FEBRUARY MEETING

1 February, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Plant Patterns on the Land: Assemblages of Wildflowers in Butte County

by Rob Schlising

Flowering plants, conifers and ferns have become "sorted out" through time in response to interacting factors in the environment such as precipitation, soil properties and temperature regimes. At present, plants tend to be repeatedly found together in groups called plant communities, with perhaps ten readily identifiable communities found in Butte County. Few botanists however, readily identify assemblages of herbaceous plants that occur within these broader plant communities. Some showy wildflowers can indicate the presence of a number of other species (some not so showy) that occur in strikingly similar patterns on the landscape. It is only possible to speculate as to why most sets of wildflowers are found together, but such habitat associates are interesting to watch for. Assemblages of wildflowers from throughout Butte County will be illustrated with slides taken during the last two years.

Enloe Hospital Conference Hall, Fifth Ave. and Magnolia Ave., Chico.

MARCH FIELDTrips

13 March, Saturday. Richardson Springs day hike. Wear strudy shoes, bring water and lunch. We will meet at the Safeway parking lot, Mangrove and Vallombrosa Ave., Chico, at 9:00 a.m. Come view one of the more beautiful canyons in the foothills. For further information call Jay Fuller at 343-6875.

27 March, Saturday. Serpentine Barrens in Upper Concow Basin. A chance to see Erythronium cliftonii, Clifton's fawn lily. Meet in Chico at the Safeway parking lot, Mangrove and Vallombrosa Ave., at 9:00 a.m. or at Jarbo Gap on Highway 70 at 10:00 a.m. There will be travel on dirt roads. For more information call trip leader Linnea Hanson at 345-6229.
COMING EVENTS

Environmental Banquet, 10 February, Wednesday, at The Pavilion, 25 California Park Dr., Chico. Program: 6-6:30, social half-hour; 6:30-7:30, environmental group updates; 7:30-8:30, 3-course spaghetti dinner; 8:30, speaker Huey Johnson, California State Secretary for Resources. Tickets: $6.50 each (includes raffle), advance sale only; $1.00, speaker only at 8:30. Proceeds to be donated to the annual Endangered Species Day Fair. Tickets are available from Mary Merryman at 343-6875, at the February meeting, or from BEC, 708 Cherry St., Chico.

GENERAL NEWS

Vernal Pools on the Vina Plains

In November, Jay Fuller and Jim Jokerst joined Rob Schlising on a search proposed for the Vina Plains, the open valley grasslands traversed by Highway 99 north of Chico. The purpose of the quest was to investigate several vernal pools, some quite large, which are indicated on the USGS topographic maps of the area. These vernal pools, located within 3-5 miles of other pools known to support several rare and endangered plant species, occur on private lands the Nature Conservancy may have an option to purchase.

These efforts brought very successful results; the remains of one, possibly two, Orcuttia species (O. tenuis, slender orcuttia, and O. pilosa, hairy orcuttia) and Euphorbia hooveri, Hoover's spurge, were found in these pools. Several acres of Orcuttia carpeted one pool with the spurge scattered within it.

The excellent condition of the grasslands vernal pools on this property and the well-established rare plant populations will indeed be treasures worthy of the Conservancy's conservation efforts. All steps towards the preservation of the Vina Plains are heartily encouraged and saluted. (J. Jokerst)

Fremontia Collection at University Library

It may be of interest to Pipevine readers that the CSUC Meriam Library has a complete collection of Fremontia, the Society's quarterly journal, beginning with the inaugural issue of April 1973 (Vol. 1, No. 1). The collection is shelved on the second floor of the library in the periodical section under the call letters, "QK 149 F74." The current issue as well as the three previous editions are kept in the current periodical section and may be checked out for up to two hours. It should also be mentioned that an index is provided in the back of the July issue every odd-numbered year which covers the previous two volumes. (M. Foster)

Sensitive Plants on the Plumas

The Sensitive Plant Program for the Plumas National Forest was very active during the 1981 field season. Because there were additional personnel more areas were examined, which resulted in the discovery of many new species locations. A good deal of attention was given to three new species which were added to the Plumas sensitive plant list. One of these is Erythronium cliftonii, Clifton's fawn lily, an unpublished new species. A preliminary determination of the extent of the species was made and a field evaluation of its validity as a new species was conducted.
It is felt that more work will be needed to determine if it is, in fact, a new taxon. New locations of the other two additions to the list, Sedum albomarginatum, Feather River stonecrop, and Lewisia cantelouii, Cantelow's lewisia, were also discovered during the season. Cypripedium fasciculatum, clustered lady's slipper, was also found in a couple new locations with some of them being quite steep.

A number of serpentine rock outcrops that were examined during the season supported populations of Arabis constancei, Constance's rock-cress. New locations of Vaccinium coccinum, Siskiyou Mtns. huckleberry, were found. This plant also needs work to determine if the species is valid. On the eastern slope of the forest new locations for Trifolium lemmnii, Lemmon's clover, were discovered - a number of these sites were in disturbed areas.

Linnea Hanson, Botanist for the Plumas National Forest, was able to expand the amount of surveying with the assistance of seasonal personnel. Sue Taylor worked as a Seasonal Botanist on both the west and east sides of the forest. She also assisted in developing a training manual for forest personnel. Maribeth Kottman, Botanist Trainee from the Cleveland National Forest, spent June with Linnea to receive training in botany on a timber forest. Mike Foster, a volunteer, assisted Sue Taylor with sensitive plant surveys on the east side of the forest. Joan Anderson, a UC graduate, assisted with surveys during the month of September as a Seasonal Botanist.

Hopefully, the 1982 field season will be as active for botany. Because of cutbacks, however, the program may have to rely on volunteers to maintain the level it achieved during 1981. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Linnea Hanson at 534-6500. (L. Hanson)

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Thank you to those who returned the questionnaire from the last Pipevine. Although we are slow in answering some of your comments, we do sincerely welcome your input. Afterall, this is your Society; express your opinions and concerns! If you can't attend a meeting, we'll see you on an upcoming fieldtrip, or just drop us a note.

For our June State Board of Directors meeting in Chico, any ideas on where and how to provide a nice dinner for our 50-75 visitors?
A warm thank you to Joyce Lacey for heading up the T-shirts and Sales Committee; we'll miss your expertise! Is anyone interested in taking over this position?

Mt. Lassen Chapter's Executive Board met 5 January to discuss a number of issues. Everyone present felt one concern was primary; the need for more member input in all areas. Other items discussed included rare plant issues, fieldtrips, a slide contest, areas to be landscaped with natives, a need to increase publicity, a new Sales Committee chair, and the June State Board of Directors meeting. The Pipevine was also discussed and as you can see, the Board decided to renovate. Thank you, Jeff!

The Pipevine welcomes contributions of articles or drawings from the membership. Copy must be received before the 15th of the month deadline and will be used as space permits. Please mail to Jeff Prouty, 633 W. Seventh St., #4, Chico, CA 95926.

THE MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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