General Meeting
Summer Break until September 4, 2008

Annual Picnic

JUNE 8, 2008
SUNDAY 2 - 5 PM
FIVE MILE PICNIC AREA
BIDWELL PARK, CHICO

MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER’S YEARLY POTLUCK
Members and friends are welcome to join us at the Five Mile Group Picnic Site in Bidwell Park 375 Centennial Ave, east off Bruce Rd/ Manzanita Ave southeast side of Five Mile Recreation Area.

PLEASE BRING
a potluck dish to share
drinks (no alcohol or glass)
table service, chairs.

Contact Suellen Rowlison at 897-0226
Summer Field Trips

by Wes Dempsey and 
Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs

HUMBOLDT SUMMIT 
AND 
PACIFIC CREST TRAIL 
June 15
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy CA-32 / CA-99) at 8:30 am with lunch and water; wear footgear for hiking the Pacific Crest Trail for a couple of miles. Secondary meeting place: Humboldt Summit at 10 am (go thru Butte Meadows and Jonesville up to summit; last 4 miles rough dirt road). Since the elevation there is 6800 feet, there may be snowdrifts on the north slopes and the possibility of chilly breezes but the acres of golden arrow-leaved balsamroot along the PCT will be worth any inconvenience. As we wind among Eagle Rocks we may see pink rockfringe (my Sierra favorite), Cycladenia, and flat-stemmed onion. From Eagle Rocks we can clearly see the PCT, 2-3 miles NW, as it contours along the edge of the caldera left behind when ancient Mt Yana blew its top; this was the source of the Tuscan mudflows from here to Chico several million years ago. Leader: Wes Dempsey 342-2293

JONESVILLE’S 
BUTTE CREEK TRAIL 
June 22
Sunday

About forty miles north of Chico in the Butte Meadows area we will follow the Butte Creek trail from Jonesville to the confluence of Willow Creek. At about 5,200 feet elevation the four mile round trip walk passes through a variety of plant habitats in scenic Lassen National Forest. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy CA-32 / CA-99) in time to leave by 9:30 am OR meet at the Cherry Hill Campground four miles above the community of Butte Meadows at 10 am. Wear sturdy shoes, bring: water, lunch, sun / insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Leaders: Marjorie McNairn 343-2397 and Gerry Ingco 893-5123

BUTTERFLY VALLEY 
with Linnea Hanson 
June 14
Saturday

Join the folks from the Chester area along with Linnea Hanson to Butterfly Valley (near Quincy) to see carnivorous sundews and Darlingtonia. This is becoming an annual event!

They will meet at the Mt. Hough Ranger Station just north of Quincy on Hwy 70 at 9:30 am. Chico people meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy CA-32 / CA-99) at 7 am. They will meet the rest of the folks at the Mt. Hough Ranger Station and then car pool to Butterfly Valley. Be sure to bring lunch and water, wear hiking boots or rubber boots that can get wet. Leaders: Linnea Hanson 345-6229.

... more field trips on pages 6 and 7.
### Executive Board Meeting

**August 20, 2008**

location in the September Pipevine

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### Legislative Notes

**by David Anderson**

**SUPPORT THE CNPS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

As of May 12, CNPS has taken a position in support of 9 and in opposition to 5 environmental bills pending before the California Legislature. The following tabulation is derived from the CNPS and California Legislature websites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CNPS</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Bill No</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>Wildlife Conserv</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Coastal Comm</td>
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<td>S Nat ResCom</td>
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As noted above, most of the pending bills on which CNPS has a position are designated as “fiscal.” The reason is that they would either require an appropriation or would generate added expenses for state agencies. Those bills must go through both policy and “fiscal” (i.e., Appropriations) committees. Many of the good environmental bills are hung up in the Senate or Assembly Appropriations Committees. In this year of a record budget deficit, their chances are slim. May 30 is the deadline for the Senate and Assembly to pass bills they originated. August 31 is the last day for any bill to be passed by the Legislature.

For information on any on the bills of interest to CNPS, go to the CNPS.org website and click on the Legislative Activities link.

Please support the CNPS Legislative program by sending or telephoning a message to your legislators to let them know which bills you support and which you oppose. Their telephone numbers and addresses are listed on the Government Officials pages of your telephone book.

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### President’s Message

**by Mike Williams**

Chapter President

The humble soap plant, or emole, its undulating leaf margins giving away its cryptic, subterranean bulb, brings forth its blossoms after most other plants have set seed, flourishing in these drying days of late spring in the north Central Valley. As the flower stalks elongate, they host subtle flowers that seem to float on a warm evening, awaiting vespertine moth visitors, attracted to the light fragrance of the pale pink blossoms, held vertical on wire-thin branches of the inflorescence. As I walk through dried meadows, the dancing blooms remind me that the season is already passing, fruits of filaree are winding their corkscrew drills, annual grasses rain down their barbed seed, ever invasive, and even the native perennial grass seed is set, ready for the right moment next fall to begin a new bunchgrass. Yet the soap plant takes its time, carves out a nectar gift for the pollinator when competition is at the low point. Another late bloomer is the vinegar weed, whose purple flowers change a dry valley to a lovely hue in mid summer, at a time when each step crunches underfoot. A recent visit to vernal pools confirmed that floral opportunities arise all season long, as minute Navarretia were in full flower in the lowest elevations of the pools and golden mariposas line the upland edges among dried stems of the season’s earliest arrivals. The odd inside-out lily, Odontostomom, was just blooming in the intervening swales.

I think this all reminds me that we must look when we least expect it, to be rewarded with botanical wonders. I highly recommend a return to a place where earlier in the season we were delighted with bright colors and fragrances. Look again to see what new surprises await. Maybe this trip you can find the sculptured seeds of a special plant that rivals any blossom. Take time to look closely, reflect on the natural selection that acted on these plants in this dry valley we call home. The botanical marvels never end. Many thanks to all who helped make this spring ever evolving for our chapter! Have a great summer and bring in lots of stories for next fall!
**NATIVE PLANT GARDEN**

**Workdays**

**June 7 at 9am**

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

Please bring garden tools. Contact Judi Maxfield, 345-3245

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**NATIVE PLANTS WANTED**

*Hey all you growers* of native plants, the native plant sale is in April of 2009 and this is just a little reminder that we would love to have plants from the members at this next sale, it always adds so much in variety. We welcome all members to grow the wild things. Call Deb Fau at 530-514-8578 or email nativespringsnursery@yahoo.com

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**DID YOU KNOW**

-- that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)  
Click on the JOIN button

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**NEW MEMBERS**

- Byron Richter  
  Chico
- Ron & Merelen Volpato  
  Chico
- April Grossberger  
  Paradise
- Alison Bippart  
  Oroville

**REINSTATE**

- Barry Furst  
  Chico
- Paul Kirk  
  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

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**Welcome!**

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**Now’s the Time to Stamp Out YELLOW STARThISTLE**

Yellow starthistle is in its prime growing stage for effective removal in Bidwell Park and elsewhere! When out in the Park, reach down and yank ‘em out is the message being spread by the City of Chico Park Division. Phase II of the Park Division’s starthistle education and control project has begun and according to Lise Smith-Peters, the volunteer coordinator for Bidwell Park, “now is the best time to remove this invasive weed from the park before it goes to seed.”

Humans and animals are the primary carriers of yellow starthistle seeds within Bidwell Park. This weed is such a problem to passage on park trails and is migrating to new areas of the park that last fall the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission agreed to allow visitors to remove this plant whenever they encounter it. The removal of other plants must be approved by the Park Division under the guidelines of the Vegetation Management Priorities for Bidwell Park 2008.

Starthistle begins flowering in late May through September. “The time period from flowering to development of mature, viable seed can be as little as eight days,” according to the Yellow Starthistle Management Guide (DiTomaso, 2006). Amazingly, one starthistle plant can produce 75,000 seeds if allowed to; and thus, lots of plants.

The Park Division is distributing “Stamp Out Starthistle in Bidwell Park” flyers to local stores and wants to spread the message about removing this invasive weed. Smith-Peters has led several groups of volunteers in taking out starthistle in Lower Bidwell Park and near the new Hooker Oak disc golf course. “We (the Park Division) are also fortunate to have several independent volunteers, who are focusing their efforts on removing starthistle from the park. It is something that anyone can do.” The importance and timeliness of getting to starthistle now was summed up by one park volunteer as “One Pull A Day Goes A Long Way (to get rid of this nasty plant)!”

To remove this plant – first of all wear gloves, grasp the plant at the base of the stem and pull straight up. If the ground is too dry to pull the plant, then cut it or twist it off. Starthistle plants can be discarded right where they are taken out since there are no seeds yet. The manual removal of starthistle is just one method that the Park Division is employing to control this plant. For more information on the Stamp Out Starthistle campaign, contact Lise Smith-Peters at 896-7831.

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**NOT A STARThISTLE**

Hummingbird and Venus Thistle,  
*Cirsium candidissimum* var. *venustum*  
on Guardians Trail in upper Bidwell Park  
May 11, 2008, photo by Gerry Ingco
A BIG SUCCESS
Thank You Volunteers!

by Catie Bishop

Sunday the 27th of April was our chapter’s first ever native plant garden tour. It had been in the planning stages for 2 years, and despite running out of tickets in the morning, and having to scramble to copy more, the tour went off without a hitch. It was a beautiful day, and we had over 150 participants visiting 7 different gardens. One was a native-plant display garden associated with a nursery, one was the native plant garden at the Chico Creek Nature Center, and five were home gardens. Each garden had unique aspects that highlighted a different age and style, and demonstrated ways of utilizing the space available.

Such a great event for our chapter and the public takes a tremendous amount of work and planning. There were over 30 people who came together to make it all possible. I want to thank them for their hard work. Many of the following helped with more than one thing. If there were others whose names I have missed, I sincerely apologize. There were many supporting roles to fill, and each of you played an important part.

OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE Suellen Rowlison, Janna Lathrop, Jim and Catie Bishop, and Emilie White.


OUR GARDEN HOST HELPERS Sherri Berglund, Sarah Davi, Paula Shapiro, John Copeland, Dody Domish, and June Watts

IN ADDITION Phyllis Lindley sold tickets on Sunday, Gerry Ingco put up directional signs, Susan Bazell handled table sales, Ellen Copeland handled publicity and ticket distribution, Denise Diven designed and printed our beautiful ticket/programs and posters. Not to forget all those who distributed posters around town including Carla Moreno, Susan Mason, Nancy Shanks, and others.

Not only was the garden tour a success, it was also fun for all those participating. It took a great and sustained effort, but things like this demonstrate how much can be accomplished when people take time out of their busy lives to support a good cause. To all those who helped, I want to extend a sincere thank you. You are invaluable, and your help is much appreciated.
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy CA-32 / CA-99) at 9 am with lunch and water. Wear footgear suitable for slogging around in marsh and on short hikes. Secondary meeting place, Old Jonesville Inn at 10 am (about 5 miles beyond Butte Meadows on the Humboldt Road). Great variety of wetland flowers like camas and leopard lilies, little elephants head, veronica, Tofieldia, and bog orchid. Leader: John Copeland 343-1748.

Lakes Basin, a “little Yosemite”, is the gem of the Plumas National Forest, with fifty, or more, crystal alpine lakes confined within five small glacial basins. On a four mile round trip we will visit two alpine lakes, see two waterfalls, and pass through two wildflower “graden” habitat areas following Gray Eagle Creek to Long Lake. First we drive up the Feather River Scenic Byway (US-70) following the North and Middle Forks of the Feather River. The last seven miles of the drive is a breathtaking climb into a serene alpine setting. The area is rich in geology, mining and history. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy CA-32 / CA-99) in time to leave by 8 am. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring: water, lunch, sun / insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call leaders for alternate meeting place and time. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 342-2293.

Individual Options: An overnight campout, lodging at one of the Basin’s Lodges. Have dinner before driving home at the Gold Lake Lodge or Gray Eagle Lodge. Call Gerry.
more . . . Field Trips

SCOTS JOHN CREEK
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
August 3
Sunday
Scots John Creek is reached by traveling on Hwy CA-32 about forty miles north of Chico to the Butte Meadows area. At an elevation of 5,720 feet we will follow the course of Scots John Creek. We should see a great variety of flowering plants on this easy walk along the creek. We will be looking for the long-striped campion, *Silene occidentalis ssp. longistipitae*, not seen in Butte County from the 1930’s until 1988. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy CA-32 / CA-99) in time to leave by 8:30 am. Bring: water, lunch, sun / insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call leaders for alternate meeting places and time. Leaders: Emilie White, 894-8057 and Gerry Ingco, 893-5123.

HAT LAKE TO PARADISE MEADOW
LASSEN NATIONAL PARK
August 17
Sunday
For wildflowers during midsummer, Paradise Meadow is one of the best areas in the park. This is one of botanist Vern Oswald’s favorite places for flowers in the Park. This beautiful high elevation (7,200 feet) meadow has a glaciated headwall for a scenic backdrop. Elephant head and gentian can be seen near Hat Lake. Find: scarlet gilia along the first mile; satin lupine in timbered openings; columbine, lupine, monkshood, penstemon, Copeland’s owl’s clover and bog orchid in the meadow. From Hat Lake the trail climbs 600 feet in 1.5 miles to the meadow.
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (CA-99 / CA-32) at 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call leader for alternate meeting places and time. Leader: Gerry Ingco 893-5123.

DEADFALL LAKES
AND MT EDDY
August 31
Sunday
Meet at Chico P&R (Hwy 32 / 99) at 8 am with lunch and water, wear footgear suitable for 6 or more miles of good trail. Secondary meeting place: meet at 10:45 am at summit of Stewart Springs road (FR 17) and PCT trailhead to Deadfall Lakes. Drive on I-5 about 4 miles west of Weed to Stewart Springs road offramp (to Gazelle); follow it for about 15 miles to the summit trail head (7000’ elev). The PCT contours gradually upward for about 3 miles to the main lake (7200’). Upper Lakes (700’ climb) have nice display of Alpine flowers (Gentians, Lewisias, and Darlingtonia on the way). Leader: John Whittlesey 533-2166.
Mother’s Peonies

by Rex Burress

The spring bonanza of blossoms was quite apparent as I walked through the Oroville neighborhood in mid April. It was not native species such as blanket Table Mountain that I was seeing, but rather landscape plants. Everyone seems to have a favorite plant or it was a nursery enticement to enhance your landscape scheme intended to make you the envy of the community!

In California, flowers from every land seem to prevail along the streets and in the parks. Rhododendrons from far away places are one of the vagrants, although there is a hardy native stand along the CA coast (Rhododendron californicum, Kruse R State Reserve). There is a large collection at the Boynton House in Oroville at Oak and Bird Streets. More than 800 species are found worldwide, mostly from Asia, but ‘10,000’ hybrids are sold. The Azalea is a smaller type with one native species, western azalea, (R. occidentale), which grows in Butte County but more commonly in coniferous forests.

In looking through the Oroville community collections, I was looking for my Missouri Mother’s favorite, the peony (As most people spell it; the family is Paeony). She always had peonies, snowball viburnum, and spiraea— all foreigners mostly from Asia.

I did find spiraea in all of its lovely arched sprigs laden with round clusters of white blossoms. Most species are from Asia although there are a couple native to California, including the mountain spiraea, (Spiraea densiflora) that grows along Spanish Creek at Oakland Camp near Quincy, CA. It features a rosy terminal cluster of flowers. David Douglas discovered the other one, western spiraea (S. douglasii), in 1833 when he was prowling California.

I think Mother raised peonies in conjunction with the church Memorial Day’s “decorating of the graves.” A long line led by a U.S. flag-bearer wound through the large cemetery, and flowers were dropped on Veteran’s sites as the name was called out. Sometimes the flower girls ran short and we simply plucked some of those numerous peony petals.

It’s incredible how some native plants have been hauled through the halls of horticulture to become something far more flamboyant than the original! The neighbor up the street has rose bushes loaded with blossoms packed with petals. When you consider our modest native California rose (Rosa californica), and it’s meager array of showing precious petals, you know someone has thought “more is better.” The rarest of flowers are often quite delicate. Consider the Calypso borealis that John Muir said was one of the highlights of his life in finding it in a Canadian swamp. “So delicate, so altogether charming, its single blossom struck by a beam of light, that to merely mention its name would cause it to run away.”

Yes, in spite of the glorious array of exotic blossoms laid out along our streets in town, there is that magic essence of a native wildflower, honed by hundreds of centuries, fitted into a special environment so that it fits like a key to a magic kingdom.

Those horticultural hoards all had a wild beginning, and it’s no less with the peony. Our exalted Vernon Oswald listed one native species, Paeonia brownii, Western peony, as being in Butte County. “Uncommon in chaparral and dry openings in forest, on the edge of alder thickets, and on the edge of meadows. 1800-6400 ft.” Have you seen it? I will be looking for it.

Paeonia brownii, western peony in fruit, Mount Lassen Chapter field trip to Big Springs, Humbug Valley, July 15, 2006. Photo by Tim Devine
Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK

Come join the City of Chico’s Park Division Volunteer Thursdays. Starting in June, due to the heat, we will be starting at 9 am until 11:30 am each Thursday. For more information, contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, or check webcalendar at: http://www.chico.ca.us/General_Services_Department/Park_Division/Volunteer_Calendar.asp

June 7 -- 9 am - noon
SPRING TRAIL DAYS IN UPPER PARK
Community volunteers will help provide trail repair and maintenance on Upper Park trails. Volunteers should meet at parking lot E (east of Horseshoe Lake). Work sites to be announced. The workday will last until noon or longer for volunteers who wish to continue. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes, and weather appropriate clothing. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction.

June 5 & 12 -- 9 - 11:30 am
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK - Lost Park
Volunteers will remove invasive plants and litter from this popular downtown park. Volunteers will meet in the City’s public parking lot #5 on East 1st Street next to Sierra Central Credit Union at 9 am. Tools and water provided by the City of Chico Park Division.

June 19 and 26 – 9 - 11:30 am
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK
One Mile Recreation Area in Lower Bidwell Park. Volunteers will remove invasive Himalayan blackberry, pokeweed and other invasives in various areas of One Mile. Meet at the Sycamore Baseball Field parking lot.

Thank You Deb Fau
- for Plant Sales support since 2003
from Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Springs Nursery
- local nursery in the foothills specializing in native pines, shrubs, grasses, and perennials. - also non-native herbs and ornamentals. - found at the Paradise and Oroville farmer’s markets and by appointment.
nativespringsnursery.com 530- 514-8578
**Join Today!**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________________
State _______ Zip ____________email ______________________________

Phone___________________________________________________________

Send Membership Applications to:  
CNPS  
2707 K Street Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113  

www.cnps.org.

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**Calendar 2008**

**June**
3 - Butterfly Valley  
7 - CCNC Garden Workday  
8 - Chapter Picnic  
15 - Humboldt Summit  
22 - Butte Creek Trail

**July**
6 - Jones Meadow  
12 - Lakes Basin  
20 - Wilson Lake

**August**
3 - Scots John Creek  
13 - Pipevine Deadline  
17 - Lassen/Paradise Meadow  
20 - Board Meeting  
31 - Dead Fall Lakes

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**Time Value**
JUNE 2008 issue

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**5 MILE  June 8**
ANNUAL PICNIC

go on a field trip this summer

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**Pipevine**

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