NEWSLETTER OF MT. LASSEN CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

March 1994

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Thursday, March 3, 1994
Wes Dempsey Residence, 824 Karen Drive, Chico, 7:30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING Monday, March 7, 1994
Butte County Library, 1st and Sherman, Chico, 7:30 p.m.

LICHENS: More Than A Decoration
A Slide Presentation on the Environmental Significance of Lichens
by Sylvia and Stephen Sharnoff

Sylvia and Stephen Sharnoff, nature photographers who specialize in lichens, are in the midst of a three year journey around North America to take photographs for the first color guidebook to the lichens of the United States and Canada. The Sharnoffs are working on the North American Lichen Project as research associates with the Missouri Botanical Garden. The guidebook, to be published in 1996, is expected to run around 650 pages and will have color photographs of 700-800 of the 3500 species of lichens known from the United States and Canada. The Sharnoffs have been photographing lichens for about twenty years and have become increasingly fascinated with their remarkable forms and colors. More recently, however, much has also been learned about the importance of lichens in supporting wildlife and soils, their roles as environmental indicators, and their widespread use by traditional cultures.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

G. Loren Gill - Berry Creek
(Our 3rd Life Member)
Lyle Catledge - Cohasset
Daniel Barth - Chico
Roger Cole & Orene Owen - Forest Ranch

John Dittes - Chico
Josephine Guardino - Chico
Marie Simmons - Susanville
Barbara McMillin - Greenville
Pam Waldsmith - Chico
Steve Zachary - Mineral

Daryl Peterson - Los Molinos
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The rains are finally back! I think the prospects are now great for a showy wildflower spring. I would like to welcome two new Board members, Marky Stelmok in charge of Publicity and Gary Lindenstein covering Native Landscaping. Marky has been a CNPS member since before she moved to Tehama County six years ago. She graduated from CSU, Chico last year in horticulture, and has worked the past two seasons with the Sensitive Plant Program of the Plumas National Forest. Gary has been in Chico for eight years and is also a graduate of CSU, Chico. He teaches at Berry Creek Elementary School, where he uses life sciences and outdoor education as vehicles to teach writing and other standard subjects. Gary is already involved in restoring the creek next to his school and replanting it with natives, with help from Wes and Lowell. A nature trail is also planned. Again, welcome Marky and Gary; I look forward to working with these two new members of the Board. And always: don't forget to get outdoors and enjoy the beauties of spring.

THE CALIFORNIA DESERT NEEDS OUR HELP

The Congressional Bill entitled "California Desert Protection Act" (S. 21) would grant National Park status to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monument, create a new Mojave National Park and designate four million acres of desert as "Wilderness Area". The Bill's sponsors in the Senate are Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer; in the House George Miller and Richard Lehman. Committee action has deleted 20% of the area included in the original Bill. CNPS has asked its members to write to the Bill's sponsors urging restoration of the Bill to its original form. Letters may be addressed to "The Honorable ____, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515.

Our desert ecosystems are extremely fragile and require long periods of time in which to recover from man's use or abuse. Off-road vehicles have been especially destructive.

Of interest is the fact that the Butte County Board of Supervisors voted four to one to support the position of Inyo County opposing the California Desert Protection Act. The lone dissenting vote was Supervisor Jane Dolan. Our Executive Board has expressed its disappointment in this action by Butte County and felt it was inappropriate because of the absence of any consultation with the voters of Butte County.

2.
Field Trips and Activities

Feb 27 Sun Chico Creek Nature Center Native Plant Garden planting and weeding. Bring seeds, plants and garden hand tools to the Nature Center at 9 am. The gardens are in fair shape and a little concerted effort will make them blossom.

Mar 20 Sun South Fork Antelope Creek Hike. We will hike down the creek trail about 4 miles through this beautiful foothill woodland area just north of the Ishi Wilderness. Bring lunch and water; car shuttle will be involved. Meet at P & R at 8 am or at junction of Hwy 99 and 36 in Red Bluff at 8:45 am. Leader John Ost, 343-2417.

Apr 10 Sun Bike tour of Chico's trees with the Chico Urban Forester. Meet at Bidwell Mansion at 9 am with bike (or jogging shoes) for a morning ride to see Chico's finest specimen trees. Leader: Chris Boza, 895-4972.

Apr 17 Sun Lindo Channel hike to see how the plantings that Chico Streamminders have been putting in are doing and enjoy the Riparian vegetation along the creek. About 2 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet at S & S Market (Mangrove Ave and Lindo Channel) at 8 am. Leader John Ost, 343-2417.

Mar 19 Sat This is a special trip limited to members of the Mt. Lassen Chapter only - maximum of 20 people by reservation only - to the DF&G area on Table Mountain as yet not open to the general public. Call trip leader Sherry Snowden at 343-0523 to make reservation. Meet at the locked gate at the north end of Table Mountain at 9:30 am. Bring lunch, drinking water and footwear for wet going.

There will another field trip to Table Mountain with the details yet to be determined but which be forthcoming in a future issue of this newsletter.

Mar 19 & 20 The Chico Horticultural Society will present its twentieth Standard Flower Show at the Home, Garden and Antique Show at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds Floral Building. Several other Plant Societies will also be participating with displays.
VINA PLAINS

The popular Vina Plains Preserve Tours by the Nature Conservancy will be starting on Saturday March 12 at 10:00 and will be offered on alternating weekends ending on Sunday April 24th. The vernal pool flora typified by the Vina Plains Preserve is unique and found only in a few parts of California and Oregon. These pools consist of low depressions which fill with water during the winter and spring rains, with species starting their growth underwater and as the pools dry out forming distinct rings of flower colonies. These wildflower species are highly specialized and are rarely to be found elsewhere. The Vina Plains Preserve contains almost 300 species.

Tours start at 10.00 am and finish before noon with a second tour starting at noon and finishing about 2 pm. Tour dates are March 12, 13, 26 and 27 and April 9, 10, 23 and 24. Enter the Preserve by a gate across from Haille Road on the east side of Highway 99 about 13 miles north of Chico just past the Singer Creek Bridge.

Sedges

- Seeds are close together.
- Stem is solid.
- Stem is a triangle.
- Grow mostly in wet places.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT/RETIRERED/LIMITED INCOME .......... $18
INDIVIDUAL OR LIBRARY ....................... $25
INTERNATIONAL ............................... $35
FAMILY OR GROUP ............................. $35
SUPPORTING ................................... $50
PLANT LOVER ................................ $100
PATRON ......................................... $250
LIFE ............................................ $500
BENEFACITOR ................................ $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 I may receive its newsletter.

NAME ________________________________
ADDRESS ______________________________
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Send Membership Applications to:
CNPS
1722 J Street, Suite 17
Sacramento, CA 95814