Orovile’s Table Mountain is one of the premier wildflower locations in all of California. Each spring thousands of nature enthusiasts make the pilgrimage to this unique mesa to experience its dazzling array of flowers, rare vernal pools, and plunging waterfalls. Have you ever wondered how Table Mountain was formed, or why it has such spectacular wildflower displays? Would you like to learn more about its hidden canyons and beautiful waterfalls? Are you still having trouble telling the difference between owl’s clover and cow bag clover?

Then you will want to join Albin Bills at our May meeting for a colorful and informative presentation on the ecology of this remarkable landmark. Covering a wide range of topics, the talk is aimed at a broad audience – wildflower lovers, botanists, hikers, explorers, and natural historians.

Albin is co-author of *Wildflowers of Table Mountain* and Professor Emeritus of Biology at Butte College. He has spent many happy years unraveling the secrets of this remarkable place.
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

STATE PARK AT SUTTER BUTTES PEACE VALLEY & VICINITY
May 14
Saturday
Simultaneous walks are again 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 / Pennington) at 9:15 am to car pool. Limit: 30 persons. TO SIGN UP contact Woody Elliott: (email preferred) woodyelliott@gmail.com or 530-342-6053.

CHAFFIN FAMILY FARM AND TABLE MOUNTAIN
May 5
Thursday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 9:15 am and drive to the Chaffin Family Orchard’s headquarters at 606 Coal Canyon Road, Oroville. We will tour a diversified family farm located at the base of, and upon Table Mountain. The farm serves local customers with a 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. Guardian dogs are an interesting feature of the ranch operation. These are large dogs that have been bred for centuries to guard livestock. Puppies are bonded to either sheep or goats by raising them with the animals. We will take a guided driving tour of the animal rearing facilities and the farm’s extensive orchards. The tour will end on Chaffin’s pastureland on southern Table Mountain where we should see a great display of wildflowers. Those arriving from Paradise or from south of Chico may meet us at the ranch headquarters at 10 am. Call for driving directions. Leader: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123

MAIDU PLANTS FOR MEDICINE, CRAFTS, AND FOOD UPPER BIDWELL PARK
May 15
Sunday
Meet at Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park, parking area E at 9 am. About a 1-1/2 mile walk to see about 30 of the plants the local Indians used. Soap plant for suds and glue, gray pine for food and skin salve, elderberry for flutes and clappers, and lemonade bush for baskets and savory drink. Over at noon. Bring water, wear a hat. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

... more Field Trips on page 9.
President’s Message
by Paul L. Moore
Chapter President

Well, we are clearly into spring and on our way to summer. Both are seasons which make native plant people happy. I hope you have been able to take advantage of the various activities including the Wildflower Show and the California Native Plant Week. Both were tremendous activities which you will want to make sure you attend next time, if you missed those in April.

Another important and stimulating activity which you should consider is the monthly general meeting of the Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. We were just rewarded by an excellent talk by a young woman, Summer Kemp-Jennings, who is still a student but gave a wonderful report on her participation in research on the effects of bird loss on plant life in the Mariana Islands.

Our next General Meeting will be on May 4 featuring a presentation by Albin Bills, an emeritus biology instructor from Butte College on the wildflowers of Table Mountain. It should be very informative, particularly for those of us who live in the area. Which leads me to announce that our next meeting will be in Oroville, May 4 at 7:30 pm, at the Oroville Library. While most of our meetings are held in Chico, there are a large number of members who live in the Oroville area, and we would like to encourage membership growth in that area. It is also important to note that the Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is responsible for programs and memberships in four counties, Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Plumas. It is important that we reach out to native plant lovers in all of these communities.

DIRECTIONS TO THE OROVILLE LIBRARY
Exit Hwy 70 at Montgomery Avenue, and go east on Montgomery to Lincoln (just past the Ford dealership and City Hall offices). Turn right (south) on Lincoln, which is one-way, following it under the railroad tracks, where it soon becomes two-way. The library is ahead on your left as you approach the traffic light at Mitchell. Turn left into the library parking lot. There is additional parking on the other side of the Library.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT
TO SALT CREEK SADDLE
MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST
May 22 Sunday

Calling all native plant enthusiasts, botanists - experienced or not. Please join CNPS for a rare plant treasure hunt at Salt Creek Saddle, on the eastern edge of the Mendocino National Forest. This will be an event focused on locating and documenting rare plant populations in and near Salt Creek Saddle, a hotspot of rare plant diversity that hasn’t been documented by botanists in over 10 years. There are 9 different rare plant species at this site, including Jepson’s milkvetch and dimorphic snapdragon (Antirrhinum subcordatum), among others.

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 8 am. For those coming from other locations we’ll regroup at 9:30 am at the Salt Creek Conservation Camp, 10655 Round Valley Rd, 96074, and from there we’ll drive to the site. Plan to be out all day, bring plenty of food and water. The local botanist calls this hike “not a gentle stroll through a lovely meadow, but also not arduous.” Contact Ron Coley (rcoley64@comcast.net or 530-533-1238) if you have any questions and to RSVP for this trip. Danny Slakey (dslakey@cnps.org) will also be able to answer questions about the trip.

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT
by Ron Coley
Rare Plant Chair

Would you like to participate in an important scientific endeavor and have a lot of fun doing it? Do you like to find rare treasures? Well, here’s your chance! It is called the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt. Many of us like to hike, and hunting for rare treasure is hard to pass up. In California there are many rare plants, some not seen for 20 years or more. CNPS would like to remedy that. The CNPS State office will supply pictures and maps of the lost treasures in our Chapter area. We as individuals or small groups can hunt for a specific plant or in a specific area or County. We can do this on some of our scheduled field trips and I will look into planning possible short scheduled field trips for hot spots. (see below)

Facts sheets will be provided to document your find, they will need to be returned to me so I can coordinate the information and send them on to be included in the CNPS data base. Get on your hiking shoes and grab your GPS and camera. Happy Hunting! You can contact me at rcoley64@comcast.net or 530 533-1238

Fritillaria eastwoodiae, Butte County Fritillary Photo by Ron Coley
KCHO / KXPR FM
PLEDGE DRIVE

Woody Elliot reports - “On April 10, Ellen Copeland and myself helped on the pledge drive during City Arts & Lectures and Living on Earth radio programs, 6 to 8 pm. We met Kelly Frost, KCHO/KXPR FM news reporter from Redding Station. We had fun and learned about the inner workings of our local National Public Radio station.

THANK YOU
Ellen Copeland and Woody Elliott

CNPS
EDUCATIONAL GRANTS
NATIVE PLANTS FIELD RESEARCH
by Joan Stewart, Chair
CNPS Educational Grants Committee

Each year the CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California’s native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than $1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2011.

HONORED AGAIN
by Gerry Ingco

On April 11, 2011 on the California State University, Chico campus Wes Dempsey, emeritus professor, was honored as a keynote speaker. He planted a new redwood tree in the Redwood Grove that had been planted by John Bidwell and originally dedicated by the graduating class of 1911 of the then Chico Normal School. A granite monument honoring the grove’s 1911 dedication had been unnoticed since subsequent building construction has blocked its view from those walking the path through the campus. This day, through the efforts of Dr. Dempsey, the original monument was removed from its original location and relocated to where it will be visible to all passers by.

NEW MEMBERS
Barbara Segal  Chico
Jeanette McNelis  Chico
Donna Beronda  Paradise
Kim Preston  Oroville

REINSTATED
Catherine Little  Woodland

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
Thank you for celebrating the first CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK with us at our WILDFLOWER SHOW and NATIVE PLANT SALE. It was held on Sunday, April 17 from noon to 5 at the CARD Center in Chico.

PEOPLE THAT HELPED


June Watts  Lawrence Janeway  Linnea Hanson  Lowell Ahart  Macy Kelly  Marian Weer  Marjorie McNairn  Melanie Williams  Melissa Ha  Meryl Bond  Mike Thiede  Mike Williams  Nancy Hawley  Nancy Schleiger  Nancy Shanks  Paul Kirk  Paul Moore  Paula Shapiro  Phil Butler  Phyllis Lindley  Rob Schlishing  Robert Fischer  Ron Coley  Susan Bazell  Suellen Rowlison  Susan Mason  Syb Blythe  Tim Devine  Vaughn Harold  Wes Dempsey  Woody Elliott

CARD Center Rental Fund

THANK YOU  Bob and Arleen Coley, Alicia Thomas, 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.
NATIVE PLANT DISPLAY
Almost 300 species of native plants from Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Plumas Counties, identified and arranged by plant community, with habitat descriptions. THANK YOU collectors and plant ID’rs

NATIVE PLANT SALE  THANKS TO
Chico Propagators, The Plant Barn, Floral Native Nursery, Emilie White, Paul Kirk, Meryl Bond, Phil Butler, Nancy Hawley, John Whittlesey, Nancy Shanks, Jim Dempsey, Lowell Ahart, Mike Thiede, Nancy (below) and Dave Schleigher, Melissa Ha, Brent McGhie, Jim and Catie Bishop, Tim Devine

NATURE TALKS  THANK YOU
John Whittlesey  -TRANSFORMING YOUR LAWN into a Native Plant Garden
Rob Schlisling  -THE BIRDS and THE BEES (how flowers make seeds)
Wes Dempsey  -MAIDU USES OF NATIVE PLANTS
STUDENT ART EXHIBIT
39 designs were entered in the first NATIVE PLANT ILLUSTRATION CONTEST from high school students throughout the area. The winning design was printed on a T-shirts and is for sale.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
Kids had a great time making a plant press and went on a special scavenger hunt to explore California plant communities.

PLANTS CLOSE-UP
The microscope table offered close-up views of plants and neat things.

NATURE WALKS
John Aull and Jim Bishop led interactive walks along Big Chico Creek to show how to improve observations.

The winner was Emma Hoppough from Chico High School. Other schools were: Chester Jr. Sr. High School, Prospect High School, Pleasant Valley High School, and William Finch Charter School. Thank you everyone that participated.
Native Californians often called the humble elderberry shrub the “music tree,” in their own language, of course. This was because three of their musical instruments - flutes, whistles, and clapper sticks - were easily made from their hollowed-out stems or branches. The writer first learned this at one of the Ishi Gatherings in Chester several years ago. One of the speakers was Antonio Flores, a flute maker and player, and a docent at the East Bay Regional Parks. He played a couple of his elderberry flutes and mentioned that it took many hours of practice to play well. Following his presentation, he gave Maidu lady Beverly Ogle a flute he made especially for her from an elderberry near her former home in Mill Creek Canyon. Mr. Flores has given many workshops on flute making and playing, including at the University of California at Davis.

Beverly Ogle wrote about elderberry flutes in her book, *Whisper of the Maidu*, mainly as traditional children’s toys. Paul Schulz in *Indians of Lassen* wrote that flutes, although the most tuneful of Indian instruments, were generally not played at ceremonies or dances, curiously, but for self amusement or for courting girls. Outside of California many tribes did use flutes to produce dance music and for ceremonies. Flutes were often called “courting flutes” and were painted and decorated with feathers.

Most tribes in the Lassen area made four-hole flutes, but the Yana made a six-hole model. Typical flutes were about a foot long, but lengths up to three feet were known in the Southwest.

At the ceremony for the dedication of the Ishi Marker, high above Black Rock on the old Lassen Trail, a few years ago, a Maidu, Benny Summerfield, played his flute while his wife told some of the stories from Ishi’s life, particularly his sad feelings for his people in the last winters of his life. Many thought that this was the most touching part of the ceremony. Beverly Ogle also gave a poem she wrote for the event. The marker says that “Ishi’s spirit caresses the winds of the mountaintops,” and we felt that this was true.

Images of Kokopelli, the dancing flutist, were first found on pottery in the Southwest dating from about AD 800. He is believed to have been originally a fertility deity, and has become a symbol for all of the Southwest tribes and even for the Southwest in general.

It should be clarified that not all Native American flutes were made of elderberry. Many other woods were used, often requiring much more work to hollow out, usually by splitting then fastening the halves back together. Bone and clay were sometimes used, and even metal after European contact.

The scientific name for the elderberry genus, *Sambucus*, derives from a Greek word for an ancient musical instrument made from elderberry wood. Since the genus was named around 1750 in Europe, it appears that Europeans and Native Americans both knew the elderberry as the music tree. This could be explained because people anywhere would be quick to use a soft, workable wood for musical instruments.

Some people, when they see the elderberry, think of the endangered elderberry beetle and the sometimes contentious requirement that the tree be replaced when necessary for mitigation of environmental disturbance. Maybe these people should relax and remember that it is the music tree, and think of the haunting sound of the Indian flute.
Field Trips

Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco Co-chairs

UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER
CARIBOU FISHERMAN’S TRAIL
May 28 Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am. We will drive up Hwy 70 in the scenic Feather River Canyon to the Caribou Arm of the river where we will make roadside stops. We expect to see Shasta lilies, lady’s slippers where small streams cross the road. The road ends at PG & E’s nostalgic 1920’s town site and powerhouse. The hike is an easy three-mile round trip trail along a remote section of the North Fork of the Feather River. The river is crossed twice on footbridges. We are hoping for show of cascading white-water. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection and money for ride sharing. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Leader: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123

UPPER BUTTE CREEK TRAIL
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
June 5 Sunday

Meet at 9 am at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am. We will drive up Hwy 70 in the scenic Feather River Canyon to the Caribou Arm of the river where we will make roadside stops. We expect to see Shasta lilies, lady’s slippers where small streams cross the road. The road ends at PG & E’s nostalgic 1920’s town site and powerhouse. The hike is an easy three-mile round trip trail along a remote section of the North Fork of the Feather River. The river is crossed twice on footbridges. We are hoping for show of cascading white-water. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection and money for ride sharing. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Leader: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT
TO SALT CREEK SADDLE
MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST
May 22 Sunday
(see page 3.)

more Field Trips on page 2.
There was sunshine on April 1st, 2011, at Oroville—‘no fooling’—and it seemed ‘every clod was feeling a stir of might’ after weeks of cold, rainy weather. All around town, the prolific yellow oxalis were leading the way for a myriad of buds and bulbs about to announce their arrival, whether home-body natives, or nomads from afar.

Almonds had their day along the river in February, as had the quince, plum, and other early shrubs, and in turn, April was prepared for a bonanza of blossoms in town and out in the Fields of God - especially on Table Mountain.

Already the Blue Dick’s, *Dichelostemma capitatum*, blue blooms - some of the ‘grass nuts’ of the Lily Family clan - were reaching above the grass near the Feather River Nature Center, along with the Redbud and Bush Lupine that were bursting to glory in shrubby splendor.

The short-stemmed scenario of Table Mountain flora seemed to explode with yellow goldfields on that 80 degree Fool’s Day, and plenty of the lily species were poised to proceed.

What caught my attention in downtown Oroville, however, was not a native, but a fully blooming lilac bush that stopped me in my tracks. I had to cross the street to smell and steal a twig of the profusion of lavender blossoms because it stirred memories. Thanks, neighbor!

The sight and smell of the lilac had propelled me back 70 years to Grandpa and Ma’s farm in the Black Oak Community of Missouri. Ma’s pride and delight grew outside the ‘canary room’ window, and was a stunning sight and smell after the long winter. Never mind that it had its origins far away in Eastern Europe, *Syringa vulgaris* was fully entrenched in American soil. Thomas Jefferson had some in the late 1700’s, and it became so naturalized that New Hampshire chose it as their State Flower. Some introductions can work out well if not too invasive.

In California, there are a large number of ‘wild lilacs,’ alias *Ceanothus* in the Buckthorn Family. Some spectacular variations of blue blossoms are found in about 60 native species in California, mostly along the coastal areas. (probably ten times that number of garden hybrids). In Butte County, Oswald recorded 8 native species, but nearly all of them feature whitish blooms, except the *Ceanothus parvifolius*, and the mat-like *C. prostratus*.

The Lily Family makes itself felt in the springtime, too! The cultivated ‘Easter Lily’ type, the daffodils and tulips - and the 78 wild species Oswald listed in Butte County, enrich the variety of flora. All told, Liliaceae has 240 genera and about 4,000 species. However you look at it, Liliaceae was present 58 million years according to the fossil record. Would you say they are ‘native’ to planet Earth?

Oddly, some lilies are edible, like the Easter Lily, *Lilium longiflorum*, native to the Japan region, whose whiteness makes it popular at Easter. But some others are quite poisonous, including the native Death Camas, *Zigadenus venenosus*. *Zigadenus* is a sinister genus, and the spring local, *Zigadenus fremontii*, is also a toxic ‘camas.’ That is not to be confused with the ‘common camas,’ *Camassia quamash*, however, an edible bulb introduced to the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Indians - a food the expedition depended on in going over the mountains.

*For sweetest things turn sourest by their deeds,\nLilies that fester smell far worse than weeds.*
– William Shakespeare

*I am thinking of the lilac-trees,\nThat shook their purple plumes,\nAnd when the sash was open\nShed fragrance through the rooms.*
– Anna S. Stephens

*Lilium pardallinum* Photo by Gerry Ingco
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference
January 12-14, 2012        San Diego

The Conference Program Committee will be accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations between April 11 and August 4, 2011. The program will focus on plant conservation / restoration and will include a keynote address, plenary sessions, concurrent sessions that include a mix of invited and contributed oral presentations, a student paper session, and poster session. A special session dedicated to posters will allow in-depth discussion between authors and conference attendees. Submit all abstracts for Contributed Talks and Posters at: http://ice.ucdavis.edu/conferences/cnps/2012
Includes guidelines and instruction for submission. New this year- special sessions devoted exclusively to student presentations! To find out more about the conference please go to www.cnps.org/2012

Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK

Join the City of Chico’s Park Division Volunteers. For information contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, or check webcalendar at: http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/volunteer_calendar.asp

May 4 & 5       1- 4 pm
VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS IN THE PARK CEDAR GROVE. Volunteers will remove English Ivy from trees along Peterson Way. Park in the Cedar Grove parking lot, off of E. Eighth Street. Then walk west towards the restrooms and meet on the bridge adjacent to the Cedar Grove restrooms. If late call 624-3982 on Wednesday or 624-1617 on Thursday for location.

May 11       1 - 4 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 late call 624-3982 for location.

May 12       1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS 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 section is located between where Orient Avenue and East 1st Street intersect (just east of the Camelia Way Bridge and the Pine Street bridge -- on the edge of Downtown Chico. If late call 624-1617 for location.

May 14       9 - noon
STREAM TEAM WATER QUALITY MONITORING
Meet at Five Mile Recreation Area in the parking lot on the southside of Big Chico Creek off of Centennial Ave. Contact thamill@sunspot.net or 342-6620

THE PIPEVINE
May 2011

Officers & Chairs

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CCNC Garden
OPEN
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

Calendar 2011

May
1- Dale and Hog Lake
4 - Gen Meeting OROVILLE
5 - Chaffin Farm/Table Mt
14 - Sutter Buttes
15 - Maidu Upper Bidwell
18 - Board Meeting
21 - Yahi Trail Upper Bidwell
22 - Rare Plant Treas Hunt
28 - Caribou Trail

June
5- Upper Butte Creek BLM
12 - Chapter Picnic
15 - Board Meeting