

# The FIRECRACKER

The Newsletter of the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society



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July-August 2011

## Scholarship Update

One \$1,500 scholarship was awarded this year to a very deserving young student, **McKenzie Hoffman**, of University Preparatory School in Redding. The scholarship selection committee (**Margaret Widdowson**, **Tom Engstrom** and **Jay Thesken**) had a challenging job of selecting the best of 15 very impressive students from Lassen, Siskiyou and Shasta counties, and in the final analysis, McKenzie stood out for her scholastic, athletic and community achievements, as well as for her university and career goals. The Shasta Chapter had a chance to meet McKenzie and her family at the June 16 picnic meeting at the home of Shasta Chapter President, **Ken Kilborn**. McKenzie will be attending the University of California at Los Angeles and will pursue a degree in environmental science. The Shasta Chapter CNPS wishes McKenzie the best of luck in her career goals. Many thanks to Ken Kilborn for providing a great backyard venue for our annual outdoor June meeting! ❀

-Jay Thesken



*At the June 16 Chapter picnic meeting at Ken Kilborn's house. Jay Thesken presents the scholarship award to McKenzie Hoffman, while scholarship selection committee member Tom Engstrom looks on.*

## Upcoming Fall Plant Sale

Mark Saturday, September 24, on your Fall calendar for the Shasta Chapter Native Plant Sale at Shasta College. There will be a preparation afternoon and pre-sale for Chapter members on Friday evening, September 23. We have over 1,300 plants that will be looking for a new home, so be sure to tell your friends and relatives about the Saturday sale. Stay tuned for more information in the September newsletter! ❀

-Susan Libonati

## Sign Up for Summer Plant Watch

Many thanks to members who have volunteered to baby-sit plants and to watch the watering system at Shasta College this summer, for our upcoming Fall Plant Sale! We still need volunteers for weeks in July, August and September, and it doesn't take much time (perhaps two visits a week, at 5 minutes each). Call us at 221-0906 to sign up for a week! ❀

-Jay & Terri Thesken

## Fieldtrip Follow-Ups

### BOTANIZING FOR BRODIAEAS

Thirteen CNPS-ers joined our speaker from the May chapter meeting, botanist **Rob Preston**, for a day-long fieldtrip to see *Brodiaea matsonii* and to do some botanizing on May 20. Our first stop was at the upper reaches of Sulphur Creek in Redding, where we looked for the *Brodiaea matsonii* in bloom... but it was too early. At least we saw the plant and the location so that we could go back to it later in June. We then drove to the Oasis Road area, checked out other brodiaeas, and *Allium sanbornii*, *Astragalus pauperculus*, and *Eriogonum tripodum* off of Oasis and Gold Hills roads. After a lovely picnic at **Margaret & Bud Widdowson's** house (complete with special sausage hot dogs cooked up by Bud!), we took a short hike on the Clikapudi Trail at Lake Shasta, to see *Viburnum ellipticum* in full bloom. We also spotted many spring wildflowers along the trail, including brodiaea, orobanche, onion, larkspur, firecracker flower, snowdrop bush, woolly sunflower and numerous others.

On June 17, several CNPS-ers, including **Laura Christman**, reporter with the Redding Record Searchlight, went back out to the Sulphur Creek site and found **one** *Brodiaea matsonii* in bloom! ❁

-Terri Thesken

### DAVIS GULCH TRAIL WALK

Six CNPS members enjoyed a long and productive walk on the Davis Gulch Trail on May 21. Walk leader **David Ledger** provided participants with a partial plant list and we identified 6 conifers, 10 broad-leaved trees, 19 shrubs, 9 vines, 7 ferns and over 40 wildflowers. The trail was often lined with beautiful snowdrop bushes in full bloom. With the late spring, we were lucky to see a wide variety of plants in bloom, from a few Henderson's shooting stars to clematis, firecracker flowers, violets and purple milkweed. The trail is only 3½ miles long, but took over four hours to walk due to numerous stops to identify wildflowers. ❁

-David Ledger

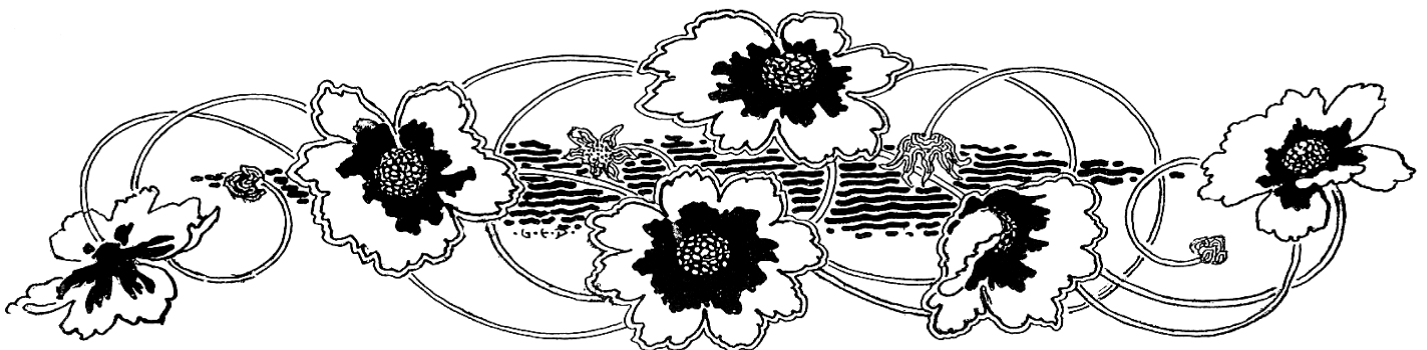
### MCCLOUD RIVER FALLS WALK

A cool day in McCloud, cloudy skies, a fast flowing river, waterfalls and a forest canopy made for a refreshing walk along the McCloud River for 10 CNPS members on June 11. The trail follows close to the McCloud River and its three waterfalls within a riparian zone, but rises above the river near the end of the trail to a mixed Jeffrey pine woodland and chaparral. Despite being only a few weeks from Summer, it was early Spring along the McCloud River. Among the plants in bloom were choke cherry, bitter brush, service berry, snowberry, pine violet and bitter cherry. We were joined by two CNPS members from Yreka who helped identify the plants that they were familiar with. ❁

-David Ledger



Left to right: Terri Thesken, Jay Thesken, Barbara Peck, Susan Gallagher, Paula Crumpton, and David Ledger on the May 21 Davis Gulch Trail Walk.



## Native Plant Week Events Summary

The Shasta Chapter CNPS sponsored several events in conjunction with the statewide first annual Native Plant Week this Spring. The following are events that our chapter participated in, and we thank all of our volunteers who made each event so successful in getting the word out to the public about our California native plants. The Treasurer reports that a total of 713 plants, 21 books, 5 posters and 5 notecard sets were sold at these events:

**April 14-16:** Shasta College/CNPS Annual Spring Plant Sale. We educated folks and sold 556 California native plants over this 3-day sale, the proceeds of which went to the Shasta Chapter scholarship and grants funds.

**April 17:** *David Ledger* conducted a “Clear Creek Wildflowers and Wild Plants” fieldtrip at Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve.

**April 23:** CNPS booth at the Whole Earth and Watershed Festival at Redding City Hall. Hundreds of people attended this popular one-day event. Shasta College bought 77 of our plants to give away at the Festival, and *Ken Kilborn*, *Robin Fallscheer* and *David Ledger* manned the booth and sold books and plants.

**April 29-30:** CNPS booth at the McConnell Arboretum Spring Plant Sale in Redding. Hundreds of people also attended this 2-day event. Shasta Chapter members gave out native plant advice and sold 52 California native plants from our nursery.

**May 8:** Annual Mother’s Day Wildflower Show at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds in Yreka. This event is sponsored by Klamath National Forest and the Shasta Chapter CNPS. *Jay & Terri Thesken*, *Jean Virden* and *Margaret Widdowson* manned the tables that we set up for the public to enjoy while they viewed more than 300 species of wildflowers set out and labeled by the Klamath National Forest staff and volunteers. The number of attendees at the show kept us busy answering questions all day. ☀

-Terri Thesken

## Call for Abstracts

Most of you know about the CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference being held January 10-14, 2012, in San Diego. And you may have also seen the CNPS call for abstracts for the conference. You may also know that Northern California Botanists (NCB) will not be holding a symposium that January (but stay tuned for more information about the next NCB symposium in January 2013!). However, NCB will be involved a number of ways in the CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference. One involvement is that NCB leaders *Linnea Hanson* and *Jenny Marr* will be chairing two conference sessions under the title, “Botanical Wonders of Northern California.” Linnea and Jenny want to encourage you to consider submitting an abstract on your northern California topic. To see the call for abstracts, with instructions and other details (a pdf), go to the conference web page (<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2012/>) and follow the link to “Call for Abstracts.” ☀

-Lawrence Janeway



At the Mother’s Day Wildflower Show in Yreka on May 8. Above: *Terri Thesken* (left) and *Margaret Widdowson* interact with the public at the CNPS booth. Below: the general public get a good look at over 300 local wildflower specimens.



## Publications Available

### *WEEDS OF CALIFORNIA AND OTHER WESTERN STATES*

BY JOSEPH M. DiTOMASO

This easy-to-use 2-volume set covers 262 individual entries, including a full description of 451 species and another 361 plants compared as similar species. It includes handy identification tables and grass identification keys, over 700 color photos (covers seeds, seedlings, flowers, and mature plants), and a CD containing over 3000 PowerPoint-ready photographs. Normally \$80, this 2007 edition, published by UC Davis Agriculture and Natural Resources, is \$64 if ordered by June 30. Please see <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/Items/3488.aspx> for further information. ❀

### VERN OSWALD'S FLORULAE

While *Vern Oswald* was working on his various published floras, especially *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Butte County, California* (California Native Plant Society, 1994) and *Selected Plants of Northern California and Adjacent Nevada* (Studies from the Herbarium, 2002, published posthumously), he produced various florulae (annotated checklists of the plants of wildlife areas, preserves, interesting private properties, etc., around northern California) to help with the process. Shortly after *The Jepson Manual I* was published in 1993, Vern updated these florulae to match the Jepson nomenclature. Vern then made these florulae available to interested groups and individuals, and allowed the Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS to be reprint and sell some of them. These florulae are still useful to botanists and naturalists in northern California and are now being made available online in pdf format at [www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/studies.html](http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/studies.html). These are all of the florulae that I know about, except for one on a private ranch that I did not list here. If you have another florula not listed, I would like to know and, if possible, include it as well.

The Chico State Herbarium and Studies from the Herbarium are also scanning volumes of *Flora Buttensis*. This journal, produced through the Chico State Herbarium in the 1980s, is mostly of historical value, but also contains an extensive set of checklists and florulae for popular northern California botanical destinations. Scanning of these issues to pdf for online download is starting with the checklists and will (slowly) extend to the other issues of this historically important journal.

Also, out-of-print books from the Studies from the Herbarium will soon be scanned to pdf and made available for online download through the Studies from the Herbarium web site. ❀

-Lawrence Janeway

## Chico Herbarium Workshop

The following summer 2011 workshop is being offered by CSU, Chico, Friends of the Herbarium. It falls on a Thursday and will be conducted on the CSU, Chico, campus. For details about this workshop and registration information, please go to [www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html](http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html)

**July 28.** *Introduction to Native Bees as Pollinators.* Rob Schlising & Robert Irwin.

## Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is offering the following summer 2011 workshops. All require pre-registration and fees. Unless otherwise noted, workshops take place at UC Berkeley and surrounding areas. Details on these workshops (as well as wait-listed workshops) can be found at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>. For further information, contact [jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu](mailto:jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu) or 510/643-7008.

**July 15-17.** *Potentilla, Past and Present* (*Rosaceae: tribe Potentilleae*). (Location: Sagehen Creek Field Station, Truckee.) Barbara Ertter.

**July 30-31.** *Introduction to Plant Morphology.* Anna Larsen and Bianca Knoll Nakayama.

**August 13-14.** *Aquatic Plants.* Don Les.

**September 18.** *Insect-Induced Plant Galls of California.* Diane M. Erwin, Joyce Gross, and Kathy Schick.

## Siskiyou Field Institute Events

The Siskiyou Field Institute, based out of Deer Creek Center in Selma, Oregon, is offering the following summer events. Reservations are required. For further information, please visit their web site at [www.thesfi.org](http://www.thesfi.org) or contact the institute at 541/597-8530.

**July 17:** *Botany for Beginners: Mt. Ashland;* \$50.

**July 23:** *Conifers with Frank Callahan;* \$50.

**July 23-24:** *Dragonflies of the State of Jefferson;* \$50-\$100.

**August 6:** *Wild and Scenic Geology of the Smith River Gorge;* \$50.

**August 7:** *From Ground to Grape;* \$50.

**August 13:** *Siskiyou Photography;* \$50.



## Events of Others

**July 3, Sunday.** Carter Meadow hike. Meet at 8:30 AM at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99 & 32), or call a hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Woody Elliott (342-6053) and Wes Dempsey (342-2293).

**July 9, Saturday.** Outing to Devil's Kitchen, Lassen Volcanic National Park. 8 AM to 4 PM. Meet in the south Redding City Hall parking lot on Parkview Avenue. Sierra Club: David Ledger (355-8542).

**July 9, Saturday.** Tuscan Heights Lavender Festival. 10 AM to 5 PM. 12757 Fern Road East, Whitmore. 472-3066.

**July 16, Saturday.** Fieldtrip to the fens at Hellgrammite Lake, Lakes Basin Recreation Area, Plumas National Forest. Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 8 AM. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Gerry Ingco (893-5123) and Wes Dempsey (342-2293).

**July 22-24, Friday-Sunday.** Camp-out and fieldtrip to Lassen Volcanic National Park. Wintu Audubon Society: Bill Oliver (941-7741).

**July 24, Sunday.** Fieldtrip to Wilson Lake in Lassen National Forest. Meet at 8 AM at the west lot of the Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99 & 32), or call hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Gerry Ingco (893-5123).

**July 30, Saturday.** Rare plant treasure hunt to Jonesville, Jones Creek and Willow Creek, to search for *Botrychium* sp. (grape fern). Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 8 AM. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Ron Coley (533-1238).

**July 31, Sunday.** Fieldtrip to Castle Lake and Heart Lake in the Klamath Mountains, Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 8:30 AM, or call a hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Gerry Ingco (893-5123) and Marjorie McNairn (343-2397).

**August 6, Saturday.** Fieldtrip to Drakesbad and Devil's Kitchen in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 8:30 AM, or call a hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Gerry Ingco (893-5123) and Wes Dempsey (342-2293).

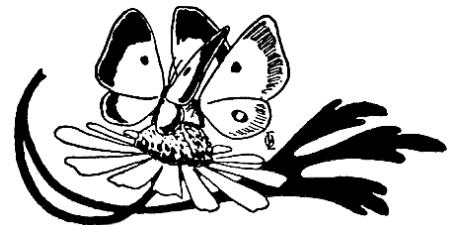
**August 13, Saturday.** Fieldtrip to Square Lake and Mt. Linn in the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness, Mendocino National Forest. Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 8:30 AM, or call a hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Gerry Ingco (893-5123) and John Whittlesey (533-2166).

**August 21, Sunday.** Fieldtrip to Lake Eiler in the Thousand Lakes Wilderness. Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 8:30 AM, or call a hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Jim Dempsey (846-1435) and Wes Dempsey (342-2293).

**September 3, Saturday.** Fieldtrip to Ridge Lakes in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Meet at the west lot of Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) at 9 AM, or call a hike leader for an alternate meeting point. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Gerry Ingco (893-5123) and Wes Dempsey (342-2293).

**September 11, Sunday.** Redding's Secret Treasures III. \$25/\$35; must RSVP. Shasta Land Trust. 241-7886.

**September 18, Sunday.** Fall Festivus at NEED Camp. \$12-\$35; must RSVP. Shasta Land Trust. 241-7886.



### Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory

ADDRESS: PO Box 990194, REDDING, CA 96099-0194

WEB SITE: [www.shastacnps.org](http://www.shastacnps.org)

#### 2011 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Ken Kilborn (221-2339)

VICE PRESIDENT – Robin Fallscheer (225-2311)

TREASURER – Terri Thesken (221-0906)

SECRETARY – Margaret Widdowson (223-4732)

FIELDTRIP CHAIR – David Ledger (355-8542)

GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR – Donal Jonio (221-4280)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Laurie Burk (347-0849)

PLANT PROPAGATION MANAGER – Susan Libonati (347-4654)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Jay Thesken (221-0906)

WEB MASTER – Greg Lockett ([greg.lockett@gmail.com](mailto:greg.lockett@gmail.com))

A Warm Welcome to Our New  
Chapter Member!

Wendy Coats, Weed

<p><b>July 14 Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Fieldtrip.</b> Join us for an all-day fieldtrip to the Kangaroo Lake fen trail in the Klamath Mountains of Siskiyou County (west of Weed). This will be a joint fieldtrip with a group of about 18 botanists/naturalists from England, who will join us in Mt. Shasta on the way to the lake. We should see wildflowers such as California pitcher plant, Scott Mountain phacelia, gentian and calochortus. We will leave Redding at 7:45 AM, from the back side of City Hall (Parkview Avenue side), 777 Cypress Avenue. Bring water, lunch and adequate hiking footwear. No dogs, please. Call <b>Jay</b> or <b>Terri Thesken</b> at 221-0906 for details.</p>
<p><b>July 17 Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Fieldtrip.</b> A one-hour plant walk around Mary Lake. Walk leader <b>David Ledger</b> will have a plant list of the common plants found around the lake and will describe the floral formula of several plant families. Mary Lake is the site of an old homestead that had an orchard with a variety of trees, such as Osage orange, chestnut, almond, apple, palm and walnut. Mary Lake was one terminus of the many gold mining era water ditches that ran from Crystal Creek and Clear Creek. Meet at Mary Lake and Lakeside drives at 7:30 PM. Call David at 355-8542 for more information.</p>
<p><b>July 27 Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Plant Propagation/Weeding Session.</b> One- to two-hour work session starting at 9 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. <i>(Note the earlier time; due to hot summer temperatures!)</i> The greenhouses are located near the back of Shasta College, where the livestock barns are. We will be weeding and potting up any remaining rooted plants. Bring clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call <b>Susan Libonati</b> at 347-4654 for further information.</p>
<p><b>August 6 Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Fieldtrip.</b> Hike a moderately difficult 5.2-mile loop trail from Panther Springs to South Gate Meadows on Mt. Shasta at the 7800' elevation level. The elevation climb is 1000' and the trail is primitive in places. This walk will feature wildflowers typical of mountain meadows as well as beautiful views of the Sacramento Valley, Castle Crags and surrounding terrain. Bring water, lunch and adequate hiking footwear. No dogs, please. Meet at Redding City Hall south parking lot on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM. Mt. Shasta area residents should call walk leader <b>David Ledger</b> at 355-8542 for a local meeting location.</p>
<p><b>August 24 Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Plant Weeding Session.</b> One- to two-hour work session starting at 9 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. <i>(Note the earlier time; due to hot summer temperatures!)</i> The greenhouses are located near the back of Shasta College, where the livestock barns are. We will be weeding and getting ready for the Fall Plant Sale, which will be Saturday, September 24, this year. Bring clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call <b>Susan Libonati</b> at 347-4654 for further information.</p>
<p><b>August 27 Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Fieldtrip.</b> Brokeoff Mountain hike and plant walk. This is a strenuous 7-mile, 6- to 7-hour hike with a 2700' elevation climb. This is a more difficult hike than to the top of Mt. Lassen, but if you can do that hike, you can make it up Brokeoff. The trail starts in a riparian, flowering streamside filled with willow and alder, and climbs through red fir and mountain hemlock forests, intermixed with meadows and ponds. The top ridge features whitebark pine and many wind- and desiccation-resistant wildflowers. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen and hat. Meet at 8 AM at the Redding City Hall south parking lot on Parkview Avenue, or at 9:30 AM at the trailhead. Call walk leader <b>David Ledger</b> 355-8542 for more information.</p>
<p><b>September 15 Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Chapter Meeting.</b> Welcome back to the first meeting after the long summer! Shasta Chapter member <b>Chase Lentz</b> will present a program on oak woodlands. Chase is a botanist with the Bureau of Land Management in Redding and has a B.S. in Biology with an emphasis in Botany from Boise State University. Chase will talk about some of the many restoration activities that BLM has been doing locally, and other issues associated with local oak woodlands. Meet at 7 PM at the Shasta College Health Science &amp; University Programs building in downtown Redding, 1400 Market Street, Community Room 8220 (clock tower building at the north end of the Market Street Promenade; enter on the south side of the building). A Board meeting will be held before the regular meeting at 5:30 PM at Angelo's Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding.</p>

***Please note! No Chapter meetings are held in July or August.***

**See you on a summer fieldtrip or on September 15 for the first meeting after summer break!**