

Darlingtonia

Spring 2010
Apr—Jun

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

CHAPTER PLANT WATCH PROGRAM UPDATE By Dave (aka Kim) Imper, Rare Plants Chair

This is exactly how it's supposed to work. Well, sort of.

In 2006 John McRae formally adopted the Fieldbrook population of Siskiyou checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malvaeflora* ssp. *patula*) as part of our Chapter Plant Watch Program.



Like many of the checkerbloom sites, it occurs next to the road, and is highly vulnerable to road maintenance activities. In this case the occurrence consisted of a single patch measuring about 150 square feet, although it seems to have been growing. I had estimated it at about 10 x 15 feet in 2001, while John more accurately measured it to be 14 by 30 feet in 2007. John began collecting data on the plant and its habitat usually every year. Because of his vigilance, John was aware when the county made plans to pave the road shoulder in 2008, and made sure they did their best to protect the plant during the project through fencing and education. Although a few plants were lost, John salvaged several and overall the project had relatively little impact. Annie Eicher walks by the site frequently, and grabbed the following pictures of the plant in bloom in June 2009. Everything appeared good.

But in October, Annie noticed the county had added five feet of gravel fill next to the pavement, which combined with the original paving, took out about 40% of the patch. John notified the county, and in November they removed most of the gravel fill. Fortunately there appears to have been little permanent damage, since later in November Annie noted young checkerbloom shoots poking up through the ground.

So we dodged one this time, and saved a unique prairie remnant from the past because someone was watching that cared. Hopefully, overtime we can encourage and help the agencies adopt procedures that avoid impacts like this. But until then, its critical that we watch

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Wildflower Show & Plant Sale April 30-May 2

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Where to find what's happening:

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

FIELD TRIPS AND PLANT WALKS

Please watch for later additions on our Web site (www.northcoastcnps.org) or sign up for e-mail announcements (NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Everyone is welcome. No botanical knowledge required. We are out there to share and enjoy.

April 3, Saturday. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Trinidad Head Plant Walk. A diverse blanket of shrubs and herbs covers this scenic, wind-battered, rocky bluff, and most of them are native. Meet these hardy, garden-worthy species with botanist **Robin Bencie** on this short walk over the head. Currant, salal, huckleberry, wild ginger, violets, and trillium should be blooming. 822-2015

April 11, Sunday. Humboldt Redwoods Day Trip. Roadside stops and walks on several short trails in Humboldt Redwoods State Park should find milkmaids, western trillium, and, hopefully, fawn lilies, as well as other early bloomers under the magnificent redwoods of southern Humboldt County. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata), 9:00 a.m. at the McDonalds end of Bayshore Mall parking lot, or arrange another place. Dress for the weather, all sorts. Bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. Please tell Carol you are coming 822-2015.

April 24, Saturday. 10 a.m. -12 noon. Ferns In and Around the Dunes, with Carol Ralph. Prehistoric, persistent, and lovely describes most ferns. Meet eight species and learn about their morphology, reproduction and identification on a walk along the Lanphere Dunes entrance road. Bring a hand lens. Meet at Pacific Union School, 3001 Janes Road in Arcata and carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Dunes. Please register by calling 444-1397 or contact denise@friendsofthedunes.org

April 25, Sunday. 1-3 p.m. Flowers in a Fir Forest. An easy plant walk near Hydesville, hosted by landowners Bill and Linda Shapeero. A grand fir forest, stream, pasture, and pond offer a rich assortment of flowering herbaceous plants, including two trilliums, two fairy bells, two violets, skunk cabbage, delphinium, inside-out-flower, checker lily, redmaids, candyflower, and bleeding heart. From 101 at the south end of Fortuna, exit Kenmar Dr., go left under 101, right on Eel River Drive, left on Drake Hill Rd, right on Rohnerville Rd, and 1.7 miles to Puddin Lane at the bottom of a gulch. Follow signs to Shapeero. The ground may be damp. 768-3287 or 822-2015.

May 1, Saturday. 2-3:30 p.m. "Amazing Adaptations of Dune Plants." Join a **Friends of the Dunes** docent on a walk through the dunes to learn about the difficulties of life in a pile of sand and about how some plants overcome those challenges. Meet in front of the main hall at Manila Community Center, where the Spring Wildflower Show will be happening, 1611 Peninsula Dr., Manila. 822-2015

May 2, Sunday. 1:30-3:00 p.m. "Flora and Fauna of the Dunes." Join a **Friends of the Dunes** Docent to look for the creatures that inhabit and interact with the beautiful dune vegetation. Many of them have six legs. Meet in front of the main hall at Manila Community Center, where the Spring Wildflower Show will be happening, 1611 Peninsula Dr., Manila. 822-2015

May 9, Sunday. 12:30-4:30 p.m. Stony Creek Half-day Hike. Meet the California pitcher plant and other serpentine soil-lovers on this 2-mile roundtrip hike through open forest to the confluence of Stony Creek and the North Fork Smith River. A favorite destination, this trail always offers diverse blooms. This trip is for CNPS members and for registrants of the California Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival (calredwoodsbirdfest.org), limited to 15 total. Please call Carol 707-822-2015.

May 16, Sunday. South Fork Trinity Day Hike. This popular trail features mixed evergreen forest of various ages, oak woodland, lush riparian, rock cliffs and outcrops, shrubby slopes, and gravelly seeps. Diverse terrain means diverse plants. Some will be blooming. The trail is well graded, 4 miles each way to the river, but you don't have to go all the way. Bring lunch and 2 quarts of water; dress for the weather. The trailhead is 2 hrs from Arcata. Return by dark. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange someplace else. Call Carol 822-2015.

May 22, Saturday. Bair Rd. and Pine Ridge Day Trip. Bair Rd. from Hoopa to Redwood Valley, offers great roadside wildflowers as it winds through mixed evergreen forest, serpentine outcrops and woodland, crosses the summit at 3,674 ft., and descends through more mixed evergreen broken by

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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.

Apr. 14 **"Our Coastal Grassland Treasures** - Contemporary Conservation Challenges and Pathways to Restoration." **Jennifer Wheeler**. Bureau of Land Management botanist and range conservationist Jennifer Wheeler will share the story of the historical and modern plight of grasslands on the North Coast. She will tell what defines coastal grasslands, where they are, why and how fast they disappear, and how small restoration projects could make a big impact. She will share her experiences and passion with modern methods of enhancing and restoring native perennial grass populations.

May 12 **"Hiking the South Fork Trinity River"** - Artist, photographer, woodworker, and naturalist **Rick Tolley** has documented many faces of this popular trail. He will share wildflowers, vistas, and adventures from 20 years of family hikes, art hikes, CNPS hikes, Wild Heritage hikes, tubing hikes, and backpacking hikes. Indian warrior, dogwood, blazing star, fawn lily, trillium, scarlet larkspur, Indian pink, Indian paintbrush, and brodiaeas are some of the treats he will show us.

NO ON ENGLISH IVY & EUROPEAN BEACH GRASS!

Two great ways to get outside and help rid two native plant areas of unwanted weeds.



SAVE THE DUNES FROM ANNUAL GRASSES a work party and educational dune exploration

When: Saturday, May 8

Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Ma-Le'l Dunes

Details: Having saved the foredunes from European beach grass, dune managers are now focusing on annual grasses, which also can convert colorful dune mat to solid grass. This is your chance to help, while exploring the Ma-Le'l Dunes, an area not yet open to the public, off the beaten path, among blooming beach pea, sand-verbena, dune gilia, Humboldt Bay wallflower, beach layia, beach strawberry, and more. Identification of dune annuals and perennials, as well as at least 4 species of non-native, annual grasses will be taught. Refuge staff will describe the dune restoration project. The work will be pulling these small grasses from the sand, to the music of the surf. Walking will be about 1 mile on sand, with only one steep face.

Dress for the weather, especially wind, and wear

good walking shoes. Bring at least a quart of water, a lunch, and gardening gloves if you have them. Cookies provided.

Meet at 9 a.m. sharp at the Ma-Le'l North Parking Lot: Take State Route 255 from Eureka or Arcata. North of Manila, just west of the bridge and lumber mill, turn west onto Young Lane. Turn right at the T and go north to the end of the road, through 2 gates that will be unlocked for us.

Contact Information and to say you're coming:
443-204-2411; sklein@streamlineplanning.net; or 822-2015



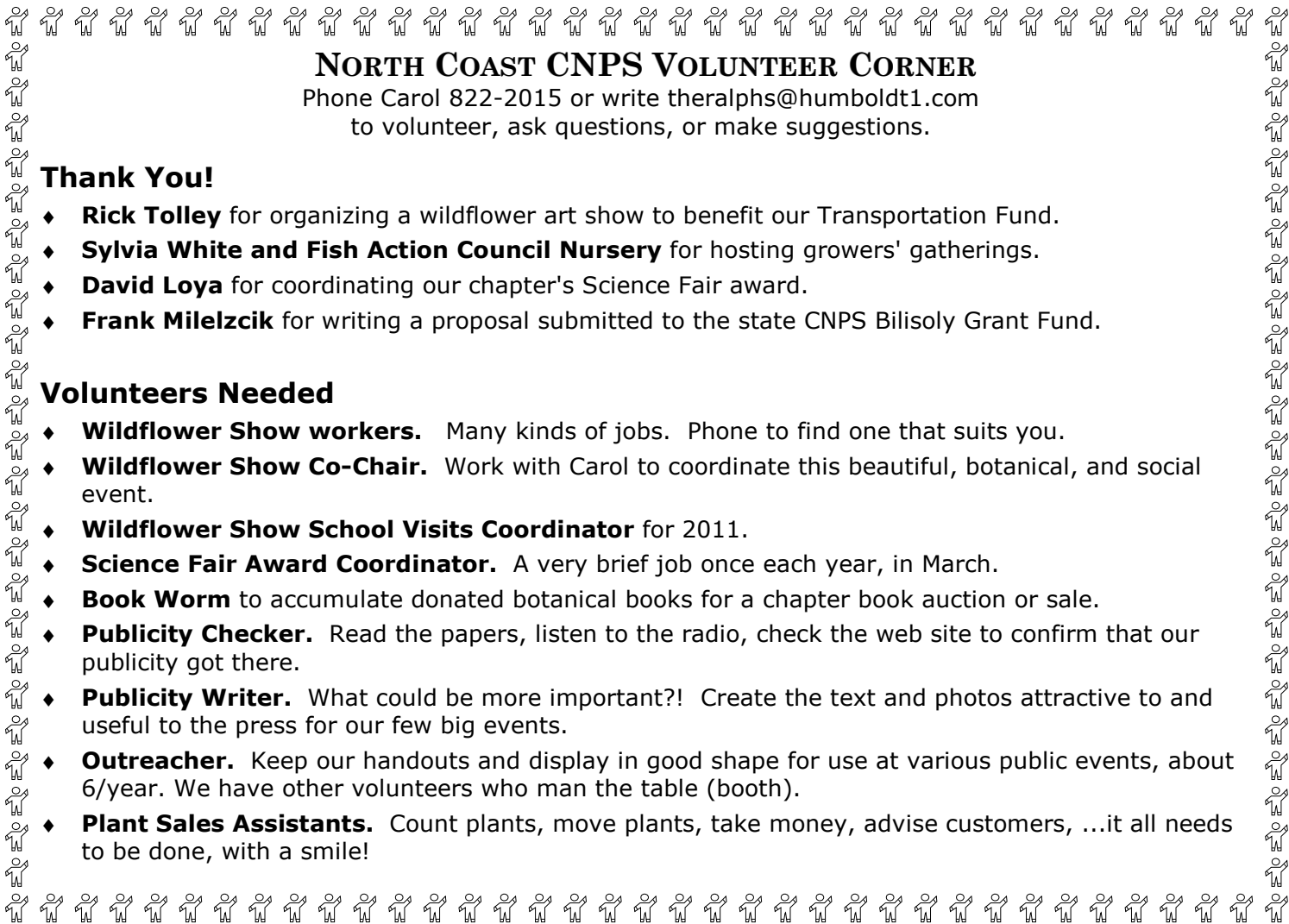
Here's what you want to do for Earth Day!

When: Saturday, April 17th

Time: 8:30 – 1:00; 8:30-9:00 registration, 9-12 work, 12-1 lunch provided to all volunteers

Where: Patrick's Point State Park

Details: State Parks Earth Day volunteer event. We are going to tackle ivy at Ceremonial Rock !!! in Patricks Point State Park. Other Info: Get in to the Park for free that day if you volunteer and lunch, tools and gloves provided, but if volunteers have their own.



NORTH COAST CNPS VOLUNTEER CORNER

Phone Carol 822-2015 or write theralphs@humboldt1.com
to volunteer, ask questions, or make suggestions.

Thank You!

- ◆ **Rick Tolley** for organizing a wildflower art show to benefit our Transportation Fund.
- ◆ **Sylvia White and Fish Action Council Nursery** for hosting growers' gatherings.
- ◆ **David Loya** for coordinating our chapter's Science Fair award.
- ◆ **Frank Milelzcik** for writing a proposal submitted to the state CNPS Bilisoly Grant Fund.

Volunteers Needed

- ◆ **Wildflower Show workers.** Many kinds of jobs. Phone to find one that suits you.
- ◆ **Wildflower Show Co-Chair.** Work with Carol to coordinate this beautiful, botanical, and social event.
- ◆ **Wildflower Show School Visits Coordinator** for 2011.
- ◆ **Science Fair Award Coordinator.** A very brief job once each year, in March.
- ◆ **Book Worm** to accumulate donated botanical books for a chapter book auction or sale.
- ◆ **Publicity Checker.** Read the papers, listen to the radio, check the web site to confirm that our publicity got there.
- ◆ **Publicity Writer.** What could be more important?! Create the text and photos attractive to and useful to the press for our few big events.
- ◆ **Outreacher.** Keep our handouts and display in good shape for use at various public events, about 6/year. We have other volunteers who man the table (booth).
- ◆ **Plant Sales Assistants.** Count plants, move plants, take money, advise customers, ...it all needs to be done, with a smile!

FOR FLOWERS, CHILDREN, AND CNPS

by Carol Ralph

What a great way to cheer up a February evening! Visit an art show entirely of wildflowers! Thanks to Rick Tolley and 15 other artists and to gallery manager Joseph Wilhelm images of flowers were on display in the Upstairs Gallery in Umpqua Bank for most of February, including the February 12th Arts Arcata! evening. It was beautiful, and accompanied by the gentle music of Scatter the Mud.

Even more exciting and amazing is that the artists donated most of the proceeds of the art sales, and Joseph donated the gallery space and associated service, to our chapter, specifically to a Transportation Fund. This money will help cash-strapped teachers pay for class field trips to the spring wildflower show.

Coordinating the artists and hanging the show were heroic tasks. Thank you, Rick! Thank you to the artists: Gary Bloomfield, Natalie Craig, Paula Golightly, Michael Harris, Joyce Jonte, Ken Jarvala, Dorothy Klein, Linda Parkinson, Maureen McGarry, Leslie Reid, Alan Sanborn, Stock Schlueter, Patty Sennott, Rick Tolley, John Wesa, Peter Zambas. Their donations were truly generous.

Rick Tolley's art network next brings us Art Night at the Spring Wildflower Show, Friday, April 30, 7-9 p.m. at the Manila Community Center. Scatter the Mud will play, while artists of all ages and experiences make use of the show's flowers to sketch, draw, and paint. Join them!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Ammon Prairie "So Much Hay out of Such a Short Pasture" November 7, 2009 by Carol Ralph

The road was wet, the dust now damp, the air cool, the water drops sparkling on foliage when the sun peeked between clouds, the oak leaves rich brown and partly fallen, and new polypody fern fronds bright green on the road bank. Thirteen of us headed out Forest Highway 6 off the lower end of Friday Ridge Rd. in Six Rivers National Forest, headed for Ammon Prairie, a.k.a. Ammon Ranch, at about 2000 ft elevation on the slopes west of South Fork Trinity River. The journey was embellished with a stop at Richard Rosvall Memorial Bridge over Madden Creek to change two flat tires. (Next time avoid those sharp rocks on the road!) Some of us admired the lush creekside vegetation, featuring the huge leaves of umbrella plant *Darmera peltata* and California spikenard *Aralia californica*, and spotted a salmon in the pool under the bridge. Soon after, we stopped to study and admire a roadside patch of a dramatic but unobtrusive plant, durango root *Datisca glomerata*. It is a robust perennial up to 6 ft. tall with the texture of marijuana but the leaves irregularly pinnately divided, rather than palmately compound. The flower is merely a green, three-cornered, upright swelling with three points and anthers and/or threadlike, forked pistils sticking out the top. All parts of durango root are toxic. Its family has only 4 species worldwide, and we have one! Most of this patch had been mowed in the Forest Service road-clearing program, which is important for maintaining the roadside habitat, as well as keeping the roads passable.



Leaves of a confusing oak

The turnoff to Ammon Prairie is 7.7 miles from Highway 299, marked by an unofficial metal sign. In

fact, the prairie is not labeled on the newest Forest Service map, although Ammon Creek is. Maybe this is why the off-road drivers have not been in the prairie this year, a beneficial development. This prairie (or meadow) is on undulating ground, dissected by Ammon Creek and islands of mixed evergreen forest and deciduous oaks. We parked in the old campground at the south side just in time for lunch. The meadow grass is very short and sparse, even with very light grazing of deer and a few unsupervised stock. Its brown, summer aspect was already underlain with a haze of new green leaves. For our lunch setting we sought the ephemeral sun out in the meadow and pondered the oak leaves that were too broad- and few-lobed to be Oregon white oak *Quercus garryana*, lacked the bristles on the lobes of California black oak *Q. kelloggii*, and were lobed and deciduous, so not canyon live oak *Q. chrysolepis*. We decided these wind-pollinated species had created a new combination, a hybrid.



After lunch we walked a circuit starting to the left (west) to a pond against the mountain. It was almost entirely dry, reflecting the unusually dry year. The pond lilies *Nuphar polysepala* were high and dry. Great mats of pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium* covered the ground. A wispy annual with a blue flower and a powerful odor when crushed caught our eyes. Some thought it smelled of vinegar; some thought turpentine. The petioles on its leaves, along with the great, arching stamens thrown back over the corolla like ram's horns, identified it as turpentine weed *Trichostemma laxum*. We crossed east through a Douglas fir grove to another arm of the meadow, walked through a passage along a riparian patch of white alder *Alnus rhombifolia* and leafless dogwoods *Cornus spp.* (both red and yellow twigs) to the old homesite overlooking a shallow, marshy meadow. Dry star thistle *Centaurea solstitialis*, creeping St.

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prairie and pasture. We'll take a side trip a few miles out Pine Ridge Rd. to see very early spring in the prairie we discovered in a cold rain in November 2008. Being May, we can't miss. Lots will be blooming. We'll try for 4 species of *Dichelostemma*. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Bring a two-way radio if you have one, to maintain contact between cars. Meet at 8:30 at Pacific Union School (or arrange another spot). Carol Ralph 822-2015.

May 23, Sunday. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Azalea Reserve Plant walk with Pete Haggard. See many of our native plants that are recommended for gardens, both shrubs and herbs, including the native azalea, which should be blooming. Take North Bank Rd. off 101 just north of the Mad River; after a little more than one mile turn left on Azalea Dr., and shortly after that, left into the parking lot. Pete Haggard 839-0307.

May 28-31, Friday-Monday, all or part. Mendocino Weekend. Explore many of Mendocino's favorite botanical sites, including the Pygmy Forest and the Mendocino Botanical Garden. Overnight in campgrounds or motels; make short day hikes in the Fort Bragg-Mendocino area. A joint expedition with members of four other CNPS chapters. Tell Carol you are interested 822-2015.

June 12, Saturday. Horse Mountain to Grouse Mountain Day Trip. It will be full spring along Forest Highway 1 (Titlow Hill Rd.) along the ridge in Six Rivers National Forest. We will stop and wander at various favorite places. Possibilities include Cold Springs, Spikebuck Meadow, Camas Meadow, Veratrum Camp, and Horse Mt. Botanical Area. We can hope to see violets, iris, pussyears, trillium, fritillary, *Sanicula tuberosa*, fawn lily, dogwood, etc.! Bring lots of layers of clothing for mountain weather; bring lunch and water. Return mid- to late-afternoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Call Carol 822-2015.

June 13, Sunday. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Blooms and Bugs at Mad River Beach, guided walk. Join **Pete Haggard** to see blooming beach buckwheat, seaside daisy, sand verbena, and others where the sand meets the firmer, damper soil of the willowy, rushy swale. Easy walking. Meet at the beach parking lot at the very end of Mad River Rd. 839-0208.

July 9-11, Friday-Sunday. Poker Flat and Kelly Lake Day Hikes and Campout. In the heart of the Siskiyou at 4-5,000 ft. elevation in Klamath National Forest between Happy Camp and O'Brien, these sites of distant past CNPS trips offer great exploration of mountain forest and meadow, including serpentine and possibly the "most beautiful meadow in northwest California." We will camp in a primitive Forest Service campground at Poker Flat. Non-campers could look for accommodation in Happy Camp, Patrick Creek, or Cave Junction area. Contact Carol 707-822-2015.

July 31, Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Orchids in the Dunes. Explore the Lanphere Dunes with **Carol Ralph**. Find four species of orchids blooming. Bring a lens; the flowers are small! Meet at Pacific Union School, 3001 Janes Road in Arcata, and carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Dunes. Please register by calling 444-1397 or contact denise@friendsofthedunes.org

Surprise trip: Date to be announced. Waterdog Lake: Plant, Butterfly, and Bird Day Hike. A CNPS-Audubon event. This hike was smoked out by forest fires the last two years, so this year we will schedule it on short notice, advertised through our Yahoo! groups. It could be in July, August, or September. Famous for their butterfly diversity, tiny Waterdog Lake and adjacent North Trinity Mountain are 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 before 6 p.m. Call Carol 822-2015

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

President	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Vice President	Felicity Wasser	826-7712	wasserfw@yahoo.com
Secretary	Frances Ferguson	822-5079	fferguson@reninet.com
Treasurer	Cara Witte	845-3883	carawitte@gmail.com
Membership	Melissa Kraemer	822-4189	sarcodes@gmail.com
Invasive Plants	Stephanie Klein	822-5785	sklein@streamlineplanning.net
Native Plant Gardening	Pete Haggard	839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.net
Native Plant Consultation	Bev Zeman	677-9391	donjzeman@yahoo.com
Plant Sales	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jkalt@asis.com
	Sunny Loya	441-9545	sunny@mcbaintrush.com
Education	Judie Snyder	826-7735	snyderj1@suddenlink.net
Conservation	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jkalt@asis.com
Programs	Audrey Miller	786-9701	taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net
Hospitality	Melinda Groom Frank Milelzcik (Asst.)	668-4275 822-5360	mgroom@skein.org frankm638@yahoo.com
Field Trips and Plant Walks	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Rare Plants	Kim Imper	444-2756	dimper@softcom.net
Plant Communities	Tony LaBanca	826-7208	tlabanca@dfg.ca.gov
Newsletter Editor	Marisa D'Arpino	601-0898	marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com
Website & Publicity	Larry Levine	822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
Poster Sales	Felicity Wasser	826-7712	wasserfw@yahoo.com
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
3. 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.

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.

Ruby Van Deventer Wildflower Show

The third Ruby Van Deventer Wildflower Show is slated for **May 14th and 15th** at the **Del Norte County Fair Grounds**. The show, which has developed into a community must, will feature displays of hundreds of local wildflowers including the three carnivorous plants that grow in the Klamath/Siskiyou bio region.

The two day affair is free and on Thursday all the 3rd graders in Del Norte County will attend. Each child will receive a coloring book with information about wildflowers of the area.

Show hours: May 14, Friday 11AM - 6PM and May 15, Saturday 11AM - 6PM

Location: US Highway 101 North Large sign on highway

For more information, contact: Rick Bennett 707 457-3485 or e-mail: bennett@sunstarcom.net

California Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival

(formerly the Aleutian Goose Festival)

www.calredwoodsbirdfest.org

May 7-9 in and around Crescent City.

The offering of field trips covers many non-bird topics, such as geology, marine mammals, insects, tracks & scat, and PLANTS! Here are some plant-related field trips. You can look up the details on the web site. The cost is reasonable.

- ◆ #16 Bees and Blooms of Tolowa Dunes with Laura Julian
- ◆ #44 Ancient Forest Walk
- ◆ #59 Birds and herbs with Julie Caldwell
- ◆ #61 Myrtle Creek Botanical Trail with Joe Gillespie
- ◆ #63 Ancient Redwood Wildflower Walk
- ◆ #64 Lake Earl--Wonders of Wetlands Walk with Sandra Jerabek
- ◆ #65 Endert's Beach Bluffs & Beach Hike with Wendell Wood
- ◆ #66 Stoney Creek Hike with CNPS (If you are a CNPS member, you don't have to pay registration, but you do have to sign up 822-2015.)

A Map to Adventure—You may have noticed that many of our field trips are in the **Six Rivers National Forest**. We are fortunate that so much of our nearby mountains are public land, available for exploring. The Six Rivers National Forest map is *almost* always accurate. You can purchase one for \$9 (\$10 waterproof) at the Forest Service Office, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka or at the ranger district offices in Orleans, Willow Creek, Bridgeville (Mad River), and Gasquet. Check the web site www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers/

Glide Wildflower Show

www.glidewildflowershow.org

April 24 & 25 from 9 am - 5 pm

Suggested donation \$3

Glide Community Center, Glide, Oregon

541.496.3323

- ◆ Noxious Weeds: Identification and Control
- ◆ Landscaping with Native Species
- ◆ Edible & Medicinal Uses of Plants
- ◆ Favorite Plants of Cascade Butterflies

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these sites closely and make some noise when threats appear. If you're interested in keeping an eye on a special place like this give me a call at 825-5112. We'll set you up with a nearby site. Thanks to Annie for the great pictures.



Photos Courtesy of Anne Eicher: 2004, October 2009 (note: power pole has been moved for shoulder work), and November 2009 after fill removed.

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Johnswort *Hypericum calycinum*, and everlasting pea *Lathyrus latifolius* announced the presence of "civilization." The small pool, only about 20 ft. long, 2-3 ft. across, and less than 8 inches deep, could have formed in the first rains. We followed a different arm of the meadow past three mules (Hmm. What are they doing here?) and a patch of mule's ears *Wyethia sp.* into the streamside forest where a little footbridge crossed the stream. Always amazed at plants lacking chlorophyll, we studied the brown, cone-like stems of California ground-cone *Boschniakia strobilacea*, a root parasite, sitting in the leaf litter under a madrone. Though narrow this forest was damp and rich. A small yew *Taxus brevifolia* grew by the bridge. The trail emerged into the northern part of the meadow, among old apple trees and near another parking area. From there we swept back through the meadow to our cars in the south.

Though "off the map" now, Ammon Prairie must have been an important place in the past. A natural opening in the forest, a somewhat level one at that, is a magnet for humans. The lack of small trees invading this meadow, even after many years of fire suppression, suggests it is natural. Some of the herbs here have edible roots. Could this have been a harvesting site for Native Americans? Later on, did this soil really support homesteading? Was there a spring, before someone made a dam for the pond? Closer study of the soils, grasses, tree rings, and historical archives could be interesting.

Ammon Prairie that we saw this day was quiet and largely dormant, waiting for winter. We encountered only one plant species blooming, but for hours we had discovered, shared, and enthused about turpentine weed, a frog, water striders, a fungus, an oak, a root parasite, and countless other features of the great outdoors. David Fix observed, "So much hay out of such a short pasture."

As a post-trip bonus two cars explored the nearby road up to Oak Knob, a promising sounding name on the map. We passed some serpentine clearings and knobcone pines and parked at an intersection on the north side of the knob. We walked up a bouldery path a bulldozer long ago blazed up a gully. The oak for which the knob was named was clearly canyon live oak, which covered the steep hill. The north side was a tumble of impressively mossy rocks. At an overlook a 3 ft.-diameter sugar pine stump suggested the mission of the bulldozer.

A spring trip to Ammon Prairie, May 7, 2005, is reported in the summer-05 issue of *Darlingtonia*.

Coastal Trail from Requa to Lagoon Creek February 27, 2010 by Carol Ralph

The idyllic February weather-sunny, blue, still, damp, and cool-called out 26 people to hike the 4 gentle miles north from the end of the road at Requa, overlooking the mouth of the Klamath River, to the roadside rest area along 101 at Lagoon Creek. This section of the Coastal Trail is all in Redwood National Park. After 20 minutes to shuttle most cars to the north end, we set out, gentle surf rumble on our left, as it would be all day, and soon were spread out along the trail.



Laurie Lawrence, Jennifer
Ricmond, and Jennie
Hanson display *Polypodium
scouleri*, *P. glycyrrhiza*, and *P. calirhiza*.

It was clearly early spring. The flowers we saw on most species were the first of more to come, however the early-bloomers were in full color. On the open, brushy slopes of the first section of the trail these were osoberry *Oemleria cerasiformis*, red-flowering currant *Ribes menziesii*, coltsfoot *Petasites frigidus (palmatus)*, and bittercress *Cardamine oligosperma*. This hillside is now non-native grassland becoming coastal scrub dominated by coyote brush *Baccharis pilularis* (which still looked tattered and brown) and California blackberry *Rubus ursinus*. It probably used to be pasture; it will become spruce forest if nothing intervenes. In the second

section of trail, a red alder *Alnus rubra*-Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis* forest, candyflower *Claytonia sibirica* and milkmaids *Cardamine californica* sprinkled the trailside. Spring was slightly more advanced in the northern section of the trail, as measured by the number of unfurled leaves in false lily-of-the-valley *Maianthemum dilatatum* and flowers on the bleeding heart *Dicentra formosa*. This was a spruce forest also, but with elements lacking in the southern half. These included occasional huckleberry (black *Vaccinium*

(Continued on page 11)

MEMBERS' CORNER

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Boni
Sarah Caldwell
David Callow
Ann Condon
Kathryn Corbett
Brian Dykstra
Stephanie Erskine
Katherine Granfield
Dawn Graydon
Per Gunst
Dennis Hogan
James Jackson
Eric Johnson
Helen Kurkjian
Tom Lisle
Elaine Mahaffey
Frank Milelzcik
Charles Nummelin
Monica Scholey
Don Staudenmaier
Jessie Uehling
Emily Walter
Cynthia Woods
Jon Yakinkaya

THANK YOU TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS

Tom Allen and Katy Allen
Carol Allison
Helen G. Anderson
Paul Anderson
Reid Autumn and Kelley Reid
Dr. Pauline M. Baefsky
Barney Bartelle
Jim Belsher-Howe
Mignonne Bivin
Katherine Blume
Richard Boothe
Heather Brent
Tamara Camper
Bryon Cariss
Gwynneth Carothers and Paul Carothers
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Jeanne Charles
Katherine J. Clague
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Gary Falxa
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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Support these local businesses and receive discounts on your purchases. Please show proof of your North Coast membership to receive the discount.

- **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
 - **Pierson's Garden Shop,** 10% discount on all garden shop items (except sale or non-discountable items—please ask staff before going to register), 441-2713
- See 14 page for details about how to sign up for North Coast CNPS Membership.**

(Continued from page 9)

ovatum and red *V. parvifolium*) and salal *Gaultheria shallon*, patches of wild ginger *Asarum caudatum*, single *Trillium ovatum* in bold, white-flowered glory, and in damp places mats of ground-ivy-leaved water-carpet *Chrysosplenium glechomaefolium* featuring sparkly but inconspicuous flowers.

We saw the complete line-up of coastal ferns. In the sunnier places were the ubiquitous bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, both dead and fresh fronds emerging singly on thick, wiry "stems," western wood fern *Dryopteris arguta*, evergreen and slightly creeping, and well-named gold-back fern *Pityrogramma triangularis*. In damp forest were spreading wood fern *Dryopteris expansa*, delicate, soft, and evergreen, and the similarly textured lady fern *Athyrium felix-femina*, unfurling bright green fronds after winter dormancy. Sword fern *Polystichum munitum* was pervasive; and the other singly pinnate fern, deer fern *Blechnum spicant* was confined to a few banks. We saw five-finger fern *Adiantum aleuticum (pedatum)* in only one place. We achieved a "full set" of polypodies, creeping, singly pinnately lobed ferns. In fact, we found the three side-by-side in one spot. Clumps of robust, evergreen leather fern *Polypodium scoleri* and thinner-leaved licorice fern *P.glycyrrhiza* adorned a horizontal alder trunk beside a rock face sporting roadbank fern *P. calirhiza*. In general licorice fern pinnae are narrow, pointed, and wavy; those of roadbank fern are straight, wider, and rounded. Licorice fern should stay green; roadbank fern patches turn brown in the dry season. Don't count on these differences always being clear! *P. calirhiza* is a species formed by the merging of the genomes of *P. glycyrrhiza* and *P. californica*. Back-crossing happens, resulting in plenty of variation.

I exercised my nose on this hike. *Trillium kurabayashii* is supposed to smell "musty or foetid," as opposed to *T. chloropetalum* (which grows farther south than our area), which smells "sweet, roselike or spicy." We found one clump of *Trillium kurabayashii*. The first flowers, magnificent, deep maroon, had opened, but any odor was very faint. The *T. ovatum* fragrance was pleasingly perfumey. The odors of hedgenettle *Stachys* and figwort *Scrophularia californica* are both distinctive but simply "funky" in my odor classification. Another person suggested "minty, dry, and astringent" for hedgenettle. Smelling a crushed leaf can be useful when identifying umbellifers (carrot family). Lovage *Ligusticum* smelled distinctly like celery. Sweet-cicely *Osmorhiza*, with similar leaves, had no odor, though the root reportedly smells of licorice. Poison hemlock *Conium maculatum* leaves were more finely divided and smelled musty; water parsley *Oenanthe sarmentosa* leaves were more robust and smelled sharp. Both angelicas, *Angelica hendersonii* and *A.*

lucida, smelled.....like angelica! I obviously need to work on these odors. Is there a color-wheel equivalent for odors? Something with which to standardize noses?



Sweet, spicy? or Foetid , musty?

You may have noticed the fine assortment of umbellifers we saw. It became more exciting when I later looked in the book and found that sweet-cicely with pink-red flowers is *Osmorhiza purpurea*, not the familiar *O. berteroi* (formerly *chilensis*). Most of the sweet-cicely we saw had no flowers or seeds yet. This species blooms briefly, with tiny flowers, but is easy to identify by the spindle-shaped seeds. The one we stopped to check, to prove to doubters that it was indeed *Osmorhiza*, had tiny reddish flowers rather than whitish. This calls for a return trip to check many sweet-cicely along the path. How many are *berteroi*? *chilensis*? Can we really distinguish them by seed or leaf, as the book implies? On a return trip we could also look for flowers on the low tufted plants we thought were *Horkelia californica*, by the big rocks below the trail.

Our botanizing on this hike was all immediately along the trail, much of which was an old dirt road. That's where we were treated to a continuous bed of the

(Continued on page 15)

NORTH COAST CELEBRATION OF WILD CALIFORNIA PLANTS

Our chapter is carrying on the spring wildflower show tradition, started 26 years ago by Nature Discovery Volunteers. We enlist the help of many volunteers in our and other organizations. Friends of the Dunes, North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association, Humboldt Weed Management Area, The Northwest School for Botanical Studies, and the Native American community all contribute to this year's show. Every year the show is different, but every year it is the same--people in love with plants enjoying and sharing them. The topics are different, but every year speakers share their knowledge. Come see which of your flower friends are at the show this year, make some new friends, and hear what this year's speakers offer. We'll see you there!

Teachers wishing to bring students to the show on April 30 should contact Judie Snyder immediately (707-826-7735; snyderj1@suddenlink.net). CNPS and Friends of the Dunes offer a schedule of 4 lessons, including a dune walk.

Friday, April 30

- ◆ Show open 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- ◆ 10 a.m.-2 p.m. School groups tour the show.
- ◆ 7 p.m. "Art Night" Free drawing workshop with live music, Rick Tolley and friends

Saturday, May 1

- ◆ Show open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ◆ Plant Sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ◆ 11 a.m. "Habitat Gardening," Pete Haggard
- ◆ 1 p.m. "Humboldt's Worst Weeds", debut of the new free booklet
- ◆ 2 p.m. "Amazing Adaptations of Dune Plants" guided walk

Sunday, May 2

- ◆ Show open 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ◆ Plant Sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ◆ 11 a.m. "Focus on Lupines," Dana York
- ◆ 12 noon. "North Coast Plants Used by Native Peoples," presentation and demonstration
- ◆ 1:30 p.m. "Flora and Fauna of the Dunes" guided walk
- ◆ 2 p.m. "Native Medicinal Plants," Christa Sinadinos

If you would like to be involved in presenting this marvelous array of wild plant fun, call 822-2015 or 822-7190.

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

APRIL 30, MAY 1, MAY 2, 2010.

The 27th annual Spring Wildflower Show, a celebration of wild California plants, convenes at the Manila Community Center (1611 Peninsula Dr., just off 255 between Arcata and the Samoa Bridge) the first weekend in May. The California Native Plant Society--North Coast Chapter presents hundreds of wildflowers, both native and non-native, from seashore to mountains, labeled and displayed by family. Other groups, including Friends of the Dunes, present displays on topics including edible plants, plants in the dunes, plants in the redwood forest, local insects, invasive plants, rare plants, and sudden oak death. The schedule also includes presentations on native plant gardening, invasive weeds, lupines, wild medicinal plants, and Native American culture, as well as guided walks in the neighboring dunes to look at dune vegetation, flowers, and pollinators. Friday evening artists gather to draw and paint flowers.

A native plant sale to benefit CNPS accompanies the show on Saturday and Sunday, The show is open to the public Friday, 1-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free. See the schedule at www.northcoastcnps.org. Information: 822-7190; 822-2015.

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NORTH COAST CNPS WILDFLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE

Free Admission

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

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

April 30, May 1 and 2

Fri 1-5, Sat 10-5, 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 wild plants, of rare plants, of sudden oak death, and of local insects
- Presentations on habitat gardening, invasive weeds, lupines, native medicinal plants, and Native American uses of plants
- Artists' Night--free drawing workshop with Rick Tolley and friends, Friday evening
- Guided walks in the dunes
- Books and wildflower posters for sale

You can help this festive event! We need people to collect flowers, 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.

For more information: visit our web site
www.northcoastcnps.org or
call 822-2015 / 822-7190.

- 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!

NATIVE PLANT SALE

May 1 and 2

Sat 10-5 and Sun 10-4

Proceeds support the North Coast Chapter's Activities

For Information: 441-9545

- Cash and checks accepted
- Bring your empty flower pots for re-use



© St. Mary's College of California

Photograph of *Viola sempervirens* (Evergreen Violet) by Brother Alfred Brousseau
Courtesy St. Mary's College of California



North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society www.northcoastcnps.org
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

Wildflower Show and Plant Sale Notes:

- ◆ Frank Milelcik, naturalist, explorer, and forestry technician likes to share his knowledge and love of the outdoors.
- ◆ Art Night is an informal gathering of people who love to draw and paint flowers. Rick Tolley brings in live music and friendly atmosphere for beginners and experts alike to capture on paper their choice from the abundance of flowers in the room. He has pencils and paper for those who don't bring their own materials. Contact at 668-5301.
- ◆ Pete Haggard, local "bug man" and respected gardener has brought insects, mostly caterpillars, to share at the wildflower show every year for many years. Pete frequently lectures on insects, native plant gardening, and the relation between the two. He and his wife Judy authored *Insects of the Pacific Northwest*.
- ◆ Christa Sinadinos is the founder and the director of The Northwest School for Botanical Studies. She has studied medicinal herbs for twenty years and has practiced clinical herbalism for fifteen years.
- ◆ Dana York is an energetic field botanist currently employed at Caltrans.
- ◆ Dave Imper, rare plant biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, has been photographing flowers for a long time, especially his favorites, the lilies.
- ◆ John Sawyer, professor emeritus and prominent, local botanist is an energetic and knowledgeable field naturalist who has published, among many other things, a book on dune vegetation and restoration.
- ◆ Kim McFarland is a graduate student at Humboldt State University working on the dune silver bees, their nest aggregations and the chemical communication in their mating behavior.
- ◆ Teachers wishing to bring their classes to the show should phone 826-7735.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ May 1, 2. Native Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. At Manila Community Center, accompanying the wildflower show, will be hundreds of native shrubs, trees, perennials, ferns, bulbs, and annuals for sale. Experienced gardeners will help you choose which to take to your own yard.



Original Illustration Courtesy of
Fred A. Sharpe: Prairie Chocolate Lily

(Continued from page 11)

many species mentioned above plus fairybells *Prosartes (Disporum) smithii*, stream violet *Viola glabella*, piggyback plant *Tolmeia menziesii*, fringedcups *Tellima grandiflora*, and others. Off the trail the forest was a dense thicket of mostly salmonberry. It didn't look like we were missing much. In fact, it looked like this man-made trail was providing bonus habitat for the plants that need a bit of sunlight or open ground naturally provided by fire, erosion, a fallen tree, or animal trampling.



Polypodium calirhiza



Polypodium glycyrrhiza



Polypodium scolieri

Footnote: This hike on February 25, 2006, was reported in *Darlingtonia* that year. At that time I mistakenly identified the maroon trillium as *T. chloropetalum*, a common mistake when *T. kurabayashii* did not figure in popular guides and was a minor mention under *T. angustipetalum* in *The Jepson Manual*.

JOIN THE CNPS NORTH COAST CHAPTER!

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

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/>

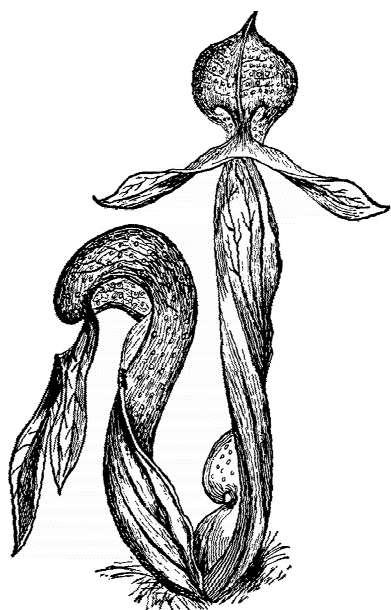
Please notify the state office and/or our Membership Chairperson if your address changes. **MEMBERS**—see your membership expiration date on the first line of your newsletter's address label.

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Darlingtonia



**Visit us at
NorthCoastCNPS.org**

CALENDAR of EVENTS

(Plant Walks & Hikes—Page 2 / Programs— Page 3)

April

- ◆ Sat 3—Plant Walk
- ◆ Sun 11— Hike
- ◆ Wed 14 — Program
- ◆ Sat 24—Walk
- ◆ Sun 25-Walk
- ◆ Fri 30 — Wildflower Show (Page 12 & 13)

May

- ◆ Sat 1 — Wildflower Show and Plant Sale (Page 12 & 13)
- ◆ Sat 1—Walk
- ◆ Sun 2 — Wildflower Show and Plant Sale (Page 12 & 13)
- ◆ Sun 2—Walk
- ◆ Sun 9-Hike
- ◆ Wed 12 — Program

- ◆ Sun 16- Hike
- ◆ Sat 22-Day Trip
- ◆ Sun 23-Plant Walk
- ◆ Fri-Sun 28-31-Overnight

June

- ◆ Sat 12-Day Trip
- ◆ Sun 13-Walk

July

- ◆ Fri-Sun 9-11—Hikes and Overnight
- ◆ Sat 31- Plant Walk