The Pipe Vine

NEWSLETTER OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, MT. LASSEN CHAPTER

May 1992

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 29, 1992

Reiling Residence, 822 Wagstaff Rd., Paradise
(Turn left (west) from Skyway onto Wagstaff. Proceed .65 mi, then turn left at 822 mailbox. House (not visible from street) is ca. 400 feet up driveway behind wooden gate.)

PROGRAM MEETING

Monday, May 4, 1992

Butte County Library, 1st and Sherman
7:30 p.m.

"All About Vernal Pools." Diane Mastalir, a graduate student in Botany at Chico State, will discuss the natural history, geology, and flora and fauna of the Central Valley's vernal pools. Diane is an avid vernal pool enthusiast and is studying vernal pool seed banks for her Master's thesis.

***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Spring has arrived!!! I'm sure you were quite aware of this, but good news bears repeating. Everyone I know has hayfever or spring fever or some combination thereof. If you haven't been out to enjoy the blooms at any of the numerous sites, go soon. This, unfortunately, won't last too much longer unless we get more rain. I won't attempt to enumerate the flowers I have seen blooming recently (it would take up about two pages.).

Regarding some recent chapter activities: The Task force to update the General Plan has been moving along slowly, compiling recommendations for the new plan. Our Board of Directors voted to submit a letter to the Chico Planning Commission requesting 1) a master environmental assessment, 2) a specific plan for northeast and southeast Chico, and 3) a Chico area Stream Management Plan. Dave Wiley has continued his activities promoting the CNPS Poster Contest and has been leading family field trips at Bidwell Park. (MORE)
I hope that you will be able to attend my presentation on vernal pools at the May general meeting. I hope to entertain and educate people about these remarkable ecosystems. I have been busily photographing various vernal pools and vernal pool plants for the occasion, and Rob Schlassing has generously agreed to lend me some of his slides for the presentation.

Enjoy Spring while it lasts, and don't forget to store up some memories for the summer ahead.

* * *

A Fescue Grass (*Vulpia myuros ciliata*) is often dense in the vernalily moist grassland bordering the vernal pools. 20-30 cm. tall.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

As noted on page 4 of the April CNPS Bulletin, a truly significant piece of legislation has been introduced. This is the Wetlands Reform Act, HR 4255 by Rep. Don Edwards. This is in response to the two wetlands destruction bills now in Congress. These are HR 1330 (Hayes) and S 1463 (Breaux). Audubon, Sierra Club, and CNPS are all urging support for HR 4255 and opposition to the other two bills.

-Patrick Kelly

**FIELD TRIPS**

**Apr 26, Sun**  Vernal Pools walk at Richvale Pool. Meet at Park & Ride at 9 a.m., or at Richvale Fish Hatchery (1 mi. south of Richvale-Orovil Hwy. on Hwy. 99) at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Baarth, 345-2828. *

**May 3, Sun**  Paradise Lake. See plants of the Pond-derosa Pine forest and lake shore. Easy 3-4 mile walk. Meet at parking lot at Skyway & Coutelenc Road, Magalia (near McNab Cypress grove opposite the old depot), at 9 a.m. Leader: Ruth Cunningham, 891-8462. *

**May 23, Sat**  Yahi Cave Hike in Dye Creek Preserve. Meet at Park & Ride at 9 a.m., or at Dye Creek Preserve at 10 a.m. for a moderate to strenuous hike of about 6 miles. Leader: Wes Dempsey, 342-2293. *

* Bring water and lunch.
FLUME WALK FERNS

The March 29, 1992, flume walk along the Upper Miocene Flume, running into Kunkle Reservoir near Paradise, rewarded the dozen or so participants with views of most species of the native ferns. First though, right where we parked we saw the native Bowl-tubed Iris (Iris macrosiphon) and Yellow Fawn Lilies (Erythronium multiscapoideum). Shortly after crossing the dam creating Kunkle Reservoir we were surprised to be able to look down on the arm of Lake Oroville created by the West Branch of the Feather River. Along the flume we began to see the different species of ferns. At various points along the trail we saw: Venus-hair Fern (Adiantum capillus-veneris), California Maiden-hair (Adiantum jordanii), Five-finger Fern (Adiantum pendatum), Brittle Fern (Cystopteris fragilis), Wood Fern (Dryopteris aguta), Coffee Fern (Pellaea andromedifolia), Bird's Foot Fern (Pellaea mucronata), Goldback Fern (Pityrogramma triangularis), California Polypody (Polypodium californicum), Sword Fern (Polystichum munitum), and the Giant Chain Fern (Woodwardia fimbriata).

Among the many bright spots of color offered along the way were the three poppies, Foothill Poppy (Eschscholzia caespitosa), Frying Pan Poppy (Eschscholzia lobbii), and, of course, our California Poppy (Eschscholzia californica). Douglas Lupine (Lupinus nanus) and Blue Dicks ( Dichostemma puchellum) offered nice contrasting blue colors. On our way back, taking a shortcut along the old road back to Kunkle Reservoir, we saw several colorful patches of Henderson's Shooting Star (Dodecathron hendersoni) and one small clump of three Yellow Star Tulips (Calochortus monophyllus), for most of us the first Calochortus of the season.

- Paul Reiling
The genus Limnanthes is limited to the states of California, Oregon, and one species in British Columbia. There are seven species. Some of the species are divided into sub-species and varieties which make up seventeen taxa in all.

A number of these taxa are highly localized endemics. **Limnanthes gracilis** is found at only two locations, one in southern Oregon and one in San Diego County. **Limnanthes douglasii** variety sulphurea is found only at Point Reyes in Marin County. **L. Bakeri** is found only in Mendocino County in the vicinity of Willits.

Inside the Chico City limits are found three species and four taxa. These are **L. alba** var. *alba*, **L. douglasii** var. *rosea*, **L. floccosa** and **L. floccosa** ssp. *californica*. All four of these taxa can be found growing within a half mile of each other in the foothills park area of northeastern Chico.

In addition, there are two taxa growing in Butte County. These are **L. douglasii** var. *nivea* and **L. alba** var. *versicolor*.

The presence of Limnanthes and all of the many other species of wildplants make Chico a truly interesting place for the botanist.

- Patrick Kelly