

Darlingtonia

Summer 2008

Newsletter of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

A TANK IN THE PARK

by Neil Palmer

It turns out that you need to pay attention when your city council decides to relocate a couple of water tanks – at least it does in Fortuna!

I won't bore you with too many details of Fortuna's "plumbing problems," but it turns out that the city has a couple of old water tanks, including one that has been leaking for years and needs to be replaced. Last year the city "fathers" approved a rather significant rate increase for water and sewer service to pay for twenty million dollars in bonds to fund improvements to the city's long-neglected water and sewer infrastructure.

One project was the replacement and relocation of the two tanks mentioned above. The site selection criteria were limited to city-owned property at a specified elevation. After only two sites were identified, Rohner Park forest was chosen as it "...would allow for the most convenient connection to the distribution system, has good access and would be the most economical."

The Rohner Park site is in the middle of the park's 30-acre, 100-plus-year-old second-growth forest. The project would include: a 0.6 acre excavation site, the removal of at least 69 redwood trees (over half being greater than 30 inches in diameter), the removal of 18 old-growth redwood stumps, the construction of a 32-foot-tall by 110-foot-diameter concrete water tank and pump house, all surrounded by a Homeland Security-approved cyclone fence topped with razor wire. Off-site construction areas, road improvements, and water pipe installation will add further to the project's impact on this park's forest.

Professor Steve Sillett, Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources, Humboldt State University had the following to say after a recent tour of Rohner Park forest: "The stand of redwoods within which the proposed water tank is to be located is among the finest mature second growth redwood forests I have seen. This forest type is actually quite rare these days in Humboldt County, as nearly all of the redwood forests logged prior to the 1930s have been logged again. Today, mature secondgrowth redwood forests are far more scarce than even old-growth redwood forests. The Rohner Park forest in the vicinity of the proposed water tank location is an outstanding example of native redwood forest with a well developed understory dominated by native shrubs and herbs, including evergreen huckleberry, red huckleberry, salal, oxalis, Clintonia lily, and many other notable plant species. Thus, I feel it is important to explore alternatives to the proposed disturbance in Rohner Park. This forest is simply too precious to sacrifice even half an acre."

There are alternatives to the Rohner Park forest site. They include using the other city-owned parcel, which is somewhat steeper, reconstructing

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Where to find what's happening:

- ♦ Visit our website: www.northcoastcnps.org
- ♦ Sign up for our announcements e-mail: NorthCoast_CNPSsubscribe@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) 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.

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 NPSOregon, 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. 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.

September 14, Sunday. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Wetland Exploration. Even dry-shod you can see a good variety of fresh and brackish wetland plants in the ditches and ponds of the Ralphs' property by the Mad River Slough and the Lanphere Dunes. Juncuses, Carexes, Scirpuses, grasses, umbellifers, cattail, burreed, brass buttons, etc. We will see how long a list we can make. Prizes for the most special plants. Rubber boots would increase your range. Dip nets would help see fish and amphibians. Call Carol for directions 822-2015.

October 4, Saturday. Picnic at Patrick's Point State Park. 12 noon (or earlier)-6:00 p.m. All members, their friends, and relations are invited to share a fall afternoon outdoors connecting, conversing, exploring, sharing, trading, etc. We have reserved the Bishop Pine Picnic Area for the whole day. The fire will be ready to barbecue at 1:00 p.m. Eat 1-2:30. Bring your own item to BBQ, your own beverage, your own eating gear, and some dish to share. Bring any seeds, cuttings, starts, and such (of native plants!) that you want to give or trade. After eating we can walk and botanize in this wonderful state park, trade seeds, visit, etc. Information or suggestions: Carol 822-2015.

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CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

EVENING PROGRAMS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS (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 taurdreybirdbath@suddenlink.net or 786-9701, with speaker or botanical subject suggestions.

"Wildflowers of Kings River Basin of the Southern Sierra Nevada." Botanist September 10

Dana York enjoyed 5 years of field work in these beautiful mountains for his Masters

degree and for an

upcoming book on the flora of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. He will show

us both

familiar, widespread species and rarely seen, very local species.

October 8 To be announced

Nov 12 "TBD" by Dr. Steve Sillett The Kenneth L. Fisher Chair in Redwood Forest Ecology at

> Humboldt State University is recognized as the foremost expert on redwood trees. Sillett and his students changed the way scientists looked at redwood forests when they began climbing the trees and discovered crowns supporting a rich community of life. More information about Dr. Sillett can be found at http://www.humboldt.edu/~sillett/sillett.html

December 10 "Native Plant Show and Tell"

An informal evening for anyone to share photos, artifacts, readings, or

food related to native plants and their habitat. Coordinator to be

announced later.

Future WANTED for a possible future program: Photos from the South Fork **Program**

Trinity Trail. Have you hiked this popular trail and taken photos? Can

you contribute to an evening of sharing photos of landscapes and flowers

seen over the years along this trail.

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, Bev Zeman at 677-9391 or donjzeman@yahoo.com, 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.

WELCOME ABOARD

Bev Zeman as Coordinator of Native Plant Consultations

CNPS 2009 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE: STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS

January 17 - 19, 2009 (Registration opens July 1, 2008)
Sacramento Convention Center & Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, California

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

This is much more than a scientific conference; it will be the largest native plant convention the state has ever experienced. Anyone interested in the biology and conservation of California's natural communities and native plants should attend!

Activities include:

- Poster sessions
- Keynote speakers
- A welcome reception
- Scientific presentations
- Exhibitors & trade show
- A banquet and silent auction
- Photo & botanical illustration contests
- Poster displays of CNPS chapter activities
- A series of technical and artistic workshops
- Associated meetings of other botanical and conservation organizations

CNPS 2009 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Strategies & Solutions

Numerous Student Scholarships will be available.

Volunteer opportunities Abound! To volunteer during the conference, or for more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Andrea Williams at 415-331-0639 or Andrea Williams@nps.gov. For volunteering before or for post-conference workshops, contact Josie Crawford at 916-447-2677 or icrawford@cnps.org.

Keynote Speakers



Professor Steve Hopper is the 14th Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He is a plant conservation biologist, best known for pioneering research leading to positive conservation outcomes in south-west Australia. While Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at The University of Western Australia from 2004-2006, he developed a new theory on the evolution and conservation of biodiversity on the world's oldest landscapes.



Naturalist, educator, artist, and author **John (Jack) Muir Laws** has worked as an environmental educator for over 25 years in California, Wyoming, and Alaska. He has written and illustrated the field guides: *Sierra Birds: a Hiker's Guide* and *The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada*. Jack also teaches classes on natural history, conservation biology, scientific illustration, and field sketching. He is an Associate in the Research Division of the California Academy of Sciences.



Jerome Ringo is a dedicated champion of environmental justice and vocal advocate of clean energy. Ringo is the immediate past Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Currently, Jerome serves as president of the Apollo Alliance, a broad coalition of major national environmental organizations, businesses, and organizations, fighting to make America independent from foreign energy in 10 years.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

RUSS PARK, FERNDALE, May 10, 2008

by Carol Ralph



An enormous Trillium ovatum in Russ Park astounds Frank Milelzcik

Immediately behind Ferndale, accessed off Bluff St., is a steep, lush, forested hillside with well graded trails winding through it. This is Russ Park, 110 acres donated to the city by Mrs. Zipporah Patrick Russ in 1920 and currently cared for entirely by volunteers. Recently Jim Stretch has been the primary volunteer, grooming trails and removing exotic species himself and with others. The result is an easy-to-walk, mostly native, fun place to botanize or enjoy a shady walk. A map, with plant illustrations by Larry Eifert, is available many places in town, although it is not necessary because the trails are well signed.

Our group of 13 (diminishing to 6 by lunch time), guided by Jim, walked from the Bluff St. trailhead across Bluff St. Trail, turned up Eucalyptus Trail, ate lunch at the pond, continued around Francis Creek Loop Trail and Daddy Bush Trail, and returned down Lytel Ridge, a total of about 3.5 miles.

Like Rohner Park in Fortuna, Russ Park is a mature, second growth forest. It was cleared and grazed in the 1850's; then allowed to regenerate. Unlike Rohner Park, this park has few redwoods, and those were planted. The forest is mostly Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis) and grand fir (Abies grandis), a closed canopy broken by damp swaths of thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus), stinging nettle (Urtica dioica), and elderberry (Sambucus racemosa). Strangely, no streams descend this north-facing slope. The small, landlocked pond at the top of the hill hosts islands of skunk cabbage (Lysichiton americanum) and slough sedge (Carex obnupta).

Much of the walk we were exclaiming at the beauty of luxuriant, fresh, green, trailside beds of false lily-of-the-valley (Maianthemum dilatatum), inside-out-flower (Vancouveria hexandra), piggy-back plant (Tolmeia menziesii), waterleaf (Hydrophyllum tenuipes), and even slinkpod (Scoliopis bigelovii). On the ridge, stunning, blue flags of Douglas iris (Iris douglasiana) punctuated the masses of inside-out-flower. We stopped to admire the largest trillium (Trillium ovatum) we had ever seen, almost waist high. As are many of our forests, this was berry-rich: thimble, salmon, black, two huckles, goose, elder, oso; plus other fruits the birds treat as berries: salal, currant, Oregon crab apple, honeysuckle, and cascara (Rubus parviflorus, R. spectabilis, R. ursinus, Vaccinium ovatum, V. parvifolium, Ribes menziesii, Sambucus racemosa, Oemleria cerasiformis, Gaultheria shallon, Ribes sanguineum, Malus fusca, Lonicera hispidula, Rhamnus purshiana).

A short, spur trail to Bunker Hill Viewpoint took us into a different world on a sharp, dry, south-facing ridge. Checker lily (Fritillaria affinis) bloomed under large silk tassle (Garrya elliptica), and red paintbrush (Castilleja sp.), bush monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), woolly sunflower (Eriophyllum lanatum), and blueblossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus) showed off their colors in the sun.

Along the descent on Daddy Bush Trail we suddenly realized that we were seeing both species of fairy bells (Prosartes, formerly Disporum). We had identified Smith's (P. smithii) early on, by the tubular flower enclosing the stamens, and saw it throughout the park. Here we were seeing the flared flower and protruding stamens of Hooker's (P. hookeri) as well. Excited to study them side-by-side, we noted all the differences we had read and heard about and wondered how we could ever have been confused. The Smith's felt smooth, succulent, and fragile, like a trillium leaf, and looked shiny, bright green, and wet. Hooker's felt rough and dry, making a noise as fingers rubbed it, and looked dull, darker green. (Now, don't get confused with species of false Solomon's seal (Smilacina) or twisted stalk (Streptopus)!)

Our quick survey of this rich forest found 9 species of ferns, 65 of herbaceous plants (including 24 non-native), and 34 of trees (5 non-native, and declining). We noted an absence of twinberry, hazelnut, and rattlesnake orchid and a paucity of redwood sorrel. Jim had not found these species either, and he has developed good botanical eyes during his many hours working and walking in the park. Obviously there is more to know about this beautiful, mature, coastal forest.

(Continued on page 15)

Don't Miss Out on the

Natíve Plant Sale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

ARCATA MARSH AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY INTERPRETIVE CENTER PARKING LOT, 600 G STREET

WHAT BETTER WAY TO KNOW THE CHARM OF LOCAL NATIVES THAN TO HAVE THEM RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR?

EXPERIENCED GARDENERS WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP YOU CHOOSE FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF PLANTS, FROM FERNS TO TREES











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NORTH COAST CNPS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Phone Carol 822-2015 to volunteer, ask guestions, or make suggestions.

Treasurer. Anyone can learn enough bookkeeping on the job to be our treasurer, and our bookkeeper will help. The treasurer must remember to file quarterly reports with the state CNPS office and pay the rent for our meeting room. If you keep your own checkbook balanced and can participate in our monthly Steering Committe meetings, you could do this job. Average 1 hour/week.

Vice-President. An important back-up for our president when s/he is out-of-town, and a participant in monthly Steering Committee meetings, where we count on a variety of good heads for input to discussions. No botanical knowledge required, just willingness to focus on chapter needs a few hours/month.

Outreacher. This person is in charge of having all the necessary display and hand-out material on hand at 4-6 events/year at which we publicize CNPS at our booth or a table. We have a good group of people who like to sit shifts at the booth or table.

Poster Sales Person. Our posters are important educational and outreach props, as well as a source of revenue. The Poster Sales Person makes sure posters are at all outreach events, fills orders from a few wholesalers, and does anything else s/he is inspired to do.

Wildflower Show Queen Bee. (or drone?) Our most important education and outreach event needs someone to be sure all the workers are doing their jobs. If you enjoyed this year's show, consider helping with next year's, as queen or worker.

Jar storage. We have a lot of jars for that wildflower show. Do you have a place to store about 30 plastic storage tubs of them?

Native Plant Propagation Workshop Organizer. Instructors and venues are available. We just need someone to organize them for a date, compose publicity, and arrange a sign-up procedure.

Author. Write species accounts for a fieldguide to the redwood forest flora, using a template. If you are familiar with *The Jepson Manual* and can key a plant, you could join about 20 authors and photographers already working on this project and see your name in print! Contact Kim Hayler (kimberly_hayler@dot.ca.gov) Jepson Manual and can key a plant, you could join about 20 authors and photographers already working on this project and see your name in print! Contact Kim Hayler (kimberly_hayler@dot.ca.gov)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

President	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com	
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Treasurer	Ari Murdock	822-5909	murdocka@gmail.com	
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Native Plant Consultation	Bev Zeman	677-9391	donjzeman@yahoo.com	
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T-Shirt Sales	Gail Popham	444-3316	popham@humboldt1.com	
Workshops	Gordon Leppig	839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov	
Wildflower Show	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details	
NEC NC CNPS Representative	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
- E-mail lists/forums (Announcements, Business, and Gardening – subscribe from the E-mail lists and Forums page on 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 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 and leave the pertinent information.

PLANT PROFILE

California Blackberry (Rubus ursinus)

by Carol Ralph

June 2008



Female



Male

Prickly thickets of California blackberry evoke mixed emotions. For their propensity to overwhelm ground vegetation in our bottomland habitats, they are reviled or feared. For the protective cover they offer birds and other small wildlife, they are admired. For the starry, white flowers festooning the surface of the billowy thicket, providing good forage for bumble bees and other insects, they are appreciated in May. For the glistening, jewel-red berries that follow and ripen to black, they are loved.

The observant berry-picker may notice that many California blackberry plants bear no berries. Conceivably this could be due to poor growing or pollinating conditions. It is more likely that those are male plants. This species is dioecious (pronounced die-EE-shus), having the male parts, the stamens, on some plants and the female parts, the pistils, on others. Both kinds of flowers have narrow, white petals. The center of the male flowers is a starburst of many, brown-tipped stamens. The center of the female flower bears a dainty, green cone covered with "hairs," the pistils. If pollinated, the many compartments of the little cone will swell and become the berry.

Though a bit aggressive, this blackberry can be a tractable neighbor. Along county roads on Arcata Bottom, one trimming per year of the California blackberry enveloping the roadside fence keeps it off the road. If you fell into a thicket of California blackberry, your fall would be cushioned by the criss-crossing stems, and you would be somewhat scratched by the slender prickles on the round stems.

In contrast, the tremendously aggressive Himalayan blackberry, *Rubus discolor* (also known as *Rubus procerus*), will shoot robust, five-angled, fiercely armed, high-arching stems across the road in a matter of weeks. The growth of this Eurasian species during summer, spouting huge, new canes and prolific sprays of white flowers, is explosive. It is currently erupting from the roadside California blackberry thickets on Lanphere Rd, arching over them, and enveloping them. It is also enveloping vast acreage of the county, like the entire Hoopa Valley and the Willow Creek countryside.

Himalayan blackberry flowers, which first appear in mid-June, have broad, white petals, both pistils and stamens (monoecious), and are arrayed in upright inflorescences. The inflorescences droop later, as the large, juicy berries weigh it down. Should you fall into a thicket of this blackberry, its large, rose-like thorns would puncture your clothing and rake your flesh. Should you drive too close, they will scratch your car.

The abundant berries of Himalayan blackberry make good wildlife food, for creatures from bugs to bears, and most of these disperse the seeds near and far. The impenetrable thickets of this species are good cover for small animals, blocking advances of predators such as coyotes, bobcats, and owls. The same characteristic, however, means that a wall of Himalayan blackberry along a river or pond blocks access to foraging, drinking, and loafing sites for creatures like bear, otter, raccoons, and deer. The super-abundance of the delicious berries in late summer does not compensate for the more diverse vegetation that the expanding bramble has smothered, which provided flowers, seeds, and fruits at various times of year. Though emotions are mixed when contemplating a thicket of Himalayan blackberry, the virtue of this species by no means outweighs its vices.

As you venture into *Rubus* taxonomy, note the warning in *The Jepson Manual*, "hybrids and other escapes from cultivation expected."

THANK YOU

Ari Murdock for being our treasurer for a half year **David Loya** for chairing our Science Fair award

Kathy Dilley for coordinating our native plant consultations for several years

Paul Carothers, Gwynneth Carothers, Gail Popham, Sylvia White, Jennifer Tompkins, Carol Ralph,C.J. Ralph, Peter Ralph for putting up our booth and/or staffing it during the North Coast Garden Event in Trinidad

Sylvia White and **Kathy Dilley** for presenting lectures on native plant gardening at the North Coast Garden Event.

For a terrific plant sale: Sunny Loya, Judie Hinman, Anda Webb, Judie Snyder, Bev Zeman, Chris Beresford, Courtney Otto, Kathy Dilley, Phoenix Campbell-Loya, David Loya, CJ Ralph, Wanda Naylor, Bill Rodstrom, David Juliano, Sylvia White, Jennifer Tompkins, David Tompkins, and many other growers

WILDFLOWER SHOW

For collecting and identifying: Tony LaBanca, Sydney Carothers, Laura Julian, David Loya, Sunny Loya, Barbara Kelly, June James, Liz McGee, Don Davis, Melissa Brooks, Jen Kalt, Jim McIntosh, Chris Beresford, Kim Hayler, Ned Forsyth, Aimee Weber, Denise Seeger, Amy Livingston & Cheri Sanville & the entire Green Diamond Resource Co. Botany Crew

For coordinating the collectors: Tony LaBanca For sorting, arranging, identifying: Larry Levine, Frances Ferguson, Whitney Meier, Liz McGee, Barbara Kelly, Dana York, Chris Beresford, Rebecca Zettler, Alyssum Cohen, Cara Witte, Tony LaBanca, Brian Boatman, Laura Julian, Ned Forsythe, Michael Vice, and a few more

For bringing potted plants: Rick Storre (Freshwater Farms), Carol Ralph

For maintaining database and sharing experise all weekend: Jim Waters, Virginia Waters, Larry Levine, Ari Murdock, Suzanne Isaacs, C.J. Ralph, Judit Sabo, Carol Ralph

For organizing and running school visits: Judie Snyder

For teaching lessons to school groups: Colette Beaupre, Cara Witte, Allie Lindgren, Wanda Naylor, Maggie Stoudnour

For escorting school groups: Sharon Lopez, Adair Paul, Joan Alves, Kathy Goodman, Marilyn Hagar, Marilyn Davidson, Marilyn Tucker, Cynthia Van Vleck

For Art Night: Rick Tolley

For Art Night live music: Evan Guest and Chris For bug table: Pete Haggard, Judy Haggard For invasive plant display: Laura Julian

For redwood forest display: North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association--Jeff Russell, Bill

For dunes display: Friends of the Dunes--Denise Seeger

For edible wild plant display: Frank Milelzcik

For the CNPS booth: Felicity Wasser

For leading walks in the dunes: Jennie Hanson,

Maggie Stoudnour, Pete Haggard

For Native American presentation: Susan Bur-

dick and friends

For herbal medicine presentation: Naomi Withers

For keeping volunteers fed all weekend: Melinda Groom

For storing and transporting the jar collection: Suzanne Isaacs

For repairing and re-lettering the signs: Paul Carothers, Gwynneth Carothers, Janelle Egger

For putting up roadside and yard signs: Carol Ralph, Janelle Egger, Rick Tolley, David Bigger

For hosting signs: Freshwater Farms, Grondalski Insurance, Noah Lurtz' family, Miller Farms, Blue Lake Murphy's Market, Blue Lake School, Pierson Co., ProSport, Mad River Gardens, Jamison Creek Nursery, Fortuna Iron

For putting on the dots: Marlene Wagner

For food donations: Los Bagels, Ray's Food Place, North Coast Coop, Wildberries Marketplace, Gwynneth Carothers, Holly Quinn

For hundreds of lilies to dissect: Sun Valley Floral Farm

For letting us use their space: Teenship
For lending books to the Book Nook: Gordon
Leppiq, Carol Ralph

For working shifts during the show: Paul Carothers, Gwynneth Carothers, Jackie Hamilton, John Olson, Pauline Baefsky, Katy Allen, Audrey Miller, Don Zeman, Mark Fritzke, Donna Wildearth, Noah lurtz, Rita Zito, Carol Mone, Gail Penso, Andrea Culbertson, Ann White, Joan Watanbe, Sherie Cooper, Jim Waters, Virginia Waters

For making the flier, managing the species cards, storing and remembering a lot of things: Larry Levine

For general supervision and helpfulness all weekend: Nezzie Wade

(Continued on page 14)

HUMBOLDT COUNTY DUNE VEGETATION MAP PROGRESSING

By Andrea Pickart, Ecologist, Humboldt Bay NWR

Last summer, the chapter participated in an ambitious project to sample, classify, and map the vegetation of Humboldt County dunes from the Oregon border to Centerville Beach. Over 20 people participated in the first phase of this project, which included the collection of over 1,000 samples from 6,200 acres of dunes. Each sample was strategically placed to capture the full range of vegetation, and to allow researchers to tie the vegetation on the ground with the it's "signature" on satellite imagery. Over the winter, the samples were classified with the help of UC Davis vegetation ecologist Ayzik Solomeshch and placed in classes that fit within the hierarchy of the National Vegetation Classification System. The classification, which includes the alliance and association levels, can be easily translated to California's Manual of California Vegetation terminology. The classification work will continue to be refined (look for results at the May 2009 CNPS symposium), but the preliminary classes can be used as the basis for mapping scheduled to occur this summer. Gillian Levy, a graduate student in HSU Natural Resources, will be testing the accuracy of using a software program that can be trained to recognize the signatures of different vegetation classes. I will be simultaneously using more traditional photo-interpretation over a subset of the area, and her thesis will compare the accuracy and efficiency of these two methods.



California broomrape (Orobanche californica ssp. californica), photographed by Stassia Samuels, growing in the dune mat at Big Lagoon, where it parasitizes gumplant (Grindelia stricta).

The project was designed and carried out under the auspices of the Humboldt County Dunes Coop, a collaborative of agencies, NGOs, tribes, and other groups with an interest in dune conservation and management. The total cost of the first phase (imagery acquisition and data collection) was \$120,000, with half of that cost provided by in-kind matches in staff time and equipment loans. The collaborative approach allowed for a tremendous savings, a similar project contracted out to a private consulting firm would likely have cost at least three times as much. A final map is expected by late 2008 or early 2009.

(Continued from page 1)

the tanks on their present site, buying a parcel of land from a willing seller, utilizing the excess capacity of another, existing, "emergency use" reservoir, or a combination of the above. The city has spent a considerable amount of money on engineering studies for this site, and currently the city staff and SHN Engineering are preparing a preliminary EIR on the project.

On May 15th the city sponsored a workshop dealing with the specifics of the forest site. The standing-room-only crowd in attendance spoke overwhelmingly against the "tank in the park". On May 27th Duane Rigge, Fortuna's City Manager belatedly decided to bring the city's Park and Recreation Commission into the loop. After a short presentation by Rigge and opponents, the commission voted in favor of requesting the city look into alternative sites.

Currently, the majority of the City Council seems to be more concerned about the bottom line and is willing to use Rohner Park's forest to subsidize this public works project with the un-quantifiable loss of aesthetic, ecological, and recreational values.

For more information contact: Neil Palmer @725-2195, njjr@sbcqlobal.net or Marian Perry @725-3519.

FORTUNA'S JEWEL, ROHNER PARK

by Carol Ralph

Think of your favorite cities. Chances are they all have an abundance of parks or at least one significant park in the heart of town. Fortuna is still a very small city, but it already has a park for a "heart," Rohner Park.

Rohner Park is about 30 acres on a knoll beside Newberg Park, where baseball, rodeo, and such activities happen, just off Main Street. The land was given to the city by the Rohner family about 100 years ago. It was seriously logged once about then, and only once, although a few trees have been taken out recently. Many city residents enjoy walking, jogging, bicycling, and horse riding in this park.

At the urging of member Janelle Egger our chapter led a walk in the rich, old second-growth forest of Rohner Park on May 25. Janelle and Marian Perry have been listing the plant species in the park, and the list is still growing. Janelle recently spotted spotted coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata*). This mycoheterotroph (formerly known as saprophyte) indicates a rich, mycorhizal-harboring soil. Indeed, the forest floor was a rich bed of our redwood forest favorites: trillium, fairy bells, false lily-of-the-valley, slinkpod, fat solomon's seal, star Solomon's seal, redwood violet, smooth yellow violet, rewood sorrel, candyflower, milkmaids, wild ginger, anemone, starflower, inside-out flower, and an amazing show of brilliant red clintonia blooms. (*Trillium ovatum, Disporum(Prosartes) hookeri, Maian-themum dilatatum, Scoliopus bigelovii, Smilacina racemosa, Smilacina stellata, Viola sempervirens, V. glabella, Oxalis oregana, Claytonia sibirica, Cardamine californica, Asarum caudatum, Anemone deltoidea, Trientalis latifolia, Vancouveria hexandra, Clintonia andrewsiana). Equally important and refreshing was the rarity of non-natives.*

The Rohner Park redwood stand is remarkably intact. It provides a delightful and awesome outdoor setting, meaningful to the general walker, as well as to the botanically addicted. Sacrificing its integrity by clearing 0.6 acre in its interior, opening it to wind, heat, and invasion by non-natives would have a porportionally much larger effect than that small acreage would suggest. Instead Fortuna should be planning how to manage the people, bike, and horse traffic in the park, to protect it from too much love and use.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In preparation for our biennial October elections, we are soliciting nominations for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. These four officers are the core of our Steering Committee, which meets one evening/month, September-May, for 1.5 hours to make chapter decisions on where to put our money and energy and to learn what the many great volunteers of our club are doing. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. You may nominate yourself or another member for any of these positions by contacting the Nominating Committee by August 31, 2008. A mail-in ballot will be in the September issue of the newsletter, or you may vote in person at the October program meeting or business meeting. Contact Carol Ralph (822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com) to learn who is the Nominating Committee.



CHAPTER PICNIC IN OCTOBER Save the date!

Saturday October 4, 2008 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. Patrick's Point State Park At the Bishop Pine Picnic Area

All members, their friends, and relations are invited to share a fall afternoon outdoors connecting, conversing, exploring, sharing, trading, etc. We have reserved this picnic area for the whole day. Come when you can.

1:00 p.m. Fire ready to BBQ.

1:00-2:30. Eat and share food.

Bring your own item to BBQ, your own beverage, your own eating gear.

Bring a dish to share.

Bring any seeds, cuttings, starts, and such (of native plants!) that you want to give or trade.

After 2:30 possible activities include walking and botanizing--the Rim Trail, in the meadow, to Wedding Rock, up Ceremonial rock, through Native Plant Garden; a botanical game; a treasure hunt. Any suggestions?

In case of rain, wear your rain gear, bring a canopy, tarp, ropes, and umbrellas. The park will be ours.

Information or suggestions: Carol Ralph 822-2015

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.).

See the back page for details about how to sign up for North Coast CNPS Membership.



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 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). You will receive an e-mail publication notification with a link to the webpage (no attachments).

AT THE 2008 SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

About 800 people came to meet the 300 or so species of wildflowers gathered in the Manila Community Center hall the first weekend of May. It was a fragrant, beautiful, cheerful event.



Visitors did more than marvel at the flowers. At Art Night they painted about 30 paintings. At Susan Burdick's presentation they saw acorns pounded to flour, sang a harvest song, learned to braid, and saw some medicinally used plants. With Naomi Withers they learned herbal uses of some native plants. On walks in the dunes with Jenny Hanson and Maggie Stoudnour they saw flowers in their habitat, and with Pete Haggard they saw pollinators in action. At the display of invasive plants they were surprised to see some very familiar faces! At the edible wild plants display they sampled miner's lettuce and western hemlock tea. At Pete Haggard's bug table they saw and learned about a scorpion and various caterpillars. At the CNPS booth they bought beautiful posters showing native

flowers from familiar habitats. At the plant sale they bought native plants to nourish, enjoy, and study at home. On Friday the school groups heard how Native Americans used many native plants, and they dissected lilies to learn flower structure.

Wildflowers connect to a lot in our lives!

If you enjoyed this show and would like to help plan the next, contact Carol 822-2015 or Larry 822-7190.

MEMBERS CORNER

Welcome to our new members:

Carl Blirks Jerome Cimino Lesa Coleman Elena George Yurok Tribe, Klamath Denise Lerner Barbara Reese Patti Rose Ciuleandra Smith Susan & Richard Whaley

Thank you to our renewing members:

Ingrid Bailey Kimberly Bonine

Richard Boothe John W. and Loma Burkett

Helen Constantine-

Shull

Rebecca Deja Robert East Dana Ecelberger

Consuelo Evans Francis Ferguson

Kurt Gierlich John P. Griffin Jo Anne Gurley

Pete Haggard Mervin & Maxine Han-

son

Patsy Holmes Lisa D. Hoover Ron Johnson

Charlynn Johnson

Alice Jones Alice Jules Alan Justice Jennifer Kalt Melissa B. Kraemer Gordon Leppig Frannie Martin Melissa B. Kraemer James McIntosh Julie McNeil John McRae **Bob Melendez**

Nancy Moore Joann Olson John Kulstad and Pat

Thomas Autumn & Kelly Reid Dr. Robert Reinsvold

Maralyn A. Renner Jennifer Richmond Ann & Richard Roberts Gisela Rohde Ed Schreiber Birgit Semsrott Garv Slatterv Judie Snyder Allison & Peter Tans Donna Thompson Jim Tietz Catherine Walling

Felicity Wasser Joan & Michael Wata-

nabe

Jean Weese Roberta Weltv Angie Wolski John Yoakley Rebecca Zettler

Northcoast Environmental Center

(Continued from page 9)

For Sunday morning spruce-up: Suzette Stevens

For clean-up: Whitney Meier, Virginia Waters, Jim Waters, Marlene Wagner, Sam, Charlene Crump, Amanda Blackbird, Stephen Krause & daughter, C.J. Ralph, Rick Tolley, Nezzie Wade, Dan Close, Anda Webb, and a few others

For posting fliers: many people

For coordinating all these wonderful volunteers: Carol Ralph and Larry Levine

FUTURE FIELD GUIDE

NEEDS WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Only 33 grass and graminoid species and 83

herbaceous species descriptions remain to be written! That is out of 45 grass and 210 herbaceous species total. All tree, shrub, and fern species accounts have been written. That is the countdown for an exciting and very cooperative effort to create a field guide to the flora of the redwood forest. About 20 people have written species accounts or submitted photographs to this project. Heyday Books is anxious to publish this book along with CNPS.

A little more help will get it done sooner! If you are familiar with The Jepson Manual and can key a plant, consider becoming an author! You will be provided with a template to complete using information from Jepson and from Munz. Writing as few as 5 descriptions would be a significant help. If you take high quality plant photos, consider submitting photos for this book. Editing help will be next on the list for help.

Contact field guide coordinator Kim Hayler (khayler@sbcglobal.net; 845-1845) if you are interested in any aspect of this project.

South Fork Trinity River Trail, April 26, 2007

by Jenny Hanson

Six of us took the long drive to the end of the beautiful South Fork Road off Highway 299 west of Willow Creek. Before reaching the trailhead, we were welcomed by the extravagance of magenta redbuds (*Cercis occidentalis*) and luminous, creamy dogwoods (*Cornus nuttallii*) along the road. By 10 a.m. we were on the trail, returning only at the end of the afternoon, with eyes full of the enchantment of spring flowers. Two of our number came with art supplies, and along the way stopped to capture some of the beauty of the place.

The delight of this walk was the profusion of wildflowers in bloom. Although many of the species were familiar, they were nevertheless exquisite. On one slope the prevailing hue was pink, on another it was yellow, or a wash of green and cream. There were hillsides splashed with lavender-and-white tomcat clover (*Trifolium willdenovii*) and deep pink of the small monkeyflower *Mimulus kelloggii*; steep rocky fields of baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) ranging from off-white to beautiful blue; not just one patch of tiny cream *Nemophila heterophylla*, but carpets; a cascade of seep-spring monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) down a wet gully; and blue spreads of ookow (*Dichelostemma multiflorum*), blue dicks (*D. capitata*) and lupines (*Lupinus* sp.). Each open hillside had a different assortment or abundance of flowers. This eight mile out-and-back trail (We walked six.) traverses the flanks of coastal peaks, with constant drops on one side, and towering slopes on the other. It dips to cross creeks and climbs out again to reveal different faces of the mountains with their associated vegetation. From time to time there are glimpses of the turquoise South Fork Trinity way below. We started the walk through tanoak, madrone, and Douglas fir woodland, greeted by many tiny tree frogs of varied colors, and enjoying the last of the fawn lilies (*Erythronium californicum*). Our lunch spot was a wide clearing in the woods, almost the only place we found where there was not poison oak in magnificent, small-leaved, shiny profusion.

Later, as we emerged into the heat of a south-facing hillside, red larkspur (*Delphinium nudicaule*) blew its red trumpets, small, yellow poppies (*Eschscholzia* sp.) and curls of fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*) added gold, and from then on our progress was slow. There were sprinkles of cheerful yellow-and-cream cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), yellow woodland madia (*Madia madioides*), and pretty (though non-native), pink wild carnation (*Petrorhagia prolifera*). There was the triumphant naming of the diminutive *Tonella tenella* that a couple of us remembered from previous trips. On one lichen-encrusted rock, we found gold-backed fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*) and both Merten's and Marshall's saxifrages (*Saxifraga mertensiana* and *S. marshallii*) growing together. We spent a delightful interlude lying on the narrow trail examining an unfamiliar, delicate, white flower, which stubbornly refused our analysis. Serious book-work at home discovered it was a mistmaiden, *Romanzoffia californica*. The scent of wedge-leaf ceanothus (*Ceonothus cuneatus*) and mountain-mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*) was in the warm air, and large northern alligator lizards were the herps of the day, sunning themselves on the rocks and sometimes allowing us a photo before disappearing.

The afternoon sun got hot, and the trail was narrow and crumbly in places, so it was delightful eventually to drop down into Hell's Half-Acre Creek to cross the creek and climb back up the opposite hillside deep in shade, flanked by mossy rocks full of saxifrage. Having found the tell-tale leaves of the pink Lewisia cotyledon var heckneri that will bloom later in the year, we declared this our destination, and spent a few minutes in the refreshing cool. On the way back, we discovered a beautiful scarlet fritillary (Fritillaria recurva) in bloom, an apparently solitary blossom that became several flowers as our eyes scoured the hillside. It was the first time that I had met this species, and it was a pleasant reminder that retracing one's footsteps can be like walking a new trail.

Throughout the day, our indefatigable chronicler, Carol Ralph, was keeping an ongoing list of everything we saw, and her four pages of notes captured the richness of the species along this varied trail. Because the walk combined this wealth of species with an abundance of blossoms, it counts as one of the highlights of the wildflower season and well worth re-visiting annually.

CNPS, North Coast Chapter P.O. Box 1067 Arcata, CA 95518

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CALENDAR

How to know what's happening: 1. Go to our Web site, www.northcoastcnps.org and 2. Send an e-mail NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe to our announcements e-mail list.

DATE	EVENT
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
SEP 10, WED	PROGRAM
SEP 14, SUN	HIKE
SEP 20, SAT	NATIVE PLANT SALE
SEP 28, SUN	ALL SPECIES PARADE
OCT 4, SAT	PICNIC
OCT 8, WED	PROGRAM
NOV 12, WED	PROGRAM
DEC 10, WED	PROGRAM

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/

Please notify the state office and/or our Membership