



## Bristlecone Chapter

*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora*

# The California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter Newsletter

**Volume 44, No. 4**  
**July–August 2023**

### Chapter Website Announcement

Over the coming months we are working on a new website for our chapter and retiring the old one (that may be used as an archive). So, we will no longer be updating events and such on the old site. In the meantime, please continue to visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/bristleconecnps/](http://www.facebook.com/bristleconecnps/) for any event notices, updates, etc.

### General Meeting, Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

*A Vascular Flora of the Sacatar Trail Wilderness*  
Speaker: Kimberly Schaefer, California Botanic Garden Master's student



Kimberly received a DeDecker Grant in 2022 to study the flora in the Sacatar Trail Wilderness in the Southeast Sierra Nevada Mountains. She is excited to share her findings comparing preliminary data collected in 2022 and 2023, especially because of the large

difference in precipitation between the two years. More meeting details to be announced in the next issue.

### Rare Plant Updates

Thanks to the exceptional winter precipitation, many of us have had the opportunity to document the status of rare plant species that have been sparse or altogether dormant in previous years. According to the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory, our state is home to 2449 rare plant taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties). Since so little is known about the basic biology of most of these rare plants, every observation has the potential to contribute to our collective knowledge and can help ensure they persist into the future. Below is some information about a few of the rare plant taxa I've had the pleasure of working with this year. I hope this will inspire you to share some of your own findings! You might consider submitting an article to our newsletter or posting your photos and observation notes on iNaturalist.

The Walker Pass milkvetch (*Astragalus erterae*) is known from just four locations near Walker Pass. My colleague, Duncan Bell, and I observed nearly 50 plants in fruit and flower at the type locality near Morris Peak. Previous observations indicate that population numbers have varied between 2 and 30 plants, and Bell reports that plants have not emerged at all in drier years. While it is a relief to know that the Walker Pass milkvetch can survive multiple years of dormancy and will be able to replenish the soil seed bank this year, it is unclear how the species will fare in the face of a heating climate.

In a year where it seems like rare plants are around every corner, I've been especially struck by the times where I have not been able to relocate plants at a historical occurrence despite hours of searching. For instance, Geyer's milkvetch (*Astragalus geyeri* var. *geyeri*) has not been observed for several years at a historical occurrence in Deep Springs and could be



Walker Pass milkvetch. Photo by Duncan Bell.

locally extirpated, possibly due to cattle grazing. The sanicle cymopterus (*Cymopterus ripleyi* var. *saniculoides*) was also apparently absent from two historical occurrences, possibly due to road maintenance or other unknown causes. In California, it is known from just six historical occurrences concentrated at Lee Flat and west of the Coso Mountains Wilderness. Plants occur in low numbers and are threatened by cattle grazing, mining, vehicles, and road maintenance. Upon revisiting one extant occurrence with the hopes of making a conservation seed collection, I found that all the plants had disappeared except for a single plant which had signs of herbivory. It's unclear whether this phenomenon was widespread throughout the whole population, or restricted to this single occurrence. It will be important to monitor these plants more regularly in future years to determine what kind of management intervention will be needed to ensure these populations persist.

On a happier note, I visited Conglomerate Mesa in early June and saw that rare annual plant species such as Badger Flat threadplant (*Nemacladus inyoensis*) and Parry's monkeyflower (*Diplacus parryi*) had emerged in locations where they had never been observed before, despite multiple years of survey efforts. Such findings underscore the importance of documenting rare plant species in places that are threatened by development or other

disturbances. While floristic surveys and environmental analyses are typically required before projects can move forward, surveys carried out during dry years cannot detect the rare species that lie dormant in the soil. If you are interested in learning more about how to use iNaturalist to help with conservation efforts in our chapter area, I encourage you to visit this recording created by our friends at the Sierra Club Range of Light Group entitled "Citizen Science: Using iNaturalist": [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light/events](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light/events)



Sanicle cymopterus, east of Coso Mountains Wilderness. Photo by Duncan Bell.



Signs of herbivory on Sanicle cymopterus. Photo by Maria Jesus.

Lastly, as the flowers appear to fade at lower elevations, don't forget about the late bloomers! Glandular buckwheat (*Eriogonum glandulosum*) is currently being reviewed for inclusion in California's list of rare plants. Under 40 occurrences are known from California, but it is suspected that the species is under-documented because it blooms in late spring through late summer at relatively low elevations.

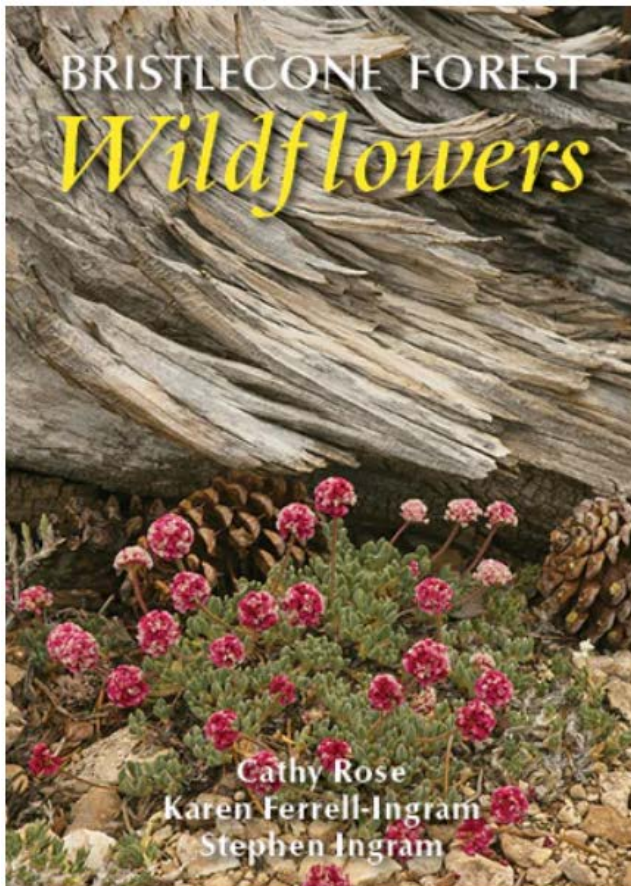
—Maria Jesus



## Book Review: *Bristlecone Forest Wildflowers*

Years ago, Stephen Ingram and Cathy Rose collaborated on a book, *Rock Creek Wildflowers*, as a guide to a specific watershed in the Sierra Nevada in Inyo County. It is a nice, easy-to-carry little field guide to introduce you to the plants most likely to be found as you walk along the trails of Little Lakes Valley. If these books were available for purchase at the trail head, I am sure they would sell like hotcakes. Just be prepared and purchase one ahead of time.

It just so happens that there is a more recently published book entitled *Bristlecone Forest Wildflowers* by Ingram, Rose, and Ferrell-Ingram. The focus of this book is, naturally, the ancient bristlecone pine forest of the White Mountains within Inyo National Forest. A nice easy-to-read introduction to the history and geology of the White Mountains is followed by 95 plant profiles.



What makes books like this attractive and easy to use are the single-page species profiles along with a single sizeable image. Trying to cram too many

species into one small volume is awkward. An author can only be so comprehensive before their book becomes too large or images and lettering too small. A lot of visitors to the White Mountains would benefit from an easy to use and digestible introduction to White Mountain wildflowers. This new book fits the bill perfectly. You can carry it with you on the trail, or, as is my preferred manner, you can peruse it while in the comfort of your own home.

In this case, the book WILL be available at a trailhead, the Schulman Grove Visitor Center along White Mountain Road. Other locations are:

- 1) Spellbinder Books, in Bishop; 124 S Main Street.
- 2) CNPS (<https://store.cnps.org/products>)
- 3) [www.ingramphoto.com](http://www.ingramphoto.com)
- 4) Do not attempt to purchase via Amazon!

—Steve Matson

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## GardenFest Recap



Attendees at the CNPS Bristlecone Chapter table at GardenFest. Photo by Carissa Gospodinoff.

Our plant sale at the Eastern Sierra Land Trust's annual GardenFest was a huge success! I brought 617 plants to the sale and only took 30 back. Most of these were plants that grow in specialized areas, for example, Waterbirch that needs to be by a creek or pond. The whole experience was a little crazy with a long line of people waiting to pay (sorry we can only run one credit card at a time). We sold most of the plants in the first half hour of the sale. Thanks everyone for supporting the growing of native plants!

—Katie Quinlan



## Greenhouse and August Plant Sale Update

The plants at the greenhouse are doing really well, just like all the native plants in the valley. Because of the excitement and demand at the spring sale, (after 4 potting parties and 47 volunteer hours) volunteers and I have planted about 400 more plants than I had last year for the fall sale. I am also trying a few new species, including scarlet milkvetch (*Astragalus coccineus*), desert larkspur (*Delphinium parishii*), and wax current (*Ribes cereum*). Of course, it is a little early to tell if all the plants will make it to the sale.



A previous year's plant sale at White Mountain Research Center. Photo credit unknown.

White Mountain Research Center has been having a lot of problems with people who don't belong there coming in and using the facilities. Because of this trespass I have moved the garbage can where you can return your pots to the front porch of the office. Now you don't have to drive all the way in, you can just come into the parking lot and drop off the pots. Please do return the pots. Due to a low return rate and some of the pots getting too brittle I had to buy new ones this year, which slowed down our planting projects.

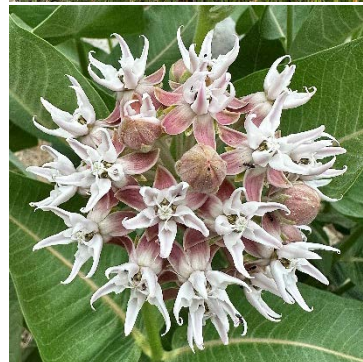
The plant sale will be a hybrid sale again. The online store will open on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am for members and Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am for the general public. If you are on our email list and have given us permission to send you emails (make sure you are opted in according to your CNPS profile at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)), you will receive the link in your listed email address. The sale web address will be posted on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/bristleconecnps/](https://www.facebook.com/bristleconecnps/) on Monday for the public. It will NOT be posted on our webpage. The sale goes until Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> and then the pick-up day will be on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> at White Mountain

Research Center (3000 E. Line St, Bishop). The week before the sale, I will post the kinds of plants and the quantities that will be available. If there is a plant you want and there are not very many of them, then get online early because plants sell out quickly. The plants that are not sold online will be available for sale on the pick-up Saturday.

—Katie Quinlan



Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosus*) plants found along Sunland Rd., Bishop (top) and purchased from a previous year's plant sale (bottom) and now blooming in the yard of chapter member and photographer Kim Cash.



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## Welcome and Thanks!

To our newest members, we welcome you to the Bristlecone Chapter and thank you for supporting our efforts in conservation of plants native to California and particularly in and around Inyo, Mono, Northeastern Kern, and Northwestern San Bernardino Counties. We appreciate you, Jeffrey in Arcata, Kathryn in Bellingham, Elizabeth in Bishop, Sarah in Costa Mesa, Priscilla in Irvine, Virginia in Mammoth Lakes, Keleigh in Sacramento, and Davis in Sandy Valley!

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## Cacti in bloom

The cacti are in bloom in the White Mountains. Insect visitors are abundant including Ornate Checkered Beetles. Enjoy the photos by Bob Zimmerman.



From top left clockwise: Mojave mound cactus, *Echinocereus Mojavensis*; Engelmann hedgehog, *Echinocereus engelmannii*; Mojave fishhook cactus, *Sclerocactus polyancistrus*; prickly-pear, *Opuntia polyacantha* var. *erinacea*; and Ornate Checkered Beetle, *Trichodes ornatus* (Cleridae) with pollen grains found on prickly-pear, *Opuntia polyacantha*.

California Native Plant Society  Bristlecone Chapter

## Native Plant Sale

**Online Sale August 14th - 17th**

**Link will be posted on the Bristlecone CNPS FACEBOOK PAGE**

Current members get early access to an emailed link on the 13th

**Pick-up Saturday, August 19th, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

**Where: White Mountain Research Station, 3000 E. Line St., Bishop**

### Plant Prices

Small tree pot	\$5.00
Cactus pots	\$5.00
1-gallon Pots	\$8.00
Tall tree pots	\$10.00
5-gallon pots	\$25.00
10-gallon pots	\$35.00

A complete list with quantities is available on the Facebook page



## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit  
[www.bristleconecnps.org/events](http://www.bristleconecnps.org/events))

### Chapter Events

**Saturday, Jul 15, 9:00 am**

**CNPS Bristlecone Chapter Plot,  
Bishop Community Demonstration Garden in  
Bishop City Park, 688 N. Main St.**

Join Sue Weis on the third Saturday of each month,  
starting at 9:00 am, to work in our plot of native  
plants. Workdays will be canceled if raining.

Questions? Send them to Sue at  
[sue.weis98@gmail.com](mailto:sue.weis98@gmail.com)

If do you plan to help out, then call or text Sue at  
(760) 937-2595 well before heading out to the  
CNPS garden.

~~**Saturday, July 15 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**~~  
~~**Upslope and into the sky: alpine plant  
communities and climate change in the White  
Mountains.**~~

~~**Leader Kaleb Goff.**~~ **CANCELED**  
~~**Road closure: White Mountain Road will not be  
open.**~~

**August 13, 8:00 am (members only),**

**August 14–17 (open to the public)**

**Chapter Native Plant Sale—ONLINE**

See page 4 and 5 for more details.

## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit  
[www.bristleconecnps.org/events](http://www.bristleconecnps.org/events))

**Saturday, August 26, 8:00 am**

**Saddlebag Lake and Hummingbird Lake**

**Leader Jerry Zatorski.**

This will be a backcountry hike from the parking lot  
at Saddlebag Lake. The trail around Saddlebag Lake  
is well maintained and the views of the back side of  
Yosemite are spectacular. The hike around  
Saddlebag Lake is relatively flat, and once on the  
northern end of the lake we'll head north making  
our way up to Hummingbird Lake, and maybe a little  
further on trails and some cross country. Most of  
this area is in the alpine zone, above tree line, and  
the snows should have receded enough for us to be  
greeted by many alpine species. Depending on your  
level of fitness, this is a moderate to strenuous hike  
at high elevation (all above 10,000 ft), and is only  
recommended for those in good hiking condition.

This trip will take most of the day and participants  
should bring plenty of fluids and food, field guide,  
camera, a hand lens, and dress for weather. We will  
meet at the Saddlebag Lake parking lot at 8:00 am.  
From Lee Vining, go west 9.8 miles up SR 120 (Tioga  
Pass Rd), just after the first lake on the left (Ellery  
Lake) take the right turn to Saddlebag Lake and go  
2.5 miles to the trail head. For more information  
contact Jerry at [jerryzat@gmail.com](mailto:jerryzat@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, September 20, 6:00 pm**  
**Board Meeting (online)**

All members are welcome to join. Contact our  
Secretary, Kathleen Nelson, at  
[secretary@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:secretary@bristleconecnps.org) for the Zoom link.

**Wednesday, September 27**

**General Meeting**

See page 1.

## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit  
[www.bristleconecnps.org/events](http://www.bristleconecnps.org/events))

### Other Events

**July 13-16**

#### **Russian Thistle Volunteer Campout: Cottonwood Creek**

Friends of the Inyo and the BLM need your help removing the highly invasive Russian thistle from the South Oasis Windmill site in the Sylvania Wilderness just north of Death Valley. Join us for a camp-out style volunteer event, and give back to the land while getting a little dirty!

Pre-register so they know how many folks are caravanning. More info at:

<https://friendsoftheinyo.org/event/russian-thistle-volunteer-campout-cottonwood-creek/>

**Saturday, July 15, 9:00 am-12:00 pm**

#### **Plant Medicine and Wild Edibles of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Interpretive Hike**

Join Mono Lake District Trail Ambassador, Colt on a hike around Lundy Canyon where you'll learn about, and potentially find some medicinal-edible flora.

Participation is capped so pre-register (and hike details) at

<https://friendsoftheinyo.org/event/plant-medicine-and-wild-edibles-of-the-eastern-sierra-nevada-interpretive-hike-7-15/>

**Thursday September 7, 5:30 pm**

#### **CNPS Naturehood Gardening Webinar Seeding Connections**

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference through your passion for gardening, native plants, and/or biodiversity? Maybe you've thought about volunteering or helping others learn new skills. In Seeding Connections, learn how some people are making a difference in the world through native plants. These friendly panel discussions share diverse voices and topics in native plant gardening. To register, go to:

<https://www.cnps.org/gardening/webinars>

## Up-Coming Events

(For updated information, visit  
[www.bristleconecnps.org/events](http://www.bristleconecnps.org/events))

**September 20-21**

#### **CEQA Impact Assessment Workshop (Zoom) Instructors David Magney and Aaron Sims**

Learn how to read and analyze the biological resources section of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Target audience are biologists and botanists. Consultants, conservationists, and environmentalists are encouraged to attend. Registered participants will receive a Zoom link.

<https://www.cnps.org/education/workshops/ceqa-impact-assessment-workshop-september-2023>

Students: \$75

Sliding scale (pay what you can): \$125, \$175

Capacity: 35 participants

Last Day to Register: September 6, 2023

**Please send any submissions to us by  
August 15, 2023 for the next issue.**

### Bristlecone Chapter Directory

President: Kelly Bahr [kbahr@cnps.org](mailto:kbahr@cnps.org)

Vice President: **OPEN**

Secretary: Kathleen Nelson

[secretary@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:secretary@bristleconecnps.org)

Treasurer: Sue Weis [treasurer@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:treasurer@bristleconecnps.org)

Chapter Council Delegate: Stephen Ingram

[stephen@ingramphoto.com](mailto:stephen@ingramphoto.com)

Conservation/Partnerships: **OPEN**

Education: **OPEN**

Programs: **OPEN**

DeDecker Grants: Kathleen Nelson

[secretary@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:secretary@bristleconecnps.org)

Field Trips: **OPEN**

Bishop Plant Sales: Katie Quinlan

[plant\\_sale@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org)

Publicity: Gaylene Kinzy [gkinzyreische@gmail.com](mailto:gkinzyreische@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Elaine Chow [newsletter@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:newsletter@bristleconecnps.org)

Membership: Sue Carter [membership@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:membership@bristleconecnps.org)

Website: **OPEN**

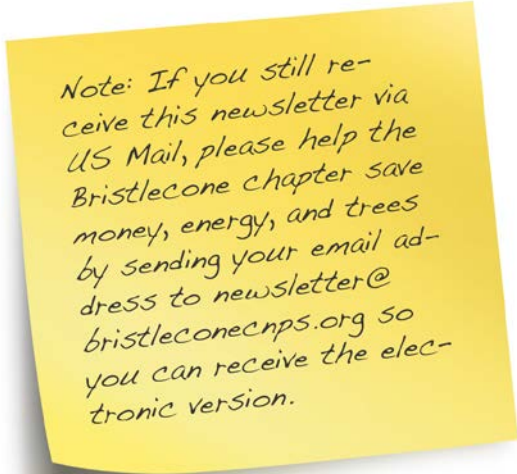
T-shirt Sales: Katie Quinlan [plant\\_sale@bristleconecnps.org](mailto:plant_sale@bristleconecnps.org)

DeDecker Gardener: Kelly Bahr [kbahr@cnps.org](mailto:kbahr@cnps.org)



**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 [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and click JOIN/RENEW (at the top-right or select it after clicking the menu button at the top left of the webpage) or mail the form below:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
I wish to be affiliated with the Bristlecone Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category**

- \_\_ Student / Fixed Income                   \$25
- \_\_ Individual                                   \$50
- \_\_ Plant Lover                               \$120
- \_\_ Supporter                                 \$500
- \_\_ Patron                                     \$1,000
- \_\_ Benefactor                               \$2,500
- \_\_ Steward                                  \$5,000
- \_\_ Guardian                                 \$10,000
- \_\_ Additional Contribution               \_\_\_\_\_

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