General Meeting
October 6, 2010
Wednesday 7:30 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

A timely and important program about planting natives...

Presented by JOHN WHITTLESEY of Canyon Creek Nursery & Design

Gardens can be more than being an attractive setting for a home and meeting the functional needs of people. With thought, planning and wise plant choices gardens can be designed to create habitat for wildlife as well. John will talk about factors to consider when designing a garden, the types of plants to use, with an emphasis on California native plants, and discuss gardening practices that will encourage more birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife into the garden.

As nurseryman, garden designer, landscape contractor, owner of Canyon Creek Nursery & Design, his focus is on encouraging and designing gardens that are water conserving, attractive and provide habitat for people and wildlife.

As Mount Lassen Chapter’s Horticulture Chair for many years, John organized many plant sales and native garden workshops.

Triteleia hyacinthina with an unknown butterfly in the Warner Mountains. Photo by John Whittlesey
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

BIG SPRINGS, YELLOW CREEK
AND HUMBUG VALLEY
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
October 10
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. We will drive 29 miles northeast up Hwy 32 to Butte Meadows. Then we drive easterly another 22 miles on improved gravel road to Humbug Valley. This valley is the site of a scenic mountain meadow, rich with Indian sites, and a history of homesteading and ranching. Several original Gold Rush Era buildings are still standing. A nearby cemetery holds graves of pioneers. Natural features include: Historic Soda Springs and the 40-degree, fast flowing, Cold Springs. Water flowing from Cold Springs is the major contributor to Yellow Creek. Yellow Creek is considered a stream vegetation restoration success, now designated “Wild Trout Waters”. See and identify plant species associated with timber, meadow, springs and streamside. Leaders, Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

HIGH LAKES
SPRINGS AND MEADOWS
October 17
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 8:30 am with lunch, water, and ride-sharing money. We will drive up past Butte Meadows and Lake Philbrook near-ly to Lotts Lake and then hike the High Lakes area to the headwaters of Chips Creek at Poison Springs. Old roads and new trails for about 4-1/2 miles. We should see many of the plants that we saw at nearby Green Island Lake including 4 species of yellow monkey flowers and Stephanomeria. Call for secondary meeting place. Leaders, Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293.

UPPER BUTTE CREEK FLUME
FALL COLORS
October 31
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 8:30 am with lunch, water and ride-sharing money. We will drive up the Skyway to Powellton Road and then hike down to the flume-the last part through a magnificent hanging garden of chain ferns. From here we walk past nutmegs and big leaf maples along the ditch bank and over narrow catwalks above the flume for 2 -1/2 miles to Clear Creek falls where we will have lunch before returning. Leaders, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123.

DEER CREEK TRAIL
November 7
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. This is a gentle two-mile hike down to the falls and fish ladder where we will have lunch. Big leaf maple and dogwood should be in full color along with Indian rhubarb and spicebush. Sierra mint, and California fuchsia should still be in full bloom. Leaders, Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293.

CAMPUS TREE TOURS
WITH WES AND GERRY
October 22, November 5, 19, December 3
Fridays
Meet in front of Bidwell Mansion at 10 am for these informative walks to see and hear about the marvelous old trees on the mansion grounds and the adjacent University campus - over 200 species of woody plants. Many of these date back to the original landscaping around the mansion in 1870 and on the campus about 1890. See red horse chestnut, American chestnut, Persian oak, smoke tree, cockspur coral, strawberry tree, and many others. Parking is free and tours finish at 11:45. Leaders, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123.

Field Trips

Wes Dempsey
and Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs
Executive Board Meeting
October 20, 2010
Wednesday 7:00 pm
SUELLEN ROWLISON
530-897-0226, suellen@garlic.com

President’s Message
by Janna Lathrop
Chapter President

LONG-TERM CNPS MEMBER JOIN DATES. Have you noticed “Joined 9/9/1949” on your CNPS mailing label? If so, you are a member that joined prior to 1988-1992. CNPS is in the process of updating its membership database to include the missing join dates of long-term members. This date need not be exact; a close approximation will be accepted. You may contact our membership chair, Phyllis Lindley or myself and help CNPS fill in the gaps.

CCNC GARDEN DAYS. Grab your favorite garden tools and gloves; harness your enthusiasm and join us in the Chico Creek Nature Center Native Plant Garden Sunday October 3rd, anytime from 9 am to noon. It is time to take back the garden and free it from its cloak of weeds. Save the dates for Saturday November 20th and Saturday December 11th for other garden clean-up days. CCNC Native Plant Garden is located at 1968 E. 8th Street.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY: Saturday October 23rd, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Cedar Grove and CCNC. Join in a community wide effort to clean-up Bidwell Park.

YAHI TRAIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE. Elizabeth Tice, coordinator for Yahi Trail, would like to institute some weekend trail clean-up days this fall. If you are interested in participating please leave a message with Elizabeth at 345-5787 or Janna 636-4547.

TABLE SALES AT THE GENERAL MEETING. We will be having table sales only at the November and March general meetings. For November, in time for gift giving, we will feature children’s books from our inventory. In March, we will focus on gardening related materials. We will have our full inventory available at our Wildflower Show in April 17, 2011.

Reminder. ANNIE B’S COMMUNITY DRIVE ends September 30th. Support Mount Lassen Chapter with your donation.

Thank You!

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

EUREKA!

In the frantic closing days of its 2010 session our dysfunctional legislature managed to pass ACR 173, proclaiming the 3rd week of April each year as CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK. It does not require the governor’s signature.

Four other measures supported by CNPS also passed. The governor has until September 30 to sign or veto them, or allow them to become law without his signature. Those bills are:

AB 2351 - authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to collect recreational user fees for overnight camping and reserved group activities in demonstration state forests.

AB 2575 - requires the Board and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to ensure that industry, agencies and the public have equal opportunity to participate in pilot projects to protect and restore riparian zones in watersheds with listed anadromous salmonids.

AB 2724 - requires state agencies generating electricity to take the total amount of kilowatt hours exported to the grid into consideration in determining whether they have met their goals established by law.

SB 1207 - strengthens the requirements for the fire safety elements of City and County general plans in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard zones.
November is approaching and that means the Mount Lassen Chapter elections for Board members is soon upon us. An election committee is forming now and will have a slate of candidates listed in the next newsletter. Elections will be at the November General Meeting. All Mount Lassen Chapter members are encouraged to consider sitting on the board or serving as a chair to one of the committee positions.

ELECTED OFFICERS
The elected Officers of this Chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four (4) Board Members-at-Large. Elected officers must be members of the California Native Plant Society and shall be elected annually. Elected officers shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms. The Treasurer shall be limited to four (4) consecutive terms. Terms shall be for one (1) year, commencing January 1 of each year.

BOARD MEMBERS DUTIES
Below are brief descriptions of the duties of the elected Members of the Executive Board. A complete list of duties are found in the Mount Lassen Chapter Revised Bylaws, dated April 29, 2002.

PRESIDENT: Shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Executive Board (E.B.) and have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter and the Executive Board. The president will also serve as ‘ex-officio’ member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

VICE PRESIDENT: Shall perform the duties of the President during the absence or disability of the President.

SECRETARY: Shall keep minutes of all Executive Board meetings. Prepare documents as needed and authorized by the Executive Board.

TREASURER: Shall keep and maintain Chapter account transactions. Responsible for the deposit of all monies and dispersal funds as may be ordered by the Executive Board.

MEMBERS-AT LARGE: Serve as a general representative of the membership.

HIGH SCHOOL ILLUSTRATION CONTEST
by Catie Bishop

Our Wildflower Show is coming up on April 17th 2011. It is happening during the newly designated “Native Plant Week”. So one thing we are doing to celebrate is to find a special design for our Wildflower Show t-shirts. We are inviting high school students in our 4 county sphere of Butte, Plumas, Tehama, and Glenn, to come up with a design that will be featured on the front of our t-shirt.

The general rules for the illustration are that it needs to be a picture of a California native plant or plants, drawn on an 8.5 X 11inch paper using one to three colors. It shouldn’t be too detailed, as it needs to be easily reproduced on the shirt. It also needs to incorporate the words: “Mount Lassen Chapter California Native Plant Society”.

There will be more details and deadlines defined in the next Pipevine. We will also be distributing a poster to all the high schools via the district offices. We want to make sure to include home schoolers in this also, so look for the poster.

Growing Natives for THE WILDFLOWER SHOW

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.
First I am pleased to announce the State Legislature has passed a bill that makes the third week of April “Native Plant Week”. We appreciate Vern Goehring and Joshua Stark who worked closely with Assemblywoman Evans and her staff to make this happen. Our chapter will be holding its biennial Wildflower Show during that week in 2011, so come to the show and help us celebrate.

Our Conservation Conference was held at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg. The weather was very nice, with fog coming in and out. We started off with a great presentation from Gordon Leppig, who works for Dept. of Fish and Game, about protecting CNPS “List 2” plants. A List 2 plant is one that is rare in California, but is more abundant elsewhere. Gordon showed us that the plants living on the periphery of their ranges are the ones that are the most important to preserve. They have genetic variations which will offer the most survival value to the species if there are major disruptions across its range.

Greg Suba, Conservation Director, related another issue CNPS is involved with, which is the placement of solar and wind generation facilities on public land where sensitive plants occur. Greg has made input on several projects covering thousands of acres each. Unfortunately some projects will go through despite the disruption to native plants.

We had another very informative presentation by Vern Goehring our legislative advocate, and Randy Pester of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. They gave a description of how the legislative process works. All environment-related legislation passes through this committee which is charged with making sure we maintain protection of native habitats.

Julie Evans and Todd Keeler-Wolf gave a talk about the new Manual of California Vegetation which is coming out soon. They have been working hard over the last several years to train volunteers and agency personnel in the mapping and classification of the vegetation types in California. The Manual is the first attempt to describe rare natural communities.

As you can see the Conservation Conference was an educational weekend. These are just a few of the conservation efforts CNPS is working on. The discussions were lively, and the roadmap for our future involvement in these and other important areas is taking shape. All of us have a stake in what our state will look like in the future. We must all participate in shaping that future. Any and all members who are interested in these and other conservation issues are welcome to participate at any level.
Along the gutter down the street, several sedges thrived during the summer lawn watering overflow. I find it intriguing when some hardy plant finds a concrete crack and grows with scant anchorage, triumphing to bloom and seed. Impressed, I pulled one of those gallant sedges from its sliver of a niche to study and name.

I have seen sedges with their tall naked triangular stems and fluffy tops all my life, but just thought “sedges have edges” just as “rushes are round,” overlooking the intimate identification angle. After all, sedges, like grasses, have no ‘blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor,’ and little to distinguish species. How many sedge and grass specialists do we have in CNPS? Most go after the colossal and colorful wildflowers. I notice that even the Pacific States Wildflower Guide ignores sedges, perhaps contending that “Cyperaceae” and “Poaceae” are “weeds” and not a wildflower. What is a wildflower?

But when I opened Vernon Oswald’s vascular plant guide for Butte County, I was staggered with the number of species encompassing the genus Carex, the major sedge group. I counted 53, nearly all native. For a non-specialist, deciphering that key is like relearning algebra! What was my specimen?

Most CNPS plant pursuers recognize that the Cyperaceae sedge family includes the genus Cyperus, totally unlike the similar-sounding “Cypress”- the Cupressus family of trees that includes only one native species in Butte County—the McNab Cypress, a serpentine endemic. After scampering around in the texts, it was in Cyperus that I found my sedge quest.

It wasn’t the more abundant Carex at all, but Cyperus esculentus, the Yellow Nutsedge, listed by Oswald as native...if I deciphered those difficult epithets correctly. That is not to be confused with the Yellow Flat Sedge, Cyperus flavescens, a non-native listed next to C. esculentus, and differing only by a few “style/akenes/scale” technicalities...often only understandable in the professional botanist’s lingo. Indians used the nut-like tubers of C. esculentus for food.

I noticed that all of Butte’s 12 Cyperus species grow from 100 feet elevation to about 1600, while Carex mostly grow higher in the hills. Another surprise was that my specimen had shed hundreds of flea-sized seed cases all over my computer papers. Even with my 10X hand lens, I strained to see the pepper-sized seeds that had fallen out of the husks. “As a grain of mustard seed...” Mustard is not the smallest seed, though, and even the towering coastal redwoods feature a thumb-sized cone with pinhead-sized seeds! One can hardly believe a 300-foot tree can have its origin in a insignificant sized seed, just as a complex human starts with an invisible sperm-seed.

The plot thickens when you consider the sedge genus Eleocharis - the 15 species of Spike-Rushes in Butte. “Rushes are round!” More dominant are the round-stemmed Tule Bulrushes, Scirpus acutus, that we see standing so tall in the marshes. The genus Scirpus has 13 species in Butte.

World-wide, there are 5,500 species in Cyperaceae; 109 genera, with 843 species in North America in 24 genera. The genus Carex has 2000 species, and Cyperus about 550, including Cyperus papyrus, the reed of the Nile, used for paper and boats! The family is primitive with fossils found from Early Cenozoic, 50 mya. Which species came first?!

Overall, know that most sedge-stuff loves watery environments, thriving where they can get their root-feet wet. They may not thrill us with their blossoms, but considering their vascular structure is a lesson in the variety of vegetative forms of life on Earth.

We need the tonic of wildness – to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern lurks, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge...

– Henry David Thoreau

Cyperus esculentus drawing from http://www.weedinfo.ca/weed.php?w=CYPES-
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

October 1, 5 & 8  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS IN THE PARK
Volunteer Tuesdays and Fridays in the Park - Annie’s Glen Volunteers will remove invasive plants, weed around baby oak trees, and remove litter. Meet at the pedestrian bridge in the middle of Annie’s Glen. For Tuesday work days call cell ph 624-1617 and Fridays call cell ph 624-3982 for more info.

October 9  1 - 4 pm
FEATHER RIVER GROVE ADF
Meet at the Cedar Grove Picnic site. Group will conduct invasive weed removal and remove trash from the area. Please call 588-0374 to RSVP.

October 12 & 15  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS IN THE PARK
Picnic Site # 24 & 25. Volunteers will remove invasive weed trees (privets and hackberry). Meet between picnic sites 24 and 25 by either walking in from the Madrone pedestrian entrance (off of Vallombrosa Avenue) to the picnic sites or by driving along N. Petersen Drive in the Park. For Tuesday work days call cell ph 624-1617 and Fridays call cell ph 624-3982 for more info.

October 19, 22 & 26  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS IN THE PARK
Sycamore Restoration Site at One Mile. Volunteers will remove invasive Himalayan blackberry and other invasive plants from the restoration site and help plant native plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres; walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path. For Tuesday work days call cell ph 624-1617 and Fridays call cell ph 624-3982 for more info.

October 23  10am - 1 pm
VOLUNTEER MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IN BIDWELL PARK
Park projects will focus on weed removal, trail work, and litter removal. Projects will take place at Cedar Grove off of E. Eight Street just west of the Chico Creek Nature Center. Call the Volunteer Coordinator at 896-7831 or cell 624-1617 for more info.

October 29  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS IN THE PARK
Lost Park. Volunteers will remove invasive plants and litter from this popular downtown park. Volunteers will meet in the City’s public parking lot #5 on East 1st Street behind Solutions Cubed. Call cell ph 624-3982 for more info.
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3212
CHICO, CA 95927-3212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value
OCTOBER 2010 issue

OCTOBER 6

Gardens as Habitat

Pipevine

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

October
2 - Upper Bidwell Park
3 - CCNC Garden Day
6 - General Meeting
10 - Big Springs
17 - High Lakes
20 - Board Meeting
22 - Campus Tree Tour
31 - Upper Butte Flume

November
3 - General Meeting
5 - Campus Tree Tour
7 - Deer Creek Trails
17 - Board Meeting
19 - Campus Tree Tour
20 - CCNC Garden Day