With the state of National Emergency and our world changing daily, at this time all meetings and field trips of the Mount Lassen Chapter are cancelled through April 7th. More than likely this date will be extended, but for now this is the directive from the state CNPS. For all events listed in this issue of the Pipevine, you are encouraged to check in ahead of time with the listed contact person to find out the status of the event.

April General Meeting
CANCELED

April Field Trips

IMPORTANT REMINDER!
Please check with Marjorie first to see if these field trips are still happening.

Nomlaki Trail & Thomas Creek Gorge
Mendocino National Forest
April 18, Saturday
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chico Park & Ride west lot. (Hwy 32/99) Bring lunch, water, sun protection, hiking shoes and money for ride sharing. We will travel to Corning and then west about 30 miles to the intersection of FSM4 and Mud Flat Road. The last two miles on Mud Flat Road may require an SUV or higher clearance vehicle. Carpooling may be necessary. Our hiking goal is the Thomas Creek Gorge, a distance of 8 miles round trip and 1800’ elevation loss and gain. You may want to go 2 miles to an overlook, 3 miles to Dead Rabbit Lake, or the entire 4 miles to the gorge. See a great show of Themidaceae (Brodiaea), woolly sunflower and others. The drop into the gorge is worth it for the wonderful downstream view of the gorge and the many lovely water-polished serpentine boulders of Thomas Creek. If there are recent storms it may be necessary to reschedule. Leader: Marjorie at 530-343-2397

Vina Plains Preserve
The Nature Conservancy
April 26, Sunday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 32/99) at 9:30 am or the Vina Plains Preserve main gate at 10 am. Expect to see drying pools (unless we have rain), some rings of Navaretia, goldfields and Downingia, and several brodiaea species. This one-mile walk is relatively flat, but the surface will be un-even due to cow footprints. Bring sturdy shoes, water, hat, and windbreaker or raingear as needed for the day. Leader: Marjorie at 530-343-2397
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**March Field Trip - Doon Grade Adventure**  
*Marjorie McNairn*

As we walked along the old rail bed there were signs of fire including many seedlings of French broom. The terrain became more interesting as we passed the seeping bank of giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*). Nearby we found our first showy flower, *Arctostaphylos viscida*, white leaved manzanita. And then another one, *Cardamine breweri*, Brewer’s bittercress, which is a cousin to the common February-blooming milkmaids found at lower elevation. Soon after, a ring-necked snake caught us by surprise while showing off its defensive behavior of coiling into a corkscrew and turning its red belly upward. This species is seldom seen in open areas aboveground. People walked right past the entrance to the collapsed rail tunnel without recognizing it and we walked on, having lunch at the old growth logs abandoned by Diamond Match many years ago and now charred by fire. On the way back the tunnel entrance was identified and the cavernous tunnel explored. A total of 70 species were recorded for this section of the Doon Grade railroad line.
We’ve now visited Mooreville Ridge in Plumas National Forest more than once and consider it to be a special place worthy of yet more visits. Emily Doe was kind enough to alert us to its allure after she completed Forest Service plant surveys there in 2018. As newcomers to NorCal we would never have found this location on our own. It’s not in any guidebooks. Even using the “What Grows Here” function on the CalFlora website doesn’t show many collections actually from the ridgetop, only surrounding areas. Though that will change once the collections that Emily’s team made are recorded. One might visit the Valley Creek Special Interest Area near the beginning of the access road and then wonder where the road goes. Now we know!

The access road (21N51 is graded dirt that calls for high clearance) is off the Quincy-LaPorte Rd. just beyond the tiny community of American House. The road up the ridge skirts the upper drainages of Valley and Lost Creeks. On our first visit during the last week of May 2018 the way was lined with dense blooming Mountain Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) – quite a sight to our eyes still used to the sparseness of desert landscapes. I imagine this road would be lovely when the Dogwoods are sporting their fall colors.

Once on the ridge the Lovejoy Basalt clearings with intensely pink Broad Stemmed Onion (*Allium platycaula*) (pictured) were a sight to behold. On our second visit (early June 2019) the sea of *Lewisia triphylla* was so dense that one had to carefully walk on larger pieces of basalt. There was also color variation of this species with paler flowers on one side of the road and more vibrant pink ones on the other (slightly different substrate chemistry?). Sprinkled about the edges of the open areas were brilliant pink monkeyflowers (*Diplacus mephiticus*). The pink theme continued with vibrantly hued Pussytoes (*Calyptridium umbellatum*). Of course flowers of other colors, mainly yellow, called out to be noticed: *Ranunculus alismifolius*, *Sanicula graveolens*, *Senecio aronicoides*, *Triteleia ixoides*, *Viola purpurea*, big clumps of *Wyethia mollis* (our old friend from the San Gabriel Mountains) and more.

Both our visits were during what would be considered spring bloom at this elevation of around 5000 feet. I’m sure trips later in June or in July would present many other flora. Mooreville Ridge looks across the canyon of South Fork Feather River to Lumpkin Ridge where in 2011 Mt. Lassen CNPS members (R. Schlising, R. Fischer, C. Weiner, K. Chess) compiled a Vascular Plant Checklist (https://mountlassen.cnps.org/images/florulae/rob_schisling_lumpkin-ridge_florulae_2011_07_11.pdf). I’m not a list-maker but it might be interesting for someone to make a Checklist for Mooreville Ridge and then compare the two.
Gerry Ingco
June 24, 1927 – March 5, 2020

In early March, the Mt. Lassen Chapter and our plant-loving community lost a warm, caring, and generous member. Gerry Ingco’s smile and his direct and inclusive way of engaging any group - from field trips, to plant sales, to chapter meetings was a welcome to all participants new and old. His expansive sense of what it was to be an engaged citizen will be missed by us all.

Gerry was active with the Mt. Lassen Chapter after moving to Chico in retirement. He was the Chapter’s Field Trip Co-Chair with Wes Dempsey for ten years. He planned and organized every trip with great care to make sure everyone would have an enjoyable, safe outing and learning experience. Frequently, he scouted trips ahead of time with Wes to optimize routes. He and Wes also led campus tree tours for the general public at Chico State University. To aide his collecting grassland species for the biennial Wildflower Show, he built an array of trays to transport wet samples. Gerry loved to tell stories and presented several interesting programs at the Chapter’s monthly General Meeting.

Gerry’s career in forestry began at age 16, the World War II years; working two summers on the La Porte District of the Plumas National Forest, (age limits were lowered during the War). He served three years as a State Park Ranger at Tamalpais State Park, with temporary assignments to Big Basin, Mount Diablo, Samuel P. Taylor, and Tomales Bay State Parks.

He majored in forestry and civil engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and was a California Registered Professional Forester. He served 27 years with the U. S. Forest Service on the Sequoia, Cleveland, and Plumas National Forests. His management positions included Resources, Timber, Range, and Fire, and he retained a fire command rating throughout his career.

As a Region 5 Certified Silviculturist, he located, inventoried, and evaluated privately owned giant sequoia land to be exchanged for land of equal value on National Forest land. In year 2000, the project resulted in the dedication of the 328,000-acre Giant Sequoia National Monument.

He retired from public service in 1982. His US Forest Service and State Park careers were interrupted twice to serve as a combat Marine in two separate conflicts (WW II – Pacific Islands and Korea – Purple Heart.)
Jim & Catie Bishop: In our Mt. Lassen Board meetings Gerry was always pleasant and respectful, a true gentleman. When he hosted one of our Board meetings at his home, he spent much of the day baking goodies for the Board members to enjoy during the meeting. He was always a gracious and welcoming host. He also gave several great programs at our general meetings. Our outstanding impression of Gerry was that he was always ready to be of service and helpful, always giving however he could. His legacy is one of contributing much to conservation in our state and of sharing that with many people. We are sad to lose him.

Wes Dempsey: Gerry certainly led a full and rewarding life. He generously shared his substantial knowledge with all of us and left this world a much better place than he found it. He was a talented partner in our many associations and a great teacher in every way.

Nancy Praizler: Gerry was an important contributor to our chapter and a regular attendee at our general meetings. We will miss his smiling face.

Paul Moore: Gerry was my friend. I sat with him in class this last week.

Tom Resk: Gerry was one tough jarhead (USMC) who was seriously wounded in action, but recovered over time. His work a day stories of being directed "... to go into the mountains (with his pack animal) and don't come back “til the snow falls” were priceless. His knowledge about most everything related to the outdoors wove magic into every hike with the Native Plant Society. Simply a great and humble guy.

Woody Elliott: I will sorely miss my San Francisco pal. Gerry had a full, eventful life until the end. Bye Gerry!

Jennifer Jewell: Gerry was such an encouraging presence even from afar - he was always happy to chat, to be supportive, to engage in interesting conversation any time we met. He was a model of humanity in relationship with people and place.
Water-Wise and Habitat-Friendly Garden Tour - CANCELLED

Alice Hecker Native Plant Garden at Chico Creek Nature Center

The next scheduled workday will be **Thursday, April 16, at 1:00 p.m.** (Time may change depending on weather, so please check with Deborah ahead of time (deborahcent@yahoo.com).

Last month, we asked for help confirming the identity of a tree in the garden labelled *Prunus subcordata*. As expected, the tree was determined to be *Pyrus calleryana* (Flowering Pear) which Cal IPC has not yet determined to be a high-risk invasive in California, but it is elsewhere in the US. The tree is scheduled to be removed.

Our small tribe of gardenistas are excited to have CARD's complete approval, and promise of help, to enhance and enlarge the garden in any way the Mount Lassen Chapter sees fit. Planning has begun, with hopes of starting some phase of work this fall. If you have ideas about the direction or future organization of the garden, we'd appreciate hearing them. Currently, we are looking for a sign builder, as well as someone to advise us on making repairs to the existing pond. If you, or someone you know, have expertise in either of these skills, please let us know by emailing the above address.

Patrick Ranch Lecture Series April 2 and 9

*Please check with the Master Gardeners or Patrick Ranch before attending these lectures.*

Patrick Ranch is hosting 2 lectures on the importance of pollinators and how gardeners can make their gardens more attractive to them. On April 2nd John Whittlesey will present an overview of why pollinators are critical, and the relationship between flowers and flower visitors, along with ways to improve our gardens to be more wildlife friendly. On April 9th Rob Schlising will continue the discussion with a focus on native bees, their importance and how to encourage more bees into our gardens. These lectures are to highlight and support the Patrick Ranch vision of building a bee/pollinator museum. Contact Patrick Ranch or Butte County Master Gardeners for more information.

Upcoming Workshop with the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium

**Introduction to Keying Manzanitas (Arctostaphylos, Ericaceae)** April 25 with Tom Parker, Professor of Biology, SF State and Mike Vasey, Director, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The workshop will run from 9a.m.- 4p.m. in 129 Holt Hall at CSU, Chico. Registration fee is $110.00. Please register in advance. For information about registration please contact the Biology office at (530)898-5356 or sscholten@csuchico.edu For more information about this and other upcoming workshops please contact: www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/

Gateway Science Museum MWOW Talk

**Bloom Where You are Planted:** Linnea Hanson will be speaking at **7pm on April 22** for Museum Without Walls at the Gateway Science Museum. She will talk about how she became a botanist, her career as a botanist, Northern California Botanists and the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium. The Gateway Science Museum is highlighting Ed Stuhl’s paintings of wildflowers this spring and Linnea will incorporate many of these paintings into her talk about several different wildflowers
The 2020 Chico Science Fair was held at the Chico Masonic Center, February 25-28. For the 8th consecutive year the Mt. Lassen Chapter participated in the Fair. Hesh Kaplan judged the exhibits for excellence in plant science. Sharon Kaplan provided valuable assistance. The winners, who were awarded certificates and Mt. Lassen CNPS T-shirts, were:

Rosemary Engstrom, 1sr Grade, Parkview School, for “Effects of Salinity on Seed Growth in Marigolds.”

Chloe Warner, 3rd Grade, Nord Country School, for “Can Plants Drink Coffee?”

Peyton Fisher, 4th Grade, Chico Creek School, for “Does Guinea Pig Poop Make Good Fertilizer.”

Lia Barrera Mata, 5th Grade Cedarwood School, for “Does Temperature Affect the Growth of Plants?”

Maisie Roberts, 5th Grade, Cedarwood School, for “Does Detergent in Water Affect a Plant’s Growth?“

Grace Pfeiffer, 6th Grade, Notre Dame, for “Sweetened by the Sun?”

Elia Barnes, 7th Grade, Notre Dame, for “Reveal the Red.”

Jean Bungay, Kj, and Keysha Wilkerson, 8th Grade, Bidwell Jr. High, for “What Substance Keeps Cut Flowers Alive the Longest?”

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Sacramento, CA 95816-5130  Supporter ................... . $500

For memberships for organizations or to become a
__Perennial monthly sustainer contact CNPS.org

Calendar for April 2020

15th  Executive Board Meeting
16th  Native Plant Garden
      Volunteer Work Day
18th  Hike - - -Nomlaki Trail
25th  Keying Manzanitas FOH
26th  Hike - - Vina Plains

The Pipevine

Lewisia triphylla  photo by Kathy LaShure