General Meeting
Summer Break until September 3, 2009

Annual Picnic in Cohasset

JUNE 14, 2009
Sunday 3 - 6 pm
home of Elizabeth Tice in Cohasset

PLEASE BRING
an unusual or exotic potluck dish
cold beverage, BYOB, and chairs
service, hot drinks, and cookies will be provided
barbecue and kitchen available

FUN, GAMES, SURPRISES!
prizes for strangest dish, coolest decorated hat,
farthest distance traveled, newest MLC member to attend, plus others
come early to botanize, stay late
camping permitted (have no fear of local dinosaur)

DIRECTIONS
on Cohasset Road go 10 miles past Chico Airport
right turn off Cohasset Road onto Vilas Road
go approx 1.8 miles to 605 Vilas Road
driveway on left
Elizabeth Tice, 345-5787

CARPOOL
meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32 / 99) at 2:30 pm

Sierra Gooseberry (Ribes roezlii) by Peg Edwards-Carkeet 1998

summer field trips on page 2. and 7.
**Summer Field Trips**

Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs

**BUTTE CREEK BLM TRAIL**
May 31
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot at 9 am. Drive east on Hwy 32 to Garland Road. From Garland road we go south to the trailhead in Butte Creek Canyon. This is an easy 3 mile roundtrip walk along a secluded section of scenic Upper Butte Creek. The trail stays close to the stream. Several wooden bridges and a structured steel stairway are encountered. The trail winds through a narrow band of riparian vegetation containing a variety of flowering plants. A mixed coniferous forest extends up the rugged canyon walls. There is evidence of historic gold mining activity all along the creek. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 893-5123 Wes Dempsey 342-2293.

**PULGA TO MAYARO**
June 7
Sunday

The May 3 trip was rained out so it has been rescheduled. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot at 9 am with lunch and water for a drive/hike along the PG & E poleline road above the Feather River, rough, one lane. At Pulga, we start in the serpentine and then finish in the granite above Mayaro. Skullcap, monkeyflowers, fritillarias. Cross over three cascading creeks. Bring water, lunch, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 893-5123 and Wes Dempsey, 342-2293.

Homer Lake.
Photo by Richard McCutcheon of Greenville CA

**VALLEY CREEK**
PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
June 21
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) west lot at 8 am. Join us for our first trip to the headwaters of the South Fork of the Feather River near the historic Gold Rush town of La Porte. We will walk into a park-like, ravine among giant old growth conifers, virgin timber that has been spared from adjacent extensive harvest. Bob Cermak, the retired ranger responsible for this “Special” area, will meet us for a brief introduction. We may have to hike cross-country a short distance between uncompleted sections of trail. Bring water, lunch, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leaders: Marjorie McNairn, 343-2397 and Gerry Ingco, 893-5123

**“RIDGE WORLD”**
HOMER AND DEAR HEART LAKES
June 27
Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 89/32) west lot at 7:30 am. Join us for our first visit to 2 beautiful alpine lakes where the Sierra Nevada meets the Cascade. “It is here, that on this last exposure of ancient rocks, the Sierra Nevada makes its final appearance”. We will hike 5 miles roundtrip of moderate difficulty. With a 900 ft elevation gain the trail is a traverse between these two lakes (Ave. ele. 6,500’). Drive Hwy 70 and join Hwy 89 to Greenville. The trailhead is accessed via 12.8 miles of maintained, unpaved roads. Bring water, lunch, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for an alternate meeting place. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 893-5123 and Wes Dempsey, 342-2293.

**COLBY MEADOWS**
EVENING HIKE WITH Yahi GROUP
July 4
Saturday

Join the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club for an afternoon/evening 7 mile hike. Past Butte Meadows, it features wildflowers, green meadows and 3/4 moon. Can be strenuous, call leader for advice. Meet at Chico Park & Ride, west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 2:45 pm, return by 10 pm. Bring food, water, light jacket, flashlight and money for driver. Leader: Larry Crisman, 342-7998.

... more summer field trips on page 7.
**Executive Board Meeting**

August 19, 2009

Location to be announced in September Pipevine

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**President’s Message**

by Janna Lathrop

Chapter President

The first week of May greeted us with a soaking late season rain. Area habitats, our yards and gardens all benefited from the bonus precipitation. The rainy conditions of May 3rd dampened attendance at local outdoor events but the Endangered Species Faire did proceed in rainy day mode. The hardy that attended were decked out in an array of raingear and umbrellas to enjoy the music, singing, animals and duck from one covered display to the next. Special thanks to our members Phyllis Lindsey, Woody Elliott, and Mike Williams for helping set up, staff and take down our display in less than ideal conditions.

By the next weekend the weather was dry and soil conditions prime to remove invasive broom plants along the Yahi Trail. Wes Dempsey, Woody and myself joined Yahi Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Elizabeth Tice as we weed-wrenched dozens of shrubs along a section of the north side of Big Chico Creek. This spring Elizabeth and MLC member John Meehan have been trimming back trail-side vegetation including poison oak, blocking bootleg trails and relocating signs all along the three and half mile trail. Thank you to Elizabeth and all the trail volunteers.

The broom bashing efforts led by John Copeland and his groups of volunteers over the past ten plus years in Bidwell Park are certainly paying off. Instead facing thickets of large yellow flowered bushes, bashers now seek scattered remnants numbering in the dozens and not in the hundreds. The south side of the creek needs to be addressed next to successfully reduce the footprint of these plants in the Big Chico Creek watershed.

We will wind up the chapter’s busy spring with our member picnic on June 14 in Cohasset. Please join us for an afternoon of feasting and camaraderie. Special thanks again for a successful and wondrous Wildflower Show. The contributions and volunteer hours put in by our membership makes the show the special event that is.

Have a summer filled with a sojourn or two exploring a new or favorite spot. Join us on one of our summer outings. Be prepared to show your floral highlights at the September general meeting.

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**Legislative Notes**

by David Anderson

**GLOBAL WARMING vs. ENDANGERED SPECIES**

On May 8, Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, announced that the Department will retain a Bush Administration rule under Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The rule states that incidental take of polar bears resulting from activities outside the bear’s range, such as emission of greenhouse gases, will not be prohibited. Polar bears are listed as a threatened species under ESA. The rationale Secretary Salazar gave for retaining the Bush rule is: “The ESA is not the proper mechanism for controlling our nation’s carbon emissions. Instead, we need a comprehensive energy and climate strategy that curbs climate change and its impacts.”

In 1973, when ESA was enacted, global warming was not recognized as a threat to people or endangered animals and plants. ESA was not designed to cope with that problem. The refusal to prohibit "incidental take" of polar bears due to greenhouse gas emissions outside the bear’s range, however, indicates that ESA does apply in this situation. Otherwise the rule would be unnecessary.

Secretary Salazar is obviously right that a comprehensive national (and international) energy and climate strategy is necessary to curtail global warming, but it may take a long time to develop and implement such a strategy.

The Interior Department’s ruling of May 8 applies only to polar bears, but the rationale that ESA is not the proper mechanism for controlling our nation’s carbon emissions could apply to efforts to use ESA to protect any species from the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

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*Madrone (Arbutus menziesii)*

by Jean Struthers
Sunday April 19th was our chapter’s 13th biennial Wildflower Show, Plant Sale and Art Exhibit at the CARD Community Center. This event started a mere 26 years ago and remains MLC’s major fundraiser. Collectors spread across Butte County and beyond gathering over 300 species in a botanic treasure hunt to represent the plant diversity commonly found in seven local habitats.

The outside patio had array of native plants ready for enthusiastic gardeners. Table sales indoors offered t-shirts, books, posters and more. The 235 attendees sampled delicious herbal tea and a plethora of cookies and punch. The Children’s Garden gave small fingers a chance to express artistic skills or venture around on a scavenger hunt. Indoor exhibits on invasive plants, off road vehicle damage, Bidwell Park and Northern California Botanists offered the opportunity to get information on local issues. A computer and digital frame were set up to view native garden and wildflower photo loops. Outside, nature walks were enjoyed throughout the afternoon.

New this year was an art exhibit highlighting native flora by over a dozen photographers and artists. How wonderful to discover the depth of talent within our own chapter.

A special thank you to: Ellen Copeland for serving as the show’s coordinator for the second time; Jim Bishop, Catie Bishop and Susan Bazell for organizing the art exhibit; Denise Devine for poster design, signs, plant lists and labels; Deb Fau for publicity and plant sales; Phyllis Lindley refreshment coordinator and membership chair.

All of this can only come together and be successful with the boundless help from our chapter members. We had at least 43 people volunteer their time and energies with many handling more than one task to make the show such a rewarding event. Thank you everyone.

Top photo - Woolly Indian Paintbrush on display with other Chaparral plants by Tim Devine

Middle photo - Everyone enjoying the wildflower displays, by Gerry Ingco

Bottom photo - Checking out the new Art Exhibition, by Tim Devine

ARTISTS in the EXHIBITION
Alison Bippart, Bob Coley, Ron Coley, Woody Elliott, Linnea Hanson, Gerry Ingco, Jennifer Jewell, Jan Monelo, George Morris, Sharon Stanwood, Coby Walters-Fornier, John Whittlesey
Thank You Everyone!

PLANT COLLECTORS
Grassland  S. Bazell, G. Ingco, J. Lathrop
Vernal Pools:  J. Dittes, J. Guardino
Riparian   W. Elliott, L. Thomas
Foothill Woodland, Yellow Pine Forest    J. Baumel, J. Devine, T. Devine
Serpentine/Chaparral  R. Fischer

PLANT ID / SETUP
W. Elliott, M. McNairn, G. Ingco, S. Bazell, H. Mackey, S. Hillaire, J. Marr,
L. Hanson, R. Schlising, B. Castro, L. Janeway, R. Fischer, D. Devine,
T. Devine, L. Thomas, J. Guardino, J. Dittes, C. Hantleman

REFRESHMENTS   P. Lindley, J. Watts, A. Tilaro, S. Blythe, D. Domish

PLANT SALES
D. Fau, P. Shapiro, G. Bouvin, J. Whittlesey, E. White, S. Ladwig-Cooper, R. Kisling

TABLE SALES    S. Bazell, W. Elliott, A. Elliott, E. Copeland, G. Ingco

NATURE WALKS  J. Aull, J. Bishop, J. Lathrop, M. Williams

PLANT ID TABLE  B. Castro, L. Hanson, J. Marr

CHILDREN’S CORNER  A. Edwards

MICROSCOPE TABLE  J. Bishop, C. Bishop, T. Devine

HERBAL TEA TABLE  P. Shapiro, J. Maxfield

GLASSWARE  T. Devine, E. Copeland

DISPLAYS  L. Crisman, S. Mason, L. Hanson, J. Guardino

ENTRANCE TABLE  J. Lathrop, C. Weiner, H. Mackey, J. Maxfield, E. Copeland

MEMBERSHIP TABLE  N. Gipson, H. Mackey, M. McNairn

LARGE WILDFLOWER POSTERS  R. Fischer

SETUP / CLEANUP
J. Lathrop, N. Lathrop, G. Lathrop, E. Copeland, W. Elliott, A. Elliott, M. McNairn,
P. Lindley, B. Castro, L. Janeway, C. Hantleman, T. Devine, D. Devine, J. Maxfield,
J. Guardino, D. Domish, A. Tilaro, S. Blythe, J. Watts, J. Bishop, C. Bishop

Top photo
Pacific Dogwood made
front page of the
Chico Enterprise-Record

Middle photo
New Education Chair,
Adrienne Edwards at
Children’s Garden
by Catie Bishop

Bottom photo
Plant ID/Setup’s busy
to the last hour
by Tim Devine
REFRESHING ICED TEA

by Paula Shapiro

I was thrilled that so many people enjoyed the native plant iced tea at the Wildflower Show. Here is how it’s made. The tea consisted of mint, Douglas fir tips and blackberry leaves. All are abundant and very easy to find. Ideally the fir tips should be picked when fresh, light green growth is just opening on the tips of the branches. The tips will be very soft and easy to remove. Similarly, the blackberry leaves should also be picked when very young. This way you can pick a small cluster of leaves at one time. Confession: I used Himalayan blackberry leaves, thus helping with eradication. The mint leaves are good all the time, but better before they flower.

I boiled about a gallon of water, then put a handful of each herb into the boiling water, turned off the heat, and let it steep for about an hour. The amounts can vary as can the steeping time. I like to make a very strong mixture then dilute it with water to taste. Add honey when the tea is hot enough to melt it. If you want to dry the leaves, simply put them in a paper bag and shake it up at least once a day. After they are dry, put them in an airtight ziplock or jar. They will easily keep their good flavor until next year’s harvest time. Enjoy your tea on a hot summer day.

Lost & Found at the Wildflower Show

Catie Bishop reports

“I have an earring found in the parking lot of CARD Center after the Wildflower show. I know I saw it on someone who came by the microscope table. I have a feeling it was someone participating in the show, but can’t quite come up with who. It was found along the curb by the doors where people were loading up after the show. Maybe someone will recognize it.

If you recognize the sweet monarch as yours, you can contact Catie at jbishop1991@sbcglobal.net
SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST
July 11
Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) west lot at 8 am. We will drive from Chico to the Mendocino National Forest, and hike into the Snow Mountain Wilderness. This is the southern most alpine zone in the Coast Range. It is notable, botanically, for having many species of plants that are also seen at the southernmost limits of the Sierra Nevada Range. We will hike from the Summit Springs Trailhead, 5,200’, and take the moderate 2.5 mile hike to Snow Mountain at 7,038 elevation. We may not reach the summit of Snow Mountain, but the beautiful vistas and interesting plants to be seen make the trip worthwhile. Bring water, lunch, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leader: John Whittlesey, 533-2166.

HEADWATERS, NORTH FORK
OF THE FEATHER RIVER
July 19
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) west lot at 8 am. Explore the forest south of Lassen National Park traveling in an easterly direction along the southern base of Lassen. See flowers along streams, by springs, and in the forest. We will be mostly car-hopping with a few short hikes. Included will be a 2 mile walk along the Pacific Crest Trail from Domingo Springs to the Feather River. Bring water, lunch, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leader: Emilie White, 894-8057.

HIDDEN LAKES & LONG LAKE LOOP
SOUTH CABIBOU WILDERNESS AREA
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
August 9
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) west lot at 7:30 am. Northeast of the town of Chester, this hike is an easy 4.5 mile round-trip loop accessing more than a dozen lakes and ponds in the southern reaches of the Cabibou Wilderness Area. The elevation gain is about 500 feet with a high point at 6,800 feet. Between lakes, the trail passes through flowered meadows fringed by lodgepole pines, stately stands of fir and western white pines. The trailhead at Hay Meadow is reached by driving 10 miles on forest road 32N10 which starts from Hwy 36, 4 miles east of Chester. Chester is about 1.5 hours travel time from Chico on Hwys 32 and 36. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 893-5123, and Wes Dempsey, 342-2293.

FLOATING ISLANDS
ON PICTURESQUE LAKES
August 23
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) west lot at 8:30 am. We will travel Hwy 32 to Butte Meadows, up the Humbug Summit Road to LNF roads 26N02 and 26N31. We will see many California Asters as we hike the 1.5 miles into Soda Creek. Then walk another 1.5 miles up to Green Island Lake. The 5 acre bog floating on this lake is rimmed with Huckleberries, Buckbean, and Potentilla. The delightful spring feeding the lake has a display of Yellow Monkey Flowers. California Fuchsia is usually in flower along the trail to Saucer Lake. On the way back we can stop at Frog Lake and step out on its tiny floating island. We have seen Pileated Woodpeckers on this delightful hike. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 893-5123, and Wes Dempsey, 342-2293.

WILLOW LAKE BOG AND TERMINAL GYEYER
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST AND PARK
September 6
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) west lot at 8:30 am. Willow Lake is in Lassen National Forest just outside the southern boundary of Lassen Volcanic National Park, and north of Chester. Willow Lake is a Botanical Special Interest Area. It contains several floating mats of sphagnum moss that support a variety of unusual plants, including the insect eating Roundleaf Sundew. Terminal Geyser, in an area of active hydrothermal activity, is reached from Willow Lake by a 1.5 mile trail into Lassen National Park. Travel to Willow Lake on Hwys. 32 and 36 to Chester. From there drive 13 miles to the lake. The last five miles of road are unpaved and rough. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Call for alternate meeting place. Leader: John Whittlesey, 533-2166.
A TIME FOR Fremontia

by Rex Burress

April 17, 2009, was the time for Fremontia to put forth its rich yellow blossoms at the Feather River Nature Center in Oroville. The drought-resistant shrub was a bit tattered from its summertime search for water, and the rough, flannel-like leaves added to a ragged appearance.

But the glorious blossoms are its crowning achievement in spite of adversity among the rocks, and the unveiling of the bud is tinged with a miraculous process of drawing color and life from the dark confines of subterranean rootage in the soil. Water is the magic and the sun is the guiding light.

Fremontia californica, also classified as Fremontodendron californicum (Torrey), is commonly called Flannelbush, a native, discovered by John C. Fremont in the expeditions of the 1840’s. He discovered many new plants and would transfer them to botanists for classifying, and some scientific names honor the “Pathfinder.” There are several species in the genus, including the southern Fremontia californica var. mexicana, which is the type commonly planted in gardens.

The cottonwoods along the Feather River, Populus fremontii, were discovered by Fremont.

The Fremontia at the Nature Center was planted, and actually wild native Fremontia are rather rare in Butte County, with only two described populations, one on Cohasset Ridge and the other near Berry Creek (Oswald). They thrive on hot, rocky hillsides, their tenacious roots fingering deep into the crevasses, hence their success in the south state aridity.

Famous plant hunter Lester Rrown tree describes Fremontia in her book, "Flowering Shrubs of California." In chaparral habitats, “On hot, rocky slopes of central and southern CA, old weather-beaten gnarled Fremontias become small trees and less floriferous. Middle-aged shrubs smother themselves in bloom, looking at a distance like a blaze of old gold.”

“The bark is gray with reddish twigs, and although it is an evergreen, poorly nourished shrubs will show resentment by dropping foliage. The deeply lobed leaves are rich green on top with a felt-like feel on the reverse side. The big, satiny, bowl-shaped, waxy, golden flowers are the beauty of the shrub and grow close to the stem...”

John Fremont camped in the Oakland Hills near a spring, and looking out across the Bay he described the sunset through the strait as “The Golden Gate” long before there was a bridge by that name. Poet Joaquin Miller, who owned the land, built a monument honoring Fremont at that location, and it has windows aimed at the Bay entrance. The original campsite was enhanced by a Fremontia that was planted by Oakland Supervising Naturalist Paul Covel, an admirer of John Fremont. Even after Paul died in 1990, his wife Marian had a birthday party there for both John and Paul each year.

The front of Paul’s Oakland house didn’t have a lawn but rather shrubs, and the drought-resistant Fremontia was the star attraction. We could save a lot of water by planting shrubs rather than grass. Lawns are a real drain to the water supply. “Brown spots” and wildflowers in yards are an honor in these days of little rain.

“Fremontia” is also the title of a journal of the California Native Plant Society.

www.desert-tropicals.com/Plants/Sterculiaceae/Fremont
Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK

Come join the fun working in various Bidwell Park locations. Tools, water, gloves and instructions provided. For more information contact Park Division Volunteer Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters at 530 896-7831 or lspeters@ci.chico.ca.us

June 6
SATURDAY SPRING TRAIL DAYS IN UPPER PARK
9 am - noon. Volunteers will help provide trail repair and maintenance on Upper Park trails. Meet in parking lot C (Chico Community Observatory). 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 11, 18, & 25
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK
Sycamore Restoration Site at One Mile
9 am - noon. Volunteers will remove invasive Himalayan blackberry from the restoration site and help water plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres -- walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path. If you arrive late, worksite is near the Council Ring!
**Join Today!**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter*

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**MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER CNPS**
P. O. BOX 3212
CHICO, CA 95927-3212

www.cnps.org

**Calendar 2009**

**May**
- 31 - Butte Creek Trail

**June**
- 7 - Pulga to Mayaro
- 14 - ANNUAL PICNIC
- 21 - Valley Creek
- 27 - Ridge World

**July**
- 4 - Colby Meadows
- 11 - Snow Mountain
- 19 - N F Feather River

**August**
- 9 - Hidden Lakes
- 19 - Board Meeting
- 23 - Green Is Lake

**September**
- 3 - Program Meeting
- 6 - Willow Lake