

Darlingtonia

Fall 2022
September-
November

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

Fall Native Plant Sale Saturday, September 24 & Sunday, September 25

**Freshwater Farms Reserve
North Coast Regional Land Trust
5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka**

Shopping by Appointment Only

To schedule:

[signupgenius.com/
go/904054da5a823a2f94-fall](http://signupgenius.com/go/904054da5a823a2f94-fall)

See a list of available plants:

<http://northcoastcnps.org>>Plant Sales

Questions? Email:

northcoastcnps@gmail.com

Cash or checks appreciated

Credit cards accepted

Please bring your own box

To carry plants!



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Find out what's happening:

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northcoastcnps.org
- Visit our Facebook page:
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Evening Programs and Field Trips

EVENING PROGRAMS

Evening Programs are free, public presentations on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m. Join from home by registering on Zoom through our website northcoastcnps.org.

September 14, Wednesday: Encouraging Indigenous Wildlife-Insects to Birds-in the Garden Pete Haggard will present the story of how he and his wife Judy turned their dryland pasture in Fieldbrook into a food garden and a native plant/native wildlife garden. He will share their successes as well as their failures. Pete has documented the increase in pollinators to include over 50 species of native bees and many species of butterflies. Pete is the Garden Chair for our North Coast Chapter. He and Judy co-authored *Insects of the Pacific Northwest*, an essential field guide.

Used Botanical Book Sale Starting at 7 pm!

Hundreds of books contributed by various people, all botanical-- field guides, text books, gardening guides, taxonomic works, non-fiction books. Find your treasure among them. Make a suitable donation for what you take. Bring plenty of cash!

October 12, Wednesday: The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History

The Klamath Mountains contain some of the most exceptional temperate plant communities in the world. Michael Kauffmann will highlight the plant communities across the region as explored in his new book *The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History*, which will also be available to purchase. In addition to describing ten plant communities, he will share photos of the rare and unusual plants that call the Klamath Mountains home.

November 9, Wednesday

Dr. Oscar Vargas, an Assistant Professor at CPH, "Our lab is dedicated to document plant diversity and evolution. We combine elements of traditional botany . . . with modern tools . . . to answer questions about the evolution of biodiversity hot-spots from the Amazon to the California Floristic Province."

FIELD TRIPS FALL 2022

Please watch for updates on our website (www.northcoastcnps.org) or sign up for e-mail notifications at <https://northcoastcnps.groups.io/g/activities>

Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. We mean it! Contact the leader to ask questions and so you can be contacted about any trip changes.

September 11, Sunday. Big Lagoon East Side Wetlands Field trip. No matter how dry the rest of the world, wetlands are still green in fall. We will explore the "far side" of Big Lagoon--the east shore--discovering the plants in the green turf and growing in the shallow waters. We will walk 1-2 miles off-trail along the shore,. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or 9:30 a.m. at Big Lagoon School to carpool. Contact Carol at theralphs@humboldt1.com; 707-822-2015.

October 2, Sunday. Trinity Alps Vista Trail Day Hike. At 4,500 ft elevation in the serpentine woodland of Horse Mountain Botanical Area in Six Rivers National Forest this informal, 2-mile loop offers potentially 8 species of conifers, 3 ceanothus, 2 manzanitas, and, yes, grand vistas. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for mountain weather (colder than the coast!) and uneven ground; bring lunch and water. Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

November 6, Sunday. West Ridge Trail Day Hike. The Greater Prairie Creek Restoration Project is part of the larger, exciting Redwoods Rising project that is thinning dense second-growth stands of Redwood to allow faster development of old growth forest characteristics in our Redwood parks. One place to see the "lop and scatter" method of doing this is about two miles up from Newton B. Drury Parkway in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, on the West Ridge Trail accessed via the Zig Zag Trail #2. This four-mile up-and-back hike does include elevation gain and loss! Every trail in this park that I have sampled I have found to be beautiful and interesting. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

Christmas Prairie June 18, 2022

By Carol Ralph (All photos by the author)

Between the many public lands in the Redwood and Sitka Spruce forests on the foggy coast and the vast public lands in the rugged, mixed-evergreen and montane forests in the national forests in the interior mountains (west of Redwood Creek), are ridges like Snow Camp Ridge, privately owned forests and prairies (east of the creek). A generous invitation from Green Diamond Resource Company botanist Gabe Cashman brought our group of 17 botanizers to visit one of the especially interesting sites on this in-between ridge.

We entered this world through Korbel (just beyond Blue Lake), on Maple Creek Rd., turning left onto Bald Mountain Rd. We stopped at a wide intersection where our road emerged from a stretch of curvy, uphill travel to the straighter, southeast-running road that goes to Snow Camp Mountain. Here a dirt road went left to Lord Ellis Summit, and the top of Bald Mountain was beside the road. (The map showed it, but it wasn't obvious to the eye.) We were on a west-facing slope that was a patchwork of steep, rolling prairies divided by fingers of Douglas-fir forest and crowned with oaks. The land was private, but luckily the flowers were mostly arrayed on the roadbank and ditch, which are public. Of special interest was a stand of the gentle blue heads of the annual Pacific Blue-headed Gilia (*Gilia capitata* ssp. *pacifica*), which is California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 (rare in California and elsewhere). This Blue-headed Gilia is distinguished in *The Jepson Manual* from 7 other subspecies by details of the calyx membrane and corolla lobes. Gabe assured us the low elevation, almost coastal location, and the daintier overall form distinguished it. Among a diverse assemblage of non-native roadside species we enjoyed seeing Purple Sanicle (*Sanicula bipinnatifida*), Miniature Lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Small-flowered Lotus (*Acmispon parviflorus*, formerly *Lotus micranthus*), American Wild Carrot (*Daucus pusillus*), Seep Spring Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe guttata*), and around the corner on the side road a few stunning, red-flowered California Indian Pink (*Silene laciniata* ssp. *californica*). In the green pasture below the road was an enticing yellow patch which looked to be Common Madia (*Madia elegans*). You might wonder, "Why



Pacific Blue-headed Gilia

so many good plants on the roadside?" and "Will they hold out against the non-natives?" Part of the answer is the important role of disturbance in maintaining species diversity.

A little further down the road we entered Green Diamond land through a locked gate on the left. We drove through forest of various mixes of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), and Chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*). During the day we stopped in three different places that had been somewhat recently clearcut. In the bare, sun-drenched soil we saw seedlings of Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.). We also saw species adapted to this treatment, sprouting from the base—Redwood, Tanoak, and Chinquapin.

We learned about the company's program to enhance the population of Robust False Lupine (*Thermopsis robusta*), a rare plant ranked 1B.2. We saw scattered plants along the road under the edge of the conifer canopy,



Robust False Lupine among the slash

marked with flagging as a "Plant Protection Area" to alert the mowing machine to mow there only after seeds have dispersed. Adding to the seed bank this way should help the species. Where we stopped to admire this handsome, lupine-like plant was in jumbled, dead, down wood at the edge of a clearcut. When looking at a clearcut, as at a forest fire, the only word that comes to mind is "devastation." It is hard to look at it and say, "Oh boy, now the ceanothus, manzanitas, and

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false lupines will sprout!" But this is the case. Without major disturbance that clears the ground of competition and eliminates the shade, these species will not sprout. Their seeds are the invisible alternative to the forest, the sunny, floriferous shrubs and herbs that are waiting in the soil as seeds. Who knows how many seeds of Robust False Lupine are waiting in the soil? This clear cut had prompted a few to sprout. It had rich, golden, lupine-like flowers on a large, robust, deciduous, soft, fuzzy herbaceous plant with pea-like leaves. Another herbaceous plant that was common in some old clearcuts was Beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*).

We arrived at Christmas Prairie (elevation 2,300 ft) just in time for lunch and took advantage of the one dry meadow in this "prairie." The assortment of non-native pasture grasses around us was a reminder of the heavy use (i.e. grazing) this area would have had when settlers were running sheep over all of these mountains. We were near the upper end of this natural lake, but we saw no above-ground inflow. The lake was ringed by conifers. A fringe of willows was by the water only in parts. Around the near end the encroachment by Douglas-fir was obvious on the wide, gently sloping shore. Young trees grew in front of larger trees in front of larger trees. I suspect when it was named a prairie, it was a bigger clearing than it is now.

Going towards the lake from the lunch meadow, we descended ever so slightly into the lake basin and entered a greener zone with many rushes (*Juncus* spp.), both creeping and clumped, and lush, dark green clumps of Sneezeweed (*Helenium bigelovii*) emerging above the general knee-high mix. Though not in bloom, it was identifiable by the edges of its leaves trailing off down the stem. In this zone we also found the intriguing Grape Fern (*Sceptridium multifidum*), the dainty Western Dog Violet (*Viola adunca*), and large, handsome Pacific Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*). A few steps further toward the lake put us in the zone of abundant, rising royalty-dark green clumps of King's Scepter Gentian (*Gentiana sceptrum*). Its developing, vertical stems with opposite leaves were now less than a foot tall, but last year's old, dry gray stems, both standing and radiating out on the ground, were up to a full meter (39 inches) tall. What magnificence! Also in this zone were Celery-

leaved Lovage (*Ligusticum apifolium*), Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), Bistort (*Bistort bistortoides*), and Cow Clover (*Trifolium wormskjoldii*), a



King's Scepter Gentian

large, red-flowered, creeping native clover. A good patch of Camas (*Camassia quamash*) was starting to bloom at the upper end of the lake. The edge of the water was a zone of clumps of rushes, sedges, and moss. Star Sedge (*Carex echinata*) provided tall, firm clumps to step on. Great Burnett (*Sanguisorba officinalis*, rank 2B.2) grew in the mossy mats. The cute little flowers among the clumps, mats, and hummocks were yellow Tinker's Penny (*Hypericum anagalloides*), blue Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), and yellow-and-pink Harlequin Lotus (*Hosackia gracilis*, also called *Lotus formosissimus*, rank 4.2, limited distribution). Starting to bloom among the rushes in the water's edge were a few Water-parsnip (*Sium suave*). The last fringe of plants before open water was Southern Beaked Sedge (*Carex utriculata*). Across the lake we could see a stand of Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) as the deepest emergent vegetation. Floating on the water were Yellow Pond Lily (Wokas, *Nuphar polysepala*) and Floating-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*).

The wetland plants at the lake were certainly a high point of the day. Thank you, Green Diamond, for sharing this spot with us. As I thought about the day, I realized that we saw two very different forms of destruction. One was the obvious, rapid, noisy, messy destruction via clearcut, destruction of one set of plants that sets in motion the development of another. The other was the slow, insidious, quiet, even beautiful destruction of prairie plants by trees. Death by chainsaw and death by photosynthesis. Can we modify both to a scale that maintains the full range of possibilities?



Van Eck Forest Safari May 22, 2022

Compiled and edited by Carol Ralph, who shamelessly and gratefully pasted together words from Carol Moné, Karen Isa, Yvonne Everett, Jack Singer, Brian Dorman, Nancy Brockington, Joann Olson, and Ken Burton, and added some of her own. All photos by Karen Isa.

Cutting down trees might not seem like cutting-edge science, but in the Van Eck California Forest east of McKinleyville it is. These 2,146 acres are owned by the Fred M. van Eck Forest Foundation, which wanted to manage the forests in a way to restore a mature, complex, native coastal redwood ecosystem. That meant bringing back to this 90-yr-old second-growth forest, with its crowded, even-aged, small trees and depauperate undergrowth, “a high degree of spatial and temporal heterogeneity,” *i.e.* a mix of species and a mix of ages and sizes. The only way to do this was by removing some trees to let others grow. To answer the basic question of “Which trees do we remove?” the foundation worked with the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), a non-profit leader in sustainable forest management, to put a conservation easement on the property in 2002. A conservation easement specifies for perpetuity the land management goal for that property. The Pacific Forest Trust in turn engaged local forestry firm BBW & Associates to figure out the nitty-gritty of which trees to cut down. Normally focused on timber production, these foresters have been focusing their skills on recreating a redwood forest through careful thinning at regular intervals. They are surveying and measuring all kinds of things to establish what is there, formulate what to aim for, and check if they are getting closer. This is science, cutting edge science. We can be proud that this important experiment in restorative forestry is being done in our “neighborhood.” We are lucky and grateful that people like Jack Singer of PFT and Greg Blomstrom of BBW are here to show it to us on a field trip.

After our group of 23 gathered behind the locked gate of the Murray Road extension into the forest, Jack and Greg gave us some background on this forest. In brief, Fred Van Eck was a Wall Street financier, bird lover, and fan of Purdue University’s forestry management approach and wanted to put it into practice. In 1969 he bought property in the Fieldbrook Valley. The original old growth redwoods there include some of the tallest in the world. Some of the original trees were said to be over 400 feet tall, but were all cut down to create farms and pastures. Farming and logging stopped 80-90 years ago. The Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) stumps have been sprouting and Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) seedlings have

grown into a dense, dark forest of many small trunks and few species. In the usual timber production regime, these trees would all be cut by now, usually growing in a plantation with 8’ to 16’ spacing. The basic forest management plan under Van Eck is to rejuvenate the Redwood forest by selectively logging sustainably, with a goal of eventually having 600-year-old trees. In forestry-speak this is “restoring late seral redwood forest.” (“Seral” refers to the stages of vegetation development after a big disturbance like fire or logging.) It will be a light forest of mixed ages, sizes, and species, with rich ground vegetation.

After consolidating into half a dozen vehicles with high enough clearance to successfully maneuver the logging roads of the six Van Eck tracts, we drove a short distance to the first tract we studied. The “first safari stop” was the “Carbon plot,” where 20% of the carbon credit goes into a sort of insurance fund in case of fire or other sudden forest loss. In general, the Van Eck forest is very productive. Interestingly in this plot the soil had sandy pockets of ancient dunes. This area also had a higher density of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Sitka Spruce. When “released” by removing many neighboring trees, these species are more likely to be lost to wind than is Redwood. The “owl tree” is a feature of this tract. The 300-year-old redwood that has been home to Spotted Owls is also a tree where Steve Sillett and Marie Antoine planted Leather-leaf Fern (*Polypodium scoleri*) in the canopy to restore species. The owl tree has not had Spotted Owls for two years now; last year a single male was the only visitor seen by the Spotted Owl spotter. We heard about the Barred Owl invasion and the demise of the Spotted Owls. Green Diamond Resource Company has been killing Barred Owls on its property in an attempt to protect Spotted Owls. To facilitate forest management in the presence of this endangered species, on the Van Eck Forest PFT worked with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service to create the first Safe Harbor Agreement for Spotted Owls. In a Safe Harbor Agreement USFWS promises not to restrict future land management if the landowner continues agreed-upon management practices that benefit an endangered species. Such an agreement removes the reluctance of landowners to host endangered species on their land in fear of USFWS restricting future activities.

The most common understory plant seen at all our stops was the dainty Star Flower (*Lysimachia latifolia*). Other plants at this stop included Red and Black Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*, *V. ovatum*), Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Deer Fern (*Struthiopteris spicant*), hedge nettle (*Stachys* sp.),

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Candyflower (*Claytonia sibirica*), Douglas iris, including many yellow-flowered individuals (*Iris douglasiana*), Redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*), Tall Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolium*), Smith's Fairy Bells (*Prosartes smithii*), Salal (*Gaultheria shalon*), Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), gooseberry (*Ribes* sp.), Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*), Cascara (*Frangula purshiana*), Coastal Burn Weed (*Senecio minimus*), Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), False Lily-of-the-Valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*), and our first Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) and Western Hemlocks (*Tsuga heterophylla*). Unfortunately, there was also a small but entrenched English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) grove, one of our Humboldt County invasive species. We also got to smell the almond scent of the yellow-spotted millipede. As we were leaving this stop, three participants were kissed goodbye by wasps (nose, ear and hand).

The second safari stop was a lovely, shaded area along Van Eck Creek with a preponderance of Seep Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe* (formerly *Mimulus*) *gut-tata*). Here we saw the first of two very expensive and large (walk-through-sized) new culverts upgraded to allow fish passage. And there are now fish passing through. The expected Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) in the area was huge! Other shade-loving plants included Piggyback Plant (*Tolmiea diplomenziesii*), Salmonberry, and above them Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) and Red Elderberry in addition to the "forestry" trees: Redwood, Douglas-fir, and Sitka Spruce. These are the only species that PFT harvests for market.



The culvert

Third safari stop was lunch in a clearing where Greg Blomstrom met us again for a few more words on forestry. In addition to weedy, introduced species were blooming lupine (*Lupinus* sp.) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.).



In the forest gap

Fourth safari stop was a large grassy clearing which had been logged to bring an

opening of light into the forest. The opening provided extra light for the trees remaining around it and provided the substrate for new trees to sprout, diversifying the age structure, as well as habitat for diverse non-timber species, which are important for wildlife, a core feature of the healthy forest plan. The two-year-old redwoods were responding with rapid growth. Here we saw both Blue- and Yellow-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*, *S. californicum*) blooming side by side, more Coastal Burnweed, Candyflower, and hedge nettle, plus Variable-leaf Collomia (*Collomia heterophylla*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), another invasive species, and many other non-native herbaceous species.

The fifth safari stop was where a stream had been diverted by settlers and PFT is now on a 5-year plan to return it to its natural bed. Rerouting a small creek is a crucial step in restoring a watershed. It was noted that the health of a forest can be determined by the health of its watercourses. This interesting place included a bear wallow, likely spring fed, that is, a small pond in which bears enjoy soaking and splashing. Another bear behavior we learned about is that scraping the cambium (the live layer of tissue under the bark) with their teeth can damage their teeth and gums. It might be a behavior they learned as the prairies, rich in sun-loving, herbaceous food plants, were lost to encroaching trees. Among the plants at this site were Northern Inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), Stream Violet (*Viola glabella*), Slink Pod (*Scoliopus bigelovii*), Tailed Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), and copious Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

Bear wallow



The final safari stop was across Fieldbrook Road in the eastern block of the Van Eck property. We gained some elevation and stopped to view where the forest had been thinned in 2021 and the slash "masticated" by large grinders. By masticating the slash left after harvest, PFT avoids releasing carbon to the atmosphere by burning, and provides mulch for the remaining trees. We continued up the hill to see blooming Blue Blossom and some hybrid pines the Forest Service invented by crossing Bishop, Monterey, and Knobcone pines (*Pinus muricata*, *radiata*, and *attenuata*). These are slated to be girdled and killed. We had begun to see more and more Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). PFT has no plan

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Upcoming Fall Native Plant Sale September 24 & 25

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS will hold its annual fall plant sale on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our nursery site, located at the Freshwater Farms Reserve, North Coast Regional Land Trust, 5851 Myrtle Ave. (Old Arcata Road), Eureka. Due to limited onsite parking, attendees will again need to pre-sign up to attend the sale. We will be using Sign-up Genius to schedule all attendees. To sign up to attend: signup-genius.com/go/904054da5a823a2f94-fall

At the fall sale, in addition to the wide variety of plants (perennials, shrubs, trees, ferns, bulbs, grasses, groundcovers, vines, dudleyas and sedums) for a diversity of growing conditions found here on the north coast (sun, shade, part sun/shade and wet/moist) that we have had available for local gardeners; we will offer the following plants that were not at our spring plant sale, or that were sold out in a short amount of time:

Shrubs - *Mimulus aurantiacus v. puniceus*, Red Bush monkeyflower; *Mimulus aurantiacus v. pubescens*, Sticky Monkeyflower; *Salvia leucophylla*, Purple Sage; *Salvia clevelandii*, Cleveland Sage; *Ribes Sanquineum 'King Edward'*, Red flowering currant; *Sphaeralcea ambigua v. ambigua*, Apricot mallow.

Perennials - *Ageratina occidentalis*, Western Snakeroot; *Heuchera pilosissima*, Hairy alum root, *Keckiella corymbosa*, Red beardtongue; *Penstemon rybergii*, Meadow Penstemon; *Potentilla gracilis*, slender cinquefoil; *Rudbeckia glaucescens*, Waxy cone-flower; *Rudbeckia occidentalis*, Western cone-flower; *Sidalcea oregana ssp. Spicata*, spicate checker mallow; *Symphotricum subspicatum*, Douglas aster.

In addition to the plants that our local CNPS propagates, 4 local native plant nurseries (Samara Restoration, Lost Foods, Brant Landscaping, and Beresford's Bulbs) will add to the number of plant species available for purchase. As we get closer to the plant sale, an updated inventory list of the plants that will be for sale will be available on our website at www.northcoastcnps.org > Plant Sales.

Experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and help you make the best plant selections for your garden space and habitat type. Reference books will be available (we are so old school!).

We will also be featuring our chapter's t-shirts, posters, signs, and tote bags for sale.

We prefer to accept cash and personal checks but can take credit cards at our plant sales. Please bring your own box or other container to transport your plants home in.

Remember that fall is the best time to plant! By doing so, your new plants have the fall and winter rains to water them and the time to put in new roots before their spring growth starts.

Nursery news and thank you's

The nursery continues to thrive and grow with the help of our dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Sharon King, Karen Isa, Lora Guildin, Joan Tippetts, Carol Ralph, Barbara Reisman, Nancy Brockington, Anita Gilbride-Read, Jessi vanFloto, Kate Rowe, Christy Wagner, David Callow, Brian Dorman, Kellie Johnson, Stephen Underwood, Alice Ford-Sala, June Janes, Dayna Mauer, Mark Mauer, Jessica Heiden, Kevin Richards, Marina Gagarina, Callie Almand, Sylvia Vanroyen, Emily Shaw, Justin Harden, Joann Kearns, Angie Petroske, Camryn Hanf, Kathleen LaBelle, Breanna DeMatto, Marcia Thorndike, Susan Thorsell, Leonard Thorsell, Hannah Crabb, Patti Steelanan, Ginny Burstein, Marisa Silva, Angie Petroske, Nate, Trey Polesky, Amanda Chiachi, Galina, Mel Suarez-Robertson, Pattie Steelman, Lauren, Rebecca Zettler, Mary Ellen, Kit Mann. Wow what a group! All these volunteers work on helping to provide and grow the amazing number of plants that we produce. They all also help to maintain the nursery: working on weeding, cutting back berries, sweeping and cleaning up the nursery area.

I would also like to thank our watering team who work hard ensuring that our plants stay well hydrated, especially in the shade house. I think that watering is one of the hardest things that we do at the nursery, with the change in weather, the wind, and the variety of different watering needs of our plants. Thanks to Christy Wagner, Jessica Heiden, Trey Polesky and Sharon King for regularly watering. Thanks to Barbara Reisman for overseeing the watering operations at the nursery site.

In addition to our workdays, we have volunteers who take on special tasks and I would like to recognize them and thank them all for all their contributions:

Barbara Reisman continues to be the "2nd-in-command" and helps to cover when I am not there. She also helps on workdays keeping track of what needs to be done and providing help to our volunteers while I am drawn in way too many directions. In addition, Barbara performs myriad other tasks, help-

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ing me with the plant inventories prior to our sales and keeping track of and orders for labels for our plants, thank you Barbara, so very much.

Jess vonFloto continues to stock and clean up the plants on our stand. He checks our plant shelves weekly, adding different species as they start to bloom and look their best. Thank you, Jessi!

Chris Brant continues to weed eat around the perimeter of our fencing as well as helps us get ready for the plant sale by cleaning up the checkout and merchandise area. Thank you, Chris, for always helping us out when we contact you, it is greatly appreciated!

A special thanks to Jim Clark for washing and sterilizing 40 1-gallon pots and 60 4" pots for the nursery. If anyone else wants to help with this never-ending task, contact us at our email address: northcoastcnps@gmail.com.

As you can see, it takes a lot of volunteers to grow and maintain all the plants that we sell to raise, not only funds for our chapter activities, but also awareness of the importance of native plants, especially with what is happening to the native insect populations which will impact the local bird population and on and on. Please spread the word as to why we should all plant natives in our gardens.

If you would like to help at the nursery, contact me via our nursery email at: northcoastcnps@gmail.com. We work at the nursery Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 10-1.

Demonstration Garden

If you would like to help maintain our demonstration garden, we can always use more hands to weed, gather seeds and keep weeds in check. We work in the garden at least once a month, usually on a Sunday from 10-1. Contact us at our nursery email address to help



Fall Plant Sale – Help Needed

Our fall sale will be held at the Freshwater Farms Nursery, 5851 Myrtle Ave. on Saturday September 24th and Sunday September 25th. As with past sales,

due to limited on-site parking, attendees must sign up for the time they would like to come to the nursery for the sale. To make this plant sale happen successfully, we need your help!

Volunteers are needed the Wednesday prior to the sale to help us offload participating nursery plants, to label them and to put them out for the sale. Volunteers are also needed on Friday to help with setting up for sale and Saturday and Sunday to help with the sale itself. If you can help all day or for one shift, your help will be greatly appreciated. We have morning and afternoon shifts. We will need people who can direct cars as they arrive to parking, greet people as they enter, advise people what plants to buy, tally up purchases, keep the stock organized and carry purchases to cars.

If you can help, please contact Anita Gilbride-Read via email at nita.gread@gmail.com or call her at 839-4645.

Chapter Plant Stand

Currently the chapter's plant stand is not open as the Wild Radish Farmstand has not been able to have staff on site for sales. Please check our website for the most current information about purchasing plants after the fall sale.

Clean 1-gallon Pots Needed

The nursery needs clean 1-gallon containers as we are trying to not purchase additional plastic containers. We ask that you remove all the dirt with a brush and then clean them in water to remove the rest. We can sterilize them at our nursery as we have the space to do this. We **ONLY** need this size of container. If you can help, please contact us at: northcoastcnps@gmail.com to arrange a plan to drop them off. In the past we have gotten containers that we cannot use, and we then need to dispose of them in the trash. We are trying to avoid that from happening again.

Rebecca with her newly-made outdoor pot-washing sink. Thanks for all your work and ingenuity!



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

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!

Melanie Johnson for years of being the friendly voice greeting people asking for Native Plant Consultations and then coordinating busy people's schedules to get a team of consultants there to look at the garden.

Carol Moné for taking on the role of coordinator of our Native Plant Consultations.

Consultants **Karen Isa, Rebecca Zettler, Ron Johnson, Chris Brant, Carol Ralph, Debby Harrison, Joann Kerns, Jessica Heiden, Julie Weeder, Carol Moné,** and **Pete Haggard** for visiting people's gardens to talk about native plants!

Karen Isa and **Rebecca Zettler** for organizing our consultation procedures and printed information.

Joseph Saler and **Greg O'Connell** for leading a walk in Big Lagoon Bog (really a fen) for the local cabin owners.

Greg O'Connell for organizing a team to count and measure the plants on transects in Big Lagoon Fen to see if clearing the woody vegetation has helped the bog plants.

Larry Levine and **Karen Isa** for giving our chapter a beautiful presence in the Flower Building at the Humboldt County Fair.

See separate article for who's done what at the nursery and plant sales.

Welcome Aboard!

Andrea Pickart as creator of our chapter's half-page in *Econews* each month, and as member of our steering committee.

Help Needed!

Contact Carol Ralph 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com

Tabling at the North Country Fair and future events.

Refreshments. Bring finger-food to an evening program.

Distribute fliers publicizing the plant sale.

Post a flier about an evening program or a plant sale.

Lead a plant walk. Lead a 2-hour walk to share what you know about plants somewhere nearby that you like to go.

Publicity. Organize our publicity web so that deadlines don't slip past. Three main events/year.

At the nursery. See Nursery News.

In Memory of Melinda

People attending our evening programs between 2006 and 2019 would have known Melinda Groom as our Hospitality Chair, the person presenting refreshments. Likewise, volunteers at the Spring Wildflower Show for some years met her in the "break room" with delicious fare to perk up the body and soul. Melinda thoroughly enjoyed the presentation at the evening programs, the wonderful array of flowers at the show, and many field trips. Her native plant knowledge was considerable.

Melinda passed away in April, in her house in Blue Lake with her beloved cat by her side. Our chapter has been the recipient of generous donations in lieu of flowers. To keep alive the memories of her tasteful, elegant, but simple refreshments, her reliability, her wit, her gentle smile, and her quick, strong, petite steps on the trail the chapter is using these donations to buy the Melinda Memorial Computer as the heart and brain of the projection process at our evening programs. It will help us continue our tradition of interesting and enjoyable evening programs, offering them via Zoom as well as in-person. Thank you, Melinda; thank you Melinda's friends.

North Coast Vegetation Mapping

By Sara Bandali

In late July, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Vegetation Program held a 4-day sensitive plant community training and calibration along the North Coast. Together a total of 36 participants, CNPS Chapter members (from Dorothy King Young, North Coast, & Sanhedrin), along with California Department of Parks & Recreation (CDPR) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, and other local partners reviewed the vegetation sampling procedure for the fine-scale vegetation mapping project of the North Coast and North Coast Ranges ecoregions. Our field training focused on sampling sensitive plant communities. Sensitive plant communities in California are natural communities that are of limited distribution statewide (with ranks of S1 to S3) and are vulnerable to environmental effects of land use changes and/or other threats. For more information about Sensitive Natural Communities, see <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities>

During the training, participants visited a range of landscapes at Lanphere Dunes, Trinidad's Elkhead, the Lost Coast Headlands, Ocean Ranch at Table Bluff, and Humboldt Lagoons State Parks' Dry Lagoon. At these locations participants were able to observe a variety of natural communities from coastal scrub, riparian forests, coastal prairie, dune forest, and dune mat to salt marsh flats. Vegetation data was collected using the survey methods described in CNPS' Rapid Assessment, Relevé, and Reconnaissance protocols. Participants documented at least 12 different alliances, and completed an impressive total of 16 surveys during the training event! One alliance we saw at Lanphere Dunes was a Beach pine woodland (*Pinus contorta* ssp. *contorta* Forest & Woodland Alliance). The data collected at this training will be compiled with other data being collected across the North Coast. In 2023 and 2024 the data will be analyzed to produce a fine-scale vegetation map of the region. It will provide managers with information that will help with conservation decisions for these sensitive vegetation types.

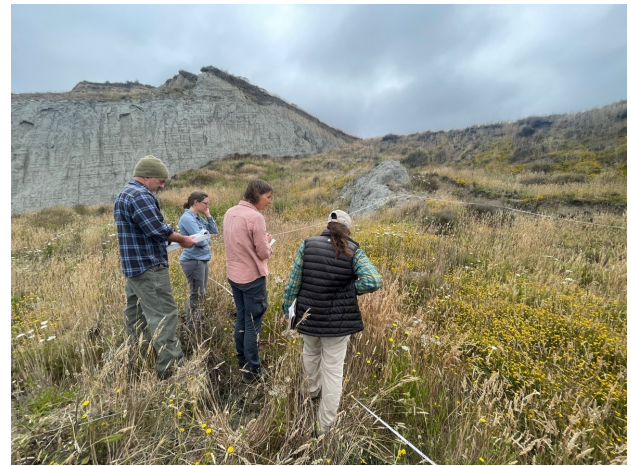
A big thanks to everyone who came out and contributed their time and expertise! We look forward to exploring more sensitive communities together with you and collecting much needed data this year and beyond!

~ North Coast Vegetation team: Claudia Voigt, Sara Bandali, Dominic DiPaolo



Trinidad Elkhead Trail. Photo by Renee Pasquinelli

In a large stand of Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) Forest, CNPS North Coast chapter members are assessing stand layout and slope with their compasses for a survey using our vegetation rapid assessment method. Barbara Reisman (NCC), Tony LaBanca (NCC), and Peter Warner (NCC)



Participants assessing the plant species within a diverse vegetation plot along a coastal prairie at Fleener Creek. Andy Balestracci (DKY), Jennifer Buck-Diaz (CNPS), Claudia Voigt (CNPS), and Teresa Sholars (DKY). Photo by Sara Bandali.



Peter Warner and Claudia Voigt discuss plant species cover within a vegetation survey of Berry Brambles (*Rubus ursinus*) association at Dry Lagoon. Photo by Renee Pasquinelli.

See more photos page13...

Know Your Invasive Species: garden montbretia (*Crocosmia crocosmiiflora*)

WHO?: Garden montbretia is in the lily family. It has sword-shaped leaves up to 3 feet long sprouting from a corm in the ground. Leaves have a single large vein running through the center. Garden montbretia flowers between July and September, with yellow, orange, and red trumpet-shaped blooms on zig zag spikes.

WHERE?: Garden montbretia is a hybrid originally cultivated in France, and is invasive along the California Coast, as well as New Zealand, Central America, and in parts of the United Kingdom.

WHY?: Garden montbretia reproduces by corms (each plant can create 14 new corms annually) and by seed. It can also grow from small root fragments. It forms dense stands of leaves that choke out native plants.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?: Do not plant garden montbretia in the ground, and when removing garden montbretia, remove all corms and monitor the area for regrowth periodically. Please report locations of garden montbretia within California State Parks to Michelle Forys at michelle.forys@parks.ca.gov or 707-677-3109.



(Continued from page 6)

to remove, and definitely not spray them. Broom can be shaded out by a closed canopy. New species encountered were Roadbank Fern (*Polypodium calirhiza*), Narrow-leaved Flax (*Linum bienne*), horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.), Big-leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), California Figwort (*Scrophularia californica*), Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*), Pacific Sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*), Calypso Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*) (thanks to the vigilant eye of Susan Halpin), Modesty (*Whipplea modesta*), and Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*).

This field trip was definitely looking at the forest, not the trees. What's more, it was a fun challenge being in a "working" forest, not a forest modified for recreation with amenities like trails. "Walking" through these forests was an adventure in discovering where the next step would land among the waist-deep jumble of down branches and trunks. We learned that foresters do a lot of driving on winding dirt roads. The trip was also a convincing introduction to sustainable forestry. One participant started the day wondering, "How can you be a conservationist....and also measure success in number of board feet produced per year?" Then, "by the end of the day Jack had convinced me that the Van Eck forest really is run sustainably." The decision-making is driven by forest health. Notably, Green Diamond Resource Company also has conservation easements being managed by Pacific Forest Trust. It's worth adding, as we learned from Laurie Wayburn of PFT when she spoke to our chapter (and in a handout I have from Jack on a different occasion), that in Van Eck Forest the standing volume of timber has increased steadily every year from 24.7 mbf/acre in 2002 to 46.7 mbf/acre in 2019, while each year approximately 1,000 mbf of sawlogs has been removed. (mbf=thousand board feet) Though not aiming for increased production and carbon storage, the foresters are achieving it.

This field trip was one of a variety of activities by our chapter focused on learning about the all-important, planet-saving science of forestry. Laurie Wayburn's presentation "Putting the Forest back into Forestry" via Zoom to our chapter on April 14, 2021; Leonel Arguello's presentation "Restoring Connections in a Low Elevation Redwood Forest" on January 12, 2022, and Mark Andre's presentation "Managing Forests to Blunt the Force of the Anthropocene" on May 11, 2022, are archived on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Oqh6nRGx5MKEYqAsZAXLA?view_as=subscriber).

Laurie's talk is reviewed by Donna Wildearth in *Darlingtonia* summer 2021 (available on our website), and Gary Bloomfield's four eloquent time-sequence panels in *Darlingtonia* summer 2022 visually capture the art of restorative forestry.

Thank you, Jack, Pacific ForestTrust, and Greg, for a memorable and informative field trip!

Native Grass Alternatives to Lawns

July 20, 2022

By Audrey Pongs

(Reprinted from state CNPS website)

There are few things more American than the concept of expansive lawns. We love our dutiful blades of grass, all lined up and trimmed, just waiting to receive picnic blankets and soccer balls. We love grass so much that lawn care is a multibillion-dollar industry. Grass permeates our culture—countless movies, advertisements, and jokes reference this icon. However, grass is under stress in California. With the ongoing drought, the governor and local water districts have issued water-use restrictions, a main portion of which are aimed at turf grass designated as non-useful. But does this mean we will have to give up our lawns? Fear not! California native grasses and sedges are here for the win.

An obvious option is to tear out lawns and fill the area with hardscape, but this is a bad idea. By doing so, we lose the numerous benefits of living lawns. This seemingly useless turf cools the environment, allows water to return to underground reservoirs, provides refuge for insects and small animals, and aids in protecting mental health. Consider replacing your turf with native plants, particularly grasses and grass-like plants that require less water and fewer resources to maintain.

Meadow Plants

When recommending native grasses for a project, we roughly divide them into two categories: meadow plants and lawn replacements. The term “meadow” is used liberally here and applies to an untamed area primarily composed of grasses. A meadow needs minimal maintenance (usually annual) and anticipates occasional foot traffic. A lawn replacement expects to be regularly mowed and anticipates moderate foot traffic. Visually beautiful, the “meadow” grasses are excellent for commercial areas, medians, planters, parks, you name it. The following plants are some personal favorites:

Muhlenbergia rigens – Deer Grass

When it comes to landscaping, I am in love with **Deer Grass**. It has gorgeous texture and movement, and is evergreen. As far as care goes, this grass is bulletproof. It adores the sun, so plant in an area with full sun or some very light shade. When it comes to water needs, Deer Grass is not a thirsty plant. Once established in a landscape, almost no additional water is needed besides once a week in the summer to keep the foliage green. Trim to a low dome when the weather begins to cool off and fertilize if needed. Deer Grass can be grown successfully throughout California, from coast to desert to mountain.

Calamagrostis foliosa – Reed Grass

[editor's note: Our local reed grass is *C. nutkaensis*]

Reed Grass is another favorite of mine that I feel is underutilized but well suited to a landscaped environment. A coastal plant, it does prefer partial shade in hot inland climates (such as my hometown of Riverside). We do successfully grow it in full sun at the nursery, but it requires regular watering, which defeats our purpose here. In winter, water once a week or to supplement seasonal rains. For summer, water twice a week as needed in dry climates. Trim to a low dome when the weather begins to cool off and fertilize if needed. *C. foliosa* can be grown successfully throughout California.



Pacific Reed Grass. Photo: Calscape

Find this and other grasses at our nursery

Lawn Replacements

For those of us who aspire to maintain the more traditional lawn look, here are two excellent choices. When switching to a native lawn, there are concessions to be made regarding appearance. While your water and fertilizer needs will be drastically reduced, expect to face some instances of rust, die out from pet use (pee spots), uneven color, and thinning in shady areas. The following are the most bullet-proof recommendations.

Festuca Rubra – Red Fescue

Based on personal experience, **Red Fescue** is the best option for a usable lawn, particularly the cultivar ‘Molate.’ It is remarkably tolerant of stressors such as foot traffic, pets, and rust. To prevent summer dormancy, water as needed, but otherwise water once a month until the weather cools. Mow regularly or leave *F. rubra* to grow into a softly tousled meadow look. Many sources will say that the full sun of inland climates is too extreme for this grass to grow well, but we have seen success both at the nursery and for a project we supplied outside Hollister, CA.

Plants provide us with so much! Cooler temperatures, cleaner air, a soft place to sit and walk, and to see urban landscapes give way to dirt and concrete would be devastating. By using native plants, we can reduce our water demands and still have a beautiful place to live. Whether you choose to leave your new lawn wild or trimmed and tidy, these and many more amazing native options are readily available.

More pictures from the Vegetation Mapping Training



Setting up a survey plot in coastal prairie on Trinidad Elkhead trail. (Association: *Erigeron glaucus* - *Fragaria chiloensis*) on a bluff at Megwil Point. Barbara Reisman (NCC), Claudia Voigt (CNPS), Hank Dingman (HSU), Sara Bandali (CNPS), Jennifer Buck-Diaz (CNPS), Kelsey McDonald (CDFW), and Betsy Harber (VegCAMP). Photo by Laura Lalemand

Training participants discussing plant cover for a vegetation survey of a Beach Pine (*Pinus contorta* ssp. *contorta*) Woodland in Lanphere Dunes. From left to right: Jim Xerogeanes (NCC) Betsy (CDFW), Claudia Voigt (CNPS), Teresa Sholars (DKY), Sara Bandali (CNPS), and Peter Warner (NCC). Photo by Renee Pasquinelli



Looking at “landscape-scale” vegetation patterns when trying to decide which stand to sample in the coastal scrub around Elk Head. Kelsey McDonald (CDFW), Dayna Mauer (NCC), Jennifer Buck-Diaz (CNPS), Teresa Sholars (DKY), Claudia Voigt (CNPS), and Jim Xerogeanes (NCC). Photo by Sara Bandali.

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Annie Barbeau
Caroline Martorano
Carrie Donohue
Claudia Voigt
Craig Swift
Dana Wade
Daniel Chaidez
Doris Law Bagley
Elaine Hanson
Eloise Dresser
Emily Baxter
Jennifer Formoso
Jessica Beckstrom
Jude Hawk
Judith French
Karen Carnot
Kathleen Labelle
Kathryn Johnson
Kristy Godfrey
Laure Grinnell
Linda Dunbaugh
Lisa Cole
Lynn Siler
Maria Morrow
Marion Thayer
Marisa Silva
Nancy Kuykendall
Pam Bolton
Scott Sherman
Signe Nicklas
Taylor Johnson
Terence Edwards
Terry Allaway
Todd Heiler

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Christian Hernandez	Colette Beaupre
Christine Wilson	Connie Doyle
Debra Sally	Connor Gadek
Dominic Dipaolo	Courtney Copper
Jeff Hinchliffe	Cynthia Hammond
Mary Guibert	Dave Dobak
Michael Cochran	David Ford
Mimi Clarke	Debra Harrison
Anda Webb	Dinah Carl
Andrea LoPinto	Ed Schreiber
Andrea Taylor	Elizabeth McGee-
Ann Burroughs	Houghton
Anna Replogle	Gabe Cashman
Ayala Talpai	Ginevra Ryman
Barbara Sopjes	Helen Constantine-Shull
Bojan Ingle	Ilene Richards
Brendan Thompson	Ingrid Bailey
Bret Harvey	Jack Shnell
Caitlin Davis	James McIntosh
Caitlyn Allchin	Jane Bothwell
Charles Hudson	Janet Stock
Charles Kelly	Janice Carter
Chet Boddy	Jeanne Tolmasoff
Chris Jenican-Beresford	Jeff Hogue
Christine Holm	
Claire Brown	
Claire Perricelli	

Jennifer Cilker	Nancy Dye
Jennifer Hanson	Nancy Lloyd
Jennifer Leos	Nancy Wood
Jessica Wilson	Oona Paloma
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John Longshore	Pam Partee
John McRae	Patricia Dougherty
Jonathan Hill	Paul Abels
Kale McNeill	Paul Barth
Karen Hildebrand	Peter Ryan
Katherine Clague	Peter Veilleux
Kathryn Rowe	Petra Unger
Kathy Pitts	Rebecca Manion
Katrina Henderson	Robert LaChance
Kjirsten Wayman	Robert Wunner
Larry Blakely	Rodney Rowan Chandler
Leece Oliver Larue	Ron Johnson
Leonard Thorsell	Sallie Grover
Linda Hilburn	Sheila Concannon
Linda Miller	Stanley Hino
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Mark Youdall	Tim Doty
Michael Mesler	Tom Lisle
Michele Kamprath	Tristan Cole
Michele Palazzo	Valerie Gizinski
Mignonne Bivin	Van Donohue
Monica Scholey	Wayne Clark
Morgan Cook	
Myra Beals	

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

*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.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

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Wildflower Show	Carol Ralph		Contact President Carol Ralph
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NEC CNPS Representative	vacant		
Conservation Issues Analyst	Joan Tippetts	415-283-9198	jtippetts@yahoo.co.uk

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Issue	Submission Date	Print Date	Announce Events In
Winter	November 15	December 1	Dec, Jan, Feb
Spring	February 15	March 1	Mar, Apr, May
Summer	May 15	June 1	June, Jul, Aug
Fall	August 15	September 1	Sept, Oct, Nov

E-mail newsletter articles, factoids, tidbits, etc. to the Newsletter Editor by the submission date.

Articles should generally be no more than 1,000 words and images can be any size and in these formats: JPG, JPEG, BMP, GIF, or PNG (note preferred location in the article and send image as a separate attachment).

- The **Darlingtonia Newsletter** (quarterly),
- Our **chapter's website**: www.northcoastcnps.org
- **E-mail lists**: To subscribe, go to <northcoastcnps.groups.io/g/activities>
- **Like us on 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 Chelsea at nec@yournec.org

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.

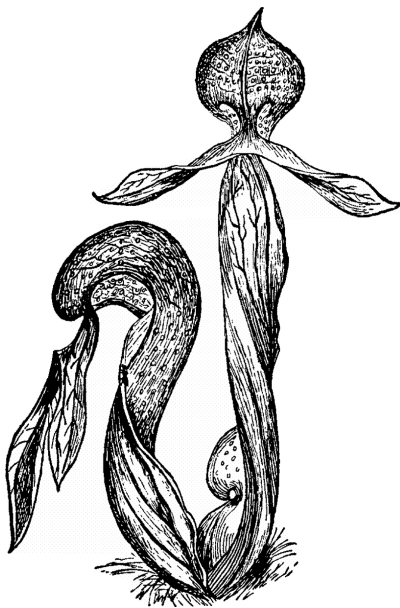
Contact our coordinator at nc.cnps.consult@gmail.com to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden. Please be patient as we are all volunteers!

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

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Darlingtonia



Visit us at
northcoastcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 11 Field Trip
- 14 Evening Program and Used Book Sale

October

- 2 Day Hike
- 12 Evening Program

November

- 6 Day Hike
- 9 Evening Program