The Pipe Vine

NEWSLETTER OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, MT. LASSEN CHAPTER
August 1991

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday 28 August 1991
McNairn residence, 2015 San Verbena Way
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM MEETING
Monday 2 September 1991
Faith Lutheran Church
667 E. 1st Avenue, Chico
7:30 p.m.

(Note: Because of its uncertain future, the County Library is not presently scheduling meetings.)

Subject: MTL Members Slides and Stories. This is an evening to share summer experiences through slides and stories. Bring along 10 to 15 slides of your vacation experiences, CNPS field trips, the Wildflower Show, or wildflower planting in your yard. Or share with us an experience of your summertime. This annual "show and tell" is always fascinating!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is the purpose of this space to bring you up-to-date on activities of Mt. Lassen Chapter during the summer. The chapter continued its momentum from The Wildflower Show with numerous field trips during the summer, some of which were very well attended. Another summer activity was watchdogging several conservation issues.

Notice that starting this month June Watts is the new Pipe Vine editor. Thank you! June for being willing to take on a job critical to the communications of the chapter. I look forward to working with you, June.

At the May Executive Board meeting Mt. Lassen Chapter voted to enter into a cost share agreement with the Plumas National Forest to identify, evaluate, and describe potential Special Interest Areas (SIAs). An SIA is described in the Forest Service Manual as a place with
unusual or other special interest characteristics. It is
protected so that these special values are available for
scientific study, and public enjoyment, education and/or
recreation use. Public use and enjoyment is encouraged up
to the level that will ensure protection of the special
values for which the area was established.

CNPS appealed the Plumas National Forest Land Management
Plan on a number of issues. One was that very few (only
two) areas were set aside for Research Natural Areas or
Special Interest Areas. CNPS was successful in this appeal,
and Plumas NF has agreed to consider additional areas. The
Plumas NF has recruited several volunteers to evaluate the
unique qualities of each of the possible SIAs to insure
that the areas conform to the SIA objectives, to record
biodiversity, including rare species, and to suggest
boundaries and management plans. The SIAs under
consideration include Fowler Lake, Mt. Fillmore, Mountain
House Creek, MagaliaMcNabCypress, Brady's Camp, and others.

Agreement between Mt. Lassen Chapter and Plumas NF
includes donation of money to help defray the expenses
(travel, communication, etc.) of the volunteers. This is an
exciting project; one where our members and our support can
make a significant impact on the management of specific
areas within "our" local National Forest.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Sunday Sept 1. Floating bogs of Frog and Green Island Lakes.
About 4-mile hike from Sunflower flat into Soda Creek Basin.
Red Fir forest, mountain chaparral, and mountain meadows. Meet
at P&R at 8 am or at intersection of Jonesville and Humbug Summit
Roads at 9:30. Bring lunch & water. Leader: Wes Dempsey 342-
2293.

Mountain Meadow, Red Fir Forest, Lodgepole Pine Forest, and
Floating Bog plant communities. See Schaugzgera palustris (a
northern bog plant "unseen" since 1890!), three species of sundew
(Drosera rotundifolia, D. longifolia, and their hybrid), etc.
Moderate 1.5 mile hike up to geyser. Bring lunch and water to
Domingo Springs campground (10 miles north of Chester) at 9:30
am or to Willow Lake campground at 10 am (Willow Creek Road).

Sunday Sept 15. Deadfall Lakes and Mt. Eddy hike, Shasta
National Forest. Subalpine, Mountain Meadow, and Alpine plant
communities. Foxtail and whitebark pines, Lewisia leana,
Rockfringe, etc. Level, 2-mile hike along Pacific Crest Trail to
Lower Deadfall Lake (7300') .5 mile climb up to upper lakes
(7800'). Possible climb up Mt. Eddy (9000') for spectacular view
of Mt. Shasta. Bring lunch and water to PCT trailhead on
ForestRoad 17 at 10:30 am (3.5 hours and 160 miles from Chico).
Take I-5 to Weed, then first (Gasell) offramp (3 miles west) to
old highway, go 1 mile to Stewart Springs Road (FR 17), and then
about 13 miles up to the summit and the PCT trailhead.

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SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS, cont.

Sunday Sept. 29. Campus and Bidwell Mansion tree tour. Walk the new nature trail along Chico Creek. Meet at Bidwell Mansion at 9 am. Leader: Dave Wyllie 342-7248.

CAN THE MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER AVOID CONSTRUCTION DESTRUCTION?

The construction industry is in recession across the nation, but not in the North Valley, not in Butte and Sutter Counties. Development activity here has accelerated over the summer.

Many of the projects being planned or underway can adversely impact our native plant communities and should be monitored. Below listed are samples of the projects now underway.

1. The revision of the Butte County Land Use Plan. This can entail the rezoning of large areas now in rural, to urban classification. Currently underway is the Environmental Impact Report for the 86,000 acre Durham-Dayton-Nelson Planning Area.

2. The Spring Valley Farms development is 2,400 acres south of Shippee Road between Highways 99 and 149. The developer proposes to convert the area to 5 acre ranchettes. This is the type locality of the Butte County meadowfoam.

3. The Glen Biggers development is 119 acres in Butte Meadows. It is proposed to rezone from timber production to residential and commercial.

4. Adoption of the Chico Urban Area Draft Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drainage Master Plans for 2,900 acres north of Lindo Channel. This would annex 521 acres currently under county jurisdiction. When built out it would double Chico's population. There are considerable vernal wetlands within the area.

5. A draft EIR is being prepared for 130 acres at Warfield-Doemill Roads in Southeast Chico to rezone to high density residential. This acreage contains the Doemill Road, Butte County meadowfoam population.

6. Enloe Hospital has submitted a preliminary plan for their 240 acres at Humboldt and Bruce Roads. They have included a 15 acre preserve for Butte County meadowfoam, but it does not appear that it is adequate to protect this plant population.

People are needed to follow these developments, attend the hearings, and write comments if necessary. If anyone is interested please contact Pat Kelly.

- Pat Kelly
FIELD TRIP REPORT

The first weekend of August, several Mt. Lassen Chapter members gathered to camp at Bucks Lake, sharing delicious dishes, comfortable camaraderie and fascinating field trips. The weekend was designed to accommodate weekend campers as well as daytime participants.

Saturday's field trip was to the west central branch of Mill Creek on the western flanks of Mt. Pleasant in the Bucks Lake Wilderness area. The area had been proposed as a Research Natural Area because of the fine condition of the red fir forest, and the high number of bogs containing several rare species. It is also reported to be the habitat for the Great Grey owl, the rarest breeding owl in Northern California. The nine participants on this field trip were not disappointed in their quest for plant species. On the walk up the creek to the largest bog, the species which drew the greatest attention were Naked Star Tulip (Calochortus nudus), Glaucescent Sidalcea (Sidalcea glaucescens), Jacob's Ladder (Polanomum californicum), Leopard Lily (Lilium pardalinum), and Scarlet Gilia (Ipomopsis aggregata). At the bog edges were a few plants of Grape Fern (Botrychium multifidum) and many Primrose Monkey-flower (Mimulus primuloides). After some wayward wandering, the hardy group stumbled upon the wettest bog area and were treated to the discovery of the plants which had been the goal of the excursion. Nestled in the sphagnum moss and associated with Western Blueberry (Vaccinium occidentale) were the uncommon Sundew plants (Drosera rotundifolia). Growing close by was a healthy population of Buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata) and in a deep sink pool Bur-reed, or Sparganium angustifolium, and Lesser Bladderwort (Utricularia minor).

Several ferns were observed: LadyFern (Athyrium felix-femina), BrackenFern (Pteridium aquilinum), and Brittle Fern (Cryptopteris fragilis) and the rare Penstemon neotericus.

The Sunday trip had six participants following the Pacific Crest Trail from Bucks Summit to Big Creek Road. At first the trail led through brushfields of an old burn, now growing back with Red Fir (Abies magnifica) and Sugar Pine (Pinus lambertiana). The air was heavy with the sweet scent of Chinquapin sempervirens in full bloom. The majority of the forest was through mature Red Fir forest with occasional but spectacular clumps of Pinedrops (Pterospora andromedia). A babbling brook showed up just in time for lunch, and we walked through an interesting meadow at the end of the trail. Three kinds of Morning Glory were observed, including Convovulus malacophyllum. Other blooming plants included Harebell (Campanula pennanthoides), Dogbane (Apocynum sp.) in bloom and fruit, Skullcap (Scutellaria antirrhinoides), Fireweed (Epilobium angustifolium), Parrot's Beak (Podocarpus racemosa), and Spiraea. The trip was followed by a drive to KSoap Hill and a view of the extensive Bear-grass (Xerophyllum tenax) population.

The five campers who drove up to Brady Camp on Monday were surprised to meet seven Forest Service employees who had
FIELD TRIP REPORT cont.

joined the trip to assess the area for a possible SIA (see President's Message). The group split in two, one to decide on possible boundaries, and the other to compile a plant list. Brady Camp is a high (6000 ft) meadow and adjacent stream with a wide diversity of plants including Arrowhead Butterweed (Senecio triangularis), a large stand of Swamp Onion (Allium validum), Wild Peony (Allium validum), Columbine (Hyoscy sus sp.) and a small disjunct population of the rare Penstemon persona tus. The area has Red Fir, Lodgepole Pine (Pinus Murrayana), and Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) reported to contain Basque sheep-herder carvings over 100 years old. A list of about 90 species was developed during the visit.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 9/11
Please mail copy to ed. by 9/9

ARBOR NOTES

The genus Fraxinus is well represented in the CSUC Arboretum. Our streamside community is the home of the Oregon Ash (Fraxinus latifolia, #46), a native which is found in the Sierra Nevadas and along the northern coast of California to British Columbia. The Oregon Ash has dark bark with leaves 6" to 12" long divided into 5-7 oval leaflets which are usually light green with the end leaflet being longer than the side leaflets. Although we don't have a representative of the Foothill Ash (Fraxinus dipetala) on campus, this quite attractive low growing tree can be found in the foothills above Chico and is worthy of notice for its hardiness and tolerance to dry intermittent stream beds. For this Foothill Ash, look for branches of showy white flowers from March-June. Another Ash, the Modesto Ash (Fraxinus velutina 'Modesto', #116), which is associated with California, is actually a hybrid from the Arizona Ash (Fraxinus velutina). Although not a native, the American Ash (Fraxinus americana, #73) is native to the Eastern U.S. and grows to 80 feet or more with a straight trunk and oval shaped crown.

Please note this specimen as you walk around Bell Memorial Union, as it is a good example of the stature this species can attain.

David Myllie

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

A year ago, Durham Elementary School converted a large parking lot traffic island into a native plant garden. Lowell Ahart provided many of the plants; the school put in landscaping and irrigation. Now we need to weed out the exotics, plan this year's plantings, and work with the teachers and their students in their use of the garden. If you have a little time to devote to this important enterprise call Liz Nottleman (345-3509).

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT/RETIR ED/LIMITED INCOME $10
INDIVIDUAL/LIBRARY MEMBER $25
INTERNATIONAL $35
FAMILY OR GROUP $35
SUPPORTING $50
PLANT LOVER $100
PATRON $250
LIFE $500
BENEFACTOR $500
CORPORATE $1000

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

NAME ________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________

CITY/STATE __________________________ ZIP __________

Send Membership Applications to:
CNPS
909 12th st., Suite 116
Sacramento, CA 95814

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