

Darlingtonia

Spring 2022
March-May

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

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

At Freshwater Farms Reserve,
a property of the North Coast Regional Land Trust
5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

Saturday April 30 and Sunday May 1

by pre-scheduled appointment only
Please check our website for additional information
and to sign up to attend at: www.northcoastcnps.org.

Over 100+ species grown by our chapter volunteers
20+ species of colorful annuals

Many species of perennials, grasses, shrubs, ferns, and trees

25+ species of beautiful bulbs and other specialty plants

Additional plants from local participating native plant growers

Plants for a variety of planting needs: sun, shade and in-between

Experienced gardeners to assist you

Plant species lists available:

www.northcoastcnps.org > Native Plant Sales

Please bring a box to carry home your plants

Spring Wildflower Show and April Art Share

see p. 3 for details



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Find out what's happening:

- Visit our website:
NorthCoastCNPS.org
- Visit our Facebook page:
facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS
- Sign-Up for Activity
Notifications by emailing:
theralphs@humboldt1.com
and request to be added
- Visit Instagram page:
instagram.com/northcoastcnps

Evening Programs and Field Trips

EVENING PROGRAMS

Evening Programs are free, public presentations on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. During covid restrictions and for non-local speakers, programs will be via Zoom, at 7:30 p.m. When gathering is safe, evening programs will be at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata, with a Zoom option. Register for Zoom presentations on our website, northcoastcnps.org. In-person gatherings will have refreshments at 7:00 p.m. and program at 7:30 p.m. To see if in-person is an option that month, check our website (northcoastcnps.org).

March 9, Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. "Hope for a Bee, a Forest, and a People Lies in Native Plants" Botanist, native bee expert, native plant farmer, and ethnobotanist Brian Dykstra spent last summer looking for an endangered bumble bee in the Trinity Alps, rare plants in the footprint of the August Fire, and access for native peoples to their traditional plants. He will share his journeys and the hopeful trend he found in all three.

April 13, Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. "Silvery Phacelia, Rare Coastal Dune Beauty of Del Norte County" Silvery Phacelia (*Phacelia argentea*) exists only in the dunes of Tolowa Dunes State Park and Lake Earl Wildlife Area near Crescent City. Sandra Jerabek, director for the Tolowa Dunes Stewards, and Katrina Henderson, California State Parks, will share the secrets of this charismatic plant, and feature the heroic, ongoing efforts of volunteers to protect its scenic dune habitat and adjacent estuary. [This is the cancelled February program. Apologies to the speakers and their audience.]

May 11, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. "Managing Forests to Blunt the Force of the Anthropocene" Forester Mark Andre worked for 36 years in the City of Arcata Dept. of Environmental Services, during which time he led the management and expansion efforts of the Arcata Community Forest. As we are coming to recognize the central role that forests can play in maintaining biodiversity and ameliorating drought and climate change, Mark's presentation will be an opportunity to hear from someone who has learned a lot about how forests work and what does and doesn't work in our forests.

FIELD TRIPS Spring 2022

Please watch for updates on our Web site (www.northcoastcnps.org) or sign up for e-mail announcements 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.

Contact Carol for all trips unless otherwise noted: 707-822-2015, theralphs@humboldt1.com. Covid protocols will adapt to the existing conditions. All participants should have masks.

March 27, Sunday. South Fork Trail Day Hike The trail is well graded but weakly maintained, meaning fallen trees can be obstacles. Poison Oak is common. We will walk out and back, probably 4-5 miles. Bring lunch and 2 quarts of water; dress for the weather. The trailhead is 2 hours from Arcata, including a bit of rough road. Be prepared for a long day, maybe dinner in Willow Creek. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Pacific Union or arrange another place.

April 10, Sunday. Stony Creek Day Hike. The traditional April destination of the North Coast Chapter in its early days, 50 years ago, was this famous botanical trail off Highway 199 in Gasquet. It offers diverse native vegetation. It is a 1-mile roundtrip hike to the confluence of Stony Creek and North Fork Smith River. The trail is narrow and uneven, with an optional extension over boulders. Dress for the weather and all its changes; bring lunch and water. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School, 10:30 a.m. at the Gasquet Ranger Station, or arrange another place.

April 23, Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Ferns in the Dunes. At the Lanphere Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Carol Ralph will introduce eight species of common ferns. This is an easy walk 1/4 mile. Bring a hand lens if you have one and be prepared for mosquitoes. Meet at Pacific Union School and carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by the California Native Plant Society and Friends of the Dunes. Masks required! Please reserve your space by contacting Friends of the Dunes at (707) 444-1397 or info@friendsofthedunes.org.

April 24, Sunday. Field trip to Dykstra Farm, Willow Creek. Brian Dykstra will lead a two-hour tour covering native plant taxonomy, native bee conservation, and ethnobotany, after which we'll eat lunch, possibly stopping other places on the way home. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Meet at Pacific Union School at 9:00 a.m. or arrange another place.

May 22, Sunday. Van Eck Forest Field Trip. The VanEck California Forest is located a few miles east of McKinleyville in the Fieldbrook Valley. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water for a whole day. Carpooling into 4WD/AWD vehicles necessary, with a limit of 8 cars.

June 18, Saturday. Christmas Prairie Field Trip. We will explore this diverse lake at 2300 ft. on the forested ridge west of Redwood Creek, courtesy of Green Diamond Resource Company. We will explore on foot short distances at three places. We will carpool in high clearance, AWD or 4WD vehicles. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water for a full day.



Spring Wildflower Show

the North Coast celebration of wild California plants

Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B St., Eureka.

Friday, April 29 2 pm - 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday May 1 10 am - 4 pm

In-person. Admission free. Accessible. Covid-safe.

Featuring Native Plants in the Neighborhood:

"Bring wild native plants into your garden; keep garden plants out of the wild."

Learn where you can see native plants in gardens
and where you can help restore native plants in the wild.

Tours of the native plant landscape on site.

On display -fresh, labelled wildflowers from all over Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Invasive plant information. CNPS merchandise.

Botanists to identify samples or photos of wild plants.

Little Free Wildflower Art Galleries

"Take one; leave one" art-share using a 3 x 3 " format, any medium, open to everyone

All of April. Location list on chapter website.

For information: northcoastcnps.org or contact Susan 707-672-3346/ susanpenn60@gmail.com.

To volunteer contact Carol 707-822-2015/ theralphs@humboldt1.com.



To host a gallery, contact

artshare@northcoastcnps.org



Knob Fire November 6, 2021

by Carol Ralph

Photos by the author unless indicated

The ongoing news of wildfires last summer left me with a burning desire to see the aftermath of one. While I was researching an easily accessible place for a field trip to see a freshly burned landscape, stunning photos posted on the chapter's Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthCoastCNPS/>) by Mary Ann Machi popped up to answer the question: the east end of Friday Ridge Rd., in Six Rivers National Forest. The Knob Fire burned there in September, 2021. I looked at the fire's map on <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/maps/7827/> and learned exactly where that was, as well as where dozer lines had been made, a fire-fighting practice I wanted to witness.

Our group of 8 headed west on Highway 299 over misty mountains wet and fresh with recent rains. Fresh, green Roadbank Fern (*Polypodium calirhiza*) covered sections of the road cut, while Big-leaf Maples (*Acer macrophyllum*) glowed yellow as they dropped leaves. The small, browning, deciduous leaves of Scouler Willows (*Salix scouleri*), the upland willow, were easy to spot against the dark conifers. On the Willow Creek side, moss glowed green on roadcut rocks, and the White Alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*) had lost most of their leaves.

At the bottom of Friday Ridge Rd (Forest Service road 6N08, just before the South Fork Trinity River bridge) signs of the fire were obvious. We parked on a wide shoulder a short way up the road, between the first hairpin turn



Different effects of fire in shrubs (foreground) and in forest (distance) are clear. By Dayna Mauer

and the junction with 6N06 down to the left. We were in a total-devastation zone, clearly "high severity" in fire terminology. Everything was black--black ground, black trees, black rocks. There were no leaves, no twigs, no ground fuel; just black, skeletal shrubs and small trees. Big, irregular holes with tunnels remained where once manzanita or Madrone had stood. Even the roots had burned. Fine black ash was thinly and sparsely distributed on top

of mineral soil. Curious earth-red patterns on the ground we determined were somehow created by logs or branches that had totally vaporized.

The density and form of the skeletons remaining showed that this slope had been covered with dense brush and some young trees, a very flam-



Coffeeberry sprouting on the formerly shrub-covered slope. By Dana Mauer



A burned trunk lying in the red "ghost" created when the rest of the trunk totally burned up.

mable vegetation. The 2019 image on Google Earth shows a few, scattered, small tree canopies where we walked, probably the Madrone we found as skeletons. Historical images on Google Earth show that in 1998 this slope had wide-canopied trees as part of a mosaic of shrubs with spaces between them.

Then, in a fuzzy image in 2004, the area is gray, suggesting it had burned. Images from 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2019 confirm that it burned; they show the slope getting a green tinge and slowly becoming solid shrubby green. In the Knob Fire all the "progress" this slope made in developing again the mature trees and open shrubland was lost, burned up. Will it be trapped in a cycle of intense burns? Could cultural burning practices steer it on a less intense, less destructive path?

Nature is optimistic, and now, less than two months after the fire was extinguished, and after a good first rain, we found the optimism in green things sprouting. By the end of our exploration we had found young shoots sprouting from Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), Deer Brush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), and Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*). Indeed, we needed the leaves on the shoots to help us identify the plants! On the road shoulder the Klamath Weed (*Hypericum perforatum*) was sprouting from roots, and grass had sprouted from seeds.



The only leaves on this Madrone. Photo by David Callow

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Rosettes of pointed leaves of Wavy-leaved Soap Plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) made a wonderful show of re-greening a desolate scene.



Soap Plant emerging from subterranean dormancy.

Looking for a lunch spot and a place to see where the fire had burned through a forest, as opposed to a brushy slope, we found both, a little farther up the road where Forest Service

road 6N33 went off to the right from a hairpin turn.

Fire had clearly burned through this diverse forest. Most trees had mostly dead leaves or needles, but the trees didn't seem truly dead. We saw a Madrone sprouting new leaves at the ends of branches holding dead leaves. Large trunks were black at the bottom, not



Lunch in a covered-up dozer line. The mulch was an unfamiliar form of shredded tree.

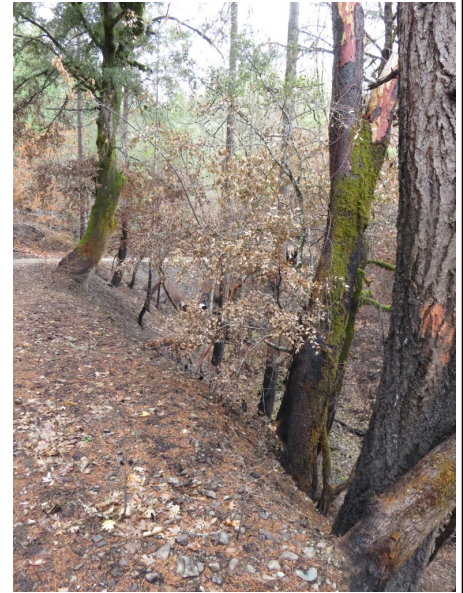
burned up. The ground debris (fuels) had burned up. The only leaves on the ground were recently fallen. This looked like a properly "cleansing" fire, a low intensity fire. We witnessed a dozer line. In fact, we ate lunch sitting on logs and mulch that were placed on the scar to prevent erosion. It wasn't clear what this line was protecting. We walked about a half mile on this road, encountering Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir



(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Oregon White Oak, California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), Poison Oak, Coffeeberry, Common Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*), Deer Brush, Coyote brush, Big-leaf Maple, Incense Cedar

Burned oaks had dead leaves but were probably not dead.

(*Calocedrus decurrens*), White Alder, and California Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*). The observant reader will see from this list that the road curved into a shady, moist gully.



Fire burned the under-story of this shady forest.

We decided to return to the coast by continuing up Friday Ridge Rd., along and over the Horse Mt.-Grouse Mt. ridge, and down to Highway 299. We passed out of the Knob Fire at about Mile 2. The steady uphill grade took us from autumn into winter. We passed gauntlets of yellow maples and drifts of their golden leaves on the road, as well as a few pink-leaved Mountain Dogwoods (*Cornus nuttallii*). We became a bit anxious as the temperature dropped and we entered falling snow, and then dropped some more and the snow was sticking on the road. With relief we reached 5200 ft, 32 degrees, and Forest Highway 1 (Titlow Hill Rd.) and knew that it soon descended. As we passed Cold Spring, only a dusting of snow was on the ground, and at The Intersection, where we got out to see Lookout Rock enveloped in a cold, damp cloud, a bit of fine hail was on the ground and water running in the path.

Despite having seen photos and read about the effects of wildfires, we were deeply impressed with what we experienced. We resolved to return yearly to see what develops on the devastated slope, where hope was already springing from the ashes of a desolate, high intensity burn.



A mossy trunk showed the flames were 2-3 ft high.

Ocean Ranch September 19, 2021

by Carol Ralph

Photos by the author

On an idyllic, fall day 13 botanically (and bird-) minded explorers walked a loop through the Ocean Ranch Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area and Table Bluff County Park, described as hike number 51 in *Hiking Humboldt Volume 2* by Rees Hughes. Though a sign at the trailhead said the area was closed, a contact at California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) had said we could enter on the 19th, the last day before the heavy equipment came in to begin an exciting project to restore coastal wetland and dune habitats and to improve recreational access for visitors. The plans, available on the CDFW website (wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/1/Ocean-Ranch-Restoration-Project), show areas of Dense-flowered Cordgrass (*Spartina densiflora*) removal, European Beach Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) removal, dike removal, and parking lot, foot bridge, and non-motorized boat launch installation. The area is projected to be closed until December 2022.

From the trailhead, on the left where Table Bluff Rd. makes the last right angle turn before Lighthouse Ranch and the beach, we made our way down the old farm road, slowing to pick Himalaya Blackberries (*Rubus discolor*) and study the difference between Hairy Cat's Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*), two of the common, Dandelion-like, non-native species. The phyllaries ("bracts" below the yellow part of the flower) on Cat's Ear are various lengths; the phyllaries on Hawkbit are organized into rows, and the buds are nodding. At the corrals were a large, dense clump of Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), an enormous Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), and one three-foot diameter clump of a native dock similar to Willow Dock (*Rumex salisifolius*). This last could be a handsome garden plant.

Past the corrals we turned left off the main trail to walk out a dike. Seacoast Angelica (*Angelica lucida*) was common in the wetlands around us. We noted the totally hairless leaves and thick, wingless seeds that distinguish it from Henderson's Angelica (*Angelica hendersonii*). We studied the difference between male and female Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) flowers, found on separate plants (making this species dioecious). The female flowers showed a tuft of white fluff like a shaving brush (if you know what that is), the fluff attached to the seed. The male flowers were squat, round, yellowish, and petal-less. The flowers emitted a gentle, sweet fragrance. (I'm not sure if it's both sexes, or just one.) From the dike we stepped down the west side into salt marsh and were among the Pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*), Fat Hen (*Atriplex prostrata*), and Three-ribbed Arrow-grass (*Triglochin striata*). Some of the Pickleweed had tangles of what looked

like orange thread stuck on it. This was a dodder (*Cuscuta* sp.), a parasite drawing nutrients from its Pickleweed host. This one had tiny, white flowers on it, divulging its status as a flowering plant. On the opposite side of the dike was deeper, fresher water. Along its edge were Seacoast Bullrush (*Bulboschoenus maritima*) and a three-square (*Schoenoplectus americanus* or *pungens*). We walked back to the main trail enjoying the cheerful yellow Gumplant (*Grindelia stricta*) flowers, the abundant white heads of Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), billowing patches of pale purple Pacific Aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*), and swaths of white Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). The sky and the waters were blue; the air gentle and sweet.

Fall flowers on the dike: Gumplant, Wild Carrot, Pacific Aster



Seacoast Angelica seed heads.



Seacoast Angelica seeds, thick and wingless

The main trail crossed from the wetlands to the dunes. There, at the junction with the driveable trail that runs north-south between Table Bluff County Park and the mouth of the Eel River, was a conveniently located large log just when we needed a place to sit for lunch. On the compact sand we noticed some commonly seen and walked on species, like Purple Sand Spurry (*Spergularia rubra*), Cut-leaved Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), and a small, compact sedge, probably Sand Dune Sedge (*Carex pansa*), used to make lawns. Most surprising to me was Blue Skunkweed (*Navarettia squarrosa*), above, a small (1-3



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Know Your Invasive Species: Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)

WHO?: Spanish heath is a woody, evergreen shrub. It can grow over 10 feet tall but is more commonly around 4 to 5 feet tall. Its leaves are so small they appear needle-like, less than 1 cm in length and less than 1 mm wide. It produces white to pale, pink flowers that have 4 petals. After blooming, the flowers will quickly turn brown.

WHERE?: Spanish heath is native to Southwestern Europe (primarily France and Spain). It is an invasive species that is found in shrublands, pastures, and forests in the Pacific Northwest.

WHY?: Like many invasive species, Spanish heath aggressively outcompetes native species for essential plant resources. This is exacerbated in areas that have experienced some level of disturbance (fire, road cuts, tilling, etc.)

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?: Manual removal before flowering is effective and it is critical to remove all stems and roots. Another effective method is cutting the plant down and applying herbicide. It is important to monitor afterwards. **Please report locations of Spanish heath within the North Coast Redwoods District of the California State Parks to Michelle Forys at michelle.forys@parks.ca.gov or 707-677-3109.**



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inches tall), somewhat prickly annual with few leaves and a small ball of tiny flowers. It does smell like skunk when fresh.



An "Armeria flat" with Table Bluff in the background

The dunes along the walk north to the county park provided a review of common sand plants. Notable were the expanses of what I call Armeria flats--stands of Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) on lichen- and moss-covered stabilized sand. The white, spherical old flower heads floating a foot or two above the ground were what called attention. In spring these heads would all be pink--a fleet of pink, flying spheres calling for pollinators! Near the park were some areas where the dune vegetation was burned. The dense, wind-shaped mosaic of shrubbery on the face of the bluff presented a new set of species, and the stand of Sitka Spruce that shaded the road up to the top of the bluff hosted a good stand of Pacific Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*).

The site of the old Lighthouse Ranch on the bluff looking out over the ocean now is managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the California Coastal Monument. The buildings are gone, but the plants brought by Europeans, such as Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) Pink Lady (*Amaryllis belladonna*) and Periwinkle (*Vinca major*), remain. The plants remaining from the days of Wiyot caring for this land, which they call Waluph, are the native plants we were seeing in the wetlands, dunes, and forest. Both Wiyot and newcomers surely have been inspired by the grand vista from the overlook at this spot--the patchwork of smooth water and rough greenery to the south, extending across the Eel River Bottoms into the haze; the long, sandy spit edged with crashing waves; and the huge Pacific Ocean, on a clear day like this carrying the mind and spirit over the horizon.

Nursery Thank You's

Chris Beresford, Volunteer Nursery Manager

Our chapter's volunteer-run native plant nursery continues to be a busy, vibrant place of new plants and a growing demonstration garden! Due to Covid-19, we continue working 3 days a week; Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sunday, 10-1. Thanks to: Carol Ralph and Karen Isa for taking the lead on Fridays, to Barbara Reisman on Sundays and to Anita Gilbride-Read and Barbara for being co-leaders on Wednesday. In addition, thanks to Brian Dorman, Alice Ford-Sala, Joan Tippets, Laura Guldin, Kate Rowe, Nancy Brockington, Ava Briscoe, David Callow, Kevin Richards, Steve Underwood, Callie Almand, Sharon King, Erika Granadino, Kellie Johnson, Katrina Wright, Clarice, Hannah Crabb, June James, Hunter Mortensen, Janet Stock, Christine Kelly, Blake Ramirez, Breana DeMatto, Marcia Thorndike, Jessi VonFloto and Rebecca Zettler for volunteering these last 3+ months. Many of these individuals volunteer on a weekly basis in our nursery, thanks so very much to all of you!

We also receive special help from Gina (Lead), James, Anne, and Sharon from Helping Humboldt. They regularly come to work in our nursery on Wednesdays. We appreciate their efforts in helping us with our plants. Thank you, Gina, for bringing your clients to help us at the nursery.

A special thanks to Barbara Reisman who aptly takes the lead when I am away. Barbara also leads our watering team comprised of Sharon King, Christy Wagner, and our newest volunteer, Jessica Heiden; thanks so much for taking on this important task! If anyone else would like to help with watering, please let Barbara know at our nursery email: northcoastcnps@gmail.com.

Jessi VonFloto continues to lead on our plant stand. He regularly checks, stocks, and cleans up the plants that we put out for sale. He adds new species as plants look their best, makes plant signs as needed, and helps me to post to our Facebook page by providing current information about what we have for sale on the plant stand as well as for our plant list on our website. Thank you Jessi!

Recently, the California Conservation Corp helped us in putting down 20 yards of gravel in the outdoor area of our nursery. All the CCC members volunteered their time



on a Saturday. Thanks to Jessica, the lead of the CCC's, who did a great job in making sure everyone understood what they needed to do and how to do it safely. Thanks to the CCC members, Josh, Christian, Samuel, Elliotte, Emmanuel, Dana, Joel, Enrique and Bee for their hard work. It was very much appreciated. A special thanks to Barbara for helping me with monitoring that day. The crew will come again before the plant sale to finish up the project.

Recently, Karen, Barbara, Callie, Sue Marquette, Anita Gilbride-Read and I all went to Barbara Wilkinson's wonderful garden to collect shade plants that we don't grow from seed. We were able to get starts of redwood violets (*Viola sempervirens*), Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), Inside-out-flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*) and CA pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*). Thank you everyone for your help and a very special thank you to Barbara Wilkinson for letting us come and get plant starts!

All the above volunteers work hard in a variety of different roles to grow the plants that we sell to help raise awareness of the importance of native plants to our local birds, butterflies, and insects. In addition, the funds we raise support our chapter's activities for things such as scholarships, the yearly Wildflower Show, our support of other native plant organizations, such as the yearly Northern California Botanist Symposium, the CalFlora data base and our support of the Northcoast Environmental Center with our page in their publication, EcoNews.

If you would like to help at the nursery, contact us at northcoastcnps@gmail.com Currently we work on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from 10 -1 and occasionally other days, as needed.

Demonstration Garden News

Our demonstration garden continues to fill in and lots of plants are coming up in the garden. I am looking for bulbs that were dormant in the fall to start coming up so that we can add plant name signage to them. When you come to our spring plant sale, check it out.

We are trying to work in the garden one Sunday each month. I learned the hard way last year that if we neglect the garden, things get more than a little out of hand, as some plants were way too happy! Scarlet Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe cardinalis*) will follow along our drip watering system with lots of new starts which root and get large way too quickly, some grasses just like to spread where we don't want them growing and if we aren't careful, one section will be mainly Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malviflora*), not that I am opposed to that, but it goes against our trying

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to have a wide variety of plant species for everyone to see. If you would like to help in the garden and are not on our nursery email list, contact us at: north-coastcnps@gmail.com.

Plant Stand

Our chapter's native plant stand is currently unavailable due to the change in leases at Freshwater Farms Reserve. We hope to have it stocked with plants by mid-March. Please check our website for current information concerning our plant stand at www.northcoastcnps.org.

Spring Plant Sale – Volunteers Needed

The spring plant sale will be here before we know it! It will be held on-site at the nursery (located at Freshwater Farms Reserve) on Saturday, April 30th, and Sunday May 1st. We will have pre-signups for attendance via Sign-up Genius. Anita Gildbride-Read will be organizing our volunteers for the spring plant sale. Please email her at: nita.gread@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you can help all day or for one shift or work multiple days, your help will be appreciated.

Friday, April 29th, 10 – 2: setting up the plant sale: putting up the pop-up canopies, putting out tables and chairs, putting out all the signage and plant signs, setting up the holding area, last minute plant clean-up, etc. Please bring your own lunch.

Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st: 8:30 am – 1 pm: We need 7 volunteers per shift. Duties including parking, greeting, 2 plant advisors, 2 helpers, and 1 tally person. Many tasks, such as tallying plant sales, tidying up plants and checking in attendees require no botanical knowledge.

Saturday and Sunday: 1pm – 5pm: We need 7 volunteers per shift. Duties including parking, greeter, 2 plant advisors, 2 helpers, and 1 tally person.

Sunday 4:30 until 5:30: Clean up from plant sale. Remove nursery signs, box and remove miscellaneous paraphernalia, debris, take down pop-up canopies, take down tables and stack, etc. Help re-organize CNPS plants.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

See here some of the things our volunteers have done and are doing. 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!

Donna Wildearth for keeping the three main local nurseries supplied with our Planting Guide for several years. This guide to help beginners design a native plant garden and choose the species is available on our website, but it is much more accessible when handed to a person on paper.

Native Plant Consultants Karen Isa, Nancy Brockington, Donna Wildearth, Ron Johnson, Carol Eileen Moné, Debby Harrison, Joann Kerns, Pete Haggard, Chris Brant, Virginia Waters, Rebecca Zettler, and Carol Ralph for sharing their observations, expertise, and knowledge with gardeners wanting advice on planting native plants in their yards. You are great native plant ambassadors!

Melanie Johnson for coordinating those native plant consultations--no small feat!

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

Secretary. Produce a record of our monthly (Sept.-May), 1.5-hour steering committee meetings, so we know what we talked about and what we decided. This is super important and a well-defined, straight-forward job. And we're a pretty nice group to work with!

Social Media Guru. Update and enliven our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Conservation Committee. The more people on our committee, the more issues we can track. All you need is interest and readiness to learn. Expertise would be a great addition.

Native Garden Compiler. Update our list of public and street-viewable residential native plant gardens to inspire people to use native plants in their own. See the current list on our website.

Wildflower Show. Putting on this show has many tasks: Collecting plants on Thursday, April 28, sorting the flowers and putting them in vases and identifying them on Friday morning, April 29, setting up the rooms, answering questions during the show, staffing our chapter booth, and of course, cleaning up.

Groves Prairie July 31-August 1, 2021

by Carol Ralph

Photos by the author unless noted

The landscape west of Willow Creek and north of Hawkins Bar is a jumble of extremely steep mountains in a climate that fosters trees. Yet here, after an hour from Willow Creek on Forest Service roads requiring focused attention to potholes and rocks, is a fairly level area with a five-acre island of grass and forbs ringed by coniferous forest, and a permanent stream as a bonus. This is Groves Prairie, near the eastern edge of Six Rivers National Forest, not far south of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. In the forest at the north end of the



The prairie from the campsite

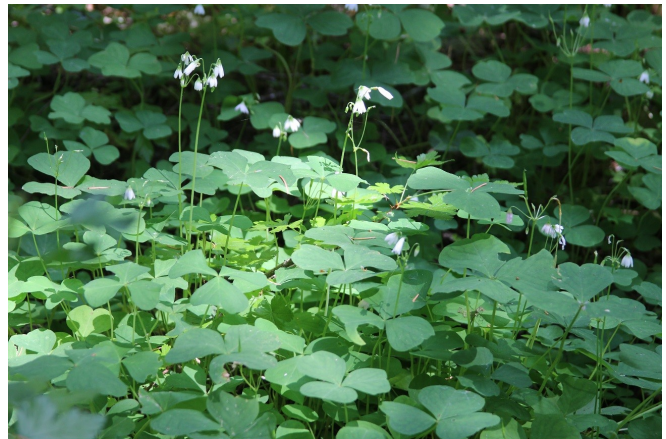
prairie is an official "dispersed" campground with 5 sites with fire rings, tables, and a vault toilet. Six of us arrived here Saturday morning, and three of us stayed overnight.

Old growth Douglas-fir in the campground

First we explored in the forest. Right around the campsite were some quite state-ly Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with diameters 7-8 ft., in the company of quite large White



Fir (*Abies concolor*). We quickly found old forest herbaceous species to go with these old trees, such as Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), White-veined Wintergreen (*Pyrola picta*), One-sided Wintergreen (*Orthilia secunda*), Twin Flower (*Linnaea borealis*), and Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys* sp.). We scouted around trying to find the trail #6E67, which goes north through this old growth forest and circles through a clearcut area and down along a forest stream. Fallen trees and lack of use have obscured the trail. We did succeed in finding the path to the first bridge and went there. By the stream, in which crystal clear water was flowing despite the drought, was a lush grotto featuring Trillium-leaved Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis triliifolia*), an unusual species distinguished from Redwood Sorrel, which was also in the forest, by its larger leaves, lack of purple, and several pure white flowers on each inflorescence. It was interwoven



Trillium-leaved Wood Sorrel. By Janet Stock

with Sugar-scoop (*Tiarella trifoliata* var. *unifoliata*), Northern Inside-out Flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), and Swamp Gooseberry (*Ribes lacustre*) in a pleasing, fragile, green carpet under a small Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), all in the dappled shade of the protective, large conifers. The sprawling gooseberry with shiny leaves was one of five species of *Ribes* we saw. A prickle-less, upright *Ribes* nearby we suspected was Red-flowering Currant (*R. sanguineum*). I need a special *Ribes* Review field trip here to learn all the others!

Our amateur observations supported those of research ecologist Steve Norman, then of the Redwood Sciences Lab (U.S. Forest Service),

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who came on our August, 2003, field trip and studied tree rings and fire scars on logged stumps. He concluded, "The forest surrounding Groves Prairie... was uneven-aged with pines and Douglas fir that sometimes exceeded 400 years old. The mix of conifers was maintained by fires that burned every few decades. Most white fir trees are substantially younger than the Douglas fir and pines, having established during the 1800s. Their current high density appears to result from 20th-century fire suppression and selective logging that removed many of the higher value trees over a several decade period. Given the high fertility of the soil and abundant moisture, these white fir are surprisingly large, and could easily be mistaken for trees much older than they actually are." Steve also pointed out that because of their higher humidity these riparian forests burn less often and with lower intensity than upland areas. They are refuges for species that are less tolerant of fire, resulting in their high understory forb and shrub diversity.

We botanized the prairie Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Many things were the same as in previous visits (Jun and August 2003; August 2005; June 2007; September, 2009; November 2016). Mountain Alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*) and Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) lined the stream, with Water Hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*) in the channel. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Scarlet Gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), and a yellow-flowered composite shrub that might be goldenbush (*Ericameria* sp.) were on the dry top of the meadow. Grape Fern (*Sceptridium multifidum*), Howell's Yampah (*Perideridia howellii*), and a second yampah (*Perideridia* sp.) were in the lower, wetter meadow. Plenty of Klamath Weed (*Hypericum perforatum*) was still in the near part of the meadow, unfortunately. Sapling firs were still around the edge of the meadow and marching into it. Some noticeable changes have occurred since the previous visits. The general herbaceous vegetative cover was thicker. In the lower, wetter part of the meadow the grass and grass-like plants were denser and taller. Along the stream the alders and dogwoods were wider and thicker, leaving less space for Water Hemlock and Kneeling Angelica (*Angelica genuflexa*) in the stream. We saw Kneeling Angelica in only one place. In the far, drier part around and beyond the lone

Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) the tall, slender culms of a bunchgrass created a golden haze a foot high over the ground. This area used to be dry and dusty, barren except for Pussy Paws (*Calyptridium* sp.). Historically, the meadow has been used hard. Several efforts to restore native grasses in this dusty area failed. Maybe now we are seeing progress. A significant difference is the absence of cow pies or cow footprints, which were always present previously. I think the Forest Service has ended this grazing allotment. Wonderful! We have a new worry now, however. Without cattle grazing, will aggressive grasses crowd out the wildflowers we have seen in the meadow, like the Pussy Ears (*Calochortus tolmei*), the Sierra Lewisia (*Lewisia nevadensis*), the yampahs? Will conifers shade out all the prairie vegetation? It is unlikely elk will move in soon to replace the cattle. As the tribes who hunted and gathered here knew, a prairie needs care. Our current



The golden-culmed grass near the Blue Elderberry

land managers are learning that, but now lack the resources to implement it.

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Groves Prairie is still a *Ribes* and umbellifer heaven, as well as an all-round wonderful spot to botanize. Any patch of old growth forest is to be treasured and cared for as a reminder of what a forest can be and as a source population of species. This prairie, despite years of use, still has many, if not mostly native species and is valuable for the same reasons. It is another treasure and its management is urgent. The trail, which still has a number and an official web page (but no information) needs clearing to help people enjoy this special spot in our National Forest.

The way to Groves Prairie is long, but interesting and not difficult. It can be accessed from Willow Creek or Hawkins Bar. (Have a map!) The campground has a few visitor amenities. Our two field trips in 2003 are written up in the Fall 2003 issue of *Darlingtonia*, which at the moment is available only on paper. Scenes from the November 2016 trip are in the Winter 2017 issue, which is on our website ("Newsletter" under the "About Us" tab). The August 2005 and September 2009 trip reports need to be resurrected.

CNPS State News



California Native Plant Week begins Saturday, April 17 and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is encouraging Californians to Grow CARE Everywhere. The campaign offers up dozens of ways to CARE for (Cultivate, Act, Restore, Enjoy) California native plants throughout the week, April 17-25.

Established by the state legislature in 2011, California Native Plant Week is held the third week of April in recognition of the state's globally significant native plants. California has more types of native plants than any other state in the U.S., a third of which are found nowhere else on Earth!

Each day of California Native Plant Week, CNPS will unveil 360° virtual tours. From home gardens to apartments, city parks to wildlands, these 360° tours will share the different ways Californians care for and enjoy native plants. Complementing the daily 360 tours are sales, discounts and special events at native plant nurseries, botanic gardens and local CNPS chapters.



The CNPS conference theme this year is "Rooting Together: Restoring Connections to Plants, Place & People." It will be held October 20-22 in San Jose, California. Currently, the call for proposals is open until March 31 in the categories of Plant Science, Conservation, Horticulture and Education. For further details, see conference.cnps.org

2022 State Parks Natural Resource Volunteer Work Day Schedule HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Here is a list of pre-scheduled habitat restoration volunteer events. All Humboldt County events are from 9 am to 12 pm, except for events at Sinkyone Wilderness State Park and Humboldt Lagoons State Park, which are from 10am-1pm. Volunteers receive one free day use pass to Sue-meg State Park.

- Mar. 5 – Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Prairie Restoration (10am-1pm)
- Mar. 12 – Sue-meg State Park Habitat Restoration
- Mar. 26 – Humboldt Lagoons State Park Azalea Restoration (10am-1pm)
- Apr. 2 - Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Prairie Restoration (10am-1pm)
- Apr. 9 – Trinidad State Beach Earth Day (9am-1pm)
- May 14 – Sue-meg State Park Habitat Restoration
- Jun. 11 – Trinidad State Beach Habitat Restoration
- Jul. 9 – Trinidad State Beach Habitat Restoration
- July 23 - Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Tansy Ragwort Removal (10am-1pm)
- Aug.13 – Sue-meg State Park Habitat Restoration
- Aug. 27 - Humboldt Lagoons State Park Azalea Restoration (10am-1pm)
- Sep. 10 – Trinidad State Beach Habitat Restoration
- Oct. 8 – Trinidad State Beach Habitat Restoration
- Nov.12 – Sue-meg State Park Habitat Restoration
- Dec. 10 – Trinidad State Beach Habitat Restoration

Meeting Locations:

Humboldt Lagoons State Park - Meet at the Stagecoach Azalea trailhead off Kane Road/Big Lagoon Ranch Road. Kane Road is near Mile Marker 112 on HWY 101.

Little River State Beach- Meet at the unpaved parking lot off the Crannell Exit from HWY 101. Head west to the beach and it is the first parking lot on your left. It is adjacent to the southbound HWY 101 southbound entrance.

Sue-meg State Park - Ask entrance station attendant for that day's work site.

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park- Meet at the trailhead for Jones Beach. Please carpool if possible- parking is very limited.

Trinidad State Beach - Meet at the corner of Anderson Lane and Stagecoach Road.

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Robin Carter
Don Larkin
Andrea Claassen
Dayna Mauer
Bridget Flannery
Elizabeth Welsh
Katie Rian
Steve Luu
Thong Sithandon
Bill Kress
Hanna Wiemeyer

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Wendy Wahlund
Mary Alward
Sandra Hazel
Ellen McKnight
Joe Schriener
Patricia Sennott
Rachael Olliff Yang
Reed Kenny
Alan Justice
Amy Livingston
Kevin Kunkel
James Regan
Peter Ryan
Tim Doty
Nancy Dye
Ilene Richards
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Richard Boone
Barbara Peck
Tom Pratum
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Lissa Daniels
Kaylea Eickhoff
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Kathryn Lancaster
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Morey Bassman
E. M. Dallenbach
John DeMartini
Janelle Egger
George Miller
Wanda Naylor
Nezzie Wade
Katherine White
Brendan Thompson

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.

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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.

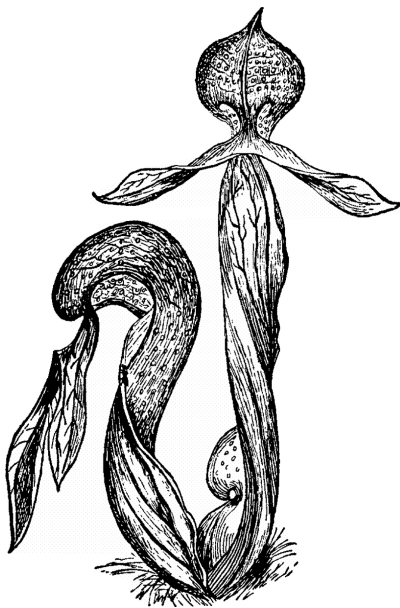
Contact our coordinator Melanie Johnson at (707) 502-8856 or mjokega@reninet.com to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.

**CNPS, North Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 1067
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Darlingtonia



Visit us at
northcoastcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 5 Day Hike
- 8 Evening Program

April

- 8 Day Hike
- 12 Evening Program

May

- 9 Evening Program
- 27 Field Trip