General Meeting
SUMMER BREAK
until September 5, 2018

JUNE 3, 2018
Sunday 2 - 4 pm

SUMMER KICKOFF
PICNIC

OUR SUMMER SOCIAL returns to the shaded yard along Comanche Creek.

JOIN other Mount Lassen Chapter members for a potluck, barbeque, and relaxed afternoon on Sunday, June 3 from 2 - 4 at 501 Paseo Companeros St (south of lower Fair St) along Comanche Creek.

COME to visit about growing native plants, plan summer native plant excursions, discuss local and state conservation issues, or just to shoot the breeze.

BRING your favorite potluck item and something to barbecue, your drink of choice, and folding chair convenient for eating. The Chapter will provide plates, cups, and cutlery. Refrigeration is available. The yard has some tables and seating.

Please contact Woody Elliott woodyelliott@gmail.com, 530-588-2555 if you have a portable table you could bring.

See you there!
**Field Trips**

BIG CHICO CREEK DAY USE AREA  
BIDWELL SACRAMENTO RIVER STATE PARK  
June 17, Sunday

Explore the riparian and floodplain habitats near the mouth of Big Chico Creek adjacent to River Rd west of Chico. We’ll walk along a little used loop trail through a former almond orchard. State Parks acquired these 40 acres, 20 years ago which has become an integral part of the Sacramento River Conservation Area. To beat the heat, meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) at 8 am to return by 11 am unless lunching at Scotty’s for burgers and brew. Leader: Woody Elliott, State Park natural resource manager who restored the site 530-588-2555, woodyelliott@gmail.com

BUTTE CREEK HOUSE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE  
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST  
PHYTOBLITZ with FOH  
July 7, Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) at 9 am with lunch water, sun and insect protection, money for ridesharing. Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS and Friends of the Herbarium CSUC will join in a field event, PHYTOBLITZ - finding as many kinds of plants during several hours at the meadow. We need sharp eyes and a good voice to ask, “What's this?” and you can enjoy exploring this beautiful 320 acre preserve. We’ll car-pool for a 75-minute drive, some of it will be on dusty roads as we progress past Jonesville. The large meadow is at about 6000 ft elev, and is surrounded by subalpine forest of lodgepole pine. The meadow has dry regions (where the pine is invading), and moist to wet regions with the upper reaches of Butte Creek winding through them. Not recommended for children, dogs not permitted on the Reserve. To reserve contact: Robert Schlising, Robert Fischer, and Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397 or mlnmcnairn@aol.com

CASTLE LAKE TO HEART LAKE  
SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST  
July 14, Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) to leave by 8:30 am. Take a lunch, water, sturdy shoes, sun/insect protection, money for ridesharing. Drive I-5 past Shasta Lake and rugged Castle Crag to the Mt Shasta exit, 95 miles, then southwest on paved county and forest roads to the Castle Lake trailhead. The moderate 2-mile round trip, trail skirts the eastern shore of Castle Lake, at 5436 ft. The trail climbs 600 feet in elevation through several wildflower habitats and subalpine hanging meadows. Heart Lake is perched in granite cliffs at 6000 ft. Spectacular view of Mt Shasta across the valley. Call for alternate meeting. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397. Lodging at Weed or camping at Kangaroo Lake http://www.californiasbestcamping.com/modoc/kangaroo.html

THE FEN TRAIL AT KANGAROO LAKE  
KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST  
July 15, Sunday

Meet at the Fen Trail at 9 am. Wear Sturdy hiking shoes, bring lunch, water, sun/mosquito protection. This special place is a botanically unique areas of the Klamath National Forest. The Fen Trail is within a designated Botanical Special Interest Area with many unusual botanical and geologic features, uncommon species and features such as fens with rare California pitcher plants, and serpentine rock outcrops with numerous US Forest Service listed Sensitive and Klamath Watch List plant species. It is a beautiful hike with expansive views from the top of the Scott and Trinity River Divide. The trail is an easy 1 mile one way climb with a 600 ft elev gain ending at 6000 ft. If there is time and energy we may continue up the ridge to Cory Peak. Reservations contact Leader: Marjorie McNairn 503 343-2397 or mlmcnairn@aol.com Lodging /camping info see above, Castle to Heart Lake

**2 trips for a WILDFLOWER WEEKEND!**

CASTLE LAKE TO HEART LAKE  
SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST  
July 14, Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) to leave by 8:30 am. Take a lunch, water, sturdy shoes, sun/insect protection, money for ridesharing. Drive I-5 past Shasta Lake and rugged Castle Crag to the Mt Shasta exit, 95 miles, then southwest on paved county and forest roads to the Castle Lake trailhead. The moderate 2-mile round trip, trail skirts the eastern shore of Castle Lake, at 5436 ft. The trail climbs 600 feet in elevation through several wildflower habitats and subalpine hanging meadows. Heart Lake is perched in granite cliffs at 6000 ft. Spectacular view of Mt Shasta across the valley. Call for alternate meeting. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397. Lodging at Weed or camping at Kangaroo Lake http://www.californiasbestcamping.com/modoc/kangaroo.html

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**MORE FIELD TRIPS**

on page 10.
Goodbye Janna

. . . Volunteer Extraordinaire

by CATIE AND JIM BISHOP

J ANNA LATHROP, our Events Chair and a real Chapter mainstay, will be leaving the area this month, and the Mount Lassen Chapter wants to say THANK YOU. Anyone who has come to a General Meeting has seen Janna. She is the one who sets up the information table, helps set out chairs, greets and signs in attendees, and makes announcements about upcoming events. Our Chapter could not thrive without the conscientious volunteerism that Janna embodies.

Over the years Janna has been our President and held several other positions on the Board. For many years she made sure our Chapter was represented at community events even before her current title of Events Chair was codified. Until recently she even stored the tables, chairs, brochures, and presentation boards in her small apartment between events. She has given up countless weekend days staffing a table to educate the public and promote native plants. She has led field trips, and has coordinated and helped judge the Chico school science fair.

Janna’s pleasant personality and happy demeanor have made her a joy to work with. She is organized, capable and trustworthy, and we have been so lucky to know her and have her in our Chapter.

Now she is leaving the state to start a new chapter in her life. We wish her all the best. We want her to know how much she will be missed, and how much we appreciate all she has done for CNPS and our Chapter.
On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the dedication of Vina Plains Preserve by the Nature Conservancy this spring, we enjoyed three field trips to this special spot. Planned to take in early, mid-season, and later blooms, all of them were on the Main Unit, which was dedicated in 1983. Since that time additional units have been added. The preserve contains excellent examples of wildflower grasslands and vernal pools. Cows still graze on the unit with the purpose of keeping the annual grasses eaten down except for Medusa head (which from a cow’s point of view is inedible) in order to enhance the flower display. The Medusa head is a non-native invasive grass which overpowers and replaces native plants. It is hopefully controlled by burning one unit a year on a rotating basis.

Because of the “spring-in-winter” and “winter-in-spring” weather pattern this year, some of the early flowers were blooming at the same time as those that normally bloom later. For example some Johnny tuck was blooming at the same time as the vernal pool rings were forming. A few plants of bicolored lupine were still blooming when the California brodiaea was putting on a grand show. Because of lack of rain in January and February the sheets of color from annuals were less evident, although there was a good display of tidy tips midseason, and the rings of color around the pools were best developed by the time of the last field trip. In both of the last two field trips we were delighted to find the tricolored monkeyflower.

A handout was given on the landscape, and some important organisms that are found on the preserve, such as the endangered fairy shrimp in the vernal pools. Another handout was a list of plants most likely to be seen on that particular date. These checklist handouts stimulated a goal of looking to see how many clovers could be found, or an answer to the question of what kind of brodiaea is THAT one? The key was brought out and with much discussion, the question was answered. We recorded four brodiaeas on the last trip, and four clovers on the previous one. The three field trips were a fitting celebration for the 35th Year anniversary of Vina Plains Preserve.
The exploration of a trail to find two rare plants yielded way more than expected. As was explained to me, what makes this a botanically unique trail is the diversity of species, including those out of range, such as species usually found at higher elevation, or species normally seen in the coast range. The Shasta snow wreath (*Neviusia cliftonii*), a very rare shrub of the rose family was blooming. It was first discovered in 1992, and an article was written about its discovery in a recent Fremontia. Shasta maidenhair fern (*Adiantum shastense*) grows beneath the Shasta snow wreath on moist shady north slopes. It has an interesting history as it was collected in 1895 and mislabeled as the common maidenhair fern. Nearly 100 years later in 1993 it was collected and again mislabeled. It was not until 2015, when it was identified as a unique and rare species and a description was written by L. Huiet. It differs from the common maidenhair fern by having diamond-shaped pinnae instead of rounded ones, and the fronds are evergreen, while *A. jordanii* dies back in the dry summer.

There was much more than rare plants to see in the varied habitats along the trail. We saw blooming pussy ears and firecracker flower all over the place, and mule’s ears and Chinese caps, *Ceanothus lemmonii* and snowdrop bush, fernleaf lomatium and red larkspur. We saw yellow California puccoon, yellow helianthella, and yellow and red columbine. We saw blue Danny’s skullcap and blue Parish’s bush nightshade, white bastard toadflax and a whole hillside of white starflower. And we saw a monardella not in bloom. I learned a new plant, the yellow false lupine (*Thermopsis macropylla var. venosa*) and was overjoyed in discovering the familiar umbrella plant growing along the creek bank. Orobanche was blooming and we found about eight ferns. As the weatherman predicted, it was moist and misty with one good shower, and perhaps that helped contribute to a delightful and unforgettable day.
lowers attract bees. The more diverse the flowers, the more diverse the bees. And if a high proportion of the flowering plants are California native plants, the diversity of pollinators increases even more. This we learned from Rob Schlising's great talk at the May General Meeting. We also learned that there is a direct relationship between the effort one puts into a garden creating diverse habitats and food sources and the numbers and kinds of bees that visit. Effort pays off, as Rob's intensely planted garden demonstrates.

Not every gardener can devote the time and work that goes into creating as complex a mix of flowering plants as Rob is doing. Somewhere there is a happy medium where we can enjoy a variety of wildlife in our gardens without spending too many resources. After all gardens are for people to enjoy too.

My garden is a good example. Working creating gardens for other people takes much of my physical resources. Like the shoemaker's shoeless children my front garden has to survive without much attention for months on end. Some years, the salvias get pruned at the proper time - and some years not. With no irrigation system (like are installed in client's gardens), the garden gets watered haphazardly by moving a sprinkler around every few weeks. The plants can get stressed.

The great satisfaction I receive from my garden far exceeds the minimum effort I put in. While I enjoy the combination of plants as they change through the season, the greatest pleasure for me comes from the wildlife attracted to the garden. It is the life that energizes the garden in the form of birds, frogs, bees, flies, butterflies, moths – along with the predators – the spiders, the ambush bugs, the assassin bugs, praying mantids and even the occasional robber fly. It is a garden full of life - a piece of the complex web of life that I can observe, be amazed by, curious about and learn from – in my garden.

On a recent Saturday in April I was captured by the garden. There was an endless to-do list in my head - my ten acre homestead keeps me busy, but the pipevine swallowtails beckoned me to sit and immerse myself in the garden. And so I did. Like dancers on a stage, the butterflies leapt and flitted gracefully above and around several species of salvia. Always in constant sing-song motion - even when nectaring, their wings are nearly always in motion. At least a dozen were in the garden that peaceful, early afternoon.
One particular salvia that is a favorite of the pipevine swallowtail and other insects - *Salvia heldreichiana* – a non native salvia from the Mediterranean has countless spikes of lavender-blue flowers April through May. Through the years it has been a reliable favorite of the swallowtail, but also favored by many bees – large and small. The smaller bees, ceratina, lasioglossums and osmia disappear from sight when delving for nectar in the deep corolla. Bees such as a shiny black osmia may even enter upside down so they’re able to gather pollen from the stamens that are held in the topside of the flower and pack it onto their hairs on their abdomen. It is easy to lose a half hour kneeling by this salvia observing the activity and attempting to sort out the different bees, flies and wasps. And as is the case with plants that have a constant motion of flying insects there are always predators to be found. It can take time and a lot of scanning to find the spiders hidden alongside the flowers – just waiting for their prey. But they are there and much easier to spot once they've caught their prey. The dangling body tells my brain that something doesn’t fit the picture. On that Saturday the prey was some type of bug or beetle.

Alongside the path is the ever expanding hummingbird sage – *Salvia spathacea*. This California native has flowering stalks that are strongly upright with the tubular maroon flowers nestled in dusky calyces packed tightly in dense whorls along the stalk. Like many New World salvias it has adapted to accomplish pollination with the help of hummingbirds. I hunkered down to wait and watch – no hummingbirds -but I caught a glimpse of a tiny bee with a red abdomen – a species of lasioglossum. Not interested in nectar, this female came for the pollen. Like most of the California native salvias *S. spathacea* has exerted stamens that extend well beyond the corolla. Collecting pollen from them is reserved for small bees, like the lasioglossum, that can hang on to the slender stamen and use its back legs to brush the pollen – like the osmia, onto the hairs of its hind leg and on the underside of its abdomen. It is quite an acrobatic effort to observe. As Rob said in his talk – the antics of bees can be entertaining.

Sitting back in the chair under the shade of an umbrella just taking in the garden scene in its entirety, a lone monarch butterfly appears, nonchalantly surveying the scene. A cause for celebration – the first one I’ve seen in the garden this year! It became clear that it was a female looking to lay eggs on the milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa* – one of my favorite plants in the garden. This monarch mama surveyed all the stems, seeming to calculate which ones would be the best bet for the egg and for the caterpillars to survive. She stayed away from the tall robust stems with just the barest beginnings of flower buds forming and oviposited her egg on much smaller stems, usually on the underside of the leaf. The eggs are minuscule, and hard to spot, but through the macro lens of my camera trigger a sense of awe at their luminescent beauty.

So much to be seen in a garden.
SPRING EVENTS and THANK YOUS

Our chapter was well represented at several spring outreach events in April and May.

First, was CSUC’s “March for Science” in mid-April. Woody Elliott, Paul Moore, KarroLynn Yells and Nancy Groshong were our able ambassadors from the chapter.

April 21 and 22 found MLC at the Spring Home and Garden Show. We were given ample space in the Flower Building by the Chico Horticultural Society to utilize all our displays. We looked impressive! We also benefited from a beautiful floral display from Catie Bishop’s garden and the loan of native plants from Floral Native Nursery. This was a very busy two day event for our volunteers Hesh Kaplan, Dody Domish, Elizabeth Tice, Karen Johnson, Nancy Groshong and KarroLynn Yells.

Meanwhile, Justine Devoe, our education chair, did outreach at the Chico Mall for Earth Day on April 22. Good Job, Justine!

Finally, we participated at the 39th Endangered Species Faire on May 5. I had help from Paul Moore with set up. Our table and magnifying activity were staffed by Jim Bishop, Catie Bishop, Meryl Bond and Ann Elliott. Thank you one and all for your participation.

By being able to participate at these community outreach events helps put a person to person connection to the CNPS mission of conservation, education and horticulture.

One last note, I am pleased to announce NANCY GROSHONG will be the new Events Chair. We all THANK YOU, Nancy. I know you will do a grand job for Mount Lassen Chapter.

I greatly appreciate all of you who helped me with all our outreach events and will be helping Nancy in the Future.

39th Endangered Species Faire on May 5, 2018
Info table, Magnificent Magnifying and Ann Elliott.
previously, I announced a hiatus for the Water Wise and Habitat Friendly Garden Tour. However, the word out about the benefits and joys of native plant gardening is still happening:

This spring, Cindy Weiner taught her two Osher Life Long Learning (OLLI) classes: Gardening with California Native Plants and Touring Native Plant Gardens. Her classes continue to be an inspiration for us to improve our environment, save water, and have fun exploring native plant horticulture.

Cindy also recruited fellow Butte County Master Gardener and CNPS member, Nancy Groshong, to manage the native plant gardens recently established by Master Gardeners that are located at the Patrick Ranch on the Midway towards Durham. Nancy will expand her love of native plants by sharing the mission of CNPS: To .... increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

In early May, I had the privilege to visit and video some spectacular native plant gardens in our area. These virtual tours featured homeowners highlighting their favorite features, successes, and challenges. Excerpts are available on YouTube with web links at website: MountLassen.CNPS.org, our Facebook page, or by searching the web for “Virtual Native Plant Garden Tour.”

Each garden has its own flavor:
- Ken’s “Low Maintenance Lawn Conversion” has simple beauty achieved with little effort after installation.
- Marvey’s “Artist’s Garden” highlights varied scenes and habitats for pollinators, birds, and humans.
- Jim and Catie’s “Foothill Wonderland” gives visitors a sense of what this creek-side oasis might have looked like before European settlement.
- Cindy’s “Collector’s Dream” has an expansive yard of water wise natives including fun and unusual specimens that she collected from many sources.

The first few minutes of each video presents the flavor of the garden. All of the gardens are inspiration for bringing a little California nature to our yards. Share them with your friends.

Mount Lassen Chapter maintains a native plant garden installed at the Chico Creek Nature Center in Bidwell Park during the 1980’s. Work parties occur usually the third Thursday of the month. This summer for two hours, beginning at 8 am, work includes removing persistent weeds, deadheading, spreading wood chips, and upgrading the irrigation system. JOIN US and learn about native plants by friendly doing. Planned work dates are Wednesday June 20 (note difference), Thursday July 19, and Thursday August 16. Contact Ann Elliott for more information and possible schedule changes. 530-521-4402 annonfire@gmail.com

A REAL GARDEN EXPERIENCE

Marvey’s “Artist’s Garden”

Carpinteria at Jim and Catie’s “Foothill Wonderland”
Field Trips

CARTER MEADOW TO PACIFIC CREST TRAIL
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
July 22
Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am with lunch, water, hiking gear, sun/insect protection and money for ride sharing. We’ll head up Hwy 32 to Elam Campground and turn off on the gravel forest road to Carter Meadow and the trailhead to the PCT. It is only 1 1/2 easy miles to a spectacular view of the old caldera of Mt Yana with present day Butt Mt (Carter Mt) to our north, Lake Almanor to the east and Humboldt Peak to the south. On the return, we follow Carter Creek through several smaller meadows until we come to the very large Carter Meadow (6100 ft elev). Call for alternate meeting place. Leader: Woody Elliott 530 342-6053

EMERALD AND RIM LAKES
CARIBOU WILDERNESS AREA
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
August 12
Sunday
Meet at west lot Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 99/32) at 8 am with lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. It has been stated that this trip features the best scenery in the Caribou Wilderness, and that Emerald Lake is one of its crown jewels. The hike to Emerald Lake (possibly Rim Lake) is a round trip distance of about 4 or 6 miles, with an elev gain of about 900 ft to a high point of 7,150 ft. It also provides expansive vistas of the surrounding terrain, unlike other trails in this area. Allow all day. Call for alternate meeting place. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397.

Executive Board Meeting
SUMMER BREAK
Until August 15, 2018

These businesses support the goals of the CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MEMBERS GET 10% DISCOUNT

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If you have changed your . . .
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please notify Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS
Membership Chair, MERYL BOND at
530 487-7312 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

mountlassen.cnps.org

June 7, 2018

BUTTE COUNTY BUTTERFLIES
AND THEIR HOST PLANT AFFINITIES  DON MILLER

June 9, 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY NATIVE FLOWERS AS
COMPOSITIONAL ELEMENTS  SPENCER DYKSTRA

June 23, 2018

INTRODUCTION TO THE WILLOWS OF CALIFORNIA
JOHN BAIR

August 25, 2018

MOUNTAIN MEADOW WORKSHOP
KYLE MERRIAM, MIKE FRIEND

For more 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 chatfield@csuchico.edu

ELECTED OFFICERS

President             PAUL MOORE       343-4287
                     pmoore@csuchico.edu
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Vice-President        CINDY WEINER     588-1906
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Events               JANNA LATHROP    228 0010
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                     mimcnairn@aol.com

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Hospitality          KARROLYNN YELLS 534-3551
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Invasive Plants     OPEN

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Rare Plants          OPEN

Sales                NANCY PRAIZLER  899-1333
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Vol. Recognition / Chapter Council Delegate

CATIE BISHOP
                     cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net

Yahi Trail           CHRISTIAN SMIT  815-5892
                     christian.pt.smit@gmail.com

CCNC Gardens         ANN ELLIOTT     521-4402
                     annonfire@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

new _____ renew _____

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _____________________________________________
State _____ Zip _________ Phone ______________________
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Send Membership Application to:
CNPS
2707 K STREET, SUITE 1
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-5113

Phyllis would say
Join Today!

mountlassen.cnps.org

Calendar 2018

June
3 - ANNUAL PICNIC
17 - Big Chico Creek Sac River
20 - CCNC Garden Workday

July
7 - Butte Creek House Ecol Res
14 - Castle / Heart Lake
15 - The Fen Trail
19 - CCNC Garden Workday
22 - Carter Meadow

August
12 - Emerald and Rim Lakes
15 - Ex Board Meeting
16 - CCNC Garden Workday

September
5 - General Meeting
19 - Ex Board Meeting