What is the fate of a SILENT FOREST?

the effects of Bird Loss on Plant Life in the Northern Mariana Islands

As a native to the Chico area, Summer Kemp-Jennings has always had a love for the bounty of amazing plant life surrounding her. Some of her favorites include the spring wildflowers and majestic redwoods. Her recent interests include plasmodial slime molds and ocean ecology.

This past summer, she received a Research Experience for Undergraduates grant from the National Science Foundation to spend three months contributing to the Ecology of Bird Loss research project in the Mariana Islands, as well as implementing an independent research project on seed dispersal. Since her return, Summer has continued seeking other opportunities such as interning for a butte college project called BWELL to create a bioswale for parking lot runoff, and interning for Chico State graduate student Melissa Ha studying competition between pollinators in Clarkia wildflowers. Summer hopes to transfer to the University of Oregon in the fall of 2011 to complete her bachelor’s degree in ecology, and then continue her education further.

Since the accidental introduction of the brown tree snake on Guam shortly after World War II, the pacific island has experienced a decimation of native bird populations, while nearby islands free of the snake have managed to retain avifauna diversity. Since studies have estimated 28-56% of bird species on oceanic islands will be extinct by 2100, Guam serves as an imperative resource for studying the importance of birds in forest ecology.

This presentation will take us on a trip through the tumultuous journey of Guam’s scenic forests in the past century. The intertwined relationship birds share with plants through seed dispersal and food web interactions will be highlighted.
MAIDU PLANTS
UPPER BIDWELL PARK
March 26
Saturday
Meet at Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park, parking area E at 9 am. 1-1/2 mile walk to see about 30 of the plants the local Indians used such as soap plant, gray pine, elderberry, and more. Bring lunch, water, and hiking shoes. Leader, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

SPOTTED FAWN LILIES
AND McNAB CYPRRESS
March 27
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west parking lot (Hwy 99/32) at 9 am with lunch, water, and hiking shoes for a 1-1/2 mile hike down a rough trail to the head dam at a charming spot on the West Branch of the Feather River. This serpentine slope offers a most spectacular display of yellow and white fawn lilies (Erythronium multiscapoideum) amongst the old McNab cypresses. Bring money for ride sharing. Call for directions to secondary meeting place at Magalia, Leader, Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123

CSU, CHICO CAMPUS
AND BIDWELL MANSION
TREE TOURS
April 8
Fridays
Meet at Bidwell Mansion (525 Esplanade, Chico) at 10 am to see and hear about the marvelous old trees on the mansion grounds and the adjacent CSU, Chico campus - over 200 species of woody plants. The grand southern magnolia in front of the mansion dates to 1863. See red horse chestnut, American chestnut, Persian oak, smoke tree, cockspur coral, strawberry tree and many others. Free parking and tour ends at noon. Leaders, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123.

STATE PARK AT SUTTER BUTTES
PEACE VALLEY & VICINITY
April 10
Sunday
Simultaneous walks are scheduled within this new state park which is accessible for guided groups only. Woody Elliott will lead a wildflower search along the easy trails in Peace Valley. Jim Dempsey will interpret a more strenuous route over the surrounding ridges to better see plant communities and panoramas. Bring lunch, water, hat, hiking shoes, and money for ride sharing. Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am or Arco Gas Station in Live Oak (Hwy 99 and Pennington) at 9:15 am to car pool. Limit: 30 persons. To sign up contact Woody Elliott, email preferred woodyelliott@gmail.com or phone 530-342-6053.

PULGA TO MAYARO
April 23
Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west parking lot (Hwy 99/32) at 9 am with lunch and water for a drive along the PG&E poleline road above the Feather River. We will then hike the short way down to the site of the 1940's resort of Mayaro. The road is rough and mostly 1-lane. At Pulga we start in the serpentine and then finish in the granite above Mayaro. Skullcap, monkey flowers, fritillaries, and many others. Phone if secondary meeting place desired. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

DALE AND HOG LAKES
ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
May 1
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west parking lot (Hwy 99/32) at 9 am with lunch, water, and money for ride-sharing. These ‘lakes’ are vernal pool complexes on BLM grasslands, NE of Red Bluff located on Tuscan volcanic soils. Meadowfoam, monkeyflowers, canchalagua, and many others. Phone for alternative meeting place. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

Sutter Buttes on April 17, 2010, Cat Rock profile from south
Photo by Gerry Ingco

Wes Dempsey
and Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS THREATENED

Efforts by Congress and the California Legislature to deal with budget crises in 2011, and the near future, could pose serious threats to both the existence of environmental protection laws in their present form and/or funding for their enforcement. For example, Conservative members of the House of Representatives have proposed legislation to deny funds to the Bureau of Land Management for implementing its new policy of inventorying and protecting its lands with wilderness characteristics. The proposed funding limitation would be added to a temporary budget bill.

We can expect both federal and state bills designed to weaken or create suspensions and exemptions from basic laws such as the federal Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, the federal Clean Water and Clean Air Acts and both federal and state Endangered Species Acts. The justification offered for such bills will be the alleged necessity for deep budget cuts or eliminating delays or hindrances to job creation programs. Environmentalists have a challenging task ahead to convince legislators of the false economies involved in allowing pollution and trashing of the environment for short term savings or temporary jobs.

In dealing with budget expenditures the President of the U. S. has less power than the Governor of California. The President does not have line-item veto authority. If a federal spending bill contains objectionable provisions, he must either sign it as is or veto the entire bill. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that allowing the President line-item veto power amounted to an unconstitutional exercise of legislative power by the executive, in violation of the separation of powers doctrine. By contrast, the California Constitution, as interpreted by the California Supreme Court in 2010, gives the Governor line-item veto power over spending bills. He can veto unwanted expenditures and approve the remainder.

President’s Message

by Paul L. Moore
Chapter President

The most important thing I can say at this point in the spring is “Attend the Wildflower Show and Plant Sale” on April 17 at the Card Center on Vallombrosa in Chico. It will be both a learning as well as an aesthetic experience. Your support will also contribute to the California Native Plant Society’s commitment to the lovely natural environment which is all around us.

I would also encourage you to attend the General Meetings of the chapter for their intellectual content. Jenny Marr made an outstanding presentation last month about meadowfoam in Butte County. It was a superb presentation.

This month we will see a presentation by student, Summer Kemp-Jennings. She will present a wonderful talk about the Research Experience for Undergraduates grant she received from the National Science Foundation where she spent three months contributing to the Ecology of Bird Loss research project in the Mariana Islands.

Spring is also the time to get out on the trail with Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco. We have several excellent trips planned which are outlined in this issue of The Pipevine. It is always fun to go on these field trips with people who know what they are talking about and can get you back from the locations efficiently. That is the nature of our California Native Plant Society hikes.

We are delighted to welcome Ron Coley as our new Rare Plants Chair. It has been an unfilled job for a long time but is an important part of the mission of the Mount Lassen Chapter as well as the state association. Ron has participated on many hikes and will be greatly appreciated in this new and expanded role. As he looks for help identifying all the possible candidates for rare plant status, we hope you will respond and volunteer.

I look forward to seeing you at the Wildflower Show, the General Meetings and on the trail. Have a great month.

Little False-mermaid (Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica)
Photo by Robert Fischer
Celebrate the first CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK at our Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale. It will be Sunday, April 17 from noon to 5 at the CARD Center, 545 Vallombrosa, in Chico. Donations are $4 for adults; free for children 17 and under.

NATIVE PLANT DISPLAY
As usual, you can expect to see 200+ species of native plants from Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Plumas Counties, all identified and arranged by plant community. Starting at the valley floor and going up in elevation - Riparian, Grassland, Vernal Pools, Oak Woodland, Serpentine, Oak Woodland to Yellow Pine Forest

NATIVE PLANT SALE
More plants will be available to purchase for your garden. Paula Shapiro, Horticulture Chair says “We will be offering a wide variety of species from bulbs, grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees. There will be a surprise coastal species that is rarely found for sale. Many thanks to the propagators who are growing plants for this wonderful event.” Some of the plants include toyon, pipeline, buckwheats, milkwheels, woodland strawberry, bleeding hearts, iris, currants, coyote mint, sticky monkeyflower, deer grass and many more.

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT
39 designs from our first T-shirt Design Contest for high school students will be on display. T-shirts with the winning design will be for sale.

NATURE WALKS
Take an interactive walk and learn how to improve your own observations through “Nature Journaling”, created by John Muir Laws and the curriculum developed for CNPS.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
Education Chair Adrienne Edwards is planning a special scavenger hunt to explore California plant communities and flowers close-up. Kids can make a plant press and explore journaling.

PLANTS CLOSE-UP
The microscope table offers close-up views of plants and neat things. Examples will coordinate with other events, such as pollination and the details of flowers.

BOOKS, POSTERS & MORE . . .
Check out the large inventory of books on native plants, natural history, colorful CNPS posters, t-shirts and more for sale.
Thank You CARD Center Fund

Floral Native Nursery, John Meehan, Janna Lathrop, Paul & Laurie Moore, Barb Castro & Lawrence Janeway, Dorothy Domish, Phyllis Lindley, Kathie Coley, Catherine Linden, Lee Edwards, Sharon Johnson.

Funds are still needed to cover CARD Center non-profit rent. Please send a check to Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS P.O. Box 3212 Chico CA. 95927-3212.

It's not too late to VOLUNTEER
Contact Janna Lathrop jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net

To help with the PLANT SALE
Contact Paula Shapiro 530-343-7440

Thank You CARD Center Fund

Floral Native Nursery, John Meehan, Janna Lathrop, Paul & Laurie Moore, Barb Castro & Lawrence Janeway, Dorothy Domish, Phyllis Lindley, Kathie Coley, Catherine Linden, Lee Edwards, Sharon Johnson.

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Wildflower Show 2009

NATURE TALKS
Come and enjoy three presentations from our own experts.

TRANSFORMING YOUR LAWN into a Native Plant Garden
JOHN WHITTLESEY, garden designer and owner of Canyon Creek Nursery will teach a step-by-step process for transforming water thirsty lawns into places of beauty and seasonal interest using native plants. His presentation will cover: design considerations before you begin; sheet mulching for a low-cost, no digging, no chemical lawn removal; converting lawn irrigation into water conserving drip irrigation; planting techniques for success with native plants; and choosing site appropriate plants.

THE BIRDS and THE BEES (how flowers make seeds)
ROB SCHLISING, emeritus professor at CSU, Chico will show flower pictures that display great diversity in colors, shapes, sizes, and clustering. These features of the flowers will be related to how they are pollinated by birds and bees (and by other things in the environment). There are myriad ways that pollen grains get to the pistils in flowers and facilitate the formation of seeds.

MAIDU USES OF PLANTS
WES DEMPSEY, emeritus professor at CSU, Chico, will show about 30 local native plants that the Maidu used in their medicine, food, and crafts. Included will be lemonade bush for a tasty drink or fibers for baskets; soaproot for fibers, glue and suds; elderberry for food, musical instruments, and smoking pipes; and a host of other intriguing plants and their uses.

MORE EXHIBITS
Learn about Invasive Plants, Friends of Bidwell Park, Northern California Botanist, and Friends of the Herbarium, CSU, Chico.

More about CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK

California Native Plant Week (CNPW) is a week dedicated to the appreciation, education, and conservation of California’s fabulous flora. The CNPW legislation (ACR 173) was sponsored by CNPS, and introduced by Senator Noreen Evens during the 2010 legislative session to help protect California’s native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations by raising awareness about our state’s rich botanical diversity. California Native Plant Society promotes CNPW through native plant sales, wildflower shows, gardening workshops, lectures, hikes, and many more events. CNPW events like these allow all California residents to take an active role in preserving the majesty of California’s native flora.
Botanists and Native Plant people are never without vegetative wonders to pursue! On each side of winter are colorful seasons - autumn with its glorious array of colorful deciduous leaves, and then spring, the time of colorful petals on hundreds of resurrected plant species.

Even winter with its resting period, has intriguing fields of left-over seed cases and stems to sort through and try to identify, and in Butte County country, there seems to always be a few hardy blossoms whatever the season. Aster or California Fuschia or some errant flower can be found lingering longer...and eager wild cucumber and manzanita blossoms can break forth before the new year even begins. Our esteemed pipevine isn’t far behind. Wes Dempsey leads an annual walk up to the “Banana Belt” in Bidwell Park on the first of January, and usually finds a scattering of oncoming flower species.

It’s like what Stevenson wrote: “Sing a song of seasons / Something bright in all / Flowers in the springtime / Fires in the fall.” [Think flame-colored leaf fires!]

Bryant extolled the seasonal virtues, too, in Green River: “...Oh loveliest there the spring days come / With blossoms and birds and wild bee’s hum / The flowers of summer are fairest there / And freshest the breath of the summer air. / And sweetest the golden autumn day/in silence and sunshine glides away...”

But for wildflower aficionados in Butte County, March into April are the cherished times to stalk the early wild *Dodecatheon-Triphysaria-Blennosperma* clans, and follow other species that take turns to appear right into summer.

Oroville becomes a sort of wildflower center for break-a-way treks to Table Mountain’s 4,000-plus-acre flower garden on the mesa top. April 2nd is the highlight when Oroville will host the third annual “Wildflower and Nature Festival,” with booths and botany booty at River Bend Park. Guided flower walks will proceed all day on Table Mountain, some hosted by CNPS. The Feather River Nature Center will also be open with guides available, and there is a good variety of flowers along the river plus aquatic wildlife.

Also on April 2-3, the Paradise Garden Club will be hosting a Wildflower Weekend extravaganza with lectures at the Feather Falls Casino conference room, and trips to Table Mountain. (“Rex the Watcher” will give a show, “Flora of the Feather River,” at 2 p.m. Saturday April 2nd.) “Flowers will be busting out all over!” (ed.note - Don’t forget our own Wildflower Show on April 17, Chico, see page 4 for details).

So, soon, petal peepers will tarry forth...with notebooks and field guides–Mackey and Bills’ “Wildflowers of Table Mountain,” Oswald’s “Vascular Plants of Butte County,” Peterson’s “Pacific States Wildflowers”- and hand lens, and a camera - to find the flower...and perhaps sit down beside it, as John Muir did, “to hear what it has to say.” “Hush! We won’t mention their names, for so rare were they, so delicate, so fragile, and so altogether lovely, that even to mention their names might frighten them away.” – John Muir, on finding the Calypso borealis in a Canadian swamp

**“In all places then and in all seasons
Flowers expand their light and soul-like wings,
Teaching us by most persuasive reasons,
How akin they are to human things.”**
– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Even though it was a stormy and wet weekend on March 18-20, 2011, Mount Lassen Chapter participated with an informative display booth and handed out Wildflower Show information at the Chico Soroptomists Home & Garden Show.

THANK YOU

Those that helped were June Watts, Woody Elliott, Cindy Wein er, Nathan Lathrop and Janna Lathrop. Photo by Woody Elliott of Janna Lathrop holding a branch of Redbud.

NEW MEMBERS

Meryl Bond  Chico
John Westlund  Chico
Barbara Ragland  Oroville

REINSTATED

Coby Walters  Chico

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
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:
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Calendar 2011

March
26 - Maidu Walk
27 - Fawn Lilies

April
6 - General Meeting
8 - Campus Tree Tour
10 - Sutter Buttes
17 - WILDFLOWER SHOW
20 - Board Meeting
23 - Pulga to Mayaro

May
1 - Dale and Hog Lake
4 - General Meeting

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

Join Today!

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