Homes, Native Plants and ... 

Fire

BCFSC MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE

1. The Chipper Program - Provided service to 4,200 resident requests and treated hazardous fuels on 5,500 acres.
2. Residents Assistance Program - Provided defensible space service to 350 residents.
3. Sixth Grade Wildfire in the Foothills Education Program - Provided 2000 sixth grade students with wildfire education.
4. Fuels Reduction Projects - Collaborated in 9 roadside fuels reduction projects which total over 30 miles.
5. Education Materials - Homeowners Guide to Fire Wise Landscaping Brochures created by BCFSC are used throughout California.
6. Community Fire Safe Council (FSC) - BCFSC supports 6 community FSC’s with capacity building and project assistance to enhance grass roots fire safe knowledge throughout the County.

General Meeting

MARCH 7, 2012
Wednesday  7:30 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

Presented by
ANNA STEPHENS
and CALLI-JANE BURCH
of the Butte County Fire Safe Council

Anna Stephens and Calli-Jane Burch will be presenting information about Homes, Native Plants, and Fire. Central points include: wildfires threats and history in Butte County, common landscape plants and settings, choices for landscape vegetation and its maintenance, and the defensible space clearance law. Fire Safety resources will be provided. The Butte County Fire Safe Council’s mission is to provide wildfire safety in Butte County through education and hazard mitigation. The Council is a non-profit, public benefit corporation which formed in 1998 through community and agency collaboration. The seventeen member Board of Directors represents federal, state, and local agencies as well as community members and is very active.

Anna Stephens is a past Mount Lassen Chapter Education Chair, Paradise resident for 18 years, retired teacher of 37 years and co-wrote *Wildfire in the Foothills*, Butte County Fire Safe Council’s program for Sixth graders.

Executive Director of the Butte County Fire Safe Council for 6 years, Calli-Jane Burch, has MA in Geography from CSU, Chico. She is author of *Once Upon a Wildfire*, a children’s book about the Humboldt Fire of 2008.
UPPER BUTTE CREEK BLM TRAIL
March 18
Sunday
Meet at 9 am at west lot Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) and bring lunch, drink, and hiking gear. We will drive up to Garland Road, above Forest Ranch, and then down to Butte Creek and the trail head. We will take this beautiful creekside trail downstream for about 1-1/2 miles for lunch. Fawn lilies, rockcress, bleeding heart, milkmaid, and monkeyflower. Easy walking. Leaders: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

MAGALIA SPOTTED FAWN LILIES AND MCNAB CYPRESS
March 25
Sunday
Meet at west lot Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) at 9 am with lunch, hiking gear, and drink for a 1-1/2 mile hike down a rough trail to the head dam on the West Branch of the Feather River below Magalia. Call for directions to alternate meeting place. The steep serpentine slope offers spectacular displays of yellow and white fawn lilies nestled beneath the McNab cypresses. Also fritillaria, brodiaea, and other surprises. Leaders: Wes Dempsey, 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123

STATE PARK AT SUTTER BUTTES PEACE VALLEY & VICINITY
March 24
Saturday
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. To sign up contact Woody Elliott, email preferred woodyelliott@gmail.com or 530 342-6053.
When I wrote the column last month, I was fantasizing a bit about spring. I was frankly delighted to see the flowering pears in downtown Chico during the first week of February. We should all keep an eye out for the almond blossoms which will soon dominate the north valley landscape. It is an exciting time of year.

For both continuing and new members of Mount Lassen Chapter, I would like to encourage you to check out our new and exciting chapter website, developed by our longtime member and leader, Woody Elliott. It is an attractive page containing information about our mission, activities, field trips, meeting locations and times, copies of the Pipevine in case you loose yours, and all sorts of information about the chapter. You get there through this address: mountlassen.cnps.org. So do check it out regularly.

In my last several columns, I have identified several of the exciting opportunities for you to participate in the work of the chapter. This month, I would like to feature the last three of the committees listed in the Pipevine.

**EDUCATION**
Chaired by Adrienne Edwards, this committee helps with our mission to encourage the importance of native plants throughout the community by working with schools and other organizations.

**NEWSLETTER**
Denise Devine is editor and designer for our chapter newsletter, *The Pipevine*. She also produces posters, brochures and is our facebook editor.

**SALES**
Co-chaired by Ellen Copeland and John Meehan, they organize books and items to sell which benefits our members and raises funds for the chapter.

I hope to see you at the General Meeting on March 7 or on one of the great field trips planned for the month.
Save the dates

**RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT**
by Ron Coley, Rare Plant Chair

Kayaks or canoes needed for a rare plant treasure hunt. Mountain Meadows Conservancy is asking us to help them find and survey a rare water plant, *Brasenia schreberi* (watershield), that has not been surveyed since 1955. I need to know if there is anyone that would like to get out of the hot valley this summer. The rare plant treasure hunt will be on the 14th of July at 9:30 am at Mountain Meadows Reservoir in the Sierra’s, just south of Westwood in Lassen County at an old sawmill and logging town that is around 5,049 feet elevation. It would be a kayak or canoe treasure hunt only, no motor boats allowed. I was told the lake is too shallow. You need to have your own kayak or canoe and equipment for a safe adventure. There is fishing and birding there also. Please contact Ron Coley at rcoley64@comcast.net or call 530-990-1533 to join in the fun. I think this will be a neat adventure. Come join us if you can.

**TENTATIVE** Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Schedule 2012

April 21 - THOMES CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
northeast of Corning: dwarf downinga, Ahart’s nailwort, Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop, and Henderson’s bentgrass

May 5 - WURLITZER UNIT, VINA PLAINS
Tehama navaretia, shield-bracted monkey flower, Sanford’s arrowhead, and Green’s tuctoria

June 2 - DALES LAKE & HOG LAKE

July 21 - BUTTE CREEK TRAIL
Humboldt lily and Sanborn’s onion

August 18 - LITTLE DRY CREEK UNIT, UPPER BUTTE BASIN WILDLIFE AREA
California hibiscus

October 6 - BUTTE CREEK HOUSE
obtuse starwar

**Now available!**

**RESEARCH & RECOVERY IN VERNAL POOL LANDSCAPES**

Studies from the Herbarium
Number 16, 2011
California State University, Chico

Based on a series of papers at the conference: “Vernal Pool Conservation: Research, Progress and Problems. Is Recovery Possible?”

Held March 26, 2010, in Chico CA

To order: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

**WANTED! FLOWER PHOTOS**

Please! We need some new native plant photos that can be published in The Pipevine and other media. Send your digital photos to the editor Denise Devine dsrdevine@hotmail.com THANKS!

California Native Plant Society,
Mount Lassen Chapter
and LIKE US

mountlassen.cnps.org
During the spring the Vina Plains Preserve comes alive with colorful wildflowers which carpet the grasslands and ring the vernal pools in spectacular bands of color. The pools support many rare, threatened or endangered species and attract a large array of waterfowl and shorebirds that feast on small crustaceans that fill the pools this time of year.

The one mile hike is relatively flat, but the surface will be uneven, and may be wet and slippery in places, depending on the weather. The hike will be led by California Native Plant Society botanists, who are extremely knowledgeable about the flora of the site.

Please note: Wear hiking boots for uneven and often muddy terrain. Bring water, snacks and binoculars. Dogs are not allowed during these events.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading international, nonprofit organization that conserves the lands and waters on which all life depends. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 14 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 83 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

First Arrivals

by Rex Burress

We’re always glad to see the first of any good tidings arrive, and that applies especially to a new year of plant growth. By March wildflowers should be well on their way in such hallowed places as Table Mountain...if it rains.

As soon as the sun starts rebounding from the winter Solstice, it seems to turn the volume up in the intricacies of plant and animal life responding to the lengthened days of light. Very quickly in January, the wild cucumber sends vine-probes upward to test the air, tendril fingers uncurling to grope their loved supporters. I checked the site of a manroot on Jan. 3, and, yes, two snaky ambassadors were on their way. Nearby, Indian soapplant was punching pointed leaves through the sod, and a myriad of sprout species peppered the soil, waiting for some rain to feed the roots of little Monocots and Dicots breaking out to the summons of the sun.

All around Oroville and the foothills, puffs of petals will pop forth, one species after another as if they politely take their turn. Except for manzanita’s urn-shaped white clusters dangling from the shrubs in January, like earrings from a lady’s tresses, and pipevine’s eager entrance into the fray [some first blossoms in front of the Feather River Nature Center Jan. 27], many of those early flowers are non-native. Mustard, radish, quince, almond—they all give an early splash of color to attract equally early insects. Mustard, in particular, spreads early yellow blossoms throughout orchards as I saw on Jan. 8th.

One of the most constant indications of a new season of plant growth has been Wes Dempsey’s annual hike up the Bidwell Park wall to the ‘banana belt’ on New Year’s Day. The narrow sheltered niche near the rim is up there where the plant stirrings can catch more sun, and normally, Wes said, a few blue dicks, yellow carpet, goldfields, bittercress, purple mouse ears, filaree, manzanita, buckbrush, white alder, and bay laurel are in some degree of reproductive display.

But Wes said, in this abnormal dry beginning of 2012, only a few dwarfed fiddlenecks were to be found. Water does wonders to help promote plants, and, like the rancher needing water for cattle and crops, the magic elixir is the crucial element for resurrection.

Along Cherokee Road, halfway to the top of Table Mountain, across the road from a roadside pond, white Lowland Shooting stars [Dodecatheon clevelandii] dominate one of those early wildflower patches sometime between Jan. and March. Their bowed heads grow on short stems since taller plants have not blocked their visibility to insects and to the sun. I feel refreshed to see the return of old friends, and soon buttercups and California saxifrage join the breaking-out party.

The taller purple Henderson’s Shooting Star [Dodecatheon hendersonii], comes later in the spring parade.

Each week has its arrivals right through May—and beyond if you want to consider the tough tarweeds, vinegar weeds, of the summer scenario...and on to the autumn agenda of Aster [Aster chilensis] and CA Fuchsia [Epilobium canum...Zauschneria latifolia to us old-timers!] Wes said it took us years to learn that “Z” word before the “E” word appeared! It’s not fair: It should be, once a “Z,” always a “Z.” Maybe it’s like The Grand Organizer’s schedule that is not rigid as there are overlaps, just as the seasons overlap, but a general pattern of consistency prevails throughout the structure of nature.

Earth laughs in flowers. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Spring unlocks flowers to paint the laughing soil. – Reginald Heber

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
March 3
Introduction to LICHEN Identification
by Tom Carlberg

For most people lichens are only colorful blotches on rocks or just moss-like stuff on tree branches. But lichens are a unique association between a fungus and an alga. This workshop will explore the basics of lichens in the lab in Holt Hall and also in the field.

March 10 -11
Introduction to the Identification of BRYOPHYTES
by Shana Gross

Mosses, liverworts, and hornworts are all known as bryophytes. The study and identification of bryophytes is technically complex but is rewarding at the same time. This workshop will explore the basics in the lab in Holt Hall and also in the field.

March 31
Emerging Botanical Field Methods
New technologies to identify, map, and explore wild diversity
by Dan Gluesenkamp

Learn how to use your iphone, android, tablet or GPS camera to precisely map plants. Find out how to report important plant discoveries and explore plants from mountaintop, desktop or laptop. This workshop will introduce the use of all of the latest technology.

April 14
Health and Safety for Workers in the Field Sciences
by Josephine Guardino and John Dittes

Preventing injury and illness on the job is paramount to both the employee and employer; both share roles and responsibility. This workshop will identify and assess various hazards associated with field work and explore methods to avoid or minimize them.

April 21
Intro to the 2nd Ed of THE JEPSON MANUAL (TJM2)
by Dan Potter

Why are there new scientific names for plants and their families in the 2nd edition of the Jepson Manual? This workshop will review the background information about the changes and practice in using the new manual with flowers collected in the Chico area.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

Name _________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________
City _____________________________________________________
State ______ Zip ___________ Phone ___________________________
Email ____________________________________________________

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

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

Join Today!

Calendar 2012

March
3 - Upper Yahi Trail
7 - General Meeting
9 - CSUC Tree Tour
9 - Pipevine Deadline
18 - Upper Butte Hike
21 - Board Meeting
23 - CSUC Tree Tour
24 - Sutter Buttes
25 - Magalia Fawn lily
30 -1 - Pinnacles NM Trip

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

Pipevine