General Meeting
FEBRUARY 3, 2016
Wednesday 7:30 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

Presented by DAVID POPP

A Wonderful Resource for All Native Plant Lovers

Calflora is a hidden treasure on the web. It is a powerful and simple-to-use database that allows users to find plants in any part of California. This program will aid your own “plant eyes” by introducing you to a great tool. http://calflora.org/

What can the average person do with Calflora? Its most powerful tool is the ability to help identify plants with pictures, locations and identification keys. But Calflora’s hidden gem is its powerful ability to locate plants by county or a desired category of interest. If you want to observe plants in the field and need a plant list, you can create one with Calflora, including pictures with common names, to take with you.

Calflora is a community of plant lovers sharing information for all to use. It links to state herbariums, and other electronic tools like Calphoto calphotos.berkeley.edu/, The Jepson Manual, Flora of North America, etc. It allows professional and amateur plant lovers to upload and to find locations of plants.

David Popp is a long time CNPS supporter and retired biology teacher who lives in the Lost Sierra near Quincy CA. He is a plant enthusiast whose hobbies include gardening, taxonomy, forestry and organizing botanical adventures and other plant happenings for locals. He loves seeking new-to-him native plants with his dogs and uploading resulting information to the Calflora database!
Field Trips

CSU, CHICO GREENHOUSE TOUR
February 21
Sunday
Meet at the CSU, Chico 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 Biological Sciences Greenhouses. Tim Devine has collected hundreds of unusual plants from all over the world and is eager to show them to you and relate their stories. In the tropical room he will show you vanilla bean orchid, coffee tree, and banana. In the aquatic room you will see many ferns, water lettuce, and blue-flowered water hyacinths. In the desert room there are usually a few cacti in bloom. Ends at noon. Leader: Tim Devine 530 345-8444.

Executive Board Meeting
February 17 - 7 pm
WOODY and ANN ELLIOTT’S 530-521-4402

WORKDAYS
ALICE HECKER
NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER
BIDWELL PARK
February 4, Thursday 8 - 10 am
February 20, Saturday 8 - 10 am
Contact ANN ELLIOTT 530-521-4402

UPCOMING NEW BOOKS
FROM CNPS PRESS

In early 2016, two new books will be available from CNPS Press! California’s Botanical Landscapes: A Pictorial View of the State’s Vegetation, by Michael G. Barbour, Julie M. Evens, Todd Keeler-Wolf, and John O. Sawyer, is a beautiful exploration of our native vegetation, with a phenomenal array of photographs paired with interpretive descriptions from California’s top plant ecologists. Kern County Flora: A Key to Vascular Plant Species of Kern County, California, is a modernized 2nd edition from L. Maynard Moe, including updated nomenclature and nearly 300 additional taxa. Stay tuned for exact release dates.

2016 CNPS STATEWIDE WORKSHOPS

The proposed schedule for 2016 statewide plant science workshops is now posted on www.cnps.org/workshops! Upcoming spring classes include How To Photograph Flowering Plants Like A Pro, Rare Plant Survey Protocols, Measuring & Monitoring Plant Populations, and Wetland & Riparian Plant Identification, plus more in the summer and others TBA soon. Contact Becky Reilly for more information, breilly@cnps.org.
**President’s Message**

by WOODY ELLIOTT, President

As I embark on my second tour as Mount Lassen Chapter President, I want to remind you that the Chapter is made greater by the sum of all its active participants. CNPS members are motivated by our passion to stay in touch with our natural world and to preserve native plants and their communities. Chapter elected officers and committee chairs get a feeling of accomplishment when they volunteer at activities in their chosen interest areas. I invite you to also become engaged with this fun and knowledgeable bunch by attending the Chapter’s monthly board meetings. Learn how to become a leader or team member in any of our committees listed on the back of The Pipevine.

I am proud to be associated with the good works of CNPS as produced by its professional staff and volunteers not only in Sacramento but throughout California’s 35 Chapters. My appreciation has developed from attending CNPS Chapter Council and Board Meetings whenever their dates and locations throughout the state have been convenient. These meeting are open to all CNPS members, as are Mount Lassen Chapter Board Meetings.

Mount Lassen Chapter activities for the upcoming year include field trips to Sutter Buttes and Feather Falls; informative speakers at our monthly General Meetings; a native plant garden tour this spring; maintaining the Alice Hecker Memorial Native Plant Garden at the Chico Creek Nature Center; sponsoring student botanical / ecological research and attendance at conferences; maintaining the Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park; controlling weeds invading wildlands, e.g. broom, Himalayan blackberry, giant reed (arundo); advocating for the protection of native plants on private and public lands, e.g. Butte Regional Conservation Plan, Butterfly Valley - Twain Fuel Reduction Project; and a continued public presence sharing information at community events. Stay current by visiting the Chapter and State webpages (http://mountlassen.cnps.org/; http://www.cnps.org/) and join the social conversation on the Chapter’s Facebook Page.

I welcome the challenge of facilitating these good works on behalf of the Chapter and look forward to engaging with all of you at these activities. Please contact me with your ideas and energy for making Mount Lassen Chapter a happening place.

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**Legislative Notes**

by DAVID ANDERSON

**2016 CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

Since the California Legislature just reconvened on January 4 for its 2016 session, at this January 5 writing there is no environmental legislative news to report.

The most important legislative event this month will be Governor Brown’s preliminary budget for the 2016/17 fiscal year, which must be submitted to the Legislature by January 10. The annual budget is as vital to us environmentalists as it is to other groups because we need both good, protective environmental laws and adequate funding for their enforcement. The final budget bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 must be passed by June 15.

The legislative calendar requires carryover bills from 2015 to be passed by the house of origin by January 31. New bills must be introduced by February 19. August 31st is the last day for each house to pass bills.

This year’s general election will be critical for future environmental legislation since we will elect a new President, a new Congress and a new California Legislature. Get involved!

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**MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER**

**2016 Elected Officers**

The following names have been elected for Mount Lassen Chapter 2016 Executive Board Officers

The election was held at the General Meeting on November 4, 2015

- **President**  WOODY ELLIOTT
- **Vice President**  JIM BISHOP
- **Treasurer**  NANCY PRAIZLER
- **Secretary**  JIM DEMPSEY
- **Members-at-Large**  MERYL BOND, LETHA ALBRIGHT, JOHN WHITTLESEY, CINDY WEINER
With Governor Brown’s executive order restricting water use beginning last June, we stopped irrigating the lawn in our back yard, as our front yard had already been converted to natives. The tall fescue had been a great place for the kids and dog to horse around, but by the end of this hot summer, it was a patch of what we called sisal, which tracked into the house on our feet.

After hearing Nancy Praizler describe the process of how she secured a lawn removal rebate from California Water Service at last November’s general meeting, Woody agreed to do the “paperwork” for a $2 per square foot rebate from California Department of Water Resources. He followed a straightforward and very short process on SaveOurWaterRebates.com, submitting pictures and a short description of our proposed 800 sq. ft. lawn conversion.

The book Reimagining the California Lawn was inspiration and source for plant ideas. Our back yard already has a 15-foot swath of natives along the back fence dominated by three coast redwoods, a blue oak, and a red bud, as well as eight small fruit trees along the side and back fences. The central sunny section of the yard is divided between lawn and raised beds for vegetables. The goals for the former lawn area were: keep it visually open, incorporate lots of flowers, and include mostly California native plants.

Three yards of delivered clean topsoil forms a well-drained seed bed for wildflowers in an oblong mound. Eight ounces of Xerces Society wildflower seeds sprinkled on the mound should result in a riot of color this spring and summer. Little seedlings cover the soil already, under a protective bird net. Shredded cedar bark paths and patio borders provide people access to the garden, trees, and planted areas.

A section of the former lawn is under the clothes line. 200 plugs of clustered field sedge planted 8 to 10 inches apart will provide a soft, walkable surface that can withstand winter flooding, survive with little summer irrigation, and be trimmed occasionally for a turf-like look.

Low-growing flowering perennials; yarrow, Santa Barbara daisy, and California Beach Aster “Silver Carpet” will fill areas just beyond the shredded cedar bordering the patio. Further from the patio will be other flowering mostly native perennials with a mulch of newspaper and shredded autumn leaves between them. (Continued on page 5.)
Local sources for plants and amendments included Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS plant sales, Floral Native Nursery, Native Springs Nursery, Magnolia Gift and Garden, Little Red Hen Nursery, and Focal Point Discount Landscape Supplies. The sedge plugs came from Hedge Row Farms in Winters. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was the only retail source I found for Silver Carpet aster and alkali sacaton, a native grass.

Project costs for soil, shredded cedar bark, seeds, plants, and irrigation conversion parts are lower than $800. The $1,600 rebate plus lower irrigation cost are a great incentive.

As I look out at 1 to 2 inches of standing water over much of the former lawn area during this storm, I hope that most of the plants survive and our back yard will become a colorful pocket of mostly native habitat to enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP MLC
If you have changed your . . .
address, phone number or e-mail
or leave temporarily
please notify Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS
Membership Chair, Marjorie McNairn at
530 343-2397 or mlmcnairn@aol.com
This will help eliminate returned Pipevines from the Post Office. Thank You

Keep up with MLC Activities on our website and Facebook
California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter and LIKE US
mountlassen.cnps.org
Phyllis would say

Join Today!

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

mountlassen.cnps.org

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

Calendar
2016

February
3 - General Meeting
4 - CCNC Garden Work Party
17 - Ex Board Meeting
20 - CCNC Garden Work Party
21 - CSUC Greenhouse Tour

March
2 - General Meeting
16 - Ex Board Meeting

April
6 - General Meeting
20 - Ex Board Meeting