The Pipe Vine

March–April 1983

Next Meeting

7 March, Monday, 7:30 p.m. Voting on Bylaws

The Magalia Serpentine: Past and Future by Jay Fuller

Important changes are proposed in the bylaws and will be voted on; see elsewhere in this issue for explanation. This will be followed by Jay Fuller's talk. The Magalia serpentine formation and its ancient grove of native McNab Cypress have suffered a checkered past and now face an uncertain future. Indiscriminately mined in the first half of the century, the formation with its magnificent trees has been in the news lately as a road-widening project threatens the habitat and some of the largest and oldest of the trees.

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

4 April, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery speaker.

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

Fieldtrips

Greenhouse Tour. 26 February, Saturday. Tour of the CSUC greenhouse complex. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Warner St. bridge, Big Chico Creek, Chico. Leader is Tim Devine (345-8444).

Stillson Canyon. 12 March, Saturday. Meet at Baskin-Robbins in Safeway parking lot, corner of Mangrove and Vallombrosa Aves., Chico, 8:30 a.m. Limited to 30 people. Leaders: Sue Taylor (893-5672) and Ed Mannion (895-1309)

Bidwell Park. 13 March, Sunday. Fieldtrip to Upper Bidwell Park and Fern Banks. Meet at Baskin-Robbins (as above), 9:00 a.m. Leader: Jay Fuller (343-6875)
Plant Count. 20 March, Sunday. CNPS FIRST ANNUAL STATE PLANT COUNT! Carpool at Bidwell Mansion parking lot, 525 Esplanade, Chico, at 9:00 a.m. (See General News) Coordinators: Mary Merryman (343-6875) and Sue Taylor (893-5672)

Vina Plains. 9 April, Saturday. A Nature Conservancy Preserve. Meet 9:00 a.m., Baskin-Robbins in Safeway parking lot, or 9:30 a.m. at the Preserve just north of the Butte/Tehama Co. line, Hwy 99. Leader: Marge Anthony (877-7059)

Table Mt. 10 April, Sunday. Meet 9:00 a.m. in Chico at Baskin-Robbins (above), or 9:30 a.m. at junction of Hwy 70 and Cherokee turnoff, approximately 12 miles northeast of Oroville on Hwy 70. Leader: Jim Jokerst (345-2843)

Upper Bidwell Park and Indian Cave. 24 April, Sunday. Meet 9:00 a.m., Butte Environmental Center, corner of Cherry St. and 7th Ave., Chico. Leader: Wes Dempsey (342-2293)

Peter Ahart Ranch. 30 April, Saturday. Near Honcut. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Baskin-Robbins (as above) or 9:45 at Sambo’s Restaurant, corner Feather River Blvd. and Montgomery, off Hwy 70, Oroville. Leader: Lowell Ahart (743-9314)

Feather Falls. Meet 9:00 a.m. (as above). Leader: Wes Dempsey (342-2293)

Lava Beds/Tule Lake. 27, 28, and 29 May. Weekender. M. Merryman (343-6875)

Broke-off Mtn./Lassen Ntl. Park. 19, 20, and 21 Aug. J. Fuller (343-6875)

**Coming Events**

MTL Executive Board Meeting. 28 February, Monday. Board meets 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the home of Jay Fuller, 3477 Hackamore Lane, Chico.

State Board Meeting. 5 March, Saturday. State board will meet in Carmel. If you wish to attend, call Jay Fuller (343-6875)

Plant Count Planning Meeting. 7 March, Monday. (See General News)

MTL Executive Board Meeting. 25 March, Friday. Board meets 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the home of Jay Fuller.

Endangered Species Fair. 16 April, Saturday. We need volunteers to man our booth.

**General News**

Macnab Cypress

Residents of Paradise, Magalia, De Sabla: Supervisor Len Fulton and Mr. Clay Castleberry are working together to reduce impacts to the grove of native Macnab Cypress (Cupressus macnabiana) on the serpentine near Magalia during road alteration. There is even the possibility that the grove may be set aside as a point of interest, i.e. a preserve. Write them a note showing support for the concept. Their addresses are: Len Fulton, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, and Clay Castleberry, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, California, 95965.
CNPS Plant Count

The California Native Plant Society's First Annual Plant Count will take place on March 20, 1983. Several members have already volunteered to lead small groups of 4-5 persons to such places as Vina Plains Preserve, Richardson Springs, Graylodge Wildlife Refuge, and Bidwell Park. At each locality, data such as the species present, natural history aspects, plant counts, and more will be recorded.

Leaders and other interested members will meet at the home of Sue Taylor (1014 Chestnut, Chico) at 5:00 p.m., March 7. Bring a "bag dinner" to munch on. We will be determining the final guidelines for this year's plant count. Sign-up sheets for each group, indicating lead and locality, will be available at the General Membership Meeting later that evening at Enloe Conference Hall.

Members unable to attend the meetings, but still wishing to participate, are encouraged to contact Mary Merryman (343-6875) or Sue Taylor (893-5672) for further information. Members from outside Chico (Quincy, Alturas, Redding) are urged to form local groups to conduct plant counts in their respective areas. Please contact either of the above persons for guidelines.

Remember, everyone can participate! The only requirements are enthusiasm, curiosity, and a desire to be in the field.

1983 Plant Slide Contest

The Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is continuing its efforts in the conservation and preservation of the native plants of California through an increased awareness and appreciation of them. MTL has now established a small slide collection derived from the contests of past years. Realizing there are numerous uses for an ever-expanding collection, let us continue our contests and make this an annual event!

All slides submitted will be judged in November, 1983, by a panel of MTL members to include slide contest chair Mary Merryman. Major criteria for judging will be adherence to the specifications listed below, clarity, composition, and beauty.

One winning slide from each of five categories will be chosen. In addition, up to five "honorable mention" slides from each category may be selected. All will be shown at the fall and winter meetings. Slides may be used by MTL in public displays or slide programs; credit will be given to the donor.

Specifications for slide entries:

1) Members and non-members of CNPS are invited to participate.
2) Only slides of native California species or of introduced species growing on their own (without cultivation) will qualify.
3) Each slide must be donated to CNPS.
4) Each slide must have the following information written on its margin:
   a) Latin name (see below*);
   b) Date photographed (need not be in 1983);
   c) Locality where photographed (need not be in California);
   d) Name of photographer
5) Only color slides for use in a standard slide projector will qualify.
6) Slides may be entered in one or all of the following categories, up to 30 slides per person. **Entrant must specify for which category each slide is to be considered:**
   a) Species Specific - Views of a particular species, especially close-ups. *Species must be named.
b) A Species' Habitat - Views of the localized habitat of a particular species. Plant must be clearly distinguishable. *Species must be named.

c) A Collection of Species - Views of masses of two or more species together. *All species need not be named.

d) Plant/Animal Interactions - Views of flower visitors, foragers, and their plants. *The plant must be named, but the animal name is not necessary.

e) Artistry/Moods of California Plants - Views of plant communities, sunsets (with plant), wide-angle shots, and so forth.

7) Slides may be submitted now through October 31, 1983. They may be sent to: 1983 Plant Slide Contest
     Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS
     The Herbarium
     Dept. of Biol. Sci., CSUC
     Chico, CA 95929

8) The winner(s) will have a choice of prize: a poster or a T-shirt.

Wilderness Alert

LETTERS URGENTLY NEEDED! The United States Forest Service is asking for public comment on recently released Klamath Ntl. Forest Draft Management Plan. The "preferred alternative" in the plan will result in significant impacts on the native vegetation. This includes abandonment of an "even flow sustained yield" of timber, clear cutting of 10-40,000 acres per year, and an increase in lumber production of 20%. Activities are planned for Proposed Research Natural Areas and Botanical Areas as well as such roadless areas as the Trinity Alps and Marble Mts. To get more information, you may get in touch with Mary Meyer (345-9360). March 31 is the deadline for input, so do not delay.

Bidwell Heights EIR - Specific Plan

Public comment is still being accepted by the Planning Commission for two more weeks, on this proposed development on Doe Mill Ridge east of Chico. Significant impacts to the environment and the community could occur which the EIR fails to address or to mitigate. CNPS is taking an active role in input via Rare Plant Committee chair, Jim Jokir, who has commented on the inadequacy of the rare plant and vegetative portions of the EIR. Copies of the EIR can be reviewed at the CSUC library; or, contact Mary Meyer. Send comments to: Stephen A. Streeter, Butte Co. Planning Commission, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, 95965. Time is short, and it is up to us to take responsibility for our community. ACT NOW!

Checklists Wanted

A bibliography of unpublished checklists and florae is presently being compiled for eventual publication by CNPS. Society members are requested to send their checklists (or a citation with details on locality and content) to the project leader. Scope of the lists can encompass field trip sightings, state/local/federal references, professional/school/business reports, EIR appendices, personal observations and collections, MA and PhD dissertations, and so forth. There are no length or age restrictions. Also included will be county, regional, and local florae that are in preparation. Photocopy costs will be refunded or, on request, exchanged page-for-page. A preliminary bibliography is currently available for $4.00. For further information, contact Sue Taylor, P.O. Box 1686, Chico, CA, 95926.
Featured Flora

Yellow Carpet (*Blechnosperma nanum*)

This earliest-flowering of the native composites is found in open, grassy places at low elevations from Shasta to San Diego Counties; it is commonest in the northern parts of its range. There is a very rare species in the North Coast Ranges and a widespread species in parts of Chile where the climate is similar to that of California's Central Valley. All three are well studied by R. Ornduff.

In *B. nanum* each head has a ring of yellow ray flowers, and at the base of each ray is a pistil that matures into a seed. The central flowers are also yellow. These produce no seeds at all, just the strikingly white pollen grains. On rainy or cloudy days, all these tiny flowers are pushed into close contact with each other as a ring of surrounding purplish-brown-bottomed bracts close up the head (yellow carpets are, thus, "invisible" in the rain or on dark days). This closing does not cause seed set within the heads, though; each plant needs to be cross-pollinated for any seed to form.

Various bees, flies and small beetles visit these flowers for food. R. Thorp has described how several tiny specialist mining bees (fittingly named *Andrena blemnospermatis* and *Andrena layiae*) collect the white pollen for their broods by repeated visits to flowers newly opening in the heads.

When these annuals are in seed by late spring, they are again very conspicuous. The minute achenes possess an unusual feature: papillae on their surfaces emit fine threads that can take up water to form a gelatinous and gummy coat all over the seed (the name "Blechnosperma" is derived from Greek *bleinon*, "slime", and *sperm, "seed"*). This stickiness may permit some long-distance dispersal of the moist achenes on the body of an animal.

Occasional white-headed mutants can be found. Ornduff notes that where they occur, one can often see that these types have hybridized with normal yellow plant to produce some very pale yellow forms in the immediate vicinity.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN MT. LASSEN CHAPTER BYLAWS

At the work meeting held on 29 January, several changes were proposed for the Mt. Lassen Chapter Bylaws. They are presented here for the Chapter membership's consideration and are to be put to a vote at the 7 March meeting.

If you are unable to attend the March meeting, you may vote by mail. You may submit a request for someone to serve as your proxy at the meeting. You may appoint any Chapter member as your proxy, so long as your wishes are received in writing by the Chapter President before the meeting commences.

There are four reasons for the proposed changes:

1. To separate the duties of Secretary and Treasurer, to be performed by two individuals;

2. To bring Chapter Bylaws into agreement with the State CNPS Bylaws;
3) To eliminate any sexual bias: wherever "Chairman" or "Chairmen" is
used, recommend change to "Chair" and "Chairs", respectively;
4) To clarify the meaning of some sections.
Deletion of the parts crossed out and addition of the parts underlined are
recommended, as follows:

ARTICLE III  MEMBERSHIP

Section 2  Right of Members to Vote
Each member shall be entitled to one vote on any question requiring
a vote of the membership. Any group having may have a single member-
ship and shall have one vote (except a Family membership). The offici-
al voting delegate of this group shall be so designated in writing.
A Family membership shall have two votes.

Section 5  Quorum
The square-root-plus-ten presence of 5 percent of the membership of
the Chapter shall constitute a quorum at any meeting when business
is transacted or elections are held.

ARTICLE VI  OFFICERS

Section 1  Officers
The officers of this Chapter shall be President, Vice President, and
Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary, and Treasurer, elected annually.

Section 2  Election of Officers
Nomination of officers shall be made by a three-member Nominating
Committee appointed by the Executive Board, by for presentation at
an October meeting of the Chapter.

Section 5  Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer
Secretary and Treasurer
The duties of the Secretary and Treasurer may be performed by a
single individual, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Commit-
tee, and agreed to by the membership of the Chapter.

Duties of the Secretary
The Secretary-Treasurer Secretary shall keep minutes of all business
meetings of the Executive Board or of the membership, and shall give
notice of all Executive Board meetings to its members. The Secretary-
Treasurer shall keep the files of all correspondence and shall keep
and maintain account of the transactions of the Chapter, including
its assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements. The Secretary
shall prepare those documents as are needed by and authorized for the
use of the Executive Board. He/She shall act as the general recipient
of the correspondence directed to the Chapter. The Secretary shall
keep files of all correspondence, and shall perform such other duties
as may be prescribed by the President or by the Executive Board.

Duties of the Treasurer
The Treasurer shall keep and maintain account of the transactions of
the Chapter, including its assets, liabilities, receipts, and disburse-
ments. The Secretary-Treasurer Treasurer shall deposit all monies and
other valuables in the name of and to the credit of the Chapter with
such depositories as may be designated by the Executive Board. He/She
shall disburse the funds of the Chapter as may be ordered by the Execu-
tive Board, upon request, an account of the financial transactions and/
or the financial condition of the Chapter, and shall perform such other
duties as prescribed by the President or by the Executive Board.