At last December’s General Meeting, Butte County Master Gardener Jeanette Alosi, had us look at California’s Mediterranean climate, historic climate patterns and reliance on unsustainable groundwater pumping. Some areas of the State annually consume twice as much ground water as is replenished naturally. Climate change will likely exacerbate the problem. Clearly, we need to make changes in our landscape practices now with regard to an uncertain climatological future.

This program will explore how to make changes in your home landscaping with the goal of making your yard nearly independent of supplemental irrigation. Cindy will focus on four areas: rainfall capture, water recycling, landscaping hardscapes, and plant choices. She’ll also share some online resources that will help guide you in proper plant selection.

Cindy Weiner is an active member of Mount Lassen Chapter, a Butte County Master Gardener and a long-time volunteer at the Chico State Herbarium. She got involved in gardening with native plants when she moved to Chico 11 years ago and regularly teaches classes at OLLI on that topic. She’s been a native plant enthusiast (aka “nut”) since taking a class in field botany in college.
Meet at 9 am at the parking lot for Fifth Sun at the Chico Airport Industrial Complex on the corner of Cohasset Road and Ryan Ave. Drive 0.4 miles past Airpark Blvd, turn left on Ryan and left again into the Fifth Sun parking lot. We will carpool a short distance to the reserve gate. Jenny Marr, Botanist for California Fish & Wildlife Service will be our guide. There will be grassland flowers to see, foothill grassland with large stands of blue oak woodlands, vernal swale habitat, seasonal streams, and possibly Butte County meadowfoam. There are also numerous foothill woodland birds such as western burrowing owl, Lewis’ woodpecker, bald eagle, horned lark, and California quail. There are no trails and so the visit will be cross-country over uneven terrain. Depending on rainfall it may be muddy, and there may be some stream crossings to maneuver. Sturdy shoes, water, snacks and hat, sunscreen, and windbreaker are recommended. March north winds can be fierce as there’s not much to slow them down. Rain will cancel. Leaders: Jenny Marr and Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397, MLMcNairn@aol.com

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 9:30 am or the Vina Plains Preserve main gate at 10 am. This walk is a joint trip with The Nature Conservancy. In the spring Vina Plains Preserve comes alive with colorful wildflowers that carpet the grasslands, and the vernal pools are filled with rare, threatened or endangered crustacean species that attract a large array of waterfowl and shorebirds. This one-mile walk is relatively flat, but the surface will be uneven and may be wet, muddy or slippery in places. Bring sturdy shoes, water, hat, and windbreaker or raingear as needed for the day. Leader: Janna Lathrop 530 228-0010 or 530 343-2397.

We will pass many spring wildflowers on the easy half-mile walk to the waterfall. Those who are so inclined may also want to hike up the ridge to Mushroom Rock. For CNPS MEMBERS by reservation only to MLMcNairn@aol.com. Limited to 20 participants. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397

Join local botanist Elena Gregg and Preserve Manager Holly Nielsen at a vernal pool preserve within the city limits. Chico’s hidden gem! This is a family friendly morning outing during which all will have the opportunity to get close to the ground to view the ephemeral grace of the “fairy rings” which form these concentric natural gardens. Their beauty cannot be appreciated as you drive by on your way to somewhere, so take the morning to get to know your local open space and its treasures!

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 8:45 am. Car pool to gate. After we’ll head uphill to Peregrine Pt Disc Golf Course parking lot, walk to a nice overlook of Big Chico Creek Canyon for lunch. Woody will take us along the South Rim Trail and Disc Golf Course to check out spring wildflowers and explain the efforts to mitigate the playing of disc golf on easily erodible soils and its native vegetation. Leaders: Holly Neilson, Elena Gregg, and Woody Elliott. Contact woodyelliott@gmail.com 530 588-2555 or MLMcNairn@aol.com 530 343-2397.
UNDEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

The danger that in 2017 the administration and its supporters in Congress will repeal or weaken federal environmental protection laws is aggravated by the absence of any check or balance to the procedures the House and Senate follow in passing bills. Article 1 of the Constitution gives each house the sole right to determine its procedure, subject only to the requirement for a majority to constitute a quorum to do business. The U.S. Supreme Court can review the constitutionality of laws, but cannot question the procedure followed in enacting them. The House and Senate can change their rules of procedure at any time and pass bills without committee hearings or public input. In the past this abuse of democratic procedure has taken the form of last minute riders to bills, often to tack on provisions weakening environmental protection laws. Public outrage at unfair and undemocratic riders has kept their use at a minimum in the past, but can we count on the present administration and its supporters to be concerned about fair play and democratic procedures in passing bills? The only way to hold elected federal officials accountable for this type of abuse is the ballot. We must communicate with our elected federal officials and let them know that we will hold them accountable for laws damaging to the environment and undemocratic procedures in passing them.

Executive Board Meeting
March 15 - 7 pm
TBA
ALL CNPS MEMBERS WELCOME!

President’s Message
by WOODY ELLIOTT, President

WILDFLOWER SHOW and NATIVE PLANT SALE

The Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS biennial Wildflower Show will be Sunday April 23, 2017 from noon to 5 pm at the Chico Area Recreation District (CARD) Center. This every-other-year festival of wildflowers and native plants is the Chapter’s signature event.

The day before the Wildflower Show, Chapter members scour local plant communities collecting flowers and other examples of our local native flora. We then identify and display the collected material for the public to view. In addition, there will be nature walks in the area around the CARD Center and talks about native plants, learning activities for kids, information booths about weeds, plant parts, and native plant identification. The Chapter will have a fresh batch of books and wildflower motif shirts, aprons, and hats for sale.

Local native plant nurseries will bring plants to sell with a portion benefiting Mount Lassen Chapter. This is a great time to learn about and purchase native plants to add to your gardens in spring before the heat sets in. Coffee, tea, native plant teas and cookies will be available for attendees.

Please save the show date on your calendar and consider joining a flower foraging team on the prior Saturday, helping with a booth for a couple of hours during the show, or donating potted native plants for sale. In addition, we are collecting display vases for this upcoming show. Please start collecting 8-ounce plastic water bottles or 9.5-ounce Starbucks bottles for us. Contact Woody Elliott if you want to help in any way (woodyelliott@gmail.com, 530-588-2555). Thank you!

WORKDAYS

ALICE HECKER
NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER
BIDWELL PARK
MARCH 16, Thursday 8-10 am
Contact ANN ELLIOTT 530-521-4402
WATER-WISE and HABITAT-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

Altacal Audubon Society and Mount Lassen Chapter, with cooperation from Butte Environmental Council, will be offering another Water-Wise and Habitat-Friendly Garden Tour on Sunday April 30, 2017. Our tours have been very popular, as area residents seek drought-tolerant alternatives to traditional landscaping. The tour will showcase a variety of successful examples of habitat features and native plants incorporated into urban landscapes.

Volunteer co-hosts at gardens on the tour help to identify habitat and aesthetic features, native and water-wise plants, and installation and cultivation processes, thereby greatly assisting garden owners and tour participants. You may feel that you are still learning about native plant gardening, but so are we all. Contact Ann Elliott (annonfire@gmail.com) if you would like to help with pre-tour organization or with co-hosting a garden during the tour.

For more information about Altacal’s Neighborhood Habitat Program, growing native plants, habitat gardening, and garden tours see our websites: http://www.altacal.org/ and http://mountlassen.cnps.org/, or contact Ann Elliott or Melinda Teves (neighborhoodhabitat.mt@gmail.com). Further Garden Tour details and registration information will be available later in March.

HOSPITALITY

by KARROLYNN YELLS, Hospitality Chair

BRACKERS are needed for the Mount Lassen Chapter’s General Meetings for April and May 2017. Your help would be so appreciated. A sign-up sheet is located at the Hospitality Table at the General Meetings or I can be reached by email karrolynny@att.net or 530 534-3551.

The WILDFLOWER SHOW will be April 23, 2017. We also need bakers to supply cookies for this event. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the next two General Meetings. If you cannot be at the meetings, please contact KarroLynn Yells at 530 534-3551 or karrolynny@att.net. If you could bring 2-4 dozen cookies for this event, it would be very much appreciated. If you cannot bake purchasing them is just fine. The Wildflower Show is our fund raiser for the year and your help would be so appreciated. Please bring cookies to the CARD Center on the morning of April 23, 2017.
The Chico Seed Orchard has been known by many names throughout its long history, starting with the Plant Garden Company in 1904. It became an experiment station for the University of California College of Agriculture with funding from the USDA, which ultimately assumed ownership, management and funding. At that time it was the Plant Introduction Station and many plants were introduced from all over the world to test for potential uses in California and the US. The first pistachio rootstock was planted around 1918 and the “Ma” and “Pa” kiwis in 1934. Exotic hardwoods and fruit trees can still be found scattered in various locations.

In 1974 this site, which had been operating under the Agriculture Research Service, was transferred to the Forest Service. The site was named The Chico Tree Improvement Center and soon renamed to the Genetic Resource and Conservation Center, as it was dedicated to improving forest trees for the Northern California Region. In 1992 the interest was in growing conifer seedlings (and seedlings of other native plant species) in containers that could be planted out for reforestation and regeneration. In time the center nursery reached full capacity of 1.3 million high quality seedlings to meet customer requests from National Forests throughout Northern California.

In 2004, the decision was made to close the Chico nursery, which had been in existence for 100 years, and move it and all its equipment and supplies to Placerville. What was left behind were all the orchards of carefully chosen and grafted forest trees which produced premium seeds. The name was again changed to Chico Seed Orchard, and the staff reduced to three employees who manage the 84 acres of seed-producing orchards, which must be irrigated, fertilized, pruned, mowed, thinned, treated to stimulate flowering, managed for pests like cone worm and fungi, and finally the cones need to be harvested and shipped to Placerville. In Placerville the cones are processed and eventually seeds planted to satisfy a customer order for seedlings.

The seeds from trees marked from the specific locality are used for each order to maintain the correct ecotype for the area to be reforested.

Robyn Scibilio, Site Manager at the Chico Seed Orchard presented interesting and detailed information with enthusiasm and experience, and her assistant Lisa showed us the Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine orchards, which are grafted using carefully selected scions on a strong native rootstock in order to speed the maturity of the trees for cone production. She explained some of the challenges of growing high elevation trees at near sea level in Chico, with the Chico summer heat, especially through the drought years. There are also a couple of valley oak orchards, and a Port Orford-cedar orchard, which appears to enjoy the Chico climate.

Now if you are confused about the many names this site has endured, you are not alone. When mentioning the Chico Seed Orchard, or the Genetic Research Center, or the Tree Improvement Center, many Chicoans have no idea what I am talking about, but when I describe the location they say, “Oh, you mean the dog park!” Unfortunately what was once used by many as a place for dogs to run free has been restricted because of several unfortunate incidents. It is now restricted to “Dogs on maximum 6-foot leash at all times in all areas.” It is still a lovely nature trail to walk any time of year, and you will see some native plants and exotic trees and shrubs remaining since the time it was known as the Plant Introduction Station.
Field Trips

BIG CHICO CREEK
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

April 7
Friday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 9 am. This will be 2 miles through BCCER with long-time volunteer Paul Maslin, Professor and Field Director Emeritus, who undoubtedly knows more than anyone about its history, natural or otherwise. The 3-4 hour hike will not be steep, as it is generally on the contour of the canyon wall, but there are about three slightly tricky spots. Everyone should wear sturdy hiking shoes with lugged soles, long-pants, bring a snack/lunch and water, and consider mosquito repellent, a hat, and sunscreen. Raingear for light rain; heavy rain cancels. Poison oak is ubiquitous. A flower guidebook and magnifier will be helpful. Participation is limited to 20 people. To reserve a spot, contact Jon Aull at jaull@csuchico.edu. Leaders: Paul Maslin, Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397. For information about the reserve, visit us on our website at www.csuchico.edu/bccer/ and Facebook.

NEW ADDRESS

PO BOX 4067
CHICO CA
95927-4067

These businesses support the goals of the CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MEMBERS GET 10% DISCOUNT
March 11, 2017

**INTRODUCTION TO FERN BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION**

Become fern fluent! This workshop will be a crash-course introduction to the ferns of the world with a focus on species that can be observed in the wild in California. Led by CARL ROTHFELS, curator of ferns at UC Berkeley’s University Herbarium. In graduate school Carl became a full-fledged fernologist. Prior to that time he was a field botanist, herbarium curator, and natural history interpreter in southern Ontario, Canada. Please register in advance.

March 18, 2017

**IDENTIFYING LICHENS TO GENUS**

This workshop will focus on identifying the lichens of the lower Sierra Nevada foothills to genus. The morning will be spent covering lichen basics, lunch in the field and afternoon back in the lab for guided exploration. The workshop will be led by TOM CARLBERG, who has been a cryptoanic botanist for 15 years. He is the past Editor of the Bulletin of the California Lichen Society and a member of the Society’s Conservation Committee. Please register in advance.

For more information about these and other upcoming workshops please contact: www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/
For more information about registration please contact the Biology office at (530)898-5356 or chatfield@csuchico.edu

**MEMBERSHIP MLC**

*If you have changed your . . .*

- address, phone number or e-mail
- or leave temporarily
- please notify Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS
- Membership Chair, MERYL BOND at 707-971-9272 or merylbond@sbcglobal.net

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

[Link to website] mountlassen.cnps.org

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**Officers & Chairs**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

- President: WOODY ELLIOTT 588-2555 woodyelliott@gmail.com
- Past-President: CATIE BISHOP cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net
- Vice-President: JIM BISHOP cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary: CHRISTIAN SMIT 815-5892 christian.pt.smit@gmail.com
- Treasurer: NANCY PRAIZLER 899-1333 praiizlermom@gmail.com
- Members-at-Large: HESH KAPLAN 898-9938 heshelak@gmail.com
- MERYL BOND  (707) 971-9272 merylbond@sbcglobal.net
- CINDY WEINER  588-1906 wildflowermaven@comcast.net

**CHAIRS**

- Conservation / Web Administrator: WOODY ELLIOTT 588-2555 woodyelliott@gmail.com
- Education: OPEN
- Events: JANNA LATHROP 228 0010 jlhathrop4mlc@comcast.net
- Field Trips: MARJORIE MCNAIRN 343-2397 mlmcnairn@aol.com
- Horticulture: OPEN
- Hospitality: KARROLYNN YELLS 534-3551 karrolynny@att.net
- Invasive Plants: OPEN
- Membership/Mailing: MERYL BOND  (707) 971-9272 merylbond@sbcglobal.net
- Newsletter Editor: DENISE DEVINE 345-8444 dsrdevine@hotmail.com
- Programs: JIM BISHOP cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net
- Co-chairs: WOODY ELLIOTT 588-2555 woodyelliott@gmail.com
- Publicity: CINDY WEINER 588-1906 wildflowermaven@comcast.net
- Rare Plants: OPEN
- Sales: NANCY PRAIZLER 899-1333 praiizlermom@gmail.com
- Vol. Recognition / Chapter Council Delegate: CATIE BISHOP cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net
- Yahi Trail: STEPHEN OVERLOCK 892-0635 stephenoverlock@sbcglobal.net
- CCNC Gardens: ANN ELLIOTT 521-4402 annonfire@gmail.com

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**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

March 11, 2017

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**FRIENDS of the HERBARIUM**

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

new _____
renew _____

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________________
State ______ Zip _______ Phone _____________________________
Email __________________________________________________________

Phyllis would say

Join Today!

Send Membership Application to:

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

mountlassen.cnps.org

Calendar 2017

March
1 - General Meeting
12 - Stone Ridge Eco Res
15 - Ex Board Meeting
16 - CCNC Garden Workday
19 - Vina Plains
26 - Richardson Springs

April
1 - Meriam Vernal Pools
5 - General Meeting
7 - Big Chico Creek Reserve
19 - Ex Board Meeting
23 - WILDFLOWER SHOW
30 - Garden Tour

March 2017 issue