

Darlingtonia

Winter 2019
JAN-APR

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

RESTORING NATURE ONE GARDEN AT A TIME

by Donna Wildearth

This is a recap of our November program which consisted of a video of a lecture by Dr. Douglas Tallamy, professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. His lecture was the keynote address at the CNPS Conservation Conference last February in Los Angeles. You can watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yo4ZJ-ryTaE>. For a more in-depth discussion of this topic, I highly recommend Tallamy's book, "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants."

Insects are making headlines—again. For years we have heard troubling reports of the crisis in honeybee populations, and there have been articles about the alarming decline of monarch butterflies (as much as 96% since 1976 in central and eastern U.S.). But recent news stories are revealing a more widespread problem.

In September 2018 the Associated Press released an article entitled "Bye bye bugs? Scientists fear non-pest insects are declining" (*Times-Standard*, September 23, 2018). The study noted that scientists in the U.S., Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Denmark, and Greenland who study beneficial flying insects such as bees, moths, butterflies, ladybugs, and fireflies are reporting declining populations. One study estimated a 14% decline in ladybugs in the U.S. and Canada from 1987 to 2006, while a 2017 study of 63 nature preserves in Germany found an 82% mid-summer decline in the number and weight of bugs compared to 27 years earlier.



A White-eyed Vireo feeds a caterpillar to its nestlings. Each songbird relies on thousands of insects like this to survive and produce young. Photo by Douglas Tallamy

On October 15 the *Washington Post* ran an article entitled "'Hyperalarming' study shows massive insect loss," detailing the results of a study in Puerto Rico where a sharp drop in the number of moths, butterflies, grasshoppers, and spiders was accompanied by steep declines in the number of insect-eating lizards, frogs, and birds. In his lecture, Tallamy referred to a study that estimates invertebrate abundance worldwide has declined by 45% since 1974.

Should we care about this news? The answer is a resounding yes, because insects are the basis of the food web on land. And if insects are declining, multiple other organisms that eat insects are also at risk. Insects are highly nutritious, rich in protein and fat, and are an important component of the diet, even for such animals as the red fox (25% of their diet) and black bear (23% of their diet)!

Tallamy's lecture focused on an issue that many people aren't aware of: the crucial importance of insects for birds. 96% of terrestrial birds in this country raise their young on insects, primarily caterpillars. So if insect populations are

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declining, it isn't surprising that roughly 1/3 of the birds in this country are at risk of extinction. The 2016 State of the Birds report found 15 billion fewer birds breeding in the U.S. compared to 40 years ago.

Caterpillars are an essential food for baby birds. They are large and soft compared to other insects, making them easy for nestlings to digest. They are also higher in carotenoids, which provide immune system support, antioxidants, and the nutrients that birds need to develop the bright colors of their feathers. A 1961 study found that Carolina chickadees require between 6,000 and 9,000 caterpillars to successfully raise a brood of young birds.

If insects are vital components of the food web, the next question is what plants produce the most insects, especially caterpillars? This seems to fly in the face of conventional gardening wisdom which regards most insects as pests. But the bottom line of current research is that *if we want to encourage birds in our gardens we need to grow plants that will serve as hosts to a variety of insects. And the plants that do this best are native plants.*

Native plants harbor more insects because 90% of leaf-eating insects are specialists in terms of which plants they can eat. Plants don't want to be eaten, so in order to overcome the chemical and physical defenses that plants have developed, these specialist insects need to have co-evolved with a particular lineage of plants for thousands of years. A good example of this is the monarch butterfly, which has a long evolutionary history with milkweeds that has enabled the butterfly to work out how to eat the plant without being poisoned by its toxic chemicals.

Tallamy and his students counted the numbers of caterpillars on a native oak tree and found 410 caterpillars from 19 species. In comparison, on a non-native Bradford pear, a popular ornamental, they found exactly one. In a recent study in a Washington, D.C. suburb, one of Tallamy's students found that compared to native plant landscapes, yards dominated by non-native plants produced 75% fewer caterpillars. This study concluded that only yards with more than 70% native plant biomass can sustain chickadee populations. Non-native plants are not evil in themselves—though some are certainly problematic in terms of invasiveness. They are simply plants that have not been here long enough to evolve a relationship with insect herbivores. And this is true even though some, like the ginkgo, have been grown on U.S. soil for 400 years.

Tallamy and his students have further discovered that 5% of native species of plants produce 75% of the caterpillars they studied. They call these the native super plants. On the east coast these are native oaks, plums and cherries, willows, and pine. White oak (a different species than our local white oak), for instance, supports 557 species of caterpillars, produces acorns that help support food webs, and serves as habitat and nesting sites for many birds and mammals.

Tallamy's group has developed a list of the most

productive native plants, searchable by zip code, for every area of the country except California—because our state is so large and diverse. What are our native super plants? We don't currently know, but it seems that this should be an urgent topic for research. At the moment, perhaps the best option is to use Tallamy's list for Brookings, Oregon. On that list, the best native trees and shrubs are willow (312 species of caterpillars); plums and cherries (240 species); poplar/cottonwood/aspen (227 species); alder (210 species); oak (200 species); pine (199 species); and crabapple (155 species).

Finally, for some good news: *we can make a difference.* In our own landscapes we can start to address the problem of declining insects, birds, bees, and butterflies by planting more natives, especially super plants; by reducing the area covered by lawn; and by creating wildlife corridors to connect existing stands of native plants. When we do, we reap an added benefit—these creatures literally animate our gardens, providing another level of interest and beauty. And by the way, Tallamy recommends "holistic" gardening: if your plants have holes in the leaves, consider that a good sign!

In his words, "You can make a beautiful garden that also supports local food webs, sequesters carbon, improves your watershed, and helps pollinator populations all by yourself if you choose productive plants. And your contribution to local ecosystem function plays an important role in sustaining this planet." Such gardens sustain us as well, enriching our lives with a stronger sense of place and the rewards of being attuned to natural processes and seasonal patterns.



These fifth-grade students at Union St. Charter School researched and then each bought a native plant for their pollinator garden. They are gaining hands-on knowledge about the importance of natives! Photo by Barbara Reisman

EVENING PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

Please watch for updates on our web site (www.NorthCoastCNPS.org) or sign up for e-mail announcements (Northcoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Evening programs are free, public programs on the second **Wednesday** of each month, September through May, at Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m. For information or to suggest a speaker or topic contact Michael Kauffmann at 707-407-7686

Jan 9 "Flora of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks" Author, botanist, and CNPS North Coast member Dana York will take us on a botanical and historical tour of these two national treasures. *An Illustrated Flora of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks* is the first comprehensive guidebook covering the diversity of plants found in the southern Sierra Nevada. From towering giant sequoias in magnificent forests to pygmy alpinegolds growing on desert-like ridgetops, the plants are as rich and beautiful as the famous Sierra landscapes where they grow. Dana will be signing his book.

Feb 13 "Rare and Endangered Conifers of the Klamath Mountains: Updates from the Field" Educator, author, and ecologist Michael Kauffmann has been tracking the ecology and distribution of Klamath Mountain conifers for over 15 years, and his book, *Conifer Country*, is the definitive field guide to the region. Recently he has been working with the California Native Plant Society and the Klamath, Six Rivers, and Modoc National Forests to map and inventory the rare and threatened conifers of northern California. Michael will take us from mountain summits to coastal river valleys and provide updates on the status and distribution of many of these charismatic conifers.

Mar 13 "Ecology and Conservation of the California Pitcher Plant" Daring to understand the ecology and distribution of *Darlingtonia californica*, or the California Pitcher Plant, Jamieson Chilton, a student at Humboldt State University, will dive into the work he is doing to better understand the ecology and future conservation of this unique species. This native wetland plant inhabits poor, often serpentine soils, and has resorted to carnivory to supplement nutrient deficiencies in soils where it grows. Not only is it unique to northern California and southwest Oregon, but it is the logo for CNPS North Coast Chapter!

Apr 10 "Plants of Northern California: A Field Guide to Plants West of the Sierra Nevada" with Eva Begley, author.

FIELD TRIPS Winter - Spring

Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. Address questions about physical requirements to the leader. Contact the leader so you can be informed of any changes.

February 23, Saturday. Skunk Cabbage Trail Day Hike. Skunk Cabbage bloom early. Let's see if their glowing, yellow lanterns are open this early. This trail is the first place I ever saw Pacific Golden Saxifrage. Is it still there? We will also see massive Redwood, Sitka Spruce, and Western Hemlock, an ocean vista, wind-sheared coastal bluffs, ferny banks, mossy Big-leaf Maples, and sandy beach. We will shuttle cars so we can walk one way the 5.6 miles from Skunk Cabbage Trail trailhead to Davison Rd. near the Gold Bluffs Beach entrance station. This trail is a section of the California Coastal Trail in Redwood National and State Parks. Dress for the weather in a shady forest and on an exposed beach. Bring lunch and water. No facilities along the way. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Tell Carol you are coming, if you want to know of any changes due to weather: 707-822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com.

March 24, Sunday. Horse Linto Day Hike. Early spring brings fawn lilies, trilliums, and warriors to the oak woodlands and riparian forests of Horse Linto Campsite in Six Rivers National Forest and the road to it from Willow Creek. To see them we will walk a short, uneven trail and explore along the road. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) to carpool. Return mid-afternoon. Please tell Carol you are coming: 822-2015, theralphs@humboldt1.com

April 28, Sunday. Coyote Creek Basin Day Hike. If spring has begun at elevation 1,700-2,900 ft, we will see it happening in oak woodland and coastal prairie in the southeast corner of Redwood National Park near the Lyon Ranch Trail off Bald Hills Rd. If we feel ambitious, we will shuttle cars and walk the 5.1-mile route as suggested in Ken Burton's *Hiking Humboldt vol. 1, 55 Day Hikes in Northwest California*. Come prepared for varied weather; bring lunch and water. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) to carpool. Tell Carol if you are interested, as plans might be adjusted as the date approaches: 707-822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com.

Workshop: A Primer on Sedges: Saturday, March 23, 2019

Instructor: Gordon Leppig

Target Audience: Professional and student botanists, consultants, regulators, and ecologists. Participants should have knowledge of basic plant terminology and use of dichotomous keys.

Participants will gain proficiency in:

Basic sedge terminology, morphology, and ecology.

Keying terminology and techniques using *The Jepson Manual, 2nd Edition* and other references.

Sight recognition of some ecologically dominant sedges based upon habitat.

Appreciation for the beauty, diversity, complexity, and ecological value of sedges.

A richer understanding of some of northern California's most common and rare sedges.



C. buxbaumii. Courtesy of Gordon Leppig

Registration and Cost: \$120 for CNPS members; \$150 for non-members.

Register on line at: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

The last day to register is March 1.

If you are not a CNPS member, go to www.cnps.org/join to join now and save!

Description: This is an intensive introductory/intermediate course on sedge identification and keying with an emphasis on species occurring in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest. The workshop starts with an introductory review of sedge taxonomy, ecology, biogeography, and essential sedge keying terminology and morphology. The rest of the day will be guided dissection and keying of specimens in the laboratory using a microscope and the *Jepson Manual 2nd Edition*. Keying will be punctuated with guidance and commentary on keying groups and species characteristics. Many specimens will be available for review, dissection, and comparison. This workshop is geared for beginner and intermediate caricologists, but familiarity with keying plants in the Jepson Manual is required. The emphasis will be on learning some of the most common and rare sedges in northern California.

Venue: Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. Directions and additional information will be provided to registered participants about a week before the workshop.

Schedule: 9:00am to 5:00pm (1 Hr. lunch). Please arrive early to get setup.

Materials Required: Please bring...

- Quality dissecting equipment, including extra-fine forceps and a metric ruler
- Hand lens
- Notebook and writing implements
- Lunch (or find lunch nearby in Arcata)
- *The Jepson Manual, 2nd Edition*
Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest 1st or 2nd Edition (recommended)

Materials Provided: CNPS will provide handouts, diverse material for keying and comparison, and dissecting scopes. Coffee, tea, fruit, and baked goods will be available during the morning session.

About the Instructor:

Gordon Leppig is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and has been a student of sedges for over 20 years.

Field Trip Reports

Dead Lake 23 September 2018

by Carol Ralph



Dead Lake from the northwest end. Photos by the author

In Tolowa Dunes State Park by Crescent City, Dead Lake is a deep, natural pond in a flat expanse of old dunes now a mosaic of willow thickets, shallow ponds, stabilized sand flats, and dune forest. During the logging era this area was an industrial site, using Dead Lake as a log pond. The devastation must have been total, but nature has now covered it with diverse, lush greenery, most of it native. As nine botanizers gathered at the Dead Lake boat launch, hoping to explore by canoe and kayak, we saw a problem. White caps driven by a lusty northwest wind raced the length of the lake. We quickly revised our exploration to be the wet foot sort, around the edges of the lake.

Our exploration began literally a few steps behind the block toilet structure, where a tiny pocket bay was accessible by an informal path heading around it.

On the shore we stood on Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and discovered at water's edge it's less common cousin, Marsh Cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*). We could reach the nearest tall emergents that grew near shore-- Hardstem Bulrush or Tule



Leaves of Floating-leaf Pondweed (left) and Watershield (right)

(*Schoenoplectus acutus*), Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and invasive Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacoris*). Floating Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar polysepala*) leaves were conspicuous, and there, also floating, were the shiny, oval leaves of Watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*)! The petioles obviously arose in the centers of the leaves. This was one of my quarries of the day, found already! We also spotted the red, floating, crumbly textured Water Fern (*Azolla mexicana*), and with some determined key work established the identity of Willow Dock (*Rumex transitorius*, formerly *salicifolius* var. *transitorius*), distinguished by three spherical tubercles on each seed.

We proceeded on the informal path through a thicket of Coastal Willow (*Salix hookeriana*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*), and dense beds of Spiraea (*Spiraea douglasii*). One alder trunk had clearly been severed by a beaver. We soon emerged at one end of another tiny pond divided from the lake by vegetation. This pond had obvious engineering features and, surprisingly, a lone Red-necked Phalarope daintily plying the open water. In the shallow water in front of us we peeked into the bizarre world of aquatic plants. Among the submerged chunks of broken water weeds we found a long, branched, leafless "root" with tiny, dark "beads" strung along it. These were the bladders, the traps, of the carnivorous Common Bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*), which lives an entirely floating existence, as do many of these "water weeds." Senescing bottle-brushy underwater stems of Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum* sp.) showed the pinnate, TV-antenna form of their "leaves."

In search of a lunch spot, we headed the opposite direction from the boat launch parking area, on a trail through tunnels of willows toward the upwind end of the lake, the only place the shore is not densely vegetated. The trail traversed old dune flats and young dune forest and ended bounding down a sand hill to the gentle shore of the lake. Here we were a bit sheltered and enjoyed our picnic in sight of the boat launch. We sat among a knee-high tangle of Marsh Lotus (*Lotus uliginosus*--12-flowered inflorescences, hollow



Like monstrous worms, the stems of Yellow Pond Lily lie exposed by the low water level at the northwest end of the lake

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stems, non-native), rush (*Juncus* spp.), Common California Aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*), Water Hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*), Silverweed, Marsh Cinquefoil, and Small-seeded Bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*). We noted two members of the mint family: American Wild Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and Northern Bugleweed (*Lycopus uniflorus*).

The end-of-summer low water level left a wide beach and exposed roots of Yellow Pond Lily. The wet sand was thoroughly riddled with Common Threesquare (*Schoenoplectus pungens* --leaf blade more than 2.5 x sheath). In one bare, muddy spot were the two-inch high, delicate stems holding single, yellow flowers of Gibbous Bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*), which roots in the bottom, deploying its bladders in the substrate. A pocket of very shallow water among old logs hosted creeping mats of Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyl ranunculoides*), upright spears of Bur-reed (*Sparganium* sp.), and spectacular mats of floating Watershield. Nearby were the floating, oval leaves of Floating-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), with the petiole attached at the leaf base. This pond weed also has strap-shaped leaves under water. Happily blooming on clumps of solid ground, oblivious to the lateness of the season, were daisy-like Nodding Beggarticks (*Bidens cernua*). We found no apparent inflow or outflow of water at this end of the lake.

Despite the land-bound nature of our wetland exploration, it was successful. We saw a good diversity of wetland plants. Dead Lake is far from dead! The abundant water has fueled a generous recovery from the industrial insults of the past. I was excited to see masses of Watershield, a species rare in California (California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3). I still need to return on a calm day with a boat to look for another charismatic and uncommon wetland species, Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*).

Bear River Ridge 4 November 2018

by Carol Ralph

Sixteen people interested in seeing and experiencing the place that Terra-Gen Humboldt Wind Project is proposing to put 591-ft-tall wind turbines gathered in Scotia and then drove up Monument Rd out of Rio Dell. We parked where the gated, private road forked off to Mt. Pierce and Monument Ridge, also proposed to sprout turbines. After sharing what we knew about the wind project, we walked up the county road. The ascending road was among scattered, young Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*). Below the road were large stands of enormous, lichen-covered Cream Bush (*Holodiscus discolor*). Clouds swirled around us, and we realized that grand vistas are not guaranteed from up here.

Luckily, the clouds lifted as we emerged on the top of the ridge. Here no trees interfered with views. The mountain top rolled along under the wide sky, naked of woody vegetation. Familiar marks of civilization spread far below us, laid out in unfamiliar orientation, and mountain peaks known and unknown broke the horizon in all directions. This was our earthbound version of soaring.

The thin covering of grass and herbs on the ridge was uniformly dry and brown. This was grazing country. Domestic stock have been here a long time. My guess is that the grassland species are mostly non-native. The prairie spread down the south side of the ridge, toward the Bear River. On the north side in some places the front ranks of the forest crept up from the slopes below and walled off the view. Among these trees were some large Tan Oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), which are suggested to have been important to the Wiyot people who once lived up here.



CNPS field trippers shelter from wind on the roadbank and focus on lunch while getting to know the place proposed for wind turbines. Photo by Carol Ralph

A

persistent wind attested to the suitability of the ridge for wind turbines, from an engineering perspective. From a non-engineering perspective I suspect that Bear River Ridge with new roads and giant, whooshing towers would not provide the same lift-off for the spirit. The urgency of developing non-carbon energy is clear to us all, but what must we sacrifice for it? For water we sacrificed numerous sierran canyons. A similar tragedy is unfolding with wind energy.

The public can enjoy this road. Simply follow Monument Rd. up the hill out of Rio Dell. The county road runs the length of Bear River Ridge and connects to the Mattole Rd. out of Ferndale. All the property along the road is private and should be respected as such.

The Lassics 6 October 2018

by Carol Ralph

The Lassics Botanical and Geological Area in Six Rivers National Forest is one of our local treasures. Its serpentine soils produce dramatic landscapes of unusual vegetation and rare plants. The journey there from Arcata-Eureka is a bit long for a day trip --out Highway 36 to Van Duzen River Rd, then up Forest Service roads--but worth doing once in a while. It took us 3.5 hours from Arcata to the trailhead, including about 1/2 hour at Dinsmore Store. Overnight camping in the forest or staying in Dinsmore, Mad River, or Ruth Lake would increase the exploration possibilities. We 13 botanizers did two hikes described in *Hiking Humboldt vol 2, 101 Shorter Day Hikes, Urban and Road Walks* by Rees Hughes, as Hike #101, the last in the book. We first walked about 2 miles round trip to the summit of Mt. Lassic (5,860 ft.), also known as Signal Peak. Then we drove the short distance to the trailhead for Black Lassic and walked to the top of it, summit at 5,876 ft, about 1 mile round trip.

The dominant feature of the landscape was the charred aftermath of the 2015 fire, which burned thoroughly here. Picturesque skeletons of conifers and gnarled shrubs were everywhere. The harsh soils produce barren landscapes in lush years. Now any stands were reduced to barrenness. In fact, the most barren landscape we traversed, the slopes of Black Lassic, suffered no fire damage.



The charred landscape between Black Lassic and Red Lassic. Photos by author.

No trees or shrubs grew there to carry fire to the herbaceous plants scattered on this crunchy, gravelly substrate. Yes, we could see life rising from the ashes. Some shrubs were sprouting from their root crowns. I saw a few tiny conifer seedlings. Swaths of dry annuals like a phacelia and Blue-head Gilia (*Gilia capitata*) carpeted stands of charred spires. Notably large individuals of herbaceous perennials in the genera *Hosackia* and *Solanum* caught my eye. Overall, however, the healing is proceeding slowly.

On Mt. Lassic stands of brush such as those burned in this fire-- mainly Greenleaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), Whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*), and Arching Ceanothus (*Ceanothus arcuatus*)-- are a modern phenomenon. Sydney Carothers, who has monitored the Lassics Lupine (*Lupinus constancei*) for many years and came on

this trip to show us, says aerial photos from the 1940's show no brush on Mt. Lassic. The current patches are called "encroachment," another example of the unintended consequences of years of fire suppression. These shrubs are native, but their presence turns out to be important to the Lassics Lupine. The brush harbors mice and chipmunks which enjoy eating lupine seeds and new growth. The brush also carries fire. The



A Lassics Lupine in its protective cage.

2015 fire killed all the mature Lassics Lupine. Stimulated by fire, more than four times as many plants sprouted, but the current population is now roughly only 500 individuals. That is the entire species, all right here, subject to the vagaries of fire and weather. Intensive management caging the reproductive plants to exclude the rodents is what keeps it here.

Since the 1990's CNPS has been a partner with Six Rivers National Forest in studying and protecting the Lassics Lupine. Monitoring by a CNPS member first clarified the damage OHVs and cows were doing to the lupine. The Forest Service removed rogue roads, placed boulders, and removed cows. CNPS worked with the Forest Service through subsequent years to follow the lupine individuals and population, study the rodent problem and install temporary cages, and study soil conditions, and vegetation changes. A CNPS member successfully petitioned the State of California to list the Lassics Lupine as state endangered. It was an honor and a



Black Lassic seen in the distance from the top of Mt. Lassic.

thrill to see this iconic plant in its natural place, although the wire cage gave the feeling it was on life support. Without a guide like we had, hikers are advised to avoid the area where the Lassics Lupine grows. The soil is loose and crunchy, and the young plants so inconspicuous and fragile that hikers' feet could easily damage or kill plants.

Both Mt. Lassic and Black Lassic were easy to walk up, and both afforded the grand feeling of being at the top--a huge sky above the ranks of mountains arrayed into the distance.

Help Needed!!

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

Publicity Coordinator. Have you noticed how many different ways we need to communicate our activities these days? Our newsletter, Econews, Times Standard, radio, websites, Facebook, flyers, other clubs, etc. We need someone to help our event planners by feeding the information to the appropriate places by the various deadlines. This is a well defined and VERY important job.

Wildflower Show Coordinator. We need a fourth person to take some of the planning-level responsibilities of the show. If you believe in the Wildflower Show as a terrific outreach and education event and want to assure its continuance and even growth, this is your chance to make a difference.

Workshop Chair. Organizes workshops, as many as desired on as varied topics as suggested.

Hospitality Assistant. Be responsible for refreshments for an evening program or other event and/or assist Melinda in same.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

Thank you!

Barbara Reisman for 4 years as Education Chair, competently organizing school visits to the Wildflower Show. Barbara has also taken charge of our booth operation at public events, and otherwise is generous with the usefulness of her position living right in town. This is all in addition to being Assistant Nursery Manager, taking considerable responsibility when Chris is out of town. Barbara is a valuable member of our steering committee!

Nursery and Plant Sale volunteers and their energetic, talented leader, **Chris Beresford**, for their hours of careful work growing and selling native plants. The nursery operation and the plant sales are both important educational events, raising awareness of native plants, and they are both fun, making people welcome in the world of native plants! They are also the source of most of our chapter's funds, making other activities possible.

Jon Hill, for updating Dr. Walker's conifers-on-campus map and list.

Gary Boomfield for continued use of his beautiful and fun *Darlingtonia* t-shirt art.

Provolt Printing for helping us navigate the universe of t-shirts to order attractive shirts and for carefully printing Gary's art on them.

Central Office for continued, fast, cheerful, accurate printing and mailing of our newsletter, and helping us meet some extra challenges like "more fliers right now!"

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Kneeland Glen Farm Stand

5627 Myrtle Avenue in Eureka

open daily from 12 – 6

We are now selling plants at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand. We offer plants throughout the year and sell them when they look their best, outside of the spring and fall plant sales. Our display space is limited, so if you don't find the plant you are looking for, contact us at: northcoastcnps@gmail.com and we will get back to you.



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For tending our booth at the North Country Fair: **Rita Zito, Frank Milezcik, Carol Woods, Stephanie Klein, Melinda Groom, Kathryn Johnson, Evan Mahoney-Moyer, Ila Osborn, Barbara Kelley, Karen Isa, Carol Ralph.**

Rita Zito for carrying our 8-ft tall, papier mache *Darlingtonia* in the All Species Parade, the only representative of the Plant Kingdom.

Elaine Allison and **Dennis Walker** for leading plant walks.

Greg O'Connell for seeing through our commitment to monitoring rare plants in Big Lagoon Bog before and after brush clearing.

Joseph Saler for taking on this monitoring as his master's project.

Dave Imper for never giving up on finding ways to fix the hydrology of Crescent City Marsh.

Jeff Hart for continued use of his pop-up, a VERY useful item at plant sales.

Help State Parks—*Second Saturday Work Days*

Second Saturdays of every month volunteers gather for "restoration work days" at either Trinidad State Beach, Patrick's Point State Park, or Humboldt Lagoons State Park. That usually means pulling English Ivy, a very satisfying, vigorous activity, which leaves an area looking better than when you arrived. Wear sturdy shoes for walking off trail. Gloves and tools are provided, or bring your own. Volunteers receive a free entrance to Patrick's Point State Park. With questions call Michelle or Katrina at 677-3109 or write michelle.forys@parks.ca.gov or katri-na.henderson@parks.ca.gov.

HEAVY RAIN OR STRONG WIND CANCELS EVENTS.

Patrick's Point State Park

Ask Entrance Station Attendant for that days' work site or meet at the Visitor Center parking lot.

10am to 1pm

Work Dates:

Jan. 12
Apr. 13
July 13
Oct. 12

Trinidad State Beach

Meet at Trinidad State Beach picnic area parking lot in Trinidad (north of Trinidad School, off Stagecoach Rd.)

10am to 1pm

Work Dates:

Feb. 9
Mar. 9
May 11

Humboldt Lagoons State Park

Meet at Stagecoach Azalea trailhead off Kane Road/Big Lagoon Ranch Road.

10am to 1pm

Work Dates:

Feb. 23
Mar. 23
Apr. 6



Spring Wildflower Show

the North Coast celebration of wild California plants

May 3-4-5, 2019

Jefferson Community Center

1000 B St., Eureka (between Washington and Clark Streets)

Friday, May 3, 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Show and sale

Sunday, May 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Show and sale

You can help with the show! 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com. We need people to collect flowers, identify and arrange them, set up tables, work shifts at tables, lead school groups, and clean up. Most tasks require no botanical knowledge.

The nursery has outgrown the space at the Jefferson Community Center, so from now on, all plant sales will be held at our nursery site.
Hope to see you at BOTH events!

Native Plant Sale

5851 Myrtle Ave

Freshwater Farms

May 4 & 5

Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

See a list of plants at www.northcoastcnps.org>Gardening>Native Plant Sales

You can help with the sale! Call Chris at 707-826-7247 or email: thegang7@Pacbell.net. We need people to arrange plants, label plants, advise customers, tally purchases, take money, and clean up. Most tasks require no botanical knowledge.



MEMBERS' CORNER

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Sharon Edell
Yvonne Everett
Sharon Ferrett
Paula Fong
Gail Judge
Jeri Oliphant
Margaret Partlow
Susan Penn
Jessi Von Floto
Catherine Allen/Tom Allen
James Aven
Pauline Baefsky
Morey Bassman
Anna Bernard
Larry Blakely
Donna Clark/Jim Clark
Bryan Drew
Gary Falxa
Melinda Groom
Richard Hansis
Debra Harrison/Greg Blomstrom
Todd Hayes/Quanah Hayes
Judith Hinman
Jenny Hutchinson
Michele Kamprath
Barbara Kelly
Joyce King
Kathryn Lancaster
Laurie Lawrence
Ann Lindsay
Mary Lowry/Alan Lowry
J. Mastrogiuseppe
Bobbie McKay
Catherine McNally
Daniel Palmer
Oona Paloma
John Patton/Victoria Patton
C.J. Ralph/Carol Ralph
Jennifer Richmond
Diane Ryerson
Margaret Shaffer
Joshua Tanzer/Elizabeth Yokoh
Donna Thompson
Bradley Thompson
Melissa Van Scoyoc
Joan Watanabe/Michael Watanabe
Jim Waters/Virginia Waters
Katherine White
Valerie Williamson
Samara Restoration/Eric Johnson

JOIN CNPS!

To join or renew, you can either: send your name and address, check (payable to CNPS) CNPS, 2707 K St., Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 or pay on-line CNPS.org

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Mary Baker
Katherine Bettis
Dan Carmell
Wendell Day
Brian Dorman
Bill Gibb
Barbara Groom
William Hites
Christina Hutton
Kevin McCarthy
Ellen McKnight
Kale McNeill
Robert Melendez
Edward Nolan
Jennifer Olson
Michael Parker
Marjorie Pearson
Jay Peterson
Beth Powell
Myriam Serrano
Steven Swain
Carolyn Taberner
Brendan Thompson
Emma Ussat
Kristine Wiskes
Edward Yates
Clay Yerby

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

Greenlot Nursery, 10% discount on plants, 443-9484

Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery: 10% discount on plants, 268-8447, LostFoods.org

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

Miller Farms: 5% discount on plant materials, 839-1571

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

Samara Restoration LLC, 10% discount on plants, 834.4379 / samararestoration.com.

Fall Plant Sale Volunteer Thank You

On behalf of the plant sale team, I wish to thank all the volunteers who made the September 22 fall plant sale such a success, our first time at Freshwater Farms Reserve. It was a beautiful day, and many folks came by to purchase plants and check out the new nursery facilities. We had many compliments about the new location.

There are many parts to a plant sale. A Big Thank You to people who printed the plant labels; checked the participating nurseries in and out; directed and assisted cars to safely park; answered numerous plant questions; tallied plant sales; worked the cashiering tables; carried plants out to customers' cars; provided food for the volunteers; helped clean up and put plants back after the sale; — we could not have done this without everyone's assistance! Each of you played an important role in the success of this sale. Since this was our first plant sale at this location, we learned how to make things work better for the spring plant sale!

Volunteers at the fall plant sale were: Mary Alward, Richard Beresford, Randi Swedenburg, Karen Isa, Pete Haggard, Carol Ralph, CJ Ralph, Chris Brant, Ann Burroughs, Melanie & Ron Johnson, Anita Gilbride-Read, Samatha O'Connell, Evan Mahoney-Moyer, Becky Deja, Kate Lancaster, Ila Osburn, Veronica Yates, Bonnie MacRaith, Elaine Weinreb, Greg O'Connell, David Callow, Donna Wildearth, Nancy Ihara, Jill Mefford, Judi Hinman, Christine Kelly, Rebecca Manion, Elaine Allison, Sam Rich, Alan Wilkinson, Barbara Wilkinson, Fred Alward, Sabra Steinberg, Ernie Wasson, Caitlin Allchin, Emmalieu Crayton, Sarah Hirsch, Sue Marquette, Tom Lyle, Frank Milezcik, Sean Thornton, Mike Parker, Lenihan Mazur, Joyce Houston, Brittany Taylor and Elena Cattaneo, — another Big Thank You to all!

5 local nurseries provided plants for our sale: Samara Restoration, Beresford's Bulbs, Mattole Restoration Council, Lost Foods, and Brant Landscaping. These nurseries provided shrubs, trees, perennials and bulbs that we do not grow ourselves.

Special thanks to: Chris Brant for weed-eating and mowing prior to the sale; Karen Isa for updating our plant sale banner, coordinating and providing food for the volunteers, and getting boxes; Melanie Johnson for coordinating all our volunteers; Ann Burroughs for printing the plant labels for CNPS as well as the other nurseries; Sam O'Connell for making new informational signs; CJ Ralph and Mary Alward for taking charge of parking; Mary Alward for purchasing much-needed parking signs and safety cones as well as for making parking signs; Anita Gil-

bride-Read for being in charge of cashiering; and Christine Kelly for organizing the plants from participating nurseries.

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) in Fortuna provided 6 member volunteers to help all day in exchange for lunch. The CCC's provided assistance with parking, taking plants to cars, and cleaning up at the end of the day. A special thanks to members Brian Dominguez, Hailey Quinnett, Tanner Castillo, Adrian Chavez, Merlin Ashbrook and Isaiah Nero.

I would like to thank our neighbors, Jerry Steiner and Tiffany Rittenhouse, for generously allowing us to park in their field. We used this area for volunteer parking and overflow. Parking was a challenge, but this made it easier. So if you know them, please thank them again.

If I missed anyone, please accept my sincere apologies. Hope to see many of you at the Spring Sale at Freshwater Farm Reserve.

Nursery Special Workday Thank you

At our last nursery work day on September 9th, we got a lot accomplished. We moved our fence to include the hoop house back door inside a "clean" area, as per the phytophthora committee recommendation, stacked 3 pallets of potting soil inside the hoop house, laid fabric cloth on the last area that needed to be covered, and cleaned up along our deer fencing. A few folks worked in the future garden area grubbing out blackberries and other weeds. Thanks to Tom Allen, Anita Gilbride-Read, Tim Gilbride-Read, Richard Beresford, Greg O'Connell, CJ Ralph, Carol Ralph, Karen Isa, Alan Wilkinson, Barbara Wilkinson, Christine Kelly, Sandy Andersen, Gary Falxa and Sydney Carothers for helping to accomplish many tasks on the list! A special thanks to Barbara and Alan Wilkinson for taking a load of old pallets to Wes Green to be composted.

Nursery Thank you's

Thanks to the following for helping out at the nursery growing our plants and getting ready for the plant sale: Barbara Reisman who takes the lead while I am away, Carol Ralph, Carol Woods, Sam O'Connell, Mary Alward, Karen Isa, Ron Melin, Barbara Wilkinson, Ila Osburn, Sue Marquette, Jesse Van Floto, Sharon King, Carolyn Taberner, Aaron, and Bonnie MacRaith and Christine Kelly.

A special thank you to our faithful watering team, coordinated by Barbara Reisman, who show up on scheduled days to water and check on the nursery plants: Sam O'Connell, Carol Woods, Rita Zito and

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Mary Alward. Carol Woods is retiring from watering and Sydney Carothers will be taking her place.

Sam O'Connell continues taking care of stocking and keeping track of our sales through the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand. She regularly checks our plant shelves, filling in needed plants, cleaning up those on the stand and adding new species with their signage as we have space. Since moving here in January, we have sold over \$4,000 worth of plants through the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand. All of these sales help to pay our rent for the hoop house and nursery area to the North Coast Regional Land Trust. Thank you Sam!



Jon Hill deserves so many thanks....he has cheerfully taken on the task of building 20 4' x 10' tables of pressure-treated wood with plastic tops for our container plants. He has worked closely with the CNPS phytophthora committee to ensure that the design met all of their requirements. The nursery looks amazing, thanks to his work! We all appreciate the tables and how easy they are to use. Jon even made stands for our sprinklers out of the left over wood. Most of our tables were paid for by a grant from the State CNPS to help combat the spread of phytophthora in the nursery industry. With Jon taking on this task, the grant funds went much further and we were able to get many more tables for the nursery. Thank you Jon, very much!!

A very special thank you to Barbara Wilkinson for power washing and sterilizing the entire floor and the sides inside of the hoop house, an arduous and time-consuming job. The hoop house needed to be cleaned up and sterilized prior to our starting seeds for the next growing season and Barbara willingly took on this massive task. Thank you Barbara!!

And last, but in no ways least, a special thanks to Richard Beresford for designing and installing an indoor misting water system on 2 tables. This will keep our newly-planted seeds happy so that they can germinate.

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



Watch this space!!

Right now, this patch of land next to our nursery tables is undergoing a transformation. On special work days, crews have cleared weeds, hacked out blackberry, and smoothed the surface. Next, a layer of cardboard went down, followed by hay bales spread out in thick clumps. The next step involved shoveling wood chips from near the Freshwater Trail site and moving them to the back entrance. Volunteers shoveled the

chips back out onto tarps, which were then dragged or wheelbarrowed over to the site and spread out. The blue tarp to the right is sheltering a pile of compost, the first of many, that will be mixed with soil and spread over the entire area. Eventually, this will be our demonstration garden, serving as an example of how anyone can use native plants in their own yard.

Thoughts While Contemplating a Beautiful Weed:

a conversation between Ann Neyaha Walsh and Carol Ralph

Ann writes:

Some time ago, while I was living in Hana, in the east Moku on the island of Maui, Hawai'i, I observed tall, straight-trunked trees with large red blossoms in their canopies. I learned they were African Tulip trees and considered a blight, for they were invasive. I felt confused and horrified, for the trees gave me so much pleasure during a time of deep grief and being lost.

During this time I worked on a small, successful tropical flower farm, weeding long cords of hoehoe grass, tugging and ripping truer words than weeding. I liked the owners, who had stout reputations for delivering healthy flowers as ever their shop-keeper owners wanted. One afternoon, after work was "pau" (done), the owner, M. and I stood marveling in the beauty of their property. M. pointed out his favorite trees and plants.

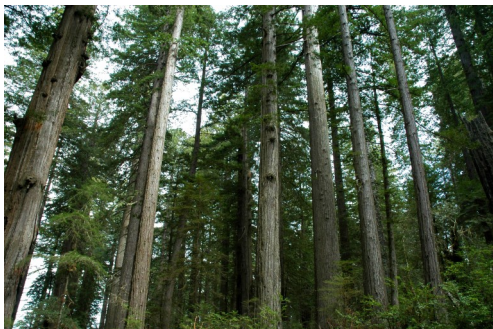
"What's that tree?" I asked, pointing toward my favorite, a lush tree with an umbrella-like canopy.

M. scoffed, "That's a junk tree!"

Again, I was confused and horrified. How could such a thing of beauty be considered worthless?

Similarly, years earlier, while living near the Washington-British Columbia border, I learned from a neighbor, L., whom I admired and respected, that a small, low-growing, vanilla-fragrant ground plant was considered invasive. I was bewildered and yet felt the call to educate myself about the preservation of native plants. Over time, considering the difficulty for native plants amongst invasive ones, I realized feathers, pelts, and humans have moved plants hither and thither. The invasive species did not ask to be moved from their native habitat and put into a foreign one.

I do not wish to dismiss the importance of being aware that invasive species nudge native ones out. I wish to inspire a place in between, arrived at through my heart, not an imperialistic perspective.



Carol answers:

My heart also has marveled at the cheer of a hillside yellow with Scotch Broom or has reveled in the lush greenery of Tree of Heaven along a river. My head has since educated my heart. My place in between does not automatically shun every non-native plant. The many species that travel with humans and stay where they are first planted are OK. Or if they stay along roads, not venturing out into the prairie, desert, or forest. At least they are not taking more than their share, not being imperialistic. The truly invasive plants are doing that. Even if they are beautiful, they can be eliminating dozens of other species (which were there first) and are "changing ecosystem function." To avoid the anthropomorphic connotations of the term "invasive" or "invasive exotic", I prefer the term suggested by CalIPC, a term that points out the problem-- "environmental weed."

The education of my heart has proceeded further, with the knowledge provided by Douglas Tallamy (our November speaker by video) that native plants are essential to maintain populations of native birds. My heart savors every day of bird song and every glimpse of these precious, fragile creatures. My heart, therefore, must take me to the place in between that is well supplied with native plants, and my heart will lead me to defending these native plants. In my place in between every plant will be considered based on its merits, including whether it "plays well with others" and contributes to the health of other living creatures. I will always remember that each species is native somewhere and can be admired and accepted in its original habitat. (Exception: "species" created by plant breeders, which are not native anywhere)

Ann responds:

It's been through Carol's astute and fair perspective, I've come to see practicing noble discernment as to what plants serve the ecosystem well and what plants have no manners (environmental weeds), is a wise place in-between.

Want to see pictures in color? You can always check out our on-line edition of the Darlingtonia at <http://northcoastcnps.org/index.php/about-us/newsletter>

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Econews CNPS Page Editor	Position Open		Contact President Carol Ralph
County Land Use Lead	Marisa St John	707-601-0898	upperredwoodcreek@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Issue	Print Date	Submission Date	Announce Events In
Winter	January 1	December 1	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr
Spring	April 1	March 1	Apr, May, June, Jul
Summer	July 1	June 1	Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct
Fall	October 1	September 1	Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

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/forums** To subscribe, send an e-mail to: Announcements: NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com / Gardening: NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- **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 Gary Falxa at garyfalxa@gmail.com).

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.

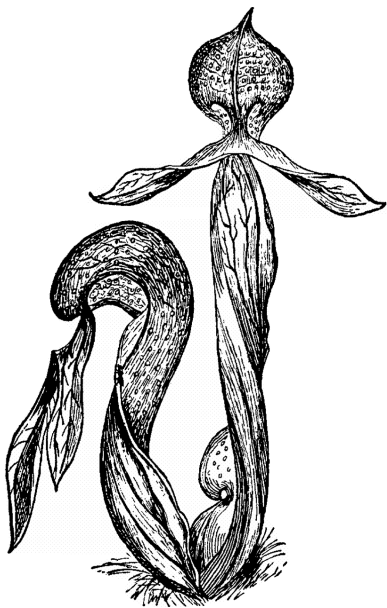
Contact our coordinator Samantha O'Connell at 707-601-0650 or maineflower@gmail.com to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Darlingtonia



Visit us at
NorthCoastCNPS.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 20 Winter in Pete & Judy's Garden

February

- 13 Evening program

March

- 13 Evening program
- 23 Sedge workshop

April

- 10 Evening program

May

- 3-5 Wildflower Show
- 4-5 Native Plant Sale

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