General Meeting
April 7, 2010
Wednesday  7:30 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

Islands in the Lifestream
Uncommon species, Unlikely places

Presented by GEORGE W. HARTWELL

Some plants have a way of growing where we’d least expect to find them; or, in unique forms with limited occurrence. Photographer George Hartwell takes us on a visual tour of some of northern California’s most interesting plant species and the environs in which they survive, asking the eternal question: “Why are they here?”

George W. Hartwell retired from the California Highway Patrol in 2002 where he was employed as a civilian public information officer. His career spanned 25-plus years as a news reporter across multiple media with assignments that included California Capitol correspondent for KXTV, Ch. 10, Sacramento. George also managed the Bahamas government news bureau and coordinated the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism recreation and aviation marketing programs in Nassau, N.P. He’s an amateur botanist and photographer whose hobbies morphed into an obsession that persists to this day.

Smelowskia ovalis var. congesta (detail)
LVNP Mt. Lassen Trail  elev. + 10200’ 07-24-2009
Tree Tours of CSU, Chico Campus and Bidwell Mansion
April 9
Fridays
Meet at 10 am in the parking lot in front of the Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park for a 1 1/2 hour tour of about 30 of the trees in the CSU,C-Mansion arboretum. Other tours will follow at two-week intervals and will cover over 100 of the woody plants. This is the best collection north of UC Davis and Capitol Park in Sacramento. Saucer magnolia should be in bloom. See monkey puzzle (Chile), dawn redwood (China), cockspur coral (Brazil), and other interesting specimens. Bring you own specimens for ID; information about diseases, planting, or pruning will be given. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 342-2293.

Chaffin Family Farms and Table Mountain
April 10
Saturday
Meet at the Chico Park & Ride’s west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 12:45 pm and motor to the Chaffin Family Farm and Orchards. We will tour a diversified family farm located at the base of, and upon, Table Mountain. The farm serves local customers with a wide variety of orchard grown products and meats from humanely raised grass fed beef, lamb and goats. Poultry products are produced from pasture raised birds. Farm owners boast of sustainable farming and ranching methods. Guardian dogs are an interesting feature of the ranch operation. These are large dogs that have been bred for centuries to protect livestock. Guardian puppies are bonded to either sheep or goats by raising them with the animals. We will take a guided driving tour of the animal rearing facilities and the farm’s extensive orchards. The tour will end on Chaffin’s pastureland on southern Table Mountain where we should see a great display of wildflowers. Leader: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

Propylite Hills in the Sutter Buttes
April 17
Saturday
All openings are filled, a standby list is being maintained
Prepayment is now being accepted from those who registered on March 3 or confirmed with Gerry.
Please send $15 / person to
Gerry Ingco, 41 Pepperwood Dr, Chico, CA 95973
Meet at the Chico Park & Ride’s west Lot (Hwy 99/32) at 7:30 am. This 5-mile hike transects decomposed volcanic rock called “Propylite” that forms rounded hills. With an 800-foot elevation gain, the excursion at a slow pace to relish a wide-variety of views. Witness rugged peaks and bucolic valleys; unencumbered vistas of the northern Sacramento Valley and magnificent Bragg’s Canyon. The Propylite Hills are known for their showy wildflower display With the promise of a wet spring, count on seeing impressive displays of Baby Blue Eyes, Cream Cups, Poppies, Popcorn Flowers, Lupine, Clarkias, Brodiaea and other foothill species. Bring lunch, water and clothing appropriate to weather conditions, and money for ride sharing.
To register for standby or info about transportation, CNPS Coordinator: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123. Info about the hike, leader Daniel Barth, 530-846-3024

Dye Creek Preserve
The Nature Conservancy
April 24
Saturday
Meet at the Chico Park & Ride’s west parking lot.(Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am. This 4-5 mile hike follows the course of Dye Creek where it passes through a pristine setting of volcanic buttes, hills and blue oak woodlands, before flowing into the Sacramento River. Expect spectacular views, spring flowers, occasional wildlife sightings, such as golden eagles and woodpeckers. Explore a cave believed to have been occupied by Ishi, the last survivor of the Yahi Indian Tribe. A good level of fitness and ability is required to finish the hike. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring a lunch, water, sun and insect protection. Take enough money for ride sharing. Leader: Woody Elliott at 530-342-6053
Executive Board Meeting
April 21, 2010
Wednesday 7:00 pm
CINDY WEINER’S HOME
342-7645
wildflowermaven@comcast.net

President’s Message
by Janna Lathrop
Chapter President

As native plant enthusiasts and gardeners we “know” that autumn is the best time to plant native plants. Yet as the days warm, new growth sprouts and buds bloom; the spring weather means gardening. For ideas and inspiration on native gardening I invite you to visit the CNPS website at www.cnps.org and peruse the GROWING NATIVE program. The program has been designed to provide technical support for the home gardener, landscape designer and nursery owners. There are links to starting a native garden, habitat gardening, native plant lists, and lawn replacement ideas to name just a few.

Our second NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR is just around the corner on April 25th. Another few weeks of warmer temperatures should find many of the gardens at their peak. We are excited to be able to offer not only gardens in Chico, but also in Paradise and Durham. We are most appreciative of the Native Plant Garden Tour participants who are sharing their gardens with us.

Chair positions still vacant. We are still looking to fill open chair positions for Conservation, Rare Plants and Legislation. The three positions are separate, yet do interlink with one another on many levels. Conservation chair would advocate land management practices that help preserve native plants species on both public and private lands. Legislation chair follows items in legislation that relates to plant conservation issues either on statewide or regional levels. Rare Plants chair would be an advocate to area rare plants. These openings do not require a certain level of expertise to serve as chair, but can certainly be tailored to your areas of interest.

LEGALISATIVE NOTES
by David Anderson

THE FORGOTTEN PLANTS

We Americans concerned about endangered flora and ecosystems need to give more attention to the threats posed by pollution of the high seas. More than 71% of the earth’s surface is covered by oceans which are rich in simple, non-vascular, plant life such as algae. The primitive ocean plants are lacking in the charisma and aesthetic appeal of terrestrial flowers and trees, but, they contain chlorophyll, and through photosynthesis remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen. In this respect they are a major factor in controlling global warming resulting from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Long continued trashing of the high seas has created threats to many of the ocean plants, and we Americans need to encourage our government to support the only international organization that can take action to protect them – the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (better known merely as the “Law of the Sea Treaty”).

The Law of the Sea Treaty is the result of decades of negotiations involving more than 150 countries. Negotiations were concluded in 1982 and by 1994 the treaty had been ratified by 60 countries and became effective. To date all the industrialized countries in the world, except the United States, have ratified it. President Bill Clinton signed the treaty in 1994 and urged Senate ratification. In 2007 President George W. Bush asked the Senate to ratify it. President Obama has said that he supports the treaty. Thus far the treaty has never been put to a vote by the Senate because proponents have feared they could not muster the 2/3rds vote required for ratification of treaties.

The Law of the Sea Treaty is very comprehensive and covers, among other things, shipping lanes, national rights in coastal waters, fishing, offshore mining, exploration for gas and oil and controlling ocean pollution. It sets up an international tribunal to resolve disputes. The treaty has been opposed by conservative U.S. Senators who believed it could impinge on U.S. sovereignty and commercial interests. Conservative President Bush did not agree. Anyway, from an environmental standpoint, the treaty is all to the good. If you want more information on the treaty, Google Law of the Sea Treaty and click on the United Nations website. You will get both an overview and the full text.

Let’s ask President Obama and our California Senators to push for approval!

RENEW ONLINE

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card
It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces mailing costs.
www.cnps.org
Click on the JOIN button
The CNPS (state-level) Education and Conservation Program Directors have initiated a new project. It sounds like great fun while performing a valuable service in relocating lost rare plants. Throughout the state there have been many rare plants that haven’t been seen for 20 years, some for more than 50 years. What has become of them? This new project aims to find out. A local botanist will be paired up with some enthusiastic amateurs to search for the lost ones.

We have some great botanists in our chapter and in our area who have the expertise to lead such a search. The plants, if relocated, will be recorded with the help of GPS, and a special reporting form of the California Natural Diversity Database. This is also a contest to see which chapters will find the most “treasure” in their area. There will be prizes awarded!

At the next general meeting I will pass around a sign-up sheet for those who would like to participate in this important and fun project. If you can’t wait until the next meeting you can e-mail me with your contact information so we can match you up with a botanist, or with some helpers if you are a botanist. cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net.

CNPS PLANT SCIENCE
Training Program

CNPS Plant Science Training Program presents two vernal pool workshops in Davis Sacramento/San JoaquinValley vernal pool terrain.

April 12-14
VERNAL POOL PLANT TAXONOMY
Carol Witham, Nick Jensen, & Dr. Robert Preston
Three-day lab and field studies of the taxonomy of vernal pool plants, focus on difficult genera.

LOCATIONS: herbarium at UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity and vernal pools in Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties: Jepson Prairie, Tule Ranch, Rancho Seco, and Howard Ranch
COST: CNPS members: $395; non-members : $420
REG: http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php
REDUCED FEES: One or more spaces are available for students and low income participants through Work Exchange Program (http://cnps.org/cnps/education/).

EXPECT TO ACQUIRE a higher level of knowledge and confidence in identifying vernal pool plants in the lab and field. Gain field identification skills to be efficient and effective at vernal pool vegetation assessments, floristic surveys and rare plant surveys.

April 15-16
CLASSIFICATION OF
VERNAL POOL PLANT COMMUNITIES
Dr Michael Barbour & Dr Ayzik Solomeshch
http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php
This is an intensive and pragmatic course on plant community identification, sampling design, and ecology. Reviews general plant community attributes and relationships between vernal pool community classification and rare species occurrence, conservation, restoration, and vegetation mapping. Experience with vernal pool plants is recommended.

LOCATIONS: Yolo Bypass Visitors Center, Davis, field sites at Glide Tule Ranch and Mather Field
COST: CNPS members $320; non- members $345
REG: http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php
REDUCED FEES: One or more spaces are available for students and low income participants through Work Exchange Program (http://cnps.org/cnps/education/).

EXPECT TO LEARN: How and when to quantitatively sample vernal pool vegetation. How to use vegetation data to define community types. How to key out and name community types at several hierarchical levels. The geographic range of each community type. Which environmental factors correspond with each community type. Which rare plants are likely to be associated with each community type. How classification can improve conservation and restoration activities.
Native Plant
Garden Tour

Visit home gardens, public gardens, and nurseries with native plant interpreters at each site, and see how native plants are used.

Tickets available after April 1, 2010
MENDON’S NURSERY  877-7341
FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY  892-2511
LITTLE RED HEN NURSERY  891-9100
LYON BOOKS  891-3338
PLANT BARN AND GIFTS  345-3121

April 25, 2010
10 am - 4 pm

Donation $8
Children free with adult

Information 530-893-2886

by Cindy Weiner, Publicity Chair

Planning for our April 25th 2010 Native Plant Garden Tour is well underway. We’ve lined up a variety of home and public gardens and native plant nurseries. The Tour has many associated benefits. It’s a major fundraiser for the Mount Lassen Chapter, but it’s also an opportunity for educational outreach to the community.

Using native plants can reduce water needed for irrigation and can also provide habitat that is attractive to local animals, especially birds. Interpreters will be available at each site so tour visitors can learn how to incorporate and care for native plants in home gardens. Plus everyone loves to see other people’s gardens!

Catie Bishop has asked for volunteers at the last two general meetings. If you haven’t already done so, please contact her or sign up at the next general meeting. We’ll need lots of help on the day of the tour; you can volunteer for the whole day or for a shorter period. Please tell your friends about the tour; it’s a great and inexpensive way to spend a Sunday. Tickets are just $8 for adults; children are free with an adult. Tickets are available after April 1 at Mendon’s Nursery (Paradise), Floral Native Nursery, Lyon Books, Plant Barn and Gifts, and Little Red Hen Nursery (all in Chico) and at Chico Creek Nature Center after 10 am on the day of the tour.
The Wonder of PLANT Pursuers

by Rex Burress

Among the members of the California Native Plant Society’s Lassen Chapter, there are some extraordinary botanical enthusiasts devoted to seeking flowering plants.

The intrigue of plant beauty and the study of their complex functioning has affected untold numbers of plant pursuers, including early plant pioneers Asa Gray, David Douglas, Lester Rowntree, W. L. Jepson, P.A. Munz, and on and on. Even John Muir was entranced with plants, an inspiration that sent him sauntering all over America in pursuit of new plant and nature discoveries. Chico interpreters Vern Oswald and Wes Dempsey have added to the floral understanding for thousands.

Ere we forget...the founding of CNPS took place in Berkeley, CA, in 1965, when a group of flower devotees got together to help Garden Director Jim Roof retain his native plant arboretum in Tilden Park of the East Bay Regional Park District. “The Friends of the Botanic Garden” evolved into CNPS.

I had been hired by Paul F. Covel for his naturalist staff with the City of Oakland in 1961, and one of Paul's specialties was botany. He was involved in that Berkeley arboretum episode and became one of the “Friends,” a position that propelled him to be among the first CNPS members and guides. You can read all about that history involving EBRPD Director William Mott in Paul's book, “Beacons Along a Naturalist’s Trail.” Mott later became Director of National Parks in the Ronald Reagan era. “Prophet of the Parks, The Story of William Penn Mott” by Mary Ellen Butler tells more.

Paul’s plant passion was contagious, and he attracted a quaint squad of plant lovers, including a tall Alameda street worker, Gardiner Marshal, who put on his khakis every weekend and followed Paul on nature hikes and collecting treks to replenish the plant specimens in the Rotary Nature Center’s display rack. You can’t recognize a botanist by their looks, and Gardiner was different with his tall, strong physic, barehead, growling voice, heavy work shoes, and brown ‘uniform.’ Regardless of any public turmoil going on around him, he thought only of plants.

Another ‘trailer’ was Eddie Parker, an ‘intellectually disabled’ teen who memorized every plant species he encountered, and who recited the Lord’s Prayer in Cherokee language! Some call it genius.

Gardiner was self-taught and a book fiend, collecting nature books by the stacks, and was thoroughly familiar with local plants. Ironically, he died when a stack of books fell on him!

I tell these tales to emphasize the value many people place on plants. Although I had some knowledge of Missouri plants before going west, Paul’s guidance rubbed off on me and helped in understanding the CA flora, along with the rest of the connected natural history.

You will find the CNPS-type out searching in great expectations of finding resurrected wildflowers this spring, renewing that love of fragile beauty living in cellular tissue. Through repetition comes familiarity, and eventually a growing botanical vocabulary. Some would say that an understanding of habitat interrelationships is more important than names, but it is by names that we can feel more friendly and informed toward our wildlife neighbors.

The month of April is here, and we can go afield with our field guides, or toddle along behind guide leaders, and learn about a few new flower friends, memorize a few names, become entranced by outdoor beauty and the freshness that a new spring brings. We can do it on Table Mountain, gazing at the goldfields, prowling the poppies, waiting for the *Lewisia* to levitate, musing on the monkeyflowers, and search for any of the other nearly 300 species on the mesa.

Some of that spring flower show is happening all over California, and you can plug-into-plants on the Mojave Desert, too, if you can strike the bloom when conditions are right. You can extend your quest and track down some 2,000 species in Butte County... or the nearly 300,000 angiosperms on Earth! (Or the one million interrelated insects!)

*Spring unlocks flowers to paint the laughing soil.*

- Reginald Heber
Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK

Come join the City of Chico’s Park Division Volunteers. For more information, contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, at 530-896-7831 or via email: lspeters@ci.chico.ca.us website: http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/General_Services_Department/Park_Division/Volunteer_Program.asp

March 30 1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS IN THE PARK. Sycamore Restoration site at One Mile. Meet at north end of Caper Acres, walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path.

March 31 noon - 3 pm
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK. Meet at Sycamore Pool Bridge. Remove invasive weeds from along a trail that runs along the south side of Big Chico Creek. Park at One Mile Parking lot on the left side of S Park Dr after main gate at 4th and Pine St. Parking lot is near the horseshoe pits. If late call 530-624-3982.

April 6 & 13 1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS IN THE PARK. Annie’s Glen & Camelia Way. Remove invasive plants, weed around oak trees, and remove litter. Meet at the pedestrian bridge over Big Chico Creek (across from Morning Thunder) in the middle of Annie’s Glen (this portion begins where Orient and East 1st St intersect in downtown).

April 7 & 14 noon - 3 pm
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK. Meet at Caper Acres Parking lot. Remove invasive Japanese privets east of Caper Acres along S Park Dr. If late, call 624-3982 to get worksite. Wear long sleeves and closed shoes for poison oak.

April 21 noon - 3 pm
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK. One Mile Rec Area. Remove invasive weeds. Meet in Sycamore Field parking lot after you enter at 4th and Pine St. If late call 530-624-3982 for worksite.

April 24 10 am - 1 pm
EARTH DAY IN BIDWELL PARK. 2 locations: Upper Bidwell Park trail work and Lower Bidwell Park at Cedar Grove off E. 8th St. Projects at Nature Center, Deer Pens and Cedar Grove area. Call volunteer coordinator 530-896-7831 to register.

April 27 1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS IN THE PARK. Restoration Area between picnic #24 and 25. Remove invasive weed trees. Meet by either walking in from the Madrone pedestrian entrance (off of Vallombrosa Ave) or by driving along N. Petersen Dr in the Park. Call cell 530-624-1617 for worksite directions.

April 28 noon - 3 pm
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK. Restoration Area between picnic sites #24 and 25. Remove invasive weed trees. Meet between picnic sites 24 and 25 by either walking in from the Madrone pedestrian entrance (off of Vallombrosa Ave) to the picnic sites or by driving along N. Petersen Dr in the Park. Call cell 530-624-3982 for worksite directions.
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.

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

Calendar 2010

March
26 - CSUC Tree Tour
27 - Wildflower ID Workshop

April
7 - General Meeting
9 - CSUC Tree Tour
10 - Chaffin Farms Table Mt
17 - Sutter Buttes
21 - Board Meeting
24 - Dye Creek TNC
25 - GARDEN TOUR

May
5 - General Meeting
19 - Board Meeting