The Pipe Vine

NEWSLETTER OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, MT. LASSEN CHAPTER  MARCH 1988

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
1 MARCH, TUESDAY 7:30 - 9:30  HOME OF WES DEMPSEY, 824 KAREN DR.

PROGRAM MEETING
7 MARCH, MONDAY 7:30  THE ESPLANADE BUILDING, ROOM 101

"ESCAPED EXOTICS, WHERE THEY COME FROM, AND PROBLEMS"

This month we are very fortunate to have with us, Elizabeth McClintock, an outstanding botanist and expert on plants introduced by humans into the native flora - "escaped exotics". Her talk and slides will give an overview of the introduction of alien plants into California, and will highlight the effects of these plants on the native vegetation in the wake of man's activities and movements around the state.

Elizabeth will hopefully have had a chance to view some of the more infamous examples of escaped exotics in the Chico area, so come prepared for a lively and interesting evening.

Buy NATIVES
Lowell Ahart wants everyone to bring there spare change to take advantage of his wares. He will be bringing 80 pots of native plants to sell for the chapter. Sure to enhance all our gardens. Thanks Lowell.

SPRING VINA TOURS
Tours for The Nature Conservancy's Vina Pains Preserve will start March 5 and run until May 8, Sat and Sun, with mid-week tours available to groups. Tours run from 9:30am to noon every weekend. The gate will only be open from 9-9:30am, to enter the preserve. The flowers are earlier this year.
FIELDTRIPS
Chair: Wes Dempsey, 342-2293  Welcome back!

6 MARCH, Sunday.  UPPER BIDWELL PARK.  2-3 miles with a little scrambling and some poison oak.  We will look at the plants growing in the "banana belt" just below the north ridge, including Solanum parishii, Marah fabaceus. Meet at BEC, 708 Cherry at 9:30am or Riffle Range parking lot at 10:00am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: WES DEMPESEY, 342-2293.

12 MARCH, Saturday.  BILLIE PARK, PARADISE. Overlooking Butte Creek Canyon. Moderately vigorous hike with mud possible near the spring. Plants of the yellow pine forest, a fern grotto, Indian grinding stone, old homestead, and magnificent view. Meet at BEC, 708 Cherry, Chico at 9:00am or Billie Park entrance at 9:30am (turn left off Skyway at Billie Rd then one mile to park on right). Bring lunch and water. Leaders: DORENE and BILL HALL, 873-3267.

20 MARCH, Saturday.  CENTREVILLE FLUME.  4-5 miles of level going. Iris, fawn lily, ferns, hybrid oaks, other goodies. Meet at BEC, 708 Cherry St, Chico at 9:00am or Centerville School (Butte Canyon) at 9:30am. Bring Lunch and water. Leader: WES DEMPESEY, 342-2293.

10 APRIL, Sunday.  HONCUT CREEK. Hike around foothill and riparian woodland along creek. Also check out grassland plants. Meet at BEC, 708 Cherry St, Chico at 9:00am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: LOWELL AHART, 743-9314.

16 APRIL, Saturday.  INDIAN CAVE.  5 miles with scrambling and poison oak. Chance to see Quercus garryana var breweri. Meet at BEC, 708 Cherry St, Chico at 9am or Riffle Range parking lot at 9:30am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: WES DEMPESEY, 342-2293.

24 APRIL, Sunday.  PINES SCHOOL NATURE PRESEVE, MAGALIA. Walk around the new natural area on the nature trail through the yellow pine forest. Meet at BEC, 708 Cherry St, Chico at 9am or trailhead on Compton Rd (southwest of Elementary School just off Ponderosa Way at stoplight) at 10:00am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: TOM RODGERS, 877-7000.

G'DAY MATES!
Wes and Phyl Dempsey recently returned from almost 4 months in Western Australia with 1200 slides of the fabulous flora there. They bought an old Holden station wagon and camped from Cape Le Grand National Park to Sharks Bay finding orchids, Banksias, bull ants(!), flies, and lots of friendly Aussies. CNPS posters, compliments of Mt. Lassen Chapter, were left with appreciative native plant lovers at the Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Botany (UWA), Kings Park Botanic Garden (Perth), and Western Flora (propagators of native plants by tissue culture at Coorow, WA). At Kings Park, the botanists had just completed a Rare and Endangered Species Garden to alert people to their disappearing and threatened species and Dr. Kingsley Davis was propagating as many as possible by tissue culture. When you visit there look for our posters. They are quite proud to have them.

Wes and Phyl will be giving a program on the Western Australian flora later this year.
SHIPPEE'S MEADOW FOAM

The City of Chico Planning Commission met Monday, Feb 5 to continue hearings on the fate of Butte County's rarest plant. Development of an area in southeast Chico threatens the largest remaining population of Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica.

Ann Howald, plant ecologist with the Endangered Species Program, Non-Game Heritage Division of the Department of Fish & Game, spoke about the uniqueness of this species and the need to provide for its protection. Dr. Charles McNeil at U.C. Davis found that this subspecies is distinct from all other subspecies of L. floccosa. Dr. Subodh Jain and his graduate students found, through genetic experiments, Shippee's Meadow Foam is the only subspecies of its group that can be used to transfer the commercially valuable properties of early-flowering and self-pollination to another kind of meadow foam that shows great promise as an economically valuable producer of high quality oil.

The Department of Fish & Game made the following recommendations:
1) That the precise distribution of meadow foam in the Humboldt Rd area be determined and mapped during Spring 1988, so that accurate information is available for design of on-site mitigation.
2) That the City of Chico sponsor a regional survey of meadow foam in appropriate habitat that has not been adequately surveyed in the past; discovery of new populations would expand the options for preserving the subspecies.
3) That the Chico Planning Commission assure that proposed actions regarding the church property be consistent with the long-term survival of Shippee's Meadow Foam.
4) That the City of Chico continue with efforts to require rare plant surveys for newly proposed developments, to incorporate into the review process provisions for assessing impacts and to require mitigation when impacts are deemed significant.

The City of Chico Planning Commission failed to pass a motion for a continuance of sixty days, but a 30 day continuance was passed. The matter was placed on the agenda for March 7.

Mary Meyer

Help Endangered Species at Tax Time. Use LINE 45 on your State Tax Return.
THANKS TO THE PLANT PARTIERS

We had a great morning planting new natives at Chico Creek Nature Center to help extend the Alice Herkert Native Gardens. The City of Chico helped by providing a large dirt mound with boulders which was covered with many perennials and annuals. A big thanks to Janeecce Webb, Bob, and Jim Emennenegger of CCNC; to Dorene & Bill Hall, Pat Kelly, Wes Dempsey, Tim & Denise Devine, and especially Lowell Ahart, who provided most of the plants.

* * * NEW DEADLINE * * *

Any contributions to the Pipevine should be delivered or mailed to Denise Devine, editor, by the 10th of the month preceding the program meeting.

Denise Devine
1444 Arcadian Ave
Chico, CA 95926

RESTORING NATIVE PLANT ECOSYSTEMS
WORKSHOP * WORKSHOP * WORKSHOP

A free workshop will be held on Saturday, March 19, 9am by the Design Association Working with Natives, a non-profit group from Berkeley. They will help CNPS learn about restoring areas that have been disturbed, back to viable habitat with natives. Hopefully this workshop will answer many questions. Anyone interested in natives should attend. It is to be held in Holt266, CSU, Chico. Sponsored by Streaminers and Earth Island Center. For more information call 345-4852.

GO NATIVE, GROW NATIVE SYMPOSIUM

Marin Chapter of CNPS are now planning this great event for Sept 23, 1988. Its purpose is to provide education for water conserving landscape, and use of natives. Watch for further information.

MT. LASSEN CHAPTER
of the
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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I wish to affiliate with the Mt. Lassen Chapter so that it may receive a portion of my dues.

NAME _____________________________
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(Dues and Gifts are Tax deductible)

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