

# Darlingtonia

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

## Help Save a Rare Northern California Wildland

Located at the junction of Lake and Colusa counties, Walker Ridge is an ecological treasure with renowned biological diversity and fascinating geology. A unique ridgeline of serpentinite soils, it hosts at least 27 rare plants, 11 of which are globally rare and endemic to this small area of California. You might spot a bald eagle as you look east over Bear Valley, or catch a glimpse of the area's 46 different species of damselflies and dragonflies and 80 butterfly species. Each year, visitors marvel at the incredible wildflower displays and take in breathtaking views of far-off mountain ranges.

Unfortunately, Walker Ridge also is the target of energy developers. The latest proposal comes from Colusa Wind LLC (aka Algonquin Power and Utility). The international company wants to build an industrial-scale wind development on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands in a largely undisturbed area, even though the California Energy Commission's wind energy resource maps show the area has only marginal-to-low potential for power generation, compared to existing California commercial wind power sites.

The Protect Walker Ridge Alliance, with representatives from Sierra Club, CalWild, Defenders of Wildlife, The Wilderness Society, Tuolumne, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and local Audubon chapters, have formed a campaign to secure the permanent protection of Walker Ridge. Since 2006, CNPS has submitted two proposals to the Bureau of Land Management asking that the agency designate Walker Ridge as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. It's been nine years, and the BLM has failed to respond!

It's time for the BLM to take action to protect this rare and rugged wildland. Join us today by signing the petition and letting the BLM know how important Walker Ridge is to you. With the help of North Coast CNPS, our partner organizations, and you, future generations will have the opportunity to experience Walker Ridge in all its beauty. Go to [cnps.org/ProtectWalkerRidge](http://cnps.org/ProtectWalkerRidge) to learn more and access the petition.

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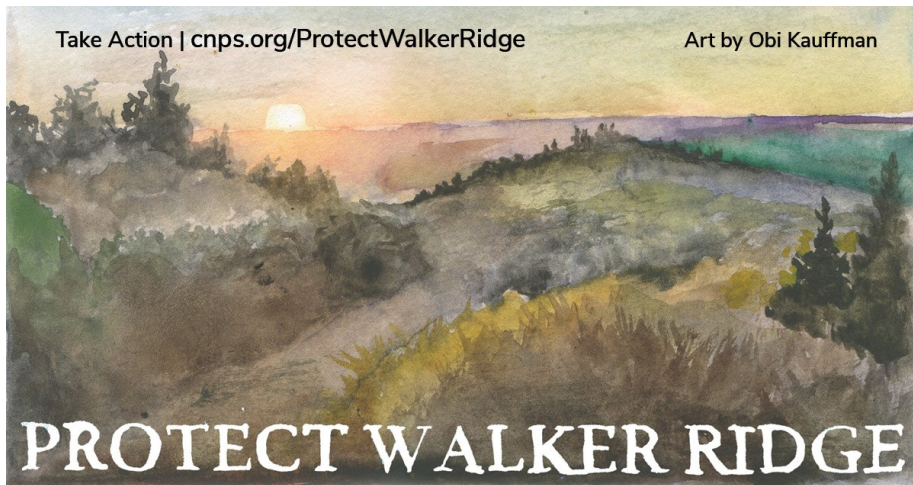
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## Find out what's happening:

- 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)

Take Action | [cnps.org/ProtectWalkerRidge](http://cnps.org/ProtectWalkerRidge)

Art by Obi Kauffman



# PROTECT WALKER RIDGE

## EVENING PROGRAMS

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

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

This fall, all evening programs are via Zoom. The link is available each month: [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org). Also, you can be notified by email through our Yahoo! Group by writing to [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com) and ask for an invitation to Yahoo.

**Evening programs** are free, public presentations on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. During covid restrictions, at least through May, 2021, programs will be via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m.. The link to register will be on our website [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org) during the weeks before the program.

**December 9, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Three fun native plant topics in one evening. Madeleine Lopez**, Humboldt State University graduate student, will tell about her experiment currently investigating the role of fire-related cues in seed germination for the rare California endangered plant, the **Lassics Lupine**. **Tony LaBanca** will take us virtually to see **spring in southeastern Humboldt County**, on the Wildflower Show collecting route he has done for many years. **Sydney Larson** will show the intriguing, non-green, flowering plants (known as **mycoheterotrophs**, previously called saprophytes) she found on the Hope Creek Trail in June. **Register** for this Zoom event on our chapter website [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org).

**January 13, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.** Watch the website for topic and registration.

**February 10, Wednesday, 7:00 pm. via Zoom.** Watch the website for topic and registration.

**March 10, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.** Watch the website for topic and registration.

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## Announcement

Michael Kaufman, our long-time program chair has retired to work on many other projects. We are looking for a member to step up and fill this important role! For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Carol Ralph.

## FIELD TRIPS Winter 2020-2021

by Carol Ralph, Field Trip Chair

Please watch for updates on our Web site ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) or sign up for e-mail announcements by writing Carol at [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com).

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.

We are following the county's Covid protocol--small groups, face coverings, and social distancing. We recommend no carpooling.

**December 6, Sunday. Samoa Dunes and Wetlands Day Hike.** On the North Spit of Humboldt Bay, this newest addition to conservation lands offers hikers the full array of dune habitats--dune mat, dune hollows, dune forest, willow wetlands. We will see them all, walking about 3 miles, all on sand. Bring lunch and water; dress for the weather. Our Covid protocol insists on small groups, face coverings, and social distancing. Please register with Carol at 707-822-2015 or [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com) to learn details.

**January 16, Saturday. Day hike.** Destination to be decided, based on what kind of winter we have. Maybe Horse Mountain will be accessible? Maybe inland, like Grays Falls, will look good? Maybe coastal, like Table Bluff or Kane Rd or even Clam Beach? Suggestions welcome. Watch the website or contact Carol.





## Field trip report

### Big Lagoon Forest, Bog, Shore, and Beach

November 7, 2020

by Carol Ralph

Photos by the author unless labeled otherwise

Our Big Lagoon day started, all masked up, at Big Lagoon School, where we began our distanced behavior while Joseph Saler shared some background history of Big Lagoon area. We walked efficiently down the trail through the mossy, quiet, even-age Sitka Spruce forest (*Picea sitchensis*) to what looked like a shrubby clearing at the bottom of the hill.



Sitka Spruce Forest

This was the upper end of Big Lagoon Bog. Joseph, who recently completed a Masters Degree at Humboldt State University with his research on the bog vegetation, was a rich source of information about the bog and surrounding area.



It's a fen, not a bog!

First, because a name conveys information about the actual conditions of a place, he told us this is a fen. Water flows in and out of this area of soggy, organic material. A true bog has no flow. Second, fens are not immune to succession or invasion by woody species. Eighty years ago the bog was totally free of shrubby vegetation, kept open by grazing cattle and/or elk. It was a rich mosaic of sphagnum moss and its associates like Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*), spikerushes (*Eleocharis* spp.), and sedges (*Carex* spp.), punctuated by "muck pits." The surrounding land was pasture. When grazing ceased in the late 1930's, encroachment began. It took 80-some years, but the fen vegetation was shaded out by the dense canopy of woody vegetation, and the upper fen was dried out by 1) woody vegetation sucking up the water, and 2) the inflowing water being channelized by roots of the developing spruce forest instead of spreading out over the flat area. Two years ago the brush where we stood was 2 m (6 ft) tall and impenetrable without a machete. That's when our

CNPS chapter put the players together to resuscitate the fen. (See Fall 2020 *Darlingtonia*) All the woody vegetation was cut and carried out of the fen. What we were seeing now was the knee- to waist-high re-sprouts of Douglas' Spiraea (*Spiraea douglasii*), Labrador Tea (*Rhododendron columbianum*), Cascara (*Frangula purshiana*), and Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*). We walked this area dry-shod. Joseph showed us in the middle of the clearing a small island of fresh, wet, spongy sphagnum moss, the living matrix that supports a diverse fen flora. At the perimeter were hummocks of dead sphagnum, proof that open fen had existed there before the spruce shaded it. Nearby was a demonstration of success, where fen species like Star-fruited Sedge (*Carex echinata*) had re-established where it had been totally barren before spruce removal. Only Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*) and Deer Fern (*Struthiopteris spicant*) could tolerate that shade. We saw scattered, sun-burned, drying Skunk Cabbage and Deer Fern.

The lower (downstream, northern) half of the fen is and has always been considerably wetter than the upper half. To see it we walked through the forest around the north side. We walked past the impressive bed of decaying woody vegetation that had been hauled out and compacted there. Peeking between trees we looked down into the lower part of the fen, which looked like an unkempt, grassy meadow. It is a graminoid-dominated fen, rich in grass and grass-like things--sedges, rushes, and spike-rushes.

At this point the frigid wind drove some of our group back to the cars. The rest walked along the roadside Coastal Willows (*Salix scouleriana*) and Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) to the campground. We saw Mexican Hedge-nettle (*Stachys mexicana*) right next to Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Despite similar leaf shape and habitat these are easily distinguished. Hedge-nettles have a musty odor and pink, white, or magenta flowers, in the mint family. They are good nectar sources and bloom late in the fall, as were these. Stinging Nettles have inconspicuous catkins in the leaf axils and will indeed sting if you rub a leaf. They are in the nettle family and are a valuable host plant for some butterflies and moths. As well as the magenta flowers on this hedge-nettle we saw at least one flower on Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), Pacific Aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), and Hairy Cat's Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*). It might have been cold to us, but these flowers speak for our mild climate.

In the campground we found a new dirt road track going into the selectively logged forest on the inland side of the road. The camp host saw us and told us this was Rancheria land, but our presence was OK as

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## Conservation Corner

### You Can Do CEQA

by Carol Ralph

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a chance for public input on certain kinds of projects. You are the public, and you speak for the native plants. You probably care about how some projects submitted to the county Planning Department are carried out. I'm here to tell you that you can learn how to comment on projects. Don't be shy about asking the Planning Department how to find the project descriptions you are interested in. Once you have the documents, don't be overwhelmed by the length. Use the table of contents to find the basic project description, look through at the pictures and tables, and find the parts talking about plants. Some of the important details might be in an appendix, but it will be cited and labeled. You are looking to see if the botanical survey was done by a qualified botanist, if the surveys were done at a time of year when the relevant plants are visible, if the surveys covered the entire project area, if the surveys were looking for the appropriate rare plants, and if any effects being labeled "insignificant" might really be substantial. These seem obvious, basic procedures, but deficiencies here need to be pointed out to the commissioners.



This map is from an "initial study", a lengthy public document submitted to the county planning department by an applicant to grow cannabis on a remote mountain property. It shows the location of 3 of the 16 proposed greenhouses, which are scattered among 5 small coastal prairies on the forested mountains. It also shows the routes the botanist(s) walked on the two surveys (the squiggly lines), May 28 and July 3, too late for many prairie flowers. The botanist is required to look for "sensitive natural communities," vegetation types that have been described and listed as rare. This prairie has one, the *Danthonia californica* prairie, ranked S3 (the lighter blobs on the map). The report explains that patches this small are not required to be avoided. Though distressing to me, plunking greenhouses down on this prairie is allowed by current land use regulations. In another section, however, I discover another interesting fact, that cannabis grows must be on "prime agricultural soils," and they may cover no more than 20% of them. The report then notes that in doing their calculations of % cover by cannabis they did not include areas in and around the greenhouse that were paths; they counted just the actual plants, as though the paths in the greenhouse do not occupy prime ag land. This

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## WHAT ONE PERSON CAN DO

By Elaine Allison

Our wonderful native California flora is threatened in several ways, among them climate change, development, and invasion of alien plants. These plants are unwittingly distributed by birds and mammals, carried in on the tires of construction vehicles, or blown in on the winds, having left their controlling predators behind in their native land. Many come from Europe, where they spent years learning how to survive alongside busy roadways or in cultivated fields. None of our native plants had to deal with these conditions until recently, and cannot compete with them.

Whenever one of these alien plants appears in a new area, I have heard the following remarks many times: "Oh no!!! Look at that plant! I know that it is really invasive. Someone should do something about it before it's too late!" True, of course, but no one does do anything about it until it has completely taken over the area. Then the remarks become: "Oh no! Look at that plant! It's a disaster! If only someone had taken it out before it was too late!" Again true, but not very useful.

For twenty-five years I lived at The Sea Ranch in Sonoma County, nine square miles of magnificent mature forest. Until the developers realized that they were not making the profit they had hoped for, and logged the entire property. Soon Australian Fireweed sprang up everywhere, brought in on the logging truck tires. Now this is not to be confused with our lovely native Fireweed, found along the coast all the way up to Alaska – it's not even in the same family. I knew that it would take the usual route to total domination, and I just couldn't stand it. So I started pulling it out, just a few pieces at a time whenever I went for a walk. My husband and friends helped; at one time 50 volunteers showed up and cleared an acre in less than an hour. Eventually we cleared several miles of road and trail, and native plants began to thrive once more.

Then I moved to McKinleyville, leaving behind Fireweed, or so I thought. I had found a place to live near the Hammond Trail, where I loved to walk, but soon found that the Fireweed had gotten here ahead of me. I signed a waiver with the Hammond Trail authorities saying that if I fell and killed myself, it was not their fault, and was given permission by

the McKinleyville Land Trust to expand my efforts to the Bluff Trails behind Hiller Park. I just started pulling out the Fireweed from Hiller Park to Clam Beach. It took several years, but now it has almost completely disappeared.

So what to do next? Pampas Grass was also taking over the trail, but that was a job too big for me to handle by myself. However, with a lot of help from the county, our supervisors, Caltrans, and the Hammond Trail volunteers, nearly all the huge plants were eradicated. Then I realized that Rattlesnake Grass was everywhere along the paved part of the trail, but not so bad on the interpretive trail that goes through the woods. That took nearly three years, but not a single shoot appeared in that area this year. So I turned to ivy, which was smothering the large spruce trees along the trail. Many were already dead, and most of the rest had ivy covering nearly their entire trunks. At a rough estimate, I think that I have saved about thirty trees so far, clearing the trunks as far up as I could reach, and clearing a large area around the base to give the trees at least a few years before the ivy covers them again.

I'm telling you all this just to show what one small old lady can do in her spare time. Just one person really can modify the environment and conserve our native flora. If you walk the Hammond or any other trail regularly, just think what you could accomplish if you only pulled out a few invasive stalks on every walk. It would give you a wonderful feeling of virtuous accomplishment! One caveat: Try not to accidentally pull on a dead blackberry stalk without gloves, and be sure you know what **not** to pull out. Do you think that you might try it?



Before



After

## Fall Plant Sale Volunteer Thank You

I wish to thank all the many volunteers, as well as our community, who helped to make the September 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> fall plant sale such a success. Even in this difficult year, we continue to reach more and more people about the importance of native plants in their landscapes and have increased our sales, though it took 3 plant sales this year instead of our usual 2! With so many people gardening more than ever, we have also had amazing sales at the Kneeland Glen Farmstand. We are grateful for the support of our customers. It is wonderful to see our community continue to recognize the importance of planting native plants for the wellbeing of ourselves, our local birds and insect populations, and our planet.

This sale, we once again dealt with restrictions due to COVID-19. After the June plant sale, as we realized that we could accommodate additional attendees, I asked the County Covid-19 team for the ok to increase the number of people who could shop at one time to 15 per 45 minutes. We have found that is still too slow, so we will be requesting an increase in the number of attendees again for our spring sale.

Putting on the plant sale requires many people in a wide variety of roles and jobs. Prior to the sale itself, in addition to growing and maintaining all plants, volunteers are busy: taking inventory of plants we will have for sale; doing the publicity; compiling the list of plants with informational links to each one; printing and affixing the labels for all plants; making new informational plant signs (including updating some of our older tired signs); setting up Sign-up Genius to enable community members to sign up for a specific day and time; putting out flyers and handbills; finding volunteers to work the actual sale; collecting boxes; working with the participating nurseries as to what plants they will be bringing and how many; ensuring we have all the needed signage and safety gear; getting all the office supplies we need; making needed signage such as pricing lists; ensuring we have copies of all informational handouts; organizing and getting all merchandise ready for sale; helping to clean up the nursery; picking up plants from a participating nursery; checking the participating nurseries in and out on-site and labeling their plants as we check them in; striping the parking area for safe parking, and finally, setting up for the sale.

On sale days, volunteers are: directing cars to safely park; checking that attendees are there at scheduled times and following Covid-19 protocols; answering

plant questions; adding up plant sales; working the cashiering tables; helping to take plants out to customers' cars; selling t-shirts, posters and totes; helping to take down, put away and clean up after the sale; and anything else that I may have missed.

A special **Thank You** to all of the following volunteers who helped out getting ready for and worked our fall plant sale: Richard Beresford, Tim Gilbride-Read, Karen Isa, Carol Ralph, CJ Ralph, Chris Brant, Ann Burroughs, Anita Gilbride-Read, Stephen Underwood, Jessi von Floto, David Callow, Nancy Ihara, Christine Kelly, Celeste Thain, Sue Marquette, Nancy Brockington, Barbara Reisman, Brian Dorman, Laura Guldin, Sue Halpin, Ava Biscoe, Alexa DeJoannis, Rebecca Zettler, Sharon King, Joan Tippetts, Andrea Taylor, Sam O'Connell and Ann Wallace. We literally could not have the sale without all these folks helping, many in multiple ways and on multiple days! Each one of you played an important role in this fall's plant sale success.

Another thank you to the 6 local native plant growers who participated by providing plants for all of our plant sales and, a first, on our plant stand this summer, Samara Restoration, Beresford's Bulbs, Mattole Restoration Council, Lost Foods, Bob Vogt and Brant's Plants. These growers provided the great shrubs, trees, bulbs, and perennials that we do not grow but want to have available to our community.

Special thanks to Chris Brant for weed-eating and mowing prior to the fall plant sale. Sharon King did all the publicity for the sale; Karen Isa for organizing and setting up the CNPS booth and getting all the many boxes for folks to use; Anita Gilbride-Read for soliciting, calling and coordinating our numerous volunteers; Ann Burroughs for printing plant labels for the CNPS nursery plants as well as for all the participating nurseries; Sam O'Connell for making new informational signs; CJ Ralph for striping our parking area; Anita Gilbride-Read for being in charge of cashiering; Christine Kelly for organizing the plants from all participating nurseries and setting up Sign-up Genius; Brian Dorman for help with picking up plants.

If I have missed naming anyone, please accept my sincere apologies for my oversight. See you at the Spring Sale at the nursery site at Freshwater Farms Reserves, May 1st & 2<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

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## **Nursery Thank you's**

By Chris Beresford

I would like to thank the following for helping at our chapter's nursery. In addition to growing our plants from start to finish, they also help keep the nursery and hoop house cleaned up as well as working in our demonstration garden. Thanks to: Carol Ralph, Karen Isa, Sue Marquette, Sharon King, Brian Dorman, Joan Tippets, Laura Guldin, Anita Gilbride-Read, Nancy Brockington, Ann Wallace, Christine Kelly, Sarah Hirsch, Rebecca Zettler, Jessi Von Floto, Sydney Carothers, David Callow, Alexa DeJoannis, Ava Biscoe, Richard Beresford, Tim Gilbride-Read, Jackie Hamilton, Tim Hickman, and Julie Neander.

A special thank you to our faithful watering team organized by Barbara Reisman. They show up on scheduled days to water and monitor the plants for us: Sharon King, Sydney Carothers, and Christy Wagner.

A special thanks to Barbara Reisman who takes the lead while I am away as well as spends many other hours working at the nursery!

Jessi von Floto has been taking care of stocking our plant stand for sale at the Kneeland Glenn Farm Stand as Christine became too busy with work. He fills in needed plants, cleans up those on the stand, and adds new species with their signage as plants look their best or we decide to put them on sale. He also lets Barbara Reisman and me know each week what is on the plant stand so that we can update the plant stand list on the website and post on our Facebook page what we have available. Thank you so much Jessi for taking this on!

Thanks to Barbara Reisman and Karen Isa for getting everything that seems to accumulate over a year but not dealt with re-organized, recycled, trashed and/or out of the hoop house for it to be cleaned and sterilized. Both worked on cleaning up by removing cobwebs and by vacuuming the entire weed mat floor covering in the hoop house as well. Thanks to Karen for washing and cleaning the tables in the hoop house. Thanks to Barbara for arranging and being there while Bill Pinnix power-washed the hoop house floor for us and to Karen Isa for sterilizing it afterwards. This is always a huge, but very important project to get done before we start working on starting our seeds for the coming season. Thanks to all of you who helped with this!

A special thanks to David Callow for helping us with a variety of projects at the nursery. David again fixed

up some of our remaining old wooden tables so they would make it through a few more years. He also built a compost for used soil, and built and installed more fresh air intakes in the hoop house. He also moved 2 pallets of potting soil into the hoop house. Thank you, David!

A thank you to Richard Beresford and Tim Gilbride-Read for building a new decorative fence and entrance to our demonstration garden. They did a great job and the new fence really looks good! In addition, Tim got rid of old funky pallets for us prior to the plant sale at green waste. Richard has worked on fixing the shade house and he also put in a new electrical outlet in the hoop house.

Karen Isa always goes above and beyond and recently, frustrated by our small refrigerator, she got us a new larger one for our use. Normally this time of year, when we have stratified seeds, we run out of space and must split them up between multiple volunteers' refrigerators. This year, we have plenty of room. We also keep all our extra seeds in the refrigerator until we start them. Thanks, so much Karen for this awesome gift to a place where you donate so much of your time!

A special thanks to Rebecca Zettler for continuing to clean and sterilize our recycled pots so we can reuse them. Rebecca has been helping out with this never ending project for some time and continues to take home dirty pots, bringing back clean/sterilized ones. This has been a tremendous help as we really dislike having to purchase more plastic containers. To date, Rebecca has cleaned and sterilized thousands of pots. Thank you so much Rebecca; it is greatly appreciated! If there is anyone else out there who would like to do the same, just let me know.

If you would like to help at the nursery, contact us at [northcoastcnps@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastcnps@gmail.com) and we will provide information to you and add you to our nursery only contact list. Currently we work on Wednesdays from 10 – 1 and other days as needed, usually a Sunday. At this time of year we have already direct seeded or stratified our seeds (placed them in bags of sterile mix in our refrigerator for specific number of days) for the spring sale, but we are still starting our stratified seeds as they are ready to come out of the fridge, transplanting seedlings up as they need to be moved up and working on replanting any plants that we will be over wintering.

Thanks everyone so much. Without all of you, the CNPS nursery would not be able to happen!

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## **Publications Available**

On our website we list publications to help with finding the right native plant(s) for you. Go to <http://northcoastcnps.org>. > Gardening and select Gardening with Natives. Here is a list of our publications.

**A Native Landscape Planting Guide**, put together by North Coast Chapter members Donna Wildearth, Carol Ralph, and Pete Haggard using plants available at our local plant sales was designed by the State office of CNPS. It has suggested plants by type such as small trees, large, medium, and small shrubs, perennials, spreading groundcovers, grasses, annuals and vines. It also has information about each plant species by sun requirement, water needs, height and width, color, and the type of wildlife it attracts. It prints best on 11 x 17 paper or look for it locally at garden centers or at our next plant sale.

**Select Butterflies for NW California, and Associated Native Larval Food (host) Plants, with emphasis on coastal Humboldt County** (west of Lord Ellis Summit) put together by Gary Falxa, Laurie Lawrence, and Bill Rodstrom. It lists 10 common butterfly species, their host plants with a common name and a scientific name and applicable notes. It also lists additional native plants for butterflies and other pollinators that would be great additions to anyone's garden or landscape.

**Books regarding gardening with native plants.** A 3-page, annotated list compiled by chapter members.

**Northwest California natives tested in the Eureka-Arcata area.** List compiled by chapter members of trees, shrubs, herbs, and groundcovers. We call it "Pete's plant list," though other members contributed.

**Native plants that attract hummingbirds.**

**Native Shrubs and Small Trees that Attract Wildlife.** "A lawn given over to native wildflowers may be the most All-American lawn of all." - Amy Stuart's garden column in the 7/25/02 North Coast Journal.

**List of plants used in the pollinator garden at the Jefferson Community Center** A 2-page list by flowering season with scientific and common names of each plant as well as if the plant is a nectar or pollen source and what it attracts.

**Native Plants for Local Birds.** A 2-page list of plants compiled from the Audubon database including scientific and common names of the plant, type of plant, birds it may attract and what plant provides.

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long as we didn't remove anything or dig. The deep green, tropical-looking leaves of New Zealand Nightshade (*Solanum aviculare*) caught our attention. This handsome plant, which is spread by



New Zealand Nightshade

birds eating its tomato-like fruit, has a high risk of becoming invasive. We enjoyed the colorful show of many orange False Chanterelle (*Hygrophopsis aurantiaca*) living on the abundant wood debris. This forest included Douglas-fir, a crowded patch of sapling Sitka spruce, Grand Fir, and Western Hemlock suggesting the conifer diversity present. We puzzled over three sapling shrubs we decided probably were Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbianum*), which was nowhere else to be seen. We settled down for lunch on sunny, downwind sides of trunks or stumps, one person/trunk.

After lunch more people retreated from the cold, while three of us, protected from wind by our full rain gear or hefty woolen garb, comfortably continued exploring by walking through the northern, most downstream end of the fen, on the lagoon side of the road. This part of the fen was a solid mat of Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), grass, and CommonTules (*Schoenoplectus acutus*). We hopped over the stream, skirted the Coastal Willows, crossed the boat ramp, and found ourselves in another habitat, totally different from the forest and fen.

Here we were on the coarse sand of the spit that separates Big Lagoon from the ocean. We stopped to look at the small, prostrate form of Gumplant (*Grindelia stricta*), wondering if it would be a good addition to our nursery selection. There, among its leaves, were 2-inch-tall clusters of mostly dried brown, curved, tubular flowers. The few fresh flowers were pinkish purple. These were the parasitic California Broomrape (*Aphyllon californica* ssp. *californica*, formerly *Orobanche*). It lacks chlorophyll, so it acquires nutrients by penetrating the roots of the host plant, often gumplant, and drawing its water and and nourishment from that host. A silent drama before our eyes. The sand spit was entirely laced with Beach Morning Glory (*Calystegia soldanella*), whose network of underground stems could be holding the spit in place. Dune Tansy (*Tanacetum bipin-*

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## Native Plants for Rock Creek Ranch

by Carol Ralph

Rock Creek Ranch, a rustic property operated by the Smith River Alliance on the South Fork Smith River, has plenty of native plants on their grounds and all around. For tidying up the area immediately around the camp kitchen

building they needed plants ready to plant into the ground.

Ann Wallace came to our nursery and negotiated with nursery manager Chris Beresford for a donation to this landscaping project.

Soon, 40 gallon-size native plants, from asters to yarrow, headed for Del Norte County. On October 21, 5 volunteers with energy, shovels, and weeders cleared out the weedy growth, shifted rocks around, and tucked in new plants on the slope below the camp kitchen.



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*natum*), Beach Bur (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), Beach Silvertop (*Glehnia littoralis*), and Beach Evening Primrose (*Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*) were assisting that effort. I checked the "meadow" above the parking area for coastal bluff plants but was disappointed. A small area at the crest of the hill was almost barren, and that's where grew Beach Strawberry (*Fragaria chilensis*), a few Seaside Daisies (*Erigeron glaucus*), Gumplant, and the non-native Cut-leaf Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*). The rest of the meadow was weedy grasses and Hairy Cat's Ear, quite unlike the coastal bluff at Point St. George by Crescent City, which is blanketed with a rich turf of wind-dwarfed, native and non-native plants. The most distressing aspect of the sand spit was the lush mat of Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) by the parking lot. I wondered if it was being encouraged as an erosion barrier.

Walking back through the spruce forest at a more relaxed we could appreciate other denizens of the forest. A few Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) were among the spruce. Moss dominated the forest floor--a moist seedbed for anything that could sprout in this dark environment. False Lily-of-the-Valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*) can, or possibly it established before the present state. Yellowing leaves marked its vigorous beds, brightened by short spires of glassy, bright red berries. Part of the forest had a sea of Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) as understory. Where a spruce had fallen across the trail, the clean chainsaw cuts provided an opportunity to count tree rings. About 20 wide rings in the center recorded years of vigorous growth with ample sunlight and water in an open pasture. The outer, increasingly closely-spaced rings, a total of 65, reflected slowing growth as the many spruce saplings overlapped canopies and competed for light and water.

We enjoyed our quick visit to these varied habitats. It is hard to picture the long term future for them--sand, lagoon, forest, fen-- as sea level rises. Every inch will make a difference. Regarding Big Lagoon Bog itself, we got a feeling for the setting, history, content of this important botanical place. Like a work of art, a special habitat like this, made of rare ingredients, is a place to protect. Other coastal fens in California and Oregon have disappeared, probably forever. Having snatched Big Lagoon Bog from the "jaws" of encroachment, we want to establish a more permanent management plan and a more permanent place in the heart of the community. If you want to join this effort, please contact someone in our chapter. To learn more about Big Lagoon Bog, watch the recording of Joseph's November 11 Zoom program. Hopefully it will be linked from the Archived Evening Programs page under the Education tab on our website.

(Continued from page 4)

alerted me to squirrely calculations, so I paid attention and found that without this reduction in footprint, the area of the 16 greenhouses is well over 20%. This stretch of the rules is definitely something to call to the attention of planning commissioners.

That means writing a letter at the right time to the right people. The website tells when and to whom, but I can't sound as scientific as the consultants who read and write these reports all day, and I can't carry on at the lengths they do. What's important is to address the legal points, even if in informal language. You can tell I'm new at this, but it's important and it's possible to learn.

If you can help our effort to defend native plants and their habitats by reading documents, attending Planning Commission meetings, or writing comment letters, please step up! There's lots to do, and we need many eyes.

## MEMBERS' CORNER

### THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Richard Boone  
Randy Davis  
Sam Matthews  
Kathryn Randall  
Jason Robo  
Jackie Wales  
Julie Weeder  
Lynn Jones  
John Bair  
Kipp Pow  
Sonee Swisley  
Caroline Connor  
Heidi Rochford

### THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Claire Brown  
Gail Hovorka  
Kolby Lundgren  
Emmalien Craydon  
Susan Elliott  
Jeffrey White  
Catherine Allen  
Maria Baron  
Ken Berg  
Anna Bernard  
Larry Blakely  
Christine Boyd  
Arlene Broyles  
John DeMartini  
Yvonne Everett  
Colin Fiske  
Melinda Groom  
Susan Halpin  
Ronald Hildebrant  
Matthew Hinton  
Deborah Holloway  
Lucy Kerhoulas  
Sharon King  
Kathryn Lancaster  
Mary Lowry  
Bobbie McKay  
Ron Melin  
Tracy O'Connell  
John Patton  
Barbara Reisman  
Edith Smith

Rebecca Stauffer  
Elaine Weinreb  
Veronica Yates  
Rita Zito  
Gregory Freer  
Richard Hansis  
Christine Holm  
Joyce Houston  
Staci Lyman  
Doreen Obermeyer  
John Palmer  
Carol Ralph  
Kathy Reid  
John Reiss  
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Sean Stewart  
Clay Yerby  
Melinda Bailey  
Brian Dorman  
Patty Gomez-Gillard  
Barbara Groom  
Marjorie Pearson  
Dana York  
Marietta James  
Peggy Murray  
Gary Falxa  
Wendell Day  
Laurie Lawrence  
Aline Faben  
Michael Jacob  
Christine Aus

## 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

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<b>Education</b>	Position Open		
<b>Conservation Advisor</b>	Sydney Carothers	707- 822-4316	sydneyc@humboldt1.com
<b>Programs</b>	Position open		
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Barbara Reisman	707-267-0397	nccnpsnewsletter@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	415-283-9198	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 (new!) coordinator Melanie Johnson at 707-502-8856

or [mjokega@reninet.com](mailto:mjokega@reninet.com) to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.

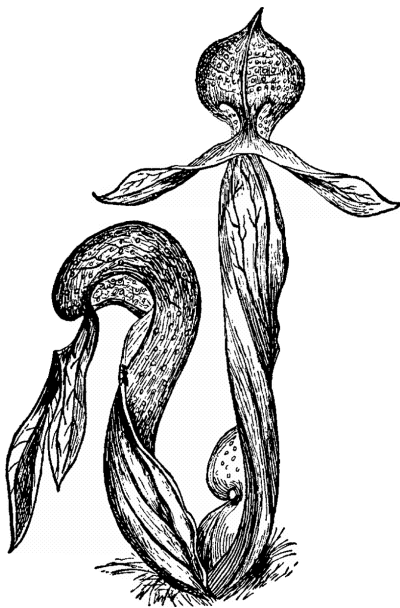


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## *Darlingtonia*



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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

- ◆ 6 Day Hike
- ◆ 9 Evening Program via Zoom

### January

- ◆ 13 Evening Program via Zoo
- ◆ 16 Day Hike

### February

- ◆ 10 Evening Program via Zoom
- ◆ 27 Day Hike

### March

- ◆ 10 Evening Program via Zoom

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