American landscapes prior to European settlement are difficult to envision today, but Eliza Steele vividly described the prairie as she traveled just west of Chicago in 1840: "A world of grass and flowers stretched around me, rising and falling in gentle undulations, as if an enchanter had struck the ocean swell, and it was at rest forever... we passed whole acres of blossoms all bearing one hue, as purple, perhaps, or masses of yellow or rose; and then again a carpet of every color intermixed or narrow bands, as if a rainbow had fallen upon the verdant slopes."

Grasslands are one of the most threatened ecosystems worldwide. In California, native plants typically comprise less than 1% of the grasslands. In Illinois, less than 0.01% of native grassland remains. Adrienne will briefly compare California grasslands to Midwestern prairies, discussing causes of habitat loss and promising restoration approaches. She will then take you on an insect-eye’s view of gorgeous prairie images (courtesy Illinois Natural History Survey), so you can imagine the former beauty of “the endless prairie”.

A presentation by
ADRIENNE EDWARDS

Adrienne Edwards (Ph.D., M.S. in Botany, University of Georgia, Athens, 1999, 1992) has worked as a botanist and plant ecologist in the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Illinois and California. Before moving to Chico 18 months ago, she worked as a research scientist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and U of I. In addition to conducting rare plant and vegetation assessments, her research has focused on the ecology of rare plants and habitats. She is an adjunct member of the CSUC Biology Department and employed part time with Analytical Environmental Services. She loves to dance, play music, garden and experience the great outdoors and shares all that with her husband, Chris Ivey, and children Adeline (4), Nathaniel (2) and Gwendolyn (2).
FIELD TRIPS

CSU, CHICO GREENHOUSES
THE WORLD OF PLANTS INSIDE
February 10
Sunday

At 10 am meet on the CSU Campus at Warner St and College Dr Parking Lot (entrance to stadiums and next to the Health Center) for a 2-hour tour of Tim’s fabulous greenhouses. He won’t promise a lot of natives but will reveal an extravaganza of the world’s most unusual and notable plants. We will tour the aquatic room, the tropical rainforest and then switch to the desert. “Big Stinky” won’t be in bloom but some of the cacti may be. Over about noon.

BIDWELL PARK OLD FORESTRY STATION
THE LOST ARBORETUM
March 2
Sunday

At 10 am meet at the Chico Creek Nature Center on East 8th St for a 2-hour tour for an eye-opening look at over 60 species of trees planted over 100 years ago on 29 acres donated by General and Annie Bidwell to the State of California. The old State Board of Forestry (1890-1904) set out nurseries and “plantations” during its time to evaluate woody plants from around the world for use in forestry, horticulture, and gardens in Northern California. Some still survive and they include strawberry tree, Virginia persimmon, several ashes and oaks, Italian Cypress, and many others. The single bladder senna shrub (1895) was taken out recently and its millions of offspring are still being eradicated! The 29 acres was turned over to the University of California which returned it to the state in 1921. Then 15 public spirited Chico citizens donated 100 dollars each to buy it and add to Bidwell Park. Easy walking, over at noon. Leader: Wes Dempsey 342-2293
The Pipevine  February  2008  3.

Executive Board Meeting
February 20, 2008
WEDNESDAY
7:00 pm (new time)

President’s Message
by Mike Williams
Chapter President

I am amazed at the landscapes we have before us here in the Mount Lassen Chapter. The expansive vernal pools, the rim-rock lined gorges, the ever present sentinels of Lassen and Mt. Shasta. As we consider our botanical wealth, we must remember the words of Bob Dylan that “The Times, They are a Changing”. This point was made clear over the last few days at the Northern California Botanists meeting held in Chico. The effects of global warming are likely being felt everywhere, as suggested by invasive species expansions, upward movement of vegetation zones, increasing extinctions, and rapid rise in catastrophic fires.

Many say that society, while enthralled with technology, has turned its back on nature. Others say it is just a fad and it is just a matter of time before people return their attention back to their very existence within the protective womb of Mother Earth. The bad news is that the damage may be irreparable by then. However, the good news is that some people do care. Through organizations like native plant societies, we can hope to keep the landscapes we love in society’s mind. We can offer field trips to see the secrets of native biota, those organisms that live and breathe away from I-Pods and Internet. I cannot tell you the times I have heard exclaimed, “That is just amazing!”, by someone pulled along on a field trip that might otherwise have seldom had the chance to reenter the natural world.

The Mount Lassen Chapter is a great resource to reconnect others with nature. I would ask in the coming months that every member of the chapter do their most to bring someone new out on a field trip, a lecture or a restoration project, to try to reconnect our friends, our families, our society, to the living world. In doing so, we each can make a change, a small ripple effect, that the nature is there for them, a refuge from the chaos and sterility of modern life. Maybe, just maybe, with these small steps of societal reconnection, we can effect a positive change for these individuals, and more importantly, for the future of these landscapes of unlimited beauty. At this point, what do we have to lose?

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

GLOBAL WARMING THREATENS CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

In the past the interest of CNPS members has centered around laws that prevent direct destruction of endangered plants or their habitats. Our conservation efforts have stressed compliance with the federal and state endangered species and environmental quality acts in connection with projects to build on or develop land.

Global warming poses a whole new range of serious worldwide threats to communities, wildlife and flora that are just beginning to be addressed as legislative issues. We have had a federal Clean Air Act for many years, but it was not until April of 2007 that the U.S. Supreme Court interpreted it to apply to greenhouse gas emissions which endanger public health by contributing to global warming (Massachusetts et al. v. EPA). Although the jury is still out as to how much global warming is due to natural climate cycles and how much is due to man caused greenhouse gas emissions (primarily carbon dioxide), scientists seem to be agreed that much of it is man caused.

At present we can only speculate on the increased danger to California’s plant species and ecosystems, but there can be no doubt that rising sea levels and dramatic weather changes brought about by global warming are a threat. Although the problem requires national and international action, California’s efforts to spearhead moves to curb greenhouse gas emissions merit our full support.

In 2002 California enacted legislation and in 2004 the California Air Resources Board adopted regulations to curb vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately the rules could not be implemented until the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted a waiver under the Clean Air Act. The EPA refused to act on California’s request for a waiver until late 2007, when Congress passed an Energy Bill containing much weaker federal restrictions on vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. Immediately after the Energy Bill was signed by the President the EPA denied California’s request for a waiver to allow it to implement its own stronger regulations.

On January 2 California, a coalition of 15 other states (having laws patterned after California’s) and the Natural Resources Defense Council joined in a suit in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to compel the EPA to grant California a waiver.

Media reports are that the EPA ruling denying California a waiver went against its own staff recommendation. California Congressman Henry Waxman (D - Los Angeles), Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, has opened an investigation into the denial.

PUBLICITY CHAIR is now open

We are in need of someone to submit publicity notices to local media about our upcoming general meetings, fieldtrips, special events and workshops. If interested, please contact Janna at 893-2886 or any member of the board.

By Mike Williams
February 20, 2008
7:00 pm (new time)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

GLOBAL WARMING THREATENS

We are in need of someone to submit publicity notices to local media about our upcoming general meetings, fieldtrips, special events and workshops. If interested, please contact Janna at 893-2886 or any member of the board.

By Mike Williams
February 20, 2008
7:00 pm (new time)
Now that we have had some heavy (understatement) rains, it is time to inspect and repair the Yahi Trail footpath. Meet at the new Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot at 8:45am on SAT, FEB 16, and plan to stay until noon. Heavy rain the day before or that day may cause a cancellation due to road closures. Please call Elizabeth at 345-5787 to confirm date/time or with an offer to work on a different day/time.

Elizabeth Tice accepts Volunteer Recognition Award on behalf of Mount Lassen Chapter from the City of Chico Parks Department, for “our” work on the Yahi Trail. Keep up the good work by coming out on Feb 16. See page 9 for other dates to volunteer in Bidwell Park.

NEW MEMBERS
Butte County Library  Chico
Laura Grossman  Chico
Jeanne Hansen  Chico
Lise Smith-Peters  Chico
Karen Hayden  Oroville
Margaret Widdowson  Shasta Lake

REINSTATE
Susan Sahl  Chico
Leslie Steidl  Oroville
Gregory Treber  Red Bluff
Robin Fallscheer  Redding
Robert Katz  Woodacre

MEMBERS
We need your home grown plants
While the local nurseries do a great job in supplying our plant sales …we need you! The next Wildflower Show and Plant Sale are in April of 2009.
Contact Deb Fau at nativespringsnursery@yahoo.com
LANDSCAPING
WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Native Plants in CITY GARDENS

by John Whittlesey, Horticulture Chair

The other day I visited a landscape designer friend in Davis. Her business is ecological landscape design. She generously took some time to show me a few of her gardens. They were inspiring. As we drove along the Davis streets I kept exclaiming at the number of homes where front lawns had been removed and drought tolerant plants used in their place. Instead of the uniform green swath with tidy low shrubs planted against the house, there were gardens with textural mounds of grey lavender, bare branches of redbud hung with dried pods, spiky stems of deer grass dotted through the landscapes and old seed heads of perennials holding their own in the cold, wet winter. These gardens were a mix of native plants and non native mediterranean plants - all plants that require little water.

In the gardens Bernadette showed me, native plants were prominent, though she uses other drought tolerant plants in her designs. Along the driveway of one home she had planted drifts of California Fuchsia, *Zauschneria ‘Waynes Silver’*, still holding some grey foliage, contrasting with the lush, vibrant green leaves of *Ceanothus ‘Yankee Point’*. For vertical accent she’d placed some Juncus and in the back as a low screen for the neighbor’s driveway there was a grouping of compact Oregon Grape. Very simple, very pleasing and very low maintenance and little water.

At the same house upon entering the back garden I was greeted by a swath of Blue Grama grass, *Bouteloua gracilis* softening the patio’s edge with its tawny, filigree stems and airy seeds heads. Behind the blue gramma lawn various native shrubs were planted such as *Prunus ilicifolia* and *Salvia clevelandii* along with a few fruit trees. A selection of poppies filled in the space between the shrubs. On a cold, foggy January day the rich textures of the grasses against the evergreen shrubs held the eye.

In a small backyard garden near the UC Davis campus she had installed a circular patio made of stained, broken concrete. Surrounding this sitting area was slightly raised bed anchored by two young Blue Oak trees. Under the oaks, the planting was simple, with groupings of *Ceanothus ‘Centennial’* which will make a low 12” high carpet of small, dark green leaves intermixed with the blue flowering Penstemon heterophyllus. A few *Iris douglasii* and accents of *Festuca glauca* completed the planting.

These were all relatively small gardens, where each plant had to hold its own through the season. The California native plants were selected for the texture of their foliage, bright flowers, form and a growth habit that fit the space of a city garden.

April 27, 2008 10am to 3pm

We need your help to make our first Native Plant Garden Tour a success. In our continuing effort to encourage people to use native plants in their gardens we are offering several local gardens for participants to see how natives can fit into their own home landscapes. Participants will visit four residential gardens, one native plant nursery, and one public native plant garden, with a CNPS display set up at the Chico Creek Nature Center. The Tour is something we would like to offer every other year in non-Wildflower Show/Plant Sale years.

This ought to be a really fun day. It is exciting that we are finally bringing this long-discussed idea to fruition. Many of you in the past expressed interest in seeing our chapter do this. But it is our first attempt at offering a garden tour, and we are asking YOU to volunteer to help before the day and/or on the day of the tour. We MUST make this a successful day in order to continue with it. People will be paying to participate, and they deserve a fun and educational experience. Likewise the homeowners are being asked to spend several hours talking to people who want to understand how natives fit in the garden setting, and they

Please see if one of these positions fit with your interests:

1. Helpers to assist the homeowner on the day of the tour to answer questions etc.
2. One or more persons to convey write-ups to local newspapers and radio stations (contact information will be provided).
3. Helpers to identify plants and make signs with the plant names.
4. Several helpers to place tickets for sale, and programs, at various locations such as nurseries.
5. On the day of the tour we need people for chores like setting up tables, putting out directional signs to the gardens, or other last-minute details.

Contact Catie and Jim Bishop, Janna Lathrop, Suellen Rowlison, or Emilie White if you wish to help. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter.
Summer and fall of 2007 has been the scene of multiple OHV damage in Colby Meadows (east of Butte Meadows). Most of the damage was done by ATVs and some by 4x4 (quads). Each infraction has been photographed and Lassen National Forest has been notified. LNF has stacks of photos and files of damage to meadows, creeks, hillsides and vandalized gates and barricades.

This is a national problem, covering areas as diverse as the Outer Islands of North Carolina, Florida Everglades, Death Valley National Park and Anza Borrega State Park. During the rainy season 4x4s can be seen damaging public and private land just east of Chico along Humboldt Road between Bruce Rd. and Hwy. 32.

There is an organization called TREAD LIGHTLY, founded by the U.S. Forest Service in the mid 1980s and became a separate non-profit in the early 1990s. If you check out their website, www.TreadLightly.org, you will see that most of their funding comes from OHV manufacturers. A lot of the information is very "light". On the other hand they do have the ear on the OHV industry.

I have spoken with Tread Lightly about the problems in advertising, such as wheel spinning, wheel stands, Big Air and other resource damaging stunts. They talk to the companies and ad agencies about this and are usually ignored. What they do listen to is mail from potential customers, and that’s where we come in.

Send an e-mail or letter to Tread Lightly, 298 E. 24th St., Ogden, UT 84401 or monica@TreadLightly.com.

Include in your letter, 1) The name of the company, 2) A brief description of the ad, 3) Type of media you saw it on (TV, magazine, etc.) Quite often you may see a fine print disclaimer that might say, “professional rider on a closed course”. Action shots often lead to “monkey see, monkey do” on public lands which leads to resource damage and closed trails. 4) Initiate responsible riding in the schools. Include manufacturers, dealers, OHV clubs and environmental clubs. 5) Instead of being part of the problem, be part of the solution. 6) Mention outdoor clubs that you belong to. 7) Ask Tread Lightly to contact state and federal land managers to not just fine OHV violaters, but give them hours of community service, doing restoration work. 8) Mention locations where you have seen damage. 9) Include examples on motor sports network.
Our annual Banana Belt hike in Upper Bidwell Park on New Year’s Day led by Wes Dempsey was a great start to a year of Mount Lassen Chapter field trips. A sunny day drew about 25 people, mostly new to CNPS. Wes did his usual interpretation of plants and their uses by the Maidu Indians as we climbed Monkey Face and continued east below North Rim.

The highlight of the trip was Wes’s demonstration of herpetology. After stopping for lunch at the Indian cave outcropping we were crossing the seep below which was filled with deer grass. We also spotted some early fiddleneck, goldfields, and butter and eggs (Johnny tuck). Suddenly, I looked down the path and there was Wes sitting on the ground thrashing about with his hand reaching down his pant leg. Did he fall? Was he hurt? Did he break his leg? I could see that he had pulled down his pants zipper. Then suddenly he stood up and handed something to Theo Aull, a forth grader, while Wes zipped up his pants. As I came closer and people gathered around Theo, we could see that he was holding a Western Fence Lizard that had run up Wes’s leg. Thus, Wes’s antics on the ground. We all marveled at the blue bellied lizard and stroked him as he enjoyed the warmth of our hands. Then Theo set him on a sunny rock and we continued down the path. As you can imagine there were many funny remarks and laughter, as we thought of the joke, “is that a lizard in your pants? or ......”

Bamboo Grove of MENDOCINO FOREST’S GENETIC RESEARCH CENTER in Chico, Nov 18 2007
Another plant and seed hunter, besides Californian Lester Rowntree, was David Douglas, hardy explorer born in 1799 in Perth, Scotland. He discovered a remarkable number of new species in California and the west while he was primarily collecting seeds for the Royal Horticultural Society of London gardens. The paid mission was generated by William Jackson Hooker, professor of botany at Glasgow University in 1823 when Douglas’ trip was launched.

There was a passion to discover exotic species in the early 1800’s, and a particular zeal in collecting seeds to supply the famous gardens. It was said in the book, Traveler in a Vanished Landscape by William Morwood, that Douglas “could tramp all day through the rain, buffeted by the wind, and still have the enthusiasm to cheer when a new plant species was found.”

In America, Douglas obtained seeds where possible in his 12,000 mile journey, and where not, he dug up entire plants, hoping to keep the roots alive until he reached Britain. He was mainly concerned with ‘introducing’ plants back to England already discovered by others, but he discovered sugar pine, digger pine, red dogwood, and trefoil among many in the process of seed collecting.

In almost every category of plants to be found between Alaska and the Mexican border there is at least one species named for Douglas, either in honor of his first discovery or in respect for his collecting achievements. More plants have been named for Douglas (over 200) than any other person in the history of scientific nomenclature. On Table Mountain, his name is attached to the most common oak, the Blue Oak (Quercus douglasii), and also to the Douglas’ Violet (Viola douglasii).

Having dropped out of school at age 11 to be apprenticed in the Scone Palace Gardens, he was not an academic botanist but rather a practical explorer, a field specialist who sought out plants for study and cultivation. In 1831, when he concentrated on California, he collected over 500 species for transfer to England and discovered 68 new species in the process, including Butte County’s “Digger (Gray) Pine.” He named it Pinus sabiniana in honor of his botany mentor Joseph Sabine, honorary secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society and editor of the Society’s journal, thereby controlling the publication of articles upon which reputations could be built. He handled Douglas’ details and money from Of the 17 species of conifers in western America, Douglas discovered seven of them. He was most proud of tracking down the Sugar Pine in the Oregon Umpqua Mountains, following clues from Indians along the Columbia River who transported the sweet edible seeds down from the heights. The Sugar Pine discovery happened while searching for a Cyperus tuber described by Lewis and Clark. He discovered it to be “quamash,” a potato the Indians used for food. (Camassia quamash), but then the pine seeds caught his attention, and after a difficult trip with an Indian guide, he found the pines on October 26, 1826, first European to ever see and describe them.

Of course, sugar pines (Pinus lambertiana) grow 2400-5700 feet in Butte County, but plant explorers hadn’t penetrated inland much prior to 1826, so not many mountain species were known. After finding the rumored trees, he was astonished at the size, since the European Scotch Pines at 75 feet were the tallest then known. He measured a fallen sugar pine specimen as 215 feet long and 57 feet in circumference. In shooting down the giant cones, he attracted an Indian war party, and narrowly escaped. He also discovered our beloved Ponderosa Pine, (Pinus ponderosa), yellow-barked “picture puzzle” mountain tree so esteemed along Spanish Creek near Oakland Camp. There is also a small nomadic group along the Diversion Pool below Oroville Dam.

Although he was not the first to see the tallest of all, the Coast Redwoods, (Sequoia sempervirens; first botanical discoverer; Archibald Menzies in 1794), he was the first to attempt to send seeds back to England. They were lost, however, and finally Karl Hartweg sent seeds in 1846.

Ironically, Douglas did not discover the Douglas-fir and the Douglas Iris, which were named for him by admiring botanists years continued on page 9.
### Friends of Bidwell Park

In February, Friends of Bidwell Park will start their fourth year of removing invasive privet trees from the park. If you would like to help with this effort, check their calendar at www.FriendsofBidwellPark.org for weeding dates and times.

The Forest Ranch community action group BEEP (Broom Education and Eradication Program) needs volunteers for their weekend and weekend Spanish broom removal projects. For more information, Latest News section at www.bigchicocreek.org.

### Volunteer in Bidwell Park

**February 7, 14, 21 & 28**
*(2 to 4:30 pm)* Volunteer Thursdays in the Park

**FIVE MILE RECREATION AREA** Volunteers will remove invasive plants, including privets and Spanish broom, help transplant native plants, and remove litter. Meet at the Five Mile parking lot on the south side of the creek (take Centennial Ave east across Manzanita Avenue to the parking lot).

March 6 & 13
*(2 to 4:30 pm)* Volunteer Thursdays in the Park

**SYCAMORE RESTORATION SITE AT ONE MILE** Volunteers will remove invasive Himalayan blackberry from the restoration site and help plant native plants. Meet at the Sycamore Baseball Field parking lot or, if late, follow trail east to just north of Caper Acres.

March 13 & 15
**PARK WATCH TRAINING**

Park Watch is a volunteer group who patrol Bidwell Park on foot, bicycle, or horse. Training: Thursday, March 13 (6:30 - 9:30 pm) in the conference room 1, Council Chambers (4th and Main St) and Saturday, March 15 (TBA at the Thursday meeting). Volunteers need to attend both trainings. Please call Chairman Fred Sherman to RSVP at 530-345-3632.

March 20 & 27
*(2 to 4:30 pm)* Volunteer Thursdays in the Park

**HOOKER OAK RECREATION AREA** Volunteers will remove invasive weeds, namely Yellow Starthistle, to help prepare the area for the new disc golf course. Please wear closed-toe shoes; tools and water provided by the Park Division. Meet at

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Continued from page 8.

Douglas left California and went to Hawaii in 1833, the year that Joseph Walker crossed the Sierra and discovered Yosemite. While collecting ferns, Douglas fell into a wild bull pit and was killed, July 12, 1834, at the age of 35. Mount Douglas, a nearby Hawaiian mountain was named for him.

He was one of those pioneer plant pursuers opening the door to future flora enthusiasts, and Douglas, in the footsteps of Carolus Linnaeus, Father of Classification, helped to establish a botanical vocabulary enabling mankind to communicate universally about vegetative species.
Join Today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter
Name ____________________________________________
—
Address __________________________________________
—
City and State ____________________________________
Phone ____________________________________________
—
State ______ Zip ____________email __________________

Send Membership Applications to:
CNPS
2707 K Street Suite 1

Calendar 2008

February
7 - General Meeting
10 - CSUC Greenhouse Tour
13 - Pipevine Deadline
16 - Yahi Trail Workday
20 - Board meeting
23 - CCNC Garden Workday

March
2 - Bidwell Park Walk
6 - General Meeting
12 - Pipevine Deadline
19 - Board Meeting
22 - CCNC Garden Workday
29 - Wildflower ID Workshop

Student / Retired / Limited Income... $25
Individual / Library...................... $45
Family / Group.............................. $75
Plant Lover................................. $100
Patron........................................ $300
Benefactor................................. $600