A mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity by protecting, maintaining, and restoring native species and natural communities. This slide program draws from State Parks wildland manager Jim Dempsey’s ten years of work along the Sacramento River and some of the wildland management activities. He will focus primarily on the Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area, Natural Preserve where invasive species such as edible fig and black walnut are making way for native valley oak and cottonwood riparian forest floodplain habitat.

Jim Dempsey was inspired as a child by outings with the CNPS Mount Lassen Chapter (son of our own Wes D.) to become an Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Northern Buttes District. Jim received his BS at UC Davis and MS in Forest Ecosystem Analysis at the University of Washington, and has also worked and lived in Seattle, New Zealand, Alaska, and southern Chile. He served on our Board of Directors for 2 years as Vice President and Sales Chair.
UPPER YAHI TRAIL
IN UPPER BIDWELL PARK
May 1
Saturday
Meet in Chico’s Upper Bidwell Park at 9 am in Parking Lot L (Diversion Dam) along the graveled section of the Upper Park Road. We will intercept the Yahi trail and walk 2.5 miles upstream to its end. It follows Big Chico Creek as it passes through several plant communities: valley grasslands, riparian woodland, and foothill woodland. A short section crosses over an ancient lava flow where, living on a thin soil layer, only smaller hardy plants exist. The trail ends up where the flora consists of plants associated with the surrounding timbered montane community. We will identify flowering plants seen, describe how some were used by Native Americans, and learn of the geology of the area. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and sturdy shoes. The trail is gentle but a moderate level of agility is required in order pass through “tight-spots” and muddy places. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey. 530-342-2293

DYE CREEK PRESERVE
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
April 24
Saturday
Meet at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (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

TABLE MOUNTAIN
May 16
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) at 9 am. If this year continues to be wet and rainy, the flowers will still be good. On a recent trip in early June with Lowell Ahart, we catalogued 100 species. We will cover about 3 or 4 miles. Bring lunch and water. The terrain is rocky so wear appropriate shoes. Leader: Wes Dempsey. 530-342-2293

CENTERGAP ROAD
BUTTE CREEK CANYON
May 23
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) at 9 am. This is a fireroad that goes from Centerville Road up to Doemill Road on the north ridge of the canyon and has some nice displays of bush monkeyflower, snowdrop, yerba santa and many other perennials. We will park along the way and hike up the road a mile or two. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Wes Dempsey. 530-342-2293

more Field Trips on page 5.
Executive Board Meeting

May 19, 2010
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Susan Bazell, Paradise
530-876-1475 bazell@maxinet.com

President’s Message

by Janna Lathrop
Chapter President

It is already time to think about the Mount Lassen Chapter’s next Wildflower Show and Plant Sale which is set for April 2011. The WFS is held every other year and in the past has served as our one major fundraising event. Historically, revenue generated from the biennial show supported the chapter’s budget for the next two years. Unfortunately, the proceeds from recent Wildflower Shows no longer fund our budget to that extent as it once did.

As many members are aware, each chapter of CNPS is responsible for raising its own operating capital. Monies from membership dues stay at the state level, with the exception of an annual $600 subvention that each chapter can request from state CNPS.

We have initiated other fundraising activities such as participation in last year’s Annie B’s Community Drive and Native Plant Garden Tour held in 2008 and again in 2010.

The native plant sale has always been an important aspect of the Wildflower Show. What was once nearly 100% supported by member grown plants has dropped to the extent, the plant sale is dependent on plants supplied by nursery growers of which the chapter receives a percentage of the proceeds. Now is the time to start propagating plants for future native plant sales and have member growers be more involved.

The board would like to see a steering committee form from our general membership, plant collectors, native plant growers and propagators to assess the future of the Wildflower Show and Plant Sale and its direction as a chapter event and fundraising tool. Please feel free to contact any one of the chapter board members.

Legislative Notes

by David Anderson

CNPS 2010 AGENDA

CNPS is now (April 14) opposing 5 bills and supporting 5 bills pending in the California Legislature.

Bills being OPPOSED by CNPS are:
AB 1704 - exempting certain water pipelines from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
AB 1805 and companion bill SB 1010 - preventing judicial review of decisions under the CEQA Litigation Protection Pilot Program
SB 1293 - exempting vegetative management plans from CEQA
SB 1446 - reducing requirements for permits to take endangered species

Bills being SUPPORTED by CNPS are:
AB 2351 - authorizing fees for public use of demonstration state forest facilities
AB 2575 - expanding programs to protect riparian zones in salmon watersheds
AB 2724 - authorizing fee schedules for sale of power to the state grid from renewable energy generating plants
SB 1177 - providing for a greenway zone along San Dieguito River
SB 1207 - strengthening requirements for fire hazard provisions in city and county general plans

To see the full text of bills and the Legislative Analyst’s digest go to the California Legislature website and its “bill search” link. CNPS needs your support of its legislative program. Tell your assemblyman and senator by telephone or email/mail that you support or oppose bills as noted above. Names, telephone numbers and addresses are on the Government Listings pages of your telephone book.

The identical bills, AB 1805 and SB 1010, pose a major threat to the environment. They set up the CEQA Litigation Protection Pilot Program. That program would give the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BT&H) authority to select qualified projects throughout the state each year from 2010 through 2014. The decisions of lead agencies to certify Environmental Impact Reports or Adopt Negative Declarations under CEQA concerning these projects, as well as the decisions by BT&H as to what is a qualified project, would be exempt from judicial review.

Native Plant Garden Tour

Donation $8 Children are free with adult
Tickets at Chico Creek Nature Center after 10 am on tour-day

APRIL 25, 2010 10 am - 4 pm
Visit . . .
home gardens, public gardens, and nurseries

The Pipevine May 2010
NEW MEMBERS

John & Susan Bollinger  Chico
Ruth Reible        Chico
Gail Edmundson    Oroville
Rose Mary Whitenton Oroville
Jim & Mary Johnson  Paradise
Marion Weer        Paradise

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 or use the application on last page of this newsletter

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

Welcome!

MC SETS NEW RECORD!!

Despite the many cancellations of work days on the Yahi Trail due to rainfall, our chapter has set a new record for the March/April session of 31 hours! Previous record donated hours in any 30-day period were 27 hours in June of 2007 and 30 hours in April of 2009. Thanks to our stalwart helpers: John Meehan, Ann Elliott, and Woody Elliott. Way to go volunteers!!

Pruning is a constant chore, especially this time of the year but we have also dealt with erosion issues, built rock “ducks” to help mark the Trail, and recently uprooted many broom plants. With help from the Park Department we hope to cure some perpetually “wet” areas soon.

Although Elizabeth tice, our liaison person, is only able to work on week days, anyone wishing to volunteer to work on weekends should contact her at 530-345-5787 to coordinate with like-minded individuals.

Friends of the Herbarium

WORKSHOP

SOILS, LANDFORMS, AND VEGETATION OF BIDWELL PARK
May 8, 2010
Workshop taught by Andrew Conlin

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION
May 15, 2010
Workshop taught by Judy McCrary

For registration and upcoming workshops http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB

Wildflower Conference

As one of their first Buttes District organized events, California Garden Clubs will be hosting its first Wildflower Conference at Feather Falls Casino in Butte County on April 1-3, 2011. The purpose of this three-day conference is to bring information and education about enjoying, growing and preserving native California wildflowers and their habitats to home/land owners, professional growers/designers, environmentalists, educators, municipal decision makers and the public at large.

The conference will be two fold, blending inspiration talks by well known authors and educators with technical expertise of native growers, designers, and environmentalists. We will be exploring Table Mountain for its beautiful array of wildflowers. The conference will also serve as a venue to educate members about water usage from Lake Oroville.

The Sierra Club is going to help by providing extended tours of Table Mountain, and Jayne Locust of Paradise Garden Club has agreed to provide an armchair tour. If anyone from your organization is interested in being a speaker for this event please contact Jim Hart at concowgardenclub@live.com.

GENE PHILLIPS

Long-time friend of CNPS, Gene Phillips passed away on March 28, 2010. At 95 years young he maintained his own garden and regretted no longer being able to take part in broom-bashing. He traveled extensively throughout the world, especially Africa. He enjoyed painting in oils from the photographs he took. He was always a student eager to try everything. Many charities benefited from his generosity. He was active in Oroville Humane Society and the Audubon Society. No services are planned.
UPPER NORTH FORK
FEATHER RIVER AND
CARIBOU FISHERMAN’S TRAIL
May 29
Sunday

Meet at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am. We will drive up Hwy 70 through the scenic Feather River Canyon. Midway we will visit a secluded waterfall before continuing to the Caribou Arm of the river where we will make roadside stops. We expect to see Shasta lilies, lady’s slippers, with orchids where small streams cross the road. The road ends at P.G & E’s nostalgic 1920’s town site and power house. The hike is an easy three-mile round trip along a remote section of the North Fork of the Feather River. The river is crossed twice on foot-bridges. We are hoping for a show of cascading white-water. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey. 530-342-2293

THE BIG SKY COUNTRY OF EASTERN PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
June 5
Saturday

Meet at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) at 8 am. We will drive up the Feather River Canyon on Hwy 70 and north on Hwy 89 to the historic mountain town of Taylorsville in the picturesque Indian Valley. Driving up the narrow canyon along upper Indian Creek expect to see road-side flowers amid giant granite boulders. We skirt Antelope Lake and drive up and on a broad plateau area. The meandering road then passes in and out of a number of lush flower filled mountain meadows. We will make stops to view the plants close-up. Lots of sky above the surrounding timbered ridges and peaks unite to form an unforgettable visual experience. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Leader: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

Clark’s Creek Meadow on Hwy 172 in Plumas Forest eastside Big Sky Country.
June 4, 2009. Photo by Gerry Ingco

CNPS folks on the Fisherman’s Trail’s second footbridge over the North Fork of the Feather River
May 25, 2008. Photo by Gerry Ingco
On April 10, 2010 Mount Lassen Chapter toured the diversified five generation family farm located at the base of Table Mountain. It is located in a warm air belt and has 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.

Chris Kerston, Chaffin Family Orchards manager with day old kid in the olive trees.

Right - The chickens clean the orchard floor of bugs and fertilize the ground. At night when the birds are in the Chickmobile the birds are moved to a new section of the orchard. They are contained in the orchard by the moveable fence.

Left - Here is a guardian dog watching over day old goat kids with the proud Nanny. Guardian dogs are with the goats from puppy-hood. The goats and sheep are used to control weeds in the orchards.
The last half of the trip was spent looking at flowers on Chaffin’s pasture land upon Table Mountain. We were too early this trip to see the uncommon Butte County golden clover which is located on the farm’s portion of Table Mountain. We saw it last year on our scouting trip. Cattle use on the farm’s Table is carefully managed to prevent over use of the range.

Above - Butte County golden clover (*Trifolium jokerstii*) and White-tipped Clover (*Trifolium variegatum*) Table Mountain on Chaffin Family Orchards. April 3, 2009

Left - Mountain Garter Snake (*Thamnophis elegans elegans*) Table Mountain April 9, 2010

Bottom - CNPS group is on the north western rim of Table Mountain on the Chaffin Family Orchards’ open range property
Of Goldfinches AND THISTLE SEED

by Rex Burress

To prevent the introduction of an invasive plant species, the seeds are sterilized before shipment to America. The spiny variety of thistles is quite complex, with over 350 world-wide species, 160 native to North America, and Vernon Oswald listed eight species of genus Cirsium for Butte County, six being natives. The common Bull Thistle, C. vulgare, is an alien from Europe, but plucked by goldfinches nevertheless.

That thorny thistle issue is complicated by some other thistle-like invasive entries, including the Milk Thistle, Silybum marianum, that has really taken-off in California. Another odd composite taxa is the Sow Thistle, Sonchus oleraceus, in the Chicory Tribe, introduced along with two other Sonchus species in Butte Co. As with dandelions, you will know them by sticky white sap and feathery pappus that disperses the seeds in the wind.

The top thistle-like curio that is not a thistle, but rather an alien in the Goosefoot Family, is the Russian Thistle, Salsola kali, alias the tumbleweed that disperses its seeds by shaking and rolling rather than by parachute. All that tumbles is not Russian, however, as we also have the Tumble Pigweed (Amaranthus albus), and its shattered seeds are as black as a Nyjer! I wonder if goldfinch gather the seeds that fall to the ground...

The introduced Cardoon or Wild Artichoke, Cynara cardunculus, with the huge thistle-like head, is not listed for Butte Co, although they are common in the Bay Area hills, and very photogenic, as my first photo winner was one of the purple-topped spine-armored beauties taken on a ranch with a barn in the background. All of those thistle-things are loaded with interesting ants and other insects, adding to the study of nature! It seems as if all plants interact with some animal species, whether it is a bee seeking nectar, a goldfinch searching for seed, or an herbivore eating vegetation!

Everything in the Universe is hitched together. -- John Muir
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

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 sites 24 - 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 - 25
Remove invasive weed trees. Meet between picnic sites 24 - 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.

May 4   1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS IN THE PARK
Annie’s Glen & Camelia Way
Volunteers will 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 of the park begins where Orient and East 2st Streets intersect in downtown Chico). Call 624-1617

May 5  noon - 3 pm
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK
One Mile Recreation Area.
Volunteers will remove invasive weeds from this popular park destination. Meet in the Sycamore Field baseball parking lot after you enter the Park at 4th and Pine Streets.
If you arrive late, call 530-624-3982 for worksite location.

May 11, 18 & 25
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS IN THE PARK
Sycamore Restoration Site
Meet at the Sycamore Restoration site just north of Caper Acres. Volunteers will help with general weeding and care of native plants. Call 624-1617 for directions.

May 12, 19 & 26
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK
To Be Announced.

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CCNC Garden  OPEN
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

April
24 - Dye Creek TNC
25 - GARDEN TOUR

May
1 - Upper Yahi Trail
5 - General Meeting
16 - Table Mountain
19 - Board Meeting
23 - Centergap Rd
29 - Upper NF Feather River

JUNE
5 - Eastern Plumas NF
5-6 - Chapter Council Meeting
13 - Annual Picnic