The Pipe Vine

NEWSLETTER OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, MT. LASSEN CHAPTER

November 1992

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 28, 1992

Cunningham Residence, 660 Paseo Companeros 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM MEETING

Monday, November 2, 1992

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

Decorative uses of native and other plant materials by Mt. Lassen Chapter members. Participants will include Phyllis and Wes Dempsey, who will demonstrate wreath-making using grapevines, Emily White, and others. Members are encouraged to bring examples of their own plant creations.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it's fall outside and the cycle should begin again soon. As I write this, it is unseasonably warm outside with absolutely no chance of rain. But droughts can't last forever (Can they?). I'm anxiously awaiting the first drops which will eventually bring the green, pink, purple, and yellow displays of spring.

I recently attended the CNPS State Board Meeting in Sacramento. The format was a little different this quarter. We had a short meeting on Saturday morning, then attended seminars discussing two issues: the CEQA process and Public Lands Grazing. I couldn't begin to present all of the information I got from each of the seminars (I took about 12 pages of notes), but I will summarize them briefly.

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) is legislation which ensures that communities determine the environmental impacts of growth or development and mitigate those impacts where possible. We discussed what to look for in a CEQA document, how the process works and what to expect from it, how the public is involved, and how to evaluate an Environmental Impact Report (this is the document which presents a description of the project and alternatives to the
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

project, the impacts the project will have, and the possible mitigations). I was impressed by two things: 1) the time line for CEQA compliance is very strict. The law says that the public must be involved in the process. But to keep the process within reasonable time limits, it dictates minimum and maximum time periods during which the public must provide recommendations on the content of the EIR, provide written comments of the draft document, or challenge the document legally. If these actions are not taken within the time frame provided in the law, then they cannot ever be taken. For example, if a report is accepted by the lead agency (the group in charge of the EIR preparation, usually a local public agency) and proper notice is filed, then anyone who does not agree with their decision has only 30 days to challenge it legally, or their right to challenge is gone forever. 2) There is no enforcement built into the CEQA process. If a bad, deceitful, or incomplete report is written and accepted by the lead agency and nobody challenges it legally, then absolutely nothing happens to penalize the perpetrators. The process requires that the public will have input into the report, but basically the only way the public can guarantee CEQA compliance is to legally challenge the document in court.

The second day of the seminar we discussed Public Lands Grazing, first looking at the impacts of livestock on Public Land, then ways to become involved in the process (after all, it is our land!) We received several documents, including two books: Waste of the West: Public Lands Grazing and How Not to be Corrupted. The former (which will be reviewed in a later Pipevine) discussed the devastation wrought by a century of overgrazing on public lands, while the latter discussed ways in which the public can become involved in the allotment process (the process by which ranchers get land to graze cattle on). Both books will be available at future CNPS meetings. The book How Not to Be Corrupted was a valuable source for information about the permit process on BLM lands and gave easy-to-read instructions about how you, as a citizen, could become involved in this process.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1993

Officers to preside over Mount Lassen Chapter in 1993 will be elected at the November 2 general meeting. The following is the slate presented by the Nominating Committee:

- President: Diane Mastalir
- Vice President: Dick Bergman
- Secretary: David Anderson
- Treasurer: Paul Reiling
- Member-at-Large: Carolyn Archer
- Member-at-Large: Rose Reiling

Nominations may be made from the floor provided the nominee has consented to have his/her name placed in nomination.
THE BUTTE COUNTY MEADOWFOAM CONTROVERSY CONTINUES.

The negotiations over the Doe Mill Road developments have reached a critical junction. As noted in the September Pipe Vine, the Chico City Council approved the Environmental Impact Report for the projects this past July.

On September 29 the City Council met to consider approval of a resolution adopting boundary lines for the projects and statements of overriding considerations. The passage of the above would have allowed the developer to destroy the Butte County meadowfoam on site and attempt to recreate the population on the adjacent preserve, which already contains BCM.

Approval of the resolution would also have triggered the beginning of the 30-day period during which the public has the opportunity to challenge the findings and mitigations of the EIR in court. Once the 30-day period has passed the public loses this option.

After four hours of public hearings and debate the Council was unable to pass the resolution, and it was tabled until a future hearing could be scheduled. The lawyer for the developer asked that the Council waive the requirement in the Chico City Plan for the preservation of Butte County meadowfoam that the new population of meadowfoam be monitored for two years before construction can begin. The City Attorney stated the Council could waive any requirement of the Chico City Plan for BCM. The Council, however, was reluctant to do this until they took public comment on the matter.

The conclusion to be drawn from the above account is that the Mt. Lassen Chapter and the CNPS State Board must decide whether there are legal grounds to challenge the EIR. If yes, we must decide whether we have the will and the resources to do so. What happens on the Doe Mill Road property will decide the fate of the other BCM sites.

- Pat Kelly

NEW SALES MANAGER

Diane Mastalir has appointed Mary Riker to assume the post of Sales Manager. Her duties will include ordering and maintaining an inventory of the books, posters, shirts, etc. that are sold at chapter meetings.
LOWELL AHART'S FIRE LOSSES

The Ville wildfire of September 25 burned 1800 acres of Lowell Ahart's 2400 acre farm near Paloma. While his house was spared, the fire destroyed a barn, a tractor, 10 miles of fence, and 4 sheep. Lowell is putting in some long hard days restoring the farm to working order.

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CNPS POLICY RE COLLECTION OF NATIVE PLANTS.

As we think of using native plants for decorative uses it seems important to be reminded of the Society's policies aimed at reducing the impact of collecting on native plants. In lieu of reproducing the entire set of guidelines, the following excerpts are offered:

1) The Society's basic purpose is preservation of our native flora in its habitat.
2) Collecting plants without a specific permit is prohibited in national and state parks or along the highway right-of-way.
3) Collection should be considered only when identification cannot be made in the field.
4) Particular care should be taken in removing flowers and/or seeds of annuals to ensure continuation of the colony.
5) Do not collect underground structures such as bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes.
6) Be aware of the deleterious effects of the trampling of many feet.
7) A list of commercial sources of native plants and seeds is available for purchase at all general meetings.

Western Fink Phlox
Phlox speciosa subsp. occidentalis
Drawing by Joan E. Thomson

The Pipe Vine, p. 4
NOVEMBER FIELDTRIPS

Nov 1 Sun Fall colors along Deer Creek Trail. Four miles of easy hiking. Bring lunch and water to Chico Park & Ride at 9 a.m. or trailhead (Hwy 32 just north of Deer Creek Bridge) at 10:15. Leaders: Marj & Bob McNairn, 343-2397.

Nov 7 Sat Garden day at Chico Creek Nature Center Native Plant Gardens. Bring seeds, plants, pruning shears, hoe, etc. to Nature Center at 9 a.m. Hot coffee and doughnuts for the hardest workers! 891-4671.

Nov 8 Sun Concow Ridge walk to McNab Cypress grove of about two miles. Bring lunch and water to Chico Park & Ride at 9 a.m. or meet at Crane Park, Concow at 10:15. Leader: Jenny Marr, 898-8212.

Nov 15 Sun Indian plants walk in upper Bidwell Park to Maidu cave. Meet at Rifle Range (Horseshoe Lake) parking lot at 9 a.m. Wear hiking shoes and bring water. Leader: Wes Dempsey, 891-4671.

Nov 29 Sun Grasslands Etc. of Butte College. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9:30 a.m. or at Horse Arena (Clark Road entrance) of Butte College at 10 a.m. Leader: Deb Conway, 895-2449 or 894-8250.

Dec 5 Sat Centerville Flume, Butte Creek Canyon. Our annual "Blooming Plant Count Trip." A slow & easy 3 to 4 mile walk along the power plant ditch and across some trestles. Will we see 20 or more plants in bloom this year? Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Centerville Road and the flume crossing (some distance past the school house). Rain or shine. Bring lunch & water. This trip is for members & their friends only. Get together & share rides, as parking is somewhat limited. Leaders: Ruth Cunningham, 891-8462, and Dorothy Cowden, 872-0567.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT/RETIRED/LIMITED INCOME $18
INDIVIDUAL/LIBRARY MEMBER $25
INTERNATIONAL $35
FAMILY OR GROUP $35
SUPPORTING $50
PLANT LOVER $100
PATRON $250
LIFE $500
BENEFACTORY $500
CORPORATE $1000

Members of other chapters may subscribe to The Pipe Vine by sending check to Membership Chair, Mt. Lassen Chapter, $5.

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

OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER, CNPS
Herbarium, Dept of Biology
CSUC, Chico, CA 95929

President .............. Diane Mastalir 894-6824
Past President ........ Marjorie McNairn 343-2997
Vice President ......... Jean Whittlesey 872-3176
Secretary ............... David Anderson 873-1767
Treasurer ............... Paul Reiling 872-3670
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Member-at-Large ....... Rose Reiling 872-3670
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Field Trips ............. Wes Dempsey 342-2293
Education ............. David Wyllie 342-7248
Membership ............ Ruth Cunningham 891-8462

660 Paseo Companeros
Chico, CA 95928

Native Landscaping .. Scott Murphy 894-1305
Newsletter, Editor .... June Watts 877-2960
Circulation .......... Ruth Cunningham 891-8462
Labels ................. Earl Cowden 872-0567
Plant Sales ............ Lowell Ahart 743-3914
Programs .............. Dick Bergman 342-5722
Refreshments ......... Dorothy Cowden 872-0567
Publicity .............. Earl Cowden 872-0567

Blue Wild Rye
Elymus glaucus