

# Darlingtonia

SUMMER 2015  
JUL-SEP

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



## Water Conservation Issue

*From the Editor:* As articles and announcements started coming in for this issue it became quite evident that the theme should be water conservation. What is your experience with water usage — city/county building development planning, living with drought, conservation because it is just the right thing, etc.? Here's mine.

I grew up in the Santa Clara Valley of California as it transformed from the Valley of Hearts Delight / Blossom to Silicon Valley (move away from agriculture, introduction of urban sprawl, commutes based on time vs. miles, and smog days,). In addition to these things there were three sets of droughts: 1976-77, 1987-92, and 2007-09 ([water.ca.gov/waterconditions/background.cfm](http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions/background.cfm)) and each time people were told to conserve water and when the drought was over, many people went back to their old water usage habits and the population continued to increase. I joined the local Native Plant Society because I had a brown gardening thumb, didn't have a lot of time to spend in a garden, and enjoyed watching the birds, bees, and other critters around the house and also installed a grey water system for watering the flower garden as a way to conserve water. After moving here (and installing a roof rainwater catchment system) there were several years with multiple feet of snow and rain and over the last two years the snow is down to a few inches and the rain lessened too. The State of California is now in its fourth year of drought, Humboldt County says that it doesn't need to reduce as much water usage as the rest of the State because it has a few years of reserved water.

Just like food diets, water diets don't work in the long term. Individuals and governments may want to consider making life-long changes. Read the articles and announcements in this *Darlingtonia* issue to learn about how you can save time, save money, increase your enjoyment of local fauna, and at the same time conserve water by planting California native plants and capturing rainwater.

- ☞ Statewide Ditch Your Lawn! Workshops, page 2
- ☞ Catching the Rain at Trinity Valley School, page 5
- ☞ CNPS Drought Resources, page 8

If you would like to help guide Humboldt County and its decisions that affect water (and many other topics), please participate in the General Plan Update discussions at [humboldt.gov.org/273/General-Plan-Update](http://humboldt.gov.org/273/General-Plan-Update).

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### Find out what's happening:

- Visit our website:  
[www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)
- Visit our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS>
- Sign-Up for Activity  
Notifications by emailing:  
[NorthCoast\\_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## FIELD TRIPS, LONG AND SHORT

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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Northcoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)).

Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. Direct questions about physical ability requirements to the leader. It is wise to contact the leader if you are coming, in case plans change.

**July 10-11-12, Friday p.m.-Sunday. East Boulder Lake and Scott Mt. Summit.** A two-mile hike, after an hour's drive from our camp will put us at 6,700 ft in the wide basin of East Boulder Lake in the Scott Mountains, south of Callahan. We will car-camp Friday and Saturday nights at Scott Mt. Summit Campground (5400 ft elevation) on Route 3 north of Weaverville, 3 hours from Arcata, in Shasta Trinity National Forest. Saturday we will maximize time at East Boulder Lake among the Western White Pine and alpine flowers. Sunday we will explore the camp area (one of our favorites) and Pacific Crest Trail before heading home. Important: tell Carol if you are thinking of coming! 822-2015 [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com)

**August 9, Sunday. Pine Ridge Prairies Day Hike.** "Prairies" and the oak woodlands mixed with them are two of our shrinking habitats, as lack of fires and reduced grazing allow conifers to grow, shading out a diverse mix of grasses and herbs, as well as the oaks. Many of our favorite sun-loving wildflowers thrive in these open habitats. A few may still be blooming when we explore the prairies of Pine Ridge, making use of new trails created by the Bureau of Land Management, Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association, and the Humboldt Trails Council on this ridge in the BLM's Lacks Creek Management Area (north off Bair Rd., between Redwood Creek and Hoopa). We will hike about 4 miles. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for being in mountain weather all day. At elevation 3,600 ft. it can be hotter or colder than on the coast. Bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. Carol 822-2015 .

**September 13, Sunday. Elk River Spit Day Hike.** Where there's water, there will be plants still green, maybe even blooming. And sand plants are hardy. Elk River Spit has salt water, fresh water, and sand, so we're sure to find something interesting. We will walk about 3 miles, mostly on firm sand, including crossing the river on a train trestle. Bring lunch and water; be prepared to be outside all day. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) to carpool, or at 9:45 at the Park & Ride at Herrick Ave exit at the south end of Eureka. Return mid- to late-afternoon. Tell Carol you're coming, in case plans change (weather): 822-2015.

**September 26, Saturday. Insect-aided Botany: learning about plants by studying galls. Field trip.** Like flowers, different species of insect galls on plants appear in different seasons. With naturalist John DeMartini we will find new galls that were not there in June in the Titlow Hill Rd. and Horse Mountain area in Six Rivers National Forest (off Highway 299). Oaks, silk tassel, manzanitas, and tobacco brush are likely gall hosts, but we will look at anything botanically interesting among the diverse shrubs and trees in this nearby mountain area. Any flowers blooming this late will certainly get some attention. Be prepared for walking off-trail at various roadside stops and for changeable, mountain weather (cold or hot). Bring lunch and plenty of water, and if you have one, a hand lens. Meet at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd, Arcata) at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Return by 5 p.m. (or sooner, driver's choice). It's good to tell us you're coming: 822-2015

**October 4, Sunday. Tolowa Dunes Day,** a field trip. We'll walk a trail in Tolowa Dunes State Park, Crescent City, comparing this dune forest, dune hollows, and dune mat with what we know from Humboldt Bay area. Probably we will visit some wetland plants along the lake. We might decide to help pull European Beach Grass with the Tolowa Dunes Stewards' restoration volunteers. We might also visit the sweeping coastal prairie on Point St. George and check the bluffs for succulents, mist maidens, and crowberry. And it's fun to stop at Whaler's Island in the harbor to see the hemlock parsley. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Meet at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd, Arcata) at 8:30 a.m. to carpool, or arrange another place. Return late afternoon. Carol 822-2015 .

**November 7, Saturday.** Field trip. Save the date.

**Other organizations** offer outdoor activities that appreciate plants. Check the web sites of Friends of the Dunes ([friendsofthedunes.org](http://friendsofthedunes.org)), Sierra Club North Group ([sierraclub.org/redwood/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/outings)), Tolowa Dunes Stewards

## Statewide Ditch Your Lawn! Workshops ([www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/lawn.php](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/lawn.php))

*Save water during the drought by replacing your lawn with beautiful native plants!*

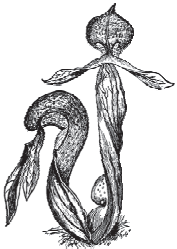
CNPS is partnering with organizations around the state to offer Ditch your Lawn! workshops, which will teach homeowners how to kill their thirsty lawns and replace them with beautiful, water-saving native plant gardens. Well-chosen California natives can use up to 75% less water than traditional turf lawns, while creating welcome natural habitats for local birds and butterflies. Participants will learn step-by-step how to plan a new native plant garden, remove existing lawn, install new native plants, and maintain them for years to come.

## CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

### EVENING PROGRAMS

Evening programs are 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.; Botanical FAQ's at 7:15 p.m., and program at 7:30 p.m. For information or to suggest a speaker or topic contact Michael Kauffmann at 707-407-7686 / michaelkauffmann@gmail.com.

- Sep 9** “**Tropical fungi: new insights from the Guiana Shield and Congo Basin**” The study of fungi has thrived for two centuries in Europe and North America. Thousands of species have been described, and concepts from these discoveries have driven our knowledge of north temperate fungi. Understandings of the tropical mushrooms, in particular those forming ectomycorrhizal relationships, has lagged behind. The world's largest areas of intact tropical forests remain in the Guiana Shield region of northeastern South America, where the discovery of forests dominated by *Fabaceae* (legumes) and *Dipterocarpaceae* (hibiscus) trees has stimulated research into their ecology and mycology. **Terry Henkel**, Professor at Humboldt State University, will review his work in both Guiana and the Congo--exploring the documentation of new species and the ecological relationships between fungi and plants. At both sites, fungal diversity approaches that of species-rich temperate forests, a result previously unexpected by ecologists.
- Oct 14** Topic TBD with **Laura Julian**.
- Nov 11** “**L. God’s Registrar**” with **Dr. James P. Smith**.



## Conservation Corner

by Carol Ralph (this time. Maybe you can author it next time.)

Conservation is an important part of our mission and our newsletter, so I am starting this feature. We need people to help fill it each issue!

I am thinking about the kind of conservation that means influencing the people making decisions that affect native plants and their habitat. These people need to hear from us. The Northcoast Environmental Center informs us of some issues through its great newsletter, *Econews* (which you should receive if you are a member of our chapter. If you don't, please tell us.). KSWild, based in southern Oregon, pays attention to land managers in our part of California. These are good allies, but we need to do our part and also pick up issues important to us and not them.

We need people like you to research and study conservation issues of their choosing and tell us about them, tell us what is happening and whether we need to communicate with decision makers. We need an Action Alert list of people who can phone or write the decision-makers on issues as they arise, issues like the Westside Fire Salvage Project in Klamath National Forest, the County General Plan (yes, it is still an issue), plans to widen parts of Highway 199, a proposed nickel mine in the North Fork Smith River drainage, regulations for marijuana farmers, etc.

If you can be a researcher or an Action Alert responder, tell Carol (822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com).

# SPRING PLANT SALE THANK YOU

On behalf of the plant sale team, we wish to thank all of the volunteers that made the plant sale, held in conjunction with the spring Wildflower Show, such a huge success. Yet again, we **topped** the amount of money that we have made in prior sales for our chapter providing a steady means of supporting our chapter.



To those that helped out by 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: Sydney Carothers, Gisela Rohde, Wanda Naylor, Chris Brant, Randi Swedenburg, Judie Hinman, Alan & Barbara Wilkinson, Sam Rich, Gordon Skaggs, Richard Beresford, Bojan Ingle, Connie Gregerson, Anita Gilbride-Read, Rita Zito, Bev & Don Zeman, Ron & Melanie Johnson, Cynthia Packard, Barbara Reisman, CJ & Carol Ralph, Zeal Stefanoff, Gura Lashlee, Sabra Steinburg, Carol Woods, Ann Burroughs, Marie Kelleher-Roy, Elaine Weinreb, Melanie Johnson, Kathryn Johnson, Mary Alward, Annalee Veach, Suzanne Isaacs, Jon Hill, Melissa Kramer, Gary Falxa, Andrea Culbertson, Joan Watanabe, Marianne Knox and the indispensable Karen Isa. Many of these volunteers helped out multiple times over the course of the plant sale with a variety of tasks.

A very special thanks' to all of the nursery volunteers who work tirelessly getting all of the plants ready for the plant sale. They include: Barbara Reisman, Jane Stock, Jon Hill, Carol Ralph, Connie Gregerson, Carol Woods, Zeal Stefanoff, Mary Alward, Chris Hammond, Bojan Ingle, Greg and Sam O'Connell, Judie Hinman and Karen Isa.

A thanks to Jane Cipra, Sam & Greg O'Connell, Karen Isa, Jenny Hutchinson and Richard Beresford for helping to make new informational plant signs for the plant sale.

A special thanks to Richard Beresford for making plant stakes for our new signs.

A very, very special thanks to the amazing Ann Burrows for printing all of our, literally thousands, of plant labels. With her assistance, we are able to have labels with plant information on them that is readable and informative and, we provide labels for our nursery participants as well.



Thanks to Gura Lashlee for taking photos for us of the sale.

Thank you to Johnson's Mobile Rental, especially Kenny Eisner and Eava Minton, for **donating** the delivery and use of the security fence that enabled us to leave the plants worry-free overnight. Please support them as they support us.

Thanks to Jon Hill and Richard Beresford for setting up and taking down the security fencing with the shade cloth/wind barrier attachment.

A very special thanks to Ron and Melanie Johnson who took on the task of finding and scheduling all of the volunteers to work the plant sale – a major task! They also worked all day Saturday and Sunday (as well as helping to set up Friday) overseeing and supervising the volunteers. Their

invaluable help insured that the sale went smoothly, that volunteers knew what they had to do and when they had to help out. **THANK YOU RON & MELANIE!!!**

The Fortuna California Conservation Corp provided us a stake-side truck and 3 corps members to help us move plants back to our nursery after the sale.

Four local nurseries/growers also participated by providing plants for our plant sales: Samara Restoration, Lost Foods Native Nursery, Beresford's Bulbs and Brant's Landscaping. These folks provided the great shrubs, trees, bulbs and perennials that we do not grow ourselves.

The sale also could not have occurred without the assistance of all of the individuals who provided us collected seeds to start plants, grew and provided us plants, who "baby-sat" plants between sales, and who enabled us to come to their homes to divide or dig-out native plants from their yards for us to grow and sell– another Big Thank You to all of you!

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



Our next sale will be held on – **Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> at our nursery site at the Jacoby Creek Land Trust, 2181 Old Arcata road, Bayside from 10 – 3.** See you there!

*Chris Beresford and Anna Bernard*



## Nursery News

By Chris Beresford

The chapter's nursery volunteers (listed in the plant sale thank you's on page 4)

continue to meet and work on a regular basis, currently Wednesday afternoons from 1 – 4, watering plants, moving plants up into new containers, feeding plants and cleaning and washing pots. Volunteers also come and water plants two other times during the week, no small task these days. If you would like to help out, please let me know and I will add you to my email list of volunteers. We meet at the Bayside Grange at 12:50 and carpool over to the nursery site from there.

We currently have many plants that are in bloom and looking great!! If you have any plants that you would like to see about purchasing, prior to our fall plant sale, please contact Carol Ralph at 822-2015 or at [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com) and she can assist you in making arrangements to meet someone at the nursery site. Please note – we currently only have sun loving plants on site as our shade plants are being plant sat at a variety of locations until our fall plant sale.

A very special thanks to our intrepid Jon Hill, who willingly takes on any task that I seem to come up with for him to do! To date he has: protected our annuals and other delicate plants from those pesky birds that kept eating them, set up a summer shade system to reduce how much we have to water our plants (a huge task!!) and most recently set up a separate shade area under our tables utilizing the wind barrier cloth from the plant sale. He is also happy to wash and sterilize 1-gallon pots for hours. Jon, you are truly amazing and I am so grateful that you have decided to share your many talents with us!

Also a special thanks to Chris Brant for regularly stopping by the nursery site and mowing the perimeter to help keep the weeds down and our space looking good!

I would like to also thank two local businesses that help to support the nursery. Mad River Gardens Nursery has always come through and helped by greatly reducing the costs of our pallets of potting soil. Royal Gold Potting Soil has recently donated an entire pallet of their mix for us to use. Please support and thank these local businesses that help support our efforts.

We always work toward increasing the number of species that we offer at our plant sale. If anyone wants to collect seed for us, please do so, but please clean the seed! Last year, I spent many hours cleaning seed and would rather spend my time on other activities. If you have seeds to share, please contact me.

Chris Beresford, [thegang7@pacbell.net](mailto:thegang7@pacbell.net) or 826-0259

## “CATCHING THE RAIN”

### AT TRINITY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BY MONICA TONTY AND JASON HELD, AMERICORP FISHERIES INTERNS

The effects of the current drought are being felt statewide. As individuals this situation may seem overwhelming, but everyone can do something to help. On Saturday, May 9th The Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) organized a volunteer event at the Trinity Valley Elementary School garden in Willow Creek to help them save water and teach easy methods to use in home gardens. WSP teamed up with the First 5 preschool, Hoopa Tribal CCC, High Tide Permaculture, Dream Quest, and the United States Forest Service.

Volunteers planted a rain garden, installed a rainwater catchment system, and built a hugelkultur bed. A rain garden is a depressed area with native plants that helps increase water infiltration into the ground and decreases runoff from paved surfaces. This increases the amount of water in our streams in the



*Ready to plant in the rain garden. Some of the plants donated from the North Coast Chapter of CNPS.*

summer, a pivotal time for salmon populations, and decreases pollution. The California Native Plant Society and Samara Restoration generously donated around 20 plants each for the rain garden.



*Assembling the rainwater catchment system*

Dan Mar from High Tide Permaculture led the rainwater catchment system demonstration and installed a system that collects water from a shed roof. This will provide the elementary school garden with almost 2000 gallons of water per year.

Hugelkultur beds allow gardeners to grow without any watering and mimics the nutrient cycle of a forest. Woody debris is layered with soil, mulch, compost, and rice straw. The woody debris is sponge like,

soaking up rainfall and making this moisture available to nearby plants. Nick Wilde from Dream Quest led this demonstration.

Other materials for this event were generously donated by Ace Hardware, Trinity River Garden Center, Trinity River Farm, and Farmer Brown's Garden Supply.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Flint Ridge Trail

March 14, 2015

by Carol Ralph

For a good dose of majestic, Redwood forest, fifteen of us can now recommend Flint Ridge Trail in Redwood National Park, accessed off Klamath Beach Rd., which runs along the south side of the Klamath River west of Highway 101. We discovered that the north section of the Coastal Rd. was now one-way coming at us, due to changing road conditions, making the west end of Flint Ridge Trail now properly accessed only by driving around Alder Camp Rd. and up the north section of the Coastal Rd., rather than the half mile from the end of Klamath Beach Rd. We walked from the east end at Marshall Pond. Some of our group turned back down the trail very soon after it started climbing; some turned around at milepost 2 (2 miles from the west end); and some walked all the way to the west end and then to the end of Klamath Beach Rd.

On this very early spring day we found the trailside lushly green. In the Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) and Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) riparian forest around Marshall Pond the trailside was thick with Coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus*), moss, and Piggyback Plant (*Tolmiea diplomenziesii*), studded with occasional clumps of stunning Giant Purple Wakerobin (*Trillium kurabayashii*). We all smelled the maroon flowers of this favorite and described it variously as pungent, not sweet or rose-like, musty, musky, a little spicy, herby, strange, and chemically, like airplane glue. Fragrance is in the nose of the beholder! In the Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest on the slope up to the ridge, Redwood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*) and more Piggyback Plant carpeted the trailside, enlightened with the pure white faces of Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) and the cheery, little, yellow faces of Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*).

The deciduous shrubs and trees were still bare. By branch pattern and twig color we identified tall, Japanese-y skeletons of Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*); brown, often whorled twigs of False Huckleberry (*Menziesia ferruginea*); zig-zaggy Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*); thick-budded, thickety Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflora*); prickly, thickety Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*); and one green-twigged, opposite-branched Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*). The bare thickets made more simple and impressive the acres of Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Redwood Sorrel, and Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*).

We enjoyed the Flint Ridge Trail. Our only complaint was that we never felt like we were on a ridge--no vistas, no outcrops, just solid forest. We supplemented this hike with a stop at a beloved *Trillium kurabayashii* patch at the road edge in the beautiful, white-trunked Red Alder grove about 1/4 mile west of Highway 101. Sadly, this patch on the bank below the road had

lost its magic. The trillium plants were smaller than in the past. The Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), grass, and other plants were larger, and household trash had appeared. Possibly some clean-up, vegetation management, and communication with the county road crew could restore this trillium population to its glory.



The majesty of the redwood forest along Flint Ridge Trail

### Two Azalea Reserves

May 23, 2015

by Carol Ralph

Western Azalea is one of our "Ooh! Ah!" species and a real treasure. Unfortunately Western Azalea is an early successional species, meaning it requires open space. If fires, grazing, or mechanical clearing do not remove competing brush and trees, the azaleas will be crowded and shaded out. The azaleas readily resprout after the clearing events. California State Parks is committed to managing its two azalea properties for azaleas, but budget constraints have pushed this vegetation management far down the action list. On a beautiful spring day three of us visited both of State Park's azalea

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

properties, with three more people joining us at each, to see how the azaleas were fairing.

We smelled and photographed a good number of azaleas, though it was early in their blooming season. Both the Azalea State Natural Reserve (2 miles east of Highway 101 on North Bank Rd, just up Azalea Rd. in McKinleyville) and the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area (at the left end of Kane Rd. north of Big Lagoon) have many azaleas, in constant battle with other native shrubs and with trees. Both have trails maintained by State Parks, have the "No Collecting" rule of all state parks, and lack toilets and trash collection.

The Azalea State Natural Reserve is closer to where most of us live, has a presence in State Parks publicity, has had a self-guided nature trail pamphlet, has more trail, more visitors, diverse shrub and herb vegetation, and a scary English Ivy problem. It originated as a planted population of azaleas.

Azaleas were in three general areas: between the parking area and the creek, beyond (west of) the creek, and east of the road (Azalea Rd.). The first area has in memorable past (of a local resident) been totally cut down to stubs. It was now tall and thick, but the California Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Cascara (*Frngula purshiana*), Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), Straggly Gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum*), Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), Hairy Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), willows (*Salix* sp.), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), etc., and young conifers were thick along with the azaleas. The azaleas in this area didn't have much fresh growth, did have a lot of lichen-covered old stems and maybe even dead stems. The azaleas across the road were similarly crowded and old. Where some had been cut back off the trail, they had fresh stems. The azaleas beyond the creek seemed arranged along the trail, like an avenue. They were taller and less crowded, though also more shaded by nearby tall trees. Many azaleas had not fully leafed out. Besides azaleas this reserve featured several huge Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*), a huge Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), a huge California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*), a dense,



Admiring azaleas along Stagecoach Hill.

mid-size Grand Fir stand, riparian forest, and meadow of non-native grasses.

Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area is more remote, less maintained, not publicized, and by design has few visitors. It is a natural stand of azaleas. It was acquired by California State Parks Foundation with significant help from California Garden Clubs, Inc., and California Coastal Conservancy in 1983 and given to California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, who manages it as a unit of the Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area. It is designated as an area for maintaining azaleas, even if that means removing other native vegetation. Taking this task seriously, in 1986 State Parks did experimental vegetation treatments, treating separate areas with various combinations of hand cutting, brush hogging, pile burning, broadcast burning, all vegetation or just non-azaleas. The conclusion was that yearly hand brush clearing of competing vegetation was the best plan. Currently the brushing, by crews with weed-eaters and chain saws, happens a few days each year, covering just a portion of the unit. We could see the result of their work in the sunny slope that looked out at the sparkling sea. Great clumps of tall Pacific Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*) formed the matrix in which were azalea-centered clumps of Cascara, Coyote Brush, California Blackberry, Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflora*), and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Many azaleas had not leafed out. Besides azaleas Stagecoach Hill had a mature spruce forest and a dense stand of young spruce, which was where the One-flower Wintergreen (*Moneses uniflora*-not blooming) was and Heart-leaved and Northwest Twayblade (*Listera cordata* and *L. banksiana*) have been found.

The reason the California Garden Clubs were interested in the Stagecoach Hill azalea stand was that it was famed as a natural population of outstanding genetic diversity. In the April 1978 issue of *Fremontia* (publication of California Native Plant Society) Dr. Frank D. Mossman wrote of this hill, "No two plants are alike." "The range of variations never ceases to astound us. Colors... Flower size... petals... Petal margins... Petal surfaces..." He also enumerated petal

(Continued on page 10)

## MEMBERS' CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DOUGLAS BOOTH  
GENELL FITCH  
DENNY HALLOCK  
URANIA HUNTER  
TRYPHENA LEWIS  
MARY LOWRY / ALAN LOWRY  
PATRICK OWEN  
BONITA PECK  
SUSAN PENN  
JANE SCHONFELD  
ZEAL STEFANOFF

### THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

MRS. MARJORIE E. ADAMS  
MARY ALWARD  
HELEN ANDERSON  
INGRID BAILEY  
MELINDA BAILEY  
PATRICIA BRENNAN  
LESA COLEMAN  
TAMAR DANUFSKY  
REBECCA DEJA  
RANDY DEVALLE  
PATRICIA DOUGHERTY / JOE DOUGHERTY  
CONNIE DOYLE  
YVONNE EVERETT  
DAVID FIX / JUDE POWER  
ELICIA GOLDSWORTHY  
SALLIE GROVER  
JACQUELINE HAMILTON / JOHN D. HAMILTON  
JENNY HANSON  
LISA D. HOOVER  
LEE HOUSE  
NANCY IHARA  
KAREN ISA  
RON JOHNSON  
ERIK JULES, HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY  
JENNIFER KALT  
KINDRED GARDENS DUPRET  
AMY LIVINGSTON / ELI ASARIAN

LEAH MAHAN, WILDFLOWER SOLUTIONS  
MELISSA MCDOWELL  
JAMES MCINTOSH  
JILL MEFFORD  
CAROL MONÉ  
PEGGY MURRAY  
COURTNEY OTTO  
CLAIRE PERRICELLI  
BARBARA REISMAN  
GISELA ROHDE  
ED SCHREIBER  
SABRA STEINBERG  
JANET STOCK  
JIM TIETZ  
JOE TYBURCZY  
DENNIS WALKER  
MICHAEL WATANABE / JOAN WATANABE  
SUSAN WHALEY / RICHARD WHALEY  
JANE WILSON / RICHARD WILSON  
BEVERLY ZEMAN

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

- **Greenlot Nursery**, 10% discount on plants, 443-9484
- **Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery**: 10% discount on plants, 268-8447, [LostFoods.org](http://LostFoods.org)
- **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](http://samararestoration.com)

### JOIN THE CNPS NORTH COAST CHAPTER!

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/>



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CNPS Drought web page ([cnps.org/cnps/grownative/drought.php](http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative/drought.php)) with resources like: instructions on how to remove a lawn and finding out which plants grow well in your area (CalScape).



## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

|                                    |   |                               |  |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>                   | Carol Ralph   | 707-822-2015                  | theralphs@humboldt1.com                          |
| <b>Vice President</b>              | Greg O'Connell                                      | 707-599-4887                  | gregoconnell7@gmail.com                          |
| <b>Secretary</b>                   | Frances Ferguson                                    | 707-822-5079                  | fferguson@reninet.com                            |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                   | Tom Pratum  | 707-382-8640                  | tkp@whatcomssl.org                               |
| <b>Membership</b>                  | Tom Pratum  | 707-382-8640                  | tkp@whatcomssl.org                               |
| <b>Invasive Plants</b>             | Stephanie Klein                                     | 707-443-8326                  | Stephanie.Klein@ghd.com                          |
| <b>Native Plant Gardening</b>      | Pete Haggard  | 707-839-0307                  | phaggard@suddenlink.net                          |
| <b>Native Plant Consultation</b>   | Bev Zeman   | 707-677-9391                  | donjzeman@yahoo.com                              |
| <b>Plant Sales</b>                 | Position Open (Co-Chair)<br>Anna Bernard (Co-Chair) | 707-826-7247                  | Contact President Carol Ralph<br>eabern@aol.com  |
| <b>Education</b>                   | Position Open                                       |                               | Contact President Carol Ralph                    |
| <b>Conservation Advisor</b>        | Sydney Carothers                                    | 707- 822-4316                 | sydneyc@humboldt1.com                            |
| <b>Programs</b>                    | Michael Kauffmann                                   | 707-407-7686                  | michaelekauffmann@gmail.com                      |
| <b>Hospitality</b>                 | Melinda Groom<br>Frank Milelzcik (Asst.)            | 707- 668-4275<br>707-822-5360 | mgroomster@gmail.com<br>frankm6385@yahoo.com     |
| <b>Field Trips and Plant Walks</b> | Carol Ralph   | 707-822-2015                  | theralphs@humboldt1.com                          |
| <b>Rare Plants</b>                 | Kim Imper<br>Greg O'Connell (Co-Chair)              | 707-444-2756<br>707-599-4887  | dimper@suddenlink.net<br>gregoconnell7@gmail.com |
| <b>Plant Communities</b>           | Tony LaBanca  | 707-826-7208                  | tlabanca@dfg.ca.gov                              |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>           | Marisa D'Arpino                                     | 707-601-0898                  | marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com               |
| <b>Nursery Manager</b>             | Chris Beresford                                     | 707-826-0259                  | thegang7@pacbell.net                             |
| <b>Website &amp; Publicity</b>     | Larry Levine  | 707-822-7190                  | levinel@northcoast.com                           |
| <b>Poster Sales</b>                | Rita Zito   | 707-443-2868                  | ritazito53@yahoo.com                             |
| <b>T-Shirt Sales</b>               | Position Open                                       |                               | Contact President Carol Ralph                    |
| <b>Workshops</b>                   | Gordon Leppig                                       | 707-839-0458                  | gleppig@dfg.ca.gov                               |
| <b>Wildflower Show</b>             | Position Open                                       |                               | Contact President Carol Ralph                    |
| <b>Chapter Council Delegate</b>    | Larry Levine  | 707-822-7190                  | levinel@northcoast.com                           |
| <b>NEC NCCNPS Representative</b>   | Gary Falxa  | 707-476-9238                  | gfalxa@suddenlink.net                            |

### COMMUNICATIONS

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

- The *Darlingtonia* Newsletter (quarterly),

| Issue  | Print Date | Submission Deadline | Announce Events In  |
|--------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Winter | January 1  | December 1          | Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr  |
| Spring | April 1    | March 1             | Apr, May, June, Jul |
| Summer | July 1     | June 1              | Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct  |
| Fall   | October 1  | September 1         | Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan  |

Email newsletter articles, factoids, tidbits, etc. to the Newsletter Editor by the above submission deadlines.

Articles should generally be no more than 1,000 words and photos can be any size and in these formats: JPG, JPEG, BMP, GIF, or PNG).

- Our **chapter's website**: [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)
- **E-mail lists/forums** To subscribe, send an email to:
  - For Announcements: [NorthCoast\\_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
  - For Gardening: [NorthCoast\\_CNPS\\_Gardening-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS](http://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS)

### 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 Gary Falxa at [gfalxa@suddenlink.net](mailto:gfalxa@suddenlink.net)).

### 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.

(Continued from page 7)

number, stamen number, stigma size, stigma color, flower truss size, leaf size, shape, texture, veining, color, and posture, flower bud size, shape, and color, plant habit, and blooming time. The main blooming season is May-June, but a few bloom any time from February to August. He saw an "infinite combinations of features." So what did we see, on this day in late May? For the first time I looked closely at azalea flowers. Their basic plan was 4 pink-flushed, white petals plus a top petal with a smear of yellow, with a swoop of long stamens and a pistil coming out of the center. They all smelled wonderful. I could see some differences in petal width and amount of pink or yellow. Not enough leaves were out to study their variation. Some of the azalea variation was masked by the other vegetation enmeshed in the azalea shrubs. It will take more



*Late-May Western Azalea among the Pacific Reedgrass on Stagecoach Hill.*

than a quick visit to appreciate the azalea diversity here.

Both of these azalea sites are valuable as reserves for a spectacular plant, places to see native plants, and as pleasant outdoor trails. The Eureka Sequoia Garden Club is embarking on a project to propagate some of the Stagecoach Hill azaleas for augmenting the population there. I would like to see some kind of project to provide a secure vegetation management

plan for both azalea sites. The labor required to "spruce up" these azalea reserves, to maintain and show off their azaleas, is considerable. State Parks currently has a plan that might maintain the present state of



vegetation, but their plan is easily waylaid by wildfires elsewhere and by budget spasms. If you have an idea how to help, please share it.

PS. Between the two reserves we stopped for a delightful picnic and tour at the Trinidad Museum Native Plant Garden. We recommend it too.



Ocean Friendly Gardens  
by Carol Ralph

No matter how far you live from the ocean, your water is going there. It might go first to a river, or detour to an underground aquifer, but all these bodies of water are important benefit from clean water arriving in them.

That is the basic message of the Ocean Friendly Gardens program of Surfrider Foundation .

"Revive our under-hydrated water-sheds and polluted oceans by applying CPR--Conservation, Permeability, and Retention--to our landscapes and hardscapes." Our chapter learned about this program at a special evening program presented during Native Plant Week by Lia Webb of Surfrider and Erik Johnson of Samara Restoration Nursery. Lia explained, with examples, the principles. "Conserve" water by planting appropriate, diverse native plants. Less irrigation means less runoff. Provide "Permeable" surfaces, so water falling or running on the ground can soak in, recharging the water table, rather than running off. "Retention" is related to this. By slowing down water flow, retaining it in swales, ponds, or just wrinkles in the ground surface, more can seep down into the soil.

Erik showed us several projects he has done to control runoff and provide for it to soak in rather than run off into storm sewers or basements. These projects generally involved large holes filled with large rocks, topped with soil and plants. The do-it-yourself, backyard hydrology engineer can do the same on a smaller scale.

As you apply any irrigation or watch the next rain falling, watch where the water flows and plan how you can slow it down and provide for it to soak in to your thirsty soil. Read more at [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org).

## Wildflower Show Musings

by Carol Ralph



Photo courtesy Carol Ralph

Inside these rather tattered doors in a rather ageing building....

from May 1 to May 3, 2015, was a world of beauty, excitement, awe, and learning. Every year it happens; every year it is magnificent; every year it is exhausting, like a

good party. It is the Spring Wildflower Show. From the showiest Western Trillium to the tiniest *Tonella tenella*, flowers filled the room with their diverse colors, forms, and fragrances. Youngsters, oldsters, and in-betweeners swarmed through, each enjoying the flowers and displays in his own way. The extended family of the North Coast Chapter of CNPS showed the world some of the marvels wild plants. Thank you, all who helped present this show.

Every one of the 60 or so volunteers who helped did an important job. Thank you. Some people especially deserve thanks for taking Responsibility: Tony Labanca, Collector Coordinator; Barbara Reisman, School Visit Coordinator; David Callow, Sign Planter and Retriever, Rick Tolley, Art Night; Ann Burroughs, Grass Display; Katy Allen and Melinda Groom, Provisioners; Larry Levine, Cards and ID (and countless other things). Corporate and agency donors also deserve special recognition for helping our show: Green Diamond

Resource Company, Six Rivers National Forest, Sun Valley Farms, Wildberries Marketplace, and Los Bagels.

Now about those doors....Next year could we have banners or murals or posters or hangings decorating them, giving clues about



the wonders awaiting inside? If you have an idea how to do this, please tell Carol.

One more thing--who could be chair of this event for 2016? You already have a team ready to do it again.



Photos courtesy Gura Lashlee

## FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE



### September 12, 10 -3

*Alert!! New location!!!* - At our nursery! 2182 Old Arcata Rd., Bayside (Jacoby Creek Land Trust's Kokte Ranch) .

*Come see our great variety.* We have many hundreds of volunteer-raised plants and plants from our partners Samara Restoration Nursery, Lost Foods Nursery, and Brant Landscaping.

*Our knowledgeable, friendly volunteers* will be available to help you. PLUS: Every half hour, starting at noon, for 10 minutes a different expert will show and tell about his or her favorite plants available at our sale.

- ☞ *For butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds* we offer monkeyflowers, penstemons, sages, buckwheats, grasses, California fuchsia, beeplant, columbine and more.
- ☞ *For birds and the insects* that they eat we have shrubs, many of them berry-producers, to create a hedgerow, screen, or thicket.
- ☞ *For shade* we have wild ginger, inside-out flower, sugar scoop, miterwort, piggy-back plant, boykinia, and ferns.
- ☞ *For form and year-round interest* we have six species of grasses both tall and short.
- ☞ *For groundcover* we have beach strawberry, silverweed, and modesty.

So many plants; so little space..... in your yard!

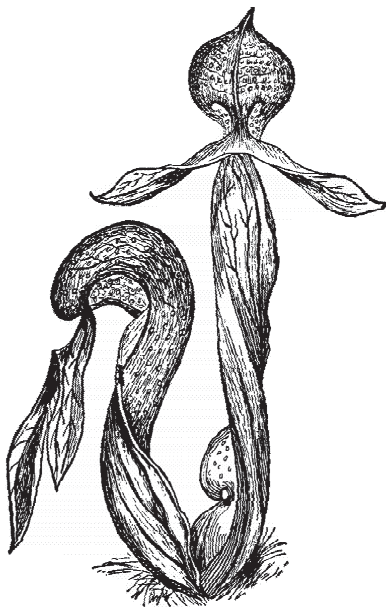
For more information check our website ([northcoastcnps.org](http://northcoastcnps.org)) or contact us at 822-2015 or 826-7257 or [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com) or [eabern@aol.com](mailto:eabern@aol.com).

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## *Darlingtonia*



**Visit us at  
[NorthCoastCNPS.org](http://NorthCoastCNPS.org)**

### **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

**(Field Trips—pg 2 / Programs—pg 3 / Native Plant Week pg 7)**

#### ***July***

- ◆ Fri-Sun 10-12: Field Trip

#### ***August***

- ◆ Sat 9: Field Trip

#### ***September***

- ◆ Wed 9: Program
- ◆ Sat 12: Plant Sale
- ◆ Sun 13: Field Trip
- ◆ Sat 26: Field Trip

#### ***October***

- ◆ Sun 4: Field Trip
- ◆ Wed 14: Program

#### ***November***

- ◆ Sat 7: Field Trip
- ◆ Wed 11: Program