

Darlingtonia

SUMMER 2012
July-September

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

NATIVE PLANTS COME TO OLD TOWN: The Lost Foods Native Plant Garden by Monty Caid

Lost Foods Native Plant Garden, which I started in 2009, is located at 2nd and H Streets in Eureka, surrounding a city parking lot. The space was adopted from the City of Eureka, thanks to the Public Works Dept. Adopt-a-Park Program. There are over one hundred native plant species living together for the public to visit and become acquainted with. Some species are rarely seen anymore, others are more common, and all are native to Humboldt County.

Lost Foods started as a business idea to reintroduce the public to our native food plants. "Lost foods" are the native plants that once covered our landscapes and were eaten and cared for by the original people of California. California became known as The Floristic Province, and a world hot spot for biodiversity. Now mostly foreign foods and domesticated crops cover the original landscape where native foods once grew naturally. I felt that before the public is reintroduced to native foods, we must start to restore our native food plant populations so these healthy, super foods will someday be available again. I wanted to show the public how diverse and beautiful our native plants are so I needed a site to demonstrate this. I also planned to educate them about the many benefits and the usefulness of our native plants, hoping to generate their interest in restoring them. I felt the need to help save our area's unique biodiversity, by restoring and preserving native habitats.

The City of Eureka has an Adopt-a-Park program, in which people can adopt a city landscape if they agree to take care of it. I asked about the 2nd and H Streets parking lot, and the Public Works coordinators said it was available. I showed them my plan, and they accepted and welcomed the idea. I immediately got started preparing the site, by removing the few existing clumps of a one-foot-tall ground cover commonly used in urban landscapes. The existing three Acacia trees were spared, but recently Public Works staff and I agreed to remove the smallest one, as the native tree

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FIELD TRIPS AND PLANT WALKS

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

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. It is wise to contact the leader if you are coming, in case plans change.

July 27-30. Friday eve.-Sunday. Sanger Lake Field Trip. Snuggled on the west side of the Siskiyou Mountains crest, Sanger Lake will be our base for a day hike to Young Valley (Saturday) and other exploration of fir forest, rock outcrops, and wet meadows of these beautiful mountains. Primitive camping is at the lake, accessible by unpaved Forest Service road (Knopki Rd) off of Highway 199. Lodging is available at Patrick Creek, roughly an hour away. For more details and to say you are coming, call Carol 822-2015.

August 4, Saturday. 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Orchids in the Dunes Plant Walk. Intricate, beautiful, and diverse, orchids have a special allure. Join Carol Ralph to find four native species blooming and one in fruit along the forest and dune trails of Lanphere Dunes. Not all orchids are big and showy! Bring a magnifying lens if you have one. Meet at Pacific Union School, 3001 Janes Rd. in Arcata to carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Dunes. Call 444-1397 to RSVP.

August 11, Saturday. Boy Scout Tree Trail Day Hike. "Every pace you take along the trail takes you farther into the past, into a time when plants, not people, predominated, and when everything was held by the gentle power of the good green earth." So say Jerry and Gisela Rohde in *Best Short Hikes in Redwood National & State Parks* about this trail in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. It is a 5.6-mile, out-and-back, somewhat strenuous trail from a trailhead on Howland Hill Rd. outside Crescent City. It features a big tree, a small waterfall (especially small in August), and generally lush redwood forest vegetation. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Return late afternoon. Information: Carol 822-2015.

September 9, Sunday. The Mad River from Hiller Park to Clam Beach, Day Hike. Wetland and riparian plants will be the focus of this roughly 3-mile trek along both active and abandoned bed of the Mad River. We'll see the coastal bluff vegetation also, from the water side. We will re-visit wetlands we visited in September, 2006, where the Mad River changed course in 1999 (see winter 2007 *Darlingtonia*). Probably we can do this dry-shod at this time of year, but wading into the shallow ponds could be fun. After shuttling cars to the Letz Ave. access to the Hammond Trail, we will walk from Hiller Park in McKinleyville through the spruce forest, down to the river, north along the river bed past Widow White Creek and below Vista Point to meet the Hammond Trail to get to the cars. Dress for the weather and walking all day; bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Please advise Carol (822-2015) that you are coming, to help plan the shuttle or to learn if the plan has changed.

October 14, Sunday. Day hike. Save the day for being outside, at either Jacoby Creek Forest to see the old-growth western redcedars or Horse Linto to see fall colors of black-fruited dogwood. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Tell Carol (822-2015) you are coming, in case the plan changes.

November 3, Saturday. Likely day trip. Save the date.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

EVENING PROGRAMS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS (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.

Botanical FAQ's: At 7:15 p.m. Pete Haggard or some other presenter shares a brief, hands-on demonstration and discussion of some botanical topic.

Sep 12 "Botanical Exploration in California." Plant exploration in the European tradition began in California almost three hundred years ago. **Dr. James P. Smith**, professor emeritus of botany at Humboldt State University, will recount the efforts of those early naturalists, compare our five "official state floras," and review the accomplishments of several of the major botanists who contributed so much to our knowledge of California's diverse flora. These men and women – gifted, indefatigable, eccentric, and often blessed with an abundance of strong opinions – were the giants whose discoveries and writings form the basis of California floristic botany.

Botanical Book Recirculation Night. At 7:00 p.m. donated books will be available for purchase at prices you can afford. Find plant books you never knew you needed. To donate books call 822-2015.

Oct 10 "Floral Jewels among All That Rock at Lassen National Park." Following 5 years of collecting field data in this "Bermuda Triangle of Vegetation Mapping," **Ken Stumpf** and **Chris Stumpf** will present a stunning, colorful, and informative pictorial tour of the floristic features found in this confluence of the Sierra Nevada, the Cascades, and the Great Basin. Enjoy the show of both common and rare flowers and test your field botany skill in identifying them.

Nov 14 "Discoveries and Fun with Local Fawn Lilies" by **Cherie Sanville** and **Bianca Hayashi**

Dec 12 Native Plant Show & Tell. An informal evening for anyone to share photos, artifacts, readings, or food relating to native plants and their habitats. Coordinator to be announced later.

HAVE YOU BATTLED ENGLISH IVY?

HAVE YOU SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED ENGLISH IVY FROM SOME PIECE OF YARD OR PROPERTY?

CAN YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS HOW YOU DID IT? WHAT TOOLS YOU USED? HOW DEEP YOU CUT THE ROOTS? HOW LONG IT TOOK? HOW MANY TIMES YOU HAVE GONE BACK TO PULL SPROUTS? HOW YOU DISPOSED OF THE REMOVED IVY?

HAS ANYTHING GROWN UP WHERE THE IVY WAS?

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF BEFORE AND AFTER?

BY PUBLICIZING STORIES OF HOW PEOPLE HAVE REMOVED ENGLISH IVY, THE CHAPTER HOPES TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO TACKLE THIS INVADER OF OUR FORESTS. LEFT ALONE, IT WILL SPREAD SLOWLY BUT SURELY. LEFT TO FRUIT, IT WILL SPREAD WHERE BIRDS CARRY IT. GENERALLY, ONE MAJOR REMOVAL EFFORT GETS ALMOST ALL OF THE IVY. SEVERAL YEARLY EPISODES OF FAIRLY EASY WORK PULLING SPROUTS COMPLETES THE JOB.

IF YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR IVY STORY, PLEASE CONTACT US THROUGH CAROL RALPH (707-822-2015; THERALPHS@HUMBODLT1.COM).

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

Thank you!

Audrey Miller for organizing approximately 54 programs over her 6 years as Program Chair, never missing a beat!

Brian Dykstra for admirably filling the Education Chair for the year by giving lectures, organizing and instructing school visits to the wildflower show, and contributing to steering committee meetings.

Rick Tolley for organizing, hanging, and hosting the Wildflower Art Show.

Gary Bloomfield, Andrew Daniels, Joy Dellas, Paul Fabian, Paula Golightly, Michael Harris, Linda Parkinson, Ken Jarvela, Joyce Jonte, Leslie Reid, Alan Sanborn, Patricia Sennott, Stock Schlueter, Rick Tolley, Ann Wallace, Mira Weidman, and Libby Yee for contributing art to the show.

Upstairs Art Gallery at Arcata Umpqua Bank for hosting the Wildflower Art Show.

Paula Golightly and **Linda Parkinson** for contributing art sales to our Transportation Fund

Susan Anderson, Stephen Brown, Liz Fenney, and Sue Moon (=Mon Petit Cho) for playing delightful music at the art show and at Art Night at the Wildflower Show

Rita Zito, Angie Lottes, Cindy Woods, Boyan Ingle, Sylvia White, and Frank Milelczyk for staffing our table at Godwit Days, and **Tom Pratum** for picking it up.

Pete Haggard, Kathy Dilley, Barbara Kelly, Julie Clark of BLM, **Carol Ralph, and Janelle Egger** for leading walks.

Bill and Linda Shapeero for sharing their beautiful forests with groups of flower-seekers.

Michael Kauffmann and **Brian Dykstra** for putting us on facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS>

Volunteers needed. Big jobs and small, every one important. Every job-holder is eligible to be on our Steering Committee.

Program Chair. The job is to be sure we have program speakers and publicity for them, monthly September through May. Carol and others often suggest speakers and make the first contact. The Program Chair follows up. The primary qualification for the job is planning ahead and remembering to contact people and to submit publicity to the publicity channels. It is helpful but not required that the program chair be able to craft a fun, concise publicity blurb and be able to attend programs and introduce speakers. Meet interesting people while maintaining one of the important and visible public functions of the chapter and providing substance to the monthly chapter get-together.

Education Chair. You can define the job. Education is one of the pillars of the CNPS mission. We would like to be in touch with the school education world, but we think educating the adult public is important too. Organizing school visits to the Spring Wildflower Show has traditionally been a task of this person. A good template has been developed for that event.

Chief Outreach. Keep our displays and handouts in good shape for use at various public events, about 6/year. A good group of volunteers help staff the table (booth).

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.

Science Fair Coordinator. A brief, fun job one day each year in mid-March.

Azalea Reserve Rescue Coordinator. Enough public concern about the invasive plants in Azalea State Reserve (off North Bank Rd.) has been detected that a person willing to work with State Park personnel and recruit willing volunteer hands could make a real difference. If you would consider being this person, or if you would like to be the willing volunteer hands, contact Carol.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Bluff Creek and E-Ne-Nuk

April 22, 2012

Carol Ralph

About 10 miles south of Orleans, at mile marker 29 on Highway 96, the modern Bluff Creek Bridge spans a steep, deep gorge between bare, vertical, rock cliffs. The bridge is quite exposed, taking the full summer sun and upstream afternoon winds, deluged by winter rains. Steep, forested mountains on all sides plunge down to the Klamath River, leaving little room for riparian vegetation. Having parked at the locked gate of nearby E-Ne-Nuk Campground, 17 of us were here to explore the Bluff Creek Historical Trail, which we spotted during last year's Looking for Lewisia Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, June 24-25, 2011, reported in the September *Darlingtonia*. We were in the Orleans District of the Six Rivers National Forest, and the Klamath Ranges of the geographic divisions of *The Jepson Manual*.

Looking at the raw rocks around the gorge and the narrow, somewhat scruffy passage the road follows along the face of the bluff looking away from the Klamath River (That bluff gave its name to the place.), it was hard to envision the "spectacular wooded little glen canyon surrounded by steep, perpendicular bluffs. Through the narrow valley, Bluff Creek and Aikens Creek cascaded along to eventually join with the Klamath River a short distance from the grassy plateau where California City was founded," as described in "California City and Bluff Creek Vicinity" by Max Rowley and Margaret Wooden in *Humboldt Historian* (summer 2001: pp. 17-23). A photo shows the Bluff Creek Bridge, 1910, curving between tall, shady trees (alders?). Bluff Creek was an important stopping place on the trail to Orleans. In country with precious little level ground, the grassy plateau was surely valuable to the Yurok and Karuk before that. The big storms of December 1964, causing a broken log jam event, totally reshaped this world. The massive rush of water totally carried off cabins, a campground, the bridge, and part of the bluff, blasting a more direct path into the Klamath River, a new confluence about one quarter mile upstream from the old. E-Ne-Nuk Campground is the surviving one of two campgrounds that used to be beside the creek.

Forty-eight years on, here we were, soaking up the warmth (91 degrees), ready to get to know this place. E-Ne-Nuk is a comfortable campground snuggled against a forested slope under big trees and sheltered by the looming bluff. We walked through the campground, noting the mix of evergreen trees and shrubs in this mixed evergreen forest --Douglas-

fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*), and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*). The deciduous black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), deer brush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) were part of the mix too. We enjoyed the blooming long-tubed iris (*Iris tenuissima*) and checker lily (*Fritillaria affinis*) and noted the masses of "brodiaea" leaves. We found blooming blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitata*), one of the "brodiaea" group, among the grass down below. By June 2, when we were here again, round-tooth ookow (*Dichelostemma multiflora*), fork-tooth ookow (*D. congesta*), Bridges' triteleia (*Triteleia bridgesii*), and white brodiaea (*T. hyacinthina*) were blooming in the campground, and firecracker flower (*Dichelostemma ida-maia*) and more fork-toothed ookow in the grassy area below, where on June 24, 2011 we found harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans*). Such a richness of species with edible "bulbs" suggests to me that the grassy plateau that used to be at Bluff Creek was an important piece of the wild tended by the Native Americans.

At the end of the campground we continued north down a small bank onto the dry, gravelly, flat area that I interpreted to be the old creek course, filled in by nature or machines or both. Scattered young trees and shrubs (coyote brush, toyon, poison oak) grew in a sparse covering of alien grasses and weeds. Dyers' woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), a dramatic, mustard-like weed that quickly produces neat rows of dangling, flat pods on its many branches, was in bud; star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) was still incognito as gray rosettes; wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) was tufts of feathery, carrotly-odored leaves. Miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) and blue dicks blooming, and woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) in bud represented the native plants. Along the base of the mountain to left (west) were rock faces and a trickle of water that hosted a higher proportion native species, including dense lace fern (*Indian's dream*; *Aspidotis densa*) and a lomatium. We settled in the shade of a canyon live oak, avoiding the poison oak, for lunch, near several purple-bedecked, silvery shrubs of *Lupinus albifrons*. An energetic explorer found a jewel-flower (*Streptanthus*) on the power pole end of the bluff. We thought it might be a rare species (*oblanceolatus*), but on a return visit to see the flowers found it was *S. tortuosus*, a widespread species. You don't find rare species if you don't try to see them!

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The Bluff Creek Bridge, seen from a knoll with a power pole on it, arches over the new route the creek cut through this serpentine ridge to reach the Klamath River, which flows from the valley in the distance towards this viewpoint. The Bluff Creek Historical Trail starts at the bottom of the gray roadcut on the left just across the bridge.

Next we crossed the bridge and ascended the Bluff Creek Historic Trail, marked by a sign at its base. It zig-zagged up a steep, serpentine, crumbly slope somewhat held together by wedgeleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), cream bush (*Holodiscus discolor*), sickly yellow Douglas-fir, and dense lace fern. A single, tiny Douglas' monkeyflower (*Mimulus douglasii*) added its magenta bloom to the green-gray of the substrate, and a few blue dicks nodded purple heads. At the top of the steep cut, where the trail sets a course around the north side of the hill, brown soil replaced the serpentine, and the mixed evergreen forest took over. After one or two small clearings of rocks, where shooting star (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*), western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), and plectritis (*Plectritis* sp.) bloomed, and the musty, sweet fragrance of ceanothus flowers hung in the air, Douglas-fir, madrone, tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), California bay, and black oak stood in an even age, shady forest, with almost non-existent understory and ground layer. We walked about one mile through this, before turning around and returning by the same route. The only blooming herbs were a bit of yerba-de-selva (*Whipplea modesta*), a few two-eyed violets (*Viola ocellata*), and four calypsos (*Calypso bulbosa*). We spotted leaves of rattlesnake orchid (*Goodyera oblongifolia*) and old stems of wintergreen (*Pyrola picta*) and coralroot (*Corallorhiza* sp.).

We didn't learn where the trail goes. We needed more time and patience for that. Maps found on the internet have conflicting information and even more trails marked on them, trails we didn't see evidence of on the ground. It was a great time to drive Highway 96. Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), mountain dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), red larkspur (*Delphinium cardinalis*), Mertens saxifrage (*Saxifraga mertensiana*), Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), and long-tubed iris kept us delighted along the way.

**Walker Ridge and Cache Creek:
a visit to the Inner North Coast Ranges
May 18-20, 2012
Carol Ralph**

Cache Creek flows out of the southeast end of Clear Lake, and various tributaries contribute to it as it flows out of the rolling and jumbled mountains between Clear Lake and the Central Valley. In these mountains Walker Ridge runs north-south between Indian Valley Reservoir on its west and Bear Valley on its east. Its south end is at Highway 20 about 27 miles west of Williams.

Diverse reasons brought thirteen of us to the Cache Creek Regional Park Campground on Friday: to see a botanically exciting and recently threatened landscape; to search for rare plants; to spend a weekend in the outdoors anywhere; to learn to identify more plants; to experience the beauty of a California landscape; to draw the power from a delicate wildflower. We had come from diverse floristic sub-regions, as defined in *The Jepson Manual*-- North Coast, San Francisco Bay, and Central Coast, and passed through the Outer North Coast Ranges--and now were breathing deeply of the dry, summery, decidedly warm air of the Inner North Coast Ranges. Unfamiliar trees surrounded us, most abundantly blue oak (*Quercus douglassii*), accompanied by interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*) and gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). Fence lizards watched us from rocks; crickets chirped in the evening grass; Scrub Jays scolded. This was not Arcata, and it felt good.

Saturday was our day to drive Walker Ridge, the famed site described eloquently by photos and words in *The Four Seasons* (14(1): October 2011) and reported by Donna Wildearth in this newsletter's spring issue (page 16). We spent the entire day driving the 11 miles plus Brim Rd. and then Bear Valley Rd back to Highway 20, stopping at 13 places, some familiar from previous trips, some prompted by expert flower spotting. At every stop

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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

President	Carol Ralph	707-822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Vice President	Felicity Wasser	707-616-9974	wasserfw@yahoo.com
Secretary	Frances Ferguson	707-822-5079	fferguson@reninet.com
Treasurer	Michael Kauffmann	707-407-7686	michael_kauffmann@yahoo.com
Membership	Tom Pratum	360-927-5278	tkp@whatcomssl.org
Invasive Plants	Stephanie Klein	707-443-8326	StephanieKlein@w-and-k.com
Native Plant Gardening	Pete Haggard	707-839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.net
Native Plant Consultation	Bev Zeman	707-677-9391	donjzeman@yahoo.com
Plant Sales	Chris Beresford Co-Chair Anna Bernard	707-826-0259 707-826-7247	thegang7@pacbell.net eabern@aol.com
Education	Brian Dykstra	616-558-0404	brianjdykstra@gmail.com
Conservation	Jennifer Kalt	707-839-1980	jenkalt@gmail.com
Programs	Audrey Miller	707-786-9701	taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net
Hospitality	Melinda Groom Frank Milelcik (Asst.)	707-668-4275 707-822-5360	mgroomster@gmail.com frankm638@yahoo.com
Field Trips and Plant Walks	Carol Ralph	707-822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Rare Plants	Kim Imper	707-444-2756	dimper@suddenlink.net
Plant Communities	Tony LaBanca	707-826-7208	tlabanca@dfg.ca.gov
Newsletter Editor	Marisa D'Arpino	707-601-0898	marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com
Website & Publicity	Larry Levine	707-822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
Poster Sales	Rita Zito	707-443-2868	ritazito53@yahoo.com
T-Shirt Sales	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph
Workshops	Gordon Leppig	707-839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov
Wildflower Show	Richard Beresford	707-826-0259	thegang7@pacbell.net
CNPS Chapter Delegate	Larry Levine	707-822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
NEC NC CNPS Representative	Jennifer Kalt	707-839-1980	jenkalt@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The ***Darlingtonia* Newsletter** (quarterly),
2. Our chapter's website: **www.northcoastcnps.org**
3. E-mail lists/forums (Announcements, Business, and Gardening – subscribe from the **E-mail lists and Forums** page on www.northcoastcnps.org).
4. Facebook **www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS**

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 no later than: 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 or requesting your *EcoNews* be electronic (contact 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, 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.

LESSONS OF A LAISSEZ FAIRE GARDENER

By Randi Swendenburg

My gardening philosophy has encompassed a laissez faire attitude, a "leave it be" style that often drives my husband crazy and winds up with hours of shovel in hand and wheelbarrows full of plants. As noble as my love of natives and allowing them to grow unfettered is, I must attribute some of this attitude of noninterference to laziness. I enjoy giving plenty of room for plants to make themselves at home, spread, reseed, and have their way. I dislike restraining plants, bending them to my will. This gardening season has barely begun and the manifestation of embracing this viewpoint has already entailed many hours of undoing in our young garden.

In my last article, we left off in early winter ready for the rains to fill up the wetland and quench the thirsty sedges and reeds lining and surrounding the area. We waited and waited. Our wetland was dry most of the winter and the mild weather allowed unchecked growth among many of the plants. The coastal strawberries (*Fragaria chilensis*) exploded with new vigor and wanted to take over the world. They were extremely happy and sent out lovely red runners in every direction including down into the wetland, crisscrossing and weaving a carpet of red runners and clumps of shiny green leaves until you could barely see the rocks. My husband said, "Do you think we should do anything to stop them"? Oh no, let them do their thing, let's not meddle with them, I am sure that once the winter rains come they will be subdued, they can't possibly survive underwater. They did.

The Coast Hedge Nettle (*Stachys chamissonis*), which all summer long had graced the edges of the wetland, a haven for every winged insect, and a delight to the

eyes, rested in the winter and in early spring came back with such gusto, sending its underground runners furiously erupting everywhere, engulfing the young blueberry bush nearby. I was beginning to see a trend; I was in trouble and fighting a losing battle. I had to change my ways. It was time for some garden intervention. The Hedge Nettle began to take over the whole yard; it had to go. Sadly, we removed the two plants, one on each side of the wetland. It left a gapping hole that the strawberries gladly filled. I had seen this plant in the wild, a few patches here and there, lovely spikes of purple delicate flowers.

Lesson 1: How plants behave in the wild are not necessarily how they will behave in my garden.

Alas, the strawberries completely covered the rocky wetland, were becoming a tangled mess, and could not remain. My husband and I set about to tear out all of the strawberries covering the rocks. We sat among the rocks for hours pulling them all out. We



gave many of them away to our neighbor and I potted up a couple dozen for the spring native plant sale. We enjoyed seeing the rocks revealed. Once the strawberries were removed we discovered that the sedge (*Carex obnupta*), newly full of striking seed heads of dark brown bursting into white, had sent out runners and for every plant, 5 to 10 new sprouts were poking their heads out of the rocks in the wetland. Sigh, I recognized that we had yet another out of control plant staring up at us. I sought expert advice and confirmed my own suspicion; the sedge knew no boundaries and could no longer stay. This removal was the most strenuous of all as there were about 15 large plants with dozens of little ones and tearing them out involved moving rocks, digging out plants and

replacing rocks. This spring saw the fruits of the wait and see philosophy become the on your knees for hours tear-out fest. **Lesson 2:** If I have limited space in my garden, stay away from plants that send out runners, above ground and especially below. **Lesson**

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3: Do not over plant; I thought I already learned that one!

The strawberries are currently covering every inch of available space. I am finally cutting the runners and considering how to tame them. They have piled up along the edge of the walkway to a height of over a foot. I knew their freedom had to be curtailed, but once they started flowering I could

not bare to rob the bees of those pretty white flowers. Besides, I want to enjoy eating the berries.

Strawberries belong in our garden, but in a corralled spot. Every other day new Hedge Nettle plants pop up in multiple places and I imagine I will be fighting those for quite some time. On the bright side, I have the opportunity to crawl about in the wetland and along the edges and examine everything up close, discovering interesting stones and listening to the insects hum.

Design wise, I have a few lessons to share. Spikes of purple Lupine brought color in early spring, but they had faded by the time the big boisterous yellow monkey flowers (*Mimulus guttatus*)

appeared. The monkey flowers have spread quite nicely and I welcome their generous presence. I have never seen them so plentiful or so big in the wild (refer to lesson 1). I neglected to realize that I was planting yellow monkey flower with yellow-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*), so when they both bloomed the tiny yellow-eyed grass was over shadowed by the masses of yellow monkey flowers. **Lesson 4:** Pay attention to colors and when they bloom, I have a succession of colors on the verge of blooming but they arrive after the others have died back and I do not get that riotous colorful cottage garden look that I desire.

We have branched out from the wetland and planted two apple trees (Honey Crisp and Liberty),



three Evergreen Huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovatum*), Caterpillar flower (*Phacelia bolanderi*), California fuchsia (*Epilobium*), and Columbine (*Aquilegia Formosa*) along the southern side of our house, the warmest and sunniest spot. On the opposite side of the yard from the house which gets some shade from the neighbors house and a nearby plum tree, we planted Evergreen Huckleberry, Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), Thimbleberry (*Rubus*

parviflorus), Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Pacific Reed grass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*), Inside-Out Flower (*Vancouveria*), Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), ferns and a Leopard lily (*Lilium pardalinum*).

Looking back, I wish I had created some higher terrain along that side of the yard for visual interest and to create taller screening from the neighbors. I purchased most of these plants at the fall native plant sale and they stayed unhappily in their pots all winter long. I was in a hurry to get them into the ground before they perished. **Lesson 5:** Prepare the area for planting before I buy the plants, or do not buy the plants until I have created an area

for them (I may never learn this one).

I have to change my gardening ways for our front garden to work and our backs to keep working. I have committed to pruning and maintaining several shrubs/trees; this is a fundamental shift for me. We planted a hedge of Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*), Coast Silktassel (*Garrya elliptica*) and Red Flowering Currant. In front of those is a Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), Sticky Monkey Flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), California fuchsia, Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) and Point Reyes creeper (*Ceanothus gloriosus*). I plan on filling in the spaces with a variety of colorful

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MEMBERS' CORNER

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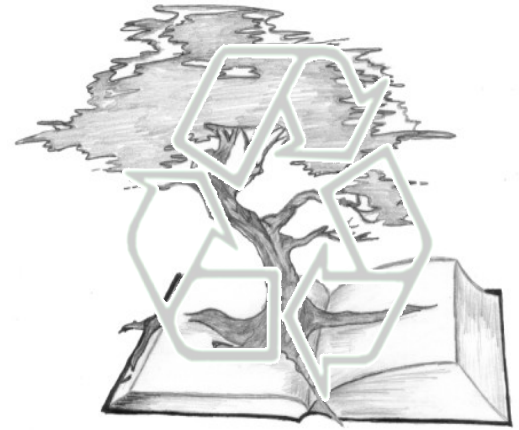
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the first line of your
newsletter's address label.

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perennial flowers, which ones have yet to be determined. We also have plans to build a rock border along the edge of the sidewalk in the front yard and create a native succulent garden within the rocks. Native blackberries have volunteered along the front southeast portion of the chain link fence and I marvel at how well behaved they are, low growing and full of blossoms, the promise of sweet summer fruit. I have even been able to embrace the chain link fence until a wooden one can replace it because the chain link allows the blackberries to soak up the sunshine from early morning until evening.

Future plans involve restraining the strawberries along the edge of the wetland to create space to plant more Scarlet monkey flower (*Mimulus cardinalis*). I like the light green foliage in contrast with the darker green of all the other plants, not to mention the bright orange zany shaped flowers. I will also plant some Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) and some Douglas iris to stand out against the yellow monkey flowers. We still have some drainage issues out front to deal with so we have not been able to plant anything directly in front of the house. We must redo our front steps and elevate the walkway so we can raise the dirt level and slope it away from the house. I will use native plants that tolerate less water along the house to keep the watering to a minimum. We still have a lot to accomplish, and we may end up tearing out more plants, but one of the great joys of gardening is the ever changing canvas and the slowing down of life to watch and wait with the seasons. I am looking forward to the display of color about to erupt in the next few months, Scarlet monkey flowers, purple Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malvaeflora*), blue Asters (*Aster chilensis*) and ripe berries! **Lesson 6:** Gardening is experiencing life in a circle; it is hard to tell the end from the beginning.



RECYCLING BOTANICAL BOOKS

- Are you running out of space for all those books?
- Do you like books on plants but can't afford book stores?
- Are you no longer using that tree field guide?
- Have you enjoyed that coffee table book long enough?
- Have you moved on to pollination and have too many fern books?

Donate books to or come shop at the chapter's botanical book sale September 12 at the evening program. All plants and only plants, including taxonomy, gardening, field guides, world plants, etc. Books donated to the chapter will be available, priced-to-sell, to benefit the chapter.

To donate contact
Carol Ralph 822-2015.

(Continued from page 6)

was a new wonder--a gorgeous flower, an enormously rare species, an inspiring vista, a confusion of shrubbery, a curious parasite, a surprisingly green meadow. Most of the ridge was covered by a dark blanket of chaparral, a twiggy, tall sea of shrubs, including leather oak (*Quercus durata*), silk tassel (*Garrya* sp.), shrubby interior live oak, canyon live oak (*Q. chrysolepis*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula* and *A. viscida*), and McNab cypress (*Hesperocyparis macnabiana*). The strength of the serpentine in the soil and the interval since the last fire influenced the composition of the chaparral. The only plant of true tree stature was gray pine. The vegetation palette was gray-, brown-, and blue-green. At mid-day the sun was hot, shade scarce, the road dusty, the shrubbery impenetrable and scratchy, the ground rocky. Is this landscape going to look valuable to your legislator? Not unless you show him/her some of the ephemeral actors on this stage-- the clean, pink heads of twining brodiaea (snake lily, *Dichelostemma volubile*) raised above the tough leaves of a supporting leather oak; the glowing, yellow globes of Diogenes' lantern (*Calochortus amabilis*) hanging in the dappled shade of a manzanita; the sculpted, golden swirls of golden eardrops (yellow bleeding heart; *Ehrenborferia* (formerly *Dicentra*) *chrysantha*) massed on small bushes beside gnarled, blackened skeletons of burned shrubs; the ethereal, pale pink of the splendid mariposa (*Calochortus splendens*); the stunning orange discs of *Packeria greenei* against their fuzzy, gray foliage; the pristine white, fragrant bells of snowdrop bush (*Styrax redivivus*).

We saw these and more, and we knew that this was not a place to bring bulldozers or windmills. Let the fire come. The golden eardrops will thrive; the McNab cypress seeds will sprout; the leather oaks will sprout from their bases. The chaparral will heal. Bring in the bulldozers, and the wild oats (*Avena* sp.), the star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and the hedge parsley (sock destroyer; *Torilis arvensis*) will follow. When the existing roads were made, and the smaller, older roads, presumably for mining, these invasive, habitat-changers were not waiting at the bottom of the hill. Now they are. The legendary Bear Valley, which we drove through at the end of the day, showed no sign of the floral abundance it is famous for. We were too late, but we noted an abundance of fresh, gray-blue and old, dry, gray stems of star thistle among the pastorally pleasing, long, even grass, still tinged green some places. At the south end of Walker Ridge Rd., where the land has been sculpted by machines, rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*) and wild oats are abundant along the road and over hillsides.

That evening, after a shared BBQ meal in our spacious campsite (Meeting no resistance, we spread into all

four group campsites.), we spent a second pleasant



Three pink heads of twining brodiaea emerge above the chaparral, having wound their way up through a leather oak, even intertwining each other's stems. These stems could be 2 meters long, following a circuitous route up from the ground, where the two long, daffodil-like leaves were drying.

night in the Yolo County campground and awoke ready for the next adventure. We decided that would be a half-day hike in oak woodland on the Redbud Trail in the Cache Creek Natural Area. The Natural Area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, but California Fish and Game has land here too. The trailhead was west of Walker Ridge where Highway 20 crosses the North Fork Cache Creek. The first half-mile of trail traversed a very flat area that looked manmade. It was dominated by weedy grasses and herbs, including star thistle and rose clover, but one of our group assured us that in April two years ago masses of purple owls clover (*Castilleja exserta* subsp. *exserta*) and of butter-and-eggs (*Triphysaria eriantha* subsp. *eriantha*) spread out here. The trail entered oak woodland and ascended gently and then steeply toward a ridge that some of us reached by lunchtime. Others of us stopped to look at things, like alkali (or seaside) heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavica* var. *oculatum*), Hoover's lomatium (*Lomatium hooveri*), climbing bedstraw (*Galium porrigens*), ground iris (bowl-tubed iris; *Iris macrosiphon*), harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans*), and skunk brush (*Rhus trilobata*) compared to poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). By lunchtime we reached a nice log upon which to sit and enjoy a view before returning down the trail.

In early afternoon we parted ways, heading for our

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various homes or next adventures. We had seen some remarkable plants, a remarkably wide and thorough sprinkling of woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), and a satisfactory number (lots) of Diogenes' lanterns. Besides the widespread blue oak woodland, we had experienced a remarkable landscape that we would be reading about soon, in the issue of *Fremontia* arriving in our mailboxes, and in conservation news.

Notes:

1. You can read about the Jepson geographic subdivisions at http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM_geography.html. The map that is inside the cover of the print book doesn't seem to be available online.
2. Travel notes. It is about 4 hours from Arcata to Walker Ridge. The Cache Creek Campground run by Yolo County was comfortable, with the cool creek in which to refresh. It is on Highway 16 about 15 minutes south of Highway 20, about 25 minutes from Walker Ridge Rd. BLM's Blue Oak Campground down in Indian Valley is closer to the ridge and sounds OK, but may not have water now. Motels are available in Williams and Clearlake Oaks, each less than one-half hour from Walker Ridge Rd.
3. Although you can have a fantastic visit to Walker Ridge by stopping wherever you happen to see something, studying the article in *The Four Seasons* to locate the well known sites called Wayne's Knoll, Hesperolinon Hill, Panorama Scree, Barrell Springs, Cold Springs, Brim Summit Meadow, Kilpepper Creek, and Brim Grade will help you find these productive spots. Issues of *The Four Seasons* may be purchased by contacting Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (www.nativeplants.org); or Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, California 94708-2396; or 510-544-3169; or bgarden@ebparks.org.

**Coastal Willows on the Mad River--
Blue Lake and West End Road
March 24, 2012**

by Carol Ralph

The lure of a famously difficult group of trees brought 10 people out on a cold, gray, but calm and mostly dry day. Actually, the lure of good birding, often associated with willows, is what brought two of those people. We started at the Blue Lake Hatchery, just off West End Rd. about a mile north of the bridge over the Mad River in Blue Lake. The hatchery area is open to the public, including fishermen, who access the river here. We reviewed a variety of native redwood forest species along the forest backdrop of

the picnic area and studied our first willow there.

We recognized it as a willow by being near water, having deciduous, alternate, simple leaves (Look at the buds and twigs, if no leaves are on the tree.), opening leaves early in spring, and producing catkin-type flowers. This one had dense, velvety hairs on the undersides of the leaves, an easy, unique field mark of Sitka willow (*Salix sitchensis*). "Velvety" is opposed to long- or short-silky, matted, or woolly, all adjectives applied to hairs on willow leaves. Sitka willow was one of the two willows common in the rest of our wanderings at the hatchery, upstream about 100 m on a trail, then along dirt roads between the hatchery tanks and the river. In general aspect it was silvery, gray-green, branches pointing at the sky, with new twigs yellow-green. A blooming, male Sitka willow glows pale yellow in the upright, canopy branches. All willows all have male and female flowers on separate plants (dioecious). The individual flowers consist of an ovary (female) or 2-5 stamens (male) and a bract (small flap) clustered into catkins, the "pussies" of "pussy willows," which are indeed hairy.

The other common willow at the hatchery was harder to spot because very few leaves were out. With a clever, pocket, magnifying measurer we ventured into the intimate details of the flowers, measuring the style, the stamens, and the catkins, following the key in the electronic Jepson on an iPad (which weighs less than 2 lbs., compared to almost 6 lbs. for the print Jepson II, and it fits in a Ziploc bag). The long style, shaggy, dark flower bract, stamens longer than 0.6 mm, and large catkin told us this was coastal willow (*Salix hookeriana*). When it has its blocky, glossy, white-underneath leaves, there is no need to measure flower parts. We checked leaves and flowers on many more willows and found at least one "moving into arroyo (*Salix lasiolepis*)" in its characteristics. Local willow expert John Bair expects arroyo willow as soon as he is inland off the coastal plain. He looks for leaves wider above the middle and irregularly undulating. The Jepson Manual says of coastal willow, "Glabrous and densely tomentose plants intergrade, may occur together (glabrous plants at 500-1000 m in Humboldt Co. need study). May hybridize with *S. lasiolepis*, *S. scouleriana*, " and of arroyo willow, "Highly variable; several weak varieties described. North Coast populations suggest intergradation with *S. hookeriana*." We didn't find a "good" *lasiolepis*, but surely we saw a tree with *lasiolepis* genes in it!

Sitka and coastal willows are short trees, sometimes sprawly or shrubby. We spotted a tall, tree willow in the swampy area near the house. It was distinctive

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2012 SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW RECOLLECTED...

By Richard Beresford, WFS Chairperson



Over 900 folks came out to enjoy the 30th annual Wildflower Show at the Manila Community Center this year, up by a hundred or so from last year! The weather cooperated with a pleasant, non-rainy (though breezy) weekend; May 4 through 6.

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Dykstra, we were visited by nearly 120 students from five schools on Friday. A thank you also goes to Sun Valley Floral Farm for the donation of lilies that students were able to dissect! We also had an enthusiastic group of senior citizens from Timber Ridge that appeared to enjoy the event as well.

There were 30+ artists, both 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!

375 taxa were represented of which 292 were native species. 72 families and 235 genera, 30 taxa not previously recorded. Thanks to "SD" aka the "silent data base manager" for researching and tabulating these stats!

The inside perimeter of the main hall was lined with fantastic displays including dune plants (Carol Vander Meer and Denise Seeger from Friends of the Dunes), invasive plants (Laura Julian's untiring efforts), CNPS poster and tee-shirt sales (multitudinous CNPS volunteers),

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the celebration of wildflowers and serpentine species- provided by the Six Rivers National Forest (especially John McRae), wild edible plants provided by Monty Caid's non-profit Lost Foods, bugs and their critical role in the lifecycle of plants brought to us by Pete and Judy Haggard, rare plants display from Fish and Wildlife Service, book sales sponsored by Redwood Parks Association, an indigenous fern display assembled by Carol Ralph, a magnificent presentation of native conifers by Dennis Walker, wild medicinal plants gathered by Christa Sinadinos and her students, prairie grasses collection provided by Jennifer Wheeler from the Bureau of Land Management, and last but certainly not least; tasty treats for the volunteers were provided by Katy Allen and Melinda Groom with gracious donations from the Co-op, Ray's Food Place, Wildberries and Los Bagels. I would also like to thank Manila Community Services District for providing the venue at very reasonable cost to the CNPS chapter!

On Saturday, the show continued with more events (and the aforementioned glorious displays) including a walk in the dunes guided and interpreted by Patty Sennott, a presentation conducted by Judie Hinman provided information on the diverse and beautiful lily family, Dana York informed listeners on the varieties of lupine on display, and Christa Sinadinos educated a packed classroom of over 45 attentive enthusiasts about wild medicinal plants and their many uses.

Sunday, another guided walk in the dunes was provided this time by Friends of the Dunes docent Laurel Goldsmith. At noon, Skip and Sandra Lowry shared their knowledge of the Native American use of the redwood and other plant products; especially for basketry, the use

of fire for vegetation management, and the etiquette for gathering native vegetation. They also provided viewing of a film entitled, "History and Hope" that documented the way of life of the Yurok, how that life was destroyed, but how the spirit continues to move forward. The final program of the weekend was provided by Bill Wood who explained and demonstrated a variety of useful "tricks" and techniques to successfully photograph flowers.

All this time there was a native plant sale going on outside that was busily raising funds for the North Coast chapter's coffers; proceeds were the best in the recollected history of the event!

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!

I must also thank the Wildflower Show Team (you know who you are!) for helping me to develop, produce, and direct this rather capacious event!

If you have an interest in joining this incredible array of volunteers, please contact Carol (822-2015) or Larry (822-7190) or me at 826-0259.

Now, onward to next years' Wildflower Show calendared for the weekend of May 3, 4, and 5, 2013!

Thank you, Wildflower Show Volunteers!

For collecting: Sydney Carothers, Laura Julian, Barbara Kelly, Cheri Sanville & Bianca Hayashi (Green Diamond), Ned Forsyth, Tony LaBanca, Chris & Richard Beresford, Clare Golec, June James, Elaine Allison, Rafael Abrams, Britney Newby, Carol Vandermeer, Denise Seeger, Dennis Walker

For coordinating the collectors: Tony LaBanca

For sorting, arranging, identifying: Larry Levine, Rita Zito, Cindy Wood, Boyan Ingle, Barbara Kelly, Cindy Shriber, John McRae, Dana York, Laura Julian, Ned Forsythe, Chris Beresford, Richard Beresford, Jade Paget-Seekins, rhiannon Korhummel, Sydney Carothers, Tony LaBanca, Talisa Rodriguez, Elizabeth Wu, Suzanne Yorke, Rafael Abrams, Lena Orozco, Troy , Elaine Allison

For contributing employee time or materials: Six Rivers National Forest (U.S. Forest Service), Green Diamond Resource Co., Friends of the Dunes

For organizing Art Night: Rick Tolley

For Art Night live music: Susan Anderson, Stephen Brown ,Liz Fenney, and Sue Moon of Mon Petit Chou

For organizing school groups to attend: Brian Dykstra

For teaching lessons to school groups: Nikos Najarian, Gregory O'Connell, Brian Dykstra, Jolene Hay

For guiding classes among activities: Justin Legge, Jade Paget-Seekins, Hillary Ronney, Ana Christina Becerra Salas, Emily Kent, and Rebecca Wilson

For leading classes in the dunes: Eva Brena, Sarah Burnstein, Cynthia Burnstein, Jesse Wheeler

For lilies the classes dissected: Sun Valley Farms.

For the Native American presentation: Skip Lowry and Sandra Well

For the medicinal wild plants presentation: Christa Sinadinos

For leading walks in the dunes: Patty Sennott and Laurel Goldsmith (Friends of the Dunes)

For the lily lesson: Judie Hinman

For the photography lesson: Bill Wood

For the bug table: Pete and Judy Haggard

For the conifer display: Dennis Walker

For the invasive plant display: Laura Julian

For the dunes display: Carol Vandermeer, Denise Seeger (Friends of the Dunes)

For the edible wild plant display: Monty Caid and Lost Foods

For the coastal prairie display: Jennifer Wheeler (Bureau of Land Management)

For the book table and a donation from sales: Redwood Parks Association.

For the serpentine wildflowers display: John McRae (Six Rivers National Forest)

For beautiful dune photos on the walls: David Price

For a phenology project poster: Stassia Samuels

For feeding volunteers all weekend: Katy Allen, Melinda Groom

For donating food for volunteers: Los Bagels, North Coast Co-op, Wildberries, Rays' Food Place

For maintaining the database: a botanical elf

For storing jars: Suzanne Isaacs

For transporting jars: Tom Allen

For re-lettering the signs: David Callow, Janelle Egger, Carol Ralph

For planting and retrieving roadside signs: David Callow, Rick Tolley, Janelle Egger, Virginia Waters, Carol Ralph, Tom Pratum

For hosting signs: Grondalski Insurance, Miller Farms, Blue Lake Murphy's Market, Pierson Co., Pacific Outfitters, Mad River Gardens, Jamison Creek Nursery, Fortuna Iron, Lurtz-Gleye family, Max Emery, Joel Mielke, Trinidad Museum,

For working shifts during the show: Cindy Woods, Carol Woods, RoseAnn Densmore, Kay Corbett, Don Zeman, Noah Lurtz, Pauline Baefsky, Laurie Lawrence, Crol Mone, Barbara Kelly, Boyan Ingle, Katy Allen, Audrey Miller, Christine Heffner, Frank Milelzcik, Ann Burroughs

For room preparation: Larry Levine, Tom Pratum, Peggy Leviton, Tom Allen, Katy Allen, Carol Ralph

For room clean-up: Tom Allen, Katy Allen, Audrey Miller, Frank Milelzcik, Carol Smillie, RoseAnn Densmore, Ann Burroughs, Bob Burroughs, Dennis Walker, CJ Ralph, David Price, Denise Seeger, Richard Beresford, Nezzie Wade, Christine Heffner

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

For writing outstanding publicity: Richard Beresford

For the refreshment stand: Salena Kahle and the Teenship crew

For being helpful landlords: Manila Community Services District

For chairing it all, with a smile!: Richard Beresford

Thank you, Plant Sale Volunteers!

On behalf of the plant sale committee, we wish to thank all of the volunteers that made the plant sale held in conjunction with the spring Wildflower show such a success. It was, literally, the BEST plant sale to date. To those that helped out on by assisting with moving of the plants to the sale site, setting 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 to help make the sale such a success are: Susan Anderson, Carl Chatfield, Jeremy Rockweit, Colette Beaupre, Sydney Carothers, Claire Golec, Elaine Weinreb, Anda Webb, Carol Smillie, Gura Lashlee, Gisela Rohde, Colin Fiske, Tarisa Rodriguez, Wanda Naylor, Tom Stafford, Michael Ramano, Karen Isa, Melanie Ramos, Kathy Dilley, Ron Johnson, Chris Brant, Randi Swedenburg, Judie Hinman, Donna Wildearth, Bev Zeman, Sabra Steinberg, Ellin Beltz, Tami Camper and the indispensable Sylvia White.

A special thanks to Ann Burrows for coming up with a way that enables us to print our labels from a computer instead of doing them by hand, as we have always had to do. She printed 2,500 labels for the sale, saving us, literally, hours of time as well as our wrists and hands!

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!

With the help of our plant propagation group, we had increased the number of species that we were able to offer and that made a big difference in the money that was made for our local chapter. We will continue to work toward the goal of increasing the number of different types of plants that we have for sale and could use help with this ongoing project. To get e-mail alerts from the plant propagation group, please sign up for our group at our website: northcoastcnps.org.

Three local nurseries also participated by providing plants for our plant sales: Samara Restoration, Freshwater Farms, and Lost Foods Native Nursery. These nurseries all provided the great shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals that we do not grow ourselves.

If we have missed anyone, our sincere apologies on our oversight!

Our next sale will be held of Saturday September 15th in the parking lot of the Arcata Marsh in conjunction with the North Country Fair. See you there!

Chris Beresford and Anna Bernard



NEW BOOK INVITES READERS TO EXPLORE CONIFER COUNTRY

When Michael Kauffmann first began to explore the Klamath Mountains 10 years ago, he immediately knew he was seeing a place that was vastly different from others in the West. The landscape was subtle compared to other mountain ranges but the plant life was complex and diverse and that diversity invited him to return, time after time, in a quest to understand. In fact, northwest California and southwest Oregon is the most botanically diverse region in western North America. In its 206 pages, *Conifer Country* takes its readers on a journey across this beautiful landscape using conifers—one of the oldest lineages of plants remaining on the planet—as a lens to understand that diversity. Per unit area, the Klamath Mountains hold more species of conifers than any other temperate region on Earth. Along with describing the region's conifers species with color plates, the book takes adventurous souls to 29 hiking destination—each with maps and downloadable route descriptions. This guide is written for the amateur to expert botanists and hikers alike and a perfect

Conifer Country

A natural history and hiking guide to 35 conifers of the Klamath Mountain region

Michael Kauffmann

companion for this summer's adventures.

You may purchase the book at Northtown Books, Eureka Books, Rookery Books, North Coast CNPS Program nights, and from the author (conifercountry.com) where an electronic version is also available.



**California Native Plant Society
North Coast Chapter
presents it's fall**



Native Plant Sale

SEPTEMBER 15

**Saturday
10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center Parking Lot
569 South G St., Arcata
(5 blocks south of Samoa Blvd.)**

Fall is planting time. Create your native hedge, redwood glade, creekside glen, native meadow, thicket for birds and the bugs they eat, host plants for caterpillars, nectar plants 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.

Cash or check accepted. Please bring your own box.
If you have any questions, call 826-0259.

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vegetation has already filled in around it. As sections were cleared and I started planting the foundation of the garden (trees, shrubs and some perennials), my intent was to place them in suitable sites to utilize sun and shade, keeping in mind growth characteristics, like size and exposure requirements. I also placed plants in a way that would best display their natural form and beauty, alternating evergreens and deciduous species and planting showy species where they will be most visible. Some species I used as wind breaks on the north side, like Silk Tassel, Ceonothus (Blue Blossom California Lilac), Pacific Wax Myrtle, and Shore Pine, to help create a warmer south side for sun- and heat-loving natives like Manzanita, Blue Elderberry, Coffee Berry, and so on. I planted directly into the existing ground with no amendments, watered in, and mulched 1-2 feet around plants, but not touching the base of plants. I also spread spores of beneficial mushrooms and mycorrhizae from a mix called micro-grow from Paul Stamets of Fungi Perfecti to benefit soil and plant health.

Weeds have always been difficult to control. Mulched areas are much easier to keep weed-free, but enough mulch is sometimes hard to find. The mulch benefits the soil, micro-life, and releases nutrients over time; mulch regulates soil temperature and moisture levels in beneficial ways. I think the best mulch is shredded or chipped branches and leaves, which I sometimes find on the side of the road. The more plants I planted the less space for weeds was available, so now I plant more thickly to occupy the area with natives.

When the rains stopped, I watered plants through the first summer and planted more species in the fall just before the rain, which I think is the easiest time to plant. As I acquired more plant species, I planted more, and watered them if it was not the rainy season, usually once a week for the first couple months, then once a month or so, until fairly established. Older plants I might water a couple times during a hot, dry summer if they will benefit from it, but others plants need to dry out and do not like to be watered in the summer once established, like madrones, manzanitas, and most bulbs. I found

that our native species are very adaptable. For example, many species that grow in the shade can also grow in the sun (with a little supplemental water to get established), and plants that grow in the sun can also grow in some shade, and species more common inland also thrive on the coast, and some species even migrated to a preferred location in the garden and abandoned their original location. It makes me think about how diverse and abundant our original landscape actually was.

Many of the species I bought from native plant nurseries out of the county because many of the species I was learning about in books I could not find at our local nurseries, and I could not find them in the wild to propagate. There are many species I still have not been able to obtain. I saw a big need for more native plant nurseries, because with so much plant diversity it is challenging to make all species available to the public and for land restoration projects and to help restore our damaged ecosystems.

Lost Foods is now a non-profit corporation dedicated to restoring our native food plants and our rich natural biodiversity and abundance by creating native plant sanctuaries, nurseries, and native food ecosystems, and educating people on the many benefits of growing and using native plants for food, medicine and attracting wildlife like birds and butterflies. Lost Foods believes that incorporating native plants into modern society will lead to a healthy, sustainable future, where humans can become a beneficial part of the local ecosystem. By growing natives on city streets, parks, urban landscapes, and any other damaged ecosystem, we will see native plant populations increase along with the struggling wildlife that depend on them. Meanwhile we would be growing some of the most nutritious foods and effective medicines available.

I would like to see this garden become an educational garden, where people can reconnect to nature through native plants. The public can practice plant identification and the many uses, such as edible, medicinal, ornamental, and attracting birds and butterflies. The garden is also a living native seed bank, where propagation material can be

gathered (seeds and cuttings), to further expand native plant populations. Native plants propagated by Lost Foods are sold or given away to anyone interested in planting them. Lost Foods helps and encourages others to create native plant gardens in town and restore the natural diversity where they can.

The 2nd and H Street, Old Town location is our first public, native plant garden. We started another native plant garden one year ago between 1000 E and F streets in Eureka. This summer, at Redwood Acres we will open to the public the first Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery, along with a larger native plant sanctuary right next to the nursery. Lost Foods also sells plants at the Eureka Co-op, or call Lost Foods. We are raising money for materials and expenses and gathering volunteers to help with certain projects; donations are tax deductible. There will be a garden tour at the Lost Foods Native Plant Garden this summer. If interested in volunteering or donating or attending the Garden Tour, call Lost Foods at 707-268-8447.

Note from the Chapter: In early June Monty reports three species of monkeyflower, two of phacelia, globe gilia, elegant madia, California poppy, penstemon, ninebark, and more are blooming. If you go to see the Lost Foods Garden, be sure to walk one block south to 3rd and H to see the Winzler & Kelly native plant landscape around their parking lot, also entirely native, but a very different kind of garden.

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also because it was opening bright green leaves at the same time as its catkins. The male catkins were especially bright yellow. This was Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra* var. *lasiandra*; formerly *S. lucida* subsp. *lasiandra*). We found more of this species, and accessible, at our second stop, at the bridge over the Mad River in Blue Lake. We walked north along the levee. A thick row of young willows was along the water's edge, mostly leafless, mostly coastal and Sitka, but including some with pointy, shiny, finely toothed leaves with small glands (minute bumps) near the petiole that are distinctive of Pacific willow.

Hoping for a different willow, we drove West End Rd. back to Arcata, stopping at Park Four, one of the water district's parks where they have pump stations. By the river right near the pump tower were all three of the willows of the day, close together, but no new species. So it was a three-willow day, the main three species on the coast. Going a little more inland and a little more upland we could have added arroyo willow and Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*), completing the set of local, native willows. Maybe that's what we'll do a little later in the season, when the leaves are fully expanded and the foliage has its typical shape and texture.

PS. On June 10, I found sandbar willows (narrowleaf willow; *Salix exigua*), a shrubby willow with narrow, gray leaves, on the gravel bars south of the Mad River Bridge. They still had catkins on them.

Conservation Campaign

Help CNPS Preserve California's Wild Gardens

A special fundraising effort this year - the Conservation Campaign, which is a year-long effort to raise money to support the CNPS Conservation Program.

The CNPS Conservation Program works to preserve the natural heritage that we all cherish – the native flora and the beautiful places it needs to survive. The core of the Conservation Program is science and law, as well as a love of nature.

Through your contribution to the Conservation Campaign, you will join those who, for half a century, have fostered the protection of California's diverse flora.

Donations can be made on-line at: cnps.org or by mail: CNPS Fund Appeal, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Jennifer Kalt, Conservation Chair

General Plan Update

On May 17, the Humboldt County Planning Commission made its final recommendations on the General Plan Update and its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). In June, the Board of Supervisors began its review of the plan, which will resume in August (after the Supervisors' summer break in July).

Though by their nature such plans include many compromises due to the legal requirement to balance public health, safety, and welfare with property rights, there are many policies that will improve protections for native plants and their habitat that are of interest to CNPS members. These include:

- Better protections for riparian vegetation and wetlands, including adoption of the "single criterion" wetland definition used by the Dept. of Fish & Game, California Coastal Commission, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service;
- Establish a Community Forest program for the County to acquire and manage timberlands for recreation, wildlife, and timber production;
- A ban on billboards in sensitive habitats and along Scenic Roadways;
- Policies to minimize introduction of noxious and exotic invasive plants in landscaping, grading, and major vegetation clearing activities;
- Better protections for oak woodlands, sensitive plant communities, and rare plant habitat.

The County's 1984 General Plan is woefully out of date and out of compliance with numerous state and federal laws. It was adopted before the federal listing of Coho, steelhead, and the tidewater goby, and before nearly all of the County's waterways were listed as 'Impaired' under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Updating the County's 'blueprint' for future development will also improve protections for water quality, salmon and other aquatic species, while improving development in both rural and urban areas through planning for trails, parks, bike lanes, sidewalks, community centers, agricultural lands, senior and affordable housing, internet access, public transit, and Safe Routes to Schools.

CNPS members are encouraged to call or email their County Supervisors to support the many improvements in land use planning and development that are critical to protect our native flora and fauna, streams and wetlands, open space, and our quality of life. For more information, visit the County's website at <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/gpu/> or the Healthy Humboldt Coalition at www.healthyhumboldt.org, or email Jen Kalt at jenkalt@gmail.com.

Smith River National Recreation Area "Travel Management" Project

Since 2005, the North Coast Chapter has provided comments to Six Rivers National Forest on its plan to designate some roads as recreational Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) routes. The plan has been the subject of major controversy, with environmental groups raising concerns about impacts to rare plants, water quality, Inventoried Roadless Areas, Port Orford cedar (which is infected by a root pathogen which is spread by vehicle tires), and other resources. While some roads are proposed for decommissioning, conversion to trails, and much-needed road upgrades to limit erosion and sedimentation to salmon streams, several roads rated as "High Risk" to botanical resources are proposed as OHV routes. One of the most egregious examples is the Pine Flat Mountain Road (305.109), which supports populations of 4 species that are classified as Forest Service Sensitive plants (and are also protected by state law). They are:

Howell's jewelflower	<i>Streptanthus howellii</i>
Serpentine catchfly	<i>Silene serpentinicola</i>
Waldo buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum pendulum</i>
Opposite-leaved lewisia	<i>Lewisia oppositifolia</i>

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Some roads would increase the likelihood of introduction of *Alyssum corsicum* and *A. murale*, collectively known as yellowtuft, which are European serpentine endemics that were listed as A-list noxious weeds by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. These species occur along Siskiyou National Forest roads that lead to the Smith River NRA, including the North Fork Smith Botanical Area, and are reported to be spread by vehicle tires.

CNPS submitted comments in 2005 and 2006, and now that a new "Proposed Action" has been developed, also submitted scoping comments in June. Look for another opportunity to comment in support of native plant protections sometime later this year. Thanks to the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, who have coordinated other groups in NW CA and SW OR to thoroughly review and comment on the Smith River NRA proposals.

City of Eureka Scraps Waterfront Drive Extension Through Coastal Salt Marsh

In late April, after nearly 10 years of environmental review and strong opposition from numerous local conservation organizations and the California Coastal Commission, the Eureka City Council voted 3-2 to abandon the proposal to extend Waterfront Drive through environmentally sensitive habitats along Humboldt Bay. The proposed would have gone behind Bayshore Mall from Del Norte Street to Truesdale Street, providing an alternate route for cars to get from the Bayshore Mall to Costco. In 2005, the Extension project was identified by the late Peter Douglas, Director of the Coastal Commission, as being inconsistent with state law. Thanks to the City staff and council for recognizing the futility of continuing to spend public resources on a project that would have impacted salt marsh, rare plants, shorebird and waterfowl habitat, and coastal access (and which was illegal from its inception).

On Sat. June 2, the City and Redwood Community Action Agency held a ground-breaking ceremony for the Hiksari Trail, the segment of the Eureka Waterfront Trail from Truesdale Street to the Herrick Avenue Park and Ride. In his speech, Mayor Frank Jager said he looks forward to the day when the trail goes all the way from Arcata to south Eureka. And on Tuesday, June 5 the Eureka City Council voted 4-1 to reallocate State Transportation funding to the next segment of the trail, from Truesdale Street north to Del Norte Street. Other state and local agencies will need to approve the funding reallocation as well.

One day in the not-so-distant future, the Eureka Waterfront Trail will be a reality, giving Eureka residents, workers, and visitors new opportunities to enjoy the beauty of Humboldt Bay. These trails along with the City's boardwalks will provide safe public access to the waterfront for hiking and cycling, bird-watching, (on-leash) dog-walking, and taking in scenic vistas along beautiful sandy beaches, salt marshes, and the City's

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In preparation for our biennial October elections, we are soliciting nominations for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. These four officers are the core of our Steering Committee, which meets one evening 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).

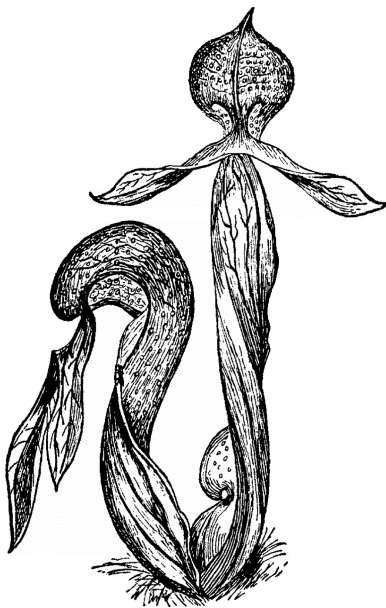
You may nominate yourself or another member for any of the officer positions by contacting the Nominations Person by August 31, 2012. A mail-in ballot will be in the September issue of the newsletter, or you may vote in person at the October program meeting or business meeting. Contact the Nominations Person, Marisa D'Arpino (marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com / PO Box 898, Blue Lake, CA 95525)

**CNPS, North Coast Chapter
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**Visit us at
NorthCoastCNPS.org**

CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

July

- ◆ Fri-Sun 27-30: Day Trip

August

- ◆ Sat 4: Plant Walk
- ◆ Sat 11: Day Hike

September

- ◆ Sun 9: Day Hike
- ◆ Wed 12: Program
- ◆ Sat 15: Plant Sale

October

- ◆ Wed 10: Program
- ◆ Sun 14: Day Hike

November

- ◆ Sat 3: Day Trip
- ◆ Wed 14: Program

December

- ◆ Wed 12: Program