General Meeting
OCTOBER 2, 2013
Wednesday  7:30 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

Presented by
JOSIE CRAWFORD
CNPS Education Program
Director

Native Plants and Education
...something for everyone

Teachers, Parents, Students, Members, Botanists come see all of the wonderful things that our CNPS Education Program can offer you for whatever ideas you may have on education focused on native plants.

CNPS statewide Education Program Director, Josie Crawford, will present a program, showcasing the tools and activities we have and are developing for chapters education committees, teachers, and naturalists to teach, engage, and support students of all ages as well as parents and the curious public. Subjects will range from activities for teachers, tabling events, and plant sales, including nature journaling and field guide making, ways to support the next generation of plant scientists and conservationists, our new Student Conservation Plans for rare plants, and sustaining the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt so that it works for the chapter. We will also cover the type of event support the chapter can tap into for things like horticultural symposiums. This program will have some hands-on activities and will be something of a show and tell session.

Josie would also like to hear what type of educational support the chapter could use and would like to hear suggestions from teachers, tablers, plant sale organizers, and Rare Plant Treasure Hunt leaders. If anyone has plant and ecology related activities that work with children or the public, please share them with us.

Josie Crawford joined CNPS in 2005. She has over 20 years of experience teaching people about plants as a naturalist and biologist. She has a B.A. and M.A. in Biology from Humboldt State University. Prior to this professional career, Josie owned and operated a neon-sign business in San Francisco. For fun beyond nature study, she paints, plays the bass guitar, gardens, and swims. She lives with her husband in Grass Valley. jcrawford@cnps.org / 916 447-2677 ext 205

Jack Laws at the Opening the World through Nature Journaling Workshop, April 27, 2013 MLC co-sponsored with Friends of the Chico State Herbarium. Photo by Catie Bishop
**Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs**

**BIG SPRINGS AND YELLOW CREEK IN HUMBUG VALEY LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST**

October 13
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) in time to leave by 8:30 am. Take lunch, water, sun/insect protection, foul weather wear recommended, and money for ride sharing. We will travel Hwy 32 for 29 miles to Butte Meadows, then about 22 miles on Forest Service roads, crossing over Humbug Summit at 6714 ft ele. In Humbug Valley, 4300 ft ele, we will visit a large and scenic mountain meadow, rich with Indian sites and a history of homesteading and ranching. A nearby cemetery holds graves of pioneers. Natural features include Soda Springs and the fast flowing, 40 degree, Big Springs. The springs are a major contributor to Yellow Creek which is considered a stream vegetation restoration success. This creek has been included in the designation “Wild Trout Waters”. We will see and identify plant species associated with coniferous forest, meadow and stream side habitats. Call leaders for alternate meeting places. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530 893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530 342-2293.

**MAIDU MEDICINE WALK UPPER BIDWELL PARK, CHICO**

October 27
Sunday

Meet at 9 am at Horseshoe Lake parking lot (E) in Upper Bidwell Park with sunscreen, hat, and walking shoes to see about 30 plants that the local Native Americans used for medicine, food, and crafts. Lemonade berry for basketry and a refreshing drink, soap plant for suds and brushes, foothill pine for skin salve and food, and many others. We will stroll about a mile thru the foothill woodland ending up in the Big Chico Creek riparian at noon. Rain cancels. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530 342-2293.
President’s Message
by Suellen Rowlison, President

Fall, beautiful fall in our four county area. The leaves are turning, and the days are cooler and shorter. It’s time to get those native plants into the ground to be watered by the rains. The California Fuchsia, *epilobium californicum*, that I brought home from a native plant sale several years ago has spread and attracted a regular stream of hummingbirds. I have given the CNPS brochure “Gardening with California Natives” and Cal-IPC’s brochure on “Don’t Plant a Pest: Central Valley Version” to several of my neighbors (www.cal-ipc.org) Your pollinators and birds will thank you for doing the same.

Neighbors in Chapman town could use some help with their landscaping. Habitat for Humanity has accepted our offer to give input on native plants and maybe some pruning and planting for homeowners that they work with. Contact me if you are interested in helping on a one time or an occasional basis.

Do you have friends and family in other parts of California? Put them in touch with a CNPS chapter near them for plant sales and field trips. www.cnps.org.

On our hike to Lakes Basin in August, a family joined us from the CNPS chapter in Santa Cruz. They were staying in Chester and found out about our field trip. We all met up in Quincy where a local person also joined us. There were 16 of us, including two college students and ages up to 80. The pace was leisurely and all had a grand time, especially, those who stayed for dinner at Gold Lake Lodge. Thanks Gerry for another great field trip.

Claire Meehan, daughter of John Meehan, MLC Treasurer, has agreed to chair our Native Plant Garden at Chico Creek Nature Center. Claire has a horticulture background and was inspired to take on this project after working with her dad and Susan Mason on weed projects in Bidwell Park. So, when you see an announcement of a workday at the Garden, please, join Claire. It’s fun, all of us working together, according to our interests, to protect California native flora.

Executive Board Meeting
October 16, 7 pm
SHASTA CONFERENCE ROOM
2759 Sierra Sunrise Terrace

Legislative Notes
by David Anderson

YES ON STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLAN

On July 16, 2013 H.R. 2702 was introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives with 21 cosponsors. It was referred to and as of September 6 remains in the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Concurrently, a companion bill, S. 1306, was introduced in the Senate. The bills are titled “No Child Left Inside Act of 2013.”

The bills contemplate federal grants to states to assist their schools in providing a qualifying “environmental literacy plan” to elementary and secondary school students. In essence, an “environmental literacy plan” is defined as one which prepares students to understand ecological principles, the systems of the natural world and the relationships and interactions between natural and man-made environments. It includes providing students with environmental service learning opportunities.

Since the bills involve federal grants and state compliance with their terms, they will no doubt be controversial. Nevertheless, they embody ideas whose “time has come” and, as a practical matter, will require promotion at the federal level. We Americans cannot continue to allow our natural environment (including our native plants and ecosystems) to be trashed for short term economic gains without inviting disaster down the road. Imparting environmental literacy to our K-12 students and future leaders will be a big step in the right direction.

Lakes Basin Aug 24, 2013 by Emily Williams

The Pipevine October 2013 3.
YOUR HELP is needed during the coming year. Are you good at making goodies? Well then, we need you to bake and bring them to the General Meetings. There is a sign-up sheet just waiting for you and it is located at the Hospitality Table. PLEASE sign up, your help will be greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!
Lakes Basin

Long Lake Loop Trail
Lakes Basin
Recreation Area
Plumas National Forest
August 21, 2013

Photos by
Emily Williams
and Woody Elliott
This time of year when you walk your favorite trails, drive your favorite back roads, or even walk out into your own native plant garden – it’s easy to have your head turning this way and that in appreciation and enjoyment of the season’s fruitful offerings: bright globes of red on the dogwoods, cinnamon-colored sculpted chalices held high on the spice bushes. On the toyon, dense clusters of green berries portend the winter’s bright red holiday offerings. Autumn is rich with light catching seeds and colorful fruits in the native plant garden. Everywhere we look this time of year we are rewarded by the results of our native plants’ seasonal labors.

A plant’s purpose is to survive and reproduce. Our plants strive relentlessly to this end through their normal processes of germination, growth, flowering, fruit set and seed dispersal. Plants have a variety of strategies to ensure the best results for their efforts at each stage of their life. Different plants produce very different kinds of seeds and each plant has evolved to take advantage of different environmental factors that will help their seeds be efficiently dispersed.

Some plants produce seeds that catch the wind, some are caught by water, some are colorful or succulent or juicy or fragrant or all of the above to catch the attention of birds, bugs or mammals who might eat or cache these seeds - thereby dispersing them.

This brings me to my real point – we as gardeners can use the survival strategies of our garden’s native plants to our own advantage thereby adding beauty and interest to our garden in any season. Just as we choose our native plants for the color and form of their flowers or foliage, we can also choose them specifically for their seeds and fruits and position them in our gardens to bring light, color and liveliness from late summer well into winter. The fruits of their labors thus helping to achieve the hoped fruits of ours: a happy, healthy, lively and lovely garden.

Of course some seeds and fruits look better in the field than on your deck, terrace, driveway, car, bikes, other planting beds, or on the bottoms of the shoes of other members of your household. And some plants that produce wonderful seeds or fruits might take more room or require more maintenance than you really want to commit to. As John Whittlesey points out, some of the vines (grape, native honeysuckle, pipevine, clematis, etc.) produce wonderful fruits and/or seed heads, but it’s important to remember the space needed for a happy vine and the maintenance involved in keeping it looking good. Similarly, while a heavily fruiting gooseberry, blackberry or grape may attract the birds you love, they may also attract critters (thinking raccoons and bears here) that you love less.
Keep practical matters such as these in mind when choosing a plant for its seeds or fruit and when considering its location. With space and time constraints taken into consideration, my list of top native plants for seed/fruit for trying in the home garden are categorized below by what it is I like about them – the way they catch light, the color they add, the life they bring in terms of movement and/or the abundance of wildlife they attract.

**Seeds/Fruits that catch the light:** These are by and large the seeds/fruits that also catch the wind and can be lined with small tiny hairs or wings for riding the air currents. When the sun streams through these seeds, it can look like twinkle lights or an evening field of fireflies. Consider placing these plants in the garden where the low autumn morning or evening sun will highlight them and you will be able to enjoy this effect. While these plants all catch the light, they also add to your garden the life of their movement as well as the life (and fun) of birds coming to collect their fluff for nesting.

VINES: Chaparral clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*)
SHRUBS: Mt Mahogany (*Cercocarpus sp.*) - top right page 7.
       Pitcher Sage (*Lepechinia calycina*)
PERENNIALS: Milkweed (*Asclepias sp.*)
GRASSES: Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)
       Purple Needle Grass (*Nassella pulchra*)

**Seeds/fruits that add color:** As with the seeds/fruits that catch the light, the seeds that add color whether by succulent fruits or persistent woody seed pods, nuts or winged achenes, all add life through their process of aging and dispersal as well as through the wildlife they attract. Given their sometimes juicy and sometimes woody, persistent elements, these plants can create some mess and maintenance issues. Choose carefully where to locate them in the garden so that you get to enjoy their looks, but make headaches as few as possible.

VINES: California grape (*Vitis californica*)
       Native honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispida or L. ciliosa*)
SHRUBS (small trees): Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
       Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus laevigatus*) - bottom right page 7.
       Gooseberry (*Ribes sp.*) - middle right page 7.
       Red berry (*Rhamnus crocea*)
       Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)
       Manzanita sp.
       Rose (*Rosa californica, R. nutkana*)
       Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolium*) - middle left page 6.
       Spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*) - bottom left page 6.
TREES: Mountain Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)
       Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) page 2.
       Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) - top left page 6.
groaned about the loss of plant life during the Swedes Fire that occurred east of Oroville in mid August. It also brought to light some roads and road names I never knew existed.

About 2400 acres burned and long lists of homes were evacuated, including houses on roads with such odd names as Chinese Wall Road, Fox Lane, Spring Creek Road, Dancing Wind Drive, Diamond Bar Court, Gold View Court, Angel Way, Nice Place, Mountain Oak Road, and many more with rather romantic names...until a fire comes sweeping through!

It’s rather creepy the way land occupation has crawled out from Oroville right up into flammable forests and rocky heights, conditions that play havoc with firefighters and explorers. It is a crawl that may unite Oroville and Chico someday with a county of houses. Gone would be open flowery meadows and woodland habitats for wildlife, replaced by the tame life of dogs, cats, cultivation and desert tortoises!

Such a scenario might very well exist if land management fails in protecting open space. Soil and soil-use is the foundation of life, and land covered by buildings, asphalt, and concrete is land that does not retain its vitality and variety of species. This condition is of high importance to CNPS members and all who appreciate open space and a place where wildflowers can grow.

Practically every town and city in America has some of that urban sprawl, and every inch of this country is owned or operated by somebody or some organization. The precious parks and national forests constitute a small percentage of the country’s land that once not so many years ago had no deeds or designated designs on the whole continent. John Muir said in April 1868, you could walk from the Bay to Yosemite and have flowers underfoot every inch of the way. Our wild flora and fauna now relies on the compassion of considerate farmers, ranchers, and public land defenders.

All too real is the fact that political forces schemed to subtract a ‘Grand’ canyon from Yosemite National Park.

The canyon of Hetch Hetchy, that John Muir worked so hard to save from San Francisco land/water grabbers, has fallen to a dammed valley that was once as beautiful as Yosemite Valley. Nothing is sacred when “the almighty dollar” is free to invade hallowed ground.

With some conditions - follow the rules, obey the laws, don’t litter, be careful with fire - you can walk along the Feather River Parkway and see a reasonable amount of wildlife and marvelous plants. It is a great privilege and about as close to freedom as one can get. But don’t step over the line of understanding; the limitations placed to protect and preserve the dwindling resources, or you could have your freedom taken away from you. Can you imagine being locked behind steel doors unable to follow your mind’s directive? No wildflower field trips! No reasonable person wants to experience that condition, so you follow the laws and keep in that acceptable boundary.

I mentioned the desert tortoise at the beginning of this article, and I was referring to one a lady was pictured holding in her hands during the Swedes Fire animal rescue. To me, that tortoise symbolized a loss of freedom since its native home is on the Mojave Desert.

I don’t know if the same can be said about plant hunters digging a rooted plant to transfer to a back yard. Plants are more versatile in reproducing, but I wonder about cactus hunters importing rare species from their native habitats in Chile.

Like so many wild animals taken by collectors, it is sort of a prison to be whisked away to a human’s house in the name of “pet.” It is much like grabbing land because freedom is affected, and I say that even though I once worked at a wildlife zoo. The cause of animals in zoos is debatable, but those stashed away in houses on the hills is more tragic. Keeping tortoises, raccoons, goldfinches, and other wild animals is not a good idea, and besides, it is illegal. Follow the rules and appreciate what particle of nature you can find and observe in the outdoor world.
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**Upcoming Workshop**

October 26 **MEDICINAL BOTANY** The science and chemistry behind medicinal plants. Plants have been used in medicine for a millennia and that usage continues today among indigenous and other groups. Because of the availability of so many different kinds of herbal preparations, many people self-medicate with a variety of plant medicines. In addition, many medicinal plants can be found locally and are utilized. What chemicals are in these plant medicines and do they really work? Dr. Stuart Wooley, botany professor at California State University, Stanislaus will bring a scientific perspective to understanding how medicinal plants work and how to cultivate them. For information about registration contact the CSU, Chico biology Office at 530 898-5356 or jbraden@csuchico.edu

Workshop descriptions and sign up forms are available on www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

**Annual Meeting**

“MURDEROUS PLANTS” by Dr. Barry Rice will be the Special Guest Lecture for the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium on Saturday November 2, 2013. Barry will talk about carnivorous plants: how they work, why they evolved, and how they fit into our native ecosystems. The lecture is free and will be held at 4:30 pm in 170 Holt Hall at Chico State University. Before the lecture there will be a reception at 3 pm in 129 Holt Hall with the fall photo contest contributors on display and a short annual meeting at 4 pm. For details visit the Chico State Herbarium website at: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

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California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter

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I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

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Send Membership Application to:
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Phyllis would say
Join Today!

Calendar 2013

September
28 - Yahi Trail, Upper Bidwell Park
30 - Annie B Community Drive Ends

October
2 - General Meeting
13 - Humbug Valley
16 - Executive Board Meeting
27 - Maidu /Upper Bidwell Park

November
6 - General Meeting
20 - Executive Board Meeting

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