



## Bristlecone Chapter

*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora*

# The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

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**Volume 38, No. 6**  
**November-December 2017**

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## President's Message November 2017

What an amazing summer it was! Water crashing down everywhere from the mountains all summer long was such a nice treat after so many years of drought. And the flowers! People were telling me stories of their hikes into September, where they were seeing blooms of spring flowers such as shooting stars alongside fall flowers such as fireweed. So I hope you all had many chances to get out and enjoy the amazing flower year we had and have some stories to tell at the annual potluck. This year instead of having a guest speaker, we can all be speakers and share an adventure we had this summer. If you have some great photos and an adventure to share, get your 10 photos or less to Michele to be included in the slide show that will follow the dinner.

The annual potluck is also when we elect our board members for the following year. Currently people willing to fill the positions are:

President: Katie Quinlan  
Vice President/programs: Michele Slaton  
Treasurer: Sue Weis  
Chapter Council Rep: Stephen Ingram  
DeDecker Grants: Michèle Slaton  
Field Trips: Sue Weis  
Historian: Kathy Duvall  
Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan  
Mammoth Plant Sales: Sherry Taylor  
Newsletter: Elaine Chow  
Membership: Gaylene Kinzy  
DeDecker Garden: Steve Dickinson  
T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram

Secretary: OPEN  
Conservation: OPEN  
Publicity: OPEN  
Hospitality: OPEN  
Website: OPEN

You will notice that although there are 16 positions to fill, there are only nine people who are filling them because a few people are doing the work of more than one person. At the bottom of the list are the jobs that need to be filled and in the order of importance. The Conservation and Website positions require some knowledge and skill in their respective areas, but the other jobs don't require any specialized skill. The secretary needs to keep minutes of 5 meetings a year, type them up and get them back to the Board for approval. Publicity chair sends announcements out to the media before our meetings, field trips and plant sales. The hospitality chair arranges to have refreshments at our general meetings either by procuring them yourself or calling and making sure someone else brings them.

We really need these positions filled. If the chapter continues to have just a few people fill the jobs of many, what happens next is that we get volunteer burn out. Then these hard working volunteers leave with no one to fill their places and the chapter will have to fold. So please consider stepping up to fill one of these empty positions. If you are interested, contact Katie at [president@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:president@bristleconecnps.org) and let her know to put your name on the ballot.

--Katie Quinlan

**CNPS Annual Potluck and Program**  
**Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.**  
**White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E. Line Street, Bishop.**

The annual Bristlecone Chapter potluck begins at 5:30 PM. Bring food, drink, and conversation to share (also bring plates and utensils for yourself). Members and non-members welcome.

Bristlecone Chapter elections follow the potluck at 6:45 PM; the Chapter Program begins at 7:00 PM. The Chapter Program will be a collection of slides from

any and all attendees. The theme is "Botanical Slides or Lies." Bring up to 10 photos on a drive (or email them to [mslaton02@gmail.com](mailto:mslaton02@gmail.com) beforehand), highlighting your year's botanical adventures. Photos may be factual or fabricated - the audience will judge any embellishments!

-- Michèle Slaton

## The Last Field Trip of the Year

### Oct. 7, Klondike Lake with Steve Matson

Last year I was impressed with all the interesting plants blooming in the alkali meadows next to Klondike Lake. Plants like white-flowered Rabbit brush (*Ericameria albida*) and *Chloropyron maritimum* are found in abundance here but not too many other places in the state or even the Owens Valley.



*Ericameria albida*  
Photos by Steve Matson

Mid-October last year was quite warm and I worried that it might be too hot (this is a concern I have with every field trip!) or too windy. No wind and perfect temps prevailed, yay! Six persons showed up, three from the Davis/Sacramento region. Easy walking and easy access made this trip very negotiable. The half-mile walk took over two hours. Pretty good at a botanist's pace!

The goosefoot family, Chenopodiaceae, was well represented. Who doesn't love *Allenrolfea*, *Atriplex*, *Stutzia*, and *Suaeda*? Sorry *Sarcobatus*, you got kicked out of the Chenopod family and stuck in your own, Sarcobataceae, the Greasewood Family (one genus,

two species). Of the *Suaedas*, we saw only *S. occidentalis*, which got me quite excited last year as there were no records of it in Inyo county, only one in Mono County, with six in the entire state (Consortium of California Herbaria; CCH). At a distance it resembles the more common *Nitrophila occidentalis* (which has opposite leaves) but alternate leaves were a clue that I had found something else.



*Suaeda occidentalis*  
Photo by Steve Matson

We managed to walk up the west side of the lake to a stream/ditch which LADWP uses to direct water from the Big Pine canal into Klondike Lake, maintaining a pretty consistent water level. This ditch had quite a few plants not found elsewhere on the trip and is more of a riparian corridor within the alkali meadow: cottonwood (*Populus*), willow (*Salix*), and goldenrod (*Euthamia*). Specialized micro-habitats like that often depend on proximity to ground or surface water and were very noticeable on this trip. The lake shoreline was congested with cattails (*Typha*), bulrush (*Bolboschoenus*), and tule (*Schoenoplectus*). Away from open water were abundant mats of salt grass (*Distichlis*). Ever so slightly higher were sacaton (*Sporobolus*), white-flowered rabbitbrush (*E. albida*), *Atriplex torreyi*, *Suaeda*, *Nitrophila*, *Stutzia*, *Sarcobatus*, *Chloropyron*, etc. Small hillocks a few feet higher provided us with examples of indigo bush (*Psoralea*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), *Tetradymia*, annual buckwheats (*Eriogonum*), and remnants of spring annuals long gone.

We were back to our cars near noon, ready to go home (for some of us) to a nice lunch. After that, maybe a nap... or more research on alkali plants of

the west for the silly obsessives, I mean the more diligent, of the group. The diligent can find a list of Klondike Lake plant species at the Bristlecone Chapter's website:

[www.bristleconecnps.org/native\\_plants/checklists/](http://www.bristleconecnps.org/native_plants/checklists/).

--Steve Matson

## Have you been to the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden Lately?

Although this past spectacularly precipitation-filled winter did not erase the effects of many consecutive years of drought in California, nevertheless, the Dedecker Native Plant Garden had its own show of blooms this year. The pinks and purples of lupines and penstemons shown through in spring and became a flush of golden yellows of rabbit brush and goldenrod by autumn. Volunteers planted more than 40 species, native to the Eastern Sierra, of flowering herbs, grasses and shrubs in beds surrounded by a natural vegetative community of perennial shrubs including, big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). The amount of water this past year likely revived many of the species in this plant community, and the revival continues with the help of its new gardener, Steve Dickinson.

Steve began tending to the garden in March of this year. Before the record amount of snow in the mountains began to melt, clad in waders, he cleared debris from the rocky streambeds of Independence Creek that runs alongside the garden. The drip irrigation system required the most attention in maintenance because it serves the critical purpose of watering the garden's native plant beds, especially during the hot, mosquito-filled summers. Much of the work required moving river rocks and, what Steve described, "planting" them on the borders of pathways, making his favorite gardening tools 5-gal buckets and a hand truck.

With so many beautifully sun-drenched days on the east side, you can easily visit this place all year-round. However, a one-time visit may not afford you the same viewpoint of the garden like Steve has from, for example, being able to witness almost the whole of the monarch butterfly's life cycle happen on a narrow-leaf milkweed plant (*Asclepias fascicularis*). Nonetheless, from the moment you plant your feet on the garden grounds, you may get an ineffable sense of grounded-ness. Take a stroll along the trails that wind through the garden and cross a bridge over the

waters passing the water birches (*Betula occidentalis*) and desert olives (*Forestiera pubescens*) along the edges of the creek. Learn about the local native flora—all in one easily accessible location. Seat yourself upon a bench to rest a spell, enjoy the mountain views or take a walk through the mind. Enjoy nature because it's the easiest thing you can do besides breathe. While you're at it, smell the sagebrush in the air. And if you happen to see him, share your musings with Steve and perhaps, he might share some of his own. Here are a few topics: balanced asymmetry in nature, the flock of *Phainopepla* that kept company with him all summer and cobalt milkweed beetles. Who knows, you might find yourself falling in love with the place, just like Steve.

This month, we encourage anyone from avid gardeners to people with some time on their hands to come down to the garden and help us plant new natives. If you do find yourself in the town of Independence, stop by the Eastern California Museum and find the DeDecker Garden located just behind it.

--Elaine Chow

## Garden Volunteer Opportunities

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we are having a Dedecker Garden work party. Steve, with the help of April Zrelak, has been working all summer at the garden and getting it into great shape, removing dead plants, keeping the weeds out and fixing the irrigation. We have 40 plants that need to be planted and perhaps some vegetable matter that needs to be taken to the dump. If you are interested in carpooling from Bishop, let Katie know or meet at 8:00 a.m. at the end of S. Fowler St. across from the DWP office.

On Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, we are revamping the Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Bishop Community Garden. We need to weed and pull out some of the plants that have not worked well in that location and get it ready for some new plants that we will plant instead. Meet at the garden at 9:30 a.m. with shovels, rakes, gloves and water.

--Katie Quinlan

## Conglomerate Mesa Protection Under Pressure

The California Native Plant Society is working with a coalition of conservation groups lead by the Friends of the Inyo to protect Conglomerate Mesa. Please see the article below for more information and to get involved. An enormous thank you to Jora Fogg of Friends of the Inyo and Linda Castro of California Wilderness Coalition for preparing and sharing this notice, which can be found at <http://friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/node/1780>.

Bordered by the Inyo Mountains and Malpais Mesa Wilderness, Conglomerate Mesa is an unroaded, undeveloped, wild, and rugged landscape. So that is to say, it's a beautiful, special place. Dotted with Joshua tree and Pinyon and Juniper, Conglomerate Mesa is a recently designated California Desert National Conservation Land and Friends of the Inyo has been working for its protection since 2008.

Conglomerate Mesa is, once again, under attack from mining interests. Conglomerate is the first roadless area in California targeted for development under the Trump administration.

SSR, Inc. proposes to drill seven exploratory drill sites to locate gold deposits in the heart of this roadless area. The Environmental Assessment, **currently open for public comment through Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, has four alternatives: a no-action alternative, the construction of an overland route, opening a previously closed mining route, and a helicopter access alternative. If gold is located during the exploratory drilling phase the next step will be a proposal for an open pit mine. The Environmental Assessment is required to comply with Conservation Management Actions and Disturbance Caps outlined in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation

Friends of the Inyo is taking the lead on protection of this wild place but we need your help. Donate to this cause, become a volunteer or submit a letter to BLM. To inquire about protecting this amazing place, email Jora ([jora@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:jora@friendsoftheinyo.org)).

CNPS contact: Julie Anne Hopkins – [julianne@cruzio.com](mailto:julianne@cruzio.com)



Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland at Conglomerate Mesa  
Photo by Julie Anne Hopkins

## Up-Coming Events

### **Bristlecone Chapter Board meeting**

Thursday, November 15, 6:00 pm.  
Location: Eastern Sierra Land Trust, 250 N. Fowler,  
Bishop  
All members welcome.

### **Bristlecone Chapter Annual Potluck**

Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 pm.  
Location: White Mountain Research Center, 3000 E.  
Line Street, Bishop  
All are welcome to join. Bring food and photos to  
share and don't forget your own plate and utensils.

### **Local Events** (for updated information, visit [bristleconecnps.org/events](http://bristleconecnps.org/events))

### **DeDecker Garden Planting Party**

Sunday, November 5, 9:00 am.  
We need volunteers to help plant new natives in the  
garden as well as take care of a few other gardening  
needs. DeDecker Garden is located behind the  
Eastern California Museum at 155 N. Grant St.,  
Independence, CA. Anyone wanting to carpool from  
Bishop should contact Katie (760-873-8023) or meet  
at 8:00 a.m. at the end of S. Fowler St. across from  
the DWP office.

### **Bishop Community Garden Revamp Party**

Monday, November 6, 9:30 am.  
The Native Plant Demonstration Garden could use  
some work from volunteers. Bring a hat, gloves,  
water and snacks. If you've got them, shovels and  
rakes are needed too. Contact at Katie at 760-873-  
8023.

### **Convict Lake Bitterbrush Planting Event**

Wednesday, November 18, 8:30 am.  
Bitterbrush provides an important food source to  
deer in winter. So come help plant bitterbrush near  
Convict Lake with Friends of the Inyo, Eastern Sierra  
Interpretive Association, and the Inyo National  
Forest. Please wear close-toed shoes and long pants.  
Tools and gloves provided. All ages welcome. Meet  
at the junction of Highway 395 and Convict Lake  
Road at 8:30. The work site is a walking distance  
away. Coffee and light breakfast provided. For more  
info, email Wendy, or call (760) 873-6500

## Up-Coming Events

### **CNPS Events**

### **CNPS 2018 Conservation Conference**

February 1-3, 2018 (pre-conference workshops &  
field trips January 30-31).  
Los Angeles Airport Marriott.  
Two days of pre-conference workshops and field  
trips and three days of scientific sessions, keynote  
speakers, social and arts events, and more.  
Registration is now open! Check out the website  
<http://conference.cnps.org/> for more information.

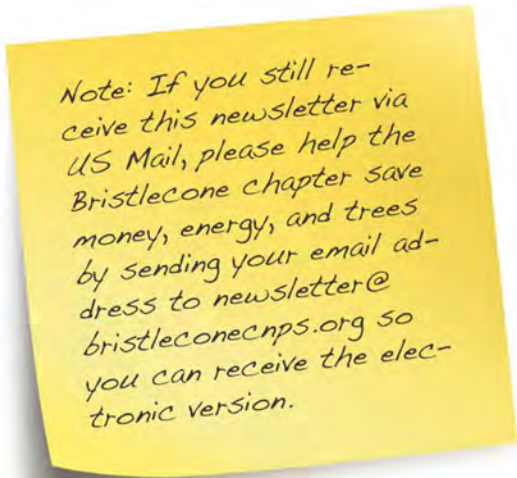
**Please send your articles or other  
information to us by December 15, 2017  
for the next issue.**

### **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: **OPEN**  
Newsletter: Elaine Chow [newsletter@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:newsletter@bristleconecnps.org)  
Membership: Gaylene Kinzy  
Website: **OPEN**  
Hospitality: **OPEN**  
Book Sales: Sue Weis 760-873-3485  
T-shirt Sales: Stephen Ingram  
DeDecker Garden: Steve Dickinson

**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](http://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  | _____  |