General Meeting

Nov. 6th 2019
Wednesday 7 PM
Butte County Library, Chico

A Photographer’s Guide to the Wildflowers of the Klamath Mountains

by Ken DeCamp

Ken’s program is an introduction to the common and not so common wildflowers found throughout the Klamath mountains - from the foothills to the tops of the highest peaks in some of the North State’s most beautiful and diverse geologic areas. Ken emphasizes the beauty and diversity of species - many of which casual observers might never see without getting down and dirty with the “belly flowers.” Ken’s presentation will cause people to maybe go a little slower, take a little more time and really observe the world around them.

Born to avid backpackers and photographers Ken has hiked and photographed not just Northern California mountains but also the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Swiss Alps, the Kara Korams, the Outback of Australia and Coastal Alaska to name a few. He admits to being a committed wildflower junkie and makes no apologies for it!

Ken is the photographer for the book ‘Wildflowers of the Trinity Alps’ coauthored by Julie Kierstead Nelson and Julie Knoor
Nominations for officers of the Chapter’s Executive Board to serve one-year terms during year 2020 are:

President: Nancy Praizler
Vice President: Deb Halfpenny
Secretary: Karen Smith
Treasurer: VACANT
Members At Large: Hesh Kaplan, David Popp, Peggi Rodgers

Per Bylaws of Mount Lassen Chapter which are available in the website’s Archive at mountlassen.cnps.org and tinyurl.com/yxnwn5f3, Chapter members are to be notified of such nominees by mail (The Pipevine). Then election of officers by the Chapter’s membership occurs at the General Meeting on Wednesday Nov. 6th. Nominations for all officers can also be made from the floor at this meeting.
Autumn is THE big work season in the native garden, so I'd like to diverge from discussing garden design this month to focus on this active time of year. Now is the best time to plant, divide, mulch, and collect seeds. November is a crucial time to prune and propagate a few of our favorite garden natives.

It is good practice to prune back many of your summer blooming perennials and shrubs to keep them compact for next year’s growth. *Salvia clevelandii*, and cultivars, is a good example of this. If this plant is not cut back after each flowering the branches can become too long and weak to carry the weight of the new spring growth, flowers, and visiting wildlife resulting in broken limbs and a rangy form. Pruning is essential to retain its landscape quality throughout the year. An overall tip pruning for shape is enough; avoid cutting into bare wood (below the last set of leaves). You can enjoy its remarkable fragrance all winter by retaining the dry flowers for arrangements, holiday wreathes, or potpourri.

Fall blooming Epilobium is another plant that requires care. Remember to cut back them to the ground when they are done blooming.

November is the only month of the year to safely prune and divide two popular garden natives, *Romneya coulteri* and *Iris douglasiana* (and cultivars). Technically, Romneya does not need to be cut back every year, but if you have a smaller garden, or your plants have grown beyond their intended spots, then it is a must. Stalks can be cut to within a few inches of the ground in November. This treatment can leave bare spots in the garden for the winter months, so growing some carefully placed shorter evergreen plants can help screen the bare winter stubs. This month is the only time of year to propagate Romneya by digging up offshoots, along with plenty of healthy rhizomes, to pot up or transplant. Digging up wandering shoots is also a great way to manage the overall size of the plant.
As winter comes on, the question often comes up about how to treat *Muhlenbergia rigens*. "Should they be cut back during the winter?" The answer is a qualified "No." A general rule of thumb with grasses is to cut back deciduous grasses and not evergreen ones. *Muhlenbergia rigens* is an evergreen grass, therefore... That said, some landscape managers disagree with this and cut theirs back every year. I fall somewhere in between. I leave them alone for several years, until they become so grey with old leaves and flower spikes that their beauty becomes hidden and they’re unattractive in the landscape. Only then will I cut them back. The result is fresh green leaves by late spring, but it can take a good part of the year for each plant to return to its full size and flower. Another option is to rake out old growth each winter. Raking out old growth is somewhat effective but it's exhausting work if you have more than just a few plants to maintain.

Are you planting or adding to your native garden this fall? I'd love to hear what you're doing, what you're planting, and where you are finding the plants you want. Please drop me a note at debhalfcent@yahoo.com. And thanks!
A Fall Walk to Crumbaugh Lake

We welcomed the walking group from Oroville Visitor’s Center to create a group of 18 participants to walk from Kings Creek Picnic Area to Cold Boiling Lake and Crumbaugh Lake. The red leaves seen along the Lassen Park Road belonged to Davis’ knotweed. It is found on scree slopes at high elevations in the Cascade Range from northern California through Oregon and into Washington, and is a familiar friend for those hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. The genus name was changed from Polygonum daviseae to the tongue-twister Aconogonon daviseae, apparently to describe in Greek its three-angled seeds. For a fall day, there were a surprising number of blooming plants, and many others that could be identified by vegetative growth, close to 50 in all. Although they were not all in bloom we identified four species of lupine, and four species of paintbrush, including the small, brilliant Callilegia lemmonii. We saw monardella and asters in the dry slope near Crumbaugh Lake and monkshood and meadow lupine in the moist streamlet leading into the lake, all with blooms.

The long leaves floating on the surface of Crumbaugh Lake were a challenge to key mainly because the flowers were gone, but it must have been Sparganium angustifolium the narrow-leaved bur-reed that is a relative of cattails. The leaves lie flat on the surface of the water because they are too tender and heavy to stand upright. The flowers, when they are present, grow in a rigid stalk above the water. It has a circumpolar distribution, which means it grows at higher latitudes around the earth.

The answer to the question of what gas is boiling out of Cold Boiling Lake is carbon dioxide. There is not enough to damage the environment, as there is at Mammoth, where after the 1989 earthquake, CO2 seeped in the ground has killed over 100 acres of trees. In recent years the level of carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere has risen from 0.03% to 0.04% because of human activity, not because of volcanic activity.

We were in the red fir zone, and also present were lodgepole pines and western white pine. The new growth of red fir (Abies magnifica), and some other tree species, like coastal grand fir, are lighter green than last year’s older leaves, and in the dark will shine silvery when illuminated by car lights or a flashlight. Hence the nickname is “silver tip.”
DEER CREEK TRAIL
November 9 Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 9:00 am. Bring lunch, water, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. This is a gentle two-mile hike down to the falls and new fish ladder where we will have lunch. Big leaf maple and dogwood should be in full color along with Indian rhubarb and spicebush. Sierra mint, and California fuchsia should still be in full bloom. Back by mid-afternoon. Predicted rain cancels. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397

PONDEROSA WAY TO MIDDLE BUTTE CREEK
UPPER RIDGE NATURE PRESERVE MAGALIA
November 23 Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot at 9 am, or 9:30 am at the west end of Ponderosa Way in Magalia. Wear sturdy shoes; bring lunch, water and money for ridesharing. Hopefully the fall colors will be hanging on, and if it has rained and the leaves have dropped, perhaps the mushrooms will put on a show, and the waterfalls will be active. This trail is within the Paradise greenway, and is maintained by the Property Owners Association Trail Group. It leads north from Ponderosa Way, gently and in some places rather steeply to Middle Butte Creek. Depending on our choice of trails the length can be 2-3 miles round trip, and we should be back by early to mid-afternoon. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530 343-2397.
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Members get a 10% discount on Plants

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 20th

ALL CNPS MEMBERS WELCOME!
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

November 2019

6th General Meeting

9th Deer Creek Trail

20th Board Meeting

21st King’s Creek

The

Pipevine

Cascade grass-of-Parnassus     Ken DeCamp