Butte County is currently preparing a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan (a.k.a. Butte Regional Conservation Plan), which will address where and how lands will be conserved over the coming decades. Regional plans such as these are critical to conservation of California’s natural landscape and its native biodiversity. How are decisions made regarding which species to address? What kind of information is used in the development of these regional conservation plans?

Dr. Letty Brown, ecologist with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), will be giving a talk about ecological data and how it’s used in development of the Butte Regional Conservation Plan. Specific attention will be given to data collected to date on the plant species covered in the plan.

Letty has an undergraduate degree in Biology from UC San Diego and Masters in Range Management from UC Berkeley. She is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley’s Environmental, Science, Policy and Management Department, where she obtained her Ph.D.; her dissertation research addressed the ecological impacts of Sudden Oak Death on coastal oak forests. Outside of work she enjoys running and hiking in scenic places.
SOUTH RIM VIEWS AND FLOWERS
May 10
Sunday

Mother’s Day Special! Invite mother on this choice walk featuring Calochortus, Brodiaea, and Aesculus. Meet at the Green Gate to Upper Bidwell Park, on the north side of Hwy 32, 7 miles east of Bruce Rd, at 10 am with lunch and water. We will walk along the south rim trail then descend to the Annie B trail to return to the 10-mile House road back up to the green gate-about 4.7 miles. Marvelous views of the Chico Creek Canyon and the Sacramento Valley. Leader: Wes Dempsey 342-2293.

UPPER NORTH FORK
OF THE FEATHER RIVER
May 23
Sunday

Car pool, drive up Hwy 70, take the Caribou Rd 8 miles to the trailhead near PG & E’s nostalgic 1920’s town site and powerhouse. The hike is an easy 3-mile roundtrip along a remote section of the North Fork of the Feather River. The river is crossed twice on long footbridges and follows the river to the confluence of Butt Creek. Large firs, pines, and cedars grow on the canyon slopes. A large variety of riparian hardwoods, shrubs and flowering plants line the trail and riverbanks. Shady moss covered rock walls support sedum, lilies, ferns and lower forms of plant life. We are hoping for show of cascading whitewater. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99 / 32) at 9am. Those from Paradise, Oroville call for an alternate meeting place. Leaders Gerry Ingco 893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 342-2293.

FORBESTOWN – ROBINSON MILLS
FIREWISE HOME LANDSCAPING
AND FAMILY FOREST
April 26
Saturday

Bob Cermak, a retired forester, has been living on and managing a 50-acre family forest for over 40 years, starting with heavily cut-over forest land. He will show us a variety of ecological sites and will explain the different management regimes he has used to maintain these sites in a healthy, attractive, and fire-safe condition. Bob has been ranger on the nearby La Porte District. He has also worked for the Forest Service from Alaska to North Carolina. He is the author of Fire in the Forest, a history of fire in California. Bring a lunch and picnic beneath Bob’s ponderosa pines and oaks. Meet 9 am at the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) or at 9:30 am at the Oroville Walmart parking lot (Oro Dam Blvd. entrance). Leader: Gerry Ingco, (530) 893-5123

Robert Fisher intently keying specimen on West Branch Head Dam hike, March 23, 2008. Photo by Gerry Ingco

Executive Board Meeting
May 21, 2008
7:00 pm
Jim and Catie Bishop, Oroville
e-mail for directions
cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

CHERTOFF vs.
U.S. CONSTITUTION

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary, Michael Chertoff, recently announced that he will waive more than 30 federal environmental and land management laws in order to finish building the controversial U.S./Mexican border fence by the end of the year. He will do so under authority given to him by the Real ID Act of 2005. That Act, a “rider” to a Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, set up nationwide standards (yet to be enforced) for state driver’s licenses or ID cards. It also, however, gave DHS unprecedented and blanket power to waive any and all laws in order to expedite construction of border walls/fences. The DHS waiver will involve environmentally sensitive areas in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and may result in harm to their wildlife, native plants and water quality.

On March 17, 2008 the Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife filed a petition asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their argument that the waiver provisions of the Real ID Act of 2005 are unconstitutional. The right to grant waivers gives the Executive Branch unbounded and unchecked power to waive any and all laws in order to expedite construction of border walls/fences. That violates the system of checks and balances contemplated by the Constitution.

On April 8, 2008 fourteen Congressmen publicly criticized DHS Secretary Chertoff’s decision to bypass environmental and other laws and urged the Supreme Court to declare the Real ID Act unconstitutional.

The Real ID Act of 2005 is a prime example of the evils of inserting “riders” in appropriations bills without public notice or hearings or any opportunity to draft a balanced bill. Let us hope the Supreme Court will agree.

Oroville’s 2nd Annual Wildflower Festival

Jennifer Lathrop sends a big thank you to our members who helped and offered to help at the Oroville Wildflower Festival April 5 and 6. Jim Bishop, Catie Bishop, Ron Coley, Phyllis Lindley, John Whittlesey, Jean Whittlesey, Rob Schlising, Susan Bazell, Woody Elliott, Ann Elliott, Mike Williams, Marjorie McNairn, Judi Maxfield, Angie Tilaro and Jon Aull.

The Pipevine
Advertising

The Mount Lassen Chapter Board of Directors has decided to include small ads in the newsletter. Organizations and business that support the mission of CNPS are invited to participate. Rates and sizes are available by contacting the editor Denise Devine at dsrdevine@hotmail.com.
Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS
Jim Belles       Chico
Jane Etz         Chico
Jennifer Harris  Chico
Jennifer Jewell  Chico
Halkard Mackey   Chico
Margot McElroy   Chico
Ailsie McEnteggart Chico
Heather Nelson   Chico
Cindy Weiner     Chico
Mark Wuestehube  Chico

REINSTATE
William Beckett  Chico

For information about becoming a member of
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
contact Membership Chair Phyllis Lindley
530-899-1514, lindley84@att.net

Friends of Bidwell Park

Friends of Bidwell Park is continuing its volunteer removal of
invasive Japanese privet trees and has also started removing
smaller English hawthorn trees. They work in Lower Bidwell
Park one weekday morning and every Sunday morning. If you’d
like to help, see their calendar at www.friendsofbidwellpark.org
for dates and locations or call Susan at 892-1666.

The Forest Ranch community action organization BEEP (Broom Edu-
cation and Eradication Program) is pulling out Spanish broom every
Saturday from 9 am to noon through mid-May. If you’d like to help, meet
at the Forest Ranch Post Office at 9 am and bring water and gloves. For
more information, call Dulcy at 892-8726.

Trying to decide where you’ll volunteer for Earth Day (April 19th)
See the Friends of Bidwell Park calendar at www.friendsofbidwell-
park.org for many outdoor volunteering opportunities that day.
If you know of other outdoor volunteer activities during Earth
Month, please call Susan at 892-1666 to have them added to
the calendar.

Triteleia hyacinthina, white brodiaea
Photo by Steve Green © 2004 Friends of Bidwell Park

Workshops from
CSU,Chico Biological Sciences
FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM

May 10
INTRODUCTION TO
KEYING THE FABACEAE
by John Dittes
and Josephine Guardino
The pea family (Fabaceae) is a
diverse, ecologically and agricultur-
ally significant plant group. With 650
genera and 18,000 species worldwide,
the legumes challenge plant taxono-
mists. Northern California presents an opportunity to examine the
morphology of the family and taxonomic features that are used
to circumscribe genera and species.

May 17
BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION by Judy McCrary
Local illustrator and teacher will lead this one day workshop on
botanical illustration. The workshop will concentrate on pencil
and ink techniques using live materials.

June 14
INTRODUCTION TO THE WILLOWS OF CALIFORNIA
by John Bair
Cottonwoods and willows are the most common riparian hard-
wood species in California and yet many of us have little idea of
how to tell them apart. This workshop will focus on the leaf, stem,
and growth characteristics that are useful in making an identi-
fication while also emphasizing the regional distributions of the
different species. The goal of the workshop is to instill confidence
about vegetative characteristics used in the identification keys in
The Jepson Manual.

For the details about the workshops and how to register www.
csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html or call (530) 898-5381.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
Workdays

April 20 at 9am

Alice B. Hecker Memorial
Native Plant Garden
CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER
E. 8th St in Chico

Help get the garden ready for our Garden Tour.
Please bring garden tools. Contact Judi Maxfield, 345-3245
Mount Lassen Chapter

Native Plant

GARDEN TOUR

APRIL 27
2008 Sunday
10 am - 4pm

DONATION $8 - ADULTS
CHILDREN FREE WITH ADULT

Visit the

Gardens of

ALICE B. HECKER MEMORIAL
NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
Chico Creek Nature Center

EMILIE & KEN WHITE

LAURA & JIM WELLS

FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY

ANGIE TILARO

ANN & WOODY ELLIOTT

JOHN & SUSAN WHITTLESEY

See how native plants are used and maintained. Visit . . .
... five residential gardens, a public native plant garden, and one nursery,
... with native plant interpreters at each site,
... and the opportunity to buy plants, books, and other items

Tickets available
MENDON’S NURSERY 5425 Foster Rd, Paradise 877-7341
FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY 2511 Floral Ave, Chico 892-2511
LITTLE RED HEN NURSERY Wall & E 8th St, Chico 891-9100
LYON BOOKS 121 W 5th St, Chico 891-3338
PLANT BARN AND GIFTS 406 Entler Ave, Chico 345-3121

Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour after 10 am
at Chico Creek Nature Center, 1968 E 8th St, Chico

Information 530-893-2886
Rain or Shine

TO HELP
contact Catie and Jim Bishop,
Janna Lathrop, Suellen Rowlison,
or Emilie White.
On an early spring day I hied me away to the foothill slopes of Table Mountain, seeking a patch of lovely purplish shooting stars, *Dodecatheon hendersonii*. The isolated colony lifts their long stems among grasses where buttercups and blue dicks also vie for upward space.

The sun was skimming the hillside making it ideal for photographs, and after I had made my selections, I sat down on a mossy boulder to muse about the tall stemmed flowers. They contrasted with the short stemmed montage of species on the flat, exposed top of the mountain where soil and moisture is thin. In fact, the early white shooting star (*Dodecatheon clevelandii*) also has a short stem, at least on Table Mountain.

A breeze ruffled the community of long-stemmed plants, and I marveled that the fragile looking herbaceous character was so tough as many species triumphantly hold their crowning achievements atop their stems. Botanists, flower-lovers, and bees all see the beckoning blossom, hardly considering the stem that makes the vital connection between root and petal. The stem may be the most valuable asset of a plant, even though all parts must work together to create the successful seed, just like what John Muir said about nature. “Everything in the Universe is hitched together.”

Botanist Victor A. Greulach said, “Of the three organs- -stems, roots, and leaves- -the stem seems to be the most basic, since the primitive vascular plants known as psilophytes include species with stems but no leaves or roots.” There is a wide range of structural stem forms, and in some cases are hardly recognizable as stems, but all have similar fundamental tissue systems. You could easily spend a lifetime studying the intricate stem-world of botany. For simplification, try reading Botany Made Simple. Ha!

I got down close with my magnifier to examine the shooting star stem, realizing that the prime directive is for the plant to lift its flowered head above the grasses toward the sun to attract the pollinators. For some plants, elevating the leaves also helps secure more sunlight for photosynthesis, but *Dodecatheon* has its circlet of round-shaped leaves spread out on the ground. Curious.

In that thin stem I knew tiny tissues were transporting vital fluids to the terminus. “Xylem up with water and Phloem down with food.” In this short space, I couldn’t begin to tell about the supporting cast of stem-cells that makes a shooting star live.

Even though the desert is no tall grass prairie with associated tall flowers such as once covered the Nebraskan Midwest, it is remarkable how many of those Mojave wildflowers have long stems. During that short growing season, hundreds of sandy acres can become covered with yellow Coreopsis, lifting to nearly a foot in spite of vicious winds that sweep across those wide open spaces. Perched on their rubbery pedestals, the blossoms endure until the pollinating process is completed.

Although the woody stems, or trunks, of trees are equally impressive, they don’t have the delicate wonder of slim stemmed herbaceous plants. Consider the slim stems of vines as they twine their way upward such as the California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), the wild grape (*Vitis californica*), or California manroot cucumber (*Marah fabaceus*) fingerling their way to lofty heights.

One of the most impressive slim stems among the slim-stemmed Dichelostemmas, Trileleias, and Brodiaeas, is the “Twining Ookow,” as Vernon Oswald called *Dichelostemma volubile*, or “Twining Snake Lily” as in *Peterson’s Pacific States Wildflowers*. It indeed twines through the thickets snake-like, offering its pinkish petaled crown to insects as if on a throne, courageously indifferent to the vulnerable exposure of its slim stem wound through the branches. The genetic directive is to twine toward a successful conclusion...that its species-niche in the environment may be maintained. Life goes on.
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**Red Bluff’s SACRAMENTO RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER**
SRDC, 1000 Sale Lane Red Bluff, CA 96080
530-527-1196, fax 530-527-1312
ccramer@tehama.k12.ca.us

- May 3
- GUIDED BIRD WALK AT RED BLUFF RECREATION AREA
  8 am, bring bird guide, binoculars and wear sturdy shoes, 1-2 hrs

- May 10
- SPRING WATERSHED RUN/WALK.
  5K-10K Run, 3 K Walk on RB Recreation Area trails.
  Start time 8 am, meet in parking area.

- May 10
- CELEBRATE THE RIVER WATERSHED EVENT
  AND PLANT SALE
  9 am - 1 pm under the “Old Oak Tree” in the SRDC Discovery Garden. Native and Drought tolerant plants propagated from local stock at $5 per gallon plant. Arts & Crafts, information booths, food, salmon croquet and kids activities. No fees for event.

- May 15
- THURSDAY EVENING SRDC PROGRAM
  7 pm on “Red Bluff High School Natural Resource Interns Accomplishments.” Learn about the changes that high school students are making on the environment along the Sacramento River.

- May 16 - 17
- GREAT NATIONAL CANOE / KAYAK DRAG RACES
  at Red Bluff City Park, 100 Main St.
  Family event includes canoe/kayak races, arts & crafts, food, display of historic canoes, movie at State theatre.

  www.redbluffcanoenkayakrace.com

- June 7
- GUIDED BIRD WALK AT RED BLUFF RECREATION AREA
  8 am, bring bird guide, binoculars and wear sturdy shoes, 1-2 hrs

- June 23 - 27
- SRDC SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAMS. “Native Garden” for 6 - 12 year olds from 8 am - noon each day. Cost $50 per week per camper.

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**Thank You Ed,**
- printing the Pipevine almost 30 years

from Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**Ed’s Printing**
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Native Plant
GARDEN TOUR
April 27

Join Today!
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

Name ___________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________________
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Send Membership Applications to:
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2707 K Street Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113
www.cnps.org.

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

Calendar
2008

April
19 - Sutter Buttes Hike
20 - CCNC Garden Workday
26 - Forbestown Hike
27 - GARDEN TOUR

May
1 - General Meeting
10 - South Rim Bidwell Park
14 - Pipevine Deadline
21 - Board Meeting
23 - N Fork Feather River

June
8 - Annual Picnic
SUMMER BREAK