In a North State Garden

...what’s behind the program

Presented by JENNIFER JEWELL

Jennifer has been a garden writer for regional, national and international audiences for the past 12 years. She developed the concept for her multi-media, weekly gardening programming in response to wanting her work to focus on the real hands-on gardeners she most enjoyed meeting and talking with as opposed to just those that fit on the pages of big glossy home & garden magazines.

In production since January of 2008, In a North State Garden is a dynamic, all-audiences program celebrating and promoting the art, craft and science of home gardening in California’s North State region. The program is an educational outreach program of the Gateway Science Museum on the campus of CSU, Chico and co-produced by Northstate Public Radio.

Jennifer lives and gardens along Chico Creek and Upper Bidwell Park in Chico with her husband and their two daughters, two dogs, one cat and more gophers than they care to acknowledge. The whole family (not including gophers) enjoys camping, hiking, fly-fishing, skiing and living in Northern California.

Our program will describe the evolution and development of her weekly program, her personal philosophy on the importance of gardening as well as gardening with natives, and the evolution of this year’s calendars and cards and their theme of Natives in the North State Garden. She will discuss this year’s contributors, the process of choosing the featured plants and the development of the regional habitat maps.
Field Trips

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 the affects of the recent forest fire. For information or alternate meeting place call Woody Elliott, 530-342-6053.

UPPER BUTTE CREEK FLUME
FALL COLORS
November 1
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy32/99) 9 am or at the junction of Doe Mill and Powellton Rds, just beyond DeSablo Reservoir and the Skyway, at 9:45 am. Bring lunch and water. We will hike down from Powellton Rd to the flume and then along the ditchbank and over narrow flume walkways 2-1/2 miles to Clear Creek Falls for lunch. We will pass through a spectacular, half-acre stand of chain ferns and enjoy red dogwood, yellow maples and shiny, darkgreen nutmegs along the way. Leader: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293.

TREE TOURS OF CSUC CAMPUS AND BIDWELL MANSION
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 will see a different group of 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 species, some planted by Bidwell in 1870 and others dating back to the founding of CSUC: bunya bunya from Australia, monkeypuzzle from Chile, dawn redwood from China, cockspur coral from Brazil and others. Information about garden trees 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.

MAIDU PLANTS WALK
UPPER BIDWELL PARK
November 7
Saturday
Meet at Parking Area E (Horseshoe Lake) in Upper Bidwell Park at 9:30 am for a one-mile hike to see about 30 plants that the local Indians used in their medicine, food and crafts. Soap plant for glue and brushes, blue elderberry for flutes and clackers, bay laurel for headache and food, manzanita for cider and smoking, and many more. Leader: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293.

OLD PLANT INTRODUCTION STATION TREE WALK
November 22
Sunday
Meet at the Mendocino Genetic Resource Center at 9:30 am (from Skyway drive south on Dominic Drive to Morrow Lane, left to Kramer Lane, south to parking by gate). Established in 1904, woody plants from all over the world were planted here by the USDA to test their use in medicine, agriculture and forestry; many still survive. Expect to see lacebark pine, Shantuong maple, mourning cypress, Chinese wingnut, giant bamboo, several species of pistachio, and many others. Leaders: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123.
President’s Message
by Janna Lathrop
Chapter President

Fall has arrived. Even though September 21st marked the official change of season, it just doesn’t seem so until early October when the night hours come sooner and, at last, there is a distinctive nip in the early morning air. The first rains came full force. The soaking we received was much appreciated and I hope shortens this year’s fire season.

The recent storm also highlights the stress the drought has affected area landscape trees, with many sporting snapped limbs or trunks. Sadly, I could hear more than one tree shed a limb or crashing in Bidwell Park. However, this creates an opening in the tree canopy for new growth to occur. While I attended a debris filled storm drain, I could not help but admire nearby California poppies already sporting two to three inches of ruffly gray-green foliage; the next cycle of flowering already in motion.

Our recent workshop “Gardening with Drought Tolerant Natives”, so ably organized by Paula Shapiro, MLC horticulture chair (and not even one “techno-glitch”), gave much incentive, inspiration and information to plant with natives and heed the mantra, plant them in the autumn. Our entertaining and knowledgeable speakers Bernadette Balics, Jim Dempsey, John Whittlesey and Paula Shapiro offered a cornucopia of information to the enthusiastic band of gardener attendees.

The Annie B’s Community Drive ended on September 30th. I would like to thank everyone that sent in donations to benefit our chapter.

Janna Lathrop at 2008 Harvest Festival
Photo by Woody Elliott

Executive Board Meeting
November 18, 2009
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Suellen Rowlison, Chico
email for directions suellen@garlic.com

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

SCORE: TWO OUT OF EIGHT

Of the 8 bills CNPS actively supported during the 2009 session of the California Legislature only 2 were enacted into law. Those 2, AB 1061 and SB 215, will become effective on January 1, 2010. Needless to say, in view of the State’s financial crisis, the bills did not call for the expenditure of state funds.

AB 1061 will be helpful to the CNPS program of encouraging use of water-saving native plants in landscaping. The new law provides that a provision of any governing document of a common interest development (property owners’ association, etc.) shall be void and unenforceable if it prohibits the use of low water-using plants as a group or restricts compliance with a local water conservation ordinance.

SB 215 requires local agency formation commissions (they approve new towns and districts, etc.) to consider applicable transportation plans as well as city and county general plans in reviewing proposals. This will assist in determining total impact on the environment.

Unfortunately Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 505, a CNPS supported bill. It would have required the State Office of Planning and Research to include fire hazard planning in its information and technical advice to local governments. The added cost to the State Office of Planning and Research probably led to the veto of this seemingly good bill.

AB 1066 was opposed by CNPS but was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. It amends the Forest Practice Act of 1973 by permitting, under specified conditions, a maximum of 4 one-year extensions to timber harvesting plans which have been commenced but not completed. This is of concern to environmentalists because extending the period increases the risk that listed species will be discovered in the logging area subsequent to the original approval of the plan and that significant physical changes in the area may have occurred.

The regular session of the 2009 Legislature has ended but Governor Schwarzenegger has called a special session to consider the State’s water problems.

© Peg Glendening-Carroll 1998

The Pipevine November 2009 3.
The Nominations Committee presented the slate of 2010 officers at the October 1, 2009 General Meeting. The election will be held at the November 5, 2009 General Meeting. Members should attend and vote.

President: Janna Lathrop
Vice President: Hal Mackey
Secretary: Billie Bresnaham
Treasurer: Susan Bazell
Members-at-Large:
   Cindy Weiner
   Phyllis Lindley
   Gerry Ingco
   Nancy Schleiger

Thank You Nominating Committee
Woody Elliott, Gerry Ingco, and Suellen Rowison

Yahi Trail NEWS
by Elizabeth Tice

Surprise!!
The Yahi Trail is back in the Pipevine news!

After a very long gap in our maintenance routine, the cooler weather brings us the opportunity to “get back out there” and do something useful. Even the park department wants to pitch in and help stop the erosion problems. On October 28th and 29th the Chico Park Department will have a crew on site to work on the Yahi Trail. We need to meet with them at 9 am at Parking Lot E (that’s the one near Horseshoe Lake). That’s a Wednesday and Thursday so I expect only underemployed people will be available. Those that can make it, please dress appropriately. Tools will be provided but if you have a favorite pair of gloves, you might wear those. Drizzle may not stop us but heavy rain will definitely cancel this event.

For those of you who are anxious to volunteer but cannot manage the dates above, please call me for alternate possibilities. There is plenty of work to do – even if you can only spare a few hours, your contribution can make a difference. We can match tasks with any physical limitations – just pick up the phone and VOLUNTEER!! DON’T WAIT!! MORE RAIN IS COMING!

THANKS! Elizabeth 530-345-5787

Gardening with Drought Tolerant Natives

Pity to those who missed the Gardening with Drought Tolerant Natives Workshop on October 3. What an information packed event! The morning started with an enthusiastic introduction by our president, Janna Lathrop. Paula Shapiro gave an interesting overview of the history of the native plant industry, as well as information about the adaptations of drought tolerant plants and the benefits of planting them. One thing she stressed is that by planting natives in your garden, you create a bridge to natural open areas for native insects and wildlife. This will help with the survival of both plants and animals.

Bernadette Balics traveled from Davis to present an effervescent talk on sustainable landscape design. She was a wealth of information and good humor. In a nutshell, her message was to use what you have on hand (including whatever soil type you have) with minimal additions (low water use) into a landscape that blends into the natural areas around you.

After lunch we heard from Jim Dempsey about the use of native grasses for lawn and ornamental use. He had many pictures of grasses in bloom, so you could see how they would work as ornamentals. He even brought live specimens to show.

John Whittlesey presented a very informative talk on irrigation for drought tolerant plants illustrated by pictures of some very impressive landscape designs he’s been working on. One of the many important pieces of information he shared was to leave your feeder tubes long enough so you can spread them out as the plant grows (thus keeping water off the crown and onto the newest part of the roots).

Although attendance was not excellent, the presentations were. Those in attendance, (about 25) expressed great satisfaction with the workshop. So the question is: shall we do it again?

Many thanks to those who made presentations and to Janna for bringing all the goodies, to Phyllis for handling registration, to Susan for womaning the book sales table, and to Woody for invaluable technical support. Thank you also to those I have failed to remember. In conclusion, the workshop was hugely informative and a lot of fun.
Field Trip
PHOTOS

Thanks Wes and Gerry

Top - Gerry reports “In the Chico Forest Service Genetic Resource Center, this mushroom just breaking through the grounds might be the Shaggy Parasol, *Macrolepiota rhacodes*. This was in Nov 2008. They will be taking another walk on Nov 22, 2009.

Middle - At the Chico Forest Service Genetic Resource Center, Wes Dempsey holds a bouquet of tasty Honey Mushrooms, *Armillariella mellea*. Nov 2008

Bottom - Wes Dempsey lecturing to an attentive group on a CSUC Campus Tree Tour on last Nov 2008. Check out this year’s tour schedule on page 2.

All photos by Gerry Ingco
Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) is starting their 8th season of eradicating invasive bladder senna (Colutea arborescens) in Bidwell Park. According to CalFlora, this plant species has been found in only a few sites in California. In the late 1890s, one bladder senna shrub was planted at the Experimental Forestry Station near Cedar Grove. By 2003, from this single planting, bladder senna had spread to more than 70 location in the park, primarily due to park users picking the seed pods and popping them as they walked along. In several locations, the shrubs had become so dense that they formed a monoculture, presenting security and potential fire hazard problems. Because it has little habitat or food value for wildlife, there was nothing to control the spread of these plants. FOBP began an eradication program in May 2003 and so far, volunteers have removed about 1 million shrubs and seedlings.

As usual, the symposium was full of useful information about new tools and techniques, plant research, stories about communities organizing to remove invasive plants (or not getting it together and the consequences of their inaction), mapping, poster sessions, weed alerts, and much more. A couple of new tools were particularly interesting—using paintball gun technology to deliver herbicide pellets to otherwise unreachable weeds and the use of mobile phones to map weed infestations via their GPS and photo capabilities. Research projects included a poster that documented hybridization (confirmed at the DNA level) between French broom and the supposedly sterile “sweet broom” now being sold in nurseries and a presentation about how seeds being grown for restoration projects may be focusing on the wrong plant characteristics (for seed production instead of the large root systems that are needed to compete with weeds).

The Symposium proceedings will soon be available on the Cal-IPC web site (www.cal-ipc.org). This web site provides a wealth of information about invasive plants as well as links to virtually every other major weed web site. You can even sign up for a CalWeedTalk or restoration-related CalWeedJobs listserv.

BLADDER SENNA Eradication Project Enters Its 8th Year

Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) is starting their 8th season of eradicating invasive bladder senna (Colutea arborescens) in Bidwell Park. According to CalFlora, this plant species has been found in only a few sites in California. In the late 1890s, one bladder senna shrub was planted at the Experimental Forestry Station near Cedar Grove. By 2003, from this single planting, bladder senna had spread to more than 70 location in the park, primarily due to park users picking the seed pods and popping them as they walked along. In several locations, the shrubs had become so dense that they formed a monoculture, presenting security and potential fire hazard problems. Because it has little habitat or food value for wildlife, there was nothing to control the spread of these plants. FOBP began an eradication program in May 2003 and so far, volunteers have removed about 1 million shrubs and seedlings.

A mature 20’ shrub can annually produce 1,000 seed pods, each with 16-20 seeds. Since we continue to find new seedlings, we know the seed is viable for 8 years and believe the viability is at least 25 years. We’ve eliminated (we hope) all of the plants mature enough to produce seeds so, over time, we will be able to eradicate this invasive plant entirely from Bidwell Park. Currently, we’re spending about 120 hours a year monitoring the areas where we’ve found plants and removing new seedlings and newly discovered larger plants. In the vegetation management section of the FOBP web site, http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/invasiveplant.html, you can see a Google map of known infestation sites between One Mile and Five Mile.

If you’d like to help with this eradication project, we’ve scheduled removal sessions for the second Sunday of each month from November through March, 9 am to noon, at Cedar Grove, which is the epicenter of the largest infestation area. We’ll also have unscheduled excursions to survey the rest of the known sites and pull any plants that we find. Call Susan at 892-1666 for more information.
PLANT SALE
Saturday November 7, 2009 9 am -1 pm
NATIVE and DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT SALE
under the “old Oak Tree” in the Sacramento River Discovery Center Discovery Garden, 1000 Sale Lane, Red Bluff
Red Bluff High Interns propagated
one gallon plants for only $5 each.
Information 530-527-1196
website www.srdc.tehama.k12.ca.us.

CEANOTHUS
California Field Botanists Association
A plant keying session is planned for October 23, 12 - 3, at the Chico State Herbarium, by a group of northern California botanists calling themselves “Ceanothus California Field Botanists Association.” RSVP is encouraged. For more details go to www.ceanothus.org. Note: they are not only keying the genus Ceanothus! Other keying sessions scheduled by Ceanothus: Oct. 24, Saturday, in Davis.

Since 2007 the Ceanothus California Field Botanists Association has been sponsoring plant identification workshops at various locations in northern California. “We are an association of professional, hobby, and student field botanists interested in educating each other to KEEP BOTANY ALIVE! Our desire is to create a supportive environment to learn botany identification skills from one another and to share our knowledge of plants and plant communities. They meet regularly in the Sierra foothills, Sacramento, and Chico, California, regions to practice keying out plants using The Jepson Manual and other plant identification resources.

CALL FOR POSTERS
Northern California Botanists would like you to consider submitting a poster for display at the poster session during their 2010 Annual Symposium. Be part of the third annual symposium offered by Northern California Botanists, linking the worlds of applied and academic botany, by submitting highlights of your work at the poster session.

DUE DATE EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 1, 2009
To see the CALL FOR POSTERS and other information about the poster session, please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/symposium2010_call-for-posters.htm

Northern California Botanists
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
SAVE THE DATE
JANUARY 11-13, 2010
Details are being finalized, but you can see the draft schedule at: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/symposium2010.htm. This schedule will be updated on a regular basis until complete. For more information about Northern California Botanists please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/index.htm

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Friends of
The Chico State Herbarium
ANNUAL MEETING
November 7, 2009
Holt Hall Room 129  CSU, Chico
Reception at 3
Meeting at 4
THE NEW MANUAL OF CALIFORNIA VEGETATION AND WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU
BY TODD KEELER-WOLF
California Dept of Fish & Game
http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/friends/annual-meeting-2009.html
EVERYONE IS INVITED - PLEASE JOIN US

THE PIPEVINE
November 2009
The season of autumn and November is nigh, and though we fondly remember the flamboyant colors of spring wildflowers and summer’s green and gold, there is an equally stirring sight of deciduous leaves fading out and flaming red and yellow in their fall.

Leaf light springs to life in October and November, as if giving a final flare of energy before the winter sleep. Color bursts forth grandly before a withering frost shakes down the last fragments until the dank days of gray finally dominate. Robert Frost spoke of “the same leaves, going down, over and over again, into the dark decayed...and being pierced by flowers and put beneath the feet of dancing flowers...” Call it a sleep, but it is also a habit etched in the genes, for in Butte County’s relatively mild winters, some introduced species could retain their leaves like live oaks and eucalyptus do.

Look at most of our deciduous native trees and especially introduced trees from eastern America. They take a rest after the arduous growth during the bright sunshine months when chlorophyl factories were in high production. The transferred pin oaks, red oaks, silver maples, sugar maples, sweet gums, and tulip trees from the Midwest are most noticeable in our local city landscapes, holding on to their ancestral descension way of life. In the eastern icy winters, the tender leaf must desert the twigs and pad the forest floor. The overseas transplants - the pistache, gingko, and crew - add their foreign flavor to the mosaic masterpiece fluttering down to lie flat on the ground. Some sophisticated chemistry is involved in autumn color.

Our Butte native plant community retains the greenery of toyon, conifers, and manzanita in addition to live oaks, but many leaves fall to fit the Earth like Robert Frost’s leather glove, “to make one texture of faded brown.” Cottonwood, alder, maple, willow, and various oak leaves go down amid resilient splendor, producing enough color to call it autumn, locally peaking in early November. The California buckeye retreats even sooner, turning brown and reverting to the conservation mode when the summer sun simmers, but diverting sufficient sap-flow to finalize the seed balls. They hang like ornaments on a Christmas tree until the first rains open the pods releasing the beautiful slick tan seeds...lovely to look at, but don’t eat.

Autumn is not devoid of flower color though, since the brilliant red California fuschia reigns among the river rocks well into November. It is the time for asters to also put on a flowery show, especially along the Feather River, where the ragged stem-thickets suddenly burst into lavender composite faces like sunset clouds flaring up in a final burst of glory.

Meanwhile, the grasses are revived by rains and bring forth their carpet of green, emerging from “the impregnable fortress of subterranean vitality,” as John Ingalls had penned, but in his land that had meant grass growing in springtime. Snowdrifts and icy weather is not conducive to things of green, except for the conifers. How fortunate we are in the Butte foothills to see a variety of plant color and activity throughout the year!

Henry David Thoreau wrote about asters in Sept 1856:

“You thought Nature had about wound up her affairs; you had seen what she could do this year, and had not noticed the tattered weeds by the wayside; you thought you knew every twig and leaf and nothing more was to be looked for there; and now to your surprise, the ditches are crowded with millions of little [flowering] stars.”

Big leaf maple on Butte Creek BLM Trail, Nov 20 2008
Photo by Gerry Ingco
**Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK**

Come join the City of Chico’s Park Division Volunteers. For more information, contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, or check webcalendar at: http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/volunteer_calendar.asp

**November 3, 10, and 17 – 1:30 - 4:30 pm**

**VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS IN THE PARK**

Area past Caper Acres & the Sycamore Restoration site.

Volunteers meet north of Caper Acres on the paved bike path, then walk toward Hwy 99 and worksite is on the left about 1/4 mile before the Hwy. Volunteers will remove invasive plants, and remove litter. If you arrive late, call 624-3982 for worksite location.

**November 5, 12 and 19 – 9 am - noon**

**VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK**

One Mile Recreation Area

Volunteers will remove invasive weeds from around the One Mile Recreation Area, weed around baby oak trees and more. Meet at the Sycamore baseball field parking lot between the baseball field and group picnic site.

**November 7, 14, and 21 – 1:30 - 4:30 pm**

**TRAIL DAY IN UPPER PARK**

Meet at Upper Park Parking Lot C (Chico Observatory)

Volunteers will work with park trail crew on repair and maintenance of the Middle and Maidu Trails. Wear closed-toed shoes and bring a water container. For more information, contact Lise Smith-Peters. Rain cancels. Trail work not suggested for children under 12.

**November 8 – 9 am - noon**

**INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL IN CEDAR GROVE**

Friends of Bidwell Park is in their 8th year of eradicating invasive bladder senna plants from the park. (see article on page 6.) Tools, gloves, and water provided. Wear closed toed shoes and long pants. We’ll be moving around so if you come late, call 321-3406 for directions to work site. Rain cancels.

**November 14 and 21 – 9 am - noon**

**SATURDAYS IN THE PARK**

Volunteers will remove European hackberry trees in the area between picnic sites 24 and 25 on the north side of Big Chico Creek in Lower Bidwell Park. If driving, worksite access is through the Madrone Avenue pedestrian entrance way on Vallombrosa Ave (park car on Vallombrosa) then walk across pedestrian bridge and turn left on Petersen Drive (the paved road) and go about 500 feet. If you need directions, call cell # 624-3982.

**Wanted for The Pipevine**

I am always eager to print your native plant photos or drawings in this newsletter. Don’t be afraid if they are in color. I can help make them look good in black and white. Please email to me at dsrdevine@hotmail.com or if you have questions. Thanks, Denise Devine, Editor.