

Darlingtonia

WINTER 2023

December-
February

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

Field Trip Report: Bolan Lake August 5-7, 2022

By Carol Ralph

Bolan Lake is deep in the heart of the Klamath Mountains, on the Oregon side of the state line, in the Wild Rivers Ranger District on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. It is south of Oregon Caves National Monument and accessed from the Happy Camp-O'Brien Rd. (also known as Greyback Rd., state route 48, or the scenic byway). It is 1 hour from O'Brien on the Oregon end, where most of our group of 13 met to caravan. Luckily, a couple of us had gone earlier in the day and claimed two campsites in the campground, which was otherwise full.

The character of the mountains became clear along the drive in. Like the North Fork Smith landscape (field trip May 2021), the Willow Creek landscape (field trip November 2021), and many other places in the California and Oregon mountains, the dominant feature was black, dead snags, the remains of a forest consumed by fire. The scope here was vast, the result of the Slater and Devil Fires, Sept. 7-Nov. 15, 2020, which started west of Happy Camp and burned 157,220 acres. Our mountain field trips thus are becoming studies of wildfire patterns and the process of regrowth (or lack of it). At lower elevations, such as at Willow Creek, Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), and other shrubs sprout from the roots, producing at least some greenery fairly rapidly. At higher elevations, like at Bolan Lake at 5,400 ft, the White Fir (note 1) and Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*) forests did not sprout from the roots. The new forest will have to come from seeds. Looking at the gray, jumbled mountains stretching to the horizon in all directions, we wondered, "Where will the seeds come from?"

One species set for success is Knobcone Pine (*Pinus attenuata*), whose cones stay on the tree, closed until a fire comes along and opens them, releasing the seeds onto clean, nutrient-rich, bare soil. Indeed, the only place I saw conifer seedlings along the drive up was when we were near a stand including dead, burned Knobcone Pine.

The other source of seeds will be the small oases, like we found at Bolan Lake. In a zone about 100-300 m wide around the lake the White Fir (note 1), Noble or Shasta Fir (note 2), Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*), and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) were green. The understory of Greenleaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), Pinemat Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nevadensis*), Sadler Oak (*Quercus sadleriana*), and other shrubs was intact. We could see that the fire burned along the ground down to the lake, but the plants in this cool bowl, adjacent to a body of water, apparently were hydrated and cooled the fire. (Or were they protected by fire-fighting techniques?) The trail up toward Bolan Mountain (the trailhead hidden by a fallen tree) angled steadily up the hill out of the oasis of green. The lush, lakeside vegetation quickly gave way to beds of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and arnica (*Arnica* sp., with seed heads), thinning to nothing as the ground became drier with every step we went higher. We tried tree ID by tree skeleton. The black skeletons around us had dense, curled-down branches and droopy tops. We found one Mountain Hemlock cone, and the book said the trail went through Mountain Hemlock, so that's what these were. Similarly, we figured out that Western White Pine skele-

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Field Trip: Bolan Lake	1
Evening programs and field trips	2
Fall plant sale and nursery news	5
Carol Ralph CNPS Fellow Award	7
Volunteers in Action	8
Field Trip: Trinity Vista Loop	9
Weed of the Week	11
Conference Report	12
Letter from the editor	12
Darling & Tonia Visit the Nursery	13
Member's Corner	14

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Evening Programs and Field Trips

EVENING PROGRAMS

Evening Programs are free, public presentations on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m. Join from home by registering on Zoom through our website northcoastcnps.org.

December 14, Wednesday: From the Forefront of Botanical Science Three Cal Poly Humboldt students who have received research grants from our chapter will describe their projects. Kale McNeil is studying the systematics and population genetics of endangered wetland violets in northern California. Caitlyn Allchin is investigating the relocation habitats and assisted migration of the Lassics lupine, an endangered California serpentine-endemic. Ashley Dickinson is researching the genetic population structure and rate of clonality in the two-flowered pea, another rare serpentine-endemic. In-person at Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m.

January 11, Wednesday: Forest Botanist **John McRae** will feature the botanical areas of Six Rivers National Forest, areas designated for the protection of unique botanical values. The spectacular serpentine landscape of Horse Mountain Botanical Area is the nearest and most accessible.

February 8, 2023: Dynamic speaker and respected forester and adviser **Yana Valachovic**, UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor and County Director, will talk on some aspect of local forests, possibly oak woodland ecology and management, and/or forest health challenges, including Sudden Oak Death Syndrome.

FIELD TRIPS WINTER 2023

Please watch for updates on our website (www.northcoastcnps.org) or sign up for e-mail announcements at <https://northcoastcnps.groups.io/g/activities>. Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. We mean it! Contact the leader so you can be informed of any changes and to ask questions.

January 15, Sunday 1-3 p.m. Botanizing the Hammond Trail Widow White Creek Loop. Along this wonderful McKinleyville trail explore native plants and vegetation. Wildflower and grass enthusiast Gordon Leppig will lead this walk of about one mile along coastal bluffs and through streamside forest, where you will see many common plants. Meet at the west end of Murray Rd. For information: 707-714-4145 or GTL1@humboldt.

Mobilize, Fortuna! Protect our Forest!

Invasive Plant Removal Work Party
the first of an ongoing effort on the third Saturday
of each month.

Saturday, January 21, 2023
9:00-11:00 am

Help remove invasive English Ivy and French Broom from Rohner Park, home of valuable second-growth forest. Meet at Fireman's Pavilion 9:00 am. Tools and gloves available, but feel free to bring your own.

Light snack provided.

Sponsored by the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Fortuna Parks and Recreation Department.

Contact: Steve Underwood at unde1942@gmail.com

High winds or heavy rain cancels



Continued from page 1

tons have stout, crooked, horizontal branches. Where the trail went along the base of the rocky rim of the north-facing ridge was a small pocket of live Noble/Shasta Fir, each one a precious, potential seed source. Indeed, empty cone cores were standing on the upper branches, the scales and seeds already dispersed. The view from the top of the ridge revealed clearly the oasis nature of Bolan Lake—truly a pocket of life in a devastated landscape. It could have been the source for the few seedlings we saw in and by the trail, both wind- and bird-dispersed species--Tobacco Brush (*Ceanothus velutinus*), Pinemat Manzanita, Greenleaf Manzanita, Sadler Oak, a *Ribes*, a willow, and a fir or hemlock.



Bolan Lake in its greenbelt, the gray ridge behind.



Bolan Lake from the ridge. By Peter Ralph

We learned another fire-related lesson on the plateau atop the ridge, as we looked for a spot to eat lunch in the shade. A black snag does not cast as much shadow as a tree with canopy, but the line of shade it does cast is very effective and appreciated by a hot hiker. Its effect on the soil must be considerable.



value of leaving burned trees standing, rather than "salvaging" them, was clear.

Finding shade in a burned forest

While I have painted a sad picture of the dead trees of the forest, all was not dreary! To the contrary, exuberant herbaceous vegetation, much of it still blooming, covered patches of the burned forest. On the rocky plateau, thickets of Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.), and Greenleaf Manzanita had sprouted from roots. Clear blue Mountain Blue Penstemon (*Penstemon laetus*) and subtle yellow Hot Rock Penstemon (*Penstemon deustus*) added color, while large, white umbels of Lyall's Angelica (*Angelica arguta*) added drama. Where the trail followed the foot of the rocky cliff, green swaths swept down along rock jumbles, bringing lush lupines (*Lupinus* sp.), Poke Knotweed (*Aconogonon phytolaccifolium*), Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Lyall's Angelica, phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.), Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), penstemon (*Penstemon* sp.), Pussypaws (*Calyptidium monospermum*), and Thimbleberry to the trail. We saw a few Howell's Lousewort (*Pedicularis howellii*, rare plant rank 4.3). In a small, level area, probably where snow piles deep in winter, the trail pushed through Fireweed and Poke Knotweed in a pocket meadow. We walked on Long-neck Clover (*Trifolium longipes*) while butterflies flitted around. We saw Western Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), Woolly Sunflower, bright yellow buckwheat on rocks (*Eriogonum* sp.), Yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*), catchflies (*Silene* spp.), waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum* sp. in fruit), coyote mint (*Monardella* sp.), stickseed (*Hackelia* sp.), and fawn lily (*Erythronium* sp.; leaves only). Yes, there were aster-like flowers and yellow composites, but I don't know what to call them.

The pocket meadow



The hillside by our campsite was a solid mass of a penstemon I'm calling Siskiyou Penstemon (*Penstemon anguineus*) in full bloom and a phacelia in dry clumps. To do anything we had to walk on rosettes of the penstemon. Around the campground we were delighted by "mountain friends" blooming: Turtlehead (*Nothochelone nemerosa*), Parrot's Beak (*Pedicularis racemosa*), Scouler's Harebell (*Campanula scouleri*), Woodland Phlox (*Phlox adsurgens*), Mountain Boykinia (*Boykinia major*), and One-sided Wintergreen (*Orthilia secunda*). The trail around the lake took

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

us through thickets of a shrubby alder (*Alnus* sp.), a few willows, some full bloom Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemose*), and the occasional Purple-flowered Honeysuckle (*Lonicera conjugialis*). Lush, green tangles featured Mountain Boykinia, Gray's Lovage (*Ligusticum grayi*), Poke Knotweed, Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), a white-flowered hedge-nettle (*Stachys* sp.), Fireweed, Valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis*), Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea alpina*), Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), Twisted Stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*), paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp), Mountain Larkspur (*Delphinium glaucum*), Monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum*), an unfamiliar miner's lettuce (*Claytonia* sp.), Queen Cup (*Clintonia uniflora*), Nettleleaf Horsemint (*Agastache urticifolia*), White Bog Orchid (*Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys*), Few-flowered Bog Orchid (*Platanthera sparsiflora*), Tall Phacelia (*Phacelia procera*), lupine, cinquefoil, and Western Sweet Cicely (*Osmorhiza occidentalis*).



The hillside of penstemon and phacelia by our campsite at the boundary between burned and green forest.

A trip to White Fir forests usually finds an assortment of mycoheterotrophs, the chlorophyll-lacking vascular plants which attach to a fungus that is mycorrhizal with a tree. This trip found one single clump of Western Coralroot (*Corallorhiza mertensiana*), at the foot of a live White Fir in our campsite. Without the trees to support the mycorrhizal fungi that support the mycoheterotrophs, we don't see these intriguing, non-green plants. The underground "flora" needs to grow again, just as the aboveground forest does.

One of our group brought a kayak and scouted the lake margins for aquatic plants. She found small amounts of Floating Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) and one other floating plant. A fairly tall, slender sedge (*Carex* sp.) grew in beds in a narrow zone along the edge in some places.

In a habitat so different from the coast I was surprised to see species that are familiar in the Redwood forest. These included Red Elderberry, Long-tailed Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), Solomon's Plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*), Star Solomon's

Seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), Twisted Stalk (think Fern Canyon), Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), Redwood Violet (*Viola sempervirens*), Sugar Scoop (*Tiarella trifoliata*), Candyflower (*Claytonia sibirica*), Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*), Pipsissewa (*Chimaphylla umbellata*), Northern Inside-out Flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra Formosa*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Trail Plant (*Adenocaulon bicolor*), Baneberry, Starflower (*Lysimachia latifolia*), Red Columbine, Sweet Cicely (*Osmorhiza berteroi*), Miner's Lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliate*), White-veined Wintergreen (*Pyrola picta*), One-sided Wintergreen, and Fringecups (*Tellima grandiflora*). Either this mountain forest habitat is not as different as I feel it is, or these species have wide tolerances. Such adaptability would serve them well as the climate changes.

Botanically the weekend was wonderful. Despite the huge losses to fire, we saw many of our mountain favorites. As an expedition the weekend presented surprises. Even with up-to-date information from the local ranger district, we weren't sure the road would be open, or closed for hazard tree removal. In the campground the way other campers enjoyed the great outdoors was sometimes not compatible with our quiet, early-to-bed style. Our camp neighbors jubilantly hung and skinned a bear one night. Other neighbors, with big pickups, proved very neighborly, pulling one of our cars out of a tight spot down a side road mistakenly taken. That was a lesson in following a good map when navigating Forest Service roads, which generally are not marked. The heat, lack of shade (tree canopies gone), obstacles on the trail (fallen trees), roughness of the trail, and difficulty following the trail lacking established vegetation clues (burned up) and obscured by recent post-fire growth meant we didn't make it to the top of Bolan Mountain. We were truly in the wilds of a National Forest, in the Klamath Mountains, not in the comfort of a well regulated state park. The weekend was all around wonderful.

Notes

1. What we call White Fir here is actually a widespread Grand Fir-White Fir hybrid (*Abies grandis x concolor*). See *Conifer Country* (Michael Kauffmann, 2012, Backcountry Press).

2. The map in *Conifer Country* suggests this would be Noble Fir (*Abies procera*), not Shasta Fir (*Abies magnifica x procera*). We did not spend time trying to decide which. We found one green cone; it had bracts were tapered to a point, suggesting Noble Fir.

2. For overnighting, an acceptable alternative to Bolan Lake Campground is the Lone Mountain RV Resort and Tipi Campground in O'Brien, one hour from the lake. It has a pleasant spot for tents, not wild, but yes reservable.

Fall Plant Sale Volunteer Thank You By Chris Beresford

On behalf of the plant sale team, I wish to thank all the many volunteers who helped make the fall plant sale such a success. With every plant sale, we continue to reach more people and increase our sales. It is great to see folks connecting the need for native plants to the wellbeing of our local birds, insect populations, and planet.

Putting on the plant sale requires many people in a wide variety of jobs. Prior to the sale, volunteers are busy with, in addition to growing and maintaining our many plants: taking inventory of plants; making sure every plant has a label; doing publicity; making a list of plants with informational links to each plant and posting it on the website; printing labels and putting them on sticks; making new informational plant signs including updating older signs; setting up Sign-up Genius, 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 of the office supplies; making signage such as pricing lists; ensuring we have copies of our informational handouts; organizing merchandise for sale; picking up plants from participating nurseries and checking them in and out on site and labeling all of their plants; marking the parking area; and finally, setting up for the sale. Whew, that's a lot of work!



Randi, tallying plants;
photo by Sharon King

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, Chris Brant, Ann Burroughs, Anita Gilbride-Read, David Callow, Barbara Reisman, Brian Dorman, Susan Halpin, Sharon King, Joan Tippetts, Andrea Taylor, Sam O'Connell, Alice Ford-Sala, Bill Rodstom, Gisela Rohde, Ashley Dickinson, Callie Almand, Jocelyn Tipple, Mark Mauer, Dayna Mauer, Joann Kearns, Pattie Steelman, Louise Parker-Flett, Tracy O'Connell, Nancy Ihara, Nancy Brockington, Sue Marquette, June James, Celeste Thain, Jessica Heiden, Marcia Thorndike, Stephen Underwood, Sylvia Vanroyen and Carol Mone. We 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.

I especially want to thank the 5 local native plant growers who participated by providing plants for this sale: Samara Restoration, Beresford's Bulbs, Lost Foods, Bob Vogt and Brant's Plants. These native plant growers provided the great shrubs, trees, bulbs, grasses, and perennials that we do not grow at our CNPS nursery or that we have limited

quantities of. They all help provide plants we want to have readily available at our plant sales to ensure that attendees can find a wide variety of native plants for their yards.



Mark, helping to carry plants; photo by Sharon King

Special thanks to: Chris Brant for weed trimming and mowing prior to the fall plant sale; to Barbara Reisman for keeping track of and getting printed the numerous labels we need; Ann Burroughs for printing 1,000's of labels for the CNPS nursery plants as well as for all of our participating nurseries plants; Sharon King for helping with publicity; to Barbara Reisman for setting up sign-up Genius; Karen Isa for organizing the CNPS calling booth with all of those great items for sale and for getting boxes; Anita Gilbride-Read for soliciting and coordinating our numerous volunteers as well as being in charge of cashiering; Sam O'Connell for updating old and making new informational plant signs; Callie Almand for making directional signs for the trail from the parking lot to the sale and to Brian Dorman & Callie Almand for picking up and delivering Samara's plants for the sale. Each of you plays a vital role in helping to make the plant sale happen. Thank you so very much!

This is my last plant sale thank you article for our newsletter as I am stepping away from the role of overseeing the plant sales after many, many years of having done so. Managing the nursery and overseeing the demonstration garden has been taking up more and more of my time and I have decided to concentrate on those volunteer activities.



A happy shopper! photo by Sharon King

Facts about the plant sale

On Saturday we were expecting 342 attendees. Only 272 showed up for their appointments and we had 36 walk-ins

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

for a total of 308 attendees. On Sunday, we decided due to the low number of signups to open the entire day to the public. We had 55 signups for Sunday with 43 of those showing up. We had 60 walk-ins for a total of 103 attendees for Sunday. Our grand total of attendees for the fall plant sale was 411.

Nursery Thank you's

I would like to thank the following individuals for helping at our chapter's nursery since the last newsletter. Many of these volunteers work multiple days a week. In addition to growing and getting ready all our plants that we sell on at plant sales, they also help with special projects at the nursery, and work in our demonstration garden. Thanks to: Barbara Reisman, Carol Ralph, Karen Isa, Sharon King, Brian Dorman, Joan Tippets, Laura Guldin, Anita Gilbride-Read, Nancy Brockington, Rebecca Zettler, Jessi Von Floto, David Callow, Richard Beresford, Alice Ford-Sala, Ron Melin, Christy Wagner, Joann Kerns, Paul Benson, Kate Rowe, Callie Almand, Steve Underwood, Callie Almand, Marcia Thorndike, Jessica Heinden, Trey Polesky, Dayna Mauer, Mark Mauer, Kellie Johnson, June James, Pattie Steelman, Emily Shaw, Kevin Richards, Tim Hickman, Tim Gilbride-Read, Patty Young, Hannah Crabb, Calvin Chynoweth, Sara Bandali, Bobby Valentine, Richard Kandus, Steph Morian, Charlie, Elizabeth Uemura, Sylvia Vanroyen, Jocelyn Tipple, Louise Parker-Flett, Marlowe Shaeffer, and Kit Mann.

A big thanks to the watering team, overseen by Barbara Reisman. They show up on their scheduled days to water and monitor the nursery plants for us: Sharon King, Marcia Thorndike, Jessica Heiden, and Christy Wagner.

And an especially special thanks to Barbara Reisman who takes the lead while I am away as well as spending many other hours working at the nursery!

As the nursery and plant sales have continued to grow, we needed additional space, which the Land Trust ok'ed. Thanks to Richard Beresford, Tim Gilbride-Read and Mark Mauer who all helped expand the back part of the nursery space out another 16 feet. We utilized all the new space for the plant sale and will use it for additional nursery space for plants.

A special thanks to the Friday team for cleaning up the hoop house recently and to Stephen Underwood for vacuuming and pressure washing the hoop house floor. Not a fun task, but always an important yearly one to do. Thanks to everyone who worked on it.

A very special thank you to Kellie Johnson for becoming our nursery volunteer coordinator. She has taken on the important task of contacting everyone who says that they would like to help at the nursery. Thank you so very much Kellie for taking on the job of volunteer wrangler!

If you would like to help at the nursery, contact us by email northcoastcnps@gmail.com. Currently we work on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from 10 – 1 and other

days, occasionally, as needed. At this time of year we have already direct seeded or stratified seeds (placed them in bags of sterile mix in our refrigerator for a specific number of days) for the spring sale, starting our stratified seeds as they are ready to come out of the fridge, transplanting seedlings up when ready, replanting any plants that are overwintering, and working in our demonstration garden as the weather allows. Thanks everyone so much for all your help and volunteer hours. Without all of you, the CNPS nursery and demonstration garden would not be able to happen!

Plant Sales

With no farm stand currently at Freshwater Farms Reserve, the Land Trust gave permission to sell on-site on our workdays, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday from 10 - 1. We also received the OK to be open on Saturdays in October from 10-3 for additional plant sales. In order to be able to take credit cards, we purchased a credit card terminal for sales.

With the opportunity for additional sales, we put our remaining plants on sale, from 20-40% off, including those from Lost Foods, Samara Restoration, and Bob Vogt trees. We posted a list of what plants were on sale on our website and got the information in newspapers, Reddit, and other places.

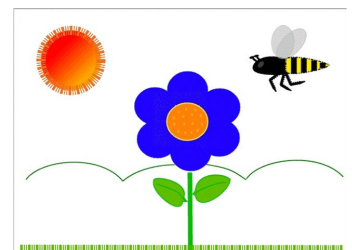
Being open on Saturdays was a huge success. We will definitely have this sale again next year after our fall sale. Thanks to Barbara Reisman, Anita Gilbride-Read, Sharon King, Rebecca Zettler, Marcia Thorndike, Callie Almand and Karen Isa for helping out with these extra sale days.

Helped needed: informational plant signs

I have noticed many shoppers intently reading our informational plant signs at the sales. With that in mind, I decided to go through and separate out any that do not use our more informational format. It was a lot more than I had realized!

Dayna Mauer has made a spreadsheet of all the plant signs that need to be re-done. My estimate is at least 50, possibly more. For quite some time, Sam O'Connell has been making up the new signs as well as redoing old signs, but the additional help is greatly appreciated.

As plant species numbers increase, volunteers can help with making our plant signs. The old signs have photos that can be reused as well as other basic information. We need them in the newer format, with additional information such as whether it is a Humboldt County native, local garden usage, and pollinators. If you can help, please email: northcoastcnps@gmail.com



Carol Ralph Honored as CNPS Fellow

By Gordon Leppig

Carol Ralph, the long-serving President of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, was inducted as a CNPS Fellow before a large crowd at our November 9 evening program. Becoming a Fellow is the highest recognition CNPS awards its members. These members have accumulated extraordinary accomplishments towards the understanding, appreciation, and preservation of California native plants.

Being a CNPS Fellow is like being inducted into a botanical hall of fame, and as such, Carol joins a pantheon of highly respected State and local scientists, conservationists, educators, and native plant enthusiasts. Anyone who has had even a slight interaction with the North Coast Chapter would likely know Carol and her enthusiasm for and extensive knowledge of the North Coast flora.

She is a ubiquitous presence, leader, and organizer in all chapter activities, including the nursery, plant walks, fieldtrips, monthly programs, Steering Committee meetings, plant consultations, plant sales, conservation, the Annual Spring Wildflower Show, tabling at events, and in her numerous contributions here, in *Darlingtonia*.

Carol got involved in the Chapter in the late 1990s and served as Chapter Treasurer and Secretary for several years before becoming President in 2003. She has been Chapter President ever since, becoming not only our longest-serving President, but on the cusp of serving longer than all other Chapter Presidents combined. In addition to her many responsibilities during her 20 years, and counting, as Chapter President, Carol has had the energy and enthusiasm to:

- Lead or co-lead over 200 plant walks and field trips.
- Write over 200 articles for *Darlingtonia*, including Native Plant Highlights, fieldnotes, conservation reports, book reviews, and Presidents' Columns, and
- Conduct dozens of Native Plant Consultations.

Chapter volunteers and Steering Committee members are awed by Carol's dedication, energy, plant knowledge, and organizational and people skills, which makes our CNPS volunteer experiences all the more meaningful, effective, and fun.

The North Coast Chapter is a strong, effective, and vibrant organization comprised of many talented and dedicated volunteers. Yet, all effective teams need effective leaders. Were it not for Carol's decades of leadership, it is highly unlikely the Chapter would be as successful, cohesive, and influential as it is today.

For her decades of service to CNPS and native plants, Carol is highly esteemed. We congratulate her on achieving this highest botanical honor and are grateful for all that she has helped the Chapter accomplish.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

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 being “projectionist” for evening programs. In the days of hybrid programs this means connecting equipment and navigating programs. Barbara, with the help of **Jessica Heiden**, set up a new computer the chapter bought to help with evening programs and for the newsletter (Barbara!).

Michael Kauffmann for shopping for computer.

Barbara Russell for providing refreshments, which make our evening programs more social and festive.

The many helpful participants who set up chairs, move the tables, wrangle the projection screen and clean up after programs.

Andrea Taylor for managing Zoom for our evening programs and our steering committee meetings.

Karen Isa for stocking, storing, and presenting our chapter merchandise at our various events, and at the state CNPS conference. Our t-shirts are very popular!

Larry Levine for many, many years of behind-the-scenes essential action in managing our website.

Ann Burroughs researched options for a major revision of our website, a process started by **Marisa St. John** years ago.

Carol Ralph, Ann Burroughs, Annie Reid, Michael Kauffmann, and **Larry Levine** for forming the Website Oversight Committee. Carol, Ann, and Annie contributed design and organizational thoughts, while Michael worked with website developer Andrew Nofsinger to migrate from Joomla to WordPress.

Emily Shaw and **Amanda** for escorting Darling and Tonia in the All Species Parade at the North Country Fair.

Andrea Taylor scheduled booth staff at the North Country Fair

Andrea Taylor, Karen Isa, and **Carol Ralph** for setting up and dismantling the booth at the fair.

Patty Steelman, Joan Tippetts, Callie Almand, Marcia Thorn-dike, Nancy Brockington, Rita Zito, Jessica Heiden, Trey Polesky, Gordon Leppig, Carol Ralph, and **Andrea Taylor** for being, friendly, informed faces of CNPS at North Country Fair

David Callow and **Carol Ralph** for sorting a big pile of donated used botanical books for the Used Botanical Book Sale.

Gordon Leppig, Steven Bailey, David Shumaker’s estate, and others for donating used botanical books.

Joann Kerns for reporting on the state conference and for re-searching milkweeds

Consultants **Carol Mone, Chris Brant, Ron Johnson, Jessica Heiden, Kellie Johnson, Carol Ralph, Joann Kerns, Rebecca Zettler, Karen Isa, Kevin McKernan, Julie Weeder,** and **Katrina Henderson** for visiting people’s gardens to talk about native plants!

Gordon Leppig, Tony LaBanca, Dave Imper, Joseph Saler, Greg O’Connell, and **Carol Ralph** for starting planning for the long term management of Big Lagoon Bog.

Welcome Aboard!

Andrea Pickart as editor of our half-page in *Econews*

Joann Kerns as our chapter representative on the board of the Northcoast Environmental Center

Help Needed!

Contact Carol Ralph 707-822-2015

Social Media Coordinator. Post events of interest and monitor our Facebook page, Facebook group, and Instagram

Publicity. Organize our publicity web so that deadlines don’t slip past. Three main events/year.

Important Plant Area mappers. Get local knowledge into the state CNPS Important Plant Area map; requires computer time.

Appreciation for our Native Plant Consultations.

Here are some comments received from hosts of our Native Plant Consultation visits.

“The consultants were excellent, and what a fabulous report!! Thank you so much! This is extremely helpful and exceeded my expectations.”

“I just want to say that Karen, Carol, and Rebecca were awesome! I could have talked to them for many more hours about the yard and.... They all brought their own voice and really cared about my thoughts and vision. Their advice and support felt really amazing - and saved me a lot of time searching everything under the sun online. I greatly appreciate this service.”

“Ah this is amazing thank you so much Carol and Katrina! It was such a pleasure to meet you both. We learned so much.”

“Thank you so much for your help. Your listing of potential plants for our project is just what we were needing.”

If you would like two or three of our volunteer consultants to look at your garden and tell you what you have that is native, what is invasive, and what native plants would grow well there, contact our coordinator at nc.cnps.consult@gmail.com, to arrange a visit.

Horse Mountain:

Trinity Alps Vista Loop October 2, 2022

By Carol Ralph

A warm, October day was a great day for our group of 21 to learn or review the woody plants on Horse Mountain in Six Rivers National Forest, undistracted by the colorful flowers of earlier seasons. This mountain, reaching 4,700 ft elevation, is in Six Rivers National Forest, in the Horse Mountain Botanical Area, which was established to protect the botanical resources of this strongly serpentine landscape. (Serpentine is a popular name for rocks and soils of ultramafic origin.) Serpentine rocks provide a soil lacking in the essential elements: calcium, nitrogen, and phosphorus and often including toxic elements like chromium, nickel, and iron. Many plants, notably our weeds and invasive species, cannot tolerate such conditions, and only some native plants can, resulting in a unique flora on these soils.

The Trinity Alps Vista Loop is best walked from the saddle area on Forest road 6N36 at the final turn to the radio towers on top of Horse Mountain. This saddle is easily recognized by the target shooting trash and tree damage.

We walked out 6N36, along which the six common shrubs were lined up side-by-side in a great display for easy learning. All were evergreen. The upright **Hoary Manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos canescens*) and the prostrate (flat on the ground) **Pine Mat Manzanita** (*A. nevadensis*) both had peeling, red bark. Hoary Manzanita leaves were round and grayish due to fine, white fuzz, while Pine Mat leaves were bright green and egg-shaped. The round leaves of **Box-leaf Silktassel** (*Garrya buxifolia*) mimicked the manzanita, but its bark was gray and its leaves were in pairs opposite each other on the stem. Manzanita leaves alternated sides of the stem. A third upright shrub in this tapestry (all less than 3 ft tall) had smaller, pointed leaves. By looking hard we found a small acorn on one, proving it was **Huckleberry Oak** (*Quercus vacciniifolium*). Not all oaks are mighty trees! On the downhill side of this dirt road were some low, stiff, gray-stemmed, dull green, small-leaved shrubs. This was **Arch-ing Ceanothus** (*Ceanothus arcuatus*). Nearby were green, tough, mats of **Siskiyou Mat** (*Ceanothus pumilus*). Each leaf had three tiny

teeth on the outer half. We also found plants not quite so prostrate or quite so arching, suggesting they were hybrids.

Our real triumph was finding 10 species of conifers. The dominant tree defining this woodland was **Jeffrey Pine** (*Pinus jeffreyi*), large and picturesque, a three-needle pine with cones larger than a hand. (Pines are grouped according to how many needles are in each bundle attached to the twig.) **Western White Pine** (*Pinus monticola*) was next most common, a 5-needle pine with long cones often banana-shaped, at the branch tips. When mature Western White Pines have gray "alligator bark" broken into squares like an alligator's hide. We discovered a mature Western White Pine right next to a similar-sized pine with similar needles but reddish, flaking bark. This was a mature **Sugar Pine** (*Pinus lambertiana*), another 5-needle pine with even larger cones. What were all the young 5-needle pines? They lacked mature bark or cones to help identify them. Michael Kauffmann in *Conifer Country* (2012, Backcountry Press) says both Sugar and Western White "have branches of varied length, but unlike sugar pines, the branches [of western white] sweep upward as apposed [sic] to outward. The tips of the branches are also upturned, with needles that are light and airy in silhouette." I noticed that the young pines we saw had branch tips upturned, so I suggest much of the pine regeneration in this serpentine woodland is the Western White Pine. Many needles on these same trees were yellowing slightly, suggesting an impact of the drought. We noted the "wineglass" arrangement of scale-leaves on **Incense Cedar** (*Calocedrus decurrens*) to compare later in the day on the north side of the ridge, to the white "X's" on the underside of **Port Orford-cedar** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) twigs. The scraggly, lichen-covered pines with many cones attached to the trunks and branches were **Knobcone Pines** (*Pinus attenuata*), a 3-needle species that relies on fire to open its cones, hence re-establishes rapidly after fires. We almost forgot to notice **Douglas-fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), so common in the non-serpentine forests but occurring sparsely here. An acute observer spotted on the road some smaller pine cones, easily fitting in a hand, with prickles curved out, under a 3-needle pine. This was the sole **Ponderosa Pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*) we noticed. After the

(Continued on page 10)

trail curved to the northeast-facing slope we spotted a shrub-sized, spreading conifer with dark green, short needles in flat sprays, somewhat like a Redwood. Surprise--a **Pacific Yew** (*Taxus brevifolia*)! Also on this northeast side, someone found just one sapling **White Fir** (*Abies concolor*), recognized by its flat sprays of white-lined, flat needles. See *Conifer Country* to learn why this White Fir is better called a hybrid White Fir-Grand Fir (*Abies grandis x concolor*). It is abundant on the non-serpentine soils of our area above 3,500 ft elevation. It was the tenth species of conifer for the day.

Cones of Jeffrey (left) and Ponderosa Pines



Some information about this trail is in *Hiking Humboldt vol. 2* (Rees Hughes, 2017, Backcountry Press). You will not find information about it from Six Rivers

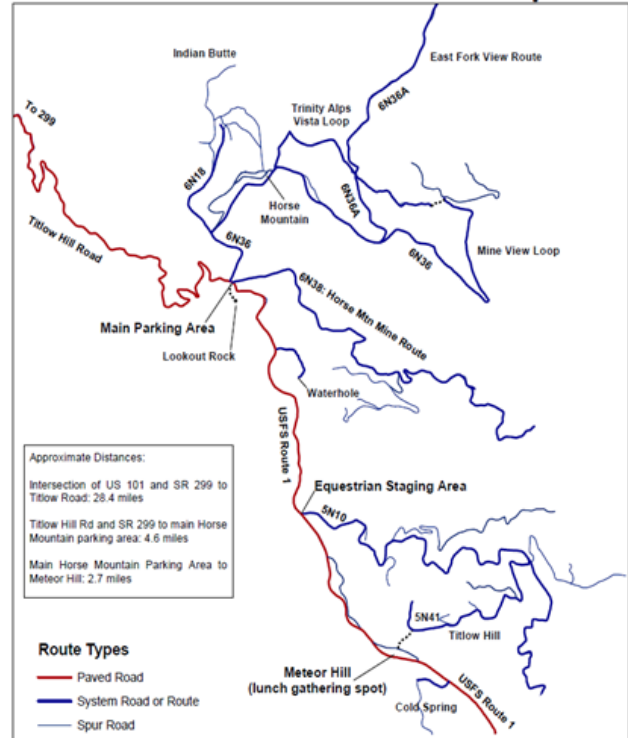
National Forest as it is not an official trail. It is a route that a group of citizens enjoyed and wanted to share with others, so they gave it a name. Comments to encourage the Forest to create official trails in the Horse Mountain area, or to report how target shooting affected your recreational experience can be sent to Nolan Colegrove, District Ranger, Lower Trinity Ranger District, nolan.colegrove@usda.gov and to Bryson Code, Recreation Specialist, Six Rivers National Forest: bryson.code@usda.gov.

Phone calls to the district office in Willow Creek at 530-629-2118 also will be received. They do listen to messages left there. The Forest Botanist is taking steps to have target shooting prohibited in the Botanical Area, but the process of closing down a long-standing tradition is lengthy. Your opinion on the matter could make a difference.

The Port Orford-cedar here and in East Fork Campground, downhill to the east from Horse Mt., is the southernmost population of the species. It is extremely important to prevent the spread of Port Orford-cedar root disease here. Be sure your boots (and/or tires if rele-

vant) are totally clean of any dirt, preferably washed and sanitized, to be sure you are not carrying spores of this water- and mud-borne disease.

Horse Mountain Route Map



An unofficial map of some walkable routes in the Horse Mt area.

The junction where the loop trail turns uphill off 6N36 is marked with blue-and-white flagging.



Know Your Invasive Species: English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

WHO?: English holly is a slow-growing evergreen shrub, with glossy, wavy, dark green leaves, often with spines, 1-3 inches long. Sweet-smelling white flowers turn to poisonous red berries. Shrubs are slow-growing and up to 15 feet tall.

WHERE?: English holly is invasive in the far-western counties of the Pacific Northwest, with populations found in smaller pockets elsewhere in the US. It originates in southern/central Europe and the British Isles.

WHY?: English holly was originally planted ornamentally, and birds distribute the seeds in nearby damp forests. English holly can starve native plants of resources.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?: English holly is slow-growing and does not seed for its first 5-10 years after germinating. Removing young plants before they can go to seed is a great way to manage this plant. Do not plant English holly and encourage local officials to remove English holly in public areas. Please report locations of English holly within California State Parks to Michelle Forsys at michelle.forsys@parks.ca.gov or 707-677-3109.



CNPS Conference Report

By Joann Kerns

Christopher Cosma, PhD candidate at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, was one of the speakers at the recent CNPS Conference in San Jose. His presentation was titled “Lepidoptera Conservation with The Butterfly Net.” He also gave an extended version of that same talk for the California Botanical Society in November. I was lucky enough to hear both talks.

Chris began by discussing the plight of the west coast Monarch butterfly, noting the fact that it has been added to the Endangered Species list. He transitioned to addressing the crisis of the Lepidoptera order in general, with his particular passion being moths. The Monarch butterfly is a “poster child” species that everyone is familiar with, but the issue of endangered Lepidoptera is far more serious than just one species.

He offers hope for addressing this crisis by the simple action of planting native plants. Using plants that are native to your area can support a broad spectrum of Lepidoptera, insects, and birds, both endangered and otherwise. This is especially true if you use “keystone” plants, which have a high conservation value for the number of beneficials that they attract.

In the title of his talk he makes reference to “The Butterfly Net.” Chris developed this web application which allows you to enter your zip code, and shows what Lepidoptera are native to your area and what to plant to support them. You can listen to a version of this talk, and also gain access to the web application at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ufZ_l6XuFY.

Ctenucha rubroscapus.
One of our Humboldt county moths.



Letter from the editor

Dear Members,

I participate in a committee at the State level of CNPS and would like to share a little of what I've learned. The group is called “Communications Collaboration” and has representatives from most of the chapters in the state. We first met monthly on Zoom but that has been replaced by quarterly meetings with regular email updates. Being a participant has deepened my understanding of and appreciation for the many activities our organization participates in.

With Liv O'Keefe (Senior director, Public Affairs) at the helm except for a brief period, we have learned about the many campaigns in which the state is involved. Some of these actions:

Help protect important habitats, like Molok Luyuk (formerly Walker Ridge) in the Berryessa National Monument, Tejon ranch, and Guenoc Valley in Lake county

Support anti-white sage poaching legislation, which has been signed into law and promote a documentary called “Saging the World” on the subject

Promote the 30 X 30 campaign to protect 30% of our land and water by 2030 and join coalition of others working towards the same goal

Support legislation to ban the use of neonicotinoids or “neonics,” which threaten bee populations. Unfortunately, Governor Newsom did not sign

Track the succession of plants returning after a fire (Fire Followers) and how to make your area more fire-resistant

Provide planting information for the spring and fall planting season

Create a curriculum guide for schools to learn about and engage with native plants

For all of these activities and more, the chapter provides media toolkits in order to effectively disseminate the information to members. Anyone in the chapter is welcome to join these informative calls. We could also use a chapter media person who would be interested in sharing all this information on social media. If you're interested, please contact me nccnpsnewsletter@gmail.com

Barbara

Darling Visits the CNPS Nursery September 9, 2022

Captions & Photos by Carol Ralph



Inside the deer fence Darling finds people grooming plants so they will look nice for the sale—snipping off the dead leaves and awkward branches.

Just outside the fence Darling spots David brushing loose dirt out of used gallon pots, the first step in sanitizing the pots so we don't spread plant diseases in our stock.



Then the plants get a ride in a wagon to their spot on the nursery tables. Darling wishes he could ride in the wagon.



In the shadehouse Darling finds Karen also grooming plants.

And enjoys the great fall flowers of Seaside Daisy, Yarrow, and Checkerbloom...



Ah ha! Darling finds his own kind!



Darling & Tonia At the North Country Fair! September 17, 2022

Darling & Tony help staff the booth and join the parade
Photo by Nancy Brockington



Photo by Carol Ralph



Photo by Nancy Brockington

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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NEC CNPS Representative	vacant		
Conservation Issues Analyst	Joan Tippetts	415-283-9198	jtippetts@yahoo.co.uk

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Issue	Submission Date	Print Date	Announce Events In
Winter	November 15	December 1	Dec, Jan, Feb
Spring	February 15	March 1	Mar, Apr, May
Summer	May 15	June 1	June, Jul, Aug
Fall	August 15	September 1	Sept, Oct, Nov

E-mail newsletter articles, factoids, tidbits, etc. to the Newsletter Editor by the submission date.

Articles should generally be no more than 1,000 words and images can be any size and in these formats: JPG, JPEG, BMP, GIF, or PNG (note preferred location in the article and send image as a separate attachment).

- The **Darlingtonia Newsletter** (quarterly),
- Our **chapter's website**: www.northcoastcnps.org
- **E-mail lists**: To subscribe, go to < northcoastcnps.groups.io/g/activities>
- **Like us on Facebook** www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS

EcoNews AND YOU

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

NATIVE PLANT CONSULTATION SERVICE



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

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

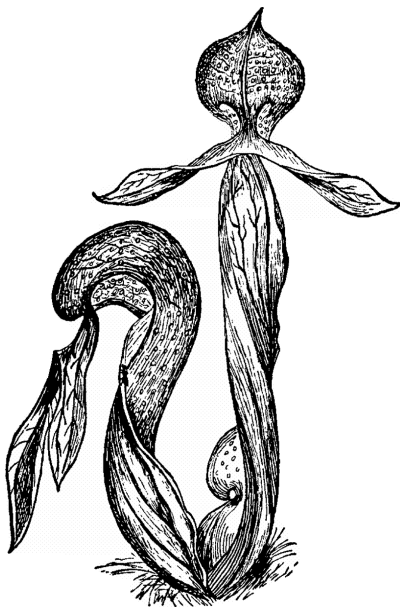
Contact our coordinator at nc.cnps.consult@gmail.com to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden. Please be patient as we are all volunteers!

**CNPS, North Coast Chapter
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 14 Evening Program

January

- 11 Evening Program
- 15 Day Hike

February

- 8 Evening Program