California is a globally significant biodiversity hotspot with comparable plant diversity to New Zealand, Japan, and South Africa. Over a quarter of California’s 6500 native plant taxa are found nowhere else. The Golden State’s mild climates and scenic landscapes have also made California a highly desirable place to live, with a population close to 40 million people and growing. Demands for housing, resources, and a changing climate are placing increasing pressure on California’s unique flora. Regional scale planning efforts are being developed to meet the demands of an increasing population. It is essential that botanical data and conservation value be well represented in these efforts. The CNPS Important Plant Area (IPA) Program seeks to identify the most important areas for preserving California’s botanical biodiversity heritage. Identification and protection of IPAs have been called out as essential components for biodiversity conservation both at home through the California Biodiversity Initiative and on the world stage through the Global Plant Conservation Strategy.

Join Sam Young, CNPS Important Plant Areas Program Manager, for a discussion on California’s plant biodiversity, IPA methods, and strategies for realizing IPA conservation goals.

Sam is spearheading the development of the Important Plant Areas Program with the Conservation Program staff for statewide implementation. Following previous pilot workshops, Sam is now developing methods and strategies for delineating those areas which are most critical to the conservation of California’s flora. Sam holds a master’s degree in Environmental Science and Management, specializing in Conservation Planning, from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Sam has spent his entire professional career working in natural resource management for the public, private, and non-profit sectors. His resume includes work on projects for the United States Forest Service, private environmental consulting, and international conservation organizations in Geneva, Switzerland. He has a strong background in ecology with emphases in spatial modelling, floristic surveys, soil morphology, hydrology, wetland management, terrestrial vertebrate surveys, and conflict management/negotiation.
Endless Opportunities and Experiences

Jim Bishop

This year we helped to survey the alpine plants on Dunderberg Ridge in the east-central Sierras, part of the international GLORIA project to monitor for plant responses to climate change. We hiked each day to the summits, above the treeline. Every day the sky was dramatic and beautiful, with many different cloud forms. We worked with personable and knowledgeable companions. In the evening we settled into our camp, visited, rested, and awoke to the lovely mountain morning. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, very interesting, and rewarding experience. And we’ve been able to do similar work every summer since 2004 on alpine summits in the Sierras, White Mountains, Sweetwater Mountains, Great Basin and Death Valley National Parks. We have become friends with great people, and have visited with them at other times. We have even come to know leaders of the international GLORIA project at the University of Vienna, and would be welcomed there any time we could travel to Austria.

A few years ago we attended the first-ever Death Valley Natural History Conference. The program was full of interesting reports of recent research in Death Valley’s natural systems. But it was not easy to find accommodations for the attendees. We were fortunate to be hosted by the (then) park botanist and got to stay in her nice park-staff home.

While staffing the CNPS table at the Snow Goose Festival we met a nice couple that turned out to live near us in Oroville. They became good friends that share many of our interests. Several times a year we gather at a Chapter Board member’s house, get to see their native plant garden, have some snacks, enjoy the fellowship of friends.

We have stayed with nice people all over the state, and have enjoyed field trips into areas that the local CNPS members knew intimately, places we’d never have even known about, much less been guided to. Those experiences span the state from the Pacific shore to Nevada, and from the North Coast into Baja California. We have a standing offer to stay any time in the home of a friend near Mono Lake even during the half-year when nobody is there. We have made many wonderful friends.

These kinds of experiences and opportunities and connections have all grown out of our involvement with CNPS. Yes, there are chances to mingle some at a typical general meeting, or at a field trip. But the real opportunities have come from being involved in the Mount Lassen Chapter Board activities, filling a position, and also in attending the quarterly state Chapter Council meetings (which not only the official Delegate can do). For one example, our GLORIA work and all that has come with it grew from a coffee break conversation at a Chapter Council meeting that noted the coming project and that they sought a CNPS volunteer to help with it. The (then) Executive Director recommended Catie and me as the CNPS participants.

Please read the article that Ann Elliott has written about the functions that our chapter fulfills and the need for people to take part and to help with them. Keeping the chapter going is the main objective of course. But there are real rewards for anyone that is willing to be involved...a real sense of satisfaction for having been helpful, and a host of wonderful opportunities that you cannot even yet imagine.

Catie and Jim stand on Dunderberg Ridge in the Sierras this July, on the peak they helped to survey first in 2004 for the GLORIA project. That group of 4 peaks was the first such survey completed in the Western Hemisphere.
Mt. Lassen Chapter
Sleepy or Wide Awake?

Mt. Lassen Chapter, CNPS is a member organization.

Marjorie has been doing a fantastic job of scheduling field trips. **More field trip leaders are always welcome.**

Woody (and Jim previously) schedule general meetings of interesting topics. As Woody is moving to Marin County, **someone is needed to schedule new presenters.**

Nancy Groshong continues to outreach at community events to further our mission. **She needs fellow CNPS members to help meet and greet folks at these events.**

John Whittlesey now edits The Pipevine newsletter. **He needs members to submit articles and someone to receive the newsletters from the printer, label and mail them.**

Further outreach with the Chapter website, Illuminate, and Meetup group is currently handled by Woody. **A techy (or wannabe) or two are needed to take over these resources.**

Nancy Praizler has able managed Chapter accounting and aligned it with State CNPS reporting categories. She terms out as Treasurer in January, **so somebody needs to take over this vital function.**

Paul Moore terms out as President, **so the Chapter needs someone to lead the nine executive board meetings each year.**

The Chapter has not had a recording Secretary in 2019, so I and others have been filling in the gap. **This is an easy job to do.**

Most of the rest of the board have completed their terms, so we need a vice president and at-large members to decide on chapter policy and how to spend money.

Mt. Lassen Chapter has had a long run, **please consider how you can do a small part to keep it from going to sleep.**

When considering how to become involved, keep in mind duties can be shared and attendance at every meeting is NOT required.

- Ann Elliott

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**Officers & Chairs**

**Elected Officers**

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<th>Position</th>
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**Members-at-Large**

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For the next several months, the focus of this column will be on designing native gardens in urban and suburban spaces. These are places that are in need of the good influences of native gardens and are the places where the majority of us find ourselves living. The goal of this series of articles is to help you succeed in creating native gardens of your own. While it is true that we all learn from our mistakes, and we all make plenty of them, learning from our successes inspires us to continue to do more of the same. I wish you all great success making your native gardens.

And who am I? I am the new horticulture chair for the Mt. Lassen chapter, and a relative newcomer to this area of California. I look forward to sharing with you some of the successes and mistakes I've made in my 40-or-so years as a professional California landscaper, designer, and all-around plant geek. In turn, I'm hoping you will share with me some of the successes and failures you've had as gardeners in this part of California. I live in an older suburban house & garden in Chico with my husband, who helps me in the garden, and my 75-pound German Shepherd mix dog, who does not. I do not currently have a native garden at my home.

Why do we garden with natives? As CNPS members, we already know about the benefits of gardening with natives: it preserves precious water, soil, and endangered plant species, as well as supports indigenous insects, birds, and animals. There are a lot of wonderful essays, books, and articles devoted to these subjects: our Mt. Lassen chapter website and the new Flora magazine are great sources for this material. As individuals who care, creating gardens using native plants is our personal way to honor the surrounding natural landscape, to aim to imitate the land we love.

This is no small feat but the challenge is amazingly fun and fulfilling. None of us can expect to do the job as well as Mother Nature can, but stealing her design ideas is a show of respect, and is highly encouraged - something all professional landscape designers do, by the way. Working side-by-side with Mother Nature is the easiest way to imitate her, and is the reason why many of the most beautiful man-made landscapes happen to be in areas adjacent to wild lands. Trying to imitate her in the middle of town is a bit more challenging, but definitely worth the effort.

Creating native gardens on an urban/suburban lot has benefits - size, manageability, and cost being the top three. The amount of effort, time, and money required will be commensurate with the size of your lot, and while smaller lots require fewer of these resources, small lots have unique constraints not found in larger, less-urban lots. You should be aware of these constraints as you make your garden plan.

And yes you would do well to PLAN before you start your homage to Mother Nature. Don't be tempted, like me and every other plant lover, to start at the nursery. There's a lot to do before that. To make your native garden or landscape a success, start with PLANNING and learning your CONSTRAINTS.

To be Continued Next Month
Part 2 - Listening to Your Land

The most important first step in any landscape project is observation, or to put it another way, listen to your land. Ask yourself, "How well do I know my land?" Even if you've lived on the same piece of property for many years and feel that you can answer this with some conviction, a little extra listening never hurt. If you are new to the land, spend a minimum of one full year observing it before attempting to reform it: the wait is worth it. When you truly observe and listen to your land, it will tell you, in many ways, what it wants to be. When you don't listen to your land, it will tell you, in many disagreeable ways, what it does not want to be. You will know how to work successfully with your land only if you do this step.

To illustrate this point, I'll share a recent home-gardening experience with you. I moved into my house about 2 years ago. Because I am an obsessive garden geek, I barely had my boxes off the truck and into the house before I started working on my garden. Not having gardened in this area before, I had a huge learning curve to overcome. Between my lack of local knowledge, my impatience, and not knowing my land and its history, I made a lot of mistakes, spent unnecessary money, worked way too hard, and ignored other important life activities. And I know better! After the shock of a lot of unexpected failures, I slowed down and started watching and listening to my land. It has taken me a while, but in the process of torturing my land and myself, I discovered among the old landscaping and the lawn and weeds, hundreds of seedlings of oak trees (*Quercus lobata*), wild grape (*Vitis californica*), pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), and spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*). With this observation, and a bit of research, I became aware that my land wants to be a riparian woodland, not the Asian-inspired, lawn-covered suburban landscape it's been forced to be for decades.

To be honest, there were more non-native than native seedlings sprouting on my lot- Chinese Pistache, Tulip Tree, Liquidambar, Maples, Photinia, and more. Can you distinguish between a native and non-native? Don't worry: you can take photos of the seedlings, or better yet, take fresh samples to a local nursery (not box-store garden centers), the county ag office, or contact your local County Master Gardener program for identification. (Butte County Master Gardeners: 530-538-7201. Take in samples to the extension office at 2279-B Del Oro Ave in Oroville M-F and leave them for the Master Gardeners. You can also email inquiries and photos to the office *mgbutte@ucanr.edu* ) Don't forget that you can also bring your photos and samples to our chapter Q&A table before each monthly meeting.

Determining the original plant community of your land can take some research. This is CONSTRAINT #1 of landscaping the urban/suburban lot. In most cases, the land has been stripped of all plants and the original land contours leveled for construction; after that they were re-graded for fast drainage and replanted with exotic plants. If you did not see the land prior to development, how do you figure out what it once was like? The best, and easiest, resource you have is to find undisturbed land close to your house and see what is growing and if the land contours and features are noticeably different than the one you occupy. This may be possible in newer developments on the edges of town but not as easy in older, more established neighborhoods. In either case, there are a number of websites that can be helpful. One is https://www.laspilitas.com/comhabit/zipcode.htm, by Las Pilitas Nursery, a great source of information about California native plants and environments. Follow the instructions to highlight your zip code and it will take you to a page with wonderful descriptions of the plant community (or communities) native to your area, complete with a plant list of indigenous plants. Another similar website is Calscape by CNPS; again, type in your zip code and although it will not name a type of plant community, it will create a list of native plants that are indigenous to your area. Here's your opportunity to do more research if you choose to do so, and to learn about the plants that will succeed the best in your personal garden.

Next month: Site evaluations: Observations and Constraints
It is absolutely no exaggeration to say we have arranged our summer around the blooming.

My front courtyard, not big to start with, has been wholly dedicated to its luxuriant growth and ever-expanding reach – the outdoor chairs have been adjusted to both allow its growth into where they had been positioned and to place them for best bloom viewing each evening. The mailperson and other visitors to the house are redirected to the front door around her.

Each day we spend time counting the blooms that will open that evening – made clear by the distinct way in which the long cylindrical bud has not only broken open at the top, and how the still-tightly closed bloom has pushed out of the bud’s sheath of calyces by a significant stretch.

We spend time each morning enjoying the blooms that opened the previous evening in their last few hours of being wide open silky white trumpets – 8 to 10 inches long, sweetly scented and facing up and out into the world – signaling through both scent and color that they are ready to accept visiting bees and moths with abundant nectar and pollen. Honey bees and carpenter bees are the most common morning (and evening) callers – buzzing loudly, approaching the curvaceous white trumpets of Georgia O’Keeffe fame with some caution. Sometimes they cling to the white pollen-laden anthers like wrestling a baby into a new outfit, sometimes the big glossy black carpenter bees – after carefully surveying the situation – dive straight down to the bottom of the sweet tunnel and then work their way back up the filaments to reach the treasure at the. John says they bring to mind jazz musicians playing a very large bass in a momentary creative improv.

But most of all we spend time arranging our weeks and days, scheduling our evenings to enjoy this more-amazing-by-the-day show of the evening blooming of the Sacred

Datura wrightii, which after self-seeding in my front suburban courtyard has sent out close to 280 blossoms this season, set loads of spiky orbed fruits, and mesmerized us with her fantastic form, personality, and beauty.

So called Sacred Datura, a name derived from the Indigenous people’s of the places this plant makes her home in California and the US Southwest and who used her properties for ritual purposes, opens each bloom for just one night each. The show - as we’ve come to call it, begins as the day’s light begins to fall - softening from the searing white heat of our summer days to the golden and pink tinged dusk. The blooms that will open are held high on the lush green plant, the ovate leaves beneath the blooms reproduce in opposite and symmetrical fractal-like additions to the whole plant.

As the light falls, the neck of each neatly folded umbrella-like trumpet begins to swell slightly, ballooning open a little more and a little more the pressure rising from the base, causing the bloom itself to begin to tremble and twitch with the tension until the sealed fluted edges of the trumpet open….with a tiny POP…just a bit, and then a bit more until the whole structure unfurls with its almost jasmine-like scent escaping into the night air to send word: ready now.

We’ve watched the show more evenings than I can count this summer, and on the evenings we couldn’t be there to witness the opening, we’ve invited others to be there and enjoy the magic. We’ve seen five blooms in an evening, and up to 40 blooms in an evening – each popping open of each bloom amazing to us.

Sacred not in her mind-altering religious or ritualistic powers, but rather in her everyday, ordinary often-overlooked weedy and wonderful roadside beauty – ours for the taking time and making space to notice, ours for the appreciating and being amazed and grown by.
Rejoicing at Ridge Lake

Starting at the trailhead at Sulfur Works in Lassen Volcanic National Park, Ridge Lake is at the top of a steep climb of 1000 feet elevation gain in 1 mile. Our hearty group of women eagerly labored up and back down cheerfully examining interesting features along the way. While the lower elevation blooms were mostly over, except for the coyote mint (*Monardella odoratissima*), species at the 8000 foot elevation of the lake were still quite showy. My favorite was the pink Sierra Corydalis (*Corydalis caseana subsp. caseana*) with blooms and seed pods which, when barely touched, popped explosively flinging seeds in all directions. Satin lupine (*Lupinus obtusilobus*) covered the hillsides along the trail and at the lake, and was showing just a few flowers, while the alpine aster (*Oreostemma alpiginum var. andersonii*) in the meadow just above the inlet to the lake was in full bloom. Ridge Lake was just one body of water instead of two, since dry down had not occurred to the point of exposing the neck between the two ends.

There was much delight in the cathedral effect of clumps of mountain hemlock that were scattered around the lake. The existence of clumps has been explained by observing trees in subalpine areas where snow levels are high. There is a mixture of younger trees, older trees, and sometimes evidence of still older decaying ones within the clump. “Black body” radiation from the dark hemlock bark causes the snow to melt, exposing the soil underneath, and creating a “nursery” of sorts to protect seedlings and branch layerings from the harsh environment as they grow into trees.

As we were rejoicing in the beauty of the area, we celebrated Diana by singing “Happy Birthday” to her and eating persimmon cookies.
We all love to see butterflies in the garden. They are often easily visible and their markings and coloration are exquisite when viewed closely. Also the energy they bring into the garden, especially the ones such as the swallowtails and monarchs that soar and dance above the flowering plants, add to the enjoyment of a garden or wild landscape. The swallowtails in particular seem undisturbed sharing the gardens with us humans. When walking among our pollinator berms, planted one year ago and now brimming with flowering plants, the swallowtails fly in front of and around me all the time, not unlike hummingbirds that become acquainted with their companion gardeners.

The Pipevine Swallowtails were a missing element in my garden this spring. In a normal year dozens can be seen nectaring in our small front garden on mid-spring blooming salvias. But not this year. Some days there were maybe one or two, and on other days - none. Their absence, probably due to the Camp Fire killing most of the overwintering chrysalis, took some joy out of the spring garden.

Gradually however, the ones that did survive, laid eggs on the pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), that grew back fairly quickly after being burned to the ground last November 8th. And slowly over the season, the Pipevine Swallowtails’ numbers increased. The 2nd generation then beget the 3rd generation and by mid to late summer they were ubiquitous – along the creek and in the garden. Keeping company with them was the other common swallowtail, the large, yellow and black, Western Tiger Swallowtail. While the numbers here in our region are always in favor of the Pipevine, the two seem to hang out together and nectar at the same flowers, such as Salvia clevelandii cultivars, or Agastaches.

Monarchs, likewise, were scarce this summer, at least until August, when mid-way through the month, one would often appear for an hour or so in the morning and then again for a few hours in the evening. Their crisp orange, black and white markings along with their distinctive sing-song soar-and-glide flight behavior are easy to spot. Seeing one always made me pause in appreciation for a species in steep decline. We would occasionally see some small caterpillars on Milkweed (*Asclepias fasciculata* and *A. speciosa*), but the following day they were nowhere to be seen. Hopefully some made it to adulthood.
One evening in late August I saw from a distance what appeared to be a monarch but seemed different somehow. I approached slowly hoping to get a better view. Luckily the butterfly was content nectaring on the blue flowered caryopteris and allowed me to get close enough to register some details. It was similar in size to a monarch, but much more copper-brown colored without black veins, and the entire wing had a well-defined border of black. I watched it for a while, etching the markings in my brain, as my camera was not close at hand. A camera in some ways can make us lazy in our observational skills. I know I rely on seeing something on the computer from the comfort of my chair and often don’t pay close enough attention to what I’m seeing in real time.

When I came up to the house later I found an ancient childhood copy of the ‘Golden Guide book of Butterflies and Moths’ that helped me identify it as a Queen (Danaus gillippus), in the same genus as the Monarch (Danaus plexippus). I then checked Art Shapiro’s butterfly website from UC Davis and read that he had seen this butterfly only once in 48 years of running butterfly transects across the middle of the state, and that was near Donner Pass. This was getting exciting. All that night I wondered if it would still be around in the morning so I could photograph it. What luck! Around 8am it showed up on the caryopteris and allowed me to take plenty of photos to document its appearance in Butte County before it flew off an hour later never to be seen by me again. I sent some photos to Don Miller, entomology professor at Chico State, who confirmed that to his knowledge there is no record of the Queen being seen in Butte County. Now there is.

Who knows what brought her (she was identified to be a female by Don Miller) this far north? She did not look torn, tattered and worn from long travels, but actually was quite fresh looking. I think of her as an explorer and think of ships long ago crossing oceans unknown to lands unknown - place unfamiliar to her species.

The Queens are residents of southern California and through the southwest into Texas. And as with monarchs, they lay their eggs on milkweed. Another similarity I noted in my brief interaction with her was that her flight pattern of soar and glide was similar to the Monarch, though I thought the Queen seemed to glide for a longer distance. And interestingly they both preferred nectaring on the Caryopteris.

There is always something new to see, and learn, when you pay close attention - whether in your garden or in natural landscapes.
October Field Trips

KINGS CREEK FALLS and SIFFORD LAKE
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Saturday October 12th
Meet at Park & Ride nearest the freeway at 8:30 am. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch, water and sturdy footwear. We will drive up Hwy 32, Hwy 36 & Hwy 89 to Lassen Park where we will make a rest stop at the visitor center. We will follow Lassen Park Road over its summit, and meet at the trailhead for Kings Creek Falls, which is just after the turnoff for the Kings Creek Picnic Area. The walk will be about 5 miles round trip, with a 500 foot elevation gain. As it will be late season, we will not expect to see many blooming plants, but will identify shrubs, trees, and if possible the skeletal remains of herbaceous species. Expect all day. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397.

SPATTER CONES AND SUBWAY CAVE
Lassen National Forest
Saturday October 26
Meet at Park & Ride nearest the freeway at 8:30 am. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch, water and sturdy footwear. For the cool, dark cave bring a warm sweatshirt or light jacket, and a good flashlight. Call for additional meeting place. Due to storm damage, we cannot take the Spatter Cone Trail to see the source of the volcanic eruptions which 30,000 years ago resulted in the Subway Cave lava tube. We will instead start at the Hat Creek Rim overlook with an overview of the volcanic country from Mount Lassen, Sugarloaf Peak, Burney Mountain, Magee peak and Freaner Peak. It is also a good place to see the transition zone between the open forest of incense cedar, ponderosa and Jeffrey pines and white firs, to the chaparral, and the sage of the eastern plateau. In order to fulfill a request by one of our members, we will then walk 0.7 miles through Subway Cave, the largest, most easily accessible lava tube in the world. The trip through Subway cave is not lighted, so bring a good flashlight or lantern. Hopefully there may be time for a walk along Hat Creek to view the fall colors of riparian vegetation. Expect all day. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397.

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium presents the following workshops

Fire-Injured Trees: Predicting Mortality and Assessing Hazard,
Wednesday October 16, 2019.
In the aftermath of fires, the workshop will begin with brief classroom presentations discussing types of fire-related injuries, how to determine if a tree will survive fire related injuries, insect activity post-fire, post-fire decay and the potential hazards of decay. This workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will begin with classroom instruction in Room 129 Holt Hall, on the Chico State University Campus and will continue with a field site visit in the Camp Fire burn area. The registration fee is $110 personal. You must register in advance. For more information about the workshop contact Danny Cluck: danny.cluck@usda.gov or Bill Woodruff: william.woodruff@usda.gov.

Creating Inks and Watercolors from Locally Sourced Plants and Minerals,
Wednesday October 26, 2019.
Learn about the origins of color, work with select rock and plant samples, and take a local walk to learn about different species that can create exquisite colors for calligraphy, printing and painting. Each participant will learn paint grinding techniques, and take home a sample card of local colors, along with an instructional pamphlet on how to reproduce the process. This workshop will be held from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Holt Hall room 125 at CSU Chico. Registration: $60.00. Please register in advance. A materials fee of $20 will be due to the instructor on the day of the workshop. For more information about the workshop contact Melody Overstreet: redreadred@gmail.com.

Friends of the Herbarium Annual Meeting October 25
The Friday Seminar on Oct. 25, 2019 at 4pm will be sponsored by the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium. Michelle Coppoletta, Ecologist, Sierra Cascade Province, USDA Forest Service will be presenting a talk on: Fire regime alteration in natural areas underscores the need to restore a key ecological process. Preceding the talk there will be a reception in the Chico State Herbarium from 2:30pm to 3:30 pm in 129 Holt Hall. The Annual Friends of the Chico State Herbarium meeting will follow the talk in 129 Holt Hall at 5:15 pm.
These businesses support the goals of CNPS
Members get a 10% discount on Plants

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

October 16th

ALL CNPS MEMBERS WELCOME!

Kings Creek Falls
Membership Form
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter
new ____
renew ____
Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ______________________________________________
State ______ Zip _________ Phone _____________________
Email _____________________________________________
Send Membership Application to:
California Native Plant Society  Student / Fixed Income ….. $25
Attn: Membership  Individual ……………………. $50
2707 K Street, Suite 1  Plant Lover …………… $120
Sacramento, CA 95816-5130  Supporter …………….. $500
For memberships for organizations or to become a Perennial monthly-sustainer contact CNPS.org

Calendar for October 2019

2nd  General Meeting
12th  Kings Creek Falls
16th  FOH Workshop
21st  King’s Creek
26th  FOH Workshop