

Darlingtonia

Spring 2023

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 May 6 by appointment only
Sunday May 7 open to all from 10-3

Please check our website for details

Sign up to attend on Saturday (posted April 8)
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
20+ species of beautiful bulbs and other specialty plants

Additional plants from local native plant growers

Plants for a variety of planting sites: sun, shade, and in-between
Experienced gardeners to assist you

Plant species list available at:

www.northcoastcnps.org>Native Plant Sales
Please bring a box to carry your plants home

Spring Wildflower Show

and Little Free Wildflower Art Galleries

April 29-May 1

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:
northcoastcnps.groups.io/g/activities
- 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, 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.

March 8, Wiyot Ethnobotany: Indigenous Land Return and Stewardship.

Wiyot and other Indigenous peoples' efforts to reclaim ancestral lands and habitats can result in both the preservation of eco-cultural traditions and botanical diversity. Adam Canter, Natural Resource Director for the Wiyot Tribe, will discuss Wiyot ethnobotany, plant uses, and the decline of coastal prairie and scrub habitat in the absence of cultural fire and the expansion of settler-colonial development around the Wigi (Humboldt Bay), the lower Wiya't (Eel River), and lower Baduwa't (Mad River).

April 12, Sagebrush to Sea: A Journey Across the Siskiyou Crest.

Luke Ruediger and Suzie Savoie will share their film *Sagebrush to Sea: A Journey Across the Siskiyou Crest*, documenting their 10-day, 200-mile backpacking trip through the wildlands of the Siskiyou Mountains along the Oregon/California border. Unique, endemic, and rare plant species they encountered will be highlighted.

May 10, Living with Wildfire: Our Forests and Our Homes. Yana Valachovik, the Director and Forest Advisor at our local Humboldt and Del Norte Counties UC Cooperative Extension office, is a leader in the state in developing strategies for improving wildfire resilience for both forests and homes. Her talk will include information on various forest treatments, including prescribed burning, and she will present practical solutions for designing, building, and landscaping homes to survive fire.

FIELD TRIPS SPRING 2023

Please watch for updates on our website (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 the leader so you can be informed of any changes and to ask questions.

March 26, Sunday. Redwood Creek Day Hike. Giant Purple Wakerobin (*Trillium kurabayashii*) is the object of an annual pilgrimage for some people to Redwood Creek Trail in Redwood National Park. (Trailhead at the bottom of Bald Hills Rd. just north of Orick). Past performance does not guarantee future, but in past years the end of March found the riparian forest lacey and pastel-hued as it leafed out, and California Hazelnut, several gooseberries, Skunk Cabbage, the rare Seaside Bittercress, and Giant Purple Wakerobin blooming. We will walk 3 miles round-trip on a

level trail. Meet at 9:00 am at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Contact Carol: 822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

April 8, Saturday. Field Trip. Destination to be announced.

April 15, Saturday. 12:30 -3:30 pm. Godwit Days Arcata Native Plant Walk. Join California Native Plant Society members for a walk from the Arcata Community Center to Arcata Community Forest and back to see native plants in public and private landscapes and in a redwood forest. They will identify a range of native plants and invasive plants, see wildlife in a native plant garden, and think about how to mimic wild habitats in the confines of gardens. Hopefully, trillium will be blooming in the forest. The walk is about 3 miles on sidewalks and good paths, with about 250 ft. elevation gain. Call 826-7050 to register for this free trip sponsored by California Native Plant Society at Godwit Days, or register for Godwit Days at www.godwitdays.org.

April 29, 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 and discuss some of the amazing aspects of fern life. This is an easy walk of about 1/4 mile along the riparian edge of the dunes. Meet at Pacific Union School, 3001 Janes Road in Arcata and carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by the California Native Plant Society and Friends of the Dunes. Please reserve your space by contacting Friends of the Dunes at (707) 444-1397 or info@friendsofthedunes.org.

May 13-14. South Fork Trinity River Weekend. The South Fork Trinity Retreat Center will host this varied, congenial weekend of botanizing, chatting, birding, swimming, sitting in the sun, hiking, campingyour choice. Arrive after lunch on Saturday to explore and enjoy the oak woodland environs, the river, and the accommodation of the retreat center. Stay for a potluck campfire dinner. Camp on the spacious available area, or for a small fee sleep in the lodge/bunk. Sunday will be a good chance for an early start to hike the flower-famous South Fork Trinity River Trail or to poke around more at the center. Bring your own food and equipment; the retreat center provides the enchanting place and comfortable facilities. If you are interested, contact Carol: theralphs@humboldt1.com or 707-822-2015.

June 12-14. Oregon Caves Overnight and Day Hikes. Oregon Caves National Monument near Cave Junction offers botanical fun on mountain trails, as well as the cave itself. Bigelow Lakes and Mt. Elijah are possible destinations from our base at Chinquapin Group Campground. Accommodations are also available in town. If you are interested, contact Carol: theralphs@humboldt1.com or 707-822-2015.

Spring Wildflower Show

the North Coast celebration of wild California plants

Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B St., Eureka.

Friday, May 5 2 pm-8 p.m.

Saturday, May 6 10 am-4 pm

Sunday, May 7 10 am-4 pm

Admission free. Accessible.

- * See and smell hundreds of fresh, labelled wildflowers
- * Learn what is native, what is not, and what is invasive
- * Learn why plants make flowers
- * Buy CNPS merchandise
- * Bring samples or photos of wild plants to be identified
- * Paint flowers with other artists on Friday night



Art Night Friday evening, 7-9 p.m. This favorite returns again after three years! A creative and congenial atmosphere for artists of all levels to sit down together and draw or paint native flowers of their choice, live from the show. Artists Annie Reid and others will be available to offer instruction and encouragement if needed. Some supplies available, or bring your own.



Little Free Wildflower Art Galleries

throughout April

for the entire community to 'View, Make, & Share' Wildflower Art in a 3 x 3" format, any medium. Back by popular request, these curbside galleries are similar to Little Free Libraries. Yours can be converted to a Wildflower Art Gallery for the month. If you'd like to host one, write: artshare@northcoastcnps.org. A countywide location list will be posted on the website.



Humboldt Botanical Garden:

Manzanita Special February 4, 2023

by Carol Ralph (photos by author)

The Humboldt Botanical Gardens (HBG) is a testament to many remarkable people. Twenty-two of us spent the morning with one of them. Mark Moore is curator of the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden. The challenge of shaping this garden to show off California native plants favorably in a horticultural setting has been his full-time, volunteer project in retirement. Mark's enthusiasm and expertise were contagious, and we learned a lot from him. The HBG is adjacent to College of the Redwoods, south of Eureka. The admission charge is put to good use! See www.hbgf.org

As we had requested, Mark happily focused on manzanitas, possibly his favorite group, and one of the few blooming in February. Mark told us that about 90% of the approximately 105 existing manzanita taxa (genus *Arctostaphylos*) are found only in the California Floristic Province, an area defined by vegetation, soil and climate that encompasses most of the state plus bits of southern Oregon and northern Baja California. The group is a real California specialty. Botanists say it originated in what is now Nevada and migrated west to the Coast Range as the Sierra Nevada rose. The Coast Range between Monterey and Santa Barbara is the "center of the universe" for manzanitas. Some species have very restricted ranges, like *A. imbricata*, which grows only on San Bruno Mt. in San Francisco. Our familiar Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, also known as Bear Berry) is unique in having a very large range--around the world in high latitudes and scattered curiously south of that. Mark has brought 46 species of manzanitas into HBG, each one with a story about its home and how he got it.



Every dense, rounded shrub in this photo, and the dark green groundcover in the bottom right corner, is a manzanita. Each is different, with an interesting story.

Generally it is easy to tell a manzanita from other shrubs. They can be tall, prostrate or in-between, but they are consistent in having thick, simple leaves; beautiful, red, peeling bark; and small, white or pink, upside-down, urn-shaped flowers followed by pea-sized, round, red, dry fruits containing a few seeds. Almost all are winter bloomers (January to April), some earlier, some later. Some bloom for months; others for weeks. The manzanita life plan is to "live until the next fire." Some (30%) have a burl, a basal zone of the stem which resprouts after fire. All manzanitas, including the burl-makers, produce seeds. To germinate, the seeds depend on a stand-replacing fire or other disturbance that clears all competing plants. As a group manzanitas are obligate seeders adapted to rodent caching. Some of the seeds stashed at the right depth by mice and squirrels underground or under rocks survive the fires. Read more about this fascinating genus in *Field Guide to Manzanitas* (2015 by Kauffmann, Parker, and Vasey. Backcountry Press), an essential book for learning, understanding, and appreciating manzanitas.

Distinguishing species of manzanita is not so easy. Variation within species and even within populations is great. A propensity to hybridize creates new combinations of characters all the time. In other words, manzanitas are still evolving! The taxonomists are trying to keep up with evolution in action. Geneticists have found that some manzanitas are diploids and some are tetraploids. This prevents total promiscuity, as hybridization can work only between individuals with the same numbers of chromosomes. Locally, around Humboldt Bay, we have hybrid swarms of Hairy Manzanita (*A. columbianum*) crossing with Kinnikinnick. This natural cross is called *Arctostaphylos x media*. It varies from prostrate, like one parent, to tall like the other, as well as in more subtle traits. The *Field Guide to Manzanitas* saves us non-taxonomists from total frustration by having keys for limited parts of the state, detailed range maps, and lots of pictures.

Many of us native plant gardeners had read that every garden should have manzanita. Pete Haggard, as does Mark, extols their virtue for supplying nectar critical to bumble bees



A very large-leaved, prostrate version of *A. x media* from Punta Arena

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

and hummingbirds in late winter. We paid close attention to Mark's advice on manzanita culture: full sun, well drained, little to no water after establishment, no food. At HBG, for each plant, Mark fills the hole with a mix of native soil and sharp gravel. Drainage is more important than moisture. Lack of drainage is what kills plants. It encourages fungal pathogens. Mark carefully and thoughtfully prunes some of the manzanitas for form--to show off the beautiful, shiny, red bark. A large patch of Kinnikinnick that he pruned off the path surprisingly was stimulated to grow deeper. Manzanita propagation is difficult. To maintain the characters of the parent plant propagation must be by cuttings, which require careful attention to sterility, bottom heat, and moisture.



A. x media (from Anchor Bay) unpruned and *A. columbiana* pruned to feature the bark.

The named manzanita cultivars that we encounter in the nursery trade are produced this way. They are not "artificial" products of plant breeders. They are cloned from an individual plant with interesting characteristics that someone found in the wild (a "sport"), propagated by cuttings, and tested in gardens. Not all manzanitas thrive ("perform well") in gardens, so this is a necessary step. If successful, the newly selected manzanita is given a name and marketed. *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn', the most common manzanita in the nursery trade, is one of these. It is pretty and hardy and has both low and tall forms. Mark called it the workhorse of the trade. In the wild *A. densiflora* is state and federally listed as rare. Such a paradox! [PS from Mark: A disease threat to the one wild population of *A. densiflora* has prompted the imminent distribution of captive, disease-free plants to select botanical gardens, including HBG.]

We asked Mark, "Which one should I get for my garden?" His main advice is, if you live near the

coast, get one adapted to the coastal climate. The naturally occurring species along the northwest California coast are *columbianum* and *uva-ursi*. He considers all manzanitas, including the horticultural selections, equally valuable to wildlife. Since it is hard to find *columbianum* to buy, substituting a broadly tolerant and widely available selection like Howard McMinn would be suitable. (A trickier question is whether it is OK to bring in a "foreign" manzanita if you live close (within pollinator range) to a wild population of manzanita.)

After our informative morning with Mark, many of us ate our lunches in the lovely sheltered setting of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland. On the knoll behind it the first Milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*) were blooming under the Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*). Then a few of us walked the longer trails in the garden that went through the natural habitats along the creek and on the hillside. The hillside above the road was brushy, early succession with thickets of Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Cascara (*Frangula purshiana*), and occasional Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), all tied together by California Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), and Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) were establishing. The hillside below the road went through Grand Fir and mixed conifer stands, as well as one strip of planted Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). The riparian zone along the main creek was full of willows (mostly Coastal Willow (*Salix hookeriana*)), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Cascara, and California Hazel (*Corylus cornuta*), also all tied together by California Blackberry. These deciduous species were still bare, but a few were showing their first leaves or catkins.

Along the trails we saw the work of chainsaws and loppers keeping this interesting and beautiful trail system open. HBG has all kinds of jobs for all kinds of volunteers!

Everyone should know this plant, even in winter! Poison Oak has smooth, vaguely pink, snakey stems with widely spaced, alternate twigs.



Do you want to see pictures in full color and save paper and mailing costs? Contact our membership coordinator, Tristan Cole at tcole@alumni.conncoll.edu and request electronic copies instead of paper versions of *Darlingtonia*!

Nursery Thank You's

By Chris Beresford

Our chapter's volunteer-run native plant nursery continues to be a busy, vibrant place as we get ready for this year's upcoming plant sales. We have been working on growing many varieties of perennials, grasses, vines, bulbs, and a variety of other plants as well as starting many different colorful annuals.

Originally started when Covid-19 became evident here, we decided to continue working 3 days a week; Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, 10-1 as it made increased days and times for additional volunteers to come help out at the nursery. Thanks to Barbara Reisman for taking the lead on Sundays and to Anita Gilbride-Read and Barbara Reisman for helping me by being co-leaders on Wednesday.

In addition to these 4 volunteers, thanks to: Sharon King, Brian Dorman, Joan Tippets, Laura Guldin, Nancy Brockington, Rebecca Zettler, Jessi Von Flo-to, David Callow, Alice Ford Sala, Ron Melin, Christy Wagner, Joann Kerns, Kate Rowe, Callie Almand, Steve Underwood, Marcia Thorndike, Jessica Heiden, Dayna Mauer, Mark Mauer, Kellie Johnson, June James, Emily Shaw, Tim Hickman, Bobby Valentine, Louise Parker-Flett, Kacy Tuel, Dino Santia, Grace Milburn, Sean Stewart, Lucia Loloe, Victoria Budke, Sam Parker, Ava Biscoe, Andrea and Emily Shaw for having volunteered these last 3 months. Many of the individuals above volunteer on a weekly basis in our nursery and some of them help multiple times each week. Thanks so very much to all of you!

A special thanks to Barbara Reisman who aptly takes the lead while I am away as well as spending many other hours working at the nursery! Barbara also leads our watering team comprised of Sharon King, Marcia Thorndike and Christy Wagner. These volunteers monitor and water the nursery plants; thanks so much for taking on this important task! If anyone else would like to help with watering, let Barbara know at our nursery email.

A very special thank you to Kellie Johnson for becoming our volunteer contactor/coordinator. She contacts everyone who would like to help at the nursery. Kellie contacts each of these fine folks individually determining what day they can volunteer on, contacts the lead person of that day to let them know to expect a new volunteer, follows up with the volunteer and even drops off extra plants from her garden for them to have on their first day of volunteering. Thank you so very much Kellie for taking on the job of volunteer wrangler!

I would also like to thank Dayna Mauer for taking on the project of making updated informational plant signs to replace the older ones we have been using. We have around 100 plant signs that are not in the current format that we like to use, which includes how to incorporate plants in your garden, if they are a Humboldt County native and if they attract birds, butterflies, insects and bees. I have seen a lot of people read these signs at our sales and I realize their importance in providing information to the public. Thanks again Dayna!

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

All the above volunteers work hard in a variety of different roles to assist in growing the plants that we provide and sell at our plant sales and nursery 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. Help us support all of these groups by supporting our plant sales.

Demonstration Garden News

Our demonstration garden continues to fill in. When you come to our spring plant sale, check it out.

We are trying to work in the garden one Sunday each month, but as of late, the weather seems to have gotten in the way. I learned the hard way in prior years 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 too 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*). If you would like to help in the garden and are not yet on our nursery email list, email me at our nursery email and I will add you to our nursery list: northcoastcnps@gmail.com.

Know Your Invasive Species: black acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and silver wattle (*A. dealbata*).

WHO?: Black acacia is a tree that grows up to 65 feet tall and has dark greyish-black bark that is somewhat scaly. Its pale yellow, cream, or whitish colored flowers are fluffy in appearance and densely arranged into small clusters at the end of each branch. Silver wattle has yellow flowers and can grow up to 100 feet tall. Its leaves are blue-green to silvery grey in color.

WHERE?: Both species are native to rainforests in southeastern Australia and invade disturbed areas, coastal prairies, riparian areas, and coniferous forests.

WHY?: Black acacia is a moderately fast-growing species that regenerates from seed, root sprouting, and is fire-stimulated. Silver wattle changes soil chemistry by fixing nitrogen, and the fallen leaves have allelopathic effects that prevents growth of other plants.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?: To control both invasive species, above ground vegetation should be cut and all root fragments must be removed to prevent resprouting. Please report locations of acacia species within California State Parks to Michelle Forsy at michelle.forsy@parks.ca.gov or 707-677-3109.



Silver wattle leaves and flowers
©2002 Dean Wm. Taylor



Black acacia small, opposite leaves
© 2017 Zoya Akulova

2023 State Parks Natural Resource Volunteer Workday Schedule HUMBOLDT COUNTY

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. :

- Mach 11 – Sue-meg State Park Habitat Restoration
- March 25 – Humboldt Lagoons State Park Azalea Restoration (10am-1pm)
- April 1 - Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Prairie Restoration (10am-1pm)
- April 8 – Trinidad State Beach Earth Day (9am-1pm)
- May 13 – Sue-meg State Park Habitat Restoration
- June 18 - Trinidad State Beach Parks Week (9am-1pm)

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.
- Sue-meg State Park - Ask entrance station attendant for that days' 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.

Western lily

By Kelsey McDonald
Environmental Scientist,
California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Western lily (*Lilium occidentale*) is a Federally and State Endangered flowering perennial bulb found in coastal wetlands, prairie, and coastal scrub habitats from the Humboldt Bay area north to Coos Bay, Oregon. Western lily's distribution has been reduced to a small number of scattered populations as coastal development and the alteration of ecological processes have removed and degraded its habitat.

Western lily has vibrant red flowers with a contrasting green-to-gold star at the center, and the showy pendent flowers hang from leafy shoots ranging from less than a meter to approximately two and a half meters in height. After an impressive amount of growth in the spring, and a stunning floral display in mid-to-late summer, western lily will set seed in the fall and senesce to shriveled stalks as bulbs will enter a dormancy period underground for the winter months. The bulbs are long-lived and may go through the annual cycle of flowering and dormancy for decades. However, it may take years for juvenile bulbs to reach reproductive maturity, and bulbs may also return to a non-reproductive or dormant state if conditions for growth and reproduction are not right. This long-lived, slow to reproduce bulb may have been particularly affected by the widespread tilling of any fertile, moist coastal prairie soils for agriculture that began with the earliest western colonization along the coast.

Western lily thrives in a delicate successional balance. Western lily does not have the same life history as typical disturbance-adapted plants you might know, which are often annuals that produce many widely dispersed seeds in a single season and easily colonize a recent landslide or disturbed roadside. Yet, this long-lived perennial requires periodic disturbance to maintain its early-successional habitat. While some low shrub cover may provide protection and support, overhead shrub and tree growth reduces reproduction and survival. Growth of a closed forest canopy may eventually eliminate a population entirely.

Western lily, and the early successional habitat that supports this plant, once occurred in the coastal low-



Photo by Dave Imper

lands and terraces that have been largely developed as urban centers and agricultural land. The relatively few remaining areas that have been protected for conservation have often had disturbances such as fire or grazing removed from the land, which has allowed the growth of later successional shrub and forest vegetation. Successional growth of shrubs and forest poses a major threat to the remaining western lily populations.

Restoration of ecological processes is critical for western lily and biodiversity. The remaining challenge for land managers, and best hope for western lily and other early-successional plants, is to reinstate historical ecological disturbance processes. Disturbance may take many forms, including periodic flooding, grazing, windfall, fire, or traditional cultivation and harvest practices by indigenous peoples. Understanding and successfully reinstating ecological disturbance processes requires people to come together across many disciplines as well as communities open to practices such as prescribed fire that may appear destructive. Invertebrates and natural vegetation communities are also likely to benefit from restoration targeted for western lily recovery. It will take human intervention and cooperation to save the western lily from extinction and maintain diverse ecosystems along the Pacific Coast.

The No Ivy League met on Saturday February 18th at Rohner Park for a session of ivy and broom bashing. Thankfully a patch of forest without poison oak was located last week and it was possible to break the intrepid group into two battalions for close combat keeping sensitive bashers away from poison oak. Neil and Steve used the weed wrench supplied by Tony to continue broom removal along the trail on the south side of the park. Kenny, Marilyn and Janelle did major damage to a patch of ivy along the eastern boundary of the park, pulling and bagging eleven bags of ivy! Everyone had a great time despite the cool weather as the sun shone brightly on us whenever we were out of the forest. Come join us at 9 AM on the third Saturday of every month (NEXT BASH MARCH 18, 2023).



West Ridge Trail Day Hike

by Carol Ralph (photos by author unless noted)

In search of second growth forest that had been treated with the "lop and scatter" method of thinning, ten eager hikers ignored exciting weather forecasts and headed up Zig Zag #2 Trail from Newton B. Drury in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The forest at the start, near the stream, was as lush as any in the heart of the old growth of this magnificent park. Trees were stately; mosses and ferns were rampant; fungi, some spectacular, grabbed the limelight. None of the vascular plants were blooming. We reviewed Redwood forest plants. Many people had not previously made acquaintance with Mock Azalea (*Menziesia ferruginea*), an "invisible" shrub until you start paying attention to it. The forest on the steep hillside up which the trail climbed continued rich and awesome. About halfway up the zig zags were a few sprigs of Running Clubmoss (Running-"pine") (*Lycopodium clavatum*) on the trail's edge, a rare plant rank 4.1, limited distribution.



Running club moss

After an hour (at botanical speed) going up, we reached the ridge and turned to the right on West Ridge Trail, in the direction the map (*Redwood National and State Parks North*,



Trail junction at the ridge.

David Baselt, Redwood Hikes Press, 2009) showed we would come to non-old-growth forest. Now, on the less steep terrain of the ridge, we encountered

great beds of Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*), Redwood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), and Northern Inside-out Flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*). A spectacular patch of Western Cauliflower Mushroom (*Sparassis radicata*) was a real show-stopper.

Western Cauliflower Mushroom by Susan Halpin



After about an hour of more magnificent trees and rich understory, the

trail crossed just a bit over onto the west side of the ridge. Suddenly the understory was lacking; nothing grew on the ground; most trees were 6 inches to 1 ft. diameter. A few five-foot diameter cut stumps proved we had found the area that had been logged. A short statement by Leonel Arguello in his January 2022 presentation ("Restoring Connections in a Low Elevation Redwood Forest", archived on our website northcoastcnps.org) led me to guess that this was where we would find a forest thinned by lop-and-scatter, as part of the Redwood Rising restoration project. This forest, however was clearly not thinned, and the only small trees we found on the ground, i.e. possibly "scattered," were right along the trail and looked more like trail work than forest thinning. Three of our group scouted ahead another 10 minutes walking fast and saw more of the same. We had found the second growth, but not the "lop and scatter." I need to research more carefully with the State Park staff the history of this harvest and the location of the thinning project.

Despite failing to achieve our stated goal, we all felt the day was beautiful and successful. We definitely had seen the contrast between an old growth forest and a dense second growth, and the magnificence of the old growth was continually rewarding. We had collected one more datum affirming my hypothesis that all the trails in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park are wonderful.

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Aceff
Lola Arlt
Mary Boyce-Belsher
Victoria Bryant
Macy Budesilich
Claire Durbin
Kay Estey
Tami Glenn
Donald Groom
Karen Hamerslag
Jay Jacobs
Kathy Kellerman
Danielle Lipski
Marcy Manning
Ada Rubin
Heather Scharlack
Alexandria Shedlock
Mark Thom
Martha Van Dyke
Linda Wright

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Shelley Andros
Lacey Benson
Joan Boulden
Emmalien Craydon
Mara Galvez
Julie McNiel
Frank Mileziczik
Britney Newby
Gregory O'Connell
April Sahara
Elaine Allison
Gary Balcerak
Morey Bassman
Anne Beckes
Peter Boffey
David Callow
Adam Canter
Robin Carter
Jane Cipra
Christopher Cole
Lissa Daniels
John DeMartini
Dave Dobak
Janelle Egger
Kaylea Eickhoff
Kathleen Fitzgerald-Orr
Meg Freedman
Caitlin French
Anita Gilbride-Read
Wendy Gollop
Gina Greenen
Marcy Greenhut
Joanne Gunther
Pete Haggard
Elaine Hanson

Jennifer Hawley
Sandra Hazel
Don Hollander
David Imper
Gail Judge
Jean Kaiwi
Patricia Kerfoot
Lucy Kerhoulas
Joann Kerns
Maria Krenek
Janet Landles
David Leaberry
Nancy Leer
Tom Lisle
Caroline Martorano
Kale McNeill
Robert Melendez
Chris Miller
Mark Moore
Wanda Naylor
John Nicklas
Barbara Peck
Christina Pierce
Mark Pringle
Saelon Renkes
Kitty Ritz
Gisela Rohde
Kathryn Rowe

Peter Ryan
Diane Ryerson
Patricia Sennott
Carol Sherpa
Mike Splain
Marion Thayer
Melissa Van Scoyoc
Nezzie Wade
Christy Wagner
Elizabeth Welsh
Rachel Werling
Donna Wildearth
Jane Wilson
Paul Wilson
Carol Woods
Donna Woodward

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
Chapter Council Delegate	Larry Levine	707-822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
NEC CNPS Representative	Joann Kerns		jkerns56@gmail.com
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
Spring	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.

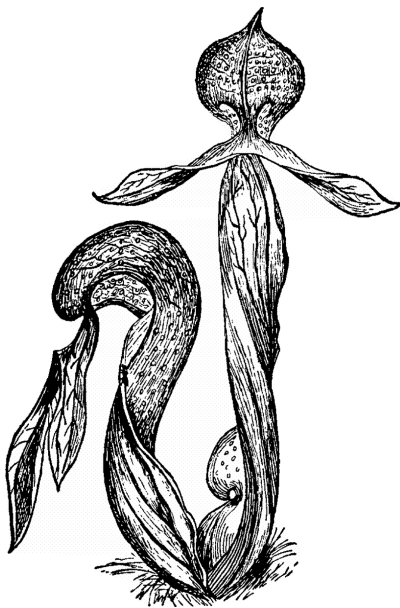
Contact our coordinator at nc.cnps.consult@gmail.com to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden. Please be patient as we are all volunteers!

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Darlingtonia



Visit us at
northcoastcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 8 Evening Program
- 26 Day Hike

April

- 12 Evening Program
- 8 Field Trip
- 15 Plant Walk
- 29 Plant Walk

May

- 6-7 Spring Plant Sale
- 5-7 Wildflower Show
- 10 Evening Program
- 13-14 Field Trip