General Meeting
October 1, 2009
Thursday  7:30 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

The Ecological Reserves
of California State University, Chico

Presented by JEFF MOTT
Director of Ecological Reserves at CSU, Chico

Jeff Mott, Director of Ecological Reserves at CSU, Chico will be our guest speaker at our October 1st meeting. Jeff has been the Director of the Ecological Reserves for the past 7 years and has served in various administrative functions at CSUC for the past 19 years. Prior to Jeff’s tenure at CSUC, he served as the Butte County Air Pollution Control Officer and worked as an environmental consultant. Jeff’s passion has always been biology and he is passionate about land conservation, habitat protection, and outdoor education for K-12 kids. Jeff currently manages the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (4000 acres) and the Butte Creek Ecological Reserve (93 acres).

At our meeting, Jeff will discuss how the Reserves were acquired and the goals he is trying to meet in the areas of natural and cultural resource protection, education, research, and community outreach. Jeff will discuss several research projects and come equipped with some beautiful pictures of our local landscapes, flora and fauna.
Field Trips

COLD BOILING & CRUMBAUGH LAKES
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
September 27
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride’s west lot (Hwy99/32) at 8:30 am with, a windbreaker or light jacket, lunch, water, insect/sun protection, money for ride sharing and your Park Pass (If you have one). Take an easy three mile round trip in a little traveled area excellent for birds, wildflowers and deer. Then hike to Crumbaugh Lake, elevation 7,200’, see lava cliffs that ring the lake’s basin, and vistas of surrounding peaks. Call the leader for an alternate meeting place. Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

DEER CREEK TRAIL
October 4
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride’s west lot (Hwy99/32) at 9 am with lunch, water, insect/sun protection and money for ride sharing. This is a gentle two-mile hike down to the falls and fish ladder where we will have lunch. Big leaf maple and dogwood should be in full color along with Indian rhubarb and spicebush. Sierra mint, and California fuchsia should still be in full bloom. Call the leader for an alternate meeting place. Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

YELLOW CREEK – HUMBUG VALLEY
October 11
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy99/32) at 8:30 am with lunch, water, insect/sun protection and money for ride sharing. Travel Hwy 32 for 29 mi to Butte Meadows. Then drive another 22 mi on Forest Service roads. Visit a large, scenic mountain meadow, rich with Native American sites, and a history of homesteading and ranching. In a nearby cemetery there are graves of local pioneers. Natural features include historic Soda Springs, and the cold, fast flowing, Big Springs that feed Yellow Creek. Yellow Creek is considered a stream and meadow restoration success. This creek is now designated by the State as a “Wild Trout Waters”. See and identify plant species associated with timber, meadow, springs and streamside habitats. For alternate meeting place call Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123.

10-MILE HOUSE TRAIL
October 18
Sunday
Meet at the “Green Gate” to Upper Bidwell Park on Hwy 32 at 10 am with lunch and water and sun/insect protection, for a mile walk down to Chico Creek. The gate is on the north side of the road with a large parking area in front of it and is about 7 miles from Hwy 99. Persimmons may be ripe at the fig tree pond on the way down. See four species of oaks decorating our way. Going down is easy but climbing up will give us good exercise. Leader: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293

TREE TOURS OF
CSUC CAMPUS AND BIDWELL MANSION
October 20, November 3, and 17, December 1
Tuesdays
Meet at the gazebo in front of Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park at 10 am; parking available. Each tour we will see a different group of about 20 to 30 of the best specimens of woody plants out of a total collection of over 200. This is the finest arboretum north of capitol park in Sacramento with many unusual and beautiful species, some planted by Bidwell in 1870 and others dating back to the founding of CSUC: Bunya Bunya from Australia, Monkey puzzle from Chile, Dawn Redwood from China, Cockspur Coral from Brazil and many others. Information about selecting garden trees for Chico, planting, care, advantages and more will be discussed. Tours end about 11:30. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293, and Hal Mackey 530-899-9456

FEATHER FALLS TRAIL – FALL CREEK
October 25
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy32/99) at 8:30 am with lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. We’ll travel to Feather Falls trail head east of Lake Oroville and hike the 4.2 miles to Feather Falls Overlook for lunch. Fall colors of black oak and dogwood should be splendid as well as the 640 foot Feather Falls even at low water. We’ll return on the 3.8 mile lower trail amongst the tall forest and underlying creeks. See and learn about the affects of the recent forest fire. For information or an alternate meeting place call Woody Elliott, 530-342-6053.
Executive Board Meeting

October 21, 2009
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Jim & Catie Bishop, Oroville
email for directions, cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net

President’s Message
by Janna Lathrop
Chapter President

The resumption of our general meetings got off to a grand start in September with the combination of an informative short presentation from Jim and Catie Bishop about the GLORIA high alpine project; and then photographic arrays offered by six of our chapter members that highlighted plants and excursions locally, into the Sierras and even the Sawtooths of Idaho. Thanks to presenters Ron Coley, Woody Elliott, Lawrence Janeway, Margo Lund, Robert McNairn and John Whittlesey with their images of violets to sedges and soda springs to rattlesnakes.

Upon return from our summer hiatus, the executive board is reviewing a number of issues relating to our chapter to balance fundraising events and outreach yet not overtax our membership.

As I have stated previously, the biennial Wildflower Show / Plant Sale no longer provides all the income for our chapter as it has in past years. In an effort to supplement the board is reviewing other fundraising events. In the past Mount Lassen Chapter has held native plant sales and a native garden tour. In 2008 we held our first Native Garden Tour. It proved to be popular and successful. We would like feedback whether to pursue such an event for spring 2010. If so, we are in need of gardens for the tour and behind the scenes support. We would like to see a committee develop to look at Chapter native plant sales to explore options and help establish more member growers.

Now for several reminders: Please mark your calendar for the October 3rd workshop, “The Beauty of Drought Tolerant Natives”. This is an opportunity to start or to expand the beauty and diversity of native plants in your own home habitat.

Lastly, please don’t forget to participate in the Annie B’s Community Drive through September 30th: NVCF, 3120 Cohasset Road, Suite 8, Chico CA 95927 Or www.nvcf.org
Please indicate Annie B’s/MLassenChap CNPS on the subject line of your check. Your donation is our chapter’s gain.

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

NOT BAD, CONSIDERING

In the light of its almost total preoccupation with budget problems, it is pleasantly surprising that the 2009 session of the California Legislature produced anything in the way of environmental legislation. At the time of this report (Sept. 6), two bills supported by CNPS have already passed and been sent to the Governor. Four are pending Assembly or Senate action. One bill opposed by CNPS passed but has not yet been sent to the Governor. He has 30 days after he receives bills to sign, veto or allow them to go into effect without his signature.

CNPS supported bills awaiting the Governor’s signature are:

AB 1061 (Lieu) - This bill renders void any provisions of governing documents of a common interest development (property owners’ association etc.) which prohibit or inhibit use of low-water using plants as a group.

SB 215 (Wiggins) - This bill imposes a state mandate on local agency formation commissions by requiring them to consider applicable transportation plans, as well as consistency with general and specific plans, when reviewing proposals for changes in local government entities.

The one bill opposed by CNPS, and enrolled and ready to be sent to the Governor, is:

AB 1066 (Mendoza) - It will permit timber harvesting plans on which operations have been commenced but not completed, to be extended, under specified conditions, beyond the previous three year limitation.

The four CNPS supported bills awaiting Senate or Assembly action before the September 11 deadline for passing bills are:

AB 226 (Ruskin) - Increases penalties for violations of California Coastal Act.

AB 291 (Saldana) - It denies permits for coastal zone developments to anyone with a prior unresolved violation.

AB 499 (Hill) - Amends CEQA to require party challenging an environmental impact report or negative declaration to name and serve the recipient of approval as a real party in interest.

SB 505 (Kehoe) - Requires state Office of Planning and Research to include fire hazard planning in its information and technical advice to local governments.

We lost John Copeland on August 24, 2009

The photo above of him and Janna Lathrop was on a Colby Meadows field trip.

Catie Bishop remembers John on page 5.

The Pipevine October 2009
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

Learn how to incorporate drought tolerant native plants into your garden.

Learn the basics of gardening with native plants and native lawn substitutes.

October 3, 2009
Saturday 10 am
CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER
Admission $20

Space is limited to 25 people
To pre-register please send $20 to Mount Lassen Chapter, CNPS
P.O. Box 3212, Chico, CA, 95927-3212
Contact Paula Shapiro, Horticulture Chair
530-343-7440, paulashapiro@wildblue.net

Do you have NATIVE PLANTS growing in your garden?

We are planning our second native plant garden tour. If you have at least 30% natives in your garden, either mixed with non-natives or concentrated in their own spot, we would like to urge you to share your expertise with others.

The date is yet to be set, but it will be in the spring of 2010. This will give you plenty of time to prepare your garden for showing.

We also will be asking that all natives be identified on the day of show. If you would like help with identifying some of your plants, there are people available to assist you. And there will be volunteers from our chapter to help on the day of the show.

Please send a short description of your native garden and include: name, address, phone number. We will be choosing the gardens for the tour based on variety, and on proximity to each other.

Send applications to:
Mount Lassen Chapter; California Native Plant Society; P.O. Box 3212; Chico, CA 95927-3212. For more information you can call Jana Lathrop 893-2886.

Join
JOHN WHITTLESEY, Canyon Creek Nursery
PAULA SHAPIRO, drought tolerant /native plant designer
BURNADETTE BALICS, Davis native plant designer
JIM DEMPSEY, land manager for CA State Parks

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Remembering John Copeland by Catie Bishop

John Copeland, a Mount Lassen Chapter member for many years, was known and loved by everyone. He was one of those unique individuals who made everyone he met feel important. With his unassuming manner and familiar, friendly style, he called everyone friend. His zest for life and new adventures had no boundaries.

John felt strongly about protecting native plant habitats, and had a wonderful work ethic. He didn’t just talk about improving the environment, but led volunteers on weekends in the removal of invasive broom in Bidwell Park well into his 9th decade. His achievement in that area was really quite amazing. He was our Exotic Species Chair for many years, and always had a table at the Wildflower Show to educate people about invasive exotics. He was generous, putting his money into his many causes. He purchased and donated to the Chapter weed wrenches in a variety of sizes to help with the removal of broom and other invasive plants in Bidwell Park and beyond.

Wes Dempsey remembers John’s first encounter with a weed wrench: About 10 years ago John saw an ad for a “Weed Wrench” and immediately arranged to purchase one. This was after our early efforts attacking broom up on HWY 32 where it immediately became apparent that we needed better tools.

As soon as he received his ‘new toy’ he invited me to go up to Day Camp and try it out. He latched on to a plant and commented “I think this is how you are supposed to do it”. The plant has a long, tough tap root and refused to come up easily. In the face of this challenge, John firmly grasped the handles and gave a mighty heave backwards. The plant loosened and John went tumbling amongst the boulders. He got up bruised and bloody and went back at it again. Ditto! After more blood and defeats he decided that pulling backwards was bad technique. Next, he tried pushing down on the handle. Voila! No blood or somersaults this time. He was quick to pass along this vital information to the rest of us.

He participated in many field trips, and led one most years himself to the Butte Meadows area, where he had a second home. He also donated to the Chapter’s Presentation Equipment Fund which allowed this Chapter to purchase a digital projector and other related items. He was a problem solver, not inclined to endless unproductive analysis or word-smithing, his pragmatic input would get us back on track.

Although he served his country during the war, and served his community as a respected doctor, when he retired John did not sit back and watch the world go by. He was a life-long learner, and a terrific example of staying engaged in the world of knowledge. John took many classes at CSU Chico, not easy classes either, but mainstream courses in demanding subjects...history, anthropology and biology. Not content to just audit the class, he challenged himself to fully participate and to take all the tests.

Jim Bishop, while taking a class himself, tells this story about running into John in the hallway: Students are not ordinarily inclined to be prompt for class, so seeing them lined up before the classroom door opens is a dead giveaway that there is a test that day. I rounded a corner in Holt Hall, and a line of last-minute studiers sitting on the floor along the wall caught my eye. There in the middle of the youthful lineup was a distinctive head with less hair than the rest, bent intently to getting a final look at his class notes...John the student. There he was, in a class he didn’t need credits for, a hard class...knowing that a demanding course would teach him more than an easy one...down on the floor with his classmates, giving it his best effort. And that’s what John did in everything—gave it his best, took no special accommodation, and constantly sought to do and learn more. His enthusiastic lifelong quest for learning is inspiring. I always enjoyed asking him what class he was taking, and it made for quite a varied and worthy list of subjects—makes me want to go take another class myself.

John inspires us all to do better, be more, care more, and have fun no matter what your age or circumstance. The life of John Copeland characterizes what we all hold dear as a society and as human beings. And we are all made better by knowing him. He makes it harder for us to become set in our ways, or become complacent or less engaged with others and the wider world. He makes it harder to ignore the less fortunate and the degradation of the environment. He embodied the spirit of individual responsibility, and didn’t wait to be asked, but saw a need and filled it.

If he had been a high-profile individual, a player on a bigger stage, he would be getting the royal send-off afforded the likes of national heroes. Flags would be at half-staff, and the country would mourn together. But just because his work wasn’t as widely known, doesn’t mean it was less valuable or important. He was a humble man whose lifetime of integrity makes him a hero in my eyes. People like John, no matter what their age, always leave us too soon.

So, fare you well John. you will be sorely missed. Your name will be on our lips, and your memory in our hearts, for a very long time.
Among the multitudes of devoted plant and flower enthusiasts who have followed the Botanical Trail, one of the most passionate with an extraordinary exploratory zeal was John Muir. Those acquainted with natural history generally know how Muir migrated from Scotland to America in 1849 and farmed with his father in Wisconsin until he was 21. There he discovered the wonder of plant life which changed his life.

Muir’s interest went beyond the ordinary to a spiritual-like level that carried him to extreme realms of physical hardship. It was “A sublime indifference to physical comfort, that ‘Nirvana of passivity,’ that Muir had found.”

Much of this reflection on Muir’s passion for plants is told in the book, “Nature’s Beloved Son,” by Bonnie J. Gisel, with unusual photographs of plant specimens that Muir had collected.

Life as we know it, would not exist without the 260,000 species of angiosperm plants, and they have transformed the world, as they transformed Muir, and as they transform many plant devotees like the Native Plant followers.

Jepson said, “Muir was many things: a geologist, a geographer, and a zoologist, but he liked best to be thought of as a botanist.” Although Muir never lost sight of his own special studies in nature, “they had been,” he thought, “seriously interrupted by the time required in the many battles necessary to maintain and extend the [park] reservations against the spoilers, who, with the cunning and industry of the Devil, kept up endless war around their boundaries.”

Somehow Muir found an exceptional something inspiring in plants, a glimpse of divine nature, of life expanding, and a sense of peace and wonder that lingered throughout his lifetime and longer. Not just a blossom lover, he had a special fondness for ferns and pressed them in books, and thought they and mosses to be the most interesting of all the natural orders.

Any reader of Muir will remember his experience with the orchid *Calypso borealis* in a Canadian swamp. “...It seemed the most spiritual of all the flower people I had ever met–it was growing not in the ground but in a bed of yellow moss. It sprung from a small white bud, imbedded in the moss, and it had only one leaf and one white flower. I sat down opposite it and cried for joy...How long I sat there I don’t know, but hunger and weariness vanished, and only after the sun was low in the west did I splash on through the swamp...”

Another time in Yosemite in 1871, he said when he discovered a new plant, he sat down beside it for a minute or a day, to make its acquaintance and hear what it had to say. He often felt “like stopping to speak to the plants and animals as fellow mountaineers...The plant people seemed glad, as if rejoicing with me, and even the traveled boulders seemed to know what I had been about and the depth of my joy, as if they could read faces.”

Such unusual deep feeling and effort is difficult to explain, even though there have been many devoted botanical enthusiasts. It is as if a bolt of realization from nature had struck Muir and revealed a spiritual plain of understanding where few tread...a calling out of “I have seen the light...and the light is beautiful...and hitched to everything in the Universe.”

“Going to the woods is going home.” –John Muir
Nominations are open for the 2010 Elected Officers of the Mount Lassen Chapter. The slate will be presented at the October 1, 2009 General Meeting and the election will be held at the November 5, 2009 General Meeting.

The Elected Officers terms are for one year and two consecutive terms are allowed. The Treasurer is allowed four consecutive terms.

The following Officers are termed out. A big Thank You to them for serving so long.

- Secretary: Woody Elliott
- Treasurer: Marjorie McNairn
- Member-at-Large: Susan Bazell

Now we need to nominate their replacements.

Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee for more information and/or to make a nomination: Woody Elliott, Gerry Ingco, and Suellen Rowlison.

**OPEN CHAIRS**

Chairs are by appointment. If you are interested, talk to a Board Member, or the current Chair to be on certain committees.

- Conservation Co-chair
- Legislation
- Rare Plants

Anyone wishing to attend monthly board meetings and serve on committees is most welcome.

**NEW MEMBERS**

- Mary Binkert  Chico
- Margo Lund  Chico
- Jim & Mary Craig  Chester

**REINSTATED**

- Jennifer Jewell  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

More information can be found on the application on the last page of this newsletter.
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:
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER CNPS
P. O. BOX 3212
CHICO, CA 95927-3212

www.cnps.org. \[FREE HAT! til Sept 30\]  

Pipevine

CSUC Eco Reserves

Calendar

September
27 - Cold Boiling Lake

October
1 - General Meeting
3 - Natives Workshop
4 - Deer Creek Hike
11 - Yellow Creek
14 - Pipevine Deadline
18 - 10 Mile House Hike
20 - CSUC Tree Tour
21 - Board Meeting
25 - Feather Falls

November
5 - General Meet / Election
11 - Pipevine Deadline
18 - Board Meeting