



Bristlecone Chapter

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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President's Message, September 2017

I recently took a walk up Lundy Canyon. I have always found Lundy to be a great place for wildflowers, but with the added moisture this year, it was truly spectacular. All the plants were so lush and tall, it was a nice change from the past few years. What I really enjoyed was hearing the water crashing down from the many waterfalls. Standing in one place I could see seven waterfalls, some I never knew existed and had never noticed in all the years I have been walking up in the canyon.



Crashing waters amid lush vegetation in Lundy Canyon.

--Photo by Katie Quinlan

I hope you have been getting out this summer and enjoying all the lushness this record water year gave us. There is one last field trip scheduled in October

with Steve Matson. It will be a nice chance to see what plants are still hanging on after the summer heat.

The Berkeley Urban Bee lab scientist, Christian Jadallah, was back on our side of the mountains to survey the native plant gardens for native bees. He said he found the greatest diversity of native bees that he had ever seen in a single day. Native plants make for great habitat for native bees. Fall is the best time to plant new plants as they have the cool winter months to develop their root systems before the heat of summer. In keeping with fall plantings and native gardens, it is also a good time to revitalize the demonstration gardens. We will be having work days for the Dedecker garden, the Interagency garden in Lone Pine and the Bishop Community garden. Calls for volunteers will go out through our email list so keep an eye out for that.

--Katie Quinlan

Chapter General Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 20th, 7 p.m.

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

Speaker: Cathy Rose and Stephen Ingram

Program: *Rock Creek Wildflowers: Exploring a Botanical Paradise*

A spectacular high Sierra Nevada valley is the subject of a new wildflower guide called *Rock Creek Wildflowers*, published by the California Native Plant Society in 2015. Little Lakes Valley, at the head of Rock Creek Canyon, has been a favorite of flower-lovers, hikers, anglers, climbers, and sight-seers for generations. Author Cathy Rose, and photographer Stephen Ingram, have teamed up on a presentation featuring some of the most interesting plants of the valley, starting at the trailhead at Mosquito Flat and covering the trails to Mono Pass and Morgan Pass.

Cathy Rose, a native Californian, grew up at the base

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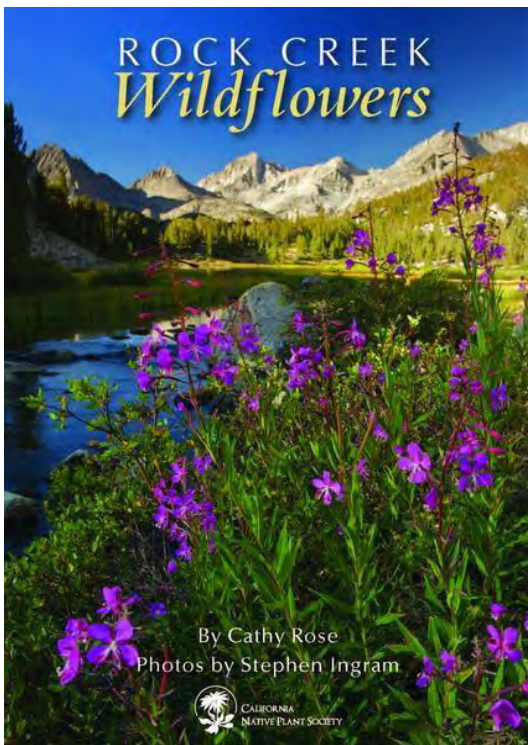
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of the San Gabriel Mountains, graduated from UC Berkeley, and taught middle school English for 28 years. She studied plants in Yosemite on field trips with renowned botanist Carl Sharsmith and led botanical walks for the National Park Service in the Tioga-Tuolumne Meadows area for 15 years.

Stephen Ingram, a local photographer whose images have been used in numerous books, magazines, and calendars, specializes in California plants and landscapes. He studied botany at UC Santa Barbara and wrote *Cactus, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada*, published by Cachuma Press in 2008.

Rock Creek Wildflowers will be available for purchase at the presentation and for sale at local bookstores and visitors centers in Mammoth and Bishop, as well as at Rock Creek Lakes Resort.

-- Michèle Slaton



Summer Field Trip Reports

July 8. Bodie Hills with Ann Howald and April Sall, Director, Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership.

Our driving tour of the Bodie Hills was a joint venture with the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership. We had an excellent turnout of 22 people who came from the Bay Area, Sacramento, and many communities up

and down the Eastern Sierra. We were fortunate that Tim Messick, author of a 1983 Bodie Hills Flora, was able to come over from Davis and join us. Tim's updated annotated checklists for the Bodie Hills (latest June 2017) are available online (see link below).



Mark Bagley (left) and Tim Messick
--Photo by Nikki Nedeff

Our first stop was at Chemung Mine, where we walked down to Chemung Pond to view the lush lakeshore vegetation brought forth by this year's abundant rain and snow. The south and west shores were carpeted with interesting aquatic, semi-aquatic and meadow plants, some very tiny, including mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*), mousetails (*Myosurus minimus*), pretty spike-rush (*Eleocharis bella*), lake dock (*Rumex lacustris*), hairy owl's clover (*Castilleja tenuis*), short-awn foxtail grass (*Alopecurus aequalis*), whitetip clover (*Trifolium variegatum*), hairy monkeyflower (*Mimulus pilosus*), prickly popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys hispidulus*), and many others.

We continued on to Lakeview Spring, where the highlights included swallowtails visiting a patch of red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) and the only known location in the Bodie Hills for Brown's peony (*Paeonia brownii*). This location is the southernmost outpost for this species in the east-of-the-Sierra part of its distribution.

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We walked into a cool, shaded aspen grove at Masonic Lower Town for lunch, viewing a Cooper's hawk nest, ranger's buttons (*Sphenosciadium capitellatum*), western sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza occidentalis*), white-stemmed gooseberry (*Ribes inerme*), and the only location in the Bodie Hills for spotted coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata*). This orchid is quite rare in Mono County. It's been seen/collected only at one location in the Bodie Hills, one location in the Mono Basin, a few locations in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, and, amazingly, one location in a canyon on the EAST side of the White Mountains!



Eric, John, Ros and Courtney (L-R) at Crooked Creek.

We made two additional stops. One at a moist, meadowy ravine at the southeast base of Masonic Mountain, where we saw meadow penstemon (*Penstemon rydbergii* ssp. *oreocharis*), velvet leaf (*Hesperochiron californicus*), toad lily (*Montia chamissoi*), and the last vestiges of sagebrush bluebells (*Mertensia oblongifolia* var. *nevadensis*), among others. Our last stop was at the intersection of Geiger Grade and Aurora Canyon Road, where we searched for and found the dried remains of the tiny yellow-flowered Mono phacelia (*Phacelia monoensis*), a rare plant that loves roadsides.



Identifying *Packera cana*
--Photos by Courtney Collins

But... our caravan halted one last time for a herd of ten pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), which are commonly sighted in the Bodie Hills. One large male accompanied several females and young of the year. They are considered the second fastest land mammal, but our obliging herd wandered across the road in front of us for some time before meandering off into the sagebrush.

Tim Messick's beautifully illustrated blog posts on Bodie Hills plants and his updated checklist (click on Downloads) are available at bodiehillsplants.com

--Ann Howald

July 22. Sagehen Flat, White Mountains with Courtney Collins.

We had a great July field trip to Sagehen flat and enjoyed the bounty of flowering plants in the White Mountains as a result of ample snow pack this year! Some highlights were keying out an annual *Gayophytum* (Onagraceae) and smelling the beautiful *Monardellas* (Lamiaceae). We had perfect weather with lots of birds, and even saw a few small mammals. A great day for California botany indeed!

--Courtney Collins

Aug 19. Glass Creek Meadow with Sue Weis and Julie Anne Hopkins.

Sue Weis lead a great field trip up Glass Creek to Glass Creek Meadow above, sharing her knowledge of the amazing flora we were observing. Julie Anne Hopkins sharpened her skills as "sweep", taking up the rear of the small group in order to keep the pace moving upward because stopping was a big part of this particular hike. Four other hikers joined us, including 'guest botanist' Ann Howald who shared her knowledge of Mono County flora.

We stopped before we got started—Glass Creek flowed rapidly over boulders and vegetation, water cascaded loudly and sparkled in the sunlight—it was breathtaking. One hiker in our group noticed the glistening, slender cones of western white pine (*Pinus monticola*), hanging like ornaments from a tall tree. Some call this pine mountain sugar pine because the cones appear very similar (but much smaller) to the

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sugar pine cones (*P. lambertiana*), but DNA studies are unclear about this relationship. We also observed huge Jeffrey pines that were emitting their sweet fragrance, lodgepole pine, (*P. contorta* subsp. *murrayana*), and red fir (*Abies magnifica*) with its upright cones—another spectacular, high elevation conifer on our trail.



Glass Creek in mid-August, 2017
--Photo by Mary Beth Cook



Western white pine
--Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

This year, even in mid-to-late August, the wildflowers were still lush and vibrant, especially along the creek. We enjoyed displays abundant with Lewis' monkeyflower (*Mimulus lewisii*) intermingled with very robust arrowleaf ragwort (*Scenicio triangularis*) and, on the opposite side of trail, what one plant lover called, "blueberry lupine." Sue explained that this was a delicate variety of *Lupinus argenteus*, also

commonly known as Lake Tahoe lupine (*Lupinus argenteus* var. *meionanthus*).



Lewis' monkeyflower and arrowleaf ragwort
--Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

In drier areas we saw Mono Lake lupine (*Lupinus duranii*), a rare, CA endemic species found on pumice and sandy flats of the Mono Lake area, similar to the more widespread *L. breweri* but with "longer stipules & pedicels, and with the leaves truly basal rather than merely basally disposed. For those who want a quicker identification, *L. breweri* is typically greener and less silvery, but hey, it's a plant, and plants are often tricky. We admired another dwarf lupine, *L. lepidus* as well as a variety of species from other plant families, including (but certainly not limited to): mountain agoseris (*Agoseris monticola*), pumice hulsea (*Hulsea vestita* ssp. *vestita*), sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), sandworts, gentians, and on and on. We picnicked in the meadow under darkening skies and then meandered down the alternative, rocky-volcanic trail, taking in the expanding vistas before the potential rains. What a wonderful field trip!

Sue Weis recently retired from her long-time, Inyo National Forest Botanist position.

--Julie Anne Hopkins



Group shot with Sue Weis.
--Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

Plant Sale a Success

Once again, we had a great plant sale! We tried something new this year by letting members start buying plants an hour earlier than the general public. This brought us 13 new members. So we would like to welcome: Marg Waller, Jeff and Denise Hunewill, Deena Davenport Conway, Judy Pena, Peter Cummings, Guy Davis, Caroline Sanderson, Lina Akyuz, Launa Wieggers, Lisa Mckenzie, Ursala Esser, Tina Biorn, Mark Bagall, Paul Latham, Hari Nam Elliott, and Amber and Leif Arntsen.

Having two start times seemed to keep things a little calmer. There was a constant stream of people coming and going but no long lines of people waiting to pay for their plants nor the mad rush at the beginning of the day. Overall, 102 people bought a total of 1,367 plants. This helped us raise about 7,000 dollars for the DeDecker grant program this year.



--Photo by Fran Hunt

Of course, a lot of work goes into growing the plants for the plant sale and it could not have happened without a lot of great, dedicated volunteers who helped seed and transplant plants throughout the year. So a big thanks goes out to: Pete Anderson, Tom Boo, Elaine Chow, Steve Dickinson, Scott Hetzler, Fran Hunt, Stephen Ingram, Rosemary Jarrett, Gaylene Kinzy, Teresa, Margaret Lamb, Charlie Massieon, Steve McLaughlin, Laura Mogg, Hilary Parish, Tim, Bryce, Marty Tiernan, Jim Varnam, Sue Weis, and Kay Wilson.

We have quite a few plants left that need a new home. If you missed the sale or find that you need just a few more plants to fill in that new landscape, contact Katie at plant_sales@bristeconecnps.org to arrange a time to come and get some more.

--Katie Quinlan

New Members, Welcome!

The membership chair would like to thank all those who have renewed their memberships and welcome back all those who have rejoined. The Bristlecone Chapter of the CNPS would like to welcome its newest members: Jodi Friedlander, Kathleen Hupal, Edith and Erich Warkentine, Gina and John Webber, and Elaine Wiley as well as all those who joined during the plant sale.

--Gaylene Kinzy

Up-Coming Events

Bristlecone Chapter Board meeting

Thursday, September 7, 6 pm.

Location: Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler, Bishop

All members welcome.

Bristlecone Chapter General meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 7 pm.

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

Bristlecone CNPS Field Trips

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

October 7, Saturday. Klondike Lake. Leader: Steve Matson.

This is not a spectacular flower show trip. Late season shrubs and a few special plants like *Chloropyron maritimum*, *Cleomella plocasperma*, *Ericameria albida*, *Pyrrocoma racemosa*, and *Stutzia covillei* will be seen in all their understated glory. We will walk about a half mile out and back near the west shore of Klondike Lake. The low-level alkaline habitat with a shallow water table presents an important component to the suite of plant habitats in the Owens Valley. Meet at 9 AM at the junction of 395 and 168 in Big Pine, or at the Klondike lake turnoff a mile or so north of Big Pine. Contact Steve Matson for more information at phone: 775-843-0389 or email: ssmat@sbcglobal.net.

Other Local Events

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

Garden Maintenance Events

In the fall, the chapter may be looking for volunteers to help clean up the DeDecker Garden or give a makeover to the Bishop Community Garden. More details will be forthcoming by email and updates will be posted on our website.

Please send your articles or information to us by October 15, 2017 for the next issue.

Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Vice President: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

Secretary: **OPEN**

Treasurer: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

Chapter Council Rep: Stephen Ingram 760-937-9918

Conservation: **OPEN**

Partnerships: Julie Anne Hopkins 831-566-6012

Programs: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton 760-938-3258

Field Trips: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

Historian: Kathy Duvall 760-387-2122

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan 760-873-8023

Mammoth Plant Sales: Sherry Taylor 760-934-2338

Publicity: Karen Ferrell-Ingram 760-937-0620

Newsletter: Elaine Chow newsletter@bristleconecnps.org

Membership: Gaylene Kinzy

Website: **OPEN**

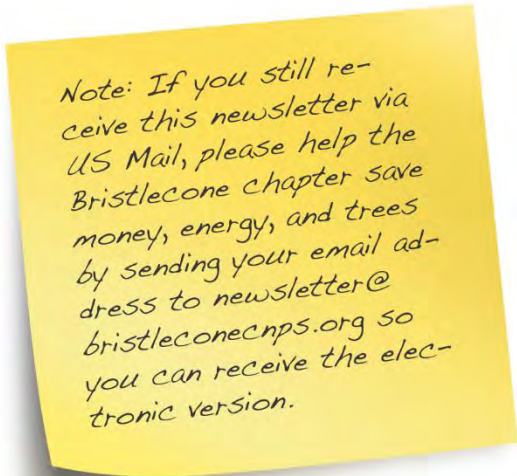
Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485

T-shirt Sales: Scott Hetzler 760-873-8392

DeDecker Garden: Steve Dickenson

The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter
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Bishop, CA 93515-0364
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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

- _ Student / Limited Income \$25
- _ Individual \$45
- _ Family \$75
- _ Plant Lover \$100
- _ Patron \$300
- _ Benefactor \$600
- _ Mariposa Lily \$1500
- _ Additional Contribution _____