Jennifer Jewell will be speaking on the joys of incorporating natives into the home garden. From formal long-border compositions, to cottage garden herbaceous perennial beds, to more naturalistic wildflower meadows and hedgerows, any home garden can and will benefit from California native plants added to the mix. Native plants add a strong sense of place to any home garden while they also help to support beneficial wildlife, pollinators and seed banks. Equally important, however, to feeding the larger community of life, California native plants are absolutely gorgeous, and when well-chosen, well-sited and well-cared for (which sometimes means leaving them alone!!), they will feed your gardener’s soul.

Jewell is the creator, producer and host of *In a North State Garden*, a weekly public-radio and web-based regional gardening information and advocacy program in California’s North State region. Jewell was born in Colorado and brought up gardening at high-altitude. After receiving a bachelor of liberal arts degree from Harvard University, she worked as an arts and literature editor and writer. In 1997, she combined her two passions and began garden writing. Her writing has been featured in *Gardens Illustrated, House & Garden, Pacific Horticulture, Edible Shasta Butte, Edible Sacramento, Chico News & Review, Colorado Homes & Lifestyles, Natural Home, and Old House Journal*. Jewell is a regular speaker for national and regional horticultural and gardening organizations and events on topics as diverse as the Cultural Significance of Gardening, Keeping a Garden Journal, the Art and Architecture of Seeds, and the beauty, adaptability and importance of native plants in the home garden. An avid, life-long home gardener, Jewell lives and gardens in Chico, CA. Visit her website at www.jewellgarden.com

*Penstemon palmeri* in her home garden. Photo by Jennifer Jewell
Meet at 10 am on the CSU, Chico campus at the parking lot at Warner St and College Ave (entrance to the stadium next to health center) for a two-hour tour of Tim Devine’s fabulous greenhouses. No worries about the vagaries of winter weather here as we see hundreds of plants from the jungles and deserts of the world: carnivorous plants, vanilla orchid, coffee tree, banana, and many others. Bring your camera-great pictures. Over at noon. Leader: Tim Devine 530-345-8444

UPPER Yahi Trail
UPPER BIDWELL PARK
March 3
Saturday
Meet at Horseshoe Lake, parking lot E in Upper Park at 9:30 am with lunch, water and hiking shoes. We will drive on up to Diversion Dam and climb up to the north ridge for marvelous views and early spring flowers. Leaders: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

JOINT TRIP WITH ALTACAL AUDUBON
Pinnacles National Monument
SAN BENITO COUNTY
March 30 - April 1
Friday - Sunday
Late March is a great time for wildflowers and nesting song birds at Pinnacles NM south of Hollister in San Benito County. Come together with wildflower and avian enthusiasts to soar with California condors after hiking the well groomed, 2 mile trail to the “High Peaks”. Then look west across the Salinas Valley toward the Ventana Range and elsewhere across the green, rolling ridges of the inner Coast Range. Shorter trails access upland habitat and through a jumble of boulders that create cool caves along a water course tumbling from an upper reservoir where water fowl are found. Nesting habitat for easy bird watching is abundant in the stream wash next to the campground on the east side of the Monument. Condors can be seen at dawn roosting in the conifers on the ridge above. The Monument’s large campground for tents and RVs (full hookups available) is a 5 hour drive from Chico down I-5 and via Hwy 152 over Pacheco Pass. Reservations for a group camp site or circle of camp sites will be made. Contact Woody at woodyelliott@gmail.com or 530 342-6053 to sign up.
Executive Board Meeting
February 15, 2012
Susan Bazell's
bazell@maxinet.com

President’s Message
by Paul L. Moore
Chapter President

Spring is coming and, as a gardener and outdoor enthusiast, I am excited. And, as usual for this time of year, I am amazed at all of the plants that are showing signs of growth, even though it is still February.

And, again, I would like to encourage all of our members to participate in the events and activities of the Chapter and to think seriously about serving on one of the several committees which serve the membership and implement the purpose of the California Native Plant Society. In the last two Pipevine issues, I have highlighted six committees and functions which invite your participation – Invasive Plants, Programs, Rare Plants, Conservation, Field Trips, and Yahi Trail Maintenance. Frankly, as with all community based groups, we certainly can benefit greatly from the professional, intellectual and energetic qualities you bring. There are clearly more opportunities for your participation.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
This committee, chaired by long term member, Phyllis Lindley, works with both the state organization and the chapter to encourage membership, insure accurate and secure records, and assist with routine communication. She organizes the Pipevine mailing list.

HORTICULTURE
Paula Shapiro has organized plant sales, workshops which reach out to the community through practical topics for gardeners and she continues to help other organizations with native gardens.

PUBLICITY
Chaired by Cindy Weiner, this committee has the important and difficult job of making sure the public knows what is happening under the sponsorship of the CNPS. This involves maintaining good relationships with the media, insuring good time for stories, and the composition and scheduling of quality advertising of Chapter events.

As you can see, there are many solid, professionally oriented opportunities for members to help this excellent organization. We encourage your participation, so call the chairs and get involved.

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

WRONG NOTE FOR 2012

The California Legislature convened for its 2012 session on January 4. In the first two days of its new session it activated two bad bills which were introduced but went nowhere in 2011, viz., AB 890 and SB 620. These bills, which are opposed by CNPS, would create new exemptions from the Environmental Impact Report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). They have been given expedited treatment because the 2012 legislative calendar sets January 31 as the last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2011.

AB 890 would, until January 1, 2015, exempt from CEQA requirements a project or activity of a city or county to improve public safety within an existing road right-of-way. This bill has been set for hearing before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on January 9.

SB 620 would, until January 1, 2015, exempt from CEQA requirements qualified projects that consist of the alteration of vacant retail structures that existed prior to 2009 and are not more than 120,000 square feet in area. Hearing on this bill was scheduled for January 6, but was cancelled at the request of the author (i.e., Senator Correa).

These bills are part of a pattern of state and federal bills that consider only the need to create jobs as soon as possible and ignore the long term economic and other damage that CEQA and the federal Environmental Policy Act are designed to prevent. Unfortunately, both the California Legislature and Congress tend to evaluate bills of this type in a vacuum and do not consider the disastrous cumulative effect of creating numerous exemptions from the environmental protection laws.

Hopefully, these bills will fare no better in 2012 than they did in 2011.

mountlassen.cnps.org
Have you noticed the landscape at the Gateway Science Museum?!!!##????

Four members of the Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS have begun work to improve the situation. Jennifer Jewell is the volunteer coordinator for the museum and has recruited three other CNPS members who are volunteering their services. Paula Shapiro and Adrienne Edwards are working on a landscape design for one section of the landscape on the northwest side of the museum. The design will feature native plants from northern California, demonstrating pollination, Native American uses, and home garden ideas. The long process of having the plan accepted by FMS (Facilities Management Services), CSU, Chico will begin in mid February. The next step will be drafting a budget for the whole plan and having the budget approved.

There will be several workshop opportunities for other volunteers to learn and help with the project. Susan Mason is developing workshops and programs to get others involved in this rewarding and vital project. If it is successful, we will aim for improving other sections of the landscape. The four Mount Lassen Chapter volunteers are very excited about the prospect of improving the gardens around the Gateway Science Museum --- a Chico treasure!

MLC is ONLINE!
mountlassen.cnps.org

Our website is growing and it will be different when you get this newsletter. New at Horticulture is a link to “In A North State Garden blog - Beauty to Spare - Catie & Jim Bishop’s Desert Garden in Oroville”. Woody has added General Meeting Speakers to the Archives. Conservation includes the new Wildflowers of Table Mountain. Don’t miss the growing list of Links which includes Jepson eFlora and Vern Oswald’s Florulae.
Few of us have enough time or money to eradicate all of the invasive plants on our properties. Developing a long-range weed control plan can be an important tool in gradually reducing your invasive plants to a tolerable level, while increasing the number of preferred plants at the same time.

You’ve now thought about how you want to use the various areas of your yard or property and identified what elements of your landscaping you want to improve in order to achieve those goals. You’ve decided which of your plants are worth keeping and which you definitely don’t want. There are generally also a few mystery plants— you’re not sure whether they are weeds and, if they are, whether they’re something you need to immediately tackle or if you can wait a few months (or years) before making a removal plan. To help with plant id, make several photos or put a sample of it into a ziplock bag. Take or send photo/sample to your County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, Master Gardeners, a CA Native Plant Society meeting, or the CSU Chico Herbarium (open on Fridays). If you think you know the name of the plant, you can use Google Images or the CalFlora web site to confirm your id.

The next step is a small amount of research about the plant’s biology. Knowing a little of its biology is essential for successful control of almost any weed. Let’s use yellow starthistle (YST) as an example. YST is an annual plant so you’ll need to work on it every year—skipping a year of control may negate all of your efforts in prior years. YST can germinate over many months, with each fall and winter rain producing new seedlings so, if you’re using hand-weeding or herbicide as a control method, you’ll need to monitor your sites for several months. It spreads via seeds, primarily by attaching itself temporarily to humans, vehicles and animals. This means that you can reduce YST spread by clearing plants away from the edges of paths and roads. The plant produces 2 types of seed in its flower, one of which matures and falls off the flower within a week or so of the flower’s appearance. The other seeds persist for months on the flowers until some major disturbance breaks them up. Knowing this, you should realize that mowing after the plant has bolted and set seed is not a good idea as it will help to spread the seeds. YST has many other characteristics that you can also use to help determine the most suitable control methods in your situation.

For every weed, knowing how and when it reproduces and spreads is the key to control. The California Invasive Plant Council’s web site (www.cal-ipc.org) has comprehensive plant biology and management information for most of our local weeds. Other resources are listed on our Mount Lassen Chapter web site.

Some Invasive Species to Control in February and March

**Annuals and Biennials**
- common groundsel (Senecio vulgaris), bur-chervil (Anthriscus caucalis), yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis), common mallow (Malva neglecta), milk thistle (Silybum marianum) and, of course, once it starts raining, all kinds of annual grasses such as medusahead (Taeniatherum caput-medusae) and barb goatgrass (Aegilops triuncialis)

**Evergreen Perennials**
- ivy (Hedera spp), periwinkle (Vinca spp), privet (Ligustrum spp), European olive (Olea europa), eucalyptus, Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius), Spanish broom (spartium junceum) and French broom (Genista monspessulana), ornamental grasses such as pampas-grass (Cortaderia selloana), Mexican feather grass (Nassella tenuissima), and green (and possibly red too) fountain grass (Pennisetum setaceum), golden bamboo (Phyllostachys aurea), Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), and Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus)

Top - barb goatgrass (Aegilops triuncialis)
Bottom - common groundsel (Senecio vulgaris)
Join the City of Chico’s Park Division Volunteers. For information contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, or check webcalendar at: ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/volunteer_calendar.asp

February 2  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK - Sycamore Restoration site at One Mile Recreation Area. Volunteers will remove invasive weeds from the restoration site and help transplant native plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres - walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path. Call 624-1617 for Thur work session information.

February 3  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS IN THE PARK - Entrance Gate to Bidwell Park - Volunteers will weed flower bed area and remove non-native ornamental bushes. Meet at the intersection of 4th and Pine St. Call 624-3982 for worksite information.

February 4  11 am - 2pm
VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS IN THE PARK - Five Mile Recreation Area. Volunteers will remove invasive plants, including privets, blackberry and ivy. Meet at the Five Mile parking lot on the south side of Big Chico Creek (take Centennial Ave east across Manzanita Ave to the parking lot). If you arrive late, call 624-3982 on Wednesday or 624-1617 on Thursday for worksite location.

February 9  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK - Sycamore Restoration site at One Mile Recreation Area. Volunteers will remove invasive weeds from the restoration site and help transplant native plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres - walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path. Call 624-1617 for work session information.

February 10  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS IN THE PARK - Picnic Site 8 off of South Park Dr. Volunteers will remove invasive weeds, thornless blackberries and European hackberry trees and litter. Park at Cedar Grove off of East 8th St and walk east through the park gate along south park drive to site #8. Call 624-3982 right before work session for directions.

February 17  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS IN THE PARK - One Mile Recreation Area near the Horseshoe Pits - Volunteers will remove invasive weeds. Meet at the Horseshoe pits - first parking lot after you enter the 4th and Pine St entrance at One Mile. Call 624-3982 for worksite information.

February 18  11 am – 2 pm
VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS IN THE PARK - One Mile Recreation Area near the Horseshoe Pits - Volunteers will remove invasive weeds. Meet at the Horseshoe Pits - first parking lot after you enter the 4th and Pine St entrance at One Mile.

February 23  1 - 4 pm
VOLUNTEER THURSDAYS IN THE PARK - Sycamore Restoration site at One Mile Recreation Area. Volunteers will remove invasive weeds from the restoration site and help transplant native plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres - walk past the Caper Acres entrance gate toward the paved path. Call 624-1617 for work session information.

February 24  1 – 4 pm
VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS IN THE PARK - One Mile Recreation Area near the Horseshoe Pits - Volunteers will remove invasive weeds. Meet at the Horseshoe pits - first parking lot after you enter the 4th and Pine St entrance at One Mile. Call 624-3982 for worksite information.

Welcome!

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

NEW MEMBERS
Elena Gregg  Chico
Kay Hoffner  Chico
Spencer Dykstra  Paradise
Tim Kellison  Susanville
Jessica Pijoan  Susanville

REINSTATED
Deb Rojas  Chico
Anna Stephens  Paradise
Lorna Stigall & Tim Smith  Oroville
Table Mountain, near Oroville, is one of the premier wildflower destinations in all of California. Set against the rounded hills of the northern Sierra Nevada, its distinctive table top, bounded by steep cliffs and covered in flowers, rises above the edge of the Sacramento Valley. Not only are the flowers numerous and of many kinds, they are arranged in colorful swirling patterns that resemble an impressionist painting. Over some of the cliffs plunge spectacular waterfalls, reminiscent of Hawaii. To help you enjoy this special place, the authors profile 70 of the most common and showy species you are likely to see during the popular spring-time viewing season. Extensive background information is also provided on the mountain’s hiking routes, geologic history, gold mining sites, plant ecology, and wildlife.
On my desk I have a sliced piece of fossil stone that is ornately patterned with circular “eyes.” The rock-hard specimen was found in a formation of excavated chalk beds in eastern Colorado during a construction project, and is allegedly part of an ancient tree fern called Tempskya, Anemia fremontii, that grew in abundance during a tropical phase of the planet ages ago.

Pine ferns called Anemia adiantifolia, grow today in the S.E. U.S. that resemble the fossil A. fremontii ferns, discovered by John Fremont in 1843 on Cumberland ridge while looking for a new route to Oregon.

The fern forests were so dense about 250 million years ago, that they not only provided abundant food for the giant dinosaurs, but the vegetative residue became buried so deep by sediment and volcanic ash that the debris was pressurized into coal. Fossils reveal indications of ferns and other flowerless plants like horsetail, cycads, and conifers growing on Early Earth.

The ferns, conifers, and horsetails did not succumb to the rigors of a convulsive earth, but thrive presently in their particular habitats. In fact, there are about 10,000 species of fern on the planet today with about 35 species in Butte County, and many show little change from their fossilized forefathers. In spite of evolutionary dropouts, some species of life have endured with hardly any alteration. Consider the one-celled amoeba, the coelacanth fish, many insects, and the redwood trees that are among an unknown number of ‘living fossils.’

Ferns are Pteridophyte plants that developed about 400 million years ago in the Palaeozoic Age, and as such did not have the flowering process.

So how do flowerless, seedless, ferns reproduce? Reproduction gets into intricacies as complex as the very beginning of ferns. Instead of seeds, ferns have spores as produced in the Sporophyte Generation. Spores act as seeds in that they contain the spark of life. Under the fern fronds, there are sporangia spore containers, protected by rolled edges or spore coverings called indusia.

Each sporangium is attached by a thin stalk and contains a varied number of spores, depending on the species, that are expelled, and if successfully launched to a moist landing pad, become separate gametophyte plants [Gametophyte Generation] that can have sex! Having male sex cells that swim through a fluid to reach an egg in the gamete’s bower is ever so much like a male human sperm whipping the tail toward the destination of the egg! To describe the botanical detail would take pages, but the end result is a stem growth from the gamete that results in a new fern plant that will produce spores. Around and around we go in the cycles-of-life flow!

The number of microscopic spores produced is astronomical. On some species of ferns, such as the golden polypody, one sori may produce 57,000 spores. There are 100 sori on each leaflet, 25 leaflets to a frond, and about seven new fronds develop per year. Figure that out!

Eventually, some species with spore cases were altered into naked seeds but without the flower process. Nearly all conifers feature the cone-and-seed process. Angiosperm flowering plants appeared in the fossil record in the Cretaceous Age about 100 mya.

Near Oroville Dam there is a shale formation said to be about 80 million years old, that contains plant fossils of ferns, horsetails, and willow-like leaves. We have some samples in the Feather River Nature Center. There is a certain thrill in finding evidence of ancient plants embedded in stone, and you can but marvel at the processes that produced life and left fragments in stone as proof of the living past.

The Earth speaks, clearly, distinctly, and, in many of the realms of nature, loudly. The Earth speaks from the remotest periods in the wonderful life history of the Archaeozoia Age when it reveals only a few tissues of its primitive plants.

—Henry Fairfield Osborn
Lynn R. Thomas
March 31, 1925 - November 17, 2011

Lynn R. Thomas, born Marilyn Elizabeth Robbins on March 31, 1925 to Almira Mitchell Robbins and Harry Mitchell in Waipahu on Oahu in the Territory of Hawaii. She attended Punahou School in Honolulu from Kindergarten – Junior Year of High School. She was an eyewitness to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Her family settled in a family home in Pacific Grove, California in 1942. She attended Stanford University earning her BA (’47) and Master’s degree in Biology (’49). She worked for Stanford University and for the Palo Alto Research Foundation. She became a strong proponent of nature and conservation. In 1961, she married Dr. Sydney Thomas and they moved to Shiraz, Iran. They both worked at the Phalavi University. They returned to the United States in 1965 and settled in Chico. Lynn was an ardent conservationist and lover of the outdoors: birds and plants being her favorites. Together Lynn and Syd traveled to all seven continents. In addition to being a member of Altacal Audubon, the Sierra Club and the California Native Plant Society, she was active locally advocating for causes which promoted recycling and protecting the environment. She said she liked it when a local paper called her an activist. She is survived by her stalwart friends: Phil and Gerda Lydon, Fran and Juanita Farley and Phyllis Lindley. She is also survived by her step-children: Megan Ambrosio of Verona, New Jersey, Cynthia Thomas Dach of Sequim, Washington and Philip Thomas of Boonville, California.

For more about Lynn see February 2010 Pipevine.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter
new _____ renew _____

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
City _______________________________________________________________________
State ______ Zip ___________ Phone _____________________________

Email ________________________________________________________________

Send Membership Applications to:
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER CNPS
P. O. BOX 3212
CHICO, CA 95927-3212

mountlassen.cnps.org

February
1 - General Meeting
10 - Pipevine Deadline
15 - Board Meeting
19 - CSUC Greenhouse Tour

March
3 - Upper Yahi Trail
7 - General Meeting
9 - Pipevine Deadline
21 - Board Meeting
30 - 1 - Pinnacles NM Trip

April
4 - General Meeting
6 - Pipevine Deadline
18 - Board Meeting

Join Today!

Calendar 2012

$25
$45
$75
$100
$300
$600