

# Darlingtonia

WINTER 2016  
JAN-MAR

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

## North Coast Chapter Native Plant Nursery Update By Chris Beresford

With the help of many individuals; the nursery's first year has been a great success! With the exception of shade plants, we are able to provide an area for all the other plants as we grow them. For those who don't know where our nursery is located; we are at the Jacoby Creek Land Trust, 2182 Old Arcata Road, Bayside (situated behind the Jacoby Creek Land Trust office and in front of the Wildlife Care Center).

Due to limited parking on site, we are not "open to the public". If plants are needed before or after our twice-yearly plant sales, you can contact me to find out what we currently have available and to arrange a visit to the nursery.

We have regularly scheduled work days at the nursery on Wednesdays, from 10 –2 or so. We meet at the Bayside Grange at 9:55 and carpool over because of limited on-site parking, though if it is more convenient, you may drive over and park on site. Volunteers are welcome to help out for some or all of the time.

*Thousands of plants are being grown at this nursery for our 2016 Spring Plant Sale!*

I am expecting that there will be additional weekends and possible week days that we will need to work getting ready for the upcoming Spring Plant Sale as our seeds germinate and our plants grow larger. We will ultimately have thousands of plants to move-up into a variety of size containers for the spring sale, which provides the bulk of the funds for our chapter activities. This means that in addition to having to transplant all of those plants, we need to clean and sterilize all of the needed containers too! (Yeah, but it is necessary!)

I would like to thank the many volunteers who regularly come and help out with the nursery through performing a variety of much needed tasks. We could not have such a successful operation, if not for you all. I would also like to thank Royal Gold Potting Soil for donating a pallet of their potting soil for us to use in growing our plants.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you have not already done so and would like to be involved at the nursery to help us grow our plants,

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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.

**February 27, Saturday. Dune Forest Exploration.** Two manzanitas and their hybrid will be targets for a day in the dune forest of the North Spit. Precious, pink Calypsos are an unlikely, but possible extra. A trek across the dunes to the beach or across the railroad to the salty, bay shore are likely additions. The exact location of this outing is still being worked out. It will involve between 2 and 4 miles of walking. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Dress for being in the weather all day! Bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. For information call Carol 822-2015

**March 27, Sunday. Arcata City Trail.** The recently completed, northernmost section of the Humboldt Bay Trail is a paved trail from Arcata Skate Park on Sunset Ave to Samoa Blvd. Including the adjacent Shay Park, the 1.3 miles section passes three species of blackberries, at least three species of willows, four conifers, and (with a small detour) a population of the rare Howell's Miner's Lettuce (*Montia howellii*). We will document these and the common native and non-native plants we see along this unfamiliar path through familiar territory. Meet at the Foster Ave. side of the new roundabout on Sunset Ave. near the skatepark. Park in the neighborhood nearby. We might do a shuttle to make the walk one way. We might add on Potawot Village or Arcata Marsh. Be prepared for weather and walking; bring your lunch and water. It helps to tell Carol you are coming (707-822-2015).

**April 2, Saturday. Burnt Ranch and Grays Falls Day Trip.** It's fawn lily time at Burnt Ranch Campground! We also should find other spring blooms like Indian Warrior and Checker Lily. We'll look for the minute, rare Howell's Montia in campsite #16. Then we'll explore the forest, woodland, riparian, and shrubland at Grays Falls Picnic Area, including the short trail down to the falls. Six Rivers National Forest and Shasta Trinity National Forest provide these special places along the Trinity River and Highway 299. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School, 9:15 a.m. at the museum parking lot in Willow Creek, or about 10:00 at Burnt Ranch Campground. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water and clippers. (If the Himalaya blackberry is still bad, we can spend a few minutes reducing it.) Return late afternoon. It helps to know you are coming: Carol 822-2015.

### Done! Lawn Removed; Native Plants Growing.



Before: October 4, 2014



After: July 29, 2015

The Cipra household at 1724 K St., Eureka, enriched the neighborhood and lowered its water requirements by removing the lawn (and mayten tree) and planting appropriate local, native species plus a few non-invasive, non-native species. The CNPS web site offers advice about how to do this yourself: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/lawn/>

Photos and yard by Jane Cipra; words by Carol Ralph

## 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.

- Jan 13** **Demystifying manzanitas (Arctostaphylos): Understanding the dynamics of California's iconic shrubby 'rock star' Dr. Michael Vasey** is a botanist and coastal ecologist with a long-term passion for manzanitas (Arctostaphylos). As the centerpiece of his talk, Michael will introduce a new book, "*A Field Guide to Manzanitas*" (Backcountry Press), of which he is a co-author. Using beautiful and informative images by freelance photographer Jeff Bisbee, figures, range maps, and profiles of each of 104 taxa, this book is intended for anyone with an interest in this fascinating genus. Mike will provide the backstory behind the creation of this book and share his deep knowledge of how and why *Arctostaphylos* has become such a quintessential "rock star" of the California flora. Copies of the book will be available for sale. He, Tom Parker, and Jon Keeley have done recent treatments of *Arctostaphylos* for the *Flora of North America* and *Jepson Manual* (2nd Edition).
- Feb 10** **North Coast chapter rare plant projects and volunteer needs** with **David Imper** and **Greg O'Connell**
- Mar 9** **California's Vast Habitats Seen Through Wildflowers** **Larry Ulrich** began his career in photography, and while travelling and working with his wife and photographic partner, have been making a living with a camera since 1972. Larry and Donna's most recent books include "*Wildflowers of California*", "*Wildflowers of the Plateau and Canyon Country*" "*Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*" and "*Beyond the Golden Gate: California's North Coast*" from Companion Press, and "*Big Sur to Big Basin: California's Dramatic Central Coast*" from Chronicle Books. They will present an overview of the many habitats in California followed by images of a variety of native plants through the seasons.
- Apr 13** **Continued Adventures Hiking and Botanizing in the Austrian and Italian Alps.** **Kjirsten Wayman**, a local chemistry professor and aspiring botanist, spent the last year living in Austria and northern Italy. She hiked mountains and meadows of this region in the European Alps to explore the diversity of flora that lives there. The Alps are home to many plants and wildflowers, both familiar and unfamiliar to the California botanist. The diverse and abundant alpine flora found there is complimented by impressive and majestic landscapes that dominate these mountains. This photographic botanical exploration will highlight a selection of the interesting flora and spectacular landscapes of the Austrian and Italian Alps with only the enthusiasm a California botanist could share!
- May 11** **To Be Announced**

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Is it a plant sale? Is it a wildflower show? YES! It's both! Put it on your calendar now!

## SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

**Friday -Sunday, April 29-May 1** at the Manila Community Center, 1611 Peninsula Dr.  
(The plant sale is only Saturday and Sunday.)

School groups welcome on Friday, April 29. (Phone 707-267-0397 immediately)

Be a volunteer! It's fun! No botanical knowledge required!

For the show contact Carol (707-822-2015; [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com))

For the sale contact Anna (707-826-7247; [eabern@aol.com](mailto:eabern@aol.com))



## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**Elk River Spit**  
**September 13, 2015**  
by Carol Ralph

Barely above sea level, deposited and shaped by the fresh water of Elk River and the salt water of Humboldt Bay, the narrow spit of sand just south of Eureka is a surprisingly diverse place. Seven of us explored it on a gentle, gray September day. We parked at the Herrick Ave. Park and Ride, walked out the access to the Hikshari Trail, turned left onto the train tracks instead of right onto that trail, and then after the tracks crossed the river, went off to the right. We walked north along the river side of the spit, all the way to the end of the spit, circled back along the bay side much of the way before crossing back to the river side.

We walked north along the sharp line between salt marsh and sand dune. Ranks of European Beach Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) were on our left, of Dense-flowered Cordgrass (*Spartina densiflora*) on our right. These two species are the targets of the most money and attention of any invasive species in Humboldt County.



European Beach Grass to the left of us; Dense-flowered Cordgrass to the right of us; Jubata Grass on the near hills--a multi-pronged invasion of non-native grasses. We walked along the boundary of salt marsh (right) and sand dune (left).

On the close horizon of the central spit were flamboyant plumes of Jubata (Pampas) Grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), another invasive grass of great concern. On the sand close at hand, growing side-by-side were two species of iceplant, another pair of invasive species. Freeway Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) had larger, greener, more triangular leaves than Sea Fig (*Carpobrotus chilensis*). In the course of

the day we found a few yellow flowers of the Freeway Iceplant and a few purple flowers of the Sea Fig.



Two iceplants, neither native

The river's water here must be quite brackish and tidal; it supported a good salt marsh. In its tangled, green matrix of Pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*) and Jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*) were wide-leaved rosettes of California Sealavender (*Limonium californicum*), narrow-leaved rosettes of Seaside Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), tall, grass-like leaves of Seaside Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*), tangled, finely-leaved stems of Sticky Sandspurry (*Spergularia macrotheca*), and, surprisingly, a few pink flowers of Pt. Reyes Bird's-beak (*Chloropyron maritimus ssp palustris*), a rare plant listed 1B.2 (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere). We found sprigs of Pickleweed blooming its petal-less flowers, and sprigs of Pickleweed with small, white flowers. At first puzzling, these flowers proved to belong to the orange threads entangling the Pickleweed. This was Pacific Dodder (*Cicuta pacifica* var. *pacifica*), a species that parasitizes Pickleweed and Jaumea.



Pickleweed in bloom.

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The upland (though not far "up"! ) part of the spit was low sand dunes, which superficially looked uniform, as the dominance of European Beach Grass suggested, but actually offered a variety of different vegetation types, places that felt different because they were populated by different sand plants. On a central "plateau" grew a stand of Beach Sagewort (*Artemisia pycnocephala*) with Dune Goldenrod (*Solidago spathulata*) and Beach Morning Glory (*Calystegia soldanella*). Certain flat areas were dotted with Seapink (Thrift)(*Armeria maritima*). Others were coated with a lichen and dotted with Sand Mat (*Cardionema ramosissimum*), Dune Goldenrod, Beach Knotweed (*Polygonum paronychia*), and Beach Buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*). Near water's edge,

but not in it, was the only place we saw the gray-leaved Beach Saltbush (*Atriplex leucophylla*). A low place that suggested occasional standing water had a turf of Saltgrass (*Distichlis*) and Small-flowered Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Acmispon parviflorus*). Another low place, that might have caught occasional fresh water from the river side, or have been close to an underground source of it, hosted especially healthy Beach Knotweed, Beach Buckwheat, and Pink Sand Verbena (*Abronia umbellata* var. *breviflora*). We were excited to encounter patches of this sand verbena, some including more than 100 plants, in open sand along the bay side of the spit from the tip south. This annual, pink-flowered species is rare, listed as 1B.1, meaning rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, and at high risk.

A single island of trees, largely dark green Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*), was in the center of the spit. A hut there and a rowboat on the shore indicated some of the non-plant life of the spit. We also saw lots of rabbit droppings, presumably Black-tailed Jack Rabbit. These herbivores could be modifying the vegetation significantly. In a moment of drama as we surveyed a peaceful sea of beach grass, a Peregrine Falcon zoomed by at close range. As we sat eating lunch, backs to the beach grass, feet to the salt marsh, a desperate, wet vole escaping the rising tide bolted out of the cordgrass and right up my pants leg, the nearest dark hole he saw. That called for quick thinking. Throughout

the day a gentle surf rumbled on the bay side, along with peeps, squeaks, squeals, screams, and splashes of a wonderful seabird fishing frenzy in the waters just off the bay side of the spit. Brown Pelicans, Heerman's Gulls, Elegant Terns, Common Murres, juvenile gulls, loons, and scoters were busy there.



*Dodder flowers and thread-like stem on Pacific Pickleweed, one of the hosts of this parasite.*

For a place so close to home the Elk River Spit offered a remarkable and satisfying day of exploration. We were on a beach of sorts, with wide skies in all directions, and very few woody plants. We saw Eureka and the bay from a new angle. We saw fall colors--of Freeway Iceplant--and a few blooms. We saw a full range of plant species from both dune and salt marsh, including some species pairs that are useful to see side-by-side. We saw two rare plants, one in abundance. We saw fun animals. We saw serious invasive plant species at work.

Will the invasive grasses complete their work before sea level rise does its part to modify this ephemeral habitat?

### **Pine Ridge Prairies**

**August 9, 2015**

**by Carol Ralph**

Oak woodlands and what locals call "prairies" are important, common habitats, but mostly off limits to our botanical explorations because they are on private, ranching land. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) expanded our opportunity to explore these habitats when, working with the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association and the Humboldt Trails Council, it recently



*Crossing a small prairie.*

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## MEMBERS' CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JOHN DEMARTINI / JULIA DEMARTINI  
ASHLEY DICKINSON  
NICHOLAS DURANT  
MAEGAN MCLEAN  
SUSAN MOORE / JAMES J. MOORE  
KAELIE PENA  
KATHY REID  
JOHN SCHMIDT / TERRY SCHMIDT

### THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

TOM ALLEN / KATY ALLEN  
JAMES AVEN  
COLETTE BEAUPRE  
DON BEGNOCHE  
ANNA BERNARD  
LARRY BLAKELY  
DOUGLAS BOOTH / MARGARET SIMPSON  
CHRIS BRANT  
SUSAN CAMPBELL  
TOM CARLBERG  
VIRGINIA CHATFIELD  
JANE CIPRA  
DONNA CLARK / JIM CLARK  
KATHRYN CORBETT  
E.M. DALLENBACH  
NANCY DEAN  
BRYAN DUNN  
NANCY DYE  
JANELLE EGGER / NEIL PALMER  
ANNIE L. EICHER  
GREGORY FREER  
JOHN GRIFFITH

MELINDA GROOM  
JUDITH HINMAN  
JEFF HOGUE  
GAIL HOVORKA  
LAURA JULIAN  
MICHELE KAMPRATH  
MICHAEL KAUFFMANN / ALLISON POKLEMB  
BARBARA KELLY  
JOYCE KING  
RAMONA LABOLLE  
LAURIE LAWRENCE  
BOBBIE MCKAY  
VICTORIA PATTON / JOHN PATTON  
TOM PRATUM  
CAROL RALPH / C.J. RALPH  
GIACOMO RENZULLO  
PETER ROBBINS  
PETER RYAN  
DIANE RYERSON  
KAY SENNOTT  
OONA SMITH  
MATTHEW STUART  
AYALA TALPAI  
DONNA M. THOMPSON  
BRADLEY L. THOMPSON  
NEZZIE WADE  
JAMES F. WATERS  
ADRIANNA WENZEL  
KATHERINE WHITE  
WILLIAM WOOD  
CAROL WOODS  
DANA YORK

### 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/>

## 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>	Samantha O'Connell	707-601-0650	maineflower@gmail.com
<b>Plant Sales</b>	Position Open (Co-Chair) Anna Bernard (Co-Chair)	707-826-7247	Contact President Carol Ralph eabern@aol.com
<b>Nursery Manager</b>	Chris Beresford	707-826-0259	thegang7@pacbell.net
<b>Education</b>	Position Open		Contact President Carol Ralph
<b>Conservation Advisor</b>	Sydney Carothers	707- 822-4316	sydneyc@humboldt1.com
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<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 share our experiences gardening with natives. This service is free. We hope it will inspire you to join CNPS or make a donation.

Contact our coordinator, Samantha O'Connell at 707-601-0650 or [maineflower@gmail.com](mailto:maineflower@gmail.com), who will put you in touch with a team of volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to your property to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.



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please let me know. You don't have to have experience, just a willingness to help out.

Thanks!  
Chris Beresford  
thegang7@pacbell.net / 707-826-0259

## 2015 FALL PLANT SALE PHOTO COLLAGE



Photographs taken and collage created by Gura Lashlee



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developed trails in the Lacks Creek Management Area, a watershed between Redwood Creek and Hoopa. Much of the area is logged, Douglas-fir-Tanoak Forest, but it has prairies, and BLM is working to defend them against encroaching Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). A pamphlet about the Lacks Creek area and, if you ask, a map of the new trails on Pine Ridge are available at the BLM office on Heindon Rd. in Arcata. To get to Pine Ridge Prairies Trail, get on Bair Rd. going east up out of Redwood Valley. At about 5.5 miles watch on the left for a BLM sign and turn left onto a dirt road. Follow it a short ways to a kiosk and go sharp right, then roughly 2 miles to a wide shoulder on the left, parking for the Pine Ridge Trail and a campsite. At 3,500 ft. the season on the ridge can be significantly wetter and colder, or hotter and drier, than on the coast.

On this August day eight of us walked the easy 1.6 miles of the Pine Ridge Prairies Trail (sometimes called Pine Ridge Trail), then peeked at the beginning of Casey's Connector Trail, and went a little ways up Stormy Saddle Trail. We were under mossy, white-barked Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) and among diverse grasses much of the way, on the west-facing slope of the ridge. Big clumps of California Fescue (*Festuca californica*) were beautiful. Given the dry spring and summer we were not surprised to find the herbaceous plants dry. We found clues that next spring could be fun--dry stems of Firecracker Flower (*Dichelostemma ida-maia*), a triteleia (*Triteleia* sp.; possibly Ithuriel's Spear (*T. laxa*)), Hounds Tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) and Columbian Larkspur (*Delphinium trolliifolium*), and clumps of Douglas Iris leaves (*Iris douglasiana*). More surprising were the species that waited until this late to bloom: Yarrow (*Achillea millefolia*), Kellogg's Yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*), Scouler's Harebell (*Campanula*



Cut and burned Douglas-fir, removed to defend a small prairie on Stormy Saddle Trail

*scouleri*), a white "aster," a lovage (*Ligusticum* sp.), and Naked-stem Buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*). Notable to those with knit or fuzzy clothing was the Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*), also known as Sock-destroyer for the tenacity of its burrs.

Where the trail passed through or along forest, which covered the east-facing slope, we saw a few forest floor plants, such as dry Spotted Coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata*). We also saw signs of a controlled burn, thinning out the dense, young Douglas-fir and Tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*). The Stormy Saddle Trail took us past fir removal and burning activity designed to keep the woodland woodland. Casey's Connector Trail was in a richer, moister forest in a gully offering interesting possibilities of different species.

Only one hour from Arcata, Pine Ridge was an interesting, poison-oak-free zone to become acquainted with the open, "grassland" habitats that host many of our favorite wildflowers. The gradient from prairie to woodland and the invasion by the forest trees was a silent drama on display. Grasslands are one of our most endangered habitats, and here we could see one reason why. BLM has installed at a few places along the Pine Ridge Rd. signs encouraging citizen scientists to participate in the phenology project. The "Record of Nature" signs explain how to use a smart phone or pencil and paper to record the appearance of the plant by the sign. It seemed a very user-friendly system to collect data.



## POTS & FLATS NEEDED

The nursery site is always in need of **CLEANED** 4" square pots, 1-gallon pots and square, and rectangular plastic flats for the chapter's native plant sales. If you have any extra of the above, you can drop them off at the nursery site (Jacoby Creek Land Trust, 2182 Old Arcata Road, Bayside—situated behind the Jacoby Creek Land Trust office and in front of the Wildlife Care Center) in front of or directly to the side of our entry gate which is next to our sign. Please give Chris Beresford a call (707-826-0259) or an e-mail (thegang7@pacbell.net) if you drop off pots or flats at the nursery or for general information as indicated above.

## California Botanist Certification Program

Over the years, it has become clear that a formal identification of minimum standards for botanists is needed for California. The California Botanist Certification Program (CBCP), administered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), fills this need by formally recognizing botanists that:

- Incorporate scientifically sound botanical principles in decision-making
- Meet a minimum set of standards in knowledge and experience
- Adhere to high ethical standards



### Goals and Function

- Certify only well-trained, competent, responsible, and ethical professionals.
- Establish widely accepted standards of proficiency and professionalism that guide the training, development, and performance of botanists and their products.
- Facilitate relevant professional training.
- Maintain and elevate courses and training in academic, field oriented, and reporting arenas.
- Require routine recertification to ensure botanists continue to stay up-to-date with current scientific practices and regulatory requirements.

### Objectives

- Serve the needs of botanists who wish to establish and validate their professional credentials.
- Guide biologists, governmental entities, regulatory agencies, courts, and the public in defining minimum standards of knowledge and ability for professional botanists.
- Establish a critical peer evaluation of a botanist's knowledge and skills based upon defined minimum technical skills and knowledge.
- Encourage all practicing botanists to meet established professional standards.
- Assist the public, regulators, and project proponents in identifying qualified professional botanists.
- Create and maintain confidence in the advice and opinions of Certified Botanists, as well as educated and experienced professionals, who have pledged to uphold the Botanist Code of Ethics.

### Certification Benefits

- Recognized on the Register of California certified botanists
- Hold a Certificate as a Certified Field or Consulting Botanist
- Receive a Certification number and relevant acronym for business cards and (email) signatures
- Receive Certification patch
- Annual California Professional Botanist newsletter

No formal education or experience is required. More information is available on the California Native Plant Society's website at [http://cnps.org/cnps/education/botanist\\_certification/](http://cnps.org/cnps/education/botanist_certification/)

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

**See what our chapter does! All with volunteer expertise and time! How can YOU help us?** Let me count the ways....see partial list below. Phone Carol 822-2015 or write [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com) to volunteer, ask questions, or make suggestions.

## Thank you!

**Bev Zeman** for many years of being the friendly, informative contact person for our Native Plant Consultation Service.

**Karen Isa** and **Carol Ralph** for doing a native plant consultation.

## Welcome Aboard!

**Samantha O'Connell** as Native Plant Consultation Service Coordinator.

## Help Wanted

<b>Wildflower Show Coordinator.</b> Gets lots of credit and thanks while coordinating a group who knows what needs to be done. Needs a good "sense of calendar."	<b>Plant Sale Coordinator.</b> Watches the "big picture" while the many wonderful volunteers carry on getting plants ready. Fall and/or spring sale.
<b>Poster Sale Person.</b> Stores our inventory of posters and makes them available at our events. Could also arrange sales to stores, classes, visitor centers.	<b>Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator.</b> Schedules workers for the sales using lists we already have.
<b>Conservation Issue Specialists.</b> Inform themselves about conservation issues of their choice and keep us informed in the newsletter and at Steering Committee.	<b>Nursery Liaison.</b> Communicates with the three partner nurseries before each plant sale; checks their plants in and out; calculates their share of the revenue.

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## UPDATE ON LASSICS LUPINES

Can you imagine that there are approximately 350 Lassics lupines left on the planet, found only here and on nearby Red Lassic (maybe fewer than 200 after this summer's fires)?

Our Rare Plant Co-Chair and Lassics Lupines Champion, Dave (aka Kim) Imper, was featured, along with three other scientists, in "For the Lassic lupine, wilderness is a mixed blessing— *The Wilderness Act has complicated efforts to protect the rare California wildflower*" written by Jimmy Tobias and originally published on October 12, 2015 in the *HIGH COUNTRY NEWS* ([hcn.org](http://hcn.org)).

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# High Country News

FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE WEST

## For the Lassic lupine, wilderness is a mixed blessing

*The Wilderness Act has complicated efforts to protect the rare California wildflower.*

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Jimmy Tobias | Oct. 12, 2015 | *From the print edition*

**D**ave Imper and three other scientists hike past old-growth pines toward the summit of Mount Lassic in California's Coast Range. The peak – a dry island of green serpentine soil and sparse vegetation in the mid-July heat – holds a botanical treasure, a fragile plant called the Lassics lupine. One of California's rarest flowers, it lives behind bars.

At the top, Imper, a retired Fish and Wildlife Service botanist and rare plant advocate, kneels next to a wire cage shaped like an oversized top hat. Beneath it, a lupine is blooming, its rich pink-and-white flowers in vibrant contrast to the rocky ground.

“This is just a holding pattern,” Imper says, pointing out 20 more flowers in cages nearby. There are approximately 350 Lassics lupines left on the planet, found only here and on nearby Red Lassic. The plants face threats from encroaching forests to severe drought, but the cages protect them from the most imminent danger: rodents.



*Caged Lassic lupines on Mount Lassic in California.*

*Courtesy Dave Imper*

The Lassic team hypothesizes that fire suppression has caused the plant's present woes. The natural fire regime, they say, would normally burn back encroaching vegetation that creates new habitat for rodents, giving them easier access to the scrumptious lupine seeds. The flowers, which evolved on wide-open barrens, aren't made for that kind of predatory pressure. "Smokey the Bear (screwed) us," says Imper.

Caging the lupines, the scientists warn, isn't enough; they want to cut back or burn the invading chaparral and trees, too. But Congress designated Mount Lassic a federal wilderness in 2006, and Forest Service officials say the 1964 Wilderness Act makes such intervention difficult, although it doesn't prohibit it outright. "The imprint of man's work (shall be) substantially unnoticeable," the law states, and its protective regulatory hurdles have hampered rapid action to save the lupine.

In this case, ironically, wilderness may hinder wildflower conservation. "We have this (designation) that was meant to save and preserve," says Dan Dill, the Forest Service district ranger who administers Mount Lassic, "but it has quite possibly put a species in jeopardy at the same time."



***Kary Schlick traps small mammals. Seed-eating rodents are the main threat to the rare plant.***

*Courtesy Dave Imper*

**I**n 2003, scientists realized that chipmunks and deer mice were eating nearly all of the lupine’s annual seed output. In response, Imper and his colleagues at Fish and Wildlife and the Forest Service began caging the wildflowers almost immediately. Within seven years, the population nearly tripled.

Then, at the end of summer 2012, officials at Six Rivers National Forest ordered the team to remove the cages. Forest Service botanist Lisa Hoover, who helps oversee the project, explained that the site was located in designated wilderness, and top agency brass believed the cages made the mountain look “trammled by man.” Normally, the researchers stored the unwieldy equipment onsite during winter; now, they didn’t know if they’d be allowed to use it in the future.

After meetings between the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife, the team was allowed to resume caging the following summer. Imper, however, has lobbied for years for more aggressive action. In 2012, for instance, he delivered a 171-page report to agency officials urging the felling, burning or girdling of conifers and chaparral in lupine habitat. But his recommendations fell flat. In the Forest Service, he says, “there has been outright opposition to doing any restoration.”

The lack of action is due to administrative obstacles, not agency opposition, says Hoover. The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to analyze the environmental impacts of their actions, so the Forest Service must do rigorous reviews before removing vegetation, especially in wilderness areas. That



requires input from specialists as well as extra work and money, and is subject to public comment. Given its limited resources, the agency has not initiated the NEPA process.

Critics like Imper, though, believe the agency has mismanaged the crisis. Improving habitat can be consistent with wilderness values, says Ryan Henson, policy director at the California Wilderness Coalition, citing other successful restoration efforts within protected areas. His group is working on legislation that would, among other things, direct the Forest Service to pursue robust lupine management without delay.

And then there's the Endangered Species Act. This fall, Imper hopes to petition for an emergency listing. The brutal drought killed most of the lupines on the south-facing slopes this summer and cut the overall population in half, so it's increasingly urgent that trees be removed from the wetter north side. A listing would offer stronger legal cover for such actions.

In mid-August, a wildfire marched through the wilderness. Imper and his colleagues waited anxiously to see if the flowers would survive. Finally, in early September, a researcher hiked in. The southern part of Mount Lassic, and much of its chaparral, was charred. The crucial northern slope, however, experienced only low-intensity fire, which killed a few flowers and some trees, but likely left the big pines intact. The fire might reduce rodent density, but the flowers still face drought, heat and invading forest, with no relief in sight. "The plants are being squeezed in every direction," Imper says, "and there's no place left to go."

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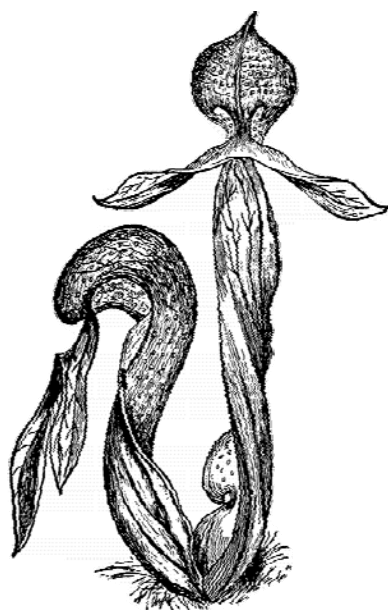
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### CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

#### **January**

◆ Wed 13: Program

#### **February**

◆ Wed 10: Program  
◆ Sat 27: Field Trip

#### **March**

◆ Wed 9: Program  
◆ Sun 27: Field Trip

#### **April**

◆ Sat 2: Field Trip  
◆ Wed 13: Program  
◆ Fri-Sat 29-30: Wildflower Show  
◆ Sat 30: Plant Sale

#### **May**

◆ Sun 1: Wildflower Show  
◆ Sun 1: Plant Sale  
◆ Wed 11: Program