Member Photos and...

THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE!
We have a two-part program for our meeting as we begin our new program season.

The heart of this program will be your photos ... whatever nice plant-related images you'd like to share (they need not be strictly "California natives", but at least be about native plants and their habitats ... your wine-tasting tour of Sonoma County would be somewhat off the mark). Please select about 12 photos (5 or 10 minutes worth) and let Jim Bishop (email: cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net) know that you have some slides to show, and whether they are conventional slides or digital images. If they are digital images, please note what kind of files you have (PowerPoint, JPEG, etc.) so that we can make sure the computer will actually show your pictures. You might have a few extra images in reserve in case we don't get many contributors, and please be ready to trim down if we get a lot - this rather spontaneous program requires a little flexibility on the part of the presenters.

In case we have too few member photos, and for those that like to have some idea of what to expect from the program, we'll offer a "short program", presented by Jim Bishop. The planned presentation will be A RAMBLING PLANT TRANSECT OF DESERT LANDS OF THE SW US. It will quickly cover the main geographic characteristics and show some lovely and representative plants from the Sonoran, Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, and Mojave Deserts. How can you go wrong with pictures from those fabulous places?

Join us, for a picturesque happening that is bound to be interesting ...and better yet, be part of the show.
Field Trips
Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs

CEDAR BASIN
SHASTA TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST
August 28
Saturday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & 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 davisiæ), 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.

Summer Field Trips
photos on pages 8. & 9.

GREEN ISLAND LAKE
September 5
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 8:30 am with hiking gear, lunch, water and money for ride sharing OR 10:15 am at Sunflower Flat trailhead (Jonesville, Humbug Summit Road, LNF roads 26N02 and 26N31). We will see many California asters as we hike down to Soda Creek and then up (400 ft) to a beautiful little lake with a unique floating, sedge island for a distance of 1 and 1/2 miles. The lake is rimmed with huckleberries, Potentilla palustris, and buckbean. Feeding it is a delightful cold spring lined with yellow monkey flowers. California fuchsia is usually still in flower along the trail to Saucer Lake (1 mile). On the way back we stop at tiny Frog Lake which has a small floating island also. We have seen Pileated Woodpeckers on this walk but cannot promise them. Contact leaders for an alternate meeting place. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

FOREST LAKE
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
September 19
Sunday
Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99/32) at 8:30 am with hiking gear, lunch, water, and money for ride sharing OR 10:30 at the trailhead (6600 ft elev). We will follow a small creek bordered by mountain alder into a magnificent old-growth red fir and western white pine forest to a small lake (7300 ft elev) at the base of Mt. Brokeoff. Satin lupine, California aster, arnica, and angelica should still be in bloom. Only 1 and 1/2 miles but at that elevation we will take it slow; the ambitious can continue on to the summit of Brokeoff (9245 ft). Contact leaders for an alternate meeting place. Leaders: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco 530-894-5123

MAIDU MEDICINE WALK
UPPER BIDWELL PARK
October 2
Saturday
Meet at Horseshoe Lake (Parking area E) in Upper Bidwell Park at 9 am; wear hiking shoes and bring water. We will finish at noon. About 30 of the plants that the local Maidu Indians used for medicine, food, and crafts will be shown and discussed. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

Corn lily emerging, Brady’s Camp Plumas National Forest
June 27, 2010. Photo by Bob Coley
Executive Board Meeting

September 15, 2010
Wednesday 7:00 pm
TO BE ARRANGED
CALL JANNA 530-636-4547

President’s Message

by Janna Lathrop
Chapter President

A s everyone knows it is the individuals within an organization that make it function and thrive. Such is the case for Mount Lassen Chapter, and we are fortunate to have members that can be counted on to step up to help where help is needed.

One such member is Catie Bishop. Catie is our Chapter Council delegate and serves as our voice at the quarterly meetings held throughout the state. This past June MLC co-hosted this meeting at Butte College. Though not obliged to do so as our delegate, she volunteered to organize, coordinate, facilitate, and smooth out the kinks as they arose. She served as liaison between the state office and the other co-hosting chapters. All of her efforts are greatly appreciated, and I especially want to thank her for taking on this task. Also thank you to all other members that helped at Butte College and opened their homes to visiting delegates.

There are still openings on our board that we would like to fill. The office of Secretary is vacant until next elections. Conservation and Legislation Chairs remain open. Our current Sales Chair would like to step down. This is a position that could be co-chaired. Special qualifications are not necessary. Filling these vacancies would round out the board and strengthen our chapter.

I would like to acknowledge Adrienne Edwards and Paula Shapiro’s recent article in the CNPS Bulletin highlighting their work with area students and native gardening. The latest CNPS e-Newsletter has an article written by Jennifer Jewell on the Broom Eradication and Education Program in Forest Ranch http://cnps.org/cnps/conservation/exotics-broom.php. It is great to see local education and conservation efforts in these state-wide CNPS publications. (see page 7. for more)

Finally, just a quick reminder that your donation to Mount Lassen Chapter during the Annie B’s Community Drive will get an additional percentage bonus from the North Valley Community Foundation. Last year MLC received $1284.00 in donations from the drive. We hope to be as successful in 2010. Thank you.

Thank You!

Legislative Notes

by David Anderson

WE NEED CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK!

A ccording to the 2010 California legislative calendar, August 31 is the last day for any bill to be passed. Considering the impasse over the budget and the raft of bills pending floor votes, there will probably be another chaotic ending to the legislative session. Hopefully the California Senate will somehow find time to approve ACR 173, the Assembly Concurrent Resolution proclaiming the 3rd week of April each year as CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK. ACR 173 passed the Assembly on August 3 and is now (i.e., Aug. 11) in the Senate Committee on Rules. If it is reported out of Committee and passed by the Senate, it will go into effect immediately. Concurrent Resolutions do not need to be signed by the Governor.

The text of ACR 173 states, in part, that “the Legislature recognizes the essential value and importance of California native plants to our history, economy, landscape and environment; and that it encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote native plant conservation and restoration, and to inform their neighbors and communities of the value of native plants in nature and in horticultural settings.”

California’s native plants and eco systems are facing extraordinary threats because of the urgent programs to create jobs and alternative energy sources, with little regard for the environmental protection laws. Having an official California Native Plant Week will give us a boost in our educational and conservation efforts.

If, when you get this newsletter, you have not heard or read news that the California Senate has passed ACR 173, please ask our District #4 Senator, Sam Aanestad, to push it. His office telephone numbers are: Chico (530) 895-6088 and Sacramento (916) 651-4004. If you prefer to send an email, his website (just Google - CA State Senator, Sam Aanestad) has a blank request form for you to fill in and submit.

Paeonia brownii, Brady’s Camp Plumas National Forest June 27, 2010. Photo by Bob Coley
OPENINGS FOR
Mount Lassen Board
by Catie Bishop

We have new openings available on the Chapter Board. So if you would like an opportunity to get involved with the important work of the Chapter, here is your chance. Being on the Board not only gives you an understanding of the business of the Chapter and State organization, but also a chance for input in improving the Chapter and the organization.

First we need a **SECRETARY**. This involves attending Board meetings, taking minutes, and sending (e-mail) them to the Board before the next board meeting. We hold 9 meetings a year (typically on the 3rd Wednesday of each month) except in June, July, and December. Having been secretary a few times I can tell you the commitment is minimal, and it is a good place to start involving yourself in the workings of the Chapter and the State organization.

Second we are looking for an **EDUCATION** chair or co-chair. This is an important position because it helps us involve students and adults of all ages in learning about plants and conservation. Today’s children will be the stewards of tomorrow’s environment. In this position you will be able to set up your own plan for outreach, and also help implement the new curriculum developed by the State CNPS Education Committee along with the illustrator and author of the new “Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada”. We are really excited about this curriculum, which uses sketching to teach children how to observe nature.

The third opening is for a **SALES** chair. This position’s commitment has been much reduced. We will not be setting up a sales table at all of our general meetings, as in the past. Our new schedule will be to have sales at two general meetings a year, and occasionally at other affairs such as our biennial Wildflower Show. The sales items need to be stored at the sales chair’s residence, and they consist of a few boxes of books, t-shirts, and other small items.

All of us are busy. Without the extra time given by our dedicated volunteers, we would not have a chapter, and plant conservation would not have a voice in our area. If you would like to volunteer, but see these commitments as being too much for your schedule, please discuss your limitations with one of the Board members. We will be glad to work with you and help you all we can. These positions also come with some freedom to express your creativity and we are open to new ideas about all of it.

[Editor’s note]
There are still other openings on our board that we would like to fill: **CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION, RARE PLANTS,** and **CCNC GARDEN CHAIRS**. Filling these vacancies would round out the board and strengthen our chapter.

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Mount Lassen Chapter
California Native Plant Society

2010 BUDGET
by Susan Bazell
Treasurer

BUDGET EXPENSIS

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Dear Friend of the Mount Lassen Chapter
California Native Plant Society,

It is time for the Annie B’s Community Drive sponsored by the North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF). From August 1st through September 30th all monies donated to the Mount Lassen Chapter, California Native Plant Society during the Annie B’s will be allotted back to our chapter. An additional percentage based on the total monies donated to us will also be granted. Your donation to Mount Lassen Chapter during the drive comes back to us at 100% and more.

The Annie B’s Community Drive proves to be an effective way to augment funds for the Mount Lassen Chapter’s operating budget and enables us to continue and promote outreach and education activities important to the protection and appreciation of California’s native flora.

North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization that builds financial resources to meet local community needs in Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties.

The California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter mission is to conserve California native flora and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation and horticultural use of native plants.

We appreciate your consideration of donating to MLC California Native Plant Society. As an Annie B donor you also join a community-wide effort that involves hundreds of area non-profits and thousands of donors.

Please make your donation between August 1st and September 30th

Make checks out to:
Annie B’s / CNPS Mt. Lassen Chapter

Send your check to:
North Valley Community Foundation
3120 Cohasset Road, Suite 8
Chico, CA 95973

You may also make your donation online through the
North Valley Community Foundation website: www.nvcf.org

If you have any questions, please contact Janna Lathrop, Board President at (530) 636-4547, or NVCF Program Officer, Lee Laney, at 891-1150, ext. 23.

Sincerely,
Janna Lathrop
Board President
Mount Lassen Chapter
California Native Plant Society
It happened here!

THE STATE CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 2010

Our Mount Lassen Chapter, together with our neighbor chapters, Redbud and Sacramento Valley, hosted the quarterly state meeting of the Chapter Council and the Board of Directors in early June. It was held in Chico and at Butte College. The event stretched over 3 days, drew statewide attendees from San Diego to the North Coast, and involved meetings, meals, lodging, presentations, and field trips...no mean task to accomplish.

Ahh, you say, well that’s nice, but so what? We are not always aware of the “state level” activities, but they are important to life in our chapter and to the conservation of native plants. Here is just a sample of the important issues that were discussed and advanced at the meetings.

- Changing our CNPS image and our outreach, in order to appeal more broadly to the public
- Current legislative initiatives and needs, including the State Legislature’s declaration of “Native Plant Week”
- Conservation issues surrounding the implementation of fire-safe fuel-reduction measures
- How to balance plant conservation with the development of renewable energy facilities
- Working together to increase our membership
- Assessing the CNPS budget (Board of Directors)
- Planning for a major CNPS conference in 2012

There were some things to make the weekend enjoyable. Albin Bills gave a great program at the evening banquet about Table Mountain, and introduced the 2nd edition of the Wildflowers of Table Mountain book. Carol Witham led a field trip to Table Mountain. Mike Williams gave the welcoming address to the Chapter Council.

All of this took the effort of several folks from our chapter. The overall effort was coordinated and led very ably by Catie Bishop, our Delegate to the Chapter Council. Marge McNairn set up lodging with local members, and several of our members hosted guests in their homes. Woody Elliott arranged for a favorable price at a local hotel. Suellen Rowlison hosted the evening meeting of the CNPS Board of Directors, and also several overnight guests. Cindy Wiener, Suellen, Janna Lathrop, Catie, and Jim Bishop helped with various chores throughout the day of the meeting.

It is a lot of work to put on, and a big commitment from the attending Delegates...not to mention the ordeal of sitting in a meeting all day. But the regular meetings of the CNPS Council and Board are necessary to the operation of CNPS. And it has its rewards in the opportunity to enjoy the company of good people from all over the state, and to learn more about the issues of native plant conservation.

Any of you are welcome at any meeting of the CNPS Chapter Council. It is your group. The next meeting, September 11th in Fort Bragg, is the annual Conservation Conference. Join us.
Weeds are part of life. But some weeds are far more pernicious than others. In California all varieties of broom fit the pernicious category: due to high levels of volatile oils, broom plants are extreme fire hazards; as they spread, broom choke out native plants; and all portions of broom plants are toxic, offering no food or shelter of any kind to native wildlife.

Dulcy Schroeder is a founder of and dedicated volunteer for an organization known as B.E.E.P., Broom Education and Eradication Program, based out of Forest Ranch. Dulcy, her husband Hans, and their two young boys built their home in the Big Chico Creek Canyon about 12 years ago. “The entire building site was covered in star thistle (Centaurea solstitialis), so I started with the eradication of that,” Dulcy says. However, she quickly became aware of the extent of the broom problem as well. “Especially along the creek - stands and stands of the broom choked and clogged the creek sides smothering out the riparian plants and animals that should have been at home there.”

French broom (Genista monspessulana), Spanish broom (Spartia junceum) and Scotch Broom (Cytisus scoparius) are invasive plants throughout California. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) lists 23 California counties suffering environmentally and economically from broom infestations.

Members of the pea family, broom species are native to Europe. The plants develop amazing taproots, making them successful in drought climates and difficult to completely pull once established. They form a dizzying number of hard coated seeds, which remain viable for between 20 and 80 years. First introduced to California as garden ornamentals in the 1850s broom was eventually used in government roadside erosion control programs. Broom have no natural controls in California, and even fire aids their spread as broom seeds germinate more quickly and effectively than native plant seeds allowing broom seedlings to shade out other plants.

Dulcy realized that as long as the plants continued to set seed upstream and uphill from her, she was doomed. In 2006, she and a knowledgeable group of other plant lovers formed BEEP. The group began by submitting “public awareness” articles to the Forest Ranch Post: “the more people we got pulling broom or destroying seed on their own properties, the better for the whole watershed.

Many agencies have provided BEEP with help along the way, including: Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, the Butte County Resource Conservation District, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Cal Fire, Cal Trans, Butte County Roads, Cal State Parks, Friends of Bidwell Park, City of Chico Parks Division, (CSUC Students), Sierra Pacific Industries, California Native Plant Society’s Mt. Lassen Chapter and the California Conservation Corps.

Dulcy is dismayed that broom is still available in the nurseries: “My first recommendation for home gardeners is Don’t Buy It – not even if a variety is listed as sterile.” To control broom, BEEP and their inter-agency partners recommend

* Removal: Removal is the ultimate goal. Hand-pulling in the moist seasons works for smaller plants and seedlings.
* Seeds: If unable to remove the entire plant, cut the flowers before they form seeds. Be sure to leave at least a foot of stem to grip for removal during the next rainy season.
* Seedlings: Seedlings appearing after rains can be hand-pulled. Broom seed are long-lived - plan on pulling seedlings for several years. Careful spot spraying with Roundup is a chemical option.
* Re-Vegetation: Replanting with fire resistant plants can deter broom seed from germinating/growing. BEEP recommends native alternatives including many varieties of Ceanothus, redbud (Cercis occidentalis), and flannel bush (Fremontodendron californicum)

To get help learning how to effectively remove broom yourself or for more information, you can reach BEEP by phone at: 530-892-8726.

Jennifer Jewell hosts In a North State Garden weekly on Northstate Public Radio 91.7 fm KCHO Chico/88.9 fm KFPR Redding). This article was originally published: www.jewellgarden.com.
Summer Field Trip Photos

Photos by Bob Coley and Gerry Ingco

Grass Lake
Lakes Basin Recreation Area
Plumas National Forest
June 20, 2010
by Gerry Ingco

_Paeonia brownii_
Brady’s Camp
Plumas National Forest
June 27, 2010
by Bob Coley

CNPSers at
Brady’s Camp
Plumas National Forest
June 27, 2010
by Bob Coley
Babbitt Peak Lookout, 8,700 ele.
Babbitt Peak Natural Research Area
Tahoe National Forest
July 10, 2010
by Gerry Ingco

Voodoo formations at 7720 ele.
above the Summitt Trail
South Warner Wildernes
Modoc National Forest
July 19, 2010
by Gerry Ingco

CNPSers at Sifford Lakes
Lassen Volcanic
National Park
July 25, 2010
by Gerry Ingco
The Oroville maintenance crews cleared the “Guppy Creek” channel alongside Boynton Avenue several times during the winter of 2010 (flood control), but the springtime growth-resurgence reestablished a persistent panel of plants in the watery trickle, including cattails.

If a cactus loves the desert, cattails love the edge of a waterway, where they happily reproduce, spreading their rhizomes through the gooey mud and sending their liberated seeds to the wind. There is no mystery as to why they are so successful and often monopolize a farmer’s pond or a marsh. The “red pond alert” is for invaders from Planet Earth, not only cattails, but water hyacinth, duckweed, water primrose, and a host of other prolific propagators. Each species is interesting in itself, but too much is too much when it comes to an isolated body of water.

There are 11 species of cattails in their own unique family of Typhaceae, and 3 species in Butte County. Looking more like a hot dog on a stick than a cat’s tail, even this rather simple appearing plant has some quaint details.

There’s no clinging close to the ground for the cattails—they tower six feet or more toward the sun like slim monocotyledon trees searching for heaven. Amid the single leaf spears, a spike adorned with the fat, brown, round heads thrusts upward, carrying the reproductive scenario to a fluffy conclusion containing the tiny seeds, buoyantly broadcasted by the breezes.

Then it was that I discovered that my Guppy Creek cattails were not the more common Typha latifolia, or broad-leaved cattail, but rather a narrow-leaved type, the T. angustifolia [similar to T. domingensis]. One difference of the species is that the T. angustifolia male spike above the hot-dog female structure has a bare space between the sexual units. Cattails are monoecious and the thin male is on top where he should be, dribbling pollen down on the plump lady. Sex is the final frontier!

The stirring tale about cattails is their edibility. My nephew Pete has a lovely pond that strains his ability to control the cattails. They took over the shallows and he actually used a bulldozer to reduce their presence. All that exposed soil gets permeated with fluffy seed-down in the fall when the hotdogs explode. I tried to interest him in harvesting the edible sweet shoots of the tender white core, but the thought of obnoxious weed was too much.

Indians were more inclined to eat cattails, and all parts are usable. It just takes some dedication to grope around in the mud collecting rhizome roots and shoots, and even the pollen production has edible value. Or you can use the fluff for pillow-fill, however, some people get an itchy irritation similar to stinging nettle with extended contact.

There is a rustic quality about a cattail marsh that strikes a note of nostalgia with hunters and artists. Harry Curieux Adamson is a master waterfowl oil painter who specializes in cattails bending in the wind as ducks drop onto the water. Gray Lodge Refuge was a favorite, and Harry painted many canvases of cattails, tules, ducks, and geese, hi-lighted in his book, “From Marsh to Mountain.” He, and wife Betty, are recognized by two “hides” in the marsh at Gray Lodge.

Bullfrogs live there in the aquatic jungle and rumble their bass chorus. Red wing blackbirds weave nests in the long leaf-blades and musically define their territory. When the wind whistles through a cattail community, and the tall leaves dance in choreographic splendor, you will know it is their riparian world under the grandeur of spacious skies!

Author Diane Inman watched Harry Adamson work for over an hour on a five-inch cattail head using mixtures of brown, umber, and red on the shaded side and orange, yellows, and white on the side catching the sun to create roundness.

From the book Marsh to Mountain
Invasive Species
Help Remove Privet Trees from Bidwell Park
by Susan Mason
Invasive Plants Chair

Privet trees out-compete native plants for resources such as water, nutrients and sunlight. They’re one of the park’s most invasive plant species and are also on Butte County’s Noxious Weed List. Since 2004, Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) have been removing privet trees from Bidwell Park, with hundreds of thousands of mature privet trees, saplings and seedlings eliminated between Lost Park and the Bidwell Park Golf Course. Help to eradicate this invasive species by participating in one of FOBP’s many autumn privet removal sessions. For dates, times, and locations, see the calendar at www.friendsofbidwellpark.org or call Susan Mason at 892-1666.

Horticulture
Growing Natives for THE WILDFLOWER SHOW
by Paula Shapiro
Horticulture Chair

Have you seen any seeds of native plants lately that are just screaming to be picked and planted? The Wildflower Show is this spring and we are in need of California native plants for the plant sale. Do you have a large clump of natives growing in your yard that you could divide and pot up this fall? We need all the help we can get on this project as it is the major fundraiser for our chapter. If you have any questions on growing plants, please call Paula at 530-343-7440.

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
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

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

www.cnps.org.

Calendar 2010

August
28 - Cedar Basin

September
1 - General Meeting
5 - Green Island Lake
15 - Board Meeting
19 - Forest Lake, Lassen
28 - Cedar Basin

October
2 - Maidu, U Bidwell Park
6 - General Meeting
20 - Board Meeting