General Meeting
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Butte County Library, Chico

Annual **OPEN PHOTOS** Program

Come share and see the best vignettes of wildland adventures that members of Mount Lassen Chapter can offer. You are encouraged to contact Woody Elliott, woodyelliott@gmail.com, to sign up for a five-minute slot to share your photos (20 max) and story. A good time catching up is always had by all attending. If you need more presentation time, contact Woody for a time variance or opportunity for a solo performance at an upcoming General Meeting. See you then and there!
2. The Pipevine

September 2018

TERRACE, SHADOW, AND CLIFF LAKES
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

September 9
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) at 8:30 am. Remember to bring your Golden Age Pass, lunch/snacks, water, mosquito and sun protection, windbreaker/jacket, money for ride-sharing and wear sturdy shoes. This trail starts at 8000 ft elevation and descends gently 1/3 miles to shallow rock-lined Terrace Lake and next to it, deep, blue Shadow Lake. Aptly named Cliff Lake lies further on below massive cliffs. If a car shuttle is possible, we may drop from Cliff Lake to Paradise Meadows and down the steep trail past the waterfall to the Hat Creek trail head. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397, mlmcnairn@aol.com

MOUNT HARKNESS SUMMIT
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

September 22
Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) in time to leave at 8 am. Bring light jacket, lunch, water, insect/sun protection, money for ride-sharing, and your Park Pass. For an alternate meeting place, call the leader. We will drive 65 miles to Chester, CA for a rest stop. From Chester we drive 12 more miles to the trailhead. The last .5 mi of the road to the trailhead is moderately steep and has a washboard surface. The hike to Mt Harkness at 8,046 feet elevation is shorter in distance than to other major peaks in Lassen Park. See great panoramic vistas from the peak’s lookout tower. The gain in elevation hiked is 1,246 feet over a 1.9 mile trail. Hikers should be in good health since the 8.3% trail incline is moderately steep. Leader: Woody Elliott,woodyelliott@gmail.com 530 588-2555

RICHARD D. BERGMAN

Long-term member of Mount Lassen Chapter Richard (Dick) Bergman died April 5, 2018 shortly before his 92nd birthday. After he retired he moved to Chico, and became a member of our Chapter in 1989. He was always friendly and supportive, and never hesitated to tell people he had been a Lutheran pastor from Pennsylvania. Dick was active in the chapter, holding the position of Program Chair in 1991 and 1992, and Vice President in 1993 and 1994. Among the interesting programs he arranged were “Collecting Wildflowers With Your Camera” by Dr. Wes Dempsey, “Plant Recovery at Mt. St. Helens Ten Years After the Volcanic Eruption” by Dr. David Wood, and “Demon Droppings and the true slime molds of California,” by Dick Critchfield, retired Paradise High School biology teacher. Dick was an interesting person himself, and the types of programs he arranged reflected his interests. Dick remained a member of Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS throughout the remainder of his life.
In July 2018, the STONEY FIRE burned nearly 1000 acres of Bidwell Park including Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course. With calm overcast weather, the fire burned moderately through the understory of fire-adapted blue oaks, occasionally searing patches of brush and gray pine. Firefighters from the City of Chico and CalFire had it under control in 24 hours.

The disc golf course is closed until the City removes hazard trees and determines that the course is safe for recreational users. However, before reopening the course the City also needs to determine that the natural resources are safe from recreational users.

Foot traffic adversely affects the fragile burnt soil and emerging vegetation (see CNPS Fire Recovery Guide: https://www.cnps.org/give/priority-initiatives/fire-recovery). Vegetation will need months to regrow and harden. Thrown discs may damage branches and trunks of recovering oaks. The City needs to replace split rail fencing (which delineate fairways and out-of-bounds), tree protection devices, and wood chips around tees and holes (which reduce erosion).

Evaluation of the effects of the Stoney Fire on the natural environment at the disc golf course is necessary prior to its reopening. The CEQA review establishing the course included mitigation requirements to protect the sensitive Big Four (oaks, Bidwell’s knotweed, Butte County checkerbloom, and wildflower fields).

This fire and hiatus of use provides an opportunity for the City and the community to consider moving the disc golf course to a less environmentally sensitive area, which may be less costly to maintain.

Please email the Chico City Council and the Bidwell Park and Playground Commissioner about these concerns c/o debbie.presson@chicoca.gov so the City is encouraged to sustainably manage Bidwell Park’s sensitive plants and plant communities.
The trip to Big Bald Rock occurred in May before the summer field trips were announced in the June Pipevine. It is included here to satisfy a desire by its participants for their picture to be printed attempting (not too vigorously) to push over a glacial erratic boulder. Webster defines “boulder” as “any detached and rounded or worn mass of rock larger than a cobblestone.” We also saw some interesting and unusual blooms growing in the cracks of the rock, including the harlequin lupine (Lupinus stiversii) and the fuzzy, silver-leaved lotus (Acmispon argophyllus var. fremontii.)

The trip to Butte Creek House Ecological Reserve was a PHYTOBLITZ, defined by Rob Schlising as “find as many plants you can in a limited amount of time.” It was sponsored by Mount Lassen Chapter and The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium and was well attended by members and guests. From my meager notes as we meandered through the meadow, it seems we added around 16 additional species to Vern Oswald’s original 1999 list, and observed about 47 blooming species. The highlight for many was the discovery of the hard-to-find aquatic carnivorous common bladderwort (Utricularia macrorhiza) retrieved from its deep, little pond by the long stretched-out arm of brave Chris Perske. Rob explained how the plant absorbs aquatic insects, stores them in the little bladders over the winter and uses their energy to grow a new plant in the spring.
An overnight trip to the Klamath Range included a walk up the ridge to **Heart Lake from Castle Lake** and a view of Mt Shasta, and an overnight at **Kangaroo Lake** with a walk up the **Fen Trail**. For sheer numbers of blooming plants, the Fen Trail was the most outstanding field trip of the summer. This trail is well-known for some of its rare plants, such as the Scott Mountain phacelia (*Howellanthus dalesiana*), which unfortunately was overwith. There are at least three rare buckwheats, but it took more knowledge than we possessed to separate them one from another. The easily recognized rare plant along the Fen Trail was the pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*). Another interesting, but not rare plant is Castle Lake bedstraw (*Galium glabrescens*), and Gray’s bedstraw (*Galium grayanum*) a grayish form of *G. glabrescens* grows in the same area. Naked-stemmed hawkbeard (*Crepis pleurocarpa*) was common along the trail. Now that sounds a little creepy!

**Carter Meadow** to the Pacific Crest Trail was the last summer field trip before the Pipevine deadline. Flowers were mainly along the drainage, with a few in moist woods and Carter Meadow. It was later in the season than when the previous list was compiled, and we were able to add six families and about 20 species to the list but did not see some of the earlier ones. For example, we added Orchidaceae and two rein orchids. We do not normally see slime molds, but this time there was one near the trail. It could have been easily overlooked as the color was the same as the common wolf lichen. Slime molds are not plants and not fungi. They belong to the Protoctista kingdom, called myxomycetes, and there are about 900 species of them. Some are one-celled organisms that feed on bacteria, fungi and yeasts present in decaying plant materials. When food is short, or to reproduce, they congregate together and can move to find more food, and in that form they create fruiting bodies that release spores into the air.

Heart Lake from Castle Lake and a view of Mt Shasta, July 14, 2018

Rare buckwheat, Eriogonum sp.

Slime molds at Carter Meadow July 22, 2018
The summer of 2018, at least the first half, was all about bumble bees. My small front garden on the Canyon Creek homestead was teeming with them - from late May to mid July. While there have always been good numbers of bumble bees, this year far exceeded the numbers in previous years.

The bumble bee year actually began back in January/February when Bombus malanopygus was visiting the flowers of Manzanita in freezing cold temperatures, triggering my interest in how they managed to survive such cold. Then all was fairly quiet - bumble bee wise - until mid May when I noted quite a number of Bombus californicus visiting the flowers of some of the spring flowering Mediterranean salvias. The female worker bees of this species are mostly black with yellow on the shoulder (but not on the face) and yellow near the hind end. It is one of the short haired bumble bees, having a tidy, trimmed appearance - with no shaggy hairs out of place!

I soon found out why there was an abundance of this particular bumble bee. While cutting dried grass for fire prevention in early June, on a fairly steep east facing slope under some valley and blue oaks just below the house, I noticed a half dozen bumble bees flying frantically close to the ground at the base of a soap root, Chloragalum. I immediately pulled the grass trimmer away and backed off. The bees were not aggressive just clearly agitated. My first thought was that I had gouged the soil and cut into the nest. Was it destroyed for the season? Would they continue to use it? I was mad at myself for not being more observant and noticing them sooner. First thing the next morning with coffee in hand I went out to check on the nest. I was so relieved to see some bees coming and going. Whew! The colony was alive and well and I became absorbed into the life of a bumble bee colony.
Once the nest was discovered (and a 2nd nest two weeks later! - also while cutting grass) I felt a responsibility for these bumble bees that chose to raise their colonies near my garden. Would there be enough pollen and nectar to raise multiple colonies - to feed hundreds of bumble bees, not to mention the myriad of other flower visitors? As odd as it may seem I was very concerned for keeping the bees fed. There is little in bloom mid June through July in low elevation blue oak woodlands. According to Robbin Thorp - coauthor of *Bumble Bees of North America*, they can fly up to two miles in search of flowers. Unfortunately where I live there are still few flowers within that distance. So I became a better gardener - watering more frequently, dead heading to prolong flowering and buying new plants for containers to supplement what was already growing in the garden.

By early June some of the native *Salvia clevelandii* hybrids – ‘Whirley Blue’, ‘Celestial Blue’ and ‘Desperado’ were blooming in profusion and were being intensely visited by not only the *Bombus californicus*, but also *B. vosnesenskii* (the Yellow-faced bumble bee) and *B. vandykei*. While I was aware of the two *B. californicus* nests, there must have been nests of the two other species very close by judging by the consistent numbers through the weeks.

All through June and well into July the garden was a hub of activity from early morning well into the evening. There was a pulse of energy as hundreds of these large black and yellow bees negotiated the plants looking for flowers with nectar - like a very active game of musical chairs, one bee leaving a flower, another coming to take its place. Never did it seem too intense despite there being so many bees of three different species competing for floral resources. What leads to intense behavior when there are a lot of flower visitors are the presence of males, which I’ve written about earlier regarding the carpenter bees. There were plenty of male bumble bees around – but since they only mate with queens and not the workers that mating urge was not present.

**BUMBLE BEE SEASON - PART 2. - NEXT PIPEVINE**
talwart garden workers Dana Briggs and Mary Johnson pose in front of the new plant labels at Alice Hecker Native Plant Garden at the Chico Creek Nature Center. In July CARD grounds maintenance crew delivered City of Chico wood chips, and we spread them throughout the garden and along the bike trail to keep down the weeds and maintain soil moisture. Work parties will continue monthly on Thursdays following the 3rd Wednesday, at 8 am in warm months, a bit later in the winter. We will be adding some new plants this fall when rains return. Contact Ann Elliott to join this happy crew. annonfire@gmail.com 530-521-4402

Executive Board Meeting

September 19, 2018

TBA

ALL CNPS MEMBERS WELCOME!

These businesses support the goals of the CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MEMBERS GET 10% DISCOUNT
HOSPITALITY
by KARROLYNN YELLS, Hospitality Chair

Your great baking or buying skills are needed to provide some delicious treats like cookies, cakes, cupcakes, salty treats or healthy treats enough for 30 – 40 people. These goodies are needed for the Mount Lassen CNPS General Meetings held the first Wednesday of each month beginning September 2018.

Catie Bishop is scheduled to bring goodies for the first General Meeting, September 5, 2018. We need volunteers for goodies October, November and December and again in February of 2019. It would be greatly appreciated if the goodies could arrive by 6:45 pm so that the Hospitality table can be ready for members before the meeting starts.

Please sign the note book I always bring to the meetings at the Hospitality Table or contact me, Karrolynn, at karrolynn@att.net or 530 534-3551.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!!

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
530 487-7312 or merylbond@sbcglobal.net

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

Keep up with MLC Activities
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California Native Plant Society,
Mount Lassen Chapter
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

new ______
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Phyllis would say

Join Today!

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

Phyllis would say

Jo

Today!

Calendar

2018

September
5 - General Meeting
9 - Lassen VNP Lakes
19 - Ex Board Meeting
20 - CCNC Garden Workday
22 - Mount Harkness LVNP

October
3 - General Meeting
17 - Ex Board Meeting

November
7 - General Meeting
21 - Ex Board Meeting