

# Darlingtonia

SUMMER  
2020  
June-August

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

## Book Review by Donna Wildearth

### NATURE'S BEST HOPE: A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION THAT STARTS IN YOUR YARD

Douglas W. Tallamy, 254 pages, Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2019.

Douglas Tallamy is one of my heroes. I became aware of him in 2008 when I read his first book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* (2007). As a landscape designer I had advocated the use of native plants for many years. But reading his book opened my eyes to the urgency of this issue. I appreciated his book, but at the time I thought he was perhaps a little alarmist in his warning of ecosystem collapse.

Last year Tallamy published another book (already in its fourth printing!): *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*. And now, after 12 more years of alarming environmental news, I fully share his concern for the dire consequences of our continual erosion of natural ecosystems and food webs.

The first two chapters provide an overview of the evolution of ecological awareness in this country. In Chapter 3 Tallamy discusses conservation milestones such as the establishment of the national park system and the Endangered Species Act and explains why they have not been enough to stem the loss of species from local ecosystems.

In the remaining chapters, he focuses on what we can do to address the problem. His first suggestion: shrink the lawn! Lawns are problematic because of their unsustainable use of water, fertilizer runoff which pollutes nearby waterways, and toxic lawn chemicals.

Tallamy then proposes what he calls "Homegrown National Park"—landowners across the country working to restore the habitats around their homes and businesses. In addition to restored habitats, this would have other important benefits. As we learn stewardship of the land, we overcome our disconnect from nature and begin to enjoy a personal, everyday relationship with nature at our homes.

In 2005 The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment published the result of five years of research by scientists worldwide. Their grim conclusion: by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, humans had already destroyed 60% of the earth's ability to support us. In light of this, one of our main tasks is restoring the "carrying capacity" of the environment, defined as "the level of resource use at which diverse communities of plants and animals can be sustained without degrading the environment that supports them." (p. 85)

Tallamy contends that "The plants we use in our landscape determine the carrying capacity of the area." (p. 89) Therefore it is imperative to know which plants contribute to the highest carrying capacity. This introduces a discussion of the issue of invasive plants, defined as non-native species that displace native plant communities. Replacing native plant communities with introduced plants

"compromises ecosystem function. Not only do non-native plants often reduce the number of species in the ecosystem, but they always reduce the number of interacting species" (p. 108) which degrades ecosystem stability and productivity.

Since 90% of insects that eat plants are specialists that can eat only a few genera of plant families with which they have a long evolutionary history, even alien plants that aren't invasive are problematic because they support little insect activity and therefore have a negative ripple effect throughout local food webs. Tallamy cites recent

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## Find out what's happening:

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

## EVENING PROGRAMS

**Please watch for updates** on our web site  
([www.NorthCoastCNPS.org](http://www.NorthCoastCNPS.org))

or sign up (Northcoast\_CNPS-  
subscribe@yahoogroups.com )

No evening programs are scheduled for July and August, our traditional summer break. In September we are excited to host JoeJoe Clark speaking on the lilies of California.

Meanwhile, for your viewing pleasure we offer these fine evening programs recorded by Zoom, posted on our You Tube site, and linked from the Education tab on our website.

"Conifers of the Klamath Mountains: 2019 Update from the Field" with Michael Kauffmann

"California's Iconic Flora" with Matt Ritter

"Restoring Nature with Pollinator Gardens" with Bill Rodstrom

"Botanizing the BLM Lands of the North Coast" with Jennifer Wheeler

"Capturing California's Flowers" with Jenn Yost and Katie Pearson

We also recommend lectures by Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants*.

"Restoring Nature One Garden at a Time" is the lecture he gave to the CNPS Conservation Conference in 2018, and we showed it as a video at our November 2018 evening program. It is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yo4ZJ-ryTaE>

"Restoring the Little things That run the World: Why It Matters and What We Can Do" is a Zoom lecture he gave to the Bringing Back the Natives virtual garden tour (in the Bay Area) on April 26. Find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiAnuJ0KPds>

### FIELD TRIPS Summer 2020

Planning has been a casualty of Covid19. Or I should say we are getting lots of experience with Plan B planning, back-up, or contingency planning.

Below are trips that will happen only if health advisories allow some form of small group, outdoor activity. I'll work out the trip details when it looks like the trip will really happen. Short outings, the two-hour plant walks, could be added with short notice.

**Please watch for updates** on our Web site

([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) or sign up for e-mail announcements via our Yahoo! group by writing Carol at [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com)

**June 27, Saturday.** Day hike with Green Diamond Botanists at Christmas Prairie Lake.

**July 11-12 or 25-26.** Campout, maybe at Groves Prairie in Six Rivers National Forest northeast of Willow Creek

**August 1, Saturday.** The traditional day for "Orchids in the Dunes" walk with Friends of the Dunes.

**August 8, Saturday.** Day hike

**September 12, Saturday.** Day hike, possibly to Water Dog Lake

**October 4, Sunday.** Day trip, probably in a wetland

For planning your own, appropriately isolated outings you can refer to the list of field trip destinations on our website on the Places to See Plants page under the Activities tab. You can read reports of past field trip in our newsletter, archived on the chapter website on the Newsletter page under the About Us tab. You can share photos of fun plants you find on our Facebook group --<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthCoastCNPS/>-- (distinct from our Facebook page, which has announcements).

Virtual field trips do not substitute for real outdoor time, but you can get a good dose of wildflowers on the Wildflower Show pages of our website. (See elsewhere in this newsletter.)



This is the 2nd time the nursery has found a nest tucked among the plants. While it's difficult to see, the white-crowned sparrow chose to build in the cobwebby thistles, which is a smart way to keep predators away! Photo by Jessi vanFloto

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studies conducted by his students that support this argument, including a 2017 study in Washington, D.C. suburbs that found that only landscapes that contained at least 70% native plant biomass could maintain a breeding population of Carolina chickadees. He concludes by saying:

"Compared to native plant communities, introduced plants are bad at supporting insects and are thus bad at supporting insectivores. They are bad at supporting specialist pollinators, complex food webs, stable food webs, local biodiversity, interaction diversity, and, most important of all, they are bad at supporting ecosystem function." (p. 123)

The book then addresses the importance of restoring insect life. A 2014 study reported that the number of insects has been reduced by 45% globally since 1974. In order to begin to rectify this, we must restore the plants that support them. In the discussion that follows, Tallamy focuses on caterpillars and native bees.

96% of our breeding birds raise their young on insects, primarily caterpillars, which are large, soft, and easily digestible compared to insects with a hard exoskeleton. And caterpillars are high in protein, fats, and carotenoids, which stimulate the immune system, improve color vision and sperm vitality, and are a major component of colorful feather pigments.

To translate this into usable information, Tallamy's research assistant compiled a database that ranked plant genera in every county of the US based on their ability to host caterpillars—a monumental effort we can now access on the internet at <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder>. When you enter your zip code, the database displays the highest-ranked native plants in your area.

A surprising finding of this research was that throughout the country roughly 5% of the plant genera hosted 70-75% of local butterfly and moth species. Tallamy calls these "keystone plants." In Eureka, the database lists our keystone plants as willow, oak, bitter cherry/choke cherry, aspen/cottonwood/poplar, beach pine, and red alder/white alder. (For a more complete list, see the Spring 2019 issue of *Darlingtonia*.)

In addition to providing native plants that host caterpillars, we also need to be aware that 90% of caterpillars pupate on the ground, not on their host plant. So it's important that they find appropriate habitat underneath trees and shrubs when they are ready to pupate. Lawns are generally inhospitable to pupae; a soil layer with a high percentage of loose organic matter such as fallen leaves is much better.

How can we meet the needs of native bees? We can provide patches of bare soil for the 70% of native bees that are ground nesters. We can make sure that our landscapes include flowers that bloom throughout the seasons. We can hold off on lawn fertilizers, which often contain pesticides that are harmful to bees. We can make bee hotels. (But

note that a number of small, scattered bee hotels are more effective than one large bee hotel which can actually invite bee predators.)

For those who may be doubtful that Tallamy's vision of Homegrown National Park is viable in cities, he relates his experience of visiting the High Line in Manhattan, an abandoned elevated rail line that has been reclaimed as a pedestrian walkway lined with narrow planting beds that include many native plants. Within five minutes of stepping on the High Line he spotted four species of native bees and subsequently observed three nectaring monarch butterflies.

He also shares the inspiring example of a very small urban lot next to O'Hare International Airport in Chicago where the homeowner added 60 species of native plants over a period of 25 years and has been rewarded by recording 103 species of birds in her yard.

The last chapter in the book, "What Each of Us Can Do," conveniently summarizes ten concrete actions we can take to make Homegrown National Park a reality. This is followed by a number of frequently asked questions such as:

Are invasive plants really that bad?

Will adding native plants to my garden increase my risk of contracting Lyme disease?

Are "nativars" (cultivated varieties of native species) as good as the species?

Tallamy has been advocating for native plants for over ten years now and has encountered a fairly strong backlash. I found his answers to these questions well thought-out and quite interesting.

This is a wide-ranging book that covers some of the same ground as *Bringing Nature Home*, but also contains valuable information from more recent research. It is well-illustrated with numerous color pictures of caterpillars, birds, and landscapes. I would like to close this review with Tallamy's words:

"In the world I envision, landscaping practices will no longer degrade local ecosystems; landscaping will become synonymous with ecological restoration. We will not be living with less; we will be enriching our lives with more—more pollination services; more free pest control; more carbon safely tucked away in the soil; more rainwater held on and within land for our use in a clean and fresh state; more bluebirds, orioles, and pileated woodpeckers in our yards; more swallowtails and monarchs sipping nectar from our flowers. Indeed, more species of all kinds will inhabit our landscapes, increasing the productivity and stability of our ecosystems....It is nature's, and thus humanity's, best hope."

NOTE: Several of Tallamy's talks are available on YouTube. I especially recommend <https://youtu.be/oiAnuJOKPds?t=419>. (If that link doesn't work, try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

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v=oiAnuJOKPds&t=4413s.) This is the talk he gave two weeks ago for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour in the Bay Area. (Don't be alarmed when you see it is over five hours long! Tallamy's talk is the just first hour; the rest presents tours of several Bay Area native plant gardens.)

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### THANK YOU'S – NURSERY

By Chris Beresford

Since our last newsletter, the CNPS nursery volunteers have continued to work on growing, transplanting, and tending all of the many plants that we had to offer at our spring plant sale and that are available at the Kneeland Glen Farmstand. At last count, we offer over 150 different species of plants, which is absolutely amazing and quite impressive!

Thanks to: Barbara Reisman, Carol Ralph, Karen Isa, Barbara Wilkinson, Sue Marquette, Sharon King, Brian Dorman, Joan Tippetts, Jake, Laura Guildin, Anita Gilbride-Read, Christine Kelly, Sarah Hirsch, Sam O'Connell, Marcia Thorndike, Marika Chop, Jessi vanFloto, Sean Stewart, Sydney Carothers, Nancy Brockington, Ann Wallace, Pat Holzinger, Lorna Brown, Stephen Underwood, Alexa DeJoannis and Celeste Thaine. All of our volunteers work hard growing our plants so that we can fund the chapter's many activities, and scholarships, as well as help raise awareness as to the importance of planting native plants in our gardens and landscapes.

A special thank you to Barbara Reisman, Anita Gilbride-Read & Karen Isa who have all stepped up to help with taking the lead on volunteer work days. Unfortunately, with what is currently happening with Covid-19, I have had to step back from physically being around others so much. I am still involved in operating the nursery, making lists of what needs to be done and working when others are not there. Thanks, as always, to all of you for stepping up when the help was needed.

I would especially like to thank the following volunteers who give many hours of time to the nursery by coming in when others aren't there to work on special projects, clean pots, transplant, repot and clean-up plants, take the lead on work days and do whatever else needs to be done! A special thank you to Karen Isa, Barbara Reisman and Sydney Carothers, you guys go above and beyond, without fanfare or extra recognition, at least until now.

We also have a dedicated team of volunteers lead by Barbara Reisman who water our plants that are not on a timed sprinkler and our hoop house. They check to make sure that the sprinklers are watering as they should be. Thanks to Sydney Carothers, Christy Wagner, and Karen Isa.

The garden that we planted at the nursery continues to grow and is starting to look like a garden. Our plan is to have it open to the public next April for Native Plant Week. Thanks to Sydney Carothers for weeding. Currently she is battling all the horsetails (Equisetum) which are so happy with the compost and soil that we put in so they grow up

nice and healthy! Thanks to Christine Kelly for adding plants, drip irrigation and helping take care of our garden. We have plans to add another bed in the center.

Christine Kelly continues to care of our native plant stand with the help of volunteers who restock it. Christine regularly stocks the plants for sale, adds new species as they look their best, makes up informational plant signs as needed, and helps me post current information about what is for sale to our Facebook page. The plant stand has played an increasing role in selling plants during Covid-19. In April, sales were more than 3 times what we sold last April!

If you would like to help at the nursery, our regular work-days are Wednesday 10 – 1ish. We work on whatever needs to be done, transplanting, repotting, root pruning and feeding, cleaning and sterilizing plastic pots, just to name a few things we do. We always need more help. We also work additional days as needed based on our plant needs as well as for special projects. If you would like to help, contact us at our nursery email: north-coastcnps@gmail.com.

### PLANT SALE THANK YOU'S

When we started our seeds last October, like everyone else we had no idea what we would have to deal with in the future! It was a challenge trying to come up with how to sell the thousands of plants we had planted, transplanted and taken care of for our spring plant sale without having an in-person, you-pick-your-own, plant sale. Many thanks to our plant sale group of Anita Gilbride-Read, Karen Isa, Barbara Reisman, Carol Ralph, Sarah Hirsch, Sharon King, and I. We spent many hours, including a Zoom meeting organized by Sarah, trying to come up with how to get the information that we needed to provide in a different format and what type of system would work for selling plants.

Thankfully, we have Christine Kelly helping us out! Christine took what I had been trying to come up with (getting our plant list and our informational plant signs up on our website) and created the interactive plant sale list that we used for our pre-order scheduled pick up. Using our inventory list, including those from our participating nurseries, she came up with linking plant names to our informational signs or Calscape using google docs. Everything that I had been trying to do was there, in one place, and I was beyond thrilled!

There was more involved than usual behind the scenes getting ready for the sale. Christine and I worked on getting the information into the plant sale list for ordering and tracking inventory. Barbara Reisman and I worked on getting accurate inventory numbers, made harder by the fact that we pull from that inventory for the plant stand. We didn't get some of the numbers quite right because of this.

I came up with the simple order form that we used for our sale and Ann Burroughs, who helps get things up on our website, came up with the different ways we could receive orders. Thank you Ann for doing this, as I did not think about having multiple ways to receive orders.

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Sharon King was in charge of publicity for the plant sale. Like everything else, we had to figure out how to do things differently to get the word out. Sharon worked with the local paper to get an article in their gardening issue on our new style plant sale and sent out press releases to all the "usual" media contacts. Thank you Sharon for doing this!

Karen Isa, once again, started collecting boxes from local stores weeks before our sale and stashing them in the barn next to us. It always turns into quite an impressive pile. Thank you so much for doing this Karen. With filling orders in advance and having them ready for pick up, these boxes were invaluable for keeping orders together and making it easier for everyone. Thank you so much for collecting all of these boxes Karen

Barbara Reisman deserves a gold star for all of her incredible work on receiving, processing and scheduling our orders for pickup. She also deducted from the inventory as she worked on each order. Barbara processed all but 2 of our 128 plant sale orders. Thank you so much Barbara, we could not have done the sale without you!

Anita Gilbride-Read put numbers on every table and took an inventory to help me make a hand-out for volunteer plant pullers showing plant species by numbered table. On the first day, David Callow recommended an alpha list by plant name with the table numbers for each plant, which I did. Many plant pullers found his system easier to use than mine, so, thank you David, always thinking!

While Anita worked on the table inventory, her husband Tim Gilbride-Read, Brian & Karen Dorman, and Richard Beresford helped me move all the annuals and their tables to a new place and to make room for the participating nursery plants, no small task. Besides moving the annuals, we alphabetized them by scientific name. Then someone pointed out that we used common names on the order forms and we should have done them that way. Oh well, I just don't think by common name. Thanks all, for your much needed help! Tim also swept the area where the shrubs were going, thanks Tim.

Christine Kelly was in charge of working with the participating nurseries again. She coordinates which plants they bring and when, and orders labels from Ann Burroughs. Thanks Christine for doing this. Karen Isa, Brian Dorman and myself helped Christine with the nursery check-in, labeling and plant placement. We found through orders we had received that we needed more shrubs. Brian went up to Samara and got more plants for us on the first day of scheduled plant pick-ups, thanks Brian for doing that.

Ann Burroughs has been printing all of our great plant labels (Including ones for the participating nurseries) for many years now. Unfortunately, this year, she had to purchase a new laser-jet printer, but it is not as hot as the last one, and Ann found that it doesn't adhere the ink to our labels. She still had almost 5,000 blanks left from the fall. After trial and error, we ended up with water proof stickers to put on the plant labels, just one more thing that came up this year. We will probably continue to do this in the future as the labels worked out fine. Thanks Ann for figur-

ing out how to get us plant labels this spring!

Sarah Hirsch took on the role of coordinating volunteers for the sale. No small task when we were not even sure exactly what help we needed, how many people we needed, or when we should start the plant pulling process. Thanks Sarah for persevering! We had enough volunteers who worked hard and did an amazing job.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with plant pickups for our sale. Everyone worked so hard on pulling plants for pick-up; keeping them in order; greeting people coming to get their plants; cashiering; assisting with pickups; doing traffic control and answering questions. We even had one day when everyone worked in the pouring rain! Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, many of whom willingly worked multiple days in multiple tasks: Sue Marquette, Jessi vanFloto, Vivienne Vlaskovits, Nancy Brockington, David Callow, Celeste Thaine, Marcia Thorndike, Laura Guildin, Sue Halpin, Marika Chop, Stephen Underwood, Bill Pinnix, Tiffany Perez and Alexa DeJoannis. Thank you again for all of your help!

A special thanks to Carol Ralph, Anita Gilbride-Read, Sarah Hirsch and Karen Isa for being there most, if not all of the time during the plant sale pick-ups to answer questions, help with plant selections or replacement. A special thank you to Anita for being "Chris" and for dealing with all of the many unforeseen issues that tend to come up along the way. You did an awesome job keeping it all together!

I sincerely hope that I have thanked and acknowledged everyone who was involved in this spring plant sale. If not, I apologize for the oversight.

When we first started this, none of us had any idea what we were doing and how it would work out, but amazingly it all did! We learned a lot in pulling this pre-order-scheduled-pickup-plant sale together and if we have to do it again in the fall, we will be so much better prepared. I can tell you that people were most appreciative of being able to select their plants from the wide variety of native plants that we offered. Many people expressed their thanks in the emails that they sent in with their orders.

If you missed some additional plants that you need for your landscape or just missed our plant sale altogether, we are hoping that with Humboldt County going to Phase 2 re-opening that we can have a 2 day in-person plant sale in early June. We will put it out on our website at [www.northcoast.org](http://www.northcoast.org) under the native plant sales on the menu bar, so check there for updates.

## **Our Plant Stand –**

### **New updated plant list available**

The chapter continues to actively stock and maintain our plant stand with native plants that we grow for sale at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand, located at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka. The Farm Stand is open daily from 12 – 6.

Please check out our website to see a list of the plants that we currently have on our plant stand for sale with

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links to either informational plant signs or Calscape at [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org). We have added a menu item entitled "Native Plant Sales" so that it is easier to find. We will update this list weekly so that you have the most current information possible.

We rotate our stock, due to space limitation, and to have plants that are in bloom and looking their best. If you don't find what you are looking for at the stand, contact us at [northcoastcnps@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastcnps@gmail.com) and we will get back to you and if we have the plant(s) that you are looking for, make arrangements for you to pick up your plant(s) at the Farm Stand.

### Oops – wrong plant(s)

We strive to keep our plants accurately identified, but sometimes things get mixed up in transplanting, labels go missing (I blame birds for that one) and we get the wrong seed. Sadly, we discovered, after and during the sale a few of these types of mistakes.

If you purchased at the sale, or on our plant stand' what we thought was *Drymocallis glandulosa* (Sticky cinquefoil), sadly, it was once again, the invasive *Drymocallis recta*. We will happily replace your plant with *Potentilla gracilis* (Slender cinquefoil).

If you purchased at the sale what was labeled *Penstemon centranthifolius* (Scarlet bugler) I am very sorry to say that it is *Penstemon heterophyllus* (Foothill penstemon) instead. No one is more disappointed in this than I, because I was thrilled when I found the seed as this is one of my favorite penstemons; however, it was not to be.

I think that we caught this one before the sale started, but just in case, we had one more mix up. If you purchased at the sale what we originally had thought was *Eriophyllum lanatum* v. *grandiflorum* (Common wooly sunflower) we found out as it grew larger that it was instead, *Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia* (Beach evening primrose). We offered 4" *Eriophyllum lanatum* (Oregon sunshine) as a replacement for those who had ordered it.

If you purchased any of the above plants, please contact us at: [northcoastcnps@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastcnps@gmail.com) and we will replace your plant. I sincerely apologize for these errors, but it gets more than a little crazy at times with transplanting.

### Nursery and Plant Sale Volunteer Hours

In working on the annual report due to the state chapter, I just added all of the volunteer hours that were written down on our sign in sheets of volunteers working at the nursery and washing containers at home. I also included the hours, as best I can, for our spring and fall plant sales. I came up with an amazing total 2,897 hours for the time period of 4/1/19 – 3/31/19. This just goes to show why it is so important to write down hours at the nursery, something I myself am guilty of not always doing! Thanks everyone for all of the many, many hours you have donated to helping the nursery operate and our plant sales succeed!

## My Favorite Flower Field Guides

by Carol Ralph April 2020

These are the three books I go to most often to look up wildflowers. The selections are large enough to include most common species. Illustrations or photos (usually) show some or all of the plant, not just a close-up of the flower.

***Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*** by Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon. (Lone Pine Publishing, 1994 and later editions). This is the best all-round plant field guide I have ever used. As well as wildflowers it includes trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses, aquatics, mosses, and liverworts. It's all here...as long as you stay on the coast. It does not cover northern California, so no Redwoods, but our flora otherwise is much more similar to coastal Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia than to California south of here. The many contributing authors clearly knew their subject plants and were not just describing herbarium specimens or repeating information found in other books. Species descriptions are enriched with notes of Native American uses, history, and fun facts.

***Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*** by Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson. (Timber Press, 2006 and later edition). Northwestern California is purposely included in the territory of this book. The publisher insisted, saying that Californians buy books, so we are the beneficiaries of Mark Turner's incredible energy in collecting photos of many hundreds of wildflowers. The species chosen for inclusion in the book seem to match what we actually encounter pretty well. And this is the only field guide that does not shy away from the umbellifers (carrot family). Sixteen species of lomatium! Mark clearly likes buckwheats as well--nineteen species of them. You don't have to worry about all of them, because the range maps easily show what is in the county you are in.

***A Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers*** by Theodore F. Niehaus and Charles L. Ripper. (Houghton Mifflin 1976 and earlier and later editions). I am not the only long-time botanizer who sheepishly pulls out this "old-fashioned" book with line drawings, still amazed at how it features local species and shows the characteristics we need to focus on for identification. Covering the entire three Pacific States, it includes many inland, southern, and desert species that are irrelevant to Humboldt County. The newer editions have added some photo pages and presumably have updated the taxonomy.

Apps for smart phones to help identify plants have blossomed and multiplied. From my base of great ignorance I can offer three bits of information. My

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son gets good results with "Seek," an app that allows you to take a photo of the plant. It tells you what it is or might be. It may be working with iNaturalist, which is a site on which you can open an account and post photos you hope other people will identify. In 2016, (which might be ancient history in the realm of apps) Pam Kessler wrote an article for our newsletter *Darlingtonia* (summer issue) about an app and two websites that help identify plants: *North California Wildflowers* by Steven Sullivan, PlantID.net, and Calflora.org. Her article is available in the newsletters archived on our chapter website.

Northtown Books in Arcata will order books for pick-up, with very short delivery times. Check their website.

## 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](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com)

Read elsewhere in this newsletter how volunteers made possible our plant sale and the Spring Wildflower Show.

**Michael Kauffmann** for seeing the possibilities of Zoom

and leading the chapter into the Zoom world in time for our April evening program, and then adding additional, exciting evening programs to our offerings.

**Andrea Taylor** for also meeting the Zoom challenge and learning the technology.

**Michael Kauffmann** for creating the Native Plants Learning Landscapes program that got Humboldt County Office of Education funding to help local schools plant native plant gardens. Our chapter is involved with helping the schools plan their garden, and supplies the plants from our nursery or purchased from Samara Restoration Nursery. This program gets kids and teachers outdoors and educates them about the importance of native plants.

**Barbara Reisman** for representing the chapter at Ambrosini School the day the plants from the Learning Landscapes project were planted, talking with students about the importance of native plants and guiding the planting.

**Barbara Reisman** for studying and mastering the new credit card reader provided by the state CNPS office.

**Anita Gilbride-Read** for fast, helpful revision of our budget to help us see the effect of decreased plant sale and merchandise income.

**Welcome Aboard!**

**Andrea Taylor** as vice-president.

## TO A YELLOW - FLOWERING SAND VERBENA

JERRY MARTIEN

Abronia  
latifolia,  
the thick juicy flesh  
of your fat sticky fine-haired  
leaves traps and holds tiny wind-blown  
bits of sand brought all the way from the up-  
stream end of the world and the little grains pile up  
till they bury you and more of your leaves reach up to  
catch and hold more particles of sand and the buried stems root  
down and out to hold you and year by year unless someone digs you  
up for your sweet succulent roots a sand dune grows around you and on it  
lyme-grass and sea rocket beach pea and primrose take root at the wave-pounded  
wind-blown edge of our world one tiny grain then another holding the dune that holds the  
land against weather and tide and the years. One round green leaf & opposite it another. Holding by one  
grain at a time. So your root grows deep. Your leaf endures. Like us you grow old. Like us you hold.  
Beautiful root. Beautiful flower.

[Originally published in *Econews*, 1997, with permission of the author]

## 38th Annual

# *Spring Wildflower Show*

### Is Happening Now!

In consideration of public safety concerns, this year's Spring Wildflower show is now presented virtually. You don't have to worry about missing this year's show due to scheduling conflicts; the show will be available online, anytime, forever! The Spring Wildflower Show can be found on our North Coast Chapter California Native Plant Society website ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) under the Wildflower Show 2020 tab.

The show features local wildflowers photographed in their native habitats, presentations on pollination and pollinators, posters, documents and slideshows focusing on invasive plants, dune flora, Wiyot plants, wildflower photography, wildflower art tutorials and art sharing (Please send us samples of your wildflower art for display on this page).

### **2020 Theme: Pollination and Pollinators**

This year's Wildflower Show began with an evening Zoom Webinar presentation (video link on the Wildflower Show website homepage) focusing on "**Restoring Nature with Pollinator Gardens.**" Join local naturalist Bill Rodstrom to learn how to convert biologically barren urban and suburban landscapes of lawns and non-native plants into a healthy habitat for local pollinators like bees and butterflies. By planting native host and nectar plants we can all do something to reverse the rapid decline of insects and birds. Although this is not a bee identification workshop there are lots of photos of local native bees (and butterflies) using native plants.

Visit the online resources tab for links to pollination-related TED talks, United States Forest Service pollinator and pollination information and discover where to enter a California address to see butterflies & moths native to that location!

Need help identifying a plant? Share it on our chapter's Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthCoastCNPS/> and our fellow CNPS members can exercise their plant I.D. expertise.

Now unfavorable weather or shelter in place orders cannot hinder your ability to adore and explore local flora. Go on a virtual walk through the many photo galleries posted on the website. You may not have been to Zenia (see Alder Point to Mad River slides), but after seeing Tony LaBanca's collection of flower photos, you will want to go. See all of our violets side-by-side in Kale Levin's photo collection. An attractive plant on the Hikshari' Trail might be identified in Wanda Naylor's Hikshari' collection. If you want to be amazed at the native plant beauty possible right outside your door, see the collection from Donna Wildearth's garden.

Wonder why your wildflower photos don't look as marvelous as Larry Ulrich's? Janet Stock's illustrated essay on Flower Photography has basic guidelines on composition, as well as advice about exposure. Want to identify a butterfly you saw? It might be featured in Clint Pogue's slide show "Butterflies of the North Coast." To try drawing or painting wildflowers and/or pollinators, visit the Art Share page, where you can find advice and then post your masterpiece (or your first attempt) to the Wildflower Show website!



## **In which we invented a virtual Wildflower Show**

by Carol Ralph

At first there was the Wildflower Show Planning Committee. They met in the fall, and by January they had the Spring Wildflower Show plan developed. The theme was pollination and pollinators, and the speakers were signed up. By February the people and organizations that create side displays were on board. By March the collector coordinator was organizing the collectors, the sign team had ordered and received the stick-on vinyl letters for the outdoor signs, the school groups were ready to come, and the publicity ready to send. Then the corona virus changed the world. After some moments of despair and resignation, a spark lit, and on a conference call March 29 the committee decided to make the show virtual.

In the one month of April, while adjusting to changing personal lives and procedures, the committee chose the platform to build the new show and learned how to use it, worked with speakers and table displayers to get them converted to on-line presentation, re-oriented the collectors to collecting photos not specimens while observing shelter-in-place code, canceled school visits and provided teachers with activity information, rewrote and re-directed the publicity, created an outline of what we wanted in the virtual show, and then filled in the outline!

That last step, creating the content to post in the various parts of the virtual show, required a huge investment of time. That investment was spread over many contributors, just as it is in the traditional show. The committee is proud of the result. It maintains the show's traditions while adapting to the new medium. It is available on the chapter's website ([northcoastcnps.org](http://northcoastcnps.org)) and will be for a long time.

**Congratulations and a heartfelt thank-you** to the people who made it happen:

### **Wildflower Show planning committee**

Andrea Taylor, Annie Reid, Susan Penn, Larry Levine, Amy Livingston, Lynn Jones, Carol Ralph, Laurel Goldsmith, Ben Lardiere, and Tony LaBanca.

**Website construction team:** Larry Levine, Susan Penn, Annie Reid

### **Content contributors:**

Adam Canter (Wiyot Tribe)	Carol Ralph
Friends of the Dunes	Annie Reid
Laurel Goldsmith	Bill Rodstrom
Pete Haggard	Janet Stock
Joyce Jonte	Patty Sennott
Karla Jovel	Andrea Taylor
Laura Julian	Rick Tolley
Melissa Kraemer	Ann Wallace
Tony LaBanca	Donna Wildearth
Kale Levin McNeil	Rita Zito
Wanda Naylor	Haley Walker
Clint Pogue	Sarah Feyers
Andrea Pickart	Isabelle Otillio

## MEMBERS' CORNER

### THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Louisa Aronow  
Rodney Rowan Chandler  
Jennifer Cilker  
Tim Doty  
Dayne Galash  
Daniel Gray  
Charlotte Hadden  
Debby Harrison  
Kitty Lynch  
Mae McLean  
Cindy Miles  
Sherrill Spires  
Diane Sutherland  
Matthew Towers  
Donna Whitmarsh  
Manya Wik

### THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

James Baskin  
Pat Bitton  
Jason Curtis  
Paula Fong  
Michele Kamprath  
Nicholas Klein-Baer  
Susan Penn  
Michael Rada  
Kathryn Rowe  
Evelyn Soltero  
Jessi Von Floto  
Paul Abels  
Ingrid Bailey  
Mary Baker  
Colette Beaupre  
Lacey Benson  
Mignonne Bivin  
Douglas Booth  
Jane Bothwell  
Patricia Brennan  
Kerry Byrne  
Adam Canter  
Sydney Carothers  
Katherine Clague  
Helen Constantine-Shull  
Shane Convery  
Tamar Danufsky  
Jan Dobak  
Patricia Dougherty  
Connie Doyle  
Richard Dwerkotte  
Anita Gilbride-Read  
Clare Golec  
Sallie Grover  
Jenny Hanson  
Bret Harvey  
Jonathan Hill  
Stanley Hino  
Jeff Hogue  
Don Hollander

Lisa Hoover  
Charles Hudson  
Karen Isa  
Chris Jenican-Beresford  
Eileen Jennis-Sauppe  
Ron Johnson  
Bruce Kessler  
Marla Knight  
Tony Labanca  
John Longshore  
Anne Lotz  
Janet Macher  
Jordan Mayor  
James McIntosh  
John McRae  
Robin Mize  
Carol Mone  
Jan Mountjoy  
Julianna Olate  
Courtney Otto  
Barbara Peck  
Claire Perricelli  
Louis Pitelka  
Tom Pratum  
Gisela Rohde  
Genevra Ryman  
April Sahara  
John Scharffenberger  
Ed Schreiber  
Randi Swedenburg  
Ayala Talpai  
Andrea Taylor  
Donna Thompson  
Leonard Thorsell  
Jeanne Tolmasoff  
Carl Tuck  
Stephen Underwood  
Michael Van Hattem  
Christina Wagner  
Anda Webb  
Susan Whaley

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

Greenlot Nursery, 10% discount on plants, 443-9484  
Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery: 10% discount on plants, 268-8447, [LostFoods.org](http://LostFoods.org)

Mad River Gardens: 10% discount on plants, 822-7049

Miller Farms: 5% discount on plants, 839-1571

Pierson's Garden Shop, 10% discount on garden shop items (except sale or non-discountable items—please ask staff before going to register), 441-2713

Samara Restoration LLC, 10% discount on plants, 834-4379 [samararestoration.com](http://samararestoration.com).

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

<b>President</b>	Carol Ralph	707-822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
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<b>Invasive Plants</b>	Steve Underwood		
<b>Native Plant Gardening</b>	Pete Haggard	707-839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.net
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<b>Plant Sales</b>	Position Open		
<b>Nursery Manager</b>	Chris Beresford	707-826-0259	thegang7@pacbell.net
<b>Education</b>	Position Open		
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<b>Rare Plants</b>	Dave Imper Greg O'Connell (Co-Chair)	707-444-2756 707-599-4887	dimper@suddenlink.net gregoconnell7@gmail.com
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<b>Merchandise Sales</b>	Karen Isa	626-912-5717	karenisa01@gmail.com
<b>Workshops</b>	Gordon Leppig	707-839-0458	Gordon.Leppig@wildlife.ca.gov
<b>Wildflower Show</b>	Carol Ralph		Contact President Carol Ralph
<b>Chapter Council Delegate</b>	Larry Levine	707-822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
<b>NEC CNPS Representative</b>	Joan Tippetts		jtippetts@yahoo.co.uk
<b>County Land Use Lead</b>	Marisa St John	707-601-0898	upperredwoodcreek@gmail.com

### 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](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)
- **E-mail lists/forums** To subscribe, please contact Carol Ralph: [theralphs@humboldt1](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1)
- **Like us on Facebook** [www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS](http://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS)

### EcoNews AND YOU

We, the North Coast Chapter of CNPS, are a member organization of the Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), a valuable voice for conservation in our area. We have a seat on their board of directors. The NEC is the only organization with which we share our mailing list. We think it is important that our members receive *EcoNews*, an informative publication about conservation issues in our area. Our chapter pays NEC to mail *EcoNews* to our members who are not also NEC members. You can reduce this cost to our chapter by joining NEC at [www.yournec.org](http://www.yournec.org) or requesting your *EcoNews* be electronic, contact Joan Tippetts [jtippetts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jtippetts@yahoo.co.uk)

### NATIVE PLANT CONSULTATION SERVICE



Are you wondering which plants in your yard are native? Are you unsure if that vine in the corner is an invasive exotic? Would you like to know some native species that would grow well in your yard?

The North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society offers the Native Plant Consultation Service to answer these questions and to share our experiences gardening with natives. This service is free. We hope it will inspire you to join CNPS or make a donation.

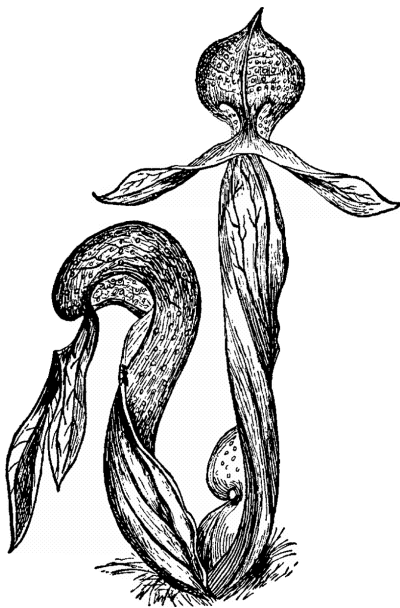
Contact our coordinator Samantha O'Connell at 707-601-0650 or [maineflower@gmail.com](mailto:maineflower@gmail.com) to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## *Darlingtonia*



Visit us at  
[northcoastcnps.org](http://northcoastcnps.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 13-14

### COVID-compliant Plant Sale

We are planning an in-person, **by appointment only** plant sale for Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th at our nursery at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka. We are limited to having 10 individuals in the nursery per hour. We will be posting the link to sign up soon as well as an updated list of what plants we will have for sale. We will have some additional species to offer for this sale that we did not have at our most recent. Please check our website under Native Plant Sales.