A great chance to hear our state Conservation Director describe native plant conservation, including the difficulty of siting renewable-energy facilities so that critical native plant habitat is not needlessly destroyed.

The native flora of California is unlike any other in the world. California’s wild gardens are immensely diverse and awe-inspiring in their beauty. They define the landscape and offer Californians a sense of place, pride, and stability.

Urban and agricultural growth, the spread of nonnative weeds, expanding knowledge regarding sustainable timber and grazing practices, and inadequate land use planning all elevate the essential need to prevent the decline in California’s native plant diversity.

The CNPS Conservation Program promotes sound plant science as the backbone of effective natural areas protection. We work closely with decision-makers, scientists, and local planners to advocate for well-informed and environmentally friendly policies, regulations, and land management practices.

Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director, will describe the work of the Conservation Program. He will emphasize the challenges of advocating effective plant conservation while addressing the planning and development of desert wind and solar projects, and on-going work to develop ecological standards for California’s forests.

Greg has been our Conservation Director since 2009. He has worked as a watershed coordinator, science educator, and biological consultant in northern California, and spent several years monitoring streams and surveying forests throughout the state. He has a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Marine Science, and began his professional career as a research scientist in marine botany.
Field Trips

Wes Dempsey and
Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES GREENHOUSES TOUR
February 10
Sunday
Meet at CSU Health Center parking lot at the corner of Warner St and College Ave at 10 am. From there we will walk the short distance to the greenhouses. Tim Devine has collected hundreds of unusual plants from all over the world and is eager to show them off to you in temperature-controlled aquatic, tropical and desert settings: shield ferns, orchids, cacti, pitcher plants, and many others. Ends at noon. Leader: Tim Devine 530 345-8444.

“LOST ARBORETUM” WALK LOWER BIDWELL PARK
February 24
Sunday
Meet at the Cedar Grove parking lot (west of the Nature Center) off E. 8th St in Lower Bidwell Park at 9:30 am for a short guided tour to see an amazing collection of century-old trees. In 1888 John Bidwell gave these 29 acres to the state to establish an experiment station/tree nursery to test useful woody plants from all over the world and then distribute them throughout Northern California. We still have about 70 different species surviving from these plantings including large groves of Italian Cypress and Portuguese cork oak along with smaller groupings of Japanese zelkova, American persimmon, black ash, Port Orford cedar, hackberries, elms. Ends at noon. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530 342-2293.

YAHI TRAIL UPPER BIDWELL PARK
March 3
Sunday
Meet at 9 am at the Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot E in Upper Bidwell Park. Bring a Lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and wear walking shoes. We will walk a short distance on the Upper Park Road the Yahi Trail. We will follow the trail for an easy walk along Big Chico Creek. We shall hike upstream as far as time will allow us to return to our cars by about 3:30 pm. The trail leads its way through a diverse selection of flora, fauna, and geology. Expect to see a variety of pretty spring wildflowers and learn how to identify the area’s most common shrubs and trees. Leader: Gerry Ingco 530 893-5123.

NATIVE PLANTS NEEDED
by Paula Shapiro, Horticulture Chair

Our wonderful Wildflower Show & Plant Sale will be held this coming April 21. We will be in need of native CA plants for the sale. So start searching through your pots and gardens for plants you can donate. Your donations are essential for the success of this entertaining and educational fund raiser. Thank you in advance for your help and donations and Happy New Year!
As yet there is no 2013 legislative news. The 113th Congress convened on January 3rd. The California Legislature reconvened for legislative purposes on January 7th. Its December 2012 session was for organizational purposes only.

All federal and state bills not acted upon during the prior legislative sessions are dead, but can be reintroduced as new bills. February 22nd is the last day for new bills to be introduced in the California Legislature. We can expect a raft of new bills by then, and it will take some time for CNPS to review them and decide which ones to support, oppose or merely watch.

Hopefully, the gains in the economy, however slight, will improve the chances for funding existing and enacting needed environmental protection laws.

In October a member of the Mount Lassen Chapter Board nominating committee called and asked me if I would consider running for President, and in a weak moment, I said yes. Why? Well, it seemed to me that the Executive Board with its officers and committees is such a smooth running group that I would be able to handle another commitment, at least for 2013.

Much progress has occurred these past two years with President Paul Moore. Before that there were two years of progress with Janna Lathrop and one year with Mike Williams, which brings us back to my first terms as President in 2006 and 2007. We just keep recycling people who have a love for native plants and their ecosystems. So jump on board and find a committee to serve on. If Field Trips are your thing, volunteer to be a leader and learn from Wes and Gerry. As Conservation Chair, Woody is tackling many issues and could use some help. Also, he and I represent CNPS on the Stakeholder Committee for the Butte Regional Conservation Plan which I have been on since 2006. Someone from MLC will need to be continually represented as the Plan is implemented, hopefully by 2014.

A great way to get involved is helping with the Wildflower Show & Plant Sale on April 21. Contact Paula Shapiro or Ellen Copeland to volunteer. Bring some young people with you to the event or sponsor a student so that they will begin to appreciate native plants and California’s landscapes. Recycling and replacing ourselves helps to sustain CNPS. Thanks for all that you do and will do.

Questions? Contact me or any of the Officers & Chairs listed in on page 9, or www.mountlassen.cnps.org or our Facebook page—California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter.

Do You Want To Receive The Pipevine by email?

Reference for delivery of The Pipevine was requested in a recent survey of 179 Chapter Members with email addresses. The resulting 76 responses are:

1. By email only 69%
2. By US Postal Service only 13%
3. By both email and US Postal Service 14%
4. I will access The Pipevine from the website as I need it - do not send. 4%

The Board requests that Chapter Members who want to receive electronic copies of The Pipevine by email only or by both email and US Mail or not at all, please notify Membership Chair Susan Mason via membershipchair@mountlassen.cnps.org

Delivery of The Pipevine by email to such requesters without sending them paper copies will commence when a sufficient number of such requests have been received. This depends on the economy of the minimal number of paper copies to be posted using the Chapter’s Bulk Mail Permit.

Thank you, the Executive Board of Directors
4. The Pipevine  
February 2013

RECYCLING  
BOTANICAL BOOKS  
John Meehan, Sales Co-chair  

...Are you running out of space for your old books?  
... Are you no longer using that field guide to trees?  
...Have you enjoyed that coffee table book long enough?  
...Have you moved on to mushrooms and now have too many fern books?  

Donate your books for the Chapter’s USED BOOK SALE to be held at the MAY 2013 GENERAL MEETING. All books on plants, gardening, natural history and field guides will be welcome. Books donated to the chapter will be reasonably priced and the proceeds will benefit the Chapter. Bring your books to the Sales Table at any of the General Meetings from November to April or call John Meehan at 530-894-5339.

RARE PLANT  
TREASURE HUNT  
2012 AWARDS  
PHOTO AWARD 3rd Place  
by Ron Coley  

Hibiscus lasiocarpos var. occidentalis  
(woolly rose-mallow, Rank 1B.2)  

Congratulations Ron!  

from CNPS  
Significant Chapter Contributions  

The Mount Lassen Chapter had a successful second year of rare plant hunting. Chapter leader Ron Coley organized trips to retrace the footsteps of the botanist VERN OSWALD. The weather was highly uncooperative this year, and suppressed some of the annuals on their hope-to-find list, but they were successful in locating several historical rare plant occurrences, including the tiny water plant Wolffia brasiliensis (Brazilian watermeal). (right) This is probably the smallest rare plant ever documented on a RPTH trip.

from cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasurehunt/award_winners.php  

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS  
2013 SYMPOSIUM  
From the Redwoods to the Sagebrush: Botany Ranging Far and Wide  

Mount Lassen Chapter sponsored two students to attend the 5th Northern California Botanical Symposium that was on January 14-15, 2013. Each was deserving of the support and interested in botany and ecology. The student from CSU, Chico is Emily Meigs and from Butte College is Jenny Finitzer. Also MLC’s Education Chair Adrienne Edwards staffed our sales table. It was held at California State University, Chico. The 2-day schedule of presentations by working botanists included sessions on Biogeography, Restoration & Recovery, Redwood and North Coast Botany and Ecology, Non-seed Plants, Seed and Propagule Biology of northern California plants, Great Basin Ecology, and New Discoveries.
Butte County has lost a great friend and avid protector of the environment. Susan Davidson Bazell died on December 1, 2012 after a short illness. Born in San Francisco, California in 1940, Susan was 71 years old. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Susan lived most of her life with her late husband, Haskel Bazell in the Bay Area.

Throughout her life she developed a keen interest in botany and applied her extraordinary artistic talents to become a first class botanical illustrator. Her drawings have been published in *The Life of an Oak: An Intimate Portrait* by Glen Keator, and illustrated by Susan Bazell, and *Plants of the East Bay Parks*, by Glen Keator and illustrated by Peg Steunenberg and Susan Bazell. Her illustrations also appear in two other publications: *Conifers of California*, by Ronald M. Lanner and *Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada*, by Stephen Ingram.

Susan and her husband retired to Paradise, CA, where she found a serenity and deep contentment. She loved living and hiking in the foothills and mountains of the region, catching the spring wildflower seasons and collecting specimens for her drawings. She took particular delight in designing and cultivating her own native plant garden. Susan was an active volunteer and board member of a number of local organizations including: California Native Plant Society, Friends of Bidwell Park, and the Chico State Herbarium, as well as a long time supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Published in Chico Enterprise-Record on December 5, 2012

SUSAN BAZELL 1940 – 2012

*Her flash of a bright smile and her inquisitive, generous personality will be remembered ...*

*Jennifer Jewell, jewellgarden.com/blog/category/susan-bazell/

Our wonderful friend Susan has been on the Mount Lassen Chapter Board since 2008. She was a very dedicated member that served as many officers and chairs. She always volunteered and helped with meetings, hikes, and events - doing whatever job was needed.

Thank you Susan. We will miss your joy, love, and enthusiasm for our mission to help native plants.
Invasive plants are the second largest cause of native plant habitat loss in California, exceeded only by habitat lost to development. In many communities, CNPS chapters are leading efforts to control weeds in natural areas. The Mount Lassen Chapter has been active in invasive plant removal projects for more than 15 years and is currently involved in 3 such projects.

Our longest-running effort has focused on Spanish broom (Spartium junceum) control in Upper Bidwell Park and along Hwy 32. Besides the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of volunteer hours spent pulling out broom plants, we’ve contributed toward the work of a professional crew to remove broom from less accessible areas in the watershed. Last summer, we supported Butte County Agricultural Commissioner Richard Price’s successful request to the Board of Supervisors to quarantine broom plants at local nurseries, which will in effect eliminate the future sale of these plants. We’ve been working with the Butte County and Paradise Fire Safe Councils’ Doom the Broom Coalition to help willing landowners remove Scotch, French and Spanish broom from their properties throughout the county. During the winter and spring, we will again offer volunteer broom removal sessions in Upper Park.

Several years ago, the Chapter adopted the Yahi Trail next to Big Chico Creek in Upper Bidwell Park. Since then we’ve been doing minor tread repairs and brush clearing along the trail edges. Last summer, we started pulling yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis, YST) from short sections of the trail. We hope to expand this effort by doing an initial removal of YST along the entire 3.5 mile trail in late spring and early summer, to reduce the spread of the plant to currently uninfested areas. Hand-pulling, if done before seed set, can be a very effective way to eliminate YST as the seed is relatively short-lived. The long-term goal is to have trail users adopt sections of the area between Upper Park Road and Big Chico Creek and keep them YST-free. Besides this Yahi Trail YST project, we’ll be working with the City of Chico to help neighborhood groups organize to remove YST from city-owned open space areas near their homes.

Our third project, started in mid-November, is the removal of 3 varieties of privet (Ligustrum japonicum, L. lucidum, L. ovalifolium) and European olive (Olea europaea) trees from the city-owned 40-acre Teichert Ponds area. This is a follow-up project building on the very successful Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) projects that eliminated privet trees from Lower Bidwell Park (Lost Park through Five Mile) and a similar FOBP privet removal project along Little Chico Creek across from Teichert Ponds. Privets are probably Chico’s most common weed tree but are easy to control once the seed source has been removed, as it takes 5 or more years for a seedling to become mature enough to produce new seed. Olives are being removed at the request of the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. Feral or untended olive trees are hosts for the olive fruit fly, a major pest which significantly reduces the value of the county’s olive crop. As with any project involving the removal of trees, disposal of the debris is a significant cost, both labor and in the equipment needed, such as chippers or roller bins. Our progress on this project may depend somewhat on our ability to raise money to pay for disposal.

If you’d like more information about any of these projects, want to help with them, or are interested in organizing with your neighbors to remove invasive plants from public properties, contact the Chapter’s Invasive Plant Chair Susan Mason.

Top - BEFORE (invasive privets and olive trees cover the area)  
Bottom - AFTER (area after invasives removed)  
Photos by Susan Mason.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in February and March
Susan Mason, Invasive Plant Chair

Winter can be a good time to help with some of the local volunteer invasive plant removal projects or to start a group project in your area. Your own garden probably requires less attention this time of year, weeds pull out more easily, evergreen weeds are easier to spot and insects and poison oak are less of a problem. It’s also a good way to learn to identify a variety of weeds and practice efficient removal techniques using specialized tools you may not have considered purchasing. If you can’t do this kind of labor any longer, stop by one of these work sites anyway—volunteers like to have their work admired and will remember any cookies or other treats you bring them for months to come.

The Forest Ranch community-based BEEP (Broom Education and Eradication Program) starts their 7th annual winter Spanish and French broom pulling season with work sessions from 9 am to noon every Saturday starting February 2nd and ending on March 23rd. Meet at the Forest Ranch Post Office to carpool to the work sites. For more information, see the Friends of Bidwell Park calendar at www.friendsofbidwellpark.org.

The Paradise and Butte County Fire Safe Councils are planning several Doom the Broom activities during the week of March 10th, with a training and certification workshop for landscape/gardening professionals on a weeknight and volunteer Scotch and French broom pulling at 3 locations on Saturday, March 16th. Besides removal volunteers, they need snacks and the use of trucks and/or trailers to haul the pulled plants to the Paradise composting facility. For more information, contact them via www.thenet411.net.

The Teichert Ponds privet and olive tree removal project is ongoing, with work sessions scheduled most Sunday and Tuesday afternoons from 1-4 pm during February. The work there includes using weed wrenches to remove smaller trees, digging out large trees, and cutting the debris into smaller pieces to pack into roller bins. They also need donations (via tax-deductible contributions to MLC-CNPS) to pay for the bins. It’s a great bird-watching site during the winter too so perhaps you could work for an hour and then enjoy the many migratory birds. For more information, see the Mount Lassen Chapter (MLC) web site calendar at http://mountlassen.cnps.org.

The annual MLC Spanish broom pulling sessions haven’t been scheduled yet, but they’ll be held on several dates during February and March. Check the MLC calendar in early February for specifics.

The Chico Park Division has sessions scheduled for every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in February at a variety of interesting locations. Their entire Feb-April calendar with additional details for each work session can be seen at www.ci.chico.ca.us (select Bidwell Park, then volunteer calendar).

Feb 1 (1 - 4 pm) Volunteer Fridays 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.

Feb 7, 8 (1 - 4 pm) Volunteer Thursdays & Fridays in the Park Lost Park Clean Up. Volunteers will remove litter and weeds and plant native plants in this popular downtown park.

Feb 9 (10 - 1 pm) Volunteer Saturdays in the Park - Lost Park Clean Up. Volunteers will remove litter and weeds from this popular downtown park. Please ride your bike or walk, parking may be difficult.

Feb 14 (1 – 4 pm) Volunteer Thursdays in the Park - Picnic Site 8 (east of Cedar Grove). Volunteers will remove invasive plants and weed around native plants.

Feb 15 (1 - 4 pm) Volunteer Fridays - Cedar Grove. Volunteers will remove invasive plants from the area.

Feb 16 (10am - 1 pm) Volunteer Saturdays - Cedar Grove. Volunteers will remove invasive plants from the area.

Feb 21, 22 (1 - 4 pm) Volunteer Thursdays & Fridays in the Park - Entrance Gate area to Bidwell Park. Volunteers will weed flower bed area and remove non-native ornamental bushes.

Feb 23 (10am - 12) Comanche Creek Greenway Workday Volunteers will remove invasive plants, especially blackberry.

Feb 28 and March 1 (1 - 4 pm) Volunteer Thursdays & Fridays in the Park - Annie’s Glen & Camellia Way. Volunteers will remove invasive plants, weed around oak trees, and remove litter.

The Pipevine February 2013 7.
Writing this in icy January, the month before February and Ground Hog Day seems rather early to think of wildflowers!

But I know that down there in the dark depths of the soil, botanical elements are lurking, ever eager to find the least encouragement to plunge out of confinement. Plant watchers are eagerly awaiting the resurrection of all things green and beautiful, too!

I know that in some micro-climate niche in our California foothill country, a few brave blossoms have opened right on cue of New Year’s Day, if Wes Dempsey’s “banana belt” hike on that day produced as it usually does. I haven’t heard this year’s results yet Wes. (see photo)

Even though its been icy since December’s rains, a blossom can be found somewhere. I know cold doesn’t stop some low-down dandelions from blooming in my January yard (low, as close to the ground, and not low in my admiration). Already the Narcissus have shot to prominence in December, and the red-flowered eucalyptus down by the river have been producing for the hummingbirds for weeks. You have to admit, some of those aliens are more ambitious and tougher than our natives!

I saw a few sprigs of orchard mustard blooming last week, and a few “Bermuda buttercup” Oxalis spitting out some yellow blossoms, also. I have a million stems of that ‘sour grass’ display in my backyard, poised to produce petals when the sun is stronger.

Even though it was only January 6 and a chilled 50 degrees, the sun was warm and getting stronger day by day...and I wondered...would the wild cucumber be creeping out of its manroot by now?

I hastened down to the river and to a sheltered nook on the sunny side of a slope - back under a Ceanothus Cuneatus, buckbush shrub, where a California manroot, alias Marah fabaceus, lives. The vine snakes out every January - and there it was, over three feet long-pulling itself upward with those tendril fingers, and one blossom had already opened! Talk about eagerness!

The cucurbitaceae spiny fruit would be maturing in March, to hang from the tough vine like round Christmas tree decorations. The leaves would suspend vine operations in hotter days and wither away like the leaves of the California buckeye does in early summer.

The cold rains had stirred a surge of seeds and their puzzling early leaves peeked out of the chilled soil. The wavy stripy leaves of the soap-plant, Chlorogalum pomeridianum, were almost a foot high and complete, where they would linger until the tall central stalk shot up to support the evening - blooming blossoms in April. No fooling around with the frost for the crucial part of the plant!

I searched the pipevine site along the embankment - and there it was - the delicate, pipe-shaped blossom of the local CNPS mascot...Aristolochia californica...dangling from the twisted stems! In fact, a couple dozen of the blossom-breakers were out, chancing the arrival of some fungus gnats in another year of growth! “Grow on, and on, and on!”

Earth laughs in flowers – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Laughter is often more rewarding than knowledge, and beauty preferable to accuracy.” — Allan Fromme

New Year 2013 Banana Belt Hike, Upper Bidwell Park
Photo by Woody Elliott
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THE WILD DESSERT
Preparing Food From Native Plants
February 9, 2013

Learn how to prepare unforgettable desserts made from back-
yard edibles such as Manzanita berries, acorns, and California
bay. Taste California bay ice cream and oak nut bliss bars and
discover how to turn acorns into a nutritious, gluten-free flour.
The instructor, Alicia Goldberg Funk, recently co-authored, Liv-
ing Wild: Gardening, Cooking and Healing with Native Plants of
the Sierra Nevada.

IDENTIFYING LICHENS TO GENUS
March 9, 2013
by Tom Carlberg

Lichens are an overlooked but present link in most ecosystems.
There are reported to be slightly less than 5000 species in 646
genera in North America and more than 1600 species in Califor-
nia, yet few people are able to place names on even the most
common lichens. This one-day workshop will focus on identifying
the lichens of the lower Sierra Nevada foothills to genus. The
morning will be spent covering lichen anatomy, morphology, and
reproduction. Lunch will be in the field with some hands-on col-
lecting. Afternoon will be back in the lab for guided exploration,
using dissecting ‘scopes, reference materials, chemical spot tests,
and vouchers and a key provided by the instructor.

For more information about registration please contact the CSU,
Chico Biology office 530 898-5356 or jbraden@csuchico.edu
Detailed workshop descriptions and sign up forms are available
on the Chico State Herbarium website: www.csuchico.edu/biol/
Herb/Events.html

Keep up with MLC Activities
on our website and Facebook

California Native Plant Society,
Mount Lassen Chapter
and LIKE US

mountlassen.cnps.org
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City ________________________________
State _______ Zip ___________ Phone ___________________________
Email ________________________________

Send Membership Application to:
CNPS
2707 K STREET, SUITE 1
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-5113

Phyllis would say
Join Today!

Calendar 2013

February
6 - General Meeting
10 - CSUC Greenhouse Tour
20 - Ex Board Meeting
24 - Lost Arboretum, Bidwell Park

March
3 - Yahi Trail, Upper Bidwell Park
6 - General Meeting
20 - Ex Board Meeting

April
3 - General Meeting
17 - Ex Board Meeting
21 - Wildflower Show