Mushrooming in the Sierra Nevada (and beyond) a Year-Round Adventure

Thea Chesney is a lifelong Sierra Nevada foothill resident and naturalist. She has had an interest in mushrooms since early childhood, which gradually became an obsession. She holds a BS in Forestry from UC Berkeley, with an emphasis in botany and natural sciences. During her time in Berkeley, she worked in the mycology lab on campus and became seriously interested in mushroom taxonomy. One of her early jobs was on a mushroom survey crew for the US Forest Service around Mt Shasta for several seasons, which led her to become intimately familiar with the fungal inhabitants and ecology of the area. Since then, she has continued with the Forest Service as a botanist for a long-term statewide meadow monitoring project. She spends her summers traveling in each National Forest in California, identifying sedges and other wetland plants in meadows and fens. The mushrooms found in these habitats and in the forests surrounding them are an added benefit, and she’s always on the lookout for new and interesting species. She is particularly fascinated by the fungi of the Sierra Nevada and other mountains of California, and she is currently working with Noah Siegel and Christian Schwarz on a field guide to mushrooms of these understudied regions.
Field Trips

NORTH TABLE MOUNTAIN
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
April 20
Saturday

The North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve is an elevated 3300-acre basalt mesa with beautiful vistas of spring wildflowers, waterfalls, lava outcrops, and a rare type of vernal pool, called Northern Basalt Flow Vernal Pools. Typically, fissures in the basalt soak up winter rains, forming seasonal streams and waterfalls. The site is renowned for its spectacular fields of common California annuals such as sky lupine, goldfields, and purple owl’s clover, in addition to species less familiar to us such as Douglas’s violet, white meadowfoam, Kellogg’s monkeyflower, and bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva).

There will also be impressive views across the Sacramento Valley. We will take our time exploring the northern portion of the Reserve on a rugged 4+-mile hike to Coal Canyon and Phantom Falls. Bring sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, water and lunch. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 am or the North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Parking Lot on Cherokee Rd at 9:45 am.

This will be a joint field trip with Marin Chapter CNPS. Another will be scheduled for Sunday April 21 for a burned area. Watch for information on mountlassen.cnps.org

NOTE: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife requires that each visitor to the Reserve purchase a Lands Pass for the day. Call (800) 565-1458. You can also purchase and print the Pass online at: https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales Leader: Woody Elliott 530 588-2555, woodyelliott@gmail.com

MAGALIA SERPENTINE
FIRE RECOVERY
April 27
Saturday

The Magalia Serpentine has been a popular wildflower viewing site among botanists and others for many years. This area of serpentine soil and outcrops is best known for its stand of McNab Cypress and a number of rare species. It is US Forest Service land (Lassen NF managed by Plumas NF), that is currently managed as the McNab Cypress Proposed Special Interest Area. The area burned quite thoroughly during last year’s Camp Fire. This field trip will explore the recovery of the herbaceous plants as well as the shrubs and McNab Cypress. We might see slopes of wildflowers and green slopes of new growth, especially McNab cypress seedlings. Or we might see a moonscape of bare ground and dead trees. Either way it will be a fascinating glimpse of one of our natural landscapes responding to a natural process.

Meet at Chico Park & Ride, west lot at 9:30 am, or the parking area at Skyway and Coutelenc Rd at 10 am. Please wear boots or sturdy shoes, bring lunch and water. We would like to occasionally hike off the road that goes through this area, but how much depends on what there is to see and on safety (potential for falling trees and branches.) Leaders: Lawrence Janeway, Plumas NF botanist, and Marjorie McNairn (530) 343-2397
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
Supports CHICO SCIENCE FAIR

The Mount Lassen Chapter, for the sixth consecutive year, has supported the annual Chico Science Fair held at the Masonic Family Center, February 24-27, 2019. CNPS Member Hesh Kaplan judged the many exhibits for excellence in Plant Science. This year’s winners received a certificate of accomplishment and a Mount Lassen Chapter T-shirt.

The recipients were:

Grade 1: AUDREY ROZBORSKI-RAMIREZ
Sherwood Montessori School
“Salt Plant Survival”

Grade 2: ALYANA MYERS,
Sierra View School
“Can Flowers Survive Hard Conditions”

Grade 3: AVERY HANKINS
Forest Ranch Charter School
“Which Plants Will Have the Fastest Transpiration Rates”

Grade 4: OLIVIA LOURENCO and ELLIE RESTREPO
Sierra View School
“Will Plants Grow Better in Camp Fire Affected Soil?”

Grade 6: SOPHIA ARONSEN,
Chico Jr. High School, “Ready Set Grow”

Grade 8: PAGE MURPHY and LAUREN NEATON
Bidwell Jr. High School
“Is it Good to Grow?”

Wildflower Show
April 14, 2019

HELP NEEDED

WANTED! Volunteers to help with the Wildflower Show & Plant Sale, Sunday, April 14, 2019 at the creekside CARD Center in Chico. It takes a lot of helpers to make the show successful. There’s plenty going on during setup from 8-noon, including setting up a variety of displays, filling vases, arranging the identified flowers in the vases and putting them on the appropriate table, and preparing lunch for the volunteers. From noon-4 pm, we need people to staff tables and put out cookies for the guests. From 4-5 pm we need all hands on deck for clean up. You can volunteer for all or part of the time. Email Cindy Weiner wildflowermaven@comcast.net or call 530-588-1906 for more information or to volunteer.

Cookies Needed !!!

DO YOU GROW NATIVE PLANTS?

The Mount Lassen Chapter is busy planning for the upcoming Wildflower Show & Plant Sale on April 14, 2019. If your native plants are producing seedlings or off shoots, please consider potting some up for the plant sale. They would be greatly appreciated. Questions to paulashapiro49@gmail.com.
WILDFLOWER SHOW

NATIVE PLANT SALE

APRIL 14, 2019
Sunday Noon - 4

CARD CENTER
545 Vallombrosa, Chico

Over 300 Species
Displays
Nature Talks & Walks
Books, Posters &
Children’s Activities

Donation $5
Student ID / Up to 17 FREE

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Friends of the CHICO STATE HERBARIUM
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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

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mountlassen.cnps.org

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