The Pipe Vine

December 1983

Next Meeting

6 February, 1984, Monday

The MTL Executive Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. All of you are invited to attend and join in the discussion of the year's goals, problems, and so forth. Feel free to bring "munchies" for supper. The program for the evening will be announced in the January newsletter. (No meeting in January.)

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

Fieldtrips

Leader: Wes Dempsey (342-2293 or 895-6362)

Meet at Butte Environmental Council (BEC), 7th and Cherry Streets at 10:00 a.m.

28 January, Saturday. Bike Hike. Five mile ride in Lower Bidwell Park to look at edible plants; slow and easy with lots of discussions. Bring bike to One-Mile Dam in Bidwell Park at 10:00 a.m.

5 February, Sunday. Upper Bidwell Park Hike. Two-mile hike along Chico Creek and up to north ridge to look at Pennroyal, Buckeye, and 30 other edible plants. Bring lunch and water. Meet at BEC, 7th and Cherry Streets, at 10:00 a.m. or at rifle range parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

18 February, Saturday. North Ridge Hike. About four miles along north ridge in Upper Bidwell Park, looking at plants of the "Banana Belt"; wear boots --- poison oak and scrambling! Bring lunch and water. Meet at BEC, 7th and Cherry Streets, at 10:00 a.m.

25 February, Saturday. Centerville Flume Hike. About six miles level going to look at winter-blooming plants and hybrid oaks. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Butte Environmental Council, 7th and Cherry Streets at 10:00 a.m.
Coming Events

MTL Executive Board Meeting.  6 February, Monday. The Board will meet at 6:00 at the Enloe Hospital Conference Hall; all members are invited to bring their ideas.

Plant Count Planning Meeting.  21 January, Saturday. State Chairman Charli Danielsen will head the first planning session in the bay area. Because the 1983 local coordinators have moved away, MTL is at this time without a chapter representative. If you would like to help in this, let your Board know.

State Board Meeting.  3 March, 1984. State Board will meet in San Diego. If you wish to attend, contact Jay Fuller (343-6875).

General News

A Call for Papers

The Society of Wetland Scientists will hold its Fifth Annual National Meeting in San Francisco on May 23-25, 1984, at the Westin Miyako Hotel. Field trips to unique wetland areas in the San Francisco Bay area will occupy one day of the meeting. The Plenary Session will consist of formal presentations on wetland biology, management, and regulations. Group discussions and poster sessions will also be an integral part of the meeting. Topics of regional as well as national interest are encouraged. Wetland restoration and/or establishment in particular have been noted as important issues in California and elsewhere in the West. A session dedicated to this topic is being considered. Proceedings of the meeting will be published in Wetlands, Journal of the Society of Wetland Scientists. For more information, contact Marc Boule, Meeting Coordinator, Shapiro and Associates, Inc., 1812 Smith Tower, Seattle, Washington 98104.

A call for papers was issued in October, 1983; deadline for abstracts will be January 31, 1984. Abstracts must contain:

1. Names of the authors
2. Professional affiliation
3. The title all in capital letters
4. Abstract
5. Everything double spaced

Abstracts should be submitted to: Dr. Fred Weinmann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box C-3755, Seattle Washington 98124.

Forest Planning Update

Another "update" on forest planning has been issued by Plumas National Forest Supervisor Lloyd R. Britton, extending the input period until January 6, 1984. Although this communication was received too late to announce the public meeting held on December 12 in Quincy, letters can still be sent to them at P.O. Box 1500, Quincy, CA 95971. (See Legislative Report, "Rare III").
appear in over 1500 local newspapers in hopes of building public support for the ESA in 1985.

Local Issues: Our local chapter legislative chair would like to get more people involved in writing to legislators on state and national issues. Lobbyist groups, while very influential in getting much of the "dirty work" done, still need back-up from individuals. Your letters do count, and numbers speak. For 1984, let's see each member take on at least one issue and write at least one letter, for the preservation of our native flora.

(Mary Meyer)

Featured Flora

Western Dwarf Mistletoe (Arceuthobium campylopodum)

There are about 10 species of dwarf mistletoes, all but one being North American in distribution. Nearly all are parasitic on conifers, with the local species being found most abundantly on Ponderosa, Digger and Jeffrey pines.

When the fruits are mature, the seeds are covered with a very sticky substance. Exceptional pressure builds up in cells at the base of the fruits, and the seeds are released with great force at the slightest touch. The seeds adhere to branches with which they come in contact, and, if the tree is a suitable host, germination and parasitic growth take place. Deer sometimes bring about seed dispersal when they brush against branches on which female plants are growing.

(Kingsley R. Stern. Drawing by Pat Rothe.)

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

by James Jokerst

There has been much news about rare plants this last year, with both positive and negative aspects for conservation. The Rare Plant Committee maintained correspondence with Butte and Shasta Counties, officially opened channels with Glenn County's environmental review department, and continued its liaison with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Forests within this service area. One slightly negative aspect was that our level of correspondence with these public agencies dropped significantly during the summer months while the individuals involved were away from home pursuing seasonal employment. We will need help next summer in this regard—any volunteers?
Legislative Report

Wilderness Update: Letters in support of wilderness and Cranston's bill S. 5 are still needed, as this issue has yet to be resolved. Write to: Senator Pete Wilson, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Rare III: Re-evaluation of roadless areas is currently underway on the Lassen and Plumas National Forests. Public input is needed for this important process to be effective. On the Plumas, no roadless areas were recommended for Wilderness under Rare II. Areas now being re-evaluated include Grizzly Peak, Adams Peak, Lakes Basin and Dixon Creek. On Lassen, 12 roadless areas were recommended for Wilderness (9) or non Wilderness (3) and are being re-evaluated. These include Ishi (A), Black Cinder, Cinder Butte, Cub Creek, Cypress, Devil's Garden, Lava, Mayfield, Mt. Harkness, Prospect, Timbered Crater and Trail Lake.

The following types of information are being sought by the Forests.

1. Wilderness attributes
2. Resource values that may be foregone with Wilderness or non Wilderness designation
3. Logical boundaries
4. Conflicting or non-conflicting uses currently occurring
5. Any other specific new information one may have

If any of you have visited any of these areas, your input is needed. Write to the Forest Supervisor at: Plumas National Forest (see p. 2 - "Update"), or Lassen National Forest, 707 Nevada St., Susanville, CA 96130. For more information, call Mary Meyer (916) 345-9360.

State Issues: This past year, our state CNPS Legislative Committee aided in the passage of AB 384, which will provide a check-off box on the state income tax form for contributions to the protection of endangered plant and wildlife species. When the Legislature reconvenes in January, several pieces of carry-over legislation will require action, including SB 834 (Nielson), which gives away public ownership and interest in 1.7 million acres of present and former wetlands. New issues to watch for in 1984 include legislation from the Hardwoods Task Force, and endangered species legislation from Assemblyman Costa's committee. Look to future Pipevines for more information on these issues.

Federal Issues: Our allies in Washington are the Natural Resources Defense Council, 1725 I St., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20006. Following are highlights from a letter received from Faith Thompson Campbell, Ph.D., head lobbyist for their Plant Conservation Project (PCP). Twenty new plants have been proposed for listing since the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed with their amendments. They have boosted funding above Reagan's requests, especially for BLM conservation efforts and law enforcement. Their lobbying efforts resulted in increased protection for many cactus species which are being over collected. Plans for next year include again fighting attempts by Reagan to cut the Council's programs. Re-authorization of the ESA must be won again in 1985. The PCP plans to prepare a series of upbeat and informative articles about endangered species and efforts to protect them. These articles will
Other minuses involve issues within Butte County. Steps toward the development of foothill residential areas still continue, even though inadequate EIRs are filed, and many individuals have voiced concern over cumulative and long-term impacts on the environment (e.g. vegetation, wildlife, water) and on social services (e.g. fire and police protection). All county citizens must be concerned that development of these areas proceed according to state regulations and with adequate protection of our resources.

Also in Butte County, we are concerned with plans to mine basalt from Table Mountain. Our chapter has objected to this operation in principle because we realize how biologically significant this somewhat pristine island of grassland vegetation is. Little by little, the remaining natural areas of the Sacramento Valley are disappearing, and although we realize that "development" is necessary to the metabolism of a healthy social organism, we feel that a balance must be struck between asphalt and the intrinsic beauty and wonder of natural ecosystems.

On a more positive note, our chapter has made significant headway toward perpetuation of Butte County's most endangered plant species, Limnanthes floccosa subsp. californica. Almost entirely restricted to Butte County, this subspecies is on the brink of extinction as its remaining islands of grassland habitat fall victim to agriculture or urban development. Nearly all of the 21 known populations have disappeared, only four represent large viable populations, and none is officially protected (although one does occur on the Wurlitzer Ranch where range management techniques appear to have allowed stabilization of this population and its habitat).

But---three cheers for CNPS!---this last year has seen important moves toward protecting and managing two significant populations. The first occurs on land owned by the Pleasant Valley Assembly of God Church immediately adjacent to the urban fringes of east Chico. Pastor Gaylord Enns and his congregation have enthusiastically volunteered to protect a portion of this land from the new church complex that has been planned for several years. In cooperation with our chapter, they have decided to actively manage a small system of vernally moist drainage ways. Seed collection and reestablishment, habitat maintenance via grazing and/or fire, and careful monitoring of the population size are among the activities planned. These will help advance our knowledge of how to insure the survival of this gene pool in areas with high densities of people and in small, managed populations, both factors sure to play important roles in the future of the taxon.

At a second, nearby locality, another population of the rare Limnanthes was recently discovered on lands included in a rural subdivision. In response to such laws as the California Environmental Quality Act and the Subdivision Map Act, as well as through the direction of our chapter, Butte County's Planning Department has required the establishment of a preservation easement in order to help protect this population from future human use of the area. The Rare Plant Committee has been negotiating the details of this easement with the project's proponents and the county staff.

So, as you can see, our chapter is active in local issues pertaining to the preservation of California's native flora, but your support is essential. We need liaisons for Shasta, Tehama and Siskiyou Counties, where urban growth continues to escalate; we need summertime back-ups; and we need input from watchful eyes throughout our service area. Our native plants are in dire straits. After all, how much chance does a fragile meadowfoam have against a bulldozer?
The Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

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