General Meeting
FEBRUARY 7, 2018
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

Presented by LAWRENCE JANEWAY

Some BOTANICAL EXPLORATIONS around northern California:
go ing where few botanists have gone before.

Lawrence Janeway spends most of his vacation time exploring different and unusual places in northern California. Join in this tour through the four places he explored last year; one of them on the Modoc Plateau of eastern Lassen County, one along the extreme northern edge of the northern Sierra Nevada, and two in the very diverse Klamath Ranges. He will explain some of his motives for visiting these places, besides having fun and seeing new places and plants, which include collecting herbarium specimens and working on a second edition of Vern Oswald’s Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada. He will also give a brief introduction to the Consortium of California Herbaria and how the herbarium specimen data stored there often informs his choices of places to visit. Lawrence is Curator of the Herbarium at Chico State and is the District Botanist of the Feather River Ranger District, Plumas National Forest.
LOWER YAH! TRAIL
UPPER BIDWELL PARK
February 4
Sunday
Meet at 10 am at the Horseshoe Lake Parking lot in Bidwell Park. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, and wear cool weather gear. We will walk the Yahi Trail to Day Camp, and return by the lower trail. Observations of blooming plants will include pipevine, California bay, manzanita, milkmaids and perhaps a checkered fritillary. End at noon. Rain cancels. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397.

SACRAMENTO RIVER BEND AREA - BLM
YANA TRAIL: JELLYS FERRY TO MASSACRE FLAT
February 24
Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) to depart at 9 am or at Jellys Ferry Parking Lot north of Red Bluff by 10 am. Bring food/snacks, water and sturdy shoes for 6-mile round trip hike along the cliff bound Sacramento River. Green hillsides covered in blue oak savannah and leafing riparian corridors frame steep landscapes carved by the river. Sweeping wildland views with snow covered peaks abound. Early wildflowers will be emerging. Rain or soggy trail will detour the trip to Sacramento River Discovery Center’s Native Plan Garden in Red Bluff. Leader: Woody Elliott, woodyelliott@gmail.com, (530) 588-2555.

GARDEN TOUR takes a Detour in 2018
by ANN ELLIOTT, CCNC Gardens Chair

The WATER-WISE and HABITAT FRIENDLY GARDEN TOURS have been great for outreach about native plant horticulture and were in high demand during the drought crisis. However, Altacal Audubon’s Neighborhood Habitat Program and Mount Lassen Chapter want to give a break in 2018 to our homeowners who have generously shared their yards for the past three years. This year we are exploring some other possibilities for native plant horticulture outreach:

• Cindy Weiner (wearing CNPS and Butte County Master Gardener hats) will continue to teach her two Osher Life Long Learning (OLLI) classes: Gardening with California Native Plants and Touring Native Plant Gardens. Join her classes, which start Feb. 6.

• I will be asking local organizations with established community garden tours (Chico Horticulture Society, St John’s Episcopal, Paradise Garden Club) to consider including a California native plant garden in their tours.

• We should also explore collaborating with Butte Environmental Council and Butte County Master Gardeners doing lawn conversion projects (including sheet mulching, rain gardens, etc.) or demonstrations of composting and plant propagation. We could cooperate more with California Water Company who sponsor workshops on water conservation.

• State CNPS has new staff who are encouraging chapters to use more social media. Ideas from them include filming virtual garden tours for posting on YouTube or Facebook and taking garden pictures for posting on Pinterest and Instagram. They encourage us to include hashtags (ie. #nativegardentour and #canativeplants) on all our posts which reaches out to younger folks who predominately use social media.

• A valuable project would be the compilation and sharing of a few simple garden designs and plant palettes that would make lawn conversion or landscape design easier for homeowners and commercial property owners.

Please contact me if you want to share your garden in photo or video, if you want to help with one of the other projects, or if you have other ideas for sharing a love of native plant gardening. Ann Elliott annonfire@gmail.com 530-521-4402
CATIE & JIM BISHOP
CNPS VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD
by WOODY ELLIOTT

At the December 2017 CNPS Chapter Council Meeting in Rancho Cordova, Catie and Jim Bishop were awarded CNPS’s Volunteer Recognition Award with a framed photo featuring Butte Co. golden clover, Trifolium jokerstii.

Their citation read by Charlie Blair, CNPS Volunteer Recognition Chair stated: Catie & Jim have been a tireless team actively engaged for more than twenty years with Mount Lassen Chapter and State CNPS as officers and committee chairs. Their extensive institutional knowledge of such history and procedures garnered by authentic dedication to promoting the mission of CNPS has been invaluable to all CNPSers privileged to work with them. Notably, Catie has faithfully been the Chapter’s Chapter Council Representative, producing written summaries of the Council’s work to the Chapter. Moreover, Jim has tirelessly promoted monthly public presentations at Chapter general meetings and good governance by various evolving entities of State CNPS.
A proposed Oak Woodland Mitigation Ordinance is in the initial stages of its drafting. Much more work by County Staff, interested stakeholders and the Planning Commission needs to be done to craft an ordinance and an accompanying implementation manual that protects the extensive oak woodlands in the foothills of Butte County. Currently, the draft language would primarily foster payment of in lieu fees for taking of oak woodlands by developers. These fees would primarily pay third parties for conservation easements to protect oak woodlands not necessarily in Butte County. Also, conversion of oak woodlands to grassland for livestock grazing by clearcutting oaks for firewood would not be discouraged by this Draft ordinance. Mount Lassen Chapter looks forward to working with those interested in fostering preservation of oak woodlands in accordance with the Oak Woodlands Management Plan (Butte County Oak Woodland Resource Assessment Report - July 2006), adopted by resolution of the Butte Co. Board of Supervisors in April 2007 and habitat conservations policies of the Butte County General Plan - 2030 adopted in year 2010.

BIDWELL PARK’S PEREGRINE POINT DISC GOLF COURSE IN PERIL

Over the last three years at several meetings of the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) and separately with City of Chico staff, representatives of Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) & Mount Lassen Chapter (CNPS) have expressed concern that mitigation and monitoring measurers at Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course have not been successfully implemented. These measures were prescribed by the legally binding Calif. Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document adopted by the City for development of this course.

Measures designed to promote the survival and health of species (blue oak, Butte Co. checkerbloom, Bidwells knotweed and wildflower fields) adversely impacted by disc golf are:

- tree protection devices (disc deflectors),
- relocation of baskets (holes) away from impacted oaks,
- replenishment of wood chips around pads (tees) and baskets,
- concentration of foot traffic on fairways with barriers,
- interpretive signs throughout the course.

Monitoring the efficacy of these mitigation measures has not been done quantitatively in the last two years. The BPPC has not received a comprehensive report on the status of the City’s management of the Disc Golf Course since August 2016. The BPPC with City Staff need to adequately manage this conflict of natural and recreational resources.
On a cold and sunny January morning 24 people gathered to explore the ferns in Middle Bidwell Park. These are the lessons they learned.

Ferns are considered primitive plants, and along with Selaginella and horsetails, were the first vascular plants to develop. The bluegreen algae were the first to utilize photosynthesis and produce oxygen for our atmosphere. Mosses, liverworts and hornworts, some of which we observed along the cliff face, are small nonvascular plants reproducing by spores, and remain small. The ferns and fern allies soon (about a billion years later) developed a more complex structure by creating an internal vascular system for transporting nutrients and water within the plant. The ferns and fern allies still produce spores, although they can grow larger with more nutrients and water available.

There are 13 species of ferns listed in Upper Bidwell Park. Five species of ferns are found along the fern cliff. There are two maidenhair ferns, Venus-hair fern (Adiantum capillus veneris) and the more common California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii), and one species each of the three others. Fragile fern, sometimes called brittle fern (Cystopteris fragilis), was represented by only a few plants and gold-backed fern (Pentagramma triangularis) sported both this year’s new growth and the darker, older fronds from last year. The very showy prevalent fern along the cliff was Polypody (Polypodium calirhiza). Polypody refers to the many “feet” or underground stems called rhizomes, which allow this fern to spread vigorously down the cliff and over rocks. A giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata) at one time grew at the base of the cliff but has been missing for many years.

To identify ferns one must first make several observations, such as the location, season, and whether it is in a moist or dry environment. The ferns at this location had, or were recently putting out new fronds for their season. Some of these (Polypody, fragile fern and California maidenhair are only active during the wet season and the fronds will die as the plant goes dormant in dry conditions. Only the gold-backed fern and Venus-hair maidenhair fern still have sad-looking fronds holding on from last year.

Ferns may look quite different from one species to another due to the shape of the fronds. The ferns along the cliff were examined and identified as pinnate, or 1-pinnate, as in Polypody and the two supplied examples sword fern and chain fern. Gold-backed fern is 1-pinnate, but may be deeply lobed to look like 2-pinnate. Bipinnate (2-pinnate) included maidenhair, fragile fern and the supplied example of bracken fern. Sometimes maidenhair ferns can be 2-3 pinnate, and fragile fern and bracken may be 2-4 pinnate. The most we observed was 3-pinnate.

Another way to identify ferns is by their sori and indusium, if present. Since ferns are primitive they reproduce by spores, not seeds. The sori on the underside of the frond, holds a collection of sporangia, which release the spores. In the polypody the sori are round, in the chain fern they are elongated and placed end to end, creating the image of a chain. Some ferns may have a “hat” or indusium covering the sori. We did not look at those. Spores are not seeds, and when they drop to the ground they form small green structures called gametophytes, which have both male and female parts. When the female is fertilized, a tiny new fern develops and grows into a fern we can recognize.
Vernal Pool Landscapes: Past, Present, and Future, a conference that will be held in Chico, California on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11 and 12, 2018 at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company in Chico. Eminent scholars, agency representatives, and other professionals will present research and case studies regarding plant and animal species dependent on vernal pool landscapes, conservation efforts, legal cases, and management techniques that have been used to enhance the economic and biological viability of certain lands.

Field trips will take place on April 13, 2018. The number of participants is limited. Registration will be available starting in mid-December and will be placed on the AquAlliance web site along with program updates at: www.aqualliance.net.
February 24, 2018

SOILS, LANDFORMS, AND VEGETATION OF BIDWELL PARK

Bidwell Park provides a great outdoor classroom to explore relationships between landforms, soils, and the vegetation occurring on those soils. ANDREW CONLIN, a soil scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, will lead a field tour in Bidwell Park. This workshop will meet from 10am to 3pm in Chico’s Upper Bidwell Park at the parking lot on the north side of the Five-Mile bridge. Please register in advance.

For information about upcoming workshops please contact: www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/

For more information about registration please contact the Biology office at (530)898-5356 or ssholten@csuchico.edu

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please notify Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS
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530 487-7312 or merylbond@sbcglobal.net

This will help eliminate returned Pipevines from the Post Office. Thank You

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on our website and Facebook

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The Pipevine  February  2018  7.
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

mountlassen.cnps.org

Time Value
FEBRUARY  2018 issue

Phyllis would say

Join Today!

Calendar 2018

January
27 - 29 - Snow Goose Festival

February
1 - 3 - CNPS Conservation Con
4 - Upper Bidwell Park
7 - General Meeting
21 - Ex Board Meeting
22 - CCNC Garden Workday
24 - Sac River Bend Area

March
7 - General Meeting
21 - Ex Board Meeting