



# Darlingtonia

SUMMER 2011  
Jul-Sep

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

## THE VALUE OF NATIVE PLANTS AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Three stories that may inspire you ...

### Local history in the making!

By Pete Haggard, Native Plan Gardening Chair

For years, the Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation (HBGF) has been developing a beautiful array of gardens next to the College of the Redwoods campus. For its first garden, the HBGF chose one that displays native plants. This garden, which is now called the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden (LCBNPG), is unique in that it is the first public garden in Humboldt County to showcase native plants in a permanent location and staffed with docents trained to answer questions about native plants. Throughout the year HBGF has many scheduled gardening events that bring people to the garden, increasing their exposure to native plants.



*Calycanthus occidentalis*, spice bush.  
Photo courtesy of Pete Haggard.

Over the past four years more gardens, all non-native, have been added to the Botanical Garden collection, each one taking more volunteers to plant and maintain. This has meant fewer volunteers working on the native plant garden. (Yes, even native plant gardens need maintenance to some extent, particularly in getting them established.)

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## Find out what's happening:

- Visit our website:  
[www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)
- Sign up for our email  
announcements  
[NorthCoast\\_CNPS-  
subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

## FIELD TRIPS AND PLANT WALKS

Please watch for later additions on our Web site ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) or sign up for e-mail announcements (Northcoast\_CNPS-subscribe@yahoo.com).

Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. Address questions about physical ability requirements to the leader.

**July 22-24, Friday-Sunday. Cook and Green Pass day hikes and overnights.** Descriptions of this area north of Seiad on the Klamath River, close to Oregon in the Klamath National Forest, are full of superlatives, e.g. "the largest single aggregation of native plant species known to occur in one limited area in California." We won't be able to see them all, but we'll enjoy what we do! Brewer spruce, Sadler oak, false bugbane, phantom orchid, queen's cup, spotted coralroot, iris, bear grass, pussy ears, etc. Trails head in three directions, including into the Cook and Green Pass Geologic and Botanic Area. Where we camp Friday and Saturday nights will depend on the size of the group. Lodging is available along the Klamath (Route 96). Tell Carol if you are considering or certainly coming: 707-822-2015.

**August 13 (-14), Saturday (optional Sunday). Waterdog Lake: Plant, Butterfly, and Bird Day Hike.** A CNPS-Audubon event. 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; shrubby 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 8:00 a.m. sharp at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. It's a two-hour drive to the trailhead northeast of Hoopa. Return by 6 p.m., or join an optional camp-out near the trailhead Saturday (and Friday?) night. Call Carol 822-2015.

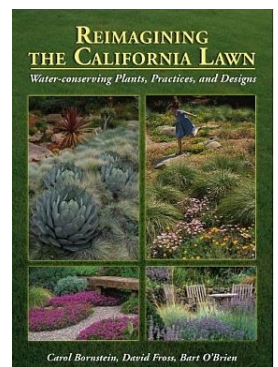
**September 11, Sunday. Horse Mountain Day Hike.** A day among Jeffrey pine and huckleberry oak looking for a late lily or angelica or a new patch of azaleas or ...you never know what! ..in Six Rivers National Forest along Titlow Hill Rd. We will explore a new trail scouted by the Horse Mountain Trails Group. It will be 2-4 miles on gravel roads and uneven ground, with some ups and downs. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Dress in layers for all kinds of weather--summer to winter (yes, even gloves). At 4-5,000 ft. it can be any kind. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata ) or arrange another place. Return by 5 p.m. Call Carol 822-2015.

**October 2, Sunday. Chapter Picnic at Big Lagoon.** An afternoon of good food and good company, among the sand plants, wetland plants, bog plants, and spruce forest plants in Big Lagoon County Park (Turn left off 101, 7 miles north of Trinidad). Bring a dish to share, your own item to BBQ, your own beverage, eating gear, and any friends or relations you want. Fire will be ready for cooking at 1:00 p.m. We will eat 1:00-2:30; then explore by foot or boat. Bring a canoe or kayak if it's not too windy. Camp chairs, tables, and canopies will be useful too. Plan on a cool sea breeze. \$2 day use fee. In case of rotten weather, call Carol to find out where we will be instead. 822-2015

**November 5, Saturday. Save the date** for a field trip. If you know a fun place for a day trip in November, tell Carol.

### BOOK PROFILE— *Reimagining the California Lawn*

Carol Bornstein and Bart O'Brien, two of Southern California's most respected native plant experts have released their long-awaited new book: ***Reimagining the California Lawn, Waterconserving Plants, Practices and Designs*** (co-authored by David Fross). The same trio also co-wrote the award winning California Native Plants for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.



## CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

### EVENING PROGRAMS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) offers 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 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m.** For information or to suggest a speaker or topic contact Audrey Miller at [taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net](mailto:taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net) or 786-9701.

**Botanical FAQs: At 7:15 p.m.** Pete Haggard or some other presenter shares a brief, hands-on demonstration and discussion of some botanical topic. (Previously advertised as "Botanical Prelude.")

- Sep 14 "The Nightshade Family--Friend and Foe."** Lively lecturer and esteemed botanist **Dr. James P. Smith** will introduce the family of tomatoes, potatoes, nightshades, and tobacco . We will look at the root crop that was once suspect because it was not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible; the herb that was thought to cause insanity; the plant that may explain why witches thought they were capable of flying; the foul-smelling plant that has sent many of us to the emergency room; and of course, tobacco.
- Oct 12 "New Guinea Plants I Have Known."** Photographer, linguist, restorationist, community developer, zoologist, and compulsive botanizer, New Zealander **David Price** will share a plant-focused glimpse into his 25 years in Papua and Indonesian New Guinea.
- Nov 9 "High elevation Pines of the Klamath Mountains: Past, Present, and Future. "** Join teacher, researcher, and explorer **Michael Kauffmann** on an arm-chair journey through time and the Klamath Mountains, focusing on the foxtail and whitebark pines. These high elevations conifers have survived shifting climatic conditions through recent geologic ages, but will they survive the next shift? Michael's first-hand observations and others' studies from across the West suggest the answer.
- Dec 14 Native Plant Show & Tell**

## Trails on Horse Mountain

by Carol Ralph

Because the Horse Mountain area (part of United States Forest Service's Six Rivers National Forest near Highway 299 and US Forest Route 1/Titlow Hill Road) is such a great, nearby place (about 45 minutes east of Arcata) to see native plants our chapter has joined other organizations to help and encourage the Forest Service in designating and creating hiking, skiing, horse, and bike trails there. We call ourselves the Horse Mountain Trails Group, and we are part of the Humboldt Trails Alliance. This summer we want to explore, map (with gps), and describe as many routes as possible, so that in the fall we can recommend the best for development. If you would like to join in any aspect of this effort, contact Carol (822-2015; [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com)).

## NORTH COAST CNPS VOLUNTEER CORNER

Phone Carol 822-2015 or write [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com) to volunteer, ask questions, or make suggestions.

### Special recognition

At the closing ceremony of the Spring Wildflower Show the **Gilded Darlingtonia** award was presented to **Larry Levine** for his many, continuous years of service to the chapter, CNPS, and native plants.

**Thank you!** (See also articles on the wildflower show and the plant sale.)

- **Melissa Brooks** for conscientiously keeping up our mailing list for two years as Membership Guru.
- **Felicity Wasser** for many years keeping and distributing our poster inventory as Poster Sales Chair
- **Chris Beresford & Anna Bernard** for very ably running our spring plant sale.
- **Dennis Walker, Liz McGee, Jenny Hanson, Janelle Egger, and Carol Ralph** for leading walks.
- **Becky Deja** for creating stunning, exciting, informative, flexible, new material for display at our booth.
- **Alan Justice, Ann Wallace, Dave Imper, Pete Haggard, C.J. Ralph, Carol Ralph** for contributing photos to the new booth display.
- **Frances Ferguson** for scheduling volunteers for our table at Godwit Days.
- **Chris Beresford** and **Anna Bernard** for bringing beautiful plants to show on our table at Godwit Days.
- **Frank Milelcik, Barbara Kelly, Paul & Gwynneth Carothers, Sylvia White, Elaine Allison, and Patrick Mulligan** for tending our table at Godwit Days.
- **Bill and Linda Shapeero** for sharing their beautiful riparian and grand fir forests on Easter.
- **Jay Sooter** for scouting and logistical help on the Benbow-Garberville field trip.

**Volunteers needed.** Big jobs and small, every one important.

- **Membership Guru.** Keep our mailing list up-to-date. Coordinating with the state office, working in Excel, add and subtract members from the list and make address changes. 2-3 hours/month.
- **Poster Sales Person.** Store our inventory (5 large flat boxes), provide rolled posters at evening programs and outreach events, sell posters to some shops, and keep a record of it all. That is the basic. More ideas and greater effort would be rewarding!
- **T-Shirt Quartermaster.** Store our inventory (2 large boxes) of chapter t-shirts, provide t-shirts at outreach events, and keep track of them.
- **North Coast Journal Reporter.** Submit our events to the calendars of this publication.
- **Tri-City Weekly Reporter.** Submit our events to the calendars of this publication.
- **Chief Outreach.** Keep our display and handouts in good shape for use at various public events, about 6/year. Other volunteers staff the table (booth).
- **Science Fair Award Coordinator.** A brief job once each year in March.
- **Writer.** Using a template and consulting reference books write descriptions for a team-effort flora of the redwood forest.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Benbow to Garberville on an Un-named Trail April 10, 2011 by Carol Ralph

Twenty people ready to explore new territory met in the Benbow State Recreation Area's day-use area (by the Benbow Inn and the South Fork Eel River where they used to make a lake every summer) 2 miles south of Garberville. First we sent our cars back through Garberville to the trailhead at the end of Kimtu Rd. (off Sprowel Creek Rd., on the Garberville side of the river, in a residential cul-de-sac). We botanized past the inn and across the stone bridge over the East Branch South Fork Eel River, and by the time the drivers returned, we were ready to walk up the gated road that heads downriver along the side of the hill. This small road is access to a few private residences, to the dam, and to an historical mill site. Except for a bit at the beginning, land below the road is State Park, while land above it is private. At a fork in the road we knew not to go right, through a metal gate, but had to ignore a no-trespassing sign as we kept to the left.

Under a high, non-threatening cloud cover we botanized roadside weeds in a mixed-evergreen forest with a few overlooks into the river canyon. The overstory was Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), tan-oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*), and canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), with poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) a common feature of the understory. Although redwoods grow in the nearby Benbow Campground area, the only redwoods we saw were in a yard. The progress of the season was defined by bright yellow blooms on two species

of broom (*Cytisus scoparius*, *Genista monspessulana*); white, purple-lined, wide, ruffly, long-tubed, flowers on loose clumps of iris (*Iris purdyi*); and a few purple lupine (*Luinus* sp.). Oaks were bare, some tasseling, while the occasional California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) was dense, dark, fresh green. One patch of oak woodland above the road was sprinkled with blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) in a carpet of soft green under its bare branches. We noted some ferns we don't find in the redwood forest. Tufts of gold-back fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*) were on the roadside. The roadbank fern (*Polypodium calirhiza*) crept over rocky ground and tree trunk. The non-five-finger maiden-hair, i.e. California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*) adorned a sheltered gully. At one shady curve the roadbank presented alumroot (*Heuchera micrantha*), Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), and milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*).

A few long, strap-like leaves suggested that Diogenes' lantern (*Calochortus amabilis*) would be blooming here later.

The trail emerged into a wide island of grass among the dark walls of forest. The grass left of the road, on ungrazed, State Park land, was tall and thick, the thatch from many years' growth. The grass on the right, on

grazed, private land, was very short, bright green, and dotted with buttercups (*Ranunculus* sp.) and English daisies (*Bellis perennis*). Nestled on the ground in the edge of the grazed pasture and just outside its fence were cheerful yellow blooms of sun cups (*Camissonia ovata*). Farther along we found slabs of the old mill, and a state park sign indicated a side trail towards the river. We continued to the end

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The trail passed under this remarkable Douglas fir.  
Photo courtesy of Carol Ralph.

## Fond Memories of the 2011 Spring Wildflower Show

By Richard Beresford, Wildflower Show Chairperson

Nearly 800 folks came out to enjoy the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Wildflower Show at the Manila Community Center this year which landed on the cusp-weekend of April and May. It was a very nice, non-rainy Humboldt County event; a rarity this spring! 250 native species were represented with all of their beauty and fragrance attracting more than just insects to their showy abundance. The inside perimeter of the main building was lined with fantastic displays including dune plants, invasive plants, CNPS poster and tee-shirt sales, the celebration of wildflowers provided by the Six River National Forest, wild edible plants, bugs and their critical role in lifecycle of plants, rare plants, book sales sponsored by Redwood Parks Association, and a table provided by Friends of the Dunes volunteers that taught the structure of flowers by dissecting ornamental lilies, donated by Sun Valley Farms.

There were 30 artists, experienced and novice, that were able to come and express their interpretations of nature's showoffs at Rick Tolley's Friday Art Night and to relax to the live musical accompaniment of Mon Petit Chou. What a great evening that was! Then, on Saturday, the show continued with more events and glorious displays such as a walk in the dunes guided and interpreted by Patty Sennott, a presentation on designing native plant gardens by Donna Wildearth, then Judy Hinman provided information on the diverse and beautiful lily family, and finally in the afternoon, Ann Wallace shared her expertise in the photography of flowers. On Sunday, another guided walk in the dunes was provided this time by Andrea Pickart focusing on the amazing adaptations of plants in that unique environment. Skip Lowry shared his knowledge of the Native American uses of the redwood tree, and Christa Sinadinis informed a packed classroom of attentive enthusiasts about native medicinal plants and their many uses. All this time there was a native plant sale going on outside that was busily raising funds for the North Coast chapter's coffers. What a grand event it was and, absolutely impossible to accomplish without the monumental efforts of the 100-plus volunteers that donated countless hours of their valuable time in order to make this annual event a success! Thank you all! Now, onward to next years' Wildflower Show calendared for the weekend of May 4, 5, and 6!



Melinda Groom and Helen Kurkjian meet over the Meadowfoam. Photo courtesy of Ann Wallace.

**On behalf of the plant sale committee; we wish to thank all of the volunteers** that made the plant sale held during the spring wildflower show a success. To those that helped out on the 2-days of the sale by assisting with set up, checking in and out the nurseries, answering plant questions, working the cashier table and helping with take-down after the sale – a Big Thank You – we could not have done this without all of your help! Those who volunteered are: Kim McFarland, Kathy Dilley, Ron Johnson, Chris Brant, Virginia and Jim Waters, Joan Watanabe, Patricia Markowitz, Randi Swedenburg, Susan Anderson, Carl Chatfield, Mattie Culver, Judie Hinman, Anita Gilbride – Read, Michael Romano, Jeremy Rockweit, Wanda Naylor, Holly Vadurro, Peter & Sarah Starr and Sylvia White. The sale also could not have occurred without the assistance of all of the individuals who grew and provided plants, who “baby-sat” plants between sales, and who divided or dug out native plants from their own yards for us to sell – another Big Thank You to all of you! 3-local nurseries also participated by providing plants for our plant sales: Humboldt Fish Action Council, Samara Restoration and Freshwater Farms. These nurseries all provided the great shrubs, trees and perennials that we do not grow ourselves.

If we have missed anyone, our sincere apologies on our oversight! Next sale will be held during the North Country Fair on Saturday, September 17 from 10 – 4 at the Arcata marsh parking lot. *See you there! Chris Beresford and Anna Bernard.*

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

<b>President</b>	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Felicity Wasser	826-7712	wasserfw@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Frances Ferguson	822-5079	fferguson@reninet.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Kauffmann	407-7686	michael_kauffmann@yahoo.com
<b>Membership</b>	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph
<b>Invasive Plants</b>	Stephanie Klein	443-8326	StephanieKlein@w-and-k.com
<b>Native Plant Gardening</b>	Pete Haggard	839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.net
<b>Native Plant Consultation</b>	Bev Zeman	677-9391	donjzeman@yahoo.com
<b>Plant Sales</b>	Chris Beresford Co-Chair Anna Bernard	826-0259 826-7247	thegang7@pacbell.net eabern@aol.com
<b>Education</b>	Cara Witte Scott	845-3883	carawitte@gmail.com
<b>Conservation</b>	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jenkalt@gmail.com
<b>Programs</b>	Audrey Miller	786-9701	taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net
<b>Hospitality</b>	Melinda Groom Frank Milezcik (Asst.)	668-4275 822-5360	mgroom@skein.org frankm638@yahoo.com
<b>Field Trips and Plant Walks</b>	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
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<b>Website &amp; Publicity</b>	Larry Levine	822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
<b>Poster Sales</b>	Felicity Wasser	826-7712	wasserfw@yahoo.com
<b>T-Shirt Sales</b>	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph
<b>Workshops</b>	Gordon Leppig	839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov
<b>Wildflower Show</b>	Richard Beresford	826-0259	thegang7@pacbell.net
<b>CNPS Chapter Delegate</b>	Larry Levine	822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
<b>NEC NC CNPS Representative</b>	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jenkalt@gmail.com

### COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

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

### EcoNEWS AND YOU

We, the North Coast Chapter of CNPS, are a member organization of the Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), a valuable voice for conservation in our area. We have a seat on their board of directors.

The NEC is the only organization with which we share our mailing list. We think it is important that our members receive EcoNews, an informative publication about conservation issues in our area. Our chapter pays NEC to mail EcoNews to our members who are not also NEC members. You can reduce this cost to our chapter by joining NEC at [www.yournec.org](http://www.yournec.org) or requesting your EcoNews be electronic (contact [jenkalt@gmail.com](mailto:jenkalt@gmail.com)).

### 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](mailto: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.

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of the road and beyond found a trail heading along the edge of the clearing and a drainage ditch, past some magnificent, blooming manzanitas, through edge-of-the-firs old pasture, and then into the forest again.

Now surrounded by young Douglas-firs, a large, low-branched, land-mark Douglas-fir welcomed us into this next forest. It probably enjoyed life at the edge of the forest for a long time. A single blooming calypso (*Calypso bulbosa*) also suggested stable forest. The trail worked its way gently in stages down to river level. At an otherwise non-descript spot was a group of a sanicle with leaf edges more jagged and flowers brighter yellow than the common Pacific sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*). With the help of *The Jepson Manual*, we discovered this was *Sanicula laciniata*. Nearby a few bright pink shooting stars (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*) were more familiar. Where the trail reached the river plain, it wound among thickets of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and Himalaya blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) before rising to the trailhead.

Having walked 3.2 miles, according to a gps unit, we were at the waiting cars. It was a good length walk on a gentle trail. Botanically it was not exciting, but we enjoyed a day in southern Humboldt habitats. We appreciate State Parks making it available. Strangely, this trail apparently has no name. Local agencies maintain adjacent Southern Humboldt Community Park and Tooby Park along Kimtu and Sprowel Creek Rds., offering other outdoor possibilities.

### **Mattole Road Wildflower Tour May 21, 2011 by Carol Ralph**

The world was green. A teasing sun peeked between racing clouds. Ready for roadside botanizing, twelve people in three cars, communicating with three radios (walkie-talkies), turned up the Mattole Rd. past the big, arched "Petrolia" sign (mile zero) and left behind the civilization of Ferndale and its much-appreciated public restroom. The small, winding road immediately took us into a jumble of riparian and coastal forest. At our first stop, a large pullout on the left at about mile 1, we could survey the array of trees: Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), Scouler willow (*Salix scouleriana*), wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*). The luxuriant shrubbery included

billowy blue blue blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), abundant oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) (not blooming), the adaptable coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), orange-flowered bush monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), and blue-flower-spiked riverbank lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*). Unfortunately there was also a great assortment of invasive species: Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*; single, large flowers in the axils), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*; short sprays of flowers in the axils), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Himalaya blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* sp.), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), three-corner garlic (*Allium triquetrum*), and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). Great columns of English ivy clothed the trunks of some trees with diamond-shaped leaves, produced on the flowering branches, and starbursts of round, green fruit. Maybe this convenient pull-out was used as a dump for garden waste.

The road bank and the roadside ditch offered fun herbaceous plants, more so at our second stop, a smaller pull-out immediately beyond the one-lane section of the road (which gave us a feeling for the tenuous nature of a road in these mountains) at about mile 1.3. The compacted, sandy, vertical road cut sprouted airy sprays of alumroot (*Heuchera micrantha*), knobby spikes of fringecups (*Tellima grandiflora*), and dainty white constellations of western boykinia (*Boykinia occidentalis*), three species in the saxifrage family. The purslane family made a good show too. Littleleaf montia (*Montia parvifolia*) arrayed its small, pink flowers on long, arching stems emerging from small, dense rosettes



*Astragalusrattaniivar. rattanii*-maybe

of succulent leaves, while candyflower (*Claytonia sibirica*) presented its loose cluster of small, pink

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flowers on a more upright stem with a collar of opposite leaves above a rosette of petioled leaves.

At the top of the hill we detoured left out Bear River Ridge Rd. This even-smaller road wanders through close-cropped, green pastures dotted with white English daisies (*Bellis perennis*), yellow buttercups (*Ranunculus* sp.), and royal, deep purple dog violets (*Viola adunca*). Large, dark cushions of iris leaves (*Iris douglasiana*), a noxious weed in range management circles, promised iris glory in the near future. About a mile from the junction, a stunning, ridge-top view took in Fortuna, Eel River Bottom, Humboldt Bay, and rows of distant mountains. After a few seconds outside the cars, we understood why this ridge is the site of a proposed wind farm. The land along this county road, which continues on past Mt. Pierce to Rio Dell, is all private. Visitors must stay strictly on the road. We returned to the Mattole Rd.

At mile 6.6 a very large pull-out on the right created a pool of sun in a dark, fir forest and a good place to park and explore a wet roadbank and ditch. Above the road, on the left, the grand fir (*Abies grandis*), which could have all grown in historical times after a cleared pasture was abandoned, were joined by some large Douglas-fir and Sitka spruce. In the lush, tangled green of the road bank we soon spotted pink--bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), yellow--seep-spring and toothed monkeyflowers (*Mimulus guttatus* and *dentatus*) and stream violet (*Viola glabella*), pinky-white--candyflower, and white--coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus* var. *palmatus*; very last blooms), star solomon's seal (*Smilacina stellata*), and Smith's fairy bells (*Smilacina smithii*). Eventually we spotted the green flowers among the greenery: intricate tiny bowls on delicate, short spikes of common miterwort (*Mitella ovalis*; our fourth saxifrage of the day); tall, intricate, deep cups on long spikes of fringecups, stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and most exciting for us, western meadow rue (*Thalictrum occidentale*). The first petal-less flowers of this dioecious member of the buttercup family were opening above the ferny foliage, revealing that this plant was female. We were surprised to see one chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) in this scene more populated with lady (*Athyrium felix-femina*), sword (*Polystichum munitum*), and deer ferns (*Blechnum spicant*). On a little shelf one big step above the ditch was a complete assortment of forest floor friends, all but one blooming: western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), clintonia (*Clintonia andrewsiana*), slinkpod (*Scoliopus begelovii*), wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*), Smith's fairy bells. We ate lunch in this sheltered enclave while the wind wooshed in the tree tops. A bit farther up the road, at the edge

of this forest, we spotted giant white trillium (*Trillium albidum*) and the first patch of a large (3-5 feet tall), handsome, delphinium, possibly poison delphinium (*Delphinium trolliifolium*).

We now emerged into the great sweeps of grazed coastal prairie, rolling over the ridges, plunging down toward forest below. Corrals on the left offered a good pull-out opportunity for a walk along the road examining the road bank and road shoulder in the prairie. Miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), familiar from many habitats, was here in the sparsely vegetated edge. On the thickly grown bank a small delphinium (8 inches) held up its deep purple flowers and Tolmie's pussy ears (*Calochortus tolmiei*) opened amazingly hairy and totally lavender flowers, defying the blasting wind. Familiar with the orange flowers of the confusingly named scarlet pimpernel (*Anagalis arvensis*), we enjoyed discovering the shockingly blue form. Other prairie road banks we saw from the car had mule ears (*Wyethia* sp.) and checkerbloom (*Sidalcea* sp.). It was a wild vista--a narrow road draped over green, wind-swept hills, while armies of dark, pointy trees marched up the valleys and peeked over the ridges-- made wilder by the battering wind, one of the forces along with fire and grazing that keeps the prairie prairie.

Feeling the afternoon slipping by we drove on, down the south-facing slope into the Bear River valley, across the river, past columbines (*Aquilegia formosa*), over the next ridge, which defines Cape Mendocino at the west end, down to the shore, past a tidy ranch tucked against the mountains backing a long, lonely, narrow, gray-sandy beach. The road runs straight, between billows of pastel pink, yellow, and white wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), bright yellow mustard (*Brassica* sp.), and robust, white cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*). At the one-lane bridge which spans a gravelly dry wash where a huge chunk of the mountain washed to sea, we stopped. On the gravelly benches shaped by the ocean or bulldozers were two separate spreads of exciting-purple *Astragalus*. Species in this genus, known as milkvetches and locoweeds, have pea-like flowers, with banners, wings, and keel, vetch-like leaves, i.e. pinnately compound, but lacking tendrils, and pea-like pods variously narrow or wide, thin or inflated, straight or curved. Ninety-five species are listed in *The Jepson Manual*, one of them with 19 varieties. Many or even most species are very local and rare. The text states "many good species appear similar; some species complexes need study." I studied this species and found it had a lot in common with *A. rattanii* var. *rattanii*. It was an annual (The entire root easily pulled up.) with flowers in heads, a 5-mm keel, banner shorter than wings, 13-17

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9-mm-leaflets, and narrow, round pods. Other than the astragalus and abundant, low gumplant (*Griindelia stricta*) much of the other vegetation here was non-native. On the pasture side of the road was a good stand of lupines grayer-foliaged and paler-flowered than *rivularis*. I think this was seashore lupine (*L. littoralis*).

The astragalus treat marked the end of our exploration. Twenty miles and one hour from Ferndale we reversed course. We had pushed out of the urban zone into wild Humboldt County and into the more southerly clime marked by Cape Mendocino. We were blasted by a lot of fresh air and saw diverse habitats and species. Although we know that roads are avenues for dispersal of non-native plants, we saw that road banks and roadside ditches are valued habitat of native species. Many species are adapted to the well-drained, sunny faces presented by road banks; others to the damper, frequently disturbed, sunny spaces created by gutters. How lucky we are to be travelling the same paths!

### **Equinox in the Redwoods: Brown Creek-South Fork Loop**

**March 20, 2011**

by Carol Ralph

Why head for the damp, dark groves of redwoods on a drizzly March day? Because days really are getting longer; spring really is coming; and its good to see our plant neighbors in all seasons! Nine of us visited the magnificent forest of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. From the trailhead on the east side of the road one mile north of Elk Prairie we walked steadily uphill on South Fork Trail, turned left across the hill on Rhododendron Trail, and then turned left down Brown Creek Trail back to the trailhead.

Though the coast was windy, this inland valley was calm. We walked in the shelter of giant trees, mostly redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) near the streams, partly Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) on the ridge. Light-barked, finely-furrowed western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), was there also, but no spruce. (The world's tallest western hemlock was discovered in this park 9 days earlier.) Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), and mosses were ubiquitous, the green

background for everything else. We passed several fallen giants, shattered trunks among the chaos, destruction, and opportunity generated by their huge mass returning to earth.

In this cathedral of the evergreen we found the deciduous interesting. Lacking leaves, their



A robust clump of Indian Pipe along the South Fork Trail in March.

Photo courtesy of Carol Ralph.

branching patterns and bark were easily studied. Along watercourses grew the two maples, both with opposite twigs. Trunks and branches of big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) glowed green in their thick, mossy coats. Vine maples (*Acer circinatum*) were shrubby, having many, slender stems. Hazelnut was shrubby also, with crooked, fine twigs. Sometimes a dangling catkin or a new, soft leaf confirmed the identification. Stink currant (*Ribes bracteosum*) grew right by the water. Its stems were long, supple, smooth, and branched; its emerging, dark green leaves were stinky when rubbed (that

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*Ribes* smell). Nearby, thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), whose leaves also would have five to seven pointed lobes, had peely bark on stems that zig-zagged a little and seldom branched. The third look-alike in the leafless state was red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), growing more upland, with gray-barked, frequently branching, straighter stems. A few first, fresh pink flowers were opening. Its leaves had more rounded lobes, tending to be three, and a less powerful odor. Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) always reached upward and had prickles on the stem. Growing more as a lax tangle of droopy, even snakey stems and twigs, looking for light in this jumbled understory, was western burning bush (or western wahoo, *Euonymus occidentalis*). It had retained some leaves, neatly opposite and held out horizontally from green twigs, which helped us notice this less common shrub. In other habitats it can grow more properly upright.

Two deciduous shrubs grew almost exclusively on wood, such as snags, fallen trunks, or the skirts of living trees. Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*) was very twiggy, and the twigs green and slightly winged (or angled). Mock azalea (*Menziesia ferruginea*), another member of the Ericaceae (heath family), which we saw only in the Brown Creek watershed, was straight-stemmed, light-barked, and open, the branches in whorls of 3 or 4, and the pointed buds on the ends of twigs in noticeable whorls also. Close inspection found scattered, long hairs on the twigs and buds. On one lush, fallen-log garden over Brown Creek were all three-- red huckleberry, mock azalea, and burning bush--as well as salal, sword fern, and the rest.

We watched the trailside ground layer carefully for a treasure that had been spotted in the fall and reported to us. We found it easily. In bare ground by the base of a huge fallen redwood trunk that we had to climb under was a clump of foot-tall, upright, bedraggled, dark brown stems with shriveled, nodding heads. In the duff at their base peeked out like quartz pebbles shiny, smooth, white tops of this year's stems of this Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), one of our chlorophyll-free, mycoheterotrophic ("saprophytic") plants. A more dispersed patch of

similar stems was a in mossy patch at the junction of South Fork and Rhododendron Trails.



Mock azalea branching pattern shown against at March background. Photo courtesy of Carol Ralph.

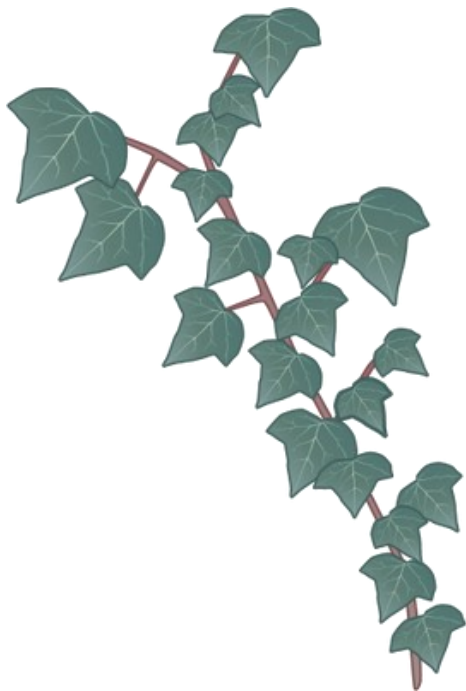
The trailside also displayed fresh, beautiful signs of this season, most notably the first white blooms of western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), bent over by the weight of rain water. The succulent, new shoots (the "asparagus stage") of trillium lacked the pink sheath that Solomon's plume (*Smilacina racemosa*)(note 1) had at this stage. Some good beds of redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*) and northern inside-out-flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*) and some thick, leafy, new stems of Columbia lilies (*Lilium columbianum*) beside the dry stems of last year promised future flower action.

After covering the 3.5 miles in 4.5 hours we were damp around the edges, enriched with botanical observations, and restored by being small visitors in a world of huge features and vast time scale.

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## STATE PARK IVY BASH

**September 10, Saturday. 9 a.m.-12 noon at Patrick's Point State Park.**



Pulling English ivy off the ground and away from trees is great for relieving daily tensions and fostering the satisfaction of a job well done. Doing it in one of our State Parks is socially rewarding as well.

Join novice and experienced ivy pullers in rescuing a patch of this wonderful state park from this invasive plant, then share an appreciation picnic lunch provided by the park.

Staff will tell how to become an official volunteer ivy basher, empowered to work in the park at any time, and thank current volunteers.

Bring work gloves if you have them. For information contact Michelle Forys at 707-677-3109 / mforys@parks.ca.gov.

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Note 1. I love this plant. I refuse to call it "false" anything. I am totally in favor of standardizing common names, but I can not call this plant large false solomon's seal, western false Solomon's seal, or feathery false lily-of-the-valley, some of the options offered on the Calflora web site. Fat Solomon or branched solomon's seal are other options, but I really like Solomon's plume better, a name I have heard from a local person. Risking causing confusion, I'll call it that. The scientific name normally would clear up the confusion, but in this case the recently accepted new name, *Maianthemum racemosum*, might confuse people whose books all use *Smilacina racemosa*. I'll make the jump to the new names when they come out in *The Jepson Manual*.

PS. Along this route on Jun 11 the rhododendrons were just starting to bloom, the anemones were spectacular, and the trilliums finished. All the deciduous plants were fully clothed.

# NATIVE PLANT SALE

September 17, Saturday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center

569 South G St., Arcata

(5 blocks south of Samoa Blvd.)

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Time to plant! Come find what you need for your

- ◆ native hedge
- ◆ native meadow
- ◆ redwood glade
- ◆ creekside glen
- ◆ thicket for birds and the bugs they eat
- ◆ host plants for caterpillars
- ◆ nectar garden for butterflies, moths and hummingbirds

Experienced gardeners will be on hand to help you choose from a wide variety of plants, from ferns to trees.

Bring a box to carry your plants. Cash or check accepted. Bring your empty plant pots for re-use.

If you can help move plants, take money, or advise customers, call 826-0259.

## MEMBERS' CORNER

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

MARK FILES  
JODY GOUGH  
JILL MEFFORD  
MAUREEN MURPHY  
PEGGY MURRAY  
BRITNEY NEWBY  
TRISTON PIGG  
MARY LEE RUTLEDGE  
CAROL SMILLIE  
HEIDI TERBRACK  
CAROL VANDERMEER  
ROBERT VANORDEN

### THANK YOU TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS

MRS. MARJORIE E. ADAMS  
ELAINE ALLISON  
PAUL ANDERSON  
INGRID BAILEY  
MELINDA BAILEY  
BARNEY BARTELLE  
PAT BITTON  
LILLIAN BLUMAN  
KIMBERLY BONINE  
PETER BRUCKER AND GEB  
GREENBERG  
MATT BURGERSSE  
DAVID CALLOW  
DONNA CLARK AND JIM CLARK  
GEORGE COCKS  
LESA COLEMAN  
HELEN CONSTANTINE-SHULL  
LARAIN COOK  
REBECCA DEJA  
KATHY DILLEY  
PAULA FONG  
MARK FRITZKE  
VALERIE GIZINSKI AND PATRICK  
A. CARR  
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MERVIN HANSON AND MAXINE  
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JENNIFER KALT  
MICHAEL KAUFFMANN AND  
ALLISON POKLEMB  
STEPHANIE KLEIN

JOHN KNIGHT  
MARLA KNIGHT  
MELISSA KRAEMER  
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TOM LISLE  
AMY LIVINGSTON AND ELI  
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LABORDE  
JIM TIETZ  
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FELICITY WASSER  
MICHAEL WATANABE AND JOAN  
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WHALEY  
ANGIE WOLSKI  
JENNIFER WOOD  
HOPE WOODWARD

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Support these local businesses and with proof of your North Coast membership, receive discounts on your purchases.

- ◆ **Bamboo & Maples**, 10% discount on plants, 445-1281
- ◆ **Freshwater Farms**: 10% off plant purchases, 444-8261
- ◆ **Greenlot Nursery**, 10% discount on plants, 443-9484
- ◆ **Mad River Gardens**: 10% discount on plant purchases, 822-7049
- ◆ **Miller Farms**: 5% discount on plant materials, 839-1571

◆ **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

◆ **Samara Restoration LLC**, 10% discount on plants, 834.4379 / samararestoration.com

### 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, and *Darlingtonia*.
- ◆ 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.

(Continued from page 1)

I believe teaching people the value of native plants in an outdoor environment like a contrived garden is one of the best ways to get gardeners to at least give native plants a try.

If you also think exposure to native plants in a garden situation is a great way to encourage people to grow native plants, please consider volunteering to help maintain LCBNPG. If you live in Eureka or Fortuna and think our chapter does not have enough activities in the area south of Arcata, this is a great opportunity to work with native plants.

Contact Pete Haggard for more information ([phaggard@suddenlink.net](mailto:phaggard@suddenlink.net) / 839-0307 ).

## HealthSPORT Native Plant Garden

By Pete Haggard, Native Plan Gardening Chair

How many of us know the North Coast CNPS has planted and maintained a native plant garden next to HealthSPORT in Arcata for the past 10 years. While it is always a work in progress come by look at the beach pine, ceanothus (now flowering), poppies, lupine, and all the the other established native plants. See what could be possible in your garden.

Also let the City of Arcata know that we appreciate their willingness to work with our chapter and in particular Dan Diemer, Parks Superintendent.

## Growing Our Future

By Tamara Camper, Native Plant Grower Coordinator

Grow your understanding of native plants while growing plants for our chapter's plant sales. Historically, the bulk of our revenue (typically 60%) comes from the plants sales and we use this revenue to help fund our wonderful outreach and conservation projects.

Each chapter of the California Native Plant Society has its own method for growing and selling native plants. Our chapter uses volunteers, as well as utilizing agreements with local native plant nurseries such as the Humboldt Fisheries Action Council, Samara Restoration, and Freshwater Farms. Our volunteers help:

- ◆ Collect seeds

- ◆ Propagate plants
- ◆ Make labels and signs
- ◆ Maintain volunteer and plant databases
- ◆ Distribute materials and plants
- ◆ Plan plant sales

We hold socials and work parties to discuss ideas, share knowledge and experience, and do the manual labor. Some of our discussion topics have included: various ways of getting propagation success, finding good soil mediums, various ethical and political topics regarding native plants, and finding the distinguishing features of our local varieties. If you are truly interested in helping us please join the NC CNPS Gardening mailing list by sending an email to [NorthCoast\\_CNPS\\_Gardening-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening-subscribe@yahoo.com). Tell us about your background, interests and abilities. Thank you! Tami 845-7483

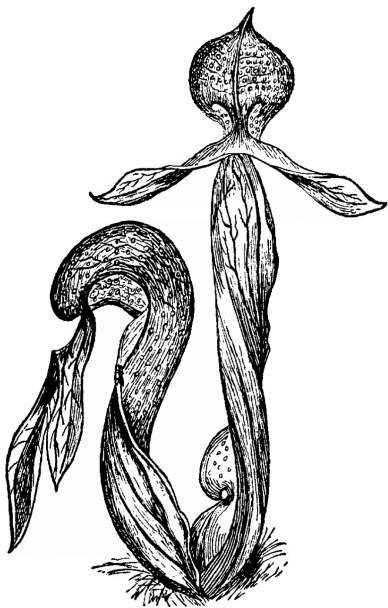


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## *Darlingtonia*



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[NorthCoastCNPS.org](http://NorthCoastCNPS.org)**

### **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

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

#### ***July***

- ◆ Fri, Sat, & Sun 22-24:  
Hike

#### ***August***

- ◆ Sat & Sun 13 & 14: Hike

#### ***September***

- ◆ Sat 10: Ivy Bash
- ◆ Sun 11: Hike
- ◆ Wed 14: Program
- ◆ Sat 17: Plant Sale

#### ***October***

- ◆ Sun 2: Chapter Picnic
- ◆ Wed 12: Program

#### ***November***

- ◆ Sat 5: Field Trip
- ◆ Wed 9: Program

#### ***December***

- ◆ Wed 14: Program