The Pipe Vine

THE PIPEVINE
NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS, WINTER-EARLY SPRING 1979

19 January (Friday). Lecture. "Sensitive Plants of the Yolla Bolly and Trinity Mountains." by Tim Spira (Berkeley), will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Room 171, Holt Hall, California State University, Chico. The lecture will be preceded by a business meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

11 February (Sunday) Fieldtrip. This trip with the Sierra Club, led by Wes Dempsey (Chico, 342-2293) will emphasize edible plants along Chico Creek. Meet at the Recycling Center (7th and Cherry in Chico) for carpooling at 9:00 a.m.

12 February (Monday). Lecture. "Bristlecone Pines" by Ruth and Char Harr (Paradise) in Room 171, Holt Hall, Chico State, starting at 8:00 p.m.

22 February (Thursday). Conservation Dinner Program by David Gaines of the Mono Lake Committee. Information on tickets, time, and cost (about $5.00) will be available by February 1. Contact Denise Devine (Chico, 345-8444). See program details under "General News and Comment" below.

11 March (Sunday) Fieldtrip. The trip with the Sierra Club, led by Wes Dempsey (Chico, 342-2293) will feature spring flowers of Bidwell Park. Meet at the Recycling Center (7th and Cherry in Chico) for carpooling at 9:00 a.m.

12 March (Monday). Lecture. "The Big Trees of California" by Bob McKinney (Chico) in Room 171, Holt Hall, Chico State, starting at 8:00 p.m.

17 March (Saturday) Fieldtrip. Ferns, early flowers and limestone outcrops of the Oroville Lake area, led by Wayne Okan (Quincy, 293-1066). Carpool at Baskin-Robbins at 8:00 a.m. or meet at roadside rest on Hwy 70, just north of large bridge over West Branch of the Feather River at 9:00 a.m.

24 March (Saturday) Fieldtrip. The annual trip to Table Mountain area will be led by Kingsley Senn (Chico, 343-0056). Carpool at Baskin Robbins at 8:00 a.m. Participants should dress for a long hike and should carry water.

1 April (Sunday) Fieldtrip. Foothill reconnaissance led by Howard Hurlitzer (Chico, 343-4623). Trip limited to 20 persons; please reserve with Hurlitzer, Schilzing (343-2411) or Fieldtrip Chairman.

2 April (Monday). Multimedia Presentation. "Land of Little Rain," by Wes Dempsey (Chico) is the companion piece of his popular "Land Above the Trees." It will be shown in Room 10, Learning Activities Resources Center, Chico State, at 8:00 p.m. Chapter members will migrate there from Room 171 Holt Hall, where the last business meeting of the Spring will be held, starting at 7:00 p.m.
TENTATIVE SPRING DATES (finalized in March Pipevine)

14 April (Saturday) Field Trip. RedBluff-Hogsback, led by Howard McCready (Red Bluff).
28 or 29 April (Saturday or Sunday). Henderson Ditch Flume, led by Helen Phillips (Paradise).
5 or 12 May (Saturday). Sketch Field Trip. Sketching of spring wildflowers in upper Bidwell Park or vernal pool fields. Check with leader Denise Devine (Chico, 345-8444) for equipment to bring. Meet at Baskin-Robbins for carpooling at 9:00 a.m.
5 or 12 May (Saturday) Field Trip. Magalia serpentine, led by Garth Pintler (Chico) and others.
6 May (Sunday). Fieldtrip. Vernal Pools, led by Lowell Ahart (Honcut).
12 or 13 May (Saturday or Sunday) Fieldtrip. Vina plains, with glimpse of the rediscovered and very rare Calycadenia fremontii, led by Howard Wurlitzer (Chico).
?? May. Fieldtrip. Feather River Canyon, led by Wayne Dakan (Quincy).
16 or 17 June (Saturday or Sunday) Fieldtrip. Meadows, Feather Falls area, led by Leslie Stedl and Judy Wheeler (both of Oroville).

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENT

Chapter Fieldtrip Policies

1) All groups will meet for carpooling near Baskin-Robbins at the Mangrove Plaza (Mangrove and Vallombrosa Avenues, Chico) at 8:00 a.m. unless the trip is co-sponsored by another group.
2) Lunch and liquid should be brought unless otherwise stated.
3) Carpooling is urged to save fuel and to keep costs down; furthermore, parking in some trip sites is limited. Drivers and riders should make agreements on costs. Medium and large cars presently may cost 10-15¢ a mile to operate.
4) Fieldtrips are held rain or shine (rarely noted otherwise in trip description), and the trips start on time.
5) As a general rule, there is no collecting of plants on CNPS fieldtrips. Cameras, rather than plastic bags or presses are now "in"!
6) Bringing dogs and smoking while on CNPS trips are both discouraged.
7) Contact individual trip leaders for details on their trips. Fieldtrip chairman Jim Jokerst (Chico, 345-6637) and Dorte Rasmussen (Chico, no phone) may also be able to help.

Conservation Dinner

An environmental buffet dinner will be held on Thursday evening, February 22, in the Bell Memorial Union, CSU, Chico. Dinner will be served by Associated Students Food Services. David Gaines, researcher, teacher, lecturer; and main drive behind the Mono Lake Committee will present the program. The committee is working to save and protect the remaining habitat and major nesting ground for many bird species from destruction of Mono Lake by the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Also, there will be an art exhibit and show for fundraising for Mono Lake. Anyone interested in exhibiting work or helping out, please contact Denise Devine (Chico) 345-8444.

Camera Club Meetings

Those who like to photograph plants may find interest in attending Chico Camera Club functions. Meetings are held at Melody Hall at 8:00 p.m., the second Thursday of each month. Genevieve Jezler (Chico), fieldtrip chairman, can be called at 342-0914.
Address Changes

The CNPS State membership chairman, Joyce Burr, has requested that members who change address or switch chapters, notify State CNPS Headquarters (2380 Ellsworth, Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94704) about the change. This assures uninterrupted delivery of Fremontia and the Bulletin. Address changes must also be communicated to chapter officers.

New MTL Members

The membership chairman, Joyce Burr, has notified us of the following new members:

Mrs. Philip B. Duncan (Magalia)  Keith Emerson (Chico)
John N. Feder (Chico)           Richard A. Nichols (Chico)
Robin Ondricek (Burney)         Karen A. Small (Novato)

Eagle Lake Field Station Student Support

Marc Hayes (Los Angeles) has generously set up a scholarship fund that can help support student interest in native plants of Northeast California. It is hoped that others will want to add to this fund of $200 that the Mount Lassen Chapter (MTL) presently has in a savings account. Donations should be sent to the President or the Treasurer, earmarked "Eagle Lake Student Research."

Support may be awarded to a student from any college or university that is enrolled for 1 or 2 units of field research on plants at the Eagle Lake Field Station (ELFS), run by California State University, Chico, north of Susanville in Lassen County. Notice of availability of support will be made, by the Station Director, in course announcements and to all students expressing interest in the summer sessions at ELFS.

Specifications for receiving support:

1) Support will be granted only for the tuition cost of 1 or 2 units of (transferable) college / university research credit (presently each unit costs $37.00), while the student is enrolled in a full-time study program at ELFS.

2) Support will be granted on the basis of academic excellence and interest in field research in native plants. This will be determined by a panel of 3 MTL members chosen by the President. The award will be based on application materials, consisting of a letter of intent and interest, and on 2 letters of recommendation—each sent directly to the Station Director by May.

3) The research done be written up on the report form customary with all University level summer students at ELFS, and a copy of that report be filed with MTL at the end of the summer at ELFS.

4) MTL has no obligation to award support in any given year, but only when it finds the applicant(s) worthy.

SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

(Marjorie Schmidt (Hayfork), frequent contributor to FREMONTIA has thoughtfully contributed the following paragraphs especially for the PIPEVINE).

1. Every scrap of personal experience in growing native plants is vital to their future as cultivated subjects. Except for the few popular natives whose requirements are now well known, we seldom have complete information for others of equal potential value. Such information includes: seed collecting, germination methods, planting, handling and transplanting seedlings; best garden situation and companions, cultural methods, including pruning, training, amounts of water, cultivation, and whether fertilizer should be given; and on to ultimate height of the plant, seasonal appearance, and longevity. It is upon these factors that judgments are made as to whether the plant is a worthy subject for further testing, or perhaps hybridizing, and selecting. Determining the adaptability of native plants is another important step—some appearing to have this factor built in, while others can be cultivated only if their very exacting requirements are met.
2. There is a coming recognition that many of these natives can have a specific place in home gardens and large scale landscaping if properly tested and evaluated—such as for hedges, windbreak, ground or slope cover, etc. Landscape architects are calling for more precise information on the durable, all-season, evergreen materials for large scale landscaping, such as schools, industrial plants, roadsides, etc. There have also been requests for information on natives suitable for house plants, hanging baskets, patio plants and bonsai.

3. Most of the interest in natives is for evergreen materials, but there seems now to be more interest in some of the distinctive and useful deciduous ones. We here in northern California have a golden opportunity to experiment with the many which are native here and which, in my opinion, have merit as cultivated plants. Some which I consider to be especially worthy include: Ceanothus douglasii, Cornus sessilis, C. californica, and C. glabrata, Symphoricarpos rivularis and S. mollis, (this species of wider distribution) Amelanchier pallida, also well distributed, but abundant and available for study here in northern California. Acer glabrum, the Sierra Maple, is a delightful small tree which probably lacks attention because of its similarity to the popular Japanese maples. Several Bay Area horticulturists have expressed interest in some of these, but mostly they seem involved in ever more cultivars of Ceanothus and Arctostaphylos. In the past, Jim Roof has written of certain of the deciduous plants, some of these articles appearing in old Cal Hort. Journals. Gardeners in southern California do not think that deciduous plants of our area will do well for them, and have taken me to task for recommending them. So one of my problems is to try to convince them that these plants can give an interesting contrast to the evergreen ones, as well as seasonal aspect, interesting limb patterns, and a fascinating period of leaf emergence in early spring. Also, of course, that they can create the proper climate and setting for such plants, as well as they have already done for fuchsias, etc. The queer thing about their opposition to some of the deciduous plants is that a few—or varieties of them such as Styrrax officinalis var. fulvescens, are native to the southern Sierra, but apparently not considered as garden plants.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The conservation committee has now been operating for almost one year. Since its inception, the committee has actively pursued the protection of rare plant species on a local level. Our energies have generally centered around three areas: collection of information on the local rare plants, local education on rare plant values, and protection of rare plants and rare plant habitats from land development projects.

Our file now contains up-dated information on the rare plants of seven northern California counties. Known locations have been mapped and specific information collected for many of the populations. An attempt has been made to gather duplicates of published articles on the ecology and taxonomy of rare species; CNPS status reports are also now on hand for many of the plants of our area.

Attempts to educate the public about the value of rare plants have been limited to several seminars and short personal encounters. Seminars have been directed toward CSU, Chico personnel, County Planning Directors, and trained botanists. Personal contacts with land-owners whose lands serve as rare plant habitat have been well received (with a few exceptions). The desire to help protect rare plants has been expressed by certain land-owners, and we have endeavored to offer help where possible.

Our desire to protect rare plants led to a project monitoring program centering around the close examination of the environmental documents of our area. During the past year, our review of approximately 75 documents has led to changes in several large land development projects. It has been our goal to encourage county planners to continue protection of rare plants as a matter of county policy. This will hopefully be accomplished through changes in the general plan, zoning ordinances, and other local legislation.
1979 promises to be an even more active year than last. It is hoped that changes in the committee will allow a broadening of conservation activities and increased participation of our membership. (Jim Nelson, Chico)

The Conservation Chairman for 1979 will be Jeff Prouty (Chico).

MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Address: The Herbarium, California State University, Chico, CA 95929

Officers, 1979

President: Rob Schlising - 895-5361 or 343-3411 (Chico)
Secretary/treasurer: Joan Warner 342-3432 (Chico)
Vice President: Joyce Lacey 342-6188 (Chico)

Standing Committee Chairman, 1979

Conservation: Jeff Prouty (Chico)
Education: Quentin Griffiths 342-2728 (Chico)
Fieldtrips: Jim Jokerst 345-6637 (Cohasset)

                   Dorte Rasmussen (Chico)
Membership: Joan Warner 342-3432 (Chico)
Newsletter: Sandy Morey 343-2217 (Chico)
Plant Sale: Tim Devine 345-8444 (Chico)
Programs: Pauleen Broyles 872-2915 (Paradise)