The Pipe Vine

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

PROGRAM MEETING

12 SEPTEMBER, 1988 Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Join the Mount Lassen Chapter for our traditional "what I did on my summer vacation". Bring ten of your favorite slides to share.
Please notice we are meeting ONE WEEK LATER than usual at a NEW LOCATION!

BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sherman and East First Avenue, Chico

PRESIDENT's MESSAGE

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's slides of the past year's flowers and activities!

A few thanks are in order. First, thanks to those who helped run the Chapter booth at the Endangered Species Faire last May 14; Patty Costello, Dana Von Bargen, Barb Castro, Margie McNairn, Lynda Fertig (and myself). We talked to a lot of people, gave away stacks of CNPS brochures and past issues of FREMONTIA, and sold a few tee-shirts-- plus the fun of having all those other environmentalist-types around. Thanks also to Lowell Ahart for supplying the plants we had for sale at the Faire (also thanks Lowell for the plants for sale at our meetings-- all the proceeds are donated to the Chapter!).

Other thanks are not so fun, as Denise Devine leaves her post as Pipevine editor to take care of other business and the new house. Denise has done a superb job editing the Pipevine -- this is an extremely important position as the main avenue of communication with you, our members. Also, thanks to Patty Costello for handling sales at our monthly general meetings. Patty will be starting a teaching job in Salinas. Special thanks to Nancy Wurlitzer for an excellent job of soliciting cookie-makers for one of the best cookie and refreshment tables around.

Obviously my next pitch is for volunteers to take over these jobs. All these positions are vital to the continued functioning of our chapter. The job of Pipevine editor which is also an Executive Board Position, is essential for Chapter communication (thanks go to Mary Meyer, indefatigable champion of rare plants and species diversity, for putting together this issue of the Pipevine);
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE con't

Sales is also an Executive Board position and entails organizing the sales table at our monthly meetings and tracking inventory. A volunteer only running the sales table at meetings and not serving on the Board would also be welcome. How is a general meeting complete without refreshments?—this is not a Board position, but come and lend a hand.

We don't just lose members from the Executive Board, however. Welcome Dana Von Bargen as chair of the publicity committee. Dana recently returned to the Chico area for a position at Butte College.

I have mentioned the importance of communications— I encourage each of you to write up something for the Pipevine. Maybe there's a topic you would like to share with the membership, some research you've been working on, or a favorite plant you want to write about— don't hesitate, do it! And join the Executive Board at its meetings too— the meetings aren't restricted to just officers and chairs. Come help us with your input.

See you in September!!  President Lawrence Janeway

FIELDTRIPS

Chair: Wes Dempsey  342-2293
Meeting Place: Cal Trans Commuter Parking Lot at Hwy 99E and Hwy 32 (east side between 8th and 9th Streets, Chico).

4 SEPTEMBER, Sunday. HUMBUG TO HUMBOLDT SUMMITS HIKE. See the late summer blooming plants; Eriogonum, Chrysothamnus, etc., along the Pacific Crest Trail. A car shuttle will be self-organized so we can go one-way. See views of Lake Almanor, and the Sacramento Valley; plants of rocky outcrops and red fir forest; about six miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Cal Trans at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: WES DEMPSEY, 342-2293.

11 SEPTEMBER, Sunday. GREEN ISLAND LAKE HIKE. Six miles roundtrip into the headwaters of Soda Creek and shallow lake with a unique floating island to hunt for bog plants at ca. 6000 feet elevation. Start at the Humbug summit and hike through Red Fir and Yellow Pine Forests. Meet at Cal Trans at 8:30 a.m. with lunch and water.
Leader: WES DEMPSEY.  342-2293.

25 SEPTEMBER, Sunday. RIPARIAN WOODLAND CANOE TRIP. Meet at the Tehema Bridge in Los Molinos with canoes at 9 a.m. and float down the Sacramento River. Stops to see riverside flora and watch the otters! Bring lunch, water and life jackets. Take out at Woodson Bridge State Park.
Leaders: Lynn and Syd Thomas, 343-3185 and Wes Dempsey, 342-2293.
THE WESTERN SYCAMORE--
Plane Tree--Buttonwood
Aliso--
Platanus racemosa

This elephantine, shaggy-barked giant borders our western California watercourses in dramatic fashion but always with charming variety of form. Whether it emerges from gray rocks of a Monterey canyon as a ghostly lone sentinel or stands tall in small groups amidst giant cottonwoods and valley oaks in Sacramento River riparian forest, each individual is attractively unique--quite in contrast with the drab uniformity of most forest members.

While alders and willows guard the water's edge buffering the onslaught of winter floods, the sycamore resides securely on higher ground a few feet away. Its roots must reach the water table, however, for it has no drought resisting tricks and its lush, star-shaped leaves can be a foot broad. Ninety feet below the understory of ash, walnut, and box elder bask in its canopy of pleasant filtered shade, sharing the richness of the floodplain soil. All these deciduous trees produce a nutritious harvest of leaves and fruits which serve to fuel the food chains that involve immense numbers of herbivores in the soil and water.

Soon after the spring flush of growth, large plates of old gray bark flake off revealing smooth, creamy-white patches that make this tree appear so elegant. But these beauties should be left in the wild for a homeowner is soon exasperated by the yeartlong rain of leaves, twigs, or bark that litter lawns and gardens. The golfball sized clusters of fruits add further debris as they gradually fall or break apart over winter, releasing innumerable airborne seeds carried about by cottony parachutes.

In the cool, rainy days of spring, a fungus (which grew into the buds the preceding fall) attacks the expanding leaves and stems. These shrivel and fall in several episodes of death and regrowth until hot weather finally causes the parasite to succumb. One happy outcome is that the fungus constantly prunes this fast growing tree, preventing overgrowth that would split off and shorten its life. The artistic result is a beautiful tree with a few, well-spaced limbs. Thus the sycamore and its parasite exhibit a symbiotic relationship where each contributes to the ultimate well being of the other.

The London Plane Tree (P. x acerifolia) is more resistant to this fungus and also tolerates air pollutants. Thus it is cherished as a street tree in that city and others around the temperate zones of the world. It originated in the early 17th century when our eastern sycamore (P. occidentalis) was planted in a Paris botanic garden along with the oriental species (P. orientalis). Seeds from one of these were sent to Oxford, England and included some hybrids. Their vigor and intermediate character immediately generated enthusiasm among gardeners and these familiar cousins of our western sycamore now grow on all continents.

--- Wes Dempsey
SPRING CNPS FIELD TRIP REPORT: BUTTE CREEK TRAIL

On May 29, 1988 six people visited the Butte Creek Trail. As we walked we discussed some of the proposed locations for the revised Forks of Butte hydro-electric project, and noted several plants not yet listed on the growing Butte Creek Flora. Among them were True’s manzanita (Arctostaphylos truei), Sticky Chinese Houses (Collinsia tinctoria), globe gilia (Gilia capitata), two small Madias (Madia exigua and M. minima), creeping snowberry (Symphoricarpos acutus), and the narrow-leaved cross wort (Crucianella angustifolia, a species you won’t find in Munz). At the trailhead, the delicate herb Collomia heterophylla stumped us until someone remerbered the name of this member of the Phlox family. Farther down the trail, the Indian paintbrushes (Castilleja applegatei) blazed red against the dark green serpentine, and the first Humboldt lilies (Lilium humboldtii) were out in all their orange glory. These beauties, along with thirteen different fern species and several of Glen Cunningham’s cookies, made us quite glad that the revised water project plans will not destroy this trail. (Note: coming soon-- a pocket-sized printed checklist of Butte Creek Trail flora to take with you and add to next spring-- or before).

-- Barbara Castro

WANTED: SLIDE PROJECTOR FOR THE MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER

Our new meeting place at the Butte County Public Library does not provide a slide projector. The Executive Board is looking into options which would make it easy on us overworked volunteers. If there is someone in the chapter who has a slide projector which they do not use and would like to donate... that would be great. Or, is there someone who would like to bring their projector to our monthly program meetings? Or, are there benefactors who would like to contribute to a slide projector fund? If you can help with this situation, please contact Vice President and Program Chair Barbara Castro at 894-7160.

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MT. Lassen Chapter
of the
California Native Plant Society

Address
Mt. Lassen Chapter, CNPS
Department of Biological Sciences
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-515

OFFICERS AND CHAIRS
President: Lawrence Janeway 345-8439
Vice President: Barbara Castro 894-7160
Secretary: Marjorie McNairn 343-2397
Treasurer: Ocrene Hall 873-3287
Conservation: Pat Kelly 345-1135
Rare Plants: Mary Meyer 853-9599
Legislative: "
Escaped Exotics: Lowell Ahart 763-5314
Public Lands: ??
Field Trips: Wes Dempsey 342-2293
Programs: Barbara Castro 894-7160
Refreshments: ??
Sales: "
Publicity: Dana Von Bargen 893-8638
Mammalian: Ruth Cunningham 861-8462
Newsletter: "
Editor: ??
Circulation: Marion Weer 894-8843
Labels: Earl Coorden

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Please include me as a CNPS member

Life (Individual/Couple) ..... $450/500
Supporting ................. $50
Household ................. $30
Individual or Library ...... $18
Student/Retiree Individual ...... $12
Retired Couple ............ $15

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

NAME ______________________

ADDRESS ______________________

CITY/STATE ZIP ________________

PHONE ______________________

(Dues and Gifts are Tax deductable)

Please make your check payable to CNPS and send to:
909 12th Street, Suite 116
Sacramento, CA 95814

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THE PIPEVINE SEPTEMBER 1988