way to look at plants such as the diminutive limestone daisy (*Erigeron uncialis* var. *uncialis*), paperbag bush (*Salzaria mexicana*), *Calochortus kennedyi* var. *kennedyi* and Mojave fish hook cactus (*Scelerocactus polyancistrus*) as well as many others. Please bring a lunch and plant enjoying paraphernalia. A high-clearance vehicle is required and a 4WD recommended. Car-pooling will be encouraged. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Lone Pine Visitor's Center. We will plan on returning to the Visitor's Center between 4:00 or 5:00 PM. Call Anne at 872-5022 for more information.

June 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday, Wildrose Peak and Tetracoccus Ridge. Leaders: Cathy Rose and Stephen Ingram. Meet at Wildrose Peak trailhead at Charcoal Kilns, Wildrose Canyon, Saturday morning at 10 am. The hike up Wildrose Peak is a moderately strenuous 8.4 mile round-trip hike with an elevation gain of 2200 feet, with frequent botanical stops, of course. Bring your own food, water and camping equipment if you plan to camp at Mahogany Flat Saturday night. On Sunday morning we'll plan to leave the Mahogany Flat Campground at 9 am for the short but tough hike (no trail, rough footing) out Tetracoccus Ridge to see the rare and elusive *Tetracoccus ilicifolius*, a rare shrub (CNPS List 1B) in the Euphorbiaceae. We'll plan to drive home in the early afternoon. People are free to join us for either day or both. Contact Stephen at 387-2913 or ingram@telis.org.

June 12, Saturday, Laws area. Leader: Daniel Pritchett. Meet at the Laws Museum parking area at 8:30 AM. Take the Owens Valley challenge: learn about native alkali meadow vegetation in the Laws area; look at hydrographs and monitoring results; learn about relationships between meadows and water table depth; learn about exempt wells and the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement and EIR. We will see several CNPS-listed species including Owens Valley endemics, the Owens Valley star tulip (*Calochortus excavatus*) and Owens Valley checkerbloom (*Sidalcea covillei*). 4x4 not required but high clearance will help. Temperatures may be high. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen. Trip will end by noon. Contact Daniel at 873-8943 or skypilots@telis.org.

June 15-18, Tuesday-Friday, Granite Mountains Wilderness Study Area Rare Plant Survey – Joint trip with Partner's For Plants. The Granite Mountains Wilderness Study Area is a beautiful and unusual area just north of the Glass Mountains and west of Adobe Valley in Mono County containing diverse plant communities that exhibit both Great Basin and Sierran species affinities. We will set-up a base camp (car camping) and hike 3-5 miles a day over varied terrain to assess potential habitat for several rare plant species to include, but not be limited to; Tonopah milk-vetch (*Astragalus pseudiodanthus*), Bodie Hills rock cress (*Arabis bodiensis*), Masonic Mtn. rock cress (*Arabis cobrensis*), nodding buckwheat (*Eriogonum nutans* var. *nutans*), and Alexander's buckwheat (*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. *alexandrae*). Please bring overnight car-camping equipment, field guides/other plant observation supplies, sturdy hiking boots, at least one 5 gallon water jug as well as, food for breakfast and lunch. Dinners will be divided among participants with usually one dinner prepared by two different people each night. Meet at 9:00 AM at the BLM/USFS building on 351 Pacu Lane (just west of the hospital, on West Line Street). Please contact Anne Halford at 872-5022 (for trip details) or Sherry! Taylor (Partner For Plants Lead) at 924-8742 to set up dinner arrangements.

June 26, Saturday, McGee Creek Canyon. Leader: Jerry Zatorski. See details in the next newsletter regarding our exploration of this floriferous canyon.

July 10, Saturday, We Work for Blooms. Leaders: Sue Weis and Sherryl Taylor. Meet at the Mammoth Ranger Station parking lot at 8:30 AM to carpool to Devil's Postpile National Monument. We'll attack a patch of cheatgrass near the Rainbow Falls trail (easy hike) and then search for sensitive plant *Hulsea brevifolia* in the burn area. After lunch Sue Weis will lead a native plant walk near Agnew Meadows. We'll return to our cars in Mammoth around 2:00. For more information, call Sherryl at 924-8742 or sherrylt76@aol.com or Sue at 387-2349 or sueweis@aol.com.

July 17, Saturday, Buckwheats in the White Mountains. Leader: Scott Hetzler. This will be an exploration of the numerous buckwheats to be found along Westgard Pass and on top of the White Mountains. No hiking involved but there will be numerous forays made out onto the rocky roadsides in search of diverse buckwheats. Bring field guides for keying out plants, lunch and water. Passenger cars are fine. Meet at the Glacier View Campground at the north end of Big Pine at 9am. Call Scott at 873-3892 for more information.

July 21, Wednesday, Summer Banquet. Speaker: Jim Andre, Director of the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center. The Banquet will be held at the Crowley Community Center. Check upcoming newsletters for more information about this fun, biannual event.

July 24, Saturday, Solitude Canyon. Leaders: Cathy Rose and Tony and Sherryl Taylor. You'll be surprised that this quiet, pristine canyon is so close to the town of Mammoth Lakes - just behind the Sherwins. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Coldwater Creek trailhead parking area for a strenuous climb to a volcanic plateau with views of the Mammoth Lakes basin and beyond. We'll take a break, identify alpine and sub-alpine species, and perhaps hike to a red volcanic dome for even more vistas. As we descend into beautiful Solitude Canyon we will find very large white and red fir and aspen in the drainage and, we hope, an abundance of native plants in bloom. This is an "on-and-off-trail" hike. Wear good boots and clothes for changeable weather, bring lunch and plenty of water and definitely your camera. We will have left cars at the bottom of the canyon to transport drivers back to their cars. For more details, contact the Taylors at 924-8742 or sherrylt76@aol.com.

August 7, Saturday, Horseshoe Meadows, Cottonwood Creek, Little Cottonwood Creek. Leader: Sue Weis. We'll take the Cottonwood Creek trail from the Horseshoe Meadow area, then loop back to the Horseshoe Meadow road along Little Cottonwood Creek (car shuttle back). We should see alpine flowers and foxtail pine. This is a 6 mile hike starting at about 9800 ft, with the highest point 10,600 ft. Meet at the park at the north end of Lone Pine at 9:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. Call Sue at 387-2349 if you have any questions.

August 28 and 29, Saturday, Glass Mountain. Leaders: Jerry Zatorski and Scott Hetzler. Glass Mountain is a unique geological feature chiefly composed of obsidian. The endless sagebrush scrub surrounding the area belies the incredible diversity of plant life that can be found on and around the peak itself. On Saturday, we'll botanize meadows looking for late summer blooms. We'll retire to the Sawmill Meadow primitive campsite for Saturday evening. Sunday morning we'll take the short but steep and strenuous hike up to the peak to search for plants that come into their prime after the midsummer monsoon season. The hike to the peak requires participants to be in good hiking shape at high elevation with proper footwear. Participants are responsible for their own camping gear, food and fluids (there is no water available at the campsite). High clearance vehicles are recommended on the dirt roads. We'll meet at 9:00 AM Saturday morning on Highway 120 and McGee Canyon Rd. ~ 38 mi. east of

Hwy 395 or ~ 31 mi west of Hwy 6 from Benton. For more information contact Jerry Zatorski at 872-3818 or jerryzat@yahoo.com or Scott Hetzler at 873-3892.

September 11, Saturday, Blackrock. Leader: Daniel Pritchett. Meet at the Blackrock Fish Hatchery raceway parking lot at 8:30 AM. Take the Owens Valley challenge: learn about native alkali meadow vegetation south of Blackrock; learn what trout have to do with dying meadows, look at hydrographs and monitoring results; learn about relationships between meadows and water table depth; learn about exempt wells and the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement and EIR. 4x4 not required but high clearance will help. Temperatures may be high. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen. Trip will end by noon. Contact Daniel at 873-8943 or skypilots@telis.org.

September 25, Saturday, 8th Annual Native Plant Sale – Check future newsletters for details or call Karen at 387-2913.

October 2, Saturday, Buckwheats of Red Rock Canyon, leader: Scott Hetzler. We'll check out the various annual and perennial buckwheats to be found on the northern tablelands and the beautiful rock formations in Red Rock Canyon. Meet at the Y (intersection of HWY 395 and HWY 6) in Bishop at 9:00AM. Bring a high-clearance vehicle and lunch. Call Scott at 873-3892 for more information.

October 9, Saturday, Work party at the DeDecker Native Plant Garden. Check future newsletters for details or call Jerry Zatorski at 872-3818 for information.

Field Trip Policies

For all field trips, be sure to bring plenty of water, good walking shoes or boots, hat, and appropriate clothing for hot sun or inclement weather. Also useful would be a hand lens, binoculars, camera, floras, and plant lists. Trips will leave at the time listed, so please arrive at the meeting site a few minutes early. Carpooling is encouraged. Everyone is welcome, but please no pets unless otherwise indicated. Do not hesitate to contact the trip leader for more details about each trip. If you would like to lead a field trip please contact Karen Ferrell-Ingram at 387-2913 or ingram@telis.org.

