MEETING

11 September, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Refreshments 7:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:45 p.m.
Program 8:00 p.m.

Please note that our September meeting will be held on a Wednesday, to accommodate the Labor Day holiday. All Mt. Lassen Chapter members are welcome to attend the Executive Board Meeting, as your ideas and support are needed.

The program will be our nearly-annual "Pot Pourri of Nature Slides", where each chapter member or visitor can bring a few slides to show. Please bring up to ten or twelve of your newest, or best, or what-I-did-this-summer-slides. Just before the program begins, all slides will be placed in the slide trays provided, and then we can proceed with a continuous showing of diverse and entertaining slides. Don't restrict yourselves to native plants!

Enloe Hospital Conference Hall Room 1, Fifth and Magnolia, Chico.

FIELDTRIPS

14 September, Saturday. Bidwell Park Bike Hike. An easy, slow bike ride through lower Bidwell Park to look at the riparian vegetation and the edible plants. Many stops for explanations. Meet at One-Mile Dam on Big Chico Creek with bike at 9:00 a.m. Finish about noon. Leader Wes Dempsey, 342-2293 (895-6362 days).

22 September, Sunday. Carter Mt. climb. Moderate all-day hike to top of 7900 ft. peak out of Deer Creek Meadows; 2600 ft. elevation gain and 6 miles roundtrip. Chilly at the top so bring adequate clothing, good hiking shoes, lunch and water. Meet at BCC, 7th and Cherry St., at 8:30 a.m. or at the junction of HWYs 32 and 89 around 10:00 a.m. Leader Wes Dempsey.
28 September, Saturday. North Ridge of Bidwell Park. Cross-country hike of five miles through the foothill woodlands to an Indian cave overlooking Big Chico Creek. Poison oak in attendance. Bring lunch and water. Meet at BEC at 8:30 a.m., or at the Rifle Range Parking lot in Bidwell Park at 9:00 a.m. Leader Wes Dempsey.

6 October, Sunday. Butte Creek B.L.M. trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at BEC or 9:45 a.m. at DeSabia Lake. Bring water and lunch for this two mile scenic walk through Butte Creek Canyon. Return around 4:00 p.m. Plant communities to be seen include Foothill Woodland, Mixed Conifer Forest, and Riparian. Leader Ruth Cunningham, phone 872-4320.

13 October, Sunday. Brokeoff Mountain. Climb 2600 feet to the top of Brokeoff (9285); 7 miles roundtrip. Superb views of Mt. Lassen along the way. Elfin forest at the top with seven kinds of dwarf trees. Good trail. Bring lunch, water, good hiking shoes and adequate clothing. Meet at BEC at 8:30 a.m., or at the trailhead just south of Lassen Park Entrance gate at 10:30 a.m. Leader Wes Dempsey.

FOREST LIAISONS NEEDED. Our state-wide Forest Service Coordinator Jim Jokerst has sent out a request to all chapters that an individual or committee be appointed to review upcoming U.S. Forest Service "Forest Plans". The process of formulating long term plans for each of California's 16 National Forests has been underway for several years. They will soon be released for public review and comment. These plans will direct Forest Service policy for the next decade and will have an impact for decades to come.

The task of those reviewing the plans will be to see that there is an equitable balance between the intensity of land use and the conservation of natural diversity. It will also be necessary to review provisions for the protection of rare and endangered plant species, unique habitats, Research Natural Areas and Botanical Areas.

The CNPS Conservation Committee is of the opinion that only local chapters can provide this kind of input for their areas. Our problem is the Mt. Lassen Chapter is small in membership and large in service area. We have three National Forests in our jurisdiction, the Plumas, the Lassen, and the Modoc. Our chapter is unique in this regard. In order for this review to be successful, we need the participation of our membership. This is a particularly good opportunity for some of our outlying members to become more involved in the land use planning process. If you are interested in helping, contact Pat Kelly or drop us a postcard at the Herbarium. (Pat Kelly, Conservation Chair.)

LEGISLATIVE ALERT. Senate Bill 1165 Marks, needs help. We had a previous alert about this bill in our June Pipevine. There is still time to write the Governor in support of this urgently needed bill before the first of September. The bill deals with the misuse of the Environmental License Plant Fund (ELPF), the proceeds of which were intended to be used for conservation projects throughout the state, including the rare and endangered plant program. SB 1165 would limit the types of projects receiving these funds and increase funding for fish and wildlife habitat and environmental education.

A report prepared last year by the Planning and Conservation League showed that one third of the projects receiving ELPF funding did not fit into any of the seven categories set aside to receive those funds. SB 1165 would help stop the misuse of the funds and
allow those projects dependent upon ELPF to receive the amount they deserve. As you know, ELPF is a major source of funding for native plant protection programs in the state Department of Fish and Game. A similar bill passed the Legislature last year and was vetoed by the Governor.

Please send a letter or postcard in the next week, they can make a difference between veto or approval. Write to Governor George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814. (MEM)

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REAUTHORIZATION ALERT. On July 29, the House of Representatives took three minutes under a suspension of the rules, to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act by a voice vote. This means that no amendments to the Committee bill (H.R. 1027) were permitted under the speeded-up procedure. The bill has now been passed to the Senate's court, and it's up to us to let them know how we feel about this critical legislation. While passage in the House is a positive sign for perpetuating the Act as it now stands, conservationists had hoped to improve upon it by including several new amendments. It is still possible these amendments may be added in the Senate. The most important of these to CNPS members, would require the Secretary of the Interior to monitor the status of "Candidate" species, eligible for the Act's protection, but not yet listed. Too frequently, species on the waiting list go extinct or are further endangered before they ever had a chance for the full protection under the law. The listing process is an extremely slow one, often because of the budget limitations. Another amendment not included in the House Bill would have increased budget allocations for the listing process and other aspects of the Act. By setting spending for plant and wildlife protection in fiscal 1986 at $39.25 million, the same amount as in 1985, an immediate money battle with the Reagan administration was avoided. However, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee would increase resources for the Interior and Commerce departments down the road, resulting in an increase for the program nearly 40 per cent over three years to more than 54 million dollars. Unfortunately, the bill under consideration in the Senate would continue to hold authorization ceilings constant for another three years, then raise them somewhat in the following two years.

Other amendments which we would like to see included in the reauthorization would 1) protect endangered plants from collectors and vandals on non-federal lands, and 2) repeal a special provision that has complicated law enforcement efforts to stem the illegal trade in peregrine falcons. Apparently, a three year investigation of the illegal peregrine trade has discovered illegal activity involving 90 peregrines, including 71 known to be illegally taken from the wild. Canadian officials report 40 taken from the wild during the same period. Although the sale of captive-bred peregrines has been justified as necessary to encourage private breeders, the Service reported that in 1984, 65 breeders contributed only 16 peregrines to the recovery effort.

In summary then, readers are urged to write 1) to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, in support of the plant, candidate, and peregrine strengthening amendments, and 2) to write to our Senators Cranston and Wilson to seek support for the authorization levels and appropriations contained in the House bills. Senate Bill S. 725. All can be addressed to Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Hearings are scheduled for early September, so write soon!!! (MEM)
POSTER OUTLETS NEEDED. One of the primary sources for revenue for our local chapter and statewide organization, is the sale of our posters, including the Wildflower and Desert Wildflower posters. We will be obtaining the lastest poster of California Shrubbs at the September Board Meeting. Posters are always available at our monthly meetings, as well as the CSUC herbarium if you can find a sales representative around. Members can purchase posters at a discount. With Christmas coming up (yes, Xmas) they are an excellent gift idea.

We need to find more outlets in Northern California to carry and sell our posters. In Chico, they can be obtained at the Bidwell Mansion, and the Chico Natural Foods on 8th and Main. They are also available at the Lake Oroville Visitor Center. But we need ideas for more retail outlets for these beautiful and educational posters. If you live in outlying areas such as Orland, Willows, Quincy, Red Bluff, or Timbucktoo, how about dropping us a postcard here in the Herbarium, and let us know of potential outlets. They could be gift shops, art stores, visitor centers, nurseries, etc.

THE PIPEVINE NEEDS ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS. As editor I would like to encourage all of you to contribute to the Pipevine, our monthly newsletter. If you have a particular plant your interested in and have knowledge about, why not write a little article for the Pipevine. Do you have a secret and successful method for erradicating noxious weeds, let us all know. Are there conservation issues out there that you are interested in and need support for? Let Us Know! All contributions can be sent to the Herbarium in care of the Pipevine, CNPS, by the 15th of the month.

The Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

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