CHAPTER ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Chapter Name: SHASTA
Year: 2015
Report Preparation: Ken Kilborn, President

Subvention: We ARE requesting a subvention.

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER
The Shasta Chapter serves Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, eastern Siskiyou counties in northern California. Although our area is sparsely populated, Shasta Chapter has 173 members and is proud of a high per-capita membership rate, reflecting the interests of the outdoor-loving people of the north state. Our members enjoy meeting and educating like-minded people at our programs, projects, and field trips.

Our primary goal is education through public outreach, where most of our efforts are focused. We support college students through $2,000 scholarships, two were granted this year. Younger students are supported through our “Acorn Grants” for native plantings and programs in K-12 public and private schools. We also offer “Oak Tree Grants” that support general public plantings of California native plants. We continue to fund a $1,000 Research Scholarship through the Northern California Botanists organization, plus a $200 stipend to support student attendance at the 2016 Northern California Botanist Symposium – Plant Adaptations: Research, Conservation, and Management. A $1,000 donation was given to the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium which generated a like match from an anonymous donor.

A keynote of our chapter is collaboration with agencies in the area, where we seek common ground. We conduct joint events and projects with the national forests, fish, game, and wildlife agencies; the Bureau of Land Management; Resource Conservation Districts; the National Parks and National Recreation Areas; area colleges and schools; and local chapters or groups such as Wintu Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve, Shasta Land Trust, Master Gardeners, City of Redding, and the Turtle Bay Museum and Arboretum in Redding.

Recent Innovations:
Chapter members continue to write articles for a local newspaper the Record Searchlight that features either a native plant of local or horticultural interest, invasive plants, or tips on growing and landscaping with native plants. These articles have stimulated increased interest in the Chapter’s native plant sales. Our major fund-raisers are plant sales. In the last eight years, we have coordinated with Shasta College in a three-day Spring Plant Sale, as well as holding our traditional one day Fall Plant Sale. We also participate with an information booth and plant sales at the Turtle Bay Museum and Arboretum’s twice annual plant sales. A significant growth in interest in
native plants in the community has occurred as water becomes increasingly expensive and rationed. Collaboration with the Shasta College horticulture program has increased our sales, interaction with horticulture students, and public outreach.

CNPS volunteers continue to maintain a “Mother Plant Garden” in the Shasta College horticultural area. This garden, filled with California native plants propagated by chapter volunteers, serves as a teaching garden for students at Shasta College and also as a source of material for our Chapter’s plant propagation. The Chapter has recently assumed oversite and plant maintenance of a City of Redding owned native plant garden – the Matson-Mowder Howe Celebration Garden.

A Native Plant Garden Tour highlighted 3 native residential plant gardens, a USFS native plant landscape, and a rehabilitated open space.

Our field trips have always varied from easy to rigorous, and aim to serve a wide variety of participants. Participants are exposed to information on native plant biology, discover new trails, climb high mountains in the Trinity Alps, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and other wilderness areas. Our fieldtrips also attract CNPS members from other Chapters and members of the public from outside the area. This year our Fieldtrip Chairperson-(David Ledger) conducted three highly successful morning classes that discussed plant structure and identification followed by a fieldtrip.

This year Shasta Chapter By-Laws were modified and updated. The By-Laws passed with a unanimous vote at the January, 21, 2016 membership meeting. A nine page document: Responsibilities of Officers and Chairpersons was written to aid new, prospective, and current Executive Board members in understanding the duties of each member. The By-Laws change added up to 3 Members-at-Large to the Executive Board.

David Ledger (Fieldtrip Chairperson) started work on a local plant guidebook: Greater Redding Wildflower Field Guide, book to be published by the chapter.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Programs (Approximate member volunteer hours: 48 hours)
Nine monthly meetings were scheduled in 2015. Eight of these meetings were highlighted by speakers (Program Coordinator is Robin Fallscheer) and the June meeting was a pot-luck outdoor meeting at Anderson River Park, south of Redding. Approximately 20 to 40 people attend the monthly Chapter meetings, with approximately 85 percent being CNPS members. Meetings are held at a central location for the Chapter at the Shasta College building in downtown Redding (rent free). Typically our Chapter does not pay speaker fees, but out-of-town speakers are often accommodated overnight at a member’s home or at a local hotel.
Speakers for 2015 included:

- Barry Rice – *Murderous Vegetables!* (carnivorous plants)
- Linnea Hanson – *Fens in California; An Overview of Fens in California National Forests*
- John Whittlesey – *Plant Lover’s Guide to Salvias*
- Ted Dawson – *Herbs used by Native Americans*
- Naomi Fraga – *Wild about Monkeyflowers*
- Jaime Pawelek – *Native Bees of California*
- Wayne Steffes – *Steffes’ Super Stuff: A Different Point of View*
- Jennifer Whipple – *Plants versus the Yellowstone Volcano*

**Chapter Board Meetings** (Approximate member volunteer hours: **145 hours**)  
8 meetings in 2015, held on the days of the Chapter monthly meetings. (Volunteer hours: 100) The Executive Board spent time discussing, modifying, and updating the *Shasta Chapter’s By-Laws* that were written in 1984. In addition a nine page document: *Responsibilities of Officers and Chairperson* was created. (Volunteer hours: 45) These documents can be viewed at: [www.shastacnps.org](http://www.shastacnps.org) under Admin.

**State Chapter Council Meetings** (Approximate member volunteer hours: **15 hours**)  
We were represented at one chapter council meeting in 2015 by member: David Ledger.

**Field Trips** (Approximate member volunteer hours: **240 hours**)  
Twenty-seven outings were offered in 2015. Under the leadership of Fieldtrip Chairperson - David Ledger, attendance increased from 200 (2012) to approximately 449 in 2015. David has been instrumental in publishing our fieldtrips on various local outdoor/nature oriented websites. Other trip leaders/assistants were: Jay & Terri Thesken, and Linnea Hanson. Fieldtrips are typically attended by 15 to 25 CNPS members and members of the public. (Four field trips had over 25 attendees). The 2015 fieldtrips included:

- Westside Trail Hike – Mary Lake, City of Redding
- Wintu Loop Trail – BLM Swasey Recreation Area
- Guardian Rock Trail – Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
- Mule Ridge Trail – BLM Mule Ridge Trails System
- Ma-le’l Dunes of Humboldt Bay NWR, Arcata Community Forest, Arcata Marsh, and Giant Redwoods of Redwoods National and State Parks
- Oregon Gulch – City of Redding
- Phillips Brothers Mill (private) – Whitmore, CA
- Salt Creek Trail – City of Redding
- Dye Creek Preserve – Tehama County, CA
- Clikapudi Trail – Shasta-Trinity NRA
• Clear Creek Vista Trail – Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
• Dubose Ranch (private) – Shasta Land Trust
• Castle Crags Flume Trail – Castle Crags State Park
• East Weaver Creek Trail – Weaverville, CA
• Mill Creek – Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
• Butterfly Valley – US Forest Service – Quincy, CA
• Paradise Meadows – Lassen Volcanic National Park
• Panther Meadows to Gray Butte – Shasta-Trinity NF- Mt. Shasta, CA
• Kings Creek Falls to Corral Meadows – Lassen Volcanic National Park
• Trails of the Dunsmuir Area – Dunsmuir, CA
• Turtle Bay – Redding, CA
• Paynes Creek Trail – BLM Sacramento River Bend Recreation Area, Tehama Co.
• New BLM Trail – Shasta-Keswick Area
• Clear Creek Greenway Trail – Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve
• Henderson Open Space – City of Redding
• Dry Creek Trail – Shasta-Trinity NRA – Shasta Dam Area

Much information about these areas such as: A general description, trail map, and plant list are available on the Chapter’s website www.shastacnps.org

**Public Outreach/Special Events 2015** (Approximate member volunteer hours for events and preparatory events **1840 hours**)

• April 4: McConnell Arboretum Spring Plant Sale
• April 16-18: Spring Plant Sale at Shasta College
• May 2: Native Plants in Landscape Garden Tour
• May 10: Annual Mother’s Day Wildflower Show in Yreka
• September 26: McConnell Arboretum Fall Plant Sale
• October 10: Annual Shasta Chapter Fall Plant Sale
• October 17: Wildflowers of Shasta County lecture at Redding City Hall
• October 22: Native Plants in the Home Landscape, and Propagation of Native Plants lecture for Master Gardener class at Shasta College

Plants and books were also sold in 2015 at events such as the McConnell Arboretum Plant Sales, (approximately 30 volunteer hours) and the Yreka Mother’s Day Wildflower Show. Hundreds of plant enthusiasts, as well as staff from local parks, frequent the sales and provide the main income for our annual programs, events and educational support.

The **Mother’s Day Wildflower Show** (facility rental: $350, paid by Shasta Chapter CNPS) takes place annually at the Siskiyou-Golden Fairgrounds near Yreka. This project is a combined effort between Shasta Chapter and U.S. Forest Service botanists from around the area. Hundreds of visitors enjoy the free display of some 300 species of flowering herbs, shrubs, and grasses. Shasta Chapter CNPS also sells books, posters, notecards and California native plants at this Show. This is definitely a destination
event for this particular holiday, and is one of our main public outreach projects every year. (Volunteer contribution: 140 hours)
The Chapter members held a local area **Native Plant Garden Tour (5th)** in 2015. The local private and public gardens on the tour displayed and promoted various garden landscapes using primarily native plants. This garden tour was well attended by the public especially by those who were concerned with the recent and current drought issues. Chapter members served as both garden hosts and volunteers who presented useful information to tour participants on native plant landscaping. (Volunteer contributions: 120 hours)

**Plant Propagation and Sales/Events**

Plant propagation for Shasta Chapter is conducted at least monthly by approximately 18 to 22 members, at growing grounds at the Shasta College horticultural area. During busy propagation times, sessions are conducted two to three times a month. Terri Thesken, Plant Sale Chair, and our propagators maintain a two-pronged approach to reach two main markets for our plants: 1) site-specific local species of California natives for local parks and restorations, and 2) garden-worthy and drought-tolerant California native species for sale at our various plant sales and events. The volunteers maintained a maximum stock of about 2,100 plants of over 150 species, and in 2015 sold about 1,950 plants. Proceeds from the 2015 Plant Sales enabled the Shasta Chapter to maintain the amount of individual scholarship amounts of $2,000 each, and provided for a research grant of $1,000 to Northern California Botanists, in addition to several Acorn and Oak Tree grants to the community. Volunteers contributed over 1,200 hours annually on plant propagation endeavors.

Shasta Chapter holds a **Native Plant Sale** in the fall (early October), and also joins with Shasta College for a three-day **Spring Plant Sale** (mid-April). Volunteers propagate native plants all year, and advertise and staff the sales. Longtime members Newsletter Editor Laurie Burk and photographers Wayne Steffes and Don Burk compose the beautiful plant sale posters for the sales. Volunteer time for the Spring Plant Sale is approximately 200 hours and for the Fall Sale is approximately 180 hours. In 2015, the sale events attracted several new members.

Plant Propagation volunteers donated plants, and continued to maintain a **Mother Plant Garden** of California native species in the Shasta College horticultural area (planted in 2009, and soon to be expanded in 2016). This six-year-old garden is being used as a teaching tool for college horticulture courses, and was used as a source of material for plant propagation in both 2014 and 2015. Professional plant label signs were commissioned and installed in the Mother Garden in early 2013 to increase its educational value to the public attending Plant Sales. In addition, Shasta Chapter CNPS purchased or installed needed materials for the Shasta College Horticultural Area growing grounds, including soil, wheelbarrows, supplies, and greenhouse repair materials. (Volunteer hours: 10 hours)
Native Plant Articles for the Local Newspaper  Starting in 2012, chapter members write a monthly article featuring a native plant of local and/or horticultural interest for the local newspaper, the Record Searchlight. The logistics of soliciting topics, scheduling, coordination of written and photographic materials, and liaison with the Redding Record Searchlight editorial staff is done by Webmaster Ken Kilborn. Time spent on research, writing and obtaining photographs is done by each individual author. The 2015 member/authors included: Richard Hayes, Michele Driggs, Len Lindstrand III, Terri Thesken, David Ledger, Donal Jonio, and Jennifer Gibson. Topics in 2015 included: Oregon grape, creeping sage, native gardens tour, blue-eyed grass, feral pigs – damage to natural resources, flannel bush, Spanish broom (invasive), and puncture vine (invasive). These beautifully illustrated articles are all available on the chapter website www.shastacnps.org (Approximate member volunteer hours: 200 hours)

Wildflower Field Guide
David Ledger (Fieldtrip Chairperson) started work on a local plant guidebook: Greater Redding Wildflower Field Guide book to be published by the chapter. (Volunteer hours: 160)

Membership (Approximate member volunteer hours: 28 hours)
Membership Chairperson – Susan Gallaugher keeps monthly membership records updated and relays this information to the newsletter editor. The chapter has 173 “active” members.

Newsletters (Approximate member volunteer hours: 150 hours)
Newsletters and Calendar of Events reach our members six times per year (each newsletter covering a two months period). The construction, formatting, and editing are done by Shasta Chapter longtime member Laurie Burk. Individual members contribute articles and photographs (especially Terri Thesken, David Ledger, Jay Thesken, Doug Mandel, Susan Gallaugher, Donal Jonio, and Ken Kilborn). Events and meetings are the main focus, and informative articles are included when space allows. Cost borne by the Chapter in 2015 was approximately $1200. Estimated volunteer time for all writing, editing, printing and distribution of the newsletter: 150 hours annually.

Website (Approximate member volunteer hours: 30 hours)
The chapter website is maintained by Webmasters Ken Kilborn and Doug Mandel. It was updated in 2012 with the help of the state CNPS webmaster. It includes: current and archived newsletters and calendars, information and applications for scholarships and grants, articles on native plants published in the Redding Record Searchlight and their website www.redding.com, plant lists of local trails, native plant sale lists and information about sale plants. There is additional information on landscaping with native plants. The state CNPS web team updated the site’s software to be more compatible with smartphones and tablets. Additional topics include archived pages and administrative information. This website may be visited at www.shastacnps.org

Education (Total approximate member volunteer hours: 85 hours)
Our message is primarily that of public education. Most of our efforts support this goal.
• **Scholarships**
In 2015, the Shasta Chapter awarded two $2,000 scholarships to local high school and community college students who are advancing their education by pursuing a 4-year life science degree. The two scholarships were granted to students attending Southern Oregon University and U.C. Davis. Member Jay Thesken coordinates the Scholarship Committee and is joined by members Tom Engstrom and Margaret Widdowson in managing this program. (Approximate member volunteer hours: 60 hours)

• **Acorn Grants**
The Acorn grants supports the efforts of elementary schools, high schools, and colleges to educate students on the value of native plants. Native plant gardens and after-school special plant programs carry our message to children and youth. Member Donal Jonio coordinates this program. No Acorn Grants were awarded this year. (0 hours)

• **Oak Tree Grants**
These grants support the efforts of non-profit public groups with planting and education projects. Donal Jonio also coordinates this program. Two Oak Tree Grants were awarded this year. A $500 grant was given to Shasta College Horticulture Department to purchase commercial plant presses which was met with matching funds from Shasta College. A grant of $240 was given for the purchase of plant signs for the Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden (of native plants) (15 hours hours)

• **Research Scholarship:**
The Chapter recently funded its first $1,000 Research Scholarship through the Northern California Botanists. This scholarship is granted to a qualifying student studying a plant native to Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, Lassen, or Modoc Counties, with emphasis on rare endemics. The liaison to the Northern California Botanists was Robin Fallscheer. (10 hours)

**Invasive Exotic Chapter Committee** (Approximate member volunteer hours: 10 hours)
Chapter activities include attendance at Shasta County Weed Management Area meetings, and verbal and written correspondence in support of weed management and re-vegetation projects by member Jay Thesken.

**Conservation** (Approximate member volunteer hours: 40 hours)
David Ledger has recently been appointed the chapter Conservation Chair. In 2015 he pursued open space protection for the Oregon Gulch in the City of Redding. Recently the City of Redding started action moving this property closer to designated open space.
The Shasta Chapter supported conservation groups around the north state, including Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve, Shasta Land Trust, the Wintu Audubon Society, and Turtle Bay Museum, which includes the McConnell Arboretum and Gardens. Horsetown-Clear Creek is situated on a historic stagecoach route and gold-mining site, and is a citizen-initiated and supported preservation effort, in which a few individuals have inspired the community to reclaim this botanically interesting area. Chapter members give funds and provide fieldtrips and lectures for these conservation groups.

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER TIME:** From the above activities, Shasta Chapter members donated at least **2,583 hours of volunteer service** in 2015

**Shasta Chapter Officers for 2015:**
- President: Ken Kilborn
- Vice-President: Robin Fallscheer
- Treasurer: Terri Thesken
- Secretary: Margaret Widdowson