



Darlingtonia

FALL 2016
OCT-DEC

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

NATIVE GARDENS

By Pete Haggard

How do we choose which plants from the vast array of native plants in this area to put in our gardens? I have several criteria that I start with to determine which ones I pick: they must: 1) be indigenous to our area, 2) be easy to grow (may be weedy but not aggressive), 3) be wildlife friendly, and 4) add interest to the garden.



With these criteria in mind, let's look at the Cotton Batting plant (*Pseudognaphalium stramineum*) as an example. Cotton batting can be found wherever the ground is disturbed—dirt alleyways, roadsides, and generally in any waste areas. The seeds are easy to collect from late summer into fall and will start to germinate early spring and throughout the summer. The leaves of the plant are covered with white hairs, giving the plant a distinct appearance. Although the flowers are not very dramatic, they do seem to

glow with a yellow warmth.

Why Cotton Batting plant? Our gardens are filled with disturbed areas small and large. Let cotton batting plant fill these areas!



Cotton Batting is the favorite food plant for the American Lady butterfly (*Vanessa virginiensis*) to lay her eggs on. The butterfly larvae feed on the flower heads and can easily be found inside the nests they weave of silk and flower parts. The larvae are as beautiful as the adult butterfly.

Two other plants with very similar qualities to cotton batting are Ladies' Tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*) and Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*).

Give them a try and keep your garden butterfly-friendly.

Inside this issue:

Feature Article: Native Gardens	1
Field Trips and Plant Walks	2
Chapter Programs	2
Field Trip Reports:	3
• Burnt Ranch and Grays Falls	
• Del Norte Weekend on the South Fork Smith River	
Summary of North Coast Rare Plant Treasure Hunts for 2016	4
Members' Corner	6
Chapter Contacts	7
Volunteer Corner	8
Thank You to Nursery Volunteers	9
New McKinleyville Trail	10
Calendar of Events	12

Find out what's happening:

- Visit our website:
www.northcoastcnps.org
- Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS>
- Sign-Up for Activity
Notifications by emailing:
NorthCoast_CNPS-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com

FIELD TRIPS, LONG AND SHORT

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

Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. Address questions about physical requirements to the leader. Weather and fires can require destination changes. It is wise to contact the leader if you are coming, in case plans change.

October 23, Sunday. Crothers Cove Day Hike. Why hike this short trail in Prairie Creek State Park? Because we never have! And there's a small lagoon at the bottom. Even small wetlands can hold botanical treasure, and short trails can pass interesting plants. This trail goes over the ridge from the road to the beach, less than two miles round trip. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for the weather, including the beach; bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. It helps to know you are coming: Carol 822-2015.

November 5, Saturday. Groves Prairie Field Trip. Unusual in our rugged mountains, Groves Prairie is a fairly level meadow, at 4,000 ft elevation, surrounded by Douglas-fir forest, some of it old growth. We last visited it seven years ago, before it served as a fire camp (which hopefully will not be necessary in 2016). Will the Grape Fern be in the meadow, the Kneeling Angelica in the stream, the two species of yampah in the wet meadow, the Trillium-leaved Sorrel by the little bridge? Will the four species of gooseberries and currants have fruits? We will walk one to two miles in and around the meadow to answer these questions, some of it on a trail. Groves Prairie is two hours away in Six Rivers National Forest, up Forest Service roads north out of Willow Creek. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for the weather (Remember, it is higher elevation) and off-trail walking; bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. It helps to know you are coming: Carol 822-2015.

Would you like to help organize (not necessarily lead) short plant walks in and around Trinidad-Arcata-Eureka-Fortuna? If so, Contact Carol (707-822-2015) would like to talk with you!

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.

- Nov 9 Fabulous Plants and Stories from the East Bay Heath Bartosh**, Rare Plant Committee Chair for the East Bay Chapter CNPS and a Research Associate at the University and Jepson Herbaria will present a photographic tour through some of the East Bay's richest botanical hot spots. He will reflect on colorful botanical personalities of the past and present, identify public lands and trails to enjoy the diversity of plant life, and discuss current conservation issues that put our botanical treasures of the East Bay at risk. Alameda and Contra Costa counties are at a point of botanical convergence due to geographic regions such as the San Francisco Bay, the North and South Coast Ranges, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the San Joaquin Valley meeting here. This unique geology provides conditions for diversity of native plants and Heath's photographs will take us on a journey to these exceptional areas.
- Dec 14 Native Plant Show and Tell** Join us for an informal evening sharing photos, artifacts, readings, or food relating to native plants and their habitats. Email mkauffmann@cnps.org to sign up to present!
- Jan 11 Dana York, Plant Exploring in the Marble Mountains**
- Feb 8 Tanya Chappel, Places and Plants of the Middle Klamath**
- Mar 8 Lucy Kerhoulas, Tall Tree Physiology: Downsides to being tall and how trees compensate**

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Burnt Ranch and Grays Falls

April 2, 2016

By Carol Ralph

The first weekend of April is fawn lily time at low elevations. The seventeen of us out enjoying this day did indeed find California Fawn Lily (*Erythronium californicum*), liberally sprinkled and blooming all over the Burnt Ranch Campground on Highway 299 in Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Some flowers were tired, not their freshest, but the show was still awesome. The side show included Indian Warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), Spring Gold (*Crocidium multicaule*), the tiny scroph *Tonella tenella*, Checker Lily (*Fritillaria affinis*), and Giant White Trillium (*Trillium albidum*). This was under open canopy Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), and leafless oaks. A Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) glowed creamy white, covered with little lantern flowers. Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) was prevalent, and Hairy Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*) sprawled over everything. Four of our group proceeded down the trail all the way to the rocks above the Trinity River, and back up. The gorge was exceedingly steep, and the trail crossed three old landslides of blue goo. Some of us tarried near the top of the trail to puzzle out an unfamiliar shrub with “weird” buds and with evergreen, shiny, flat, oval leaves with small prickles around the edges. We decided it was Hollyleaf Redberry (*Frangula ilicifolia*), but a rather lanky individual because of being shaded. Others of us studied the patch of Howell’s Montia (*Montia howellii*) in the parking area for campsite #16, a well known occurrence of this minuscule plant. It is listed 2B.2, rare in California, more common elsewhere, and moderately at risk. Greg O’Connell familiarized us with the reporting form for Rare Plant Treasure Hunts. Is it more curious that this annual has maintained this population in the damp surface of this little-used road for many, many years, or that it has not spread farther than site 16?

For lunch we drove back west a short ways to Grays Falls Day Use Area in Six Rivers National Forest. We ate at a table in the company of Checker Lily in the dappled light under leafless Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*). We all traversed the trail down to the river here, although a serious tree-fall over the trail forced us to retrace our steps and descend a steeper way. This forest includes some magnificent, old Douglas-fir. Cute, white faces of Two-eyed Violets (*Viola ocellata*) were sprinkled on the forest floor. In the wet gully huge, new fronds of Chain Fern (*Woodwardia*



On the rocks by Grays Falls, where Howell’s Montia and Water Miners Lettuce grow among the mossy patches.

fimbriata) unfurled among huge, old fronds, and the huge, fresh, herbaceous stems of California Spikenard (*Aralia californica*) erupted in clumps. Down by the roaring river, on top of huge boulders, quiet, mossy patches sprouted dainty sprays of Mertens’ Saxifrage (*Saxifraga mertensiana*) and, excitingly, Howell’s Montia grew with the very similar Water Miners Lettuce (*Montia fontana*) in a pocket of soil shaded from afternoon sun. We were excited to find this rare plant in a natural setting, not a road. From this north-facing side of the gorge we gazed with binoculars across the swift water at the vertical, south-facing side, bathed in sunshine. Bright red Red Larkspur (*Delphinium nudicaule*) and a paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) decorated a ledge or two, and a great spill of yellow monkeyflower, most likely SeepSpring Monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), blazed in a seep.

As a bonus some of us on the way home stopped at East Fork Campground, a bit west of Willow Creek town. The gate was still closed to prevent vehicles entering this Port Orford-cedar root disease-free zone during the wet winter months, so we walked in as far as the creek. The rock cut along this road offered a fun show of many of the species unavailable for relaxed viewing on the larger rock faces along the fast and fierce highway. Mertens’ Saxifrage, a stonecrop (probably *Sedum spathulifolium*), California Fawn Lily, and Milk Maids (*Cardamine californica*) were among them. The Big-leaf Maples (*Acer macrophyllum*) were in full bloom. In the hard-packed gravel of the camp host’s camp site were Howell’s Montia and Water Miners Lettuce! Again! Maybe those tiny, black seeds do get

(Continued on page 5)

Summary of North Coast CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunts for 2016

Compiled by Greg O'Connell

Howell's Montia

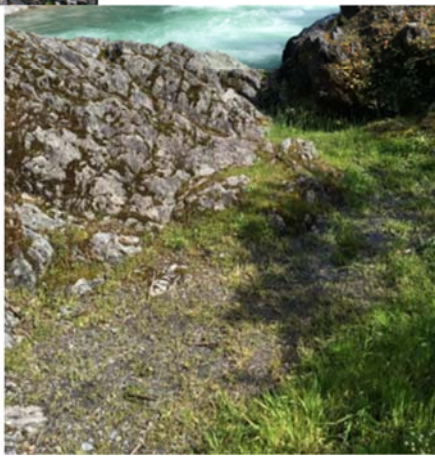
We utilized the April 2, 2016 Burnt Ranch Burnt Ranch and Grays Falls CNPS day trip to check up on known populations of Howell's



Montia (*Montia howellii* CRPR 2B.2, referred to hereafter as MONHOW) in the vicinity as well as a few other spots along the way.

Our first stop was the Burnt Ranch Campground where

Close-up of *Montia howellii* and *Montia* habitat along Trinity River



MONHOW grows along the edges of the campground road and parking pull-outs in a particular area with soft, moist soil that contains high organic content.

This species' life history, including an early bloom period with prolific seed production, favors locations where periodic disturbances limit competition for space and light with other species. Several thousand individuals of this tiny, annual species continue to thrive at this site where suitable habitat exists. The spatial distribution and density of MONHOW at this location appears similar to previous reports, suggesting that this population has been relatively stable over the past decade.

Our next stop was the Grays Falls picnic area. An occurrence of MONHOW was reported from the general location, but without specific details. We were able to collect GPS points in two distinct MONHOW locations with the Grays Falls picnic area and another on the banks just above the river near Grays Falls itself. This river location is noteworthy due to the fact that many known occurrences of MONHOW are associated with roadside habitats or other anthropogenic disturbances, of which it favors in the right conditions. This river location likely represents MONHOW habitat in the absence of roadside-related disturbances.

We attempted to locate another MONHOW occurrence in the gravel

parking lot of the former Hawkins Bar store. A dense patch was reported there in 2004 while the store was still in existence (it burned down years later). Our site visit did not result in detection of any plants. The MONHOW population previously described at this site has likely been expatriated, but suitable habitat exists in neighboring private properties.

Our last MONHOW stop of the day was at East Fork Willow Creek campground. We were able to locate several scattered plants in the parking area of the camp host's site, confirming that the occurrence reported at the campground in 2004 is still in existence. Other locations of MONHOW within the campground may exist.

As the number of known MONHOW occurrences increases (possibly due to more people looking for it), there's a chance that the conservation status of this species may be down-ranked if enough high-quality, viable populations are found. It's important that the primary database used to track occurrences in California contains the most accurate and up to date information so that current and future management decisions can be made based on the best information available.

Seaside Bittercress

We spent May 7, 2016 getting to know the Seaside Bittercress (*Cardamine angulata* CRPR 2B.1, referred to hereafter as CARANG). On this day we visited a known population along the Redwood Creek Trail within the Redwood National Park in order to familiarize ourselves with this species. Several people on this hike (including myself) had not yet seen CARANG and we wanted to be sure that we could distinguish



this species with its similar and common sister taxa, "Milk Maids" (*Cardamine californica*). Next, after exploring potential habitat near Lagoon Creek, we ventured up Wilson Creek (on private property with permission) to explore more suitable habitat for CARANG. After a bit of searching around, we located a few robust CARANG plant in full flower within the flood plain of Wilson Creek. This Wilson Creek occurrence was previously unreported and will become a new database observation for this species.

(Continued on page 11)

around! Loaders and dump trucks are helping them.



California Fawn Lilies daintily dance in the dappled light of the oak woodland at Burnt Ranch Campground.

**Del Norte Weekend on the South Fork Smith River
August 5-7, 2016
by Carol Ralph**

One of the gems of the real North Coast of California is the pristine South Fork Smith River, east of Crescent City. At the eastern edge of the fog zone, it hosts a few Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), and among serpentines-studded mountains, it hosts the plants adapted to this difficult soil. Its watershed is mostly in the Smith River National Recreation Area, a subdivision of Six Rivers National Forest. One of the private inholdings along the river is Rock Creek Ranch, owned by the Smith River Alliance and managed for preservation and as a semi-primitive, rural venue where groups can meet and stay. Our group of 19 was comfortable there, camping and sharing the camp kitchen and veranda for Friday and Saturday nights. Our camp fees supported the good work being done by SRA. The river and nearby habitats amply amused the less mobile part of our group, while others went off on expeditions.

Saturday morning twelve of us drove south from the ranch and then turned right on the famous G-O Road. This is the Gasquet-Orleans Road that united tribes and conservationists in the 1970's in their opposition to it. It was stopped with less than 7 miles to go, leaving two dead-end segments of it, one from each end penetrating the Klamath Mts. Contrary to my expectations, it was a wide, smoothly paved road, not the usual gravel-surfaced Forest Service road. At mile post 14.97, 45 minutes from camp, a wide shoulder marked the trailhead of Summit Valley Trail, at 4,600 ft. elevation.

You know it's a good trail if right there at the trailhead you are looking at Brewer's Spruce (*Picea breweriana*), "White" Fir (*Abies concolor x grandis*), Shasta Fir (*Abies x shastensis*), Sadler's Oak (*Quercus sadleriana*), and Knobcone Pine (*Pinus attenuata*). The trail climbed gradually through a chaparral zone, where the 2008 fire cleared the trees and the diverse shrubs had re-sprouted. We encountered patches of intact forest and patches of freshly burned forest from the 2015 fire. It was clear how fire creates diversity in the landscape, by passing through very unevenly. We regretted the loss of whole stands of Brewer's Spruce to a hot fire and hoped that something good comes of it. Our destination, Summit Valley, was actually a long, beautiful mountain meadow, a sea of white yampah (*Perideridia* sp.) flowerheads floating two feet off the ground, above masses of yellowing rosettes of shooting stars (*Dodecatheon* sp.) plastered on the ground, all ringed by stately conifers, including both Port Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) and Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). The trail continuing from the meadow, which we might not have found without an experienced person with us, took us through new habitats—conifer forest with thick Bear-grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) and a lupine later determined to be *Lupinus tracyi*, rocky balds with rock garden plants like buckwheats and sedums, and Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) forest. At the old fire tower site a grand vista spread before us, the jumbled ridges and river canyons of the Klamath Mountains all the way to the haze of the coast. The 2 miles that took us 5 hours to walk up, we walked back in 1 hr 40 min. It was refreshing and exciting to spend the day among almost entirely native plants. We can thank the ultramafic soil for that. It doesn't produce much merchantable timber, and many introduced species can't deal with it. It does produce diverse native plants. We saw 11 species of conifers, 4 of *Arctostaphylos* (manzanitas), 3 of *Ceanothus*, at least three lupines, two gillias, and one *Sericocarpus* (clue: That's a new name for a yellow composite flower). A meadow full of yampah, clumps of Grape Fern (*Sceptridium multifidum*)....the list of wonders goes on.

Sunday morning ten of us drove a half mile down the road from camp to Rock Creek and walked about a mile up the rough dirt road that goes along the steep, north-facing slope. Seeps on the steep roadcut dripped festoons of California Pitcher Plant (*Darlingtonia californica*), California Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium californicum*), Labrador Tea (*Rhododendron columbianum* formerly *Ledum glandulosum*), and California Butterwort (*Pinguicula macroceras*), and we

(Continued on page 10)

MEMBERS' CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JIM BAUML / STACY SCHAEFER

DAVE BENGSTON

REBECCA MANION

HANAH ROLF

VERONICA YATES

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

PAUL ANDERSON

KEN BERG

HEATHER BRENT

ANN BURROUGHS

VIRGINIA CHATFIELD

COLIN FISKE

BRENDA FORD / ROBERT SNYDER

LEIA GIAMBASTIANI

NANCY GREGORY

JOAQUIN HALE

SUSAN HALPIN

RONALD W HILDEBRANT

HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSN.

BOJAN INGLE

SANDRA JERABEK

DR. BRUCE KESSLER / PAM KESSLER

MELISSA KRAEMER / TODD KRAEMER

TOM LISLE / LORINDA DENGLER

JOHN LONGSHORE / JUDY LONGSHORE

KEN MILLER

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

JAMES REGAN

BARBARA REISMAN

JENNIFER RICHMOND

MICHAEL STUART / BETHEL LABORDE

ANNALEE VEACH

WENDY WAHLUND / BEN SHEPHERD

ELAINE WEINREB

ART WILSON

JOHN YOAKLEY

REBECCA ZETTLER

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
- **Mad River Gardens**: 10% discount on plant purchases, 822-7049
- **Miller Farms**: 5% discount on plant materials, 839-1571
- **Pierson's Garden Shop**, 10% discount on all garden shop items (except sale or non-discountable items—please ask staff before going to register), 441-2713
- **Samara Restoration LLC**, 10% discount on plants, 834.4379 / samararestoration.com

JOIN THE CNPS NORTH COAST CHAPTER!

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/>

SO BE FREE 22—March 27-30, 2017

The Twenty-second Annual Spring Outing *Botanical Excursion Foray, Retreat, and Escape to the Environment* (an annual descent on bryophytes) will be held Monday 27 through Thursday 30 March 2017 in and around Sequoia National Park. They will have a session for beginners and the rest of the foray is also very beginner friendly.

See their flier and registration form: <http://bryophyte.cnps.org/images/pdf/SBF22.pdf>

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

President	Carol Ralph	707-822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Vice President	Greg O'Connell	707-599-4887	gregoconnell7@gmail.com
Secretary	Frances Ferguson	707-822-5079	fferguson@reninet.com
Treasurer	Tom Pratum	707-382-8640	tkp@whatcomssl.org
Membership	Tom Pratum	707-382-8640	tkp@whatcomssl.org
Invasive Plants	Stephanie Klein	707-497-6038	stepho1979@yahoo.com
Native Plant Gardening	Pete Haggard	707-839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.net
Native Plant Consultation	Samantha O'Connell	707-601-0650	maineflower@gmail.com
Plant Sales	Position Open (Co-Chair) Anna Bernard (Co-Chair)	707-826-7247	Contact President Carol Ralph eabern@aol.com
Nursery Manager	Chris Beresford	707-826-0259	thegang7@pacbell.net
Education	Barbara Reisman	707-267-707-0397	reisperson@gmail.com
Conservation Advisor	Sydney Carothers	707- 822-4316	sydneyc@humboldt1.com
Programs	Michael Kauffmann	707-407-7686	michaelekauffmann@gmail.com
Hospitality	Melinda Groom Frank Milezciak (Asst.)	707- 668-4275 707-822-5360	mgroomster@gmail.com frankm6385@yahoo.com
Field Trips and Plant Walks	Carol Ralph	707-822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Rare Plants	Kim Imper Greg O'Connell (Co-Chair)	707-444-2756 707-599-4887	dimper@suddenlink.net gregoconnell7@gmail.com
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	Kathryn Johnson	707-839-4426	kjdancensing@gmail.com
T-Shirt Sales	Position Open		Contact President Carol Ralph
Workshops	Gordon Leppig	707-839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov
Wildflower Show	Position Open		Contact President Carol Ralph
Chapter Council Delegate	Larry Levine	707-822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
NEC NCCNPS Representative	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
- E-mail lists/forums To subscribe, send an email to:
 - For Announcements: NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 - For Gardening: NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Facebook 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 or requesting your *EcoNews* be electronic (contact Gary Falxa at 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, 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.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Everything we do is with volunteer labor. Every job, small or large, is important for getting things done. We appreciate our many, talented, generous volunteers. You can be one too! Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com

Thank you!

Chris Hammond for scouting Horse Mountain Botanical Area for trash left by target shooters and picking up some. She reported thousands of shells on the ground at the informal shooting areas. She met a young member of the Redwood Gun Club who recently had helped haul away a TV, furniture, and 6 garbage bags of other targets from one of the shooting areas. Chris has a series of photos to prove her hypothesis that a sign on a tree leads to the tree being shot to death.

Watering team at our nursery for keeping our plants growing and looking good over the summer. Watering thousands of plants, varying in water needs and pot conditions, is not as simple as it sounds. It takes knowledge, observation, agility, and patience. The watering team includes **Barbara Reisman, Carol Woods, Mary Allward, Zeal Stephanoff, Sam O'Connell, Greg O'Connell**, and of course our energetic Nursery Manager, **Chris Beresford**.

Greg O'Connell for contributing his smart phone on speakerphone during our steering committee meeting so Marisa could attend remotely.

Tony LaBanca, Pete Haggard, Marisa St. John, and **Carol Ralph** for meeting to reinvigorate our club's assistance to **Kim Hayler** in writing A Field Guide to the Vascular Flora of the Redwood Forest.

Greg O'Connell and **Dave Imper** for escorting the Big Lagoon Bog vegetation management project through its permit phase.

Pete Haggard for taking action by reporting wetland degradation, unpermitted building, and grading on private land that was a favorite botanizing, birding, and butterflying place adjacent to Six Rivers National Forest.

Pete Haggard for sharing numerous times over the summer the native plants and fun insects at the Arcata Community Center Native Plant and Wildlife Garden.

Gary Falxa, our representative on the board of the Northcoast Environmental Center, for

representing our club's opinion in a lively discussion of herbicide use by the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge to keep a sand-movement experiment on schedule and relevant.

Larry Levine and **Ann Burroughs** for on-going management of our web site.

Welcome Aboard!

Kathryn Johnson as Poster Sales Chair.

Jobs Needing People. Contact Carol for details.

Grant writing help for State Parks. Turn the tide on English Ivy smothering our two state parks in Trinidad by researching potential grants and answering the basic questions on the applications, so that Michelle Forys can complete them by simply adding the technical information. If you don't know already where to look for grants, here is your chance to learn!

Conservation Issue Specialists. Follow some conservation issue of your choice and keep us informed in the newsletter and at Steering Committee meetings.

Coordinator of the Wildflower Show. Our team of wildflower show volunteers knows what needs to be done. We just need the person to think ahead and coordinate it all.



The much coveted *Gilded Darlingtonia* award was presented by long-time Chapter President Carol Ralf (left) to Tom Pratum (Treasurer for several years, Membership Chair for several years, and active volunteer at many chapter events) and Marisa D'Arpino/St John (newsletter editor since 2007).

Nursery Thank You's from Chris

I would like to thank the following volunteers for their ongoing assistance at the nursery:

Barbara Reisman, Jon Hill, Zeal Stefanoff, Sam O'Connell, Connie Gregerson, Mary Alward, Ashley Dickenson, Carol Ralph, Sabra Steinberg, Carol Woods and Karen Isa. On one Wednesday in June, we had the most volunteers we had ever had on a single day and transplanted over 300 plants!

We have volunteers who regularly water in addition to coming to our work days and they are: Mary Alward, Ashley Dickenson, Zeal Stefanoff, Barbara Reisman, Sam O'Connell & Connie Gregerson.

We have also had volunteers washing and sterilizing much needed 1-gallon pots on weekends and stealthily on their own – Zeal Stefanoff, Karen Isa, Barbara Reisman and Ann Burroughs. On one Sunday, we washed and sterilized over 250 1-gallon pots.

I would also like to thank Chris Brant for maintaining the area around the nursery site.

A special thank you to Jon for getting more pallets so we could get more plants elevated and for fixing our shade cloth covering; to Richard Beresford for picking up, yet another, pallet of potting soil and to Zeal and Arlo Stefanoff for coming to help just to off-load it and also for fixing our leaky hose bib; to Mad River Gardens for providing the potting soil at their cost (support them because they help to support us!); to Barbara Wilkinson and Robin Hamlin for potting up 40 native ginger plants for upcoming sales, and an extra special thank you to Barbara Reisman for willingly taking on extra tasks and helping out when I need to go out of town. Thanks to all of you! If not for your volunteering, we would not have a native plant nursery which provides such a wide diversity of plant species for the public and raises much needed funds for our chapter's activities.

Volunteers are always needed to work at the nursery site. Our work days are Wednesdays from 10 – 1, but we also have additional work days as needed. If you would like to help out with tasks such as cleaning & sterilizing containers, transplanting seedlings, maintain plant health, keeping the nursery site clean; contact me as below and I will add you to my contact list of nursery volunteers.

Native Seed Collecting

The chapter's nursery is always looking for locally sourced seed or new species to grow for our plant sales. It is that time of year to start collecting seed in the wild. If you would like to do this for the chapter's nursery, please do so. I ask that you please clean the seed, indicate where and when you collected it as that will help with propagation. You can contact me if you have any collected seeds and we can make arrangements for get the seed for the nursery crew to start.

Chris Beresford

707-826-0259

thegang7@pacbell.net

(Continued from page 5)

found a few Bolander's Ragwort (*Packera bolanderi*) and Pleated Gentian (*Gentiana affinis*). Drier roadsides provided familiar forest plants such as Redwood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*), and Hooker's Fairy Bells (*Prosartes hookeri*), as well as non-coastal species such as Brook Wakerobin (*Pseudotrillium rivale*), Bear-grass, and milkwort (*Polygala* sp.). The mixed evergreen forest included lots of Tan Oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) and at least one Redwood. Mid-morning one of us chose to stay and record rare plant data, while the rest of us met the remainder of our party at the ranch and went to scout one more trail before the weekend was over.

We drove again out the G-O Road, this time only 3.5 miles, and turned left down to the trailhead for South Kelsey Trail. We hiked an hour in, to Yellowjacket Creek, and back out. The trail goes close to the South Fork Smith River but far above it on a steep, thickly forested slope. This forest was dense, young Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Tan Oak with understory of Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), and Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), the product of past timber harvest. Along the trail we saw familiar forest floor species scattered, plus a well spread population of Oregon Goldthread (*Coptis laciniata*). In one draw was a fine cluster of good sized Port Orford-cedar. Yellowjacket Creek had the usual riparian mix—Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) above, California Spikenard (*Aralia californica*), Stink Currant (*Ribes bracteosum*), and ferns below. Large salamanders with gills glided in its clear pools. This forest couldn't be more different from the previous day's at Summit Valley!

Reconciling some old memories of South Kelsey Trail with what we found this day, we realized the trailhead now is farther uphill than it used to be. Referring to my packet of Big Foot Trail maps (note 1), I realized that we had walked and driven a small portion of that new trail! The Big Foot Trail descends from the Klamath Mountains on South Kelsey Trail, on which we walked 1 mile, and proceeds down the G-O Road, which we drove. We didn't have to be heroic through-hikers to enjoy a bit of the Big Foot Trail!

"So many trails; so little time" is the case on the South Fork Smith River. We did well scouting three of them in one weekend. See www.smithriveralliance.org for a list of many trails in the area. "So many flowers; so little time" was another dilemma. Should we stop to key this flower, or scout for others farther along the trail? Life is the compromise answer to this question.

Note 1. Kauffmann, M., and J. Barnes. 2015. *The Bigfoot Trail. V2.2015. Map Set & Trail Description*. Backcountry Press, Kneeland, CA.



So much to see in a burned forest! Along the Summit Valley Trail we studied arnica, paintbrush, hawkweed, aster, goldenrod, gilia, coyote mint, wintergreen, orchids, and rock fern as well as the sprouting shrubs and surviving trees.

NEW TRAIL in MCKINLEYVILLE



The Cha-GAH-Cho Trail (nearly 3/4 mile and located behind the Mill Creek Shopping Center at the end of Betty Court off School Road) traverses through a 9.4 acre coastal grassland and forest canopy. An ADA-accessible segment accesses an expansive overlook of the lower Mad River and coastline. A spur trail leads to the McKinleyville HealthSport.

Interpretive signage, benches and other amenities complement the trail - come check it out! The trail is open every day during daylight hours.

For more information contact the McKinleyville Land Trust at 707-839-5263.

(Continued from page 4)

Two Flowered Pea

Several volunteers joined in a Memorial Day weekend overnight trip to Red Mountain (south of Dinsmore) to monitor the only known population of the Two Flowered Pea (*Lathyrus biflorus* CRPR 1B.1, referred to hereafter as LATBIF). This population was affected by an emergency firebreak established by wildland fire crews during the 2015 wildfire to the south. During our May trip we were able to collect phenology data for the entire population as well as map the population extent within the vicinity of the fire break. Data collected in the vicinity of the firebreak will be used to estimate the firebreak's impact on the entire population and make recommendations for restoration of impacted areas.



Salt Marsh species at Dead Mouse Marsh

On June 25, 2016 a group explored "Dead Mouse Marsh," a tidal wetland along Freshwater Slough, that was restored from a mill site several decades ago. Several rare plant species associated with salt marsh habitat were



previously reported from this location and our group set out to try and locate them and collect updated information. We learned from a local resident that the name "Dead Mouse Marsh" exists because the prior restoration included a levee breach event that flooded an area that had not been tidally inundated in many decades. This resulted in hundreds of rodents drowning and floating around in the marsh! On this June day we located several patches of Point Reyes Bird's Beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre*, CRPR 1B.2), post-bloom Humboldt Bay Owl's Clover (*Castilleja ambigua* var. *humboldtiensis*, CRPR 1B.2), and the Western Sand-Spurrey (*Spergularia canadensis* var. *occidentalis*, CRPR 2B.1). Our group was able to document precise locations and densities of these rare species, providing a more accurate description of these occurrences.

Wolf's Evening Primrose

On July 30, 2016 a group visited several known occurrences of Wolf's Evening Primrose (*Oenothera wolfii*, CRPR 1B.1 referred to hereafter as OENWOL) in the Trinidad area. The goal of this trip was to learn to distinguish this species from the non-native, escaped garden variety *Oenothera glazioviana* and the hybrids that may form when the two cross-pollinate. We were able to locate populations with strong OENWOL traits at overlooks near Luffenholtz Beach and Houda Point, and just a few individuals near Moonstone Beach. We also visited a thriving population of OENWOL that was planted at the Trinidad museum's native plant garden. Subsequent visits to roadside sites near Clam Beach and Manila detected only *O. glazioviana* hybrids. Our July observations lead to the reminder that OENWOL populations in the Trinidad area are still threatened by *O. glazioviana* and hybrid genetics.



South Fork Smith River

We utilized the early August CNPS trip to the South Fork of the Smith River to check up on populations of rare plants in that region that would be detectable during the late summer. We located a new road-side occurrence of the Horned Butterwort (*Pinguicula macroceras*, CRPR 2B.2) along the G-O road as we traveled up the Summit Valley. Along the Summit Valley Trail we located an occurrence of Tracy's Lupine (*Lupinus tracyi*, CRPR 4.3) and a previously un-reported occurrence of the Ternate Buckwheat (*Eriogonum ternatum*, CRPR 4.3). This region likely has many more botanical discoveries yet to be made! In the Rock Creek area we were able to refine location information of previously reported occurrences of *Pinguicula*, the Seacoast Ragwort (*Packera bolanderi* var. *bolanderi*, CRPR 2B.2), and the California Pitcherplant (*Darlingtonia californica*, CRPR 4.2). Additionally, a previously unreported occurrence of Oregon Golden Thread (*Coptis laciniata*, CRPR 4.2) was located along the South Kelsey Trail.



Horned Butterwort (*Pinguicula macroceras*)

Seacoast Ragwort (*Packera bolanderi* var. *bolanderi*)

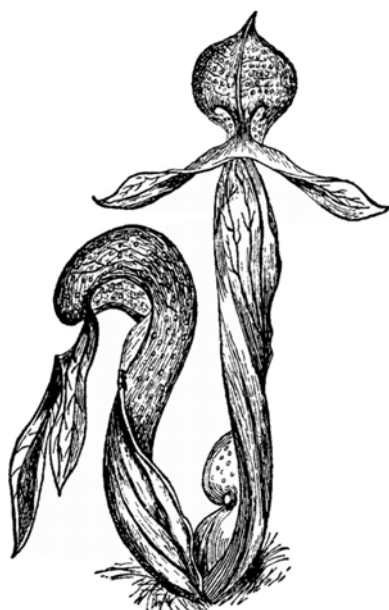


CNPS, North Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 1067
Arcata, CA 95518

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 33
Arcata CA 95521

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Darlingtonia



Visit us at
NorthCoastCNPS.org

CALENDAR of EVENTS (Field Trips—pg 2 / Programs-pg 2)

October

- ◆ Wed 12: Program
- ◆ Sun 23: Hike

November

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

December

- ◆ Wed 14: Program

January

- ◆ Wed 11: Program

February

- ◆ Wed 18: Program

March

- ◆ Wed 8: Program