General Meeting
SUMMER BREAK
until September 2010

Annual Picnic

JUNE 13, 2010
Sunday 4 - 7 pm
CEDAR GROVE
GROUP PICNIC AREA
in Lower Bidwell Park

PLEASE BRING
your favorite dish to share,
table service, beverage, chair
(no glass containers or alcohol)

SHORT WALKS
World of Trees Trail and
Alice B. Hecker Native Plant Garden
at the Chico Creek Nature Center

Parking off of E. 8th Street
near the Chico Creek Nature Center

Contact Janna Lathrop at
jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net
or 530-228-0010

... Join us

Blooming *Iris hartwegii* in the Alice B. Hecker Native Plant Garden at the Chico Creek Nature Center.
Photo by Tim Devine
THE BIG SKY COUNTRY OF EASTERN PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
June 5
Saturday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 8 am. We 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

GRASS LAKE
PLUMAS EUREKA STATE PARK & LAKES BASIN RECREATION AREA
June 20
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 7:30 am. This beautiful 65 acre Alpine lake at 5860 ft. elevation is located in Plumas National Forest's Lakes Basin, a “Little Yosemite”. It is one of fifty crystal lakes confined within five small glacial basins. We will drive up the Feather River Scenic Byway (US-70) following the “Wild and Scenic” North and Middle Forks of the Feather River to Plumas Eureka State Park in Mohawk Valley. At the park’s historic Jamison Mine trailhead, we hike 2 miles, climbing 620 feet in elevation to the lake. Along the way we should see displays of alpine flowers and pretty Little Jamison Falls. At the lake we will lunch and take in the vista of rugged snow-capped 7,900’ Mt Washington looming above the lake. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring water, lunch, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Leader: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123. Individual Options: An overnight campout. Lodging at one of the Basin's Lodges. Have dinner before driving home at a Gold Lake Lodge, or in the Grayeagle area. For details: Call Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

BRADY’S CAMP
PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
June 27
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 8 am or the SaveMor Grocery Store parking lot in East Quincy at 10 am. We will be joined by Plumas National Forest Botanist Jim Belsher-Howe for an early-season exploration of a Special Interest Area consisting of a large meadow within the Red Fir Zone. On the way from Quincy we can stop by two rare plant sites to see Constance’s Rockcress (Arabis constancei), and Mountain Lady’s Slipper (Cypripedium montanum). A short climb will take us to a viewpoint at Argentine Rock. Bring lunch, water, insect/sun protection and money for ride sharing. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397.

JOHN COPELAND’S JONESVILLE MEADOWS WALK
July 4
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 9 am OR at the historic Jonesville Hotel Site at 10 am (about 5 miles past Butte Meadows on Humboldt Rd). Wear footgear suitable for slogging in marshy ground and for short hikes. We expect to see a great variety of wetland flowers like camas, leopard lily, little elephant heads, veronica, Tofieldia, and bog orchid. Bring water, lunch, insect/sun protection and money for ride sharing. Leaders: Janna Lathrop, 530-893-2886 and Emilie White, 530-894-8057

. . . more Summer Field Trips on pages 6 & 7
Executive Board Meeting

SUMMER BREAK
Until August 18, 2010
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Susan Bazell, Paradise
530-876-1475 bazell@maxinet.com

Chapter Council Meeting COMING SOON!
by Catie Bishop

Every 3 months there is a Chapter Council meeting somewhere in the state that brings together representatives from all the chapters to learn about what each is doing, vote on important issues, hear about the latest legislation impacting native plants, and many other interesting topics and presentations. It is also a time for the committees, such as policy, education, conservation, development, horticulture, and membership, to meet face to face. We talk about what works and doesn’t to sign up new members, fund raise, and educate the public about conservation and horticulture. I always come away with some new ideas we can use in our own chapter and renewed friendships with a nice group of caring people.

This June our chapter along with the Redbud Chapter, and Sacramento Valley Chapter is hosting the Chapter Council (CC) meeting in our area. The last meeting we hosted was in 2000, but as a single chapter. The location will be Butte College main campus in the Learning Resource Center on June 5th. The meeting will be all day, with a social hour, dinner, and local speaker in the evening.

Anyone interested in seeing first hand how our CNPS conducts its state business, and learning about other chapters and what is going on at the State level, is welcome to attend. For more information you can contact me at cj bishop1991@sbcglobal.net or see the website. Right now we are in the process of changing our logo, A BIG DEAL, so it ought to be a lively meeting. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the discussions, so come on over. There will be field trips on Sunday.

Executive Board Meeting

LEGAL NOTES
by David Anderson

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ON STATE LANDS

All of us who live in wildfire hazard areas should be familiar with the requirement that we maintain a 100 foot defensible space around our homes. This has posed a problem for those who live within less than 100 feet of state owned lands. To meet fire safety and fire insurance mandates, there has been a need for established procedures to enable homeowners to get state approval for them to enter adjacent state lands to create and maintain defensible space (to the extent necessary to meet the 100 foot requirement).

AB 2301 (Logue) was designed to meet this need, but its initial form was so excessive and rigid it drew a joint letter of opposition (April 15) from CNPS and the Sierra Club California. The bill would have required all state land management agencies to grant permits, regardless of circumstances, and with full exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act and the Forest Practice Act of 1973.

AB 2301 was extensively amended by the Assembly on April 27 and now requires state land management agencies to establish a discretionary permitting process. It gives them authority to impose conditions to minimize adverse impact to the environment. The bill, as amended, was referred back to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Hopefully, any remaining problems can be resolved and the bill reported out to the Assembly by the calendar deadline of May 28. The defensive space permitting process is essential and should not be delayed.

COMING SOON!

by Catie Bishop

information you can contact me at cj bishop1991@sbcglobal.net or see the website. Right now we are in the process of changing our logo, A BIG DEAL, so it ought to be a lively meeting. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the discussions, so come on over. There will be field trips on Sunday.
Our second Native Plant Garden Tour was clearly a popular event on Sunday, April 25th, with close to 200 visitors. We had a sunny day, not too hot, and comfortably breezy. It is plain that people are interested in learning about native plant gardening, as this is what the day was all about. Using natives in the garden is more than just about a pretty landscape - unlike non-native garden tours, this tour highlights deeper functions. It is restoration ecology (restoring a little of the natural setting), habitat construction and preservation (native birds and pollinators), and resource conservation (natives are not fussy, but adapted to the local climate, needing minimal water and care).

It takes a community of people with a common vision to make a day like this successful. We’d like to thank those that were a part of that community. First the homeowners who gave their time, and shared their gardening strategies with the public.

ANN & WOODY ELLIOTT
JENNIFER JEWELL
NANCY SCHLEIGER
PHIL BUTLER
EMILIE WHITE
also
FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY
ALICE B. HECKER NATIVE GARDEN at CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER
Thank You!

We’d like to thank the volunteers (underlined also on organizing committee) who were willing to give up several hours on a Sunday to help answer questions at the gardens and help the garden owners:

SUSIE CUNNINGHAM, KARRO LYNN YELLS, NANCY HAWLEY, PHYLLIS LINDLEY, WES DEMPSEY, CINDY WEINER, ANGIE TILARO, SYB BLYTHE, BRETT FULLER, JOHN WHITTLESEY, STEVE OVERLOCK, MARTHA MOLINA, ELLEN COPELAND, JUNE WATTS, MIKE ASHLOCK, SUELENN ROWLISON, GERRY IN-GCO, ADRIENNE EDMARDS, SUSAN BAZELL, CATIE & JIM BISHOP, JANNA LATHROP, and MARJORIE MCNAIRN. Special thanks go to DENISE DEVINE for designing and printing the programs and posters for the tour.

We’d like to thank the businesses who sold tickets for us: MENDON’S NURSERY, FLORAL NATIVE NURSERY, LITTLE RED HEN, THE PLANT BARN, LYON BOOK STORE, and MAGNOLIA GIFT AND GARDEN.

And last but not least, thank you to all the businesses, libraries, newspapers, and others who put up our posters and otherwise advertised for us. This couldn’t have happened without the helpful people in this great community, who understand we all benefit when we are willing to share our time with others.
WARNER WILDERNESS
MODOC NATIONAL FOREST
July 19
Monday
Contact leader prior to July 19

Tucked away in the northeast corner of California, the Warners are an infrequently visited mountain range. The hike starts at 9 am at the trailhead adjacent to Pepperdine Campground (7,200' ele). From Alturas, driving southeast 27 miles over paved county and Forest Service roads; Or from Cedarville, on the eastern side of the Warners, driving southwest, 12 miles on a paved Forest Service road. We hike the Summit Trail into the South Warner Wilderness. This moderate hike will be mostly above 7,000', hiking over open ridge tops, and through flower filled meadows. See spectacular views east and west. Individual Options: Camping at Pepperdine Campground or lodging in Alturas or Cedarville. Leader: John Whittlesey, 530-533-2166 or 530-774-4955 or johccn@sunset.net

BABBITT PEAK
RESOURCE NATURAL AREA
TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST
July 10
Saturday

Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 7 am. We will drive up the Feather River Scenic Byway (US-70) following the “Wild and Scenic” North and Middle Forks of the Feather River to Sierra Valley, one of the largest mountain meadow complexes in the Sierra. Babbitt Peak, 8700', is located 16 miles, by road, southeast of Loyalton in NE Sierra Co. The peak is the highest point in the Bald Mt Range. It is California’s representative of the Great Basin Mountains in Nevada. We will find plant species endemic to the Inner-Mountain Semi-Desert Province. It is set-aside as a Resource Natural Area. The site is unusual for its pure stands of the uncommon Washoe Pine. The area is unusual because of the genetic uniqueness of this pine’s population. It also supports a pure Western White Pine Forest which is rarely found in pure stands. We will drive directly to Babbett Peak and walk one mile along a ridge top to the Washoe Pines where we will lunch. Then we will return to the summit and the spectacular vistas. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring: water, lunch and money for ride sharing. Call for an alternate meeting place and time. Leader: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123. Individual Options: An overnight campout or find lodging in one of Mohawk Valley’s many resorts. Have dinner before driving home. For details call Gerry.

CEDAR BASIN
SHASTA TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST
August 28, Saturday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park and Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 8 am. Drive I-5 north to the Lake Siskiyou exit near Mt Shasta and up into the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Cedar Basin contains the highest stands (up to 6400 ft) of Port Orford-Cedar. Lakes, bogs and open forest give a nice variety of species including the insect eating pitcher plant, (*Darlingtonia californica*) and the sundew, *Drosera*. Also see Sierra laurel, *Leucothoe davisiae*, and American twinflower, (*Linnaea borealis*). Walking distance is 3 to 4 miles. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection and money for ride sharing. Call for an alternate meeting place. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397.

DEADFALL LAKES ON MT EDDY
SHASTA TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST
August 21 Saturday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 7:30 am. The trail starts at 7,000' elevation and is reached by driving 15 miles southwest of Weed over improved forest roads. This is a moderate hike along a fairly level section of the Pacific Crest Trail to Lower Deadfall Lake (7,200'). After lunch we climb to Upper Deadfall Lake. See the insectivorous California pitcher plant, stunning gentians, and other alpine flowers. "Top-of-the World" views from the Northern Trinity Mountains. Individual Options: An overnight campout, local lodging, or dinner at Mt Shasta City. Call if you elect to meet at the trailhead. Leader: John Whittlesey, 530-533-2166 or 530-774-4955 or johccn@sunset.net

SCOTTS JOHN CREEK
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
August 15 Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) in time to leave by 8:30 am. Scotts John Creek is reached by traveling on Hwy 32 about 40 miles to the Butte Meadows area. At an elevation of 5,720 feet we follow the course of Scotts John Creek. We should see a great variety of flowering plants on this easy walk along the creek. We will be looking for the long-stiped campion, (*Silene occidentalis ssp. longistipitata*), not seen in Butte County from the 1930s until 1988. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring water, lunch, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. Leaders: Emilie White 530-894-8057 and Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123.

SIFFORD LAKES
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
July 25 Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 8 am. This 5.2 mile roundtrip hike starts in Lassen Park at the Kings Creek Trailhead, about 15.5 miles from the park's south entrance station. We descend, hiking 0.5 mile along a flower sprinkled meadow that lines Kings Creek. The trail then veers and descends 460 feet onto a series of sparsely timbered benches to a point 1.6 miles from the trailhead. Then it's another mile, climbing 240 feet to Sifford Lake. It is the largest of a cluster of shallow glaciated lakes. Cups of gray rock cradle each lake and their shores are bathed in summer sunlight. Waters are warm and tempting for a dip. Sifford Lakes are however, located on a site fully exposed to severe winter weather, and the soils are very shallow. Observing the plant life here is to study how plants adapt in order to endure extreme climatic rigors. Views from the lakes are broad and spectacular. Lassen and Raker Peak are viewed to the North. We look down into Drakesbad and far out across Lake Almanor. Wear sturdy shoes. Take water, lunch, insect/sun protection, and money for ridesharing. Leader: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123.
ORNERY
Odoriferous
ONIONS

by Rex Burress

My back yard sprang forth from the rainy April with a great outbreak of plants with drooping, bell-like white blossoms on three-cornered stems, and I sprang into pulling-action at this invasion. Soon I sensed “onion,” as tears were streaming down my face, and I rushed to the wash basin to splash and find concoctions to counter the acidic attack!

The plant doesn’t look like an onion, even though there are small onion-like bulbs, but the odor that almost put me out is pure onion. After considerable searching I found that it indeed is an Allium in the Liliaceae Family (once placed in Amaryllidaceae) - Allium triquetrum - from Europe where it is also called Three-Cornered Leek, White-Flowered Onion, and Onion Weed. I suppose someone thought it was pretty and brought it to America, where it is now naturalized in California and Oregon - and maybe beyond judging from its invasive trait, although it needs a Mediterranean climate. In Ireland it was used to keep vampires away! Louis Pasteur noted antibacterial effects and it was used in both World Wars to prevent gangrene.

The onion odor is caused by the release of chemical compounds when cells are cut, becoming a mild sulfuric acid on contact with water in the eyes, and the brain tells tear ducts to produce to dilute the stinging acid before it damages the eye. All onions, including domestic Allium cepa, garlic, leeks, chives, ornamental onions, and scallions have this apparently defensive approach that is repulsive to most insects...and some humans! But those pungent propagators are EDIBLE, as unlikely as that would seem! Onion suggests a potent poison.

According to the Pacific Bulb Society, there are about 850 species of Allium worldwide, 130 in North America, and half being in California. Vernon Oswald listed 13 species for Butte County, mostly native. CNPS explorers are familiar with the unique Volcanic Onion (Allium cratericola) on Table Mountain. I’m always awed to see the small sprawling specimens with pale pink blossoms growing in the jagged basaltic outcrops where no cow dares to go! It’s amazing that the bulb survives the blazing summer heat in dormancy! A. cratericola and the Bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva) both grow amid rocky adversity with scant foliage to feed their bulbs.

Most Butte native Alliums grow above 1600 feet except the Clasp- ing Onion (A. amplectens), all have the globular cluster of small blossoms exploding atop the stem like a firework display. Quite unique is Jepson’s Onion (A. Jepsonii) which favors serpentine and has a single leaf and blooms lying on its side!

Domestic onions have been cultivated for 5,000 years. Being less perishable, they were carried during marches to prevent thirst. Egyptians worshiped onions as the circle-within-circle bulb structure symbolized eternity, and they were buried with the Pharaohs, who believed the strong scent would prompt the dead to breathe again(take their breath away is more like it). B.C. India used onions as medicine for digestion, heart, EYES!, and joints, while Greek athletes consumed pounds of onions before games. In the Middle Ages, the staple three foods were beans, cabbage, and onions, and onions were also used for headaches, snakebites, and hair loss!

An onion can make people cry but there’s never been a vegetable that can make people laugh. – Will Rogers
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

June 2, 9, 16 & 23  8:30 am - noon
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN BIDWELL PARK
Sycamore Restoration Site at One Mile. Volunteers will remove invasive weeds from the restoration site and help water native plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres, walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path. If late, worksite is near the Council Ring! More information, call Lise at 896-7831.

June 5  9:00 am - noon or later!
NATIONAL TRAIL DAY IN UPPER PARK
Volunteers will help implement erosion control methods on the Maidu Trail and restoring the scoured area. The meeting place will be Parking Area “E”. 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. Please call 896-7831 to RSVP for this workdate.

July 7, 14, 21 & 28  8:30 am - noon
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK
One Mile Recreation Area. Volunteers will remove invasive plants, weed around baby oak trees, and remove litter. Meet at the Sycamore Field Baseball parking lot. For more information, call Volunteer Coordinator Lise at 896-7831.

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS
Sherry Johnso  Chico
Gwen Quail  Chico
Brent McGhie  Oroville
Dale Ruffo  Paradise

REINSTATED
Kristina Schierenbeck, Chico
Emily Williams  Chico
Andrea Craig  Los Molinos

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

Officers & Chairs

ELECTED OFFICERS

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jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net
Past President  MIKE WILLIAMS  228-1753
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Vice-President  JOHN MEEHAN  894-5339
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cbjishop1991@sbcglobal.net

CCNC Garden  OPEN
Join Today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter
new _____
renew _____

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.

June
5 - Eastern Plumas NF
5-6 - Chapter Council Meeting
13 - Annual Picnic
20 - Grass Lake
27 - Brady's Camp

July
4 - Jonesville Meadows
10 - Babbit Peak
19 - Warner Wilderness
25 - Sifford Lakes

August
15 - Scotts John Creek
18 - Board Meeting
21 - Deadfall Lakes
28 - Cedar Basin

Pipevine

JUNE 13

Calenda
2010