

REGISTRATION PACKET
Bristlecone Chapter, California Native Plant Society
Summer Sojourn in the White Mountains

Friday, July 17 to Sunday, July 19, 2009
University of California White Mountain Research Station
Crooked Creek Facility

Dear CNPS Members and Friends,

The Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS invites you to attend our second Summer Sojourn; a flower filled weekend of field trips, evening programs and conversation in the White Mountains of eastern California. This year you will have the opportunity to stay one night (Saturday) or two nights (Friday and Saturday) at the University of California White Mountain Research Station's Crooked Creek facility which is located in the ancient bristlecone pine forest at 10,200 feet elevation. We hope you will plan to come.

Field Trips

Saturday: Field trips will leave from both the Crooked Creek facility and from Glacier View Campground at the intersection of #395 and #168 just north of Big Pine. The trips leaving from Crooked Creek will begin at 8:30 AM and will focus on alpine plants and butterflies. One-night guests driving from Big Pine for field trips leaving from Crooked Creek should note that driving time is 1 ½ to 2 hours. The field trip leaving from Big Pine will begin at 9:00 AM and stop at various plant communities on the way to Crooked Creek. Cars should be filled with gas. All participants not staying at Crooked Creek on Friday night should bring their own lunch, snacks and water.

Sunday: Field trips will focus on alpine ecology, native blooms and bristlecones and will begin at Crooked Creek facility at 8:30 AM and end around 2:00 PM. Packed lunches are provided.

Note: Field trip descriptions include the length and difficulty of field trips. Please consider your personal health and hiking ability at high altitude when choosing field trips. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, wear appropriate hiking shoes and layered clothing and bring weather gear. All field trips except Saturday's trip from Big Pine leave at 8:30 AM from Crooked Creek facility. Carpooling for field trips is highly recommended. Field trip group size is limited – register early.

Saturday Field Trips:

Slow Train to Crooked Creek – Daniel Pritchett. Biodiversity can be seen on multiple spatial scales. On this trip we will look at diversity on a broad scale as we start driving near Big Pine and make stops going up the > 6000' elevation gradient from the floor of Owens Valley all the way to Crooked Creek. We will pass through a variety of geologic substrates and hydrologic regimes on the ascent. Spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada en route will provide an additional context for appreciating vegetation in the Whites. Meet at Glacier View Campground, the "triangle campground" at the intersection of US 395 and CA 168 just north of Big Pine at **9:00 AM** with your car filled with gas. We will arrive at Crooked Creek by 4:00PM.

Cottonwood Basin – Steve McLaughlin. Cottonwood Basin lies to the north of the Crooked Creek Station at an elevation of about 9000 feet. We'll need high clearance vehicles to get to the starting point. We'll walk down a short section of road into the basin, and do an all-day loop hike with minimal changes in elevation. There should be a variety of meadow wildflowers along the stream, and probably good birds--bring binoculars if you have them.

Butterflies and Blooms – John Smiley. We will drive to the upper meadows, possibly up to 12,000 ft. to look at butterflies and blooms, accompanied by Derham Guiliani, a local expert on insects in the White Mountains. Participants should bring binoculars and if possible *Western Butterflies through Binoculars* by J. Glassberg. Close-focus binoculars (such as the Pentax "Papilio" model) would be particularly useful but regular ones will work as well. Not a very strenuous trip except for elevation. We'll be back by mid-afternoon. We'll hope for a warm, sunny day so the butterflies will be out!

White Mountain Peak - Jerry Zatorski. This trip will begin at Barcroft Station, at over 12,000 ft, and make our way to the peak. The round trip hike is 10 miles; however, if we don't make the peak, there will be plenty of high elevation flora to explore. At these elevations many species are low and mat-like, and with any luck both Alpine Hulsea, *Hulsea algida*, and Mason's Sky Pilot, *Polemonium chartaceum*, should still be in bloom, along with some of the highest elevation shrub species in California. Temperatures can be quite cold and the elevation is very high, so participants should prepare and dress appropriately and should be in good physical hiking condition.

Sunday Field Trips:

Alpine Ecology Field Trip – Jim & Catie Bishop. We will traverse the upper bristlecone woodland, the lower alpine zone and the boundary between them, looking at the beautiful plants found along the way. We will look in detail at some of the variables, especially temperature, that govern plant life in this high elevation. Modest difficulty, lasts no more than 4 hours.

Bristlecones – Stephen Ingram. We will explore the bristlecone pines of the Patriarch Grove, including the State Champion tree and look for other noteworthy bristlecones and alpine flowers. We will also hike out to another high-elevation stand of bristlecones from the road north of the turnoff to the Patriarch Grove. The hiking will not be too strenuous, but there is a several hundred foot gain from the road, and the whole field trip will take place at 11,200 feet and above.

Crooked Creek Exploration – Sue Weis. Within walking distance of Crooked Creek Research Station are rocky slopes, meadows, and disturbed areas along the road, all with interesting plant species to investigate. One of the White Mountain endemics, White Mountains horkelia, is found among the rocks on the slope above the road. A few small bristlecones are present there too. Relatively easy hike that will involve a short climb up a moderately steep rocky slope (at 10,000 feet).

Crooked Creek to Schulman Grove - Mark Bagley. We will explore some of the meadows, sage flats and hills south of the Crooked Creek Station and end with a walk through the bristlecone pine forest at the Schulman Grove. Easy walking, but some not on trails and all at elevations between 10,000 and 11,000 feet. We may gain a few hundred feet in elevation on a walk. Trip will end at the Schulman Grove at about 3:00 pm.

Evening Programs

Friday: Jim Bishop will begin his program "Exploring Alpine Ecology" with these questions for us: Why is there an "alpine zone", the place above the trees, anyway? How do the alpine plants manage to survive the rather harsh environment? Then we will look at the varied microclimatic conditions that shape the habitats for alpine plants, along with adaptations that suit them to this world. Jim will also describe the GLORIA project that is underway in the White Mountains where seven summits are surveyed and monitored for impacts related to climate change.

Saturday: Adelia Barber will present a program entitled "Population Ecology of Long-Lived and Long-Dead Charismatic Megafauna". Adelia is in her 5th year of her PhD. program at UC Santa Cruz in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She had been studying bristlecones for the last four years - after taking a road-trip to the White Mountains during her first year of graduate school where she fell in love with the trees and has been coming back ever since. For more information about Adelia's work, visit her website <http://bio.research.ucsc.edu/people/doaklab/adelia.htm>.

Facilities

We will be staying at the White Mountain Research Station Crooked Creek Facility, WMRS' most modern facility. (See directions below). Crooked Creek is a log cabin structure tucked away in the bristlecone pine forest, 1 mile off the main dirt road that heads up to the Patriarch Grove of Bristlecone Pines. For a virtual

tour of Crooked Creek, go to this website: <http://www.wmrs.edu> and click on the link for Crooked Creek. Expect dorms with bunk beds. Washrooms with showers are in each dorm facility. Linens (towels, sheets, pillow cases) are provided. In lieu of communal bunking, participants can erect a tent on the facility grounds. Campers may use the washroom facilities in one of the dorms. **At Crooked Creek, all guests participate in cleaning the facility during their stay.**

PLEASE NOTE!

Be sure to gas up before leaving Big Pine.

Discomfort and altitude sickness can happen to anyone, regardless of age or physical condition. If you have questions or concerns about your reaction to high-altitude environments, please consult your physician before attempting to drive to the Crooked Creek Station. There are no services or communications facilities after leaving Big Pine. There is a station phone at Crooked Creek in emergency. Cell phones work only in designated places.

Directions to Crooked Creek

From highway 395, take highway 168 east just north of the town of Big Pine Big Pine. Drive east on highway 168 into the White Mountains and continue about 13 miles toward Westgard Pass. At Westgard Pass turn north (left) onto the White Mountain Road. The White Mountain Road is paved and its intersection with highway 168 is marked with a sign. Once on White Mountain Road drive north for about 10 miles on pavement. Just after the turnoff to Schulman Grove, the pavement ends. **The unpaved section of the road is a bit rocky and wash-boardy in some places but most 2 wheel drive vehicles are able to make it without problems. DRIVE SLOWLY TO AVOID FLAT TIRES.** Continue north on the dirt road about 10 miles until the junction with the road to Crooked Creek. This junction is marked with a sign. Turn right and drive east on this road just over 1 mile and the Crooked Creek station will come into view.

Meals

Two-night guests: The first meal to be provided will be Friday dinner, preceded by a “bring your own beverage” social hour. Lemonade is provided. Breakfast will be served on Saturday morning. Supplies for making your own sack lunch will be furnished at that time.

One-night guests: Bring your own lunch and/or snacks and drinks for Saturday. There are a few places to grab sandwiches or other food in Big Pine. The Chevron Gas Station at the north end of Big Pine has excellent burritos or you can check out Carroll’s Market.

All guests: Our first meal together will be Saturday dinner, preceded by a “bring your own beverage” social hour. Lemonade is provided. We will be served breakfast on Sunday morning along with supplies for making our own lunches.

Registration

Please complete and send the enclosed registration form and signed waiver form with your check or money order made out to: **“CNPS Bristlecone Chapter”**

To:

**Sherryl Taylor
P.O. Box 1638
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546**

Registration forms must be received by July 9, 2009. Participation is limited so enroll early. Your registration is not complete until you receive a confirming e-mail message from us. Confirmation emails will be sent out after May 1. In the event that we have already filled all the spots when we get your form, we will put you on a waiting list, notify you, and return your check if we are eventually unable to accommodate you. If you have any questions you can reach Sherryl Taylor at 760-924-8742 or staylor@npgcable.com OR Kathy Duvall at 760-387-2122 or kduvall@cebridge.net. Check-in for two-night guests will be Friday at 1:30 PM and for one-night guests, when you arrive after your field trips, 3:00 – 4:30. If you think you are going to be later, please let us know ahead of time.

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 17

Registration, sleeping assignments	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Walks, hikes, relaxing, acclimating	1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Socializing	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Dinner	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Clean-up	7:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Evening Program	7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday, July 18 (at Crooked Creek)

Breakfast (also, make sack lunches)	7:00 AM – 7:45 AM
Clean-up	7:45 AM – 8:15 AM
Field-trips (Note: 9:00 AM in Big Pine)	8:30 AM
Registration, sleeping assignments for one-night guests	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Socializing	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Dinner	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Clean-up	7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Evening Program	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Sunday, July 19

Breakfast (also, make sack lunches)	7:00AM – 7:45 AM
Clean-up, pack up, all gear out of rooms, facility cleaned	7:45 AM – 8:30 AM
Field Trips	8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

- Sleeping bag and pillow (Pillows and cases are available at Crooked Creek, but you may bring your own).
- Robe (optional), personal toiletry items (towels, washcloths, bathmats, sheets and pillow cases are provided. Toilets and showers are in each dorm.
- Crooked Creek is at 10,000 feet elevation and the weather is unpredictable at this time of the year. Bring clothing for both warm and cold days and evenings. Wool hat, gloves, and rain gear are recommended (just in case!).
- Sun hat, sunscreen and bug repellent
- Water bottle and day pack for field trips.
- Optional – personal chair.

Bring your own beverage for social hours.

****NOTE - Pets are not allowed. Please leave your pets at home. This is a research facility and we cannot allow any pets to be accommodated (even in your car). Thank you.**

Registration Form

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Registration Deadline is July 9, 2009
Participation is limited, so please register early!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Vegetarian? yes no

Sleeping accommodations are dorm style with few private rooms. If you choose to sleep outside the station in a tent, please let us know. Fee is still the same. Dorm or tent?
_____ **Is climbing stairs difficult for you?** _____

Fee: Two nights - \$220.00 per person (includes 6 meals)
One night (Saturday) - \$110.00 per person (includes 3 meals)

_____ persons, two nights @ \$220.00/person

_____ persons, one night @ \$110.00/person

Total _____

Field Trip Choices:

Saturday 1st _____ **2nd** _____

Sunday 1st _____ **2nd** _____

Please return this form and signed waiver with check or money order made out to "CNPS Bristlecone Chapter" Send to arrive by July 9, 2009 to:
Sherryl Taylor
P.O. Box 1638
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Participant's Name _____

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, San Diego Campus
Use of White Mountain Research Station Facilities (WMRS)
Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement

WAIVER: In consideration of permission to use, today and on all future dates, the property, facilities, staff, equipment and services of the WMRS, I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, **do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue** The Regents of the University of California, its directors, officers, employees, and agents from liability **from any and all claims including the negligence of WMRS** resulting in personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in activities, classes, observation, and use of facilities, premises, or equipment.

Assumption of Risks: This use of University property, facilities, staff, equipment, and/or services carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. WMRS has facilities for and provides for activities such as scientific research, social events, community outreach, classes, camps, and physical exertion. Some of these involve situations, environments, or activities that may lead to illness, physical injuries, and psychological stress or damage.

The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from **1) minor injuries** such as scratches, bruises, sprains and embarrassment **2) major injuries** such as joint or back injuries, heart attacks, head injuries, and psychological trauma **3) catastrophic injuries** including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in the activities made possible by WMRS. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD The Regents of the University of California HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement at WMRS, and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of California and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgement of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and **understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Signature of User **Date**
(signature needed for each guest)

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor **Date**
Participant's Age (if minor)_____