

Spring 2008

# Darlingtonia

Newsletter of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society  
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

## PROTECTING NATIVE PLANTS WITH THE COUNTY'S GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

by Jennifer Kalt, North Coast CNPS's Conservation Chairperson

Currently, Humboldt County has no firm limits on where development can occur. Poorly planned subdivisions and residential development have caused the loss of thousands of acres of forestland and farmland since 1965. If this trend continues, projected population growth could consume another 74,000 acres of open space. Without firm policies to guide development, the face of Humboldt County could change forever.

The General Plan is the County's guide to planning long-term development. Its purpose is to put the community's values and goals down on paper as a blueprint for future land use planning. Once approved, the Plan will provide direction for the expansion of Humboldt County's built environment for the next 20 years. The Plan addresses land use, transportation, natural resources, and other related development topics.

Enacting a strong General Plan is the single most important way we can protect Humboldt County's natural treasures: native flora and fauna and their habitats, outdoor recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, air quality, pure drinking water, healthy fish populations, working lands that support farming, ranching, and timber production, and small-town character.

Today the County uses a plan that was approved in 1984. The General Plan Update was launched in 2000, and numerous meetings have been held for public input. Monthly hearings were held over the past year on potential details of each element, and in the near future, specific alternatives will be chosen by the Board of Supervisors. The next phase will include a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which will be another opportunity for public comment.

Several options are currently under consideration: Alternative A would accommodate the County's projected growth rate of 0.6% by focusing development into areas with existing urban services. Alternative B would have us grow twice as much by expanding outward, and Alternative C would have us grow at 3 times the projected rate. Alternative D would retain the 1984 plan without any update.

The **Conservation and Open Space Elements** are of primary interest to CNPS since they are devoted to preservation of habitat for plants, fish and wildlife species; rivers, streams, estuaries, and coastal beaches; managed production of resources, such as timberlands, rangeland, agricultural lands; areas required for recharge of ground water basins; scientific research purposes; etc. Other sections of interest to CNPS are the **Safety Element** which can be important in protecting riparian habitat in floodplains, and the **Water Resources Element**, which considers riparian and aquatic resources. The **Land Use and Housing Elements** are also important, since they guide where development will be focused – essentially defining how much land will be converted away from open space, or how much habitat will be lost to houses and other construction.

The **Healthy Humboldt Coalition** was formed 2004 by the Northcoast Environmental Center, Humboldt Watershed Council, and the local Sierra Club chapter, with Guiding Principles for the General Plan Update:

- Maintain separate and distinct small town communities with a variety of cultural and recreational amenities, surrounded by wild and working open spaces.
- Restore a sustainable relationship with our natural environment to provide for clean water, fish and wildlife, scenic beauty, and natural resources.
- Promote housing, education and health care to meet community needs throughout the County.

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### Where to find what's happening:

- ◇ Visit our website:  
[www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)
- ◇ Sign up for our announcements  
e-mail: [NorthCoast\\_CNPS-  
subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- ◇ Read the *Darlingtonia*
- ◇ Read or hear about upcoming events  
in local media

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## FIELD TRIPS AND PLANT WALKS

Please watch for later additions on our Web site ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) and in the local papers, or join our e-mail notification group (See our Web site). We welcome all levels of botanical knowledge on our trips. We are all out there to learn and enjoy.

**April 26, Saturday. South Fork Trinity Day Hike and Artist's Foray.** This favorite trail before the summer heat sets in. It features mixed evergreen forests of various ages, oak woodland, lush riparian, rock cliffs and outcrops, shrubby slopes, and gravelly seeps. Whether spring is early or late, we will see flowers in this diverse terrain. The trail is well graded, 4 miles each way to the river, but you don't have to go all the way. We may learn something about the nearby Underwood Roadless Area. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. **Artists note:** Bring your favorite media and join Rick Tolley in recording images of nature. The trailhead is 2 hrs from Arcata, east past Willow Creek and south along the South Fork. Return by dark. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange someplace else. Please call Carol 822-2015.

**May 10, Saturday. Russ Park Day Hike.** This shady, hilly, spruce-fir forest offers lush understory with favorites such as trillium, fairy bells, wild ginger, and inside-out flower. We'll try to scout the whole park by walking all the trails, about 4 miles. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata), 9:30 at MacDonalds end of Bayshore Mall parking lot, or 10:00 at the parking area on Bluff St. in Ferndale. (Turn left off Main onto Ocean, go 1/2 mile.) Return by dark. It's good to tell Carol you are coming 822-2015.

**June 8, Sunday. Rhododendron Day Hike.** Blooming rhododendrons are a good possibility on Rhododendron Trail in Prairie Creek State Park. We will shuttle a car to Brown Creek Trailhead so that we can walk Rhododendron Trail north from park headquarters and turn down Brown Creek Trail to the road, about 5 miles. It's beautiful redwoods and Douglas fir all the way. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata), 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot by the entry kiosk at Prairie Creek State Park, or arrange another place. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Carol 822-2015

**June 14, Saturday. Cold Spring Day Hike.** Only 1 1/4 hours from Arcata we will be admiring clovers, violets, lomatiums, trillium, fritillary, iris, zigadenus, pussyears, collinsia, and more on a meadowy slope at 4,600 ft. elevation above Redwood Creek. Cold Spring is 7.4 miles from Highway 299 on National Forest 1 (Titlow Hill Rd.) in Six Rivers National Forest. The meadow is a quarter mile walk downhill from the parking area. Bring lunch, water, and layers of clothing. You can leave any time; some of us will stay all day. Other spots along NF 1 will tempt us to stop. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange a different place. Call Carol 822-2015.

**June 28, Saturday. Crescent City Marsh short hike.** This hot spot of rare species is a treasure in our midst, currently suffering from too much protection and too little grazing. Come see Western lily, bogbean, marsh violet, great burnett, bog orchid, Arctic starflower, and more, with rare plant expert Dave Imper. Walking is short distance but soggy; rubber boots recommended. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or at 10 a.m. in Crescent City at the end of Waldo Rd. (From 101 turn inland on Elk Valley Rd. After about a mile turn right on Howland Hill Rd. After about half mile turn right on Waldo.) Probably finish about 1 p.m. Please tell Dave 444-2756 or Carol 822-2015 that you are coming.

**June 28-29, Saturday-Sunday. Rock Creek Ranch, South Fork Smith River, day hikes and overnight.** Beautiful river, diverse flora, comfortable camping or lodging, great campfire, friends from NPS Oregon, all thanks to and supporting the Smith River Alliance, a great conservation organization. This is their new facility on a 15-acre ranch only 30 minutes from Crescent City. We will go there after the Crescent City Marsh tour and botanize the ranch area until dark or we drop, whichever comes first. Think *Darlingtonia* and butterworts, inland Doug fir forest, and more. We will have use of a large, covered, outdoor kitchen and of a ranch house. You may sleep in the ranch house (\$30) or in your tent outside (\$20). Some info at [www.smithriveralliance.org](http://www.smithriveralliance.org). On Sunday we will have to choose from the many fun drives or hikes close by. Bring your own food. We can plan a cooperative dinner for those who want. We will head for home some time Sunday afternoon. Please tell Carol if you are coming or might come, all or part: 822-2015.

**July 3-6, Friday-Sunday. Mt. Eddy and Scott Mt. Day Hikes and Optional Overnights.** Come on any or all. Join the campout at Scott Mt. Summit (one hour north of Weaverville on rte 3), find lodging in Weaverville or Trinity Center, or leave home early for the day. The campground, at 5,400 ft., is primitive—vault toilet, no piped water. Please tell Carol 822-2015 you are coming and when.

Celebrate **Fourth of July atop Mt. Eddy!** Anywhere along the trail to Deadfall Lake and Mt. Eddy (9,025 ft.) is a good place to celebrate, with mountain flowers of serpentine woodland, mountain streams, and meadows. The Deadfall Lake circle route is about six miles. The side trip to Mt. Eddy summit adds a steep 2 miles more. Meet at the Parks Creek Trailhead on FS Rd 17 (Parks Creek Rd.) at 9 a.m., three hours from Arcata. Bring lots of water or a filter, lunch and snack, and layers of clothing including warm hat and gloves.

**July 5 and 6** we will explore the wonderful meadow at Scott Mt. Summit, the Pacific Crest Trail, and/or other nearby trails. Participants can help decide which.

**July 13, Sunday. Waterdog Lake: Plant, Butterfly, and Bird Day Hike.** A CNPS-Audubon joint event. Famous for its butterfly diversity, tiny Waterdog Lake is our destination on a two-mile trail through diverse mountain habitats: white fir and Sadler oak; regeneration from the 1999 Megram Fire; creekside mountain alder thicket; gravelly bald; wet, rocky hillside; red fir; and a small, sedgy meadow (with gentians) around the land-locked pond. The trail gains about 1,000 ft elevation, starting at 5,300 ft., but is not steep. Bring lunch, snack, at least 2 quarts water, and many layers of clothing. Meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Two hour drive to the trailhead northeast of Hoopa. Return 6 p.m. or earlier. Call Carol 822-2015.

**August 1-4, Friday-Monday. Tentative Mt. Lassen expedition.** Will you go? If enough people tell Carol by May 15 that they will come, she will plan a 3- or 4-night trip to this spectacular mountain. The back-up plan is a 1- or 2-night campout closer to home. Suggestions welcome. 822-2015.

## CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

### EVENING PROGRAMS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) holds free Public Programs on the second Wednesday of each month (September through May) at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 and program at 7:30 p.m. You don't have to be a CNPS member to attend! Contact Audrey Miller, Programs Chairperson at [taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net](mailto:taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net) or 786-9701, with speaker or botanical subject suggestions.

**April 9**

**"The World Underfoot" Ecologist and Director of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, Emily Robertson.** She will explain and explore the real life drama going on in the complex worlds of soil. "Soils are not only dirt or plant's growth media - they are worlds unto themselves. Bacteria, fungi, invertebrates, mammals and other organisms thrive in healthy soils - preying upon each other, jostling for space, and competing for food and water." In addition to the internal saga of soils, Robertson will illustrate how the inner workings of soil make life on earth possible, ecosystems distinctive, and more importantly, why people should care.

**May 14**

**"Native Plant Landscaping"** Speaker—TBD We will have either:

- **"Backyard Restoration Gardening" with Judith Larner Lowry**—author, seed conservator, philosopher, and native plant consultant. Her first book, 'Gardening With A Wild Heart' inspired many to pursue native gardening from a restoration viewpoint. Her recently published second book, 'The Landscaping Ideas of Jays,' continues to explore the beauty, challenges, and rewards of growing native plants. *or*
- **"Frogs in Your Garden" with Ellin Beltz**—local author ('Frogs, Inside Their Remarkable World'), biologist, educator, and photographer. She will show you how to provide frogs with everything they need in your garden.

### NATIVE PLANT CONSULTATION SERVICE



Are you wondering which plants in your yard are native? Are you unsure if that vine in the corner is an invasive exotic? Would you like to know some native species that would grow well in your yard?

The North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society offers the Native Plant Consultation Service to answer these questions and to give advice on gardening with natives. If you are a member of CNPS, this service is free, if not, you can join or make a donation to our chapter.

A phone call to our coordinator, Kathy Dilley at 825-7665, will put you in touch with a team of volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to your property to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.

### OTHER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

#### All Species Parade during the North Country Fair

Two *Darlingtonia* puppets with their bearers, Carol Ralph and Felicity Wasser, ready for the All Species Parade during the North Country Fair, Sept. 23, 2007.

If you would like to join the 2008 parade in costume or with a puppet of *Darlingtonia* or any other native plant, please do! You just need to make it! We could be a whole marsh! With a ferny forest beside! For ideas or information call Carol (822-2015). Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008, 1:00 p.m. (These puppets were made by Carol Ralph and Laura Julian)



# NORTH COAST CNPS WILDFLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE

**Free Admission**

## SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

**May 2, 3, and 4**

**Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, and Sun 10-4**

- Hundreds of wildflowers from seashore to mountains, labeled and displayed by family in vases and pots
- Displays of plant life in the dunes and in the redwood forest, of invasive plants, of edible plants, and of local insects
- Presentation by Ruthie Maloney on Native American ways with plants
- Artists' Night--free drawing workshop with Rick Tolley and friends, Friday evening
- Flower identification lessons
- Guided walks in the dunes
- Books to browse
- Wildflower posters for sale
- For updated information: see our web site [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org), future publicity, or call 822-2015 or 822-7190.



*Trillium ovatum*  
Photo courtesy of Charles Webber  
© California Academy of Sciences

You can help this festive event! We need people to collect flowers near and far; identify them, arrange them, set up tables, work shifts at tables, bring refreshments for volunteers, lead school groups, etc. We have small and big jobs, indoor and outdoor jobs, public and behind-the-scene jobs. Most jobs require no botanical knowledge. To volunteer call 822-2015 or 822-7190.



## NATIVE PLANT SALE

**May 3 and 4**

**Sat 10-4 and Sun 10-4**

Manila Community Center  
1611 Peninsula Dr., Manila  
(between Arcata and Samoa Bridge off Hwy 255)

- Trees and shrubs
- Perennials, including ferns and bulbs
- Annuals
- Experienced gardeners to help you
- Bring the beauties of Humboldt's forests, meadows, and dunes to your garden!

All proceeds support the North Coast Chapter's  
Activities Information: 441-9545



North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)  
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS by Carol Ralph

### HAMMOND TRAIL, 24 February 2008

The forecast was for high winds and heavy rain, but five of us put on our raingear and enjoyed a delightful morning walking the Hammond Trail in McKinleyville from Hiller Park north to the end of Letz Rd. The trail was sheltered, and the rain didn't start until noon. We confirmed that what matters is the weather right here right now, and that everyone should have clothing to deal with all weather, because it is so good to go out.

We also confirmed that botanizing in winter can be rewarding. Without deciduous leaves interfering, thickets are transparent, revealing what is in the middle or even on the other side. Instead of leaves, trees and shrubs show off their branch patterns, textures, twig colors, and bud sizes and shapes. We noted the pointed, brown buds of cascara *Rhamnus purshiana*. Different species leaf out at different times, so each week different species are conspicuous. We saw fresh, new leaves emerging from buds on red-flowering currant *Ribes sanguineum*, canyon gooseberry *Ribes menziesii*, and twinberry *Lonicera involucrata*. The tired, green fronds of spreading wood fern *Dryopteris expansa* caught our eye because the similar fronds of lady fern *Athyrium felix-femina* were dead.

The trail had four sections. Along Hiller Park and the sewage ponds it was lined by Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis* and red alder *Alnus rubra*, with plenty of coastal willow *Salix hookeriana*, twinberry, and cascara, and a smattering of other trees and shrubs. Dark pink dangles of red-flowering currant and erupting white heads of coltsfoot *Petasites frigidus* assured us that spring was starting.

As the trail crossed a small creek by the sewage ponds, it entered a spruce-y tunnel with walls of salal *Gaultheria shalon*, ferns (lady and sword *Polystichum munitum*), blackberry *Rubus ursinus*, and English ivy *Hedera helix*. This section was once the bed of a railroad, dug out about 5 ft. below grade. Wet ditches along each side offered possibilities for wetland plants. We appreciated a few cheery, yellow blooms of redwood violet *Viola sempervirens*.

After the trail crossed Knox Cove Dr. (of castle fame), it entered coastal scrub, as it cut along the steep bank overlooking the current mouth of the Mad River. Gardeners wanting to stabilize sunny banks should study this dense, wind-pruned mix of coyote brush *Baccharis pilularis*, coast silk tassel *Garrya elliptica*, evergreen huckleberry *Vaccinium ovatum*, blueblossom *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, salal, twinberry, wax myrtle *Myrica californica*, salmonberry *Rubus spectabilis*, cow parsnip *Heracleum lanatum*, sword fern, bee plant *Scrophularia californica*, etc. In full bloom, the silk tassel were decked with either long, floppy male catkins or shorter, stiff female catkins.

The trail continued past the foot of Murray Rd. and turned up the bank to the level of the houses, passed a stand of pine, and then offered the option of turning left down steep steps to Widow White Creek. Redwood Community Action Agency, with various other groups, has totally remodeled the creek here to be fish-friendly, cut and graded the path, fenced it, and installed an enormous, metal, prison-like bridge, making it possible to walk through here. We are grateful. Along the steep steps down was a thriving patch of milkmaids *Cardamine californica*, sporting fresh, pinky white flowers, one of our early spring favorites. The prize of this path was the grove of spruce above the creek, where no fence separated us from the vegetation. In this open grove we spotted five species of fern (sword, lady, spreading wood, leather *Polypodium scoleri*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*) and three of *Ribes* (red-flowering currant, canyon gooseberry, and trailing black currant *R. laxiflorum*). The *R. laxiflorum* was a snarl of snaky, woody stems around the base of an alder. Its leaf buds were just opening. This species is uncommon.

The Hammond Trail is maintained by Humboldt County. It was wide and clean, recently trimmed by an arm-mower. The trail right-of-way was therefore fairly clear of invasive species. Just off the trail, however, on private property, where County can not go, was a scary assortment of non-native species known to spread into wildlands. Some, such as fuchsia, escalonia, crocosmia, and Himalaya knotweed *Polygonum polystachyum* have obviously jumped, crept, or been thrown out of people's yards. Others, such as Himalayan blackberry *Rubus discolor*, pampas grass *Cortaderia jubata*, and English ivy, are rampant in our area, dispersed widely by birds or wind. English ivy was swamping vegetation along most of the trail. Himalaya blackberry was abundant at the Hiller Park end. These species only get bigger; they don't shrink. The sooner they are controlled, the easier it will be. This is also true of Cape (or German) ivy *Senecio mikanioides*. We saw one of this bright green vine, scrambling in a large thicket of native blackberry, now dark maroon in winter colors. Given the severity of Cape ivy infestations along the California coast and the difficulty of removing this species, it should be high priority to remove this one now. But who will? Who owns the land? Do they know or care what a threat they harbor? Here is a dire need for public education. CNPS is trying to be part of the solution.

We recommend this section of the Hammond Trail for a local, easy walk and a review of common trees and shrubs.

### FALL COLORS ON THE MOUNTAIN, 20 October 2007

In 2007 fall met winter on October 20. That is when nine of us were admiring colors of deciduous trees and shrubs along Highway 299 to Berry Summit and then up Titlow Hill Rd toward Horse Mountain. As we reached the ridge, the first snow of the winter settled on the damp ground and dark conifers. One car turned back, and the two 4-wheel drive vehicles proceeded gingerly, in awe of the winter wonderland in which we suddenly found ourselves. The snow accumulated to 1.5 inches before we turned down Friday Ridge Rd., to lower altitude, where it was still fall and felt a different world.

By the second stop on this tour it became clear that we should have brought a Thesaurus or a Munz Color Chart. How many words for "yellow" do you know? Do you really know what color "chartreuse" is? Our vocabularies were inadequate to describe accurately the colors we were seeing. Lacking accuracy we resorted to poesy. The patches of bigleaf maples *Acer macrophyllum* on the green, conifer-covered hillsides were "glowing embers" or "gaudy, glorious gold." The mountain dogwood *Cornus nuttallii* in the fir grove on the ridge, backed by the fresh white snow, was "peach rosee" or "rapturous, rubescent"

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## OTHER GROUPS' ACTIVITIES

### CNPS 2009 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE: STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS January 17 - 19, 2009 · Sacramento Convention Center & Sheraton Grand Hotel



The CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions aims to bring together over 1,000 scientists, conservationists, university students, public policy makers, local and regional planners, and land managers from all regions of the state and beyond to share and learn about the latest developments in conservation science and public policy.

The main goal of this conference is to identify and promote science- and policy-based strategies and solutions to improve the conservation of California's native flora and natural landscapes. To learn more visit <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009/>.

Conference topics include: climate change and California's flora; rare plant conservation and restoration; mitigation and monitoring of impacts on native plants; invasive species; vegetation classification and mapping for plant conservation; conservation genetics; equal protection policies for plants; regional planning tools; land management; plant-science, and more.

**Contributed Oral and Poster Abstracts Submission Period: March 1 to June 30, 2008.**

**Registration opens July 1, 2008** and more details will be posted to <http://www.cnps.org/registration>

as they are available.

**Volunteers are still needed!** If you'd like to help, on-site, during the conference please contact Andrea Williams, [Andrea\\_Williams@nps.gov](mailto:Andrea_Williams@nps.gov). Partial rebates of conference registration are available to on-site conference volunteers, with students and new professionals given the first option for volunteer positions and rebates. More details can be found on the conference website.

To help with planning this Conference, contact Josie Crawford at [jcrawford@cnps.org](mailto:jcrawford@cnps.org)

### AN 800+ ACRE PROJECT BEGINS WITH A SINGLE MEETING: HUMBOLDT COUNTY SPARTINA SUMMIT 2008

By Joel Gerwein of the Coastal Conservancy

Invasive dense-flowered cordgrass (*Spartina densiflora*) has been recognized as a problem in Humboldt Bay since the 1980's, when it was first identified as a non-indigenous species. But no one has yet been able to tackle the problem regionally. The widespread dominance of *Spartina* in the marshes of Humboldt Bay, the Eel River Delta, and the Mad River Slough- it is present in over 800 acres of marshes in Humboldt Bay alone- make the problem a daunting one. And the species has been here so long- approximately 150 years- that there are legitimate concerns about the effects of eradicating it. Andrea Pickart, ecologist at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, has been directing efforts to control this species with mechanical methods in the Mad River Slough area. While she and her co-workers succeeded initially in removing *Spartina* from a mainland salt marsh, they were met with a flush of new *Spartina* seedlings when they returned to the site in fall 2007. That was when Pickart realized that the problem couldn't be dealt with piecemeal. At the same time that she was coming to this realization, invasive *Spartina* was becoming a West Coast priority, prominent in the Action Plan for the 2007 West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. The time was ripe to plan a Humboldt County effort to control the species.

The Humboldt County *Spartina* Summit, held in Eureka on February 13, was the first step in this planning effort. Over 50 scientists, land managers, environmental professionals, and community members gathered to share information about the status of invasive *Spartina* and control programs in the region and up and down the West Coast, and to explore regional *Spartina* management scenarios. The summit was sponsored by the State Coastal Conservancy, the California Ocean Protection Council, and the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The morning and early afternoon consisted of a series of presentations about *Spartina* in Humboldt County, San Francisco Bay, the Oregon Coast, and Willapa Bay in Washington. Presentations ranged from the natural history and distribution of invasive *Spartina* to a primer on net primary productivity (NPP) and the potential implications for the NPP of the Humboldt Bay ecosystem if saltgrass and pickleweed are substituted for *Spartina*. Peggy Olofson, Director of the Invasive *Spartina* Project, and Kim Patten of Washington State Cooperative Extension, shared inspiring images of muddy weed warriors tackling invasive *Spartina* in San Francisco and Willapa Bays, as well as intimidating stories about the difficulties of controlling the species. Mark Sytsma, Director of Portland State's Center for Lake and Reservoirs, discussed the threat posed by dispersing seeds from Humboldt Bay *Spartina* to other west coast salt marshes. Following the presentations, summit participants split into small groups to discuss the effects of the *Spartina* invasion, the potential impacts of controlling the species, and various approaches to taking on this challenge. Group discussions covered almost as much ground as *Spartina* does in Humboldt Bay, touching on topics as varied as the impact of *Spartina* on the food web of Humboldt Bay marshes, the potential impacts of herbicide use on our marshes, and how to involve a broad spectrum of community groups in salt marsh restoration. After a long day inside, a small group of summit participants visited Vance Marsh to see *Spartina* and other salt marsh plants up close and personal. Even as we shivered in the cold wind, we couldn't help but marvel at the beauty and diversity of the marsh. We all agreed that our salt marshes are a treasure worth saving.



Closeup of *Spartina densiflora* in florescence

More information about the invasive *Spartina* in Humboldt County is available at the refuge website:

<http://www.fws.gov/humboldtбай/spartina.html>. Presentations given at the summit and a summary of group discussions can be found on the refuge website at: <http://www.fws.gov/humboldtбай/spartinsummit.html>. Interested in getting involved in ongoing control efforts and regional planning? E-mail Andrea Pickart at [Andrea.Pickart@fws.gov](mailto:Andrea.Pickart@fws.gov).

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

<b>President</b>	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
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<b>T-Shirt Sales</b>	Gail Popham	444-3316	popham@humboldt1.com
<b>Workshops</b>	Gordon Leppig	839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov
<b>Wildflower Show</b>	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details
<b>NEC NC CNPS Representative</b>	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jkalt@asis.com

### COMMUNICATIONS

North Coast CNPS members have three ways to share information with each other:

1. The **Darlingtonia Newsletter** (quarterly),
2. Our chapter's website (**www.northcoastcnps.org** - updated regularly), and
3. E-mail lists/forums (Announcements, Business, and Gardening – subscribe from the **E-mail lists and Forums** page on [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)).

The *Darlingtonia* is the quarterly newsletter of the North Coast Chapter of CNPS. Items for submittal to *Darlingtonia* should be sent to [marisa\\_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com](mailto:marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com) by each quarterly deadline: December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Botanical articles, poetry, stories, photographs, illustrations, sightings, news items, action alerts, events, factoids, tidbits, etc. are welcome and appreciated.

### EcoNEWS AND YOU

We, the North Coast Chapter of CNPS, are a member organization of the **Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC)**, a valuable voice for conservation in our area. This means we have a seat on the board of directors. It also means that as our member you are automatically entitled to receive the NEC's monthly publication, **EcoNews**.

Due to the vagaries of membership lists, you might not be receiving this informative newsletter. If you are a member of our chapter, do not receive *EcoNews*, and want to receive it, phone 707-822-6918 or e-mail [nec@yournec.org](mailto:nec@yournec.org) and leave the pertinent information.

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red," as well as yellowy green and brown, and truly luminous due to a transparency of the leaves. Balls of bright red, pea-sized fruits, each with a shiny black "eye" decorated the dogwood. We descended through arbors of glowing gold between walls of dark green (more maples) to the zone of lustrous green canyon live oaks *Quercus chrysolepis* and madrones *Arbutus menziesii*. The madrone were heavy with brilliant red berries. Poison oak *Toxicodendron diversilobum* contributed caustic scarlet, yellow, faded red, and muddy green to the palette. Some redbud *Cercis occidentalis* were still green, while others nearby bore soft red, dusky rose, and peachy medallions.

We also noted the subtler colors. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* we described as soft, cinnamon brown, or rich brown with a touch of gold, bronze, and copper. Pale yellow leaves hung on the pale pink stems of goatsbeard *Aruncus dioicus*, topped with brown tassels of dry inflorescence. Scouler willow *Salix scouleriana* was speckly brown. The white oak *Quercus garryana* was motley, dirty brown; the black oak *Quercus kelloggii* was too, or "antique gold", depending on your outlook. Many species stayed conservatively in the gentle yellows: cream bush *Holodiscus discolor*, hazelnut *Corylus cornuta*, snowberry *Symphoricarpos mollis*, thimbleberry *Rubus parviflorus*. There was ghostly yellow, luminescent yellow, amber, honey, mustard, and bronze.

Some species--a gooseberry *Ribes*, vine maple *Acer circinatum* (one at Berry Summit), poison oak, dogwood-- offered a range of colors on one plant, green, yellow, orange, and red. Some were quite uniform--bigleaf maple. Some had each leaf a uniform color--snowberry. Others were variegated-- *Aruncus*; zoned-- *Ribes*; or blotchy-- *Quercus*.

Thanks to a touch of magic in the form of a key, we crossed a gate through a grove of old Douglas fir to lunch at the Brush Mountain Lookout, a lookout tower and hut accompanied by antennae, weather station, vault toilet, and propane tank atop a brushy, rounded peak cleared for a vast vista. Billowy, cold, gray clouds floated both above and below us, threatening precipitation but pierced intermittently by a gentle sun. The shrubbery was diverse (even not including the imported specimens); the prospects for spring enticing.

We headed home back over Berry Summit in the afternoon satisfied with a full day of focusing on a beautiful phenomenon, of sharing vocabularies, observations, and excitement, and of seeing the seasons change.

### **BIG FLAT IN THE TRINITY ALPS, 3-5 August 2007**

Our destination and campsite for two nights on this mountain trip was Big Flat, a meadow at 5,760 ft elevation at the end of the road up Coffee Creek, which provides access deep into the Trinity Alps. The road was only 19 miles long off Highway 3 north of Weaverville, but required a full hour to drive. The Forest Service campsite was in a grove of large white firs *Abies concolor*, lacking undergrowth, on a bluff 50-100 feet above the Salmon River, the only source of water. The bare granite outcrops of Caribou Mt. loomed or glowed, depending on the light, above the river. This is the spot where the west-flowing South Fork of the Salmon River captured the high mountain source of north-flowing Coffee Creek, leaving the Big Flat meadow without flowing water at the head of this creek.

The meadow itself in early August was mostly very dry and attracted little of our attention. The north end showed rings of ephemeral vegetation where shallow ponds had dried. Much of the meadow was a dense turf of knee-high sedges, grasses, and rushes, likely an attraction to and/or a product of cattle and horse grazing, still in progress on this private land. The lowest edge of the meadow was adjacent to the campground and featured some seeps and wet spots. We investigated these briefly one evening, finding in bloom some appropriate fun plants: *Hastingsia*, corn lily *Veratrum*, monkeyflower *Mimulus*, two species of sneezeweed *Helenium*, ladies' tresses *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*, and two species of yampah *Perideridia*. A few quaking aspen *Populus tremuloides* edge the meadow. (Our focus on exploring left little time for identifying things to species. Where I am not positive of the species, I will provide only the genus. Maybe some day I will know the species!)

For our major exploration, all day Saturday, all seven of us headed up the river from the camp, partly on trail, partly on the river bank. We soon separated according to our interests. The artists set up easels in scenic spots; the bird-watchers lingered at a fantastic flock of warblers and other migrants in the riverside cottonwoods and willows; the botanists scouted and browsed for the most special plants. We convened at lunch on the riverbank to compare notes and sketches. Then we proceeded with greater determination to see what the trail was like beyond the river crossing, going about 20 minutes beyond that point to where we encountered red fir *Abies magnifica* before retracing our steps to camp and a beautiful campfire supper.

The vegetation reflected the intermediate elevation of the site. It had white firs, lodgepole pines *Pinus contorta* ssp. *murrayana*, western white pines *Pinus monticola*, and mountain alders *Alnus incana* from the higher regions mixed with ponderosa pine *Pinus ponderosa*, Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and white oak *Quercus garryana* from the lower. White firs were most abundant, creating stands with little other vegetation. Some of the smaller mountain forest denizens we spotted were white-veined wintergreen *Pyrola picta*, one-sided wintergreen *Orthilia secunda*, little princes pine *Chimaphila menziesii*, and western princes pine *Ch. umbellata*, all in the wintergreen family. The river bed provided grassy patches, dry pools, sedgy marshes, and gravelly beds and a good assortment of herbaceous species, as well as the cottonwoods, willows, and conifers. I found five species of *Mimulus* blooming, all cute, small, and yellow, and four species of *Ribes* in fruit. The most spectacular flowers were seven-foot tall spikes of dark blue delphiniums *Delphinium*.

On Sunday we decided to explore one of the other trails with access from Coffee Creek Rd. The trailhead was not conspicuous or labeled, but from the maps we thought we were headed up a short trail to Adams Lake. The trail climbed gradually through Douglas fir-white fir forest, occasionally crossing a seep or even a stream. We practiced conifers and at the wet spots the deciduous shrubs (cascara *Rhamnus purshiana*, hazelnut *Corylus cornuta*, and elderberry *Sambucus*). After about 3.5 miles we were encountering dry meadows but no lake. We had exhausted at least half of our energy and time, so we turned around and made it down to the cars in 2 hours. We concluded that we had explored the South Fork Coffee Creek Trail. Everyone must

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have enjoyed it anyway. No one suggested firing the navigator.

We returned to civilization relishing our dose of mountain air, granite vistas, clear, burbling water, and tired feet, with our plant lists, paintings, and photographs as memories to share.

PS. Curious to see the real Adams Lake Trail two of the group returned a few weeks later and found it. It was very steep, through conifers until the last quarter mile, which traversed alder thickets. The lake was ringed tightly by alder and sedge, and there was no associated meadow.

## NEW LOCAL AND STATE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

By Joan Watanabe, Membership Chairperson

**New for 2008:** CNPS has begun issuing **membership cards!** These will be sent to members as they renew in the future months. To attract and reward members, we are contacting business owners to request support in the way of **discounts**.

The offers so far:

- **Freshwater Farms:** 10% off plant purchases, 444-8261
- **Miller Farms:** 5% discount on plant materials, 839-1571
- **Mad River Gardens:** 10% discount on plant purchases, 822-7049
- **Let it Grow Horticultural Supplies:** 10% discount on all merchandise, 822-8733
- **Greenlot Nursery,** 10% discount on plants, 443-9484
- **Sherwood Forest Nursery,** 10% discount on plants, 442-3339
- **Bamboo & Maples,** 10% discount on plants, 445-1281

Please show proof of membership in the form of your current *Darlingtonia* newsletter with mailing label, until such time as you receive your membership card. (Note: **Discounts on plants** are those **not already on sale** for the above merchants. )



And look for discounts by other businesses and gardens to be listed in future CNPS Bulletins and the CNPS website.



## *DARLINGTONIA* NOW AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

- Look up an article from an old issue
- Search for articles about a specific native plant or fun place to hike
- Save a tree

Whatever your reason, visit our chapter's website at [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org) and click on the Newsletter link to download a free copy of the *Darlingtonia*.

If you prefer to receive only an electronic copy, please e-mail me (the newsletter editor [marisa\\_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com](mailto:marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com)). You will receive an e-mail publication notification with a link to the webpage (no attachments).



## THE BUZZ ON BEES LECTURE SERIES AND PLANT SALE

Hosted by the Friends of the Natural History Museum • Saturday, April 26, 12-4:30 p.m.

Speakers for the event include:

- Dr. Eric Mussen, an award-winning apiculturist and the state expert on bees from the Department of Entomology at UC Davis, who will give a talk titled "Who Needs Bees? The Value of Honey Bees in Agriculture and Home Gardens"
- Dr. Michael Messler, a botanist at the Department of Biological Sciences at Humboldt State University and an expert on native bees, who will give a lecture called "The Buzz on Native Bees"
- Dick LaForge, a member of the Humboldt Beekeeper's Association and an instructor in beekeeping, who will give a talk titled "Beekeeping Basics"

The event kicks off at noon on Saturday, April 26 at the Veteran' Memorial Building, 1425 J St., Arcata with a "Bee Friendly" plant and book sale outside the lecture hall. Lectures run all afternoon. Tickets for the event, a museum fundraiser, are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 826-4479 using a credit card or in person at Humboldt State University's Natural History Museum, 1315 G St., Arcata.

## MEMBERS CORNER

### Welcome to our new members:

Anthony Andreoli  
Mattie Culver  
Prairie Johnston  
Ann Sierka  
Donna Wildearth  
Hope Woodward

### Thank you to our renewing members:

Marjorie E. Adams  
Helen G. Anderson

Linda M. Barker  
Colette Beaupre  
Don Begnoche  
Pat M. Bitton  
Sydney Carothers  
Jennifer Chambers  
E.M. Zsazsa Dallenbach  
Marisa D'Arpino  
W. B. Devall  
Jan Dobak  
Bill Eastwood  
Annie L. Eicher  
Kaylea Eickhoff  
Joan Elk  
Yvonne Everett and Judith Mayer  
Nancy Fahey

Christy Graham  
Shayne Green  
Jackie and John D. Hamilton  
Bret Harvey  
Shauna Hee  
Chris Heppe  
Stanley Hino  
Chris Jenican-Beresford  
Joyce King  
John Knight  
Marla A. Knight  
Tony LaBanca  
Cheryl Lisin  
T. Zephyr Markowitz  
Karen K. Mayer  
Corinna McDavitt  
Elizabeth McGee

Audrey Miller  
Ken Miller  
Linda Miller  
Carol Moné  
Rita Orlandini  
John Palmer  
Oona Paloma  
Andrea Pickart  
Allison Poklemba  
Gail Popham  
Pete Ryan  
Diane Ryerson  
Sandra Shearer  
Veva Stansell  
Nezzie Wade  
Anda Webb  
Jane Wilson

## PLANT PROFILE

### SPREADING WOOD FERN *Dryopteris expansa*

by Carol Ralph

If you are walking through the woods in winter, as we were on the Hammond Trail field trip Feb. 24, and you say to yourself, "Why are some of the lady ferns dead and brown while others are green?", then you have discovered spreading wood fern *Dryopteris expansa*. At this time of year a fern with large, soft, finely divided, clustered, green fronds is this species. The important field mark is that the lowest leaflets of the frond are the longest, and they are lop-sided, having longer secondary leaflets pointing down than up. I call these "thumbs."

In summer fronds of lady fern *Athyrium felix-femina* are similar size, texture, and arrangement, but they have the longest leaflets in the middle. Small leaflets are on the lower stalk. Lady fern fronds look tattered and tired by November and in February they are brown and dry. Fresh, fragile, bright green new fronds uncurl in April.

Spreading wood fern and lady fern differ in other important but less conspicuous ways. The sori (clusters of brown spores on the lower side of the frond) of wood fern are round; those of lady fern are long like a grain of rice and slightly curved. This wood fern usually grows on dead wood, like a fallen trunk or branch, perhaps mostly decomposed, while lady fern grows in mud or wet soil.

Ferns are a fun group to study. The number of species here is manageable, while large enough that there are new ones to look for and you will feel accomplishment as you discover you can distinguish them. I still remember my excitement when I first noticed that "some of these lady ferns are different!"

## NORTH COAST CNPS VOLUNTEERS

### Thank You:

**Sunny Loya, Judie Hinman, and Anda Webb** for organizing and staffing a successful fall plant sale.

**Pete Haggard, Chris Beresford, Wanda Naylor, and Janelle Egger** for staffing the plant sale.

**Miller Farms Nursery** for donating a new Fremontodendron for our southwest Arcata Plaza bed.

**Pete Haggard and Sunny Loya** for leading a plant walk or field trip.

**Felicity Wasser** for a good year of poster sales.

**Ron Johnson** for coordinating that fun December program.

**Gail Popham, Barbara Kelly, Jim and Virginia Waters, Felicity Wasser, Frances Ferguson, Steve Norman, Gwynneth and Paul Carothers** for staffing our booth at the North Country Fair.

**Virginia Waters and Sylvia White** for greeting visitors at the Hammond Trail Celebration.

**Frank Milelcik and others** for extra help at our huge, fun March program

**Larry Levine** for hard and careful work in crafting and passing weed management and herbicide policies at the Chapter Council

**Get Involved:** Contact Carol Ralph 822-2015 or appropriate person from our roster.

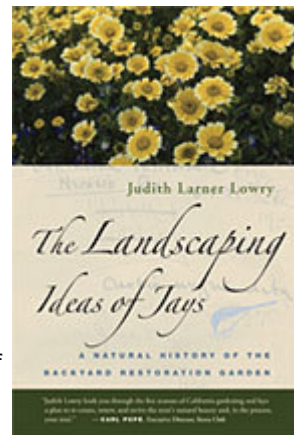
**Outreach Coordinator** to get our pamphlets, fliers, and information to events like North Country Fair, Trinidad Garden Show, Godwit Days. Other people will staff the tables.

**Flower Power Chair** to coordinate the talented volunteers who make the Wildflower Show happen.

**Wildflower Show.** You can help this festive event! We need people to collect flowers near and far, identify them, arrange them, set up tables, work shifts at tables, bring refreshments for volunteers, lead school groups, etc. We have small and big jobs, indoor and outdoor jobs, public and behind-the-scene jobs. Most jobs require no botanical knowledge. You will gain some at the show! To volunteer call 822-2015 or 822-7190

***The Landscaping Ideas of Jays***  
by Judith Larner Lowry  
2007 UC Press Berkeley & Los Angeles

Where do we get our landscaping ideas? Larner Lowry's continuing observations on the theme of restoration gardening pick up seamlessly where *Gardening with a Wild Heart* left off. *The Landscaping Ideas of Jays*--specifically *Scrub Jays* (see Chapter 7) is arranged seasonally, and like the previous book, the text is permeated with love, the tone gentle, with facts woven gingerly into a weft of natural history, observation, storytelling and even gardening. There is not a pedantic line in the entire 232 pages, yet the reader, already a gardener or botanist, one might assume, gains plenty of information and insight. Furthermore, if woody debris and pond scum turn you on, you are going to absolutely love this book! In trying to analyze why I like this woman's writing so much--and it started long ago with her little nursery newsletters--a recent trip to Los Angeles clinched it. Confession: I spent the first twenty years of my life there and during that time I got to watch the complete destruction of place. Along this thread of what once was, Larner Lowry includes much painfully thought-provoking historical and ethnographic material, including my favorite quote, from William Least Heat Moon, explaining why botanical information was deliberately withheld from the Europeans, "...so that the thieves got the big machine but not the operating



instructions." To this day, most of us remain predominantly unaware of the "operating instructions" for our biome. It hurts to read of so much destruction, since any book on California flora is bound to be a book on the disappearance thereof, yet hints of the revitalization of original California cuisine (*Calindrina ciliata* cakes, anyone?) and the continuing work of restoration is always hopeful. And such a potpourri of information! Biography, ethnography, history, botany, landscape design, random thoughts on the greater meaning of things, and, do you talk to plants? At what point does one become a true inhabitant of a place? Larner Lowry is more "native" a Californian than I am, despite her east-coast origin. And she tells the stories of other successful female transplants as well, women botanists like Gerda Isenberg, Lester Rowntree and Edith Van Allen Murphey. Larner Lowry's name will be on the list some day.

Society is like a stew. If you don't keep it stirred up you get a lot of scum on the top.  
-Edward Abbey (1927-1989)

Consider the Environment before you print this!

(Continued from page 1)

- Reduce County infrastructure costs by channeling new growth to existing cities and communities currently served by water and sewer.
- Support locally-based businesses and industries.
- Ensure a locally sustainable energy future.
- Provide clear and concise County land-use policies for the public.

Focusing new development in existing communities where services already exist (a.k.a. "infill") will help protect open space and working lands while reducing County infrastructure costs (roads, sewer and water lines, and police/fire services). It will also help maintain the small-town character of the different communities, with agricultural land and forestlands creating community separators while preventing the type of sprawl that has consumed much of California.

According to state law, conversion of open space to urban uses and noncontiguous development patterns (which unnecessarily increase the costs of community services to community residents) should be discouraged. Nonetheless, developers and realtors' lobbying groups are pressing for no limits to development to promote their economic interests despite consistent, broad public comments opposing this type of rampant sprawl. The final outcome will depend upon participation by community members in the next stages of the process.

### **What's Next?**

The General Plan Update defines the future of our community, and it's critical that we all weigh in on where Humboldt County is going in the next few decades. Initial hearings have recently concluded, but written comments are still being accepted, and more hearings will be held by both Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors as the Plan is finalized. In the next few months, a public review and comment period will be held for the Draft EIR. If you would like to get involved to help protect open space, biological resources, working lands, small-town character, or other aspects of the Plan, contact Jen Kalt, Conservation Chair ([jkalt@asis.com](mailto:jkalt@asis.com)) or Roxana Taylor at the Northcoast Environmental Center ([roxanataylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roxanataylor@sbcglobal.net)).

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## CALENDAR

How to know what's happening: 1. Go to our Web site, [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org) and 2. Send an e-mail NorthCoast\_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe to our announcements e-mail list.

DATE	EVENT
APR 9, WED.	PROGRAM
APR 26, SAT	HIKE
MAY 2-4, FRI-SAT	WILDFLOWER SHOW
MAY 3-4, SAT AND SUN	PLANT SALE
MAY 10, SAT	HIKE
MAY 14, WED	PROGRAM
JUNE 8, SUN	HIKE
JUNE 14, SAT	HIKE
JUNE 28, SAT	HIKE
JUNE 28-29, SAT AND SUN	HIKE AND OVERNIGHT
JULY 3-6, FRI-SUN	HIKES AND OVERNIGHTS
JULY 13, SUN	HIKE
AUG 1-4, FRI-MON	EXPEDITION
SEPT 28, SUN	ALL SPECIES PARADE

## JOIN THE NORTH COAST CNPS!

By joining CNPS you:

- Add your voice to that of other native plant enthusiasts wishing to increase awareness, understanding, appreciation, and conservation of California's native flora.
- Receive the quarterly journal *Fremontia* (the statewide newsletter), our chapter's quarterly newsletter, *Darlingtonia*, and the *Northcoast Environmental Center's (NEC) newsletter, EcoNews*.
- Receive discounts at local businesses (see page 9 for the details)

Membership fees: Individual \$45; Family \$75; Student or Limited Income \$25 (Membership fee minus \$12 is tax deductible).

To join or renew, you can either:

- Send your name and address, check (payable to CNPS) or credit card information to CNPS, 2707K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.
- Pay on-line <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/join/>