Flowers of the Venezuelan Andes
by Wes Dempsey

Wes will present a slide show of the flowers of the Venezuelan Andes, from the coastal rain forest to the alpine paramo. The presentation will include the fascinating cloud forest and the cactus thorn scrub plant communities. This show results from a trip to Venezuela taken by Wes just last October. We all know Wes as a long-time chapter member and chapter fieldtrip chair, and he is also well known throughout the area for his stunning slide presentations about local and exotic places.

President’s Message

It's a pleasure to write to you again as the president of our Mt. Lassen Chapter. It seems like spring is already here, with the clear skies and almost balmy days; I have to keep reminding myself that this is still January and we have lots more rain to come (I hope!) before spring really arrives. I see a lot of involvement for our organization in local issues as we find ourselves actively “dedicated to the preservation of California native flora.” Vernal pools, wetlands, and meadow foam are issues that will continue to be in the news, and I hope that we can continue to make our concerns known through the coming year. CNPS, government agencies, and botanists in general are expanding their activities beyond protecting individual species into protecting and managing plant communities and ecosystems, both as habitat for rare species and as unique and rare plant communities themselves. It’s been a long time coming, but maybe CNPS efforts to release an “Inventory of the rare and endangered plant communities of California” will become a reality later this year. I have been anticipating this accomplishment for several years. Most of all, I hope we all make some time to explore and enjoy the treasures, big and small, of the natural world that surround us.
The Annual December Blooming Plant Trip

Eight of the faithful under the joint leadership of Dorothy Cowden and Ruth Cunningham participated in the Centerville Flume Walk on December 12, 1993. This annual event monitors the plants found in bloom each December, and tabulated on this trip were:

Centaurea solstitialis - Yellow Star Thistle
Coryza floribunda - Horseweed
" canadensis - Canada Horseweed
Trifolium hirtum - Rose Clover
Madia elegans - Tar Weed or Common Madia
Lactuca serriola - Prickley Lettuce
Arctostaphylos manzanita - Common Manzanita
Nicotiana glauca - Tree Tobacco
Eriogonum nudum - Nude Buckwheat
Grindelia hirsutula davyi - Gum Plant, Poothill
Eriophyllum lanatum grandiflorum - Wooly Sunflower
Ceanothus integerrimus - Deer Brush
Lessingia nemaclada - Threadstem Lessingia
Alnus rhombifolia - White Alder
Verbascum thapsus - Woolly Mullein
Aster chilensis - California Aster
and Wood Fern, Goldback Fern, Polypody Fern
and Coffee Fern.

Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!

⇒ Help is needed with programs and publicity ⇐

The chapter needs someone to arrange our monthly programs, and another person to handle publicity for the monthly meetings and other activities. These are both critical positions with the chapter. The person in charge of programs finds a speaker for each general meeting. Ideas for speakers come from other board members, other chapter newsletters, and any sources the Programs Chair may have. Obviously, this is an absolutely essential position for the chapter, since the monthly meetings are one of the principal activities for chapter members. Publicity is also an important element of chapter outreach by inviting the public to attend our activities. This is a low key position that involves sending announcements to local newspapers, radio and TV stations, etc. prior to general meetings and field trips. The general workings of this position are already well developed: a mailing list is available, deadlines for the various recipients are known, and the chapter covers the cost of paper, mailing, and other supplies. If you would like to help with the functioning of your chapter, or would like more information about one of these positions, please call me (Lawrence Janeway) or one of the other board members listed on the back page of the Pipevine.
CONSERVATION NOTES

1. CNPS STRATEGIC PLAN.
   For those who do not religiously read the CNPS Bulletin, it is work noting here that CNPS has adopted a five-year strategic plan and statement of objectives. Significantly, the first two objectives are: (1) Achieve broad, active public commitment to preservation of native plants and plant communities, and (2) Actively conserve native plants and native plant communities. The emphasis appears to be on the work "active".

2. ENVIRONMENTALISTS' DILEMMA.
   As everyone knows the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts are under heavy attack. Governor Wilson's comments to the State Legislature on December 18, 1993, are typical of the siege. He said, "The current application of the Endangered Species Acts is driving California into an environmental box canyon and an economic blind alley." Governor Wilson wants laws that reflect more "sensitivity and concern for California jobs." The same sentiment is reflected in pending federal legislation that would weaken the Endangered Species Act by taking economic impacts into consideration.

   Environmentalists, generally, want the laws strengthened rather than weakened, but there are many who feel that some compromise is essential and that not all endangered species are worth an all out fight. The problem is, can we abandon any endangered species for economic considerations without jeopardizing all? If Congress and the California Legislature decide that economic considerations must be weighed against the need to preserve endangered species, how will the balance be determined? Environmentalists are going to have to decide whether to adhere to the hard line in the face of mounting attacks or to work out a compromise they can live with. If they decide on the latter course, the questions raised above will have to be answered.

Dave Anderson

RABBIT BRUSH

STEER'S HEAD
Dierama uniflora

3.
FIELD TRIPS
February 13, 1994, Sunday

A hike along the north ridge of upper Bidwell Park to look for the earliest plants in bloom in the "Banana Belt". Bring your Valentine. Meet at Horseshoe Lake Rifle Range parking lot at 10:00 A.M. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots. Some light to moderate scrambling and climbing with poison oak perhaps something to watch out for but easy to avoid. Leader: Wes Dempsey - for more information call 342-2293.

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PINK PUSY TOES
Antennaria rosea

PUSY DAWNS
Calypso dodecandra

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I wish to affiliate with the Mt. Lassen Chapter so that I may receive its newsletter.

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