

Darlingtonia

Summer 2010
Jul—Sep

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



COASTAL GRASSLAND TREASURES By Joyce King

On April 14, we were treated to a lively presentation titled, "Our Coastal Grassland Treasures, Contemporary Conservation Challenges and Pathways to Conservation," delivered by Jennifer Wheeler, botanist/range conservationist/invasive weed specialist for Arcata's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office. She drew from 17 years of work preserving and protecting native and rare plants, primarily in local coastal prairies and dune ecosystems, showing slides, tables, and graphs, illustrating the status of grassland and grasses including: *Achnatherum lemmonii*, *Bromus carinatus*, *Calamagrostis foliosa*, *Danthonia californica*, *Deschampsia holciformis*, *Elymus glaucus*, *Festuca idahoensis*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Melica californica*, and *Trisetum canescens*.

We learned that unlike thatch-producing annual grasses, native grasses are predominantly clumping perennials with large vertical root systems adapted to dry summers. This growth habit provides the interspace for native flowering annuals and the grand spring floral displays once common to our meadows and prairies. Native grasses are also better at building and stabilizing soil, filtering pollutants, capturing water and nutrients, and providing forage and nesting for native wildlife. Many of us were surprised by the fact that the deep roots of native grasses sequester more carbon than trees and shrubs.

Unfortunately, less than 1% of our native grasslands survive today, due to their convenience for development, the disruption of natural and indigenous grazing and fire regimes, and the over-competition from non-native annual grasses.

For restoration of native grasses in our precipitation zone, where competition from non-natives is intense, Jennifer recommended planting most species in colonies of well-rooted plugs at the beginning of the rainy season, and following with a mowing/grazing regime that mimics pre-European conditions.

Recommended references:

- ◆ *Grass: The Stockman's Crop*. Harland E. Dietz Booklet from Sunshine Unlimited, Inc. Lindsborg, Kansas
- ◆ *California Grasslands Ecology and Management* Edited by Mark R. Stromberg, Jeffrey D. Corbin and Carla M. D'Antonio, UC Press.

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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
- ◇ 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@yahoo.com).

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

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

Waterdog Lake: Plant, Butterfly, and Bird Day Hike. Date to be announced. 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.

Sept. 11, Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. **Conifers of the World, Plant Walk with Dr. Dennis Walker.** Not all conifers look like Christmas trees. Learn what makes a conifer and see the wide array of conifers growing on Humboldt State University campus, led by the man who put them there. Meet at the front doors of the dome greenhouse, between the biology and engineering buildings. Parking is free on weekends in campus lots. Information: 822-2015

September 12, Sunday. Lake Earl Wetlands exploration. Lake Earl, near Crescent City, has a wide shoulder, providing zones for plants with different water requirements, even a few salt marsh species. We will be able to walk dry-shod to many of them, and with water footwear to more. We might spot unusual species among the many common wetland plants. Expect diverse monocots, such as bulrush, spikerush, three-square, arrow-grass, and toadrush; and diverse dicots, such as cudweed, silverweed, owl's clover, cow clover, dock, lamb's quarters, and brass buttons. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place north of there. Bring lunch and water; dress to be outside all day. Tell Carol 822-2015 where you will meet us.

October 9, Saturday. 12 noon - 5 p.m. more or less. **Chapter picnic and book sale & auction** at the Ralphs' on Arcata Bottom. Members and friends are invited to share good food and good company around a campfire between the dune forest and the Mad River Slough. Bring a dish to share, your own item to BBQ, your own beverage, and eating gear. Fire ready for BBQ at 1; eat 1-2:30; then walk in the Lanphere Dunes or the Ralphs' agricultural wetlands. Meanwhile (in the Ralphs' house) a botanical book sale, culminating in an auction. **Bring any botanical books you can donate to the chapter to sell.** Please tell Carol you are coming (and ask directions): 822-2015.

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.

Sep 8	TBD
Oct 13	TBD
Nov 10	Cache Creek/Bear Valley trip photos and discussion by Kathy Dilley and Donna Wildearth

TRAILS FOR HORSE MOUNTAIN by Carol Ralph

"Let's go for a hike!" The next question is "Where?" We have beautiful dunes and beaches and beautiful redwood forests accessible by trails, but what about those mountains that loom on the east, harboring the dazzling flora of the North Coast Ranges (a zone defined in *The Jepson Manual*)? Much of that land is public, in the care of Six Rivers National Forest. As winter sports enthusiasts know, the closest, most accessible portion is along Titlow Hill Rd., starting at Horse Mountain. Part of that mountain is designated the Horse Mountain Botanical Area--perfect for a CNPS hike! Except that there is no trail. True, botanical exploration can go cross-country where it is not too shrubby, and numerous old logging and mining roads shoot down ridges and squiggle across slopes with no clues about where they are going. Nothing invites, encourages, and facilitates exploration and familiarization like a trail, a path you know will go somewhere.



View of the Trinity Alps from the proposed Trinity Vista Trail on Horse Mountain.
Photo courtesy of Ann Wallace

The Ad Hoc Committee for Horse Mountain Trails, including our chapter, has coalesced to remedy this situation. The district ranger has told us that Six Rivers National Forest is ready to focus on recreational use of the forest, and they are delighted to hear from hikers. They hear often from off-road vehicle drivers. It is time for the botanizers, bird watchers, Sierra Clubbers, senior hiking groups, student hiking groups, and lone hikers to tell the Forest Service what they need.

The committee is scouting and collecting proposed trail routes and will present the best options to the District Ranger of the Lower Trinity Ranger District, Bill Rice, in Willow Creek. If you want to participate in this loose committee in any way, contact Carol Ralph (822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com). If you want to encourage the Forest to provide hiking trails, contact Bill Rice at 503-629-2118 or Lower Trinity Ranger District, P.O. Box 65, Willow Creek, CA 95573.

A message through the Six Rivers N.F. website (www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers) might reach him.

Trails on Horse Mountain we hope will be an easy start for trail development in Six Rivers National Forest in general. We also look forward to trails becoming available on Bureau of Land Management lands in Lacks Creek area.



NORTH COAST CNPS VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

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Thank You!

Mary Jo Kenny, Alan Justice, Melissa McDowell, Ann Sierka, CJ Ralph, Janelle Egger, Donna Wildearth, Carol Ralph, Frances Ferguson, Barbara Kelly, Pete Haggard, Ron Johnson, Virginia Waters, Jim Waters, Elena George for staffing our booth or table at various events.

Frances Ferguson for scheduling volunteers at those events.

Robin Bencie, Dana York, Pete Haggard, Barbara Kelly, Elaine Weinreb, Dennis Walker, Carol Ralph, Janelle Egger for leading plant walks.

Bill and Linda Shapeero for hosting a plant walk.

Sunny Loya for running the May Plant Sale.

Chris Beresford, Richard Beresford, David Loya, Piper Loya, Sylvia White, Kathy Dilley, Suzanne Isaacs, Judie Hinman, Joan Watanabe, Mattie Culver, Zephyr Markowitz, Chris Brant, Susan Anderson, Cara Witte Scott, Gisela Rohde, Eric Johnson, Randi Swedenburg, Annie laRue, Courtney Otto, Carol Ralph, CJ Ralph, Bernadette Pino, Kathryn Riley for helping at the May Plant Sale.

[See separate listing for Spring Wildflower Show volunteers on page 14.]

Volunteers Needed. Big jobs and small, every one important!

Wildflower Show Chair or Co-Chairs. The jobs and procedures and willing workers are established. We need a person or people to be sure they happen. No chair; no show.

Wildflower Show School Visits Coordinator for 2011. Surely one of the most rewarding jobs there is, helping appreciative teachers share the show to their students. A good procedure is established.

Education Chair. Role can be defined by the person with the title. We would like to be in touch with the school education world, but we think educating the adult public is important too.

Science Fair Award Coordinator. A very brief job once each year, in March, during HSU's spring break.

Book Worm to accumulate donated botanical books for a chapter book auction or sale.

Publicity Checker. If you regularly read a paper, listen to the radio, or check web sites, you can do this. Check whether our publicity got there.

Online Calendar Poster. Post our publicity on two or three public online calendars.

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 display and handouts in good shape for use at various public events, about 6/year. We have other volunteers who man the table (booth).

T-shirt Chair. Keep our inventory of chapter t-shirts. Needs to be in Arcata and have room for 3 boxes.

Plant Sale Chair or Co-Chairs. Arranges location, decides layout, schedules assistants. Needs good communication and possibly marketing sense. Two sales each year. Many volunteer growers bring the plants. Our most important source of funds!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

South Fork Trinity River Trail: a Five-Dichelostemma Day May 16, 2010 by Carol Ralph

South Fork Trail along the South Fork Trinity River in Six Rivers National Forest has a reputation to uphold, and it truly did on this mid-May visit. By the time we drove past billows of blue lupines, beds of pink and yellow bull clover, swaths of brilliant yellow sedum, and white stars of iris along Highway 299 to Willow Creek, and then lupines, clovers, woolly sunflower, alumroot, blue dicks, firecracker flower, modesty, pussy ears, and deerbrush along South Fork Trinity Rd, we were high on flowers before we even started walking. The challenge of the entire day was deciding whether to study and enjoy the flowers in front of us or to see what was a little farther on. Our group of 18 intended to walk without stopping out to Hell's Half-Acre Creek, which can be a 2 hour hike, and then return more leisurely, looking at things. We didn't tarry long anywhere, but most of us did use up our time on the outbound journey and returned with very few stops. Two sub-groups shortened the walk, returning earlier. The day proved lovely and warm, with non-threatening, afternoon clouds preventing the heat from building up.

The trail starts at the end of the road, in Coon Creek drainage. Older maps and hikers recall an exciting stream crossing at the very start. The re-routed trail is longer and avoids that obstacle. It circled along a slope through young mixed-evergreen forest, featuring a good clump of leafless wintergreen *Pyrola aphylla*; then a woodland decorated with blue dicks *Dichelostemma capitata*, fork-tooth ookow *Dichelostemma congesta*, firecracker flower *Dichelostemma ida-maia*, woolly sunflower *Eriophyllum lanatum*, spaghetti flower (for its long, stringy, white petal lobes) *Silene hookeri* ssp. *bolanderi*, at least two cheery, yellow composites, probably *Madia*; then a sunny, gravelly slope hosting tiny, intensely dark pink monkeyflower *Mimulus* sp., a small, yellow poppy *Eschscholzia* sp., blue-gray, small heads of blue-headed gilia *Gilia capitata*, red paintbrush *Castilleja* sp., dainty, pink slender clarkia *Clarkia gracilis* (droopy buds), darker pink and long-lobed red ribbons *Clarkia concinna*, and white-flowered

pipestems *Clematis lasiantha*. Narrow-leaved clumps of floppy white *Iris tenuisima*, bright red baubles of red larkspur *Delphinium nudicaule*, and diminutive-to-the-point-of-invisible *Tonella tenella* welcomed us into the lush riparian zone of Coon Creek. A few fawn lily *Erythronium californicum* here were in fruit (identified a previous year), while giant white wakerobin *Trillium albidum* and checker lily *Fritillaria affinis* were discovered blooming.

Signs of the fire that burned this entire area two (?) years ago were ubiquitous: blackened tree trunks, dead tanoak saplings with brown leaves still hanging on, open understory, open slopes that used to be brushy, fresh shrubs partially concealing their black skeletons. The fire's effect on poison oak was quite beneficial for us, producing poison oak carpets where it used to be thickets.

The trail beyond Coon Creek, which required some jumping or wading, angled up through an older forest with rich ground cover including white-



California ground-cone
Boschniakia strobilacea.
Photo by Ron Johnson

veined wintergreen *Pyrola picta*, princes pines *Chimaphila umbellata*, starflower *Trientalis latifolia*, rattlesnake orchid *Goodyera oblongifolia*, and a lily *Lilium* with no sign of flowers. Farther from the stream the ground cover was sparser. In a dark Douglas-fir *Pseudotsuga* and tanoak *Lithocarpus densiflorus* forest the trail met the old road-trail coming up from the original Coon Creek crossing. Continuing a gentle climb the trail crossed a forested ridge into the next drainage, a wide bowl lacking a named creek. Here was Ground Cone City with numerous fresh, cone-like clusters of maroon-and-cream flowers on the ground--*Boschniakia strobilacea*, a parasite on madrones and other plants in the heath family (Ericaceae). Milkmaids *Cardamine californica* were finished blooming; redwood inside-out-flower *Vancouveria planipetala* was starting; *Collomia heterophylla* made as large a show as it could with its petite, pink flowers; and Solomon's plume *Smilacina racemosa* offered fragrant sprays across our path. Chain fern *Woodwardia fimbriata* and diverse other streamside plants fill a corner where a seep crosses the trail and an old sign on a tree helpfully says, "HH15." The forest opens open to become woodland and shrubs on a very

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FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 18

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Prepare for the fall planting season.

Get your native shrubs, trees, perennials, bulbs, and ferns.

Experienced gardeners to help you choose.

Cash or check

Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot
569 South G St., Arcata
(5 blocks south of Samoa Blvd.)

WHY GARDEN WITH NATIVE PLANTS CNPS.org

While California's native plants have graced gardens worldwide for over a century, few of the landscapes designed for our state's gardens reflect the natural splendor for which California is famous. By gardening with native plants, you can bring the beauty of California into your own landscape while also receiving numerous benefits.

Save Water

Take advantage of water conserving plants in your landscape. Once established, many California native plants need minimal irrigation beyond normal rainfall. Saving water conserves a vital, limited resource and saves money, too.

Lower Maintenance

In a garden environment, native plants do best with some attention and care, but require less water, fertilizer, pruning, less or no pesticide, and less of your time to maintain than do many common garden plants.

Reduce Pesticides

Native plants have developed their own defenses against many pests and diseases. Since most pesticides kill indiscriminately, beneficial insects become secondary targets in the fight against pests. Reducing or eliminating pesticide use lets natural pest control take over and keeps garden toxins out of our creeks and watersheds.

Invite Wildlife

Native plants, hummingbirds, butterflies, and

other beneficial insects are "made for each other." Research shows that native wildlife clearly prefers native plants. California's wealth of insect pollinators can improve fruit set in your garden, while a variety of native insects and birds will help keep your landscape free of mosquitoes and plant-eating bugs.



Flowering bright green dudleya (*Dudleya virens* ssp. *hasselii*) and bear grass (*Nolina parryi* ssp. *wolfii*) add texture and form to a vibrant native garden.
Photo: David Fross

Support Local Ecology

While creating native landscapes can never replace natural habitats lost to development, planting gardens, parks, and roadsides with California native plants can help provide an important bridge to nearby remaining wild areas. Recommend native plants to homeowner associations, neighbors, and civic departments. You can also get involved with local land-use planning processes.

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	443-8326	StephanieKlein@w-and-k.com
Native Plant Gardening	Pete Haggard	839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.net
Native Plant Consultation	Bev Zeman	677-9391	donjzeman@yahoo.com
Plant Sales	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details
Education	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details
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	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details
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@yourec.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.



RECYCLING BOTANICAL BOOKS

Do you need plant books? Do you need to rid yourself of some plant books?

The chapter is going to provide the platform for re-circulating botanical books. Books donated to the chapter will be available, priced-to-sell, to benefit the chapter, at the chapter picnic October 9. The high quality items will be sold by silent or live auction.

We already have several boxes of books from the library of wildlife professor Paul Springer.

We can use more! Look at your shelves. Ask friends and relations. A field guide to a continent no longer visited? A coffee table flower book that doesn't fit on the shelf? Great Uncle Albert's botany books? The only requirement is that it be about plants. (Maybe about soils, if obviously of interest to plant people.) Bring them to the picnic, or deliver them to Carol (822-2015) beforehand.

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steep slope. The shrubs, well sprouted from their crowns, include Fremont silk tassel *Garrya fremontii*, birch-leaf mountain-mahogany *Cercocarpus betuloides*, and creambush *Holodiscus discolor*. Among the herbs we spotted the dainty, flat, round fruits of lacepod *Thysanocarpus curvipes*, the sticky, cream-colored bells of bell catchfly *Silene campanulata*, the sunny yellow cups of creamcups *Platystemon californica*, the dark red, narrow, upright flowers of a short onion *Allium* sp., and high on the rocks above us the clear pink sprays of Siskiyou lewisia *Lewisia cotyledon*. A rocky seep that crosses the trail, home to small saxifrages and *Romanzoffia californica* was dry, as were these plants in it. The yellow heads of the robust, yellow-flowered composite tall silvercrown *Cacaliopsis nardosmia*, a few of which were on the trailside, had progressed

to tufts of seeds.

Three hours from the trailhead, where the trail rounds a bend into the next drainage, was our scenic and obvious lunch spot. We settled among small, yellow poppies lacking collars *Eschscholzia* sp., the tiny, white flowers on thread-thin stems of a sandwort *Minuartia* sp. (We saw the three valves of its fruit.), and a clarkia with a dark pink spot on the clear pink petals, *Clarkia purpurea*. Below and in front of us was a rocky ridge splotted with bright yellow wallflowers *Erysimum* sp. We contemplated the larger ridge across the South Fork Trinity River, which was far below us. According to *The Jepson Manual* we were sitting in the Klamath Ranges on old, metamorphic and plutonic rocks, gazing at the North Coast Ranges, made from the sedimentary Franciscan Complex.



Lunch in the Klamath Ranges on the American Plate overlooking the South Fork Trinity River to the North Coast Ranges on the Pacific Plate.

A geological educated one among us noted that we were seated securely on the American Plate, watching the more mobile Pacific Plate across the river. Below the trail we discovered lewisia we could inspect, finding their leaves definitely wavy-margined, but also with short, stiff bristles all around the margin, i.e. characters of both *Lewisia cotyledon* var. *howellii* and var. *heckneri*. Also here in full bloom were red, tubular firecracker flowers, the heads of pale violet-blue, short-tubed flowers of round-tooth ookow *Dichelostemma multiflora*, and the loose heads of red-purple, medium-tubed flowers of the presumed hybrid of these, *D. venusta*. Nearby were the compact heads of short, wide, blue flowers of blue dicks *D. capitata*. We had a full set of *Dichelostemma* for the day! This viewpoint could be called The Lunch Stop, *Dichelostemma* Point, or Snake Point. On our return we spotted a rattlesnake and a sharp-tailed snake here.

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Round-toothed ookow *Dichelostemma multiflora*, hybrid *D. venusta*, and firecracker flower *D. idamaia*, growing naturally together

Most of us continued around the corner into the next drainage, Hell's Half Acre Creek, and took the trail diagonally down across a grassy, gravelly slope to Hell's Half-Acre Creek, whose clear water was rushing down its rocky bed in a steep-sided canyon. On a small gravel bar under white alders *Alnus rhombifolia*, cleared for the moment of poison oak by the fire, we rested and filled our water bottles. Some of us continued up the other side on a remarkable trail carved out of the cliff face. Rock plants-- lewisia, sedum, silene--were eye level. The shelf of the trail seemed a favored perch for *Lomatium californicum*, whose large umbels of tiny, yellow flowers or large, green seeds hung boldly over the precipice, anchored in tussocks of gray-green, celery-like and celery-odored leaves. The curious little yellowy purple flowers of the parasitic naked broomrape *Orobanche uniflora* were on the inboard side of the trail. Where the trail rounded the end of the cliff to descend across another slope to the campground by the river, at 3:15 we regretfully reversed course. We covered the roughly 3 miles to the cars in three hours.

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CALL FOR CHAPTER OFFICER 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 each 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 chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings. [Any member may apply to become a member of the Steering Committee. Contact Carol Ralph (822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com) to ask when the next meeting is.]

You may nominate yourself or another member for any of these positions by contacting the Nominating Committee by August 31, 2010. 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 the Nominating Committee, Marisa D'Arpino, at 601-0898 or marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com.

KEEPING COWS OUT OF THE GLOBE MALLOW PATCH

Help needed July 12-16

Dramatic, colorful, rare, and tasty. California globe mallow (*Iliamna latibracteata*) is all those, though mainly cows and deer appreciate the last characteristic. Shasta-Trinity National Forest is ready to fence a 2-acre stand of this late-blooming



perennial on South Fork Mountain to prevent cows from eating it. Several able-bodied volunteers are needed to help fence during the second week of July. Fencing experience would be nice, but is not necessary. Tasks will be carrying posts and wire, pounding posts, digging holes for posts, stringing

wire, trimming vegetation, etc. The site is reached about 6 miles up paved Forest Route 1 from highway 36 and is about a 2 1/2 hour drive from Eureka. A primitive Forest Service campground is available nearby at Buck Springs. Volunteers could be useful for one day or several. Contact Sydney Carothers at 707-822-4316 (sydneyc@humboldt1.com) or Susan Erwin at 530-623-1753 (serwin@fs.fed.us)

MEMBERS' CORNER

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Diane Anderson
Matt Burgersser
Connie Doyle
Aubrey Faust
Barbara and Fred Moore
Larry Nichols
Sam Roberts
Sara Turner

THANK YOU TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS

Ingrid Bailey
Kimberly Bonnie
Peter Brucker
Tamara Camper
George Cocks
Helen Constantine-Shull
Rebecca Deja
Nancy Fahey
Jenny Hanson
Mervin and Maxine Hanson
Rosamund Irwin
Alan Justice
Jennifer Kalt
Mary Jo Kenny
Stephanie Klein
John Knight
Tom Lisle
James McIntosh
Carol McNeil
Carol Mone
Courtney Otto
Claire Perricelli
Eric Peterson
Patti Rose
Birgit Semsrott
Veva Stansell
Sabra Steinberg
Michael Stuart and Bethel
Laborde
Joan and Michael Watanabe

Roberta Welty and Jo
Weisgerber
Angie Wolski
Jennifer Wood
Rita Zito

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

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
- ◆ Organization (For consultants, companies, agencies, small nonprofits, and nurseries) - Details at <http://cnps.org/cnps/join/organizations.php>

To join or renew, you can either:

- ◆ Send your name and address, check (payable to CNPS) CNPS, 2707 K St., 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.

Humboldt County Planning Commission Nearing Completion of General Plan Update

By Jen Kalt

The County Planning Commission is working on its final recommendations on the General Plan Update ("GPU") after more than 150 public hearings and hundreds of written comments over the past 10 years. Once these recommendations are adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the GPU will shape Humboldt County's economic and environmental health for generations to come.

The Commission will discuss and vote on its final recommendations on Biological Resources, Conservation and Open Space, and Water Resources over the next several months. These sections of the GPU, called "elements," are of particular interest to CNPS members in that they will establish policies and ordinances governing protection of flora and fauna, open space, water quality and quantity, and other important natural resources that make Humboldt County the beautiful place we love to live.

I first got involved with the County GPU to advocate for increased protections for open space, native plants and their habitat, and recreational opportunities such as trails and community forests. I quickly learned from other members of the Healthy Humboldt Coalition that to protect open space, one must also improve residential development to create more jobs closer to housing, and more housing closer to jobs. Affordable housing for low income families, safe routes for kids to walk and bike to school, better trail systems and public transit for commuting, and shorter commute distances are all features of healthy communities.

Better land use planning also promotes healthy ecosystems. Resource lands such as agricultural and timberlands are essential to our future economic health, but also preserve wildlife habitat and water quality. If we continue to allow these lands to be used primarily for residences, we will damage the County's ag and timber economies while increasing expenditures for County roads, fire protection for rural areas, and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles used to commute long distances on a regular basis.

In 2004, the Board of Supervisors adopted Guiding Principles for the GPU, including:

- ◆ The plan must include unambiguous natural resource protections; especially for open space, water resources, water quality, scenic beauty and salmonids.
- ◆ The plan must ensure efficient use of water and sewer services and focus development in those areas and discourage low density residential conversion of resource lands and open space.
- ◆ The plan must contain long-term agriculture and timber land protections such as increased restrictions on resource land subdivisions and patent parcel development.

Unfortunately, not all of the policies recommended by the County Planning Commission accomplish these goals. The Commission's recommendations for the Land Use Element are inconsistent with these Guiding Principles; they would allow subdivision of agricultural lands, and fail to address the ongoing breakup of resource lands through patent parcel development. The preservation of our community's unique environmental values, as well as our economic strengths and rural quality of life, hinges on the GPU we adopt in the coming year.

TAKE ACTION!

Your input is valuable to the GPU process! Express your opinions by emailing County Planner Martha Spencer at mspencer@co.humboldt.ca.us.

To view public comments that have been submitted on the GPU, visit <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/gpu/documentsPublicComments.aspx>.

For more information on Healthy Humboldt's recommendations on the GPU, visit www.healthyhumboldt.org.

To read the policies under consideration for each chapter, visit Humboldt County's GPU website at <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/gpu/>.

Questions or comments? Email your CNPS Conservation Chair, Jen Kalt, at jkalt@asis.com.

Current Policies Encourage Residential Use of Ag and Timber Lands

Between 1985 and 2001, 60,000 acres of Humboldt County agricultural lands were converted to non-agricultural uses, with an additional 53,000 acres converted between 2001 and June 2005.

In the past five years, 17 percent of houses built in unincorporated areas of the county were built on lands zoned for Agriculture. In the past 12 years, 35,000 acres of lands zoned for Timber Production (TPZ) were broken into individual parcels for other uses, including the 20,000 acres formerly managed by Eel River Sawmills. With 2,500 acres of former Pacific Lumber land near Myer's Flat sold to separate owners, and another 12,000 acres of Barnum Timber Co. land near Benbow in the process of being broken up, Humboldt County has allowed nearly 5% of its industrial timberland to be converted to other uses without any environmental analysis or public input. Current policies must be changed to incorporate assessment of water diversions, road-related impacts, and the loss of the County's timber base, or these trends will continue to raise land values beyond the reach of timber investors.

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It was a glorious day, on the cusp between spring and summer. The flowers mentioned here are a small sample of what we saw. We saw five *Dichelostemmas*, three *Clarkias*, several *lomatiiums*, and two parasitic *Orobanchaceae*. We saw things to wonder about: Why is fork-toothed ookow only in the first part of the trail and round-toothed ookow in the later part? Were all those iris the same, we think *I. tenuissima*? What will that lily be? and the brodiaea? As usual the day was too, too short, the flowers too, too many.

Advice to those going: The trail was well cleared and gently graded, though narrow where crossing some steep, gravelly places. The Lower Trinity Ranger District in Willow Creek (530-629-2118) should know the trail condition. On the road up, which takes most of an hour, stay on the most traveled road; do not turn towards the river. Avoid the few big ruts in the last part! They can break things under your car, and it takes a long time for AAA to get there, and don't count on your cell phone.

**Humboldt Redwoods State Park:
Erythronium in the Rain
April 11, 2010
by Carol Ralph**

Remembering that often the actual day is not nearly as wet as the forecast sounds, on this definitely gray and drizzly day nine CNPSers headed for the majestic trees of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Our first quest was a patch of fawn lilies *Erythronium* at campsite #2 in the Baxter Environmental Camp, so we wound up the Mattole Road through the big trees to that campground. The site was shadier than I remembered and the slinkpod *Scoliopus bigelovii* more abundant. Its paired, strongly veined, wide leaves could be confused with the fawn lily's paired, smooth leaves, as both were mottled. The fawn lily was there, but only one was blooming. The flower was white with touches of yellow on the inside bases of the tepals ("petals"). Importantly, the stamen filaments (stalks) were wide and flat, not narrow and round, and the stigmas (the three threads at the top of the pistil) long enough to curl significantly. This was definitely *E. oregonum*. *The Jepson Manual* says it occurs in the Outer North Coast Ranges and southern Oregon to British Columbia, and "CA populations are geographically separate, may be a white form of *E. revolutum*." It is on CNPS list 2.2, rare, threatened, or endangered in California; common elsewhere.

Having seen and recorded what we could under umbrellas in that dark forest, we drove back down the road a little ways and stopped at the redwood

lily *Lilium rubescens* bank to admire the majestic, 6- to 8-foot tall, dry stalks still boldly holding up their empty seed pods, the remnants of the 2009 glory of fragrant, pink flowers. The future glory of 2010 was obvious in the numerous, lush, green, growing stems with whorled leaves.

Seeking a sheltered spot to sit while eating lunch, we walked in to Albee Campground, enjoying an abundance of blooming calypsos *Calypso bulbosa* along the way. The only shelter at the campground was trees, but that served well enough. We were soon walking toward Bull Creek, downstream along the trail on the flat as far as the Big Tree parking area, where we crossed the road and turned back upstream on the horse trail that goes along the sidehill, completing the circle to our cars at the Albee Campground gate. Dainty white milkmaids *Cardamine californica* were sprinkled throughout. Both fairybells, *Prosartes (Disporum) hookeri* and *smithii*, were there, and a few western trilliums *Trillium ovatum*. The most stunning site was a smooth, shiny, salmon pink mushroom that looked as though made of porcelain. As it was too wet for notepaper or cameras, we tasked ourselves with simply remembering the sparkling droplets of water entangled in a lichen mesh against a backdrop of dark and gloomy redwood forest.

Being familiar with the redwood forest farther north, such as in Prairie Creek State Park, we enumerated some noticeable differences between it and this southern Humboldt redwood forest. Prairie Creek has abundant deer fern *Blechnum spicant*, Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis*, huckleberries *Vaccinium ovatum* and *parvifolium*, salmonberry *Rubus spectabilis*, and salal *Gaultheria shallon*; good populations of rhododendrons *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, azaleas *Rhododendron occidentale*, and elk; and along the streams red alder *Alnus rubra* and big-leaf maple *Acer macrophyllum*. Humboldt Redwoods has abundant poison oak *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, slinkpod, calypso, tanoak *Lithocarpus densiflorus*, and black-cap raspberry *Rubus leucodermis*, and along the streams cottonwood *Populus* sp., white alder *Alnus rhombifolia* and fewer big-leaf maples. Redwood sorrel *Oxalis oregana* is smaller-leaved and pinker-flowered in Humboldt Redwoods compared to Prairie Creek and north. Even the mighty redwoods can not ameliorate the warm, dry climate of southern Humboldt enough to match the cool, damp north.

An important fact we learned in the afternoon was that the nearest cup of hot chocolate to Humboldt Redwoods State Park in the northerly direction is in Rio Dell. There we reflected on how even a wet day in the woods helps put perspective on life. There are always the little sparkles--the water droplets, the

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calypsos, the fawn lilies.



Oregon fawn lily *Erythronium oregonum* in the rain. Note mottled leaves, white flower, wide stamens. Photos by Ron Johnson.

**Arcata Community Forest:
Walking to see the Running-Pine
March 21, 2010
by Carol Ralph**

Arcata has a big backyard, the Arcata Community Forest. Our group of ten met at the Diamond Drive trailhead to explore some of the farthest east part of the forest using the city's great trail system. First we admired the diverse native planting that Judie Snyder has installed on city land between the trail and her house. Then, wearing rain gear as insurance, we set out on an elongate loop of about 4 miles around the Janes Creek watershed. Some trails were footpaths; some were roads used in forest harvest and maintenance. They were all gently graded and appropriately surfaced. Even in this rainy season puddles and mud were not a problem. Most trails allowed horses and bicycles as well as hiking. The map, available at Arcata City Hall and online, was accurate and helpful.

A cluster of fresh, white western trillium *Trillium ovatum* and cheerful, yellow redwood violets *Viola sempervirens* welcomed us into the redwood forest along Trail 5 from the Diamond Drive entrance (on the curve at the top of the hill). We soon turned left onto Trail 10, which cuts across a rich, steep slope above a lush gully, emerges onto a ridge, and joins Trail/Road 11. This goes under the powerlines and through some "deep forest" and some harvested forest as it crosses Janes Creek and is the main route along the east side. We took the Trail 19 extension and found it rewarding.

Here, on one of the wide areas used as a log deck in a past harvest, was an enthusiastic mat of running-pine *Lycopodium clavatum*, one of only two species in California in the club-moss family, Lycopodeaceae. Its pencil-thick, branching stems clothed with short, stiff,

overlapping, scale-like leaves spread (ran) on the ground. We saw none of the upright stems with long knobs (the cones) that produce the spores of this "fern ally." This species is rare enough that botanists have to survey for it. Michael McDowall, a botanist in the city's Environmental Services Department, says that in this forest it is usually in open, disturbed areas such as this log deck.

Road/Trail 19 traversed a rich forest including western redcedar *Thuja plicata*, western hemlock *Tsuga heterophylla*, Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, grand fir *Abies grandis*, and Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis*, as well as redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*. Rhododendrons *Rhododendron macrophyllum* graced one open stand. A few clintonia *Clintonia andrewsiana* were unfolding their leaves. After we re-joined Road 11 we settled down on two modest logs lying on the wood chips of a small log deck in a selective logging area and ate our sack lunches.

We chose Trail 7 to drop down and across Janes Creek, where we found skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanum*, common mitrewort *Mitella ovalis*, and other damp forest species. A small patch of slinkpod *Scoliopus bigelovii* delayed us while we admired its exquisite and ridiculous flowers. We could not detect any fetid odor at all, implied by its other name, fetid adder's tongue. We joined Road 12 and then Trail 6 to take us to Road 8, which passed the Powerline Picnic Table, where we saw brushy and sun-loving species in the cleared, powerline right-of-way. We turned onto Trail 5, which took us behind houses at the top of California Avenue. We saw various horticultural species escaping from these yards into the forest. English ivy was not in evidence. We were now back near Diamond Drive, within the range of Judie Snyder, who has tackled that species herself.

We hiked very roughly 4 miles in about 5 hours and saw many familiar forest plants. Though clearly a "working" forest, it was pleasing habitat to be in, harboring special species to look for, such as the running-pine.



Bayside naturalist David Fix appraises the sprint speed of running-pine (*Lycopodium clavatum*).

Remembering the Wildflower Show by Carol Ralph

With a wildflower show every year for 28 years, could a person be bored with them? No! While maintaining certain traits through the years, each one is different. Given the variables of weather, date, and how many collectors are collecting where, the array of flowers is sure to differ. Then there are new arrangements of the room, new displays around the sides, new speakers, and new music at art night. Regular visitors can refresh memories of floral friends. It may be their only chance to see a calypso this year, bringing memories of some forest glen where they first saw this gem. Students of plant identification can profit from finding side-by-side species that would never be adjacent in nature, such as three species of white trilliums. Frequent visitors may notice something missing -- "What?! No false dandelion (*Hypochoeris*)?!"-- while first-time visitors stop in awe, "I had no idea this show was so magnificent!"



An unusual concurrence of the three local, white trilliums: *Trillium ovatum*, *Pseudotrillium rivale*, and *Trillium albidum*.



Conner and Spencer Olson investigate the origin of the name skunk cabbage.

To the roughly 100 volunteers who put together this year's show, this is the comment of one visitor, "It's a gift to the community. Thanks for all your hard work."

Despite the wonderful work of all these volunteers and the gratitude of so many visitors, Carol needs to retire as coordinator of this show. The wildflower show team needs a new coordinator (or co-coordinators). Communication is the main skill needed, with a strong sense of calendar, for this important and rewarding job. Any of the jobs listed below can use more or new help. Consider how you can join the team. [See the Volunteer Corner.] Please talk to Carol if you are interested or can suggest someone who might be. 822-2015.

Thank you, Wildflower Show volunteers!

For collecting: Tony LaBanca, Sydney Carothers, Laura Julian, Barbara Kelly, Chris Beresford, Richard Beresford, Don Davis, Whitney Meier, Adam Canter, Dennis Walker, Ned Forsyth, Anne Russell, Clare Golec, Jeanne McFarland, Green Diamond crew (Bianca Hiyashi & others)

For coordinating the collectors: Tony LaBanca

For sorting, arranging, identifying: Tony LaBanca, Madeleine LaBanca, Dana York, Jade Paget-Seekins, Dennis Walker, Chris Beresford, Richard Beresford, Liz McGee, Sonja Schultze-Huff, Donna Wildearth, Laura Julian, John McRae, Dawn Graydon, Barbara Kelly, Tom Allen, Katy Allen, Alicia Muniz, Nezzie Wade, Carol Woods, Larry Levine, Carol Ralph, Laurie Lawrence, Sydney Carothers

For maintaining the database: an anonymous, learned botanist

For sorting the cards: Laura Julian

For room preparation: Becky Deja, Jim Waters, Virginia Waters, Tom Allen, Katy Allen, David Callow, Sylvia White, Carol Ralph, Larry Levine

For organizing school visits: Judie Snyder, Maggie Stoudnour

For teaching lessons to school groups: Allie Lindgren, Liz McGee, Jesse DaSilva

For escorting school groups: Cynthia Van Vleck, Sharon Lopez, Marilyn Hagar

For organizing Art Night: Rick Tolley

For Art Night live music: Susan Anderson, Sue Moon (Big Baddy Two Sues), David Bradley

For rare plant slide show : Dave Imper, Susan Neel-Goodsir, and U.S.Fish & Wildlife Service

For bug table: Pete and Judy Haggard

For invasive plant display: Laura Julian, Stephanie Klein

For redwood forest display and book table: Jeff Russell and North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association, Sylvia White

For dunes display: Denise Seeger and Friends of the Dunes

For edible wild plant display: Frannie Martin

For sudden oak death display: Janelle Deshais, Monica Bueno, and Redwood National and State Parks

For medicinal wild plants display: Christa Sinadinos and Northwest School for Botanical Studies

For Celebrating Wildflower display: John McRae and Six Rivers National Forest

For leading walks in the dunes: Tamar Danufsky, Andrea Pickart

For Native American presentation: Skip Lowrey

For wild medicinals presentation: Christa Sinadinos

For native plant landscaping presentation: Pete Haggard

For lupine lesson: Dana York

For feeding volunteers all weekend: Katy Allen, Melinda Groom

For storing jars: Suzanne Isaacs

For transporting jars: Tom Allen

For re-lettering the signs: Paul and Gwynneth Carothers

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

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

For publicity: Larry Levine, Rick Tolley, Carol Ralph

For food donations: Los Bagels, Ray's Food Place, Arcata Co-op, Wildberries Marketplace, Katy Allen, Melinda Groom, Chris Beresford

For lilies the students dissected: Sun Valley Farms

For working shifts during the show: Pauline Baefsky, Jane Wilson, Gwynneth Carothers, Paul Carothers, Jennie Hanson, Rita Zito, Noah Lurtz, Sylvia White, Rebecca Zettler, Felicity Wasser, Carol Ralph, Cara Witte, Carol Mone, Becky Deja, Virginia Waters, Jim Waters, Jessica Unmack, Audrey Miller, Laurie Lawrence, Carol Woods, Artemisia Shine, Becky Deja

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

For cleaning up: Jim Waters, Virginia Waters, Felicity Wasser, Tom Allen, Katy Allen, Becky Deja, Nezzie Wade, Charlene Crump, Whitney Meier, David Callow, Christine van Hattem, and an anonymous hard worker who was there all weekend as well.

For posting fliers: many people

For sharing their space with us: Teenship

For being easy landlords: Manila Community Services District



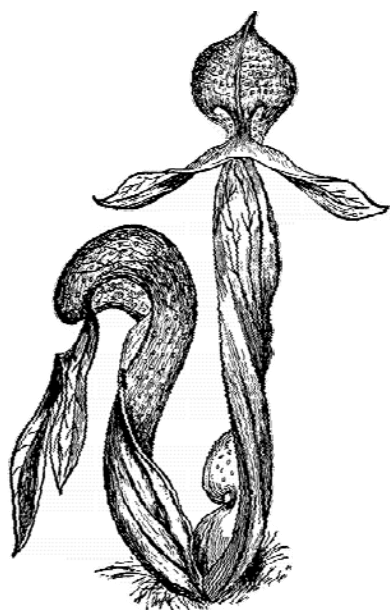
California pitcher plant *Darlingtonia californica* meets skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* at the wildflower show.

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Darlingtonia



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CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

July

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

September

- ◆ Wed 8-Program
- ◆ Sat 11-Plant Walk
- ◆ Sun 12-Hike
- ◆ Sat 18-Fall Plant Sale

October

- ◆ Sat 9—Chapter Picnic
- ◆ Sat 9-Botanical Book Sale
- ◆ Wed 13-Program

November

- ◆ Wed 10- Program