From the President

Stormy, exciting weather punctuated by balmy days and forked lightning! This is spring in the north state. For me, Groundhog’s Day is the beginning of the new plant year. Manzanitas quietly supported the bees through the winter, and are enjoying a stupendous floral fling everywhere, now. Yellow carpet and white shooting stars, with purple snouts, are already lighting up the vernal pool areas. The maple-like leaves of snakeroot are coming up in the oak woods, and the earliest blue dicks spark the bluffs. Willows fluff along the waterways and I’m looking forward to the fireworks of the box elders at the Reading Adobe.

Shasta Chapter is fluffing out, just like the willows. The coming months are packed with new events featuring a new Native Garden Tour on May 5 (buy plants from members’ gardens), as well as our spring plant sale at Shasta College, and a wonderful Mother’s Day Wildflower Show. Mark your calendars now for walks and hikes, sales and shows. And please join with me in welcoming new members to meetings and outings, and sharing with them our wonderful floral fun.

~ Susan Libonati-Barnes, President

CNPS Partnership with West Valley H.S.

This year, the Shasta Chapter CNPS is partnering with West Valley High School agriculture students, under the supervision of Agriculture Instructor, Tom Vasquez, to start plants from cuttings for the annual native plant sale. Starting cuttings is one of the most delicate, sensitive operations we do and success with this propagation method has been limited in the recent past because of issues with irrigation-system maintenance at the college.

West Valley High School has a showpiece greenhouse that was constructed under a grant and partnership with Sierra Pacific Industries. The students are learning the skills of plant propagation and we get the benefit of hard-working, dedicated students who might just grow up to be ace horticulturists and native plant lovers!

~ Susan Erwin

Seeking Input on Chapter Website Design

As I have been thinking about the design of our chapter website, I have been asking members about the services that they would like the site to provide. I have been surprised by the originality and quality of the ideas that I have received. So, I would like to throw this question open to the entire membership. What would you like to see on our website?

Some things are obvious like a calendar, contact information, and a membership application that can be downloaded. However, from here there are a number of different and interesting directions that our website could take. I’m deliberately saying very little because I do not want to prejudice or circumscribe your thinking on this topic. What do you want?

Please email your responses to greg.lockett@gmail.com. Please put “Firecracker Website” in the subject line. Based on this feedback, I’ll try to design the website that the membership wants. I will also use this information to determine which sections will be constructed first. Thanks, beforehand, for taking the time to share your ideas.

~ Greg Lockett, Webguy
Chapter Council Meeting, December 2006

The Northern California Botanists’ first annual symposium, The Interface Between Research and Management in Northern California Botany was held at Chico State University on January 18 and 19, and attracted over 200 registrants. Everyone enjoyed the speakers, exhibit booths, reception and banquet. There were a variety of talks that included topics such as a need for botanists, botanical ethics, rare plant conservation, vegetation management, revegetation and restoration, invasive species and botanical discoveries. The abstracts of the talks are posted on the Northern California Botanists website. Exhibit booths included the Mt. Lassen Chapter of CNPS, California Invasive Plant Council, and the Plumas National Forest. Information from The Nature Conservancy, California Native Grassland Association, Jepson Herbarium, River Partners and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge was also on display. The dinner speaker, Dan Potter, UC Davis, talked about the upcoming plant family changes in the California Flora. Tim Devine loaned us the plants for the dinner tables from the Chico State greenhouses, which added an exotic flair. Radio station KCHO aired an interview with me on Friday morning to help publicize the event. Jane Hazen led a tour of the Biological Sciences Herbarium at Chico State on Friday. It was wonderful to see so many local botanists and plant enthusiasts at the event, including many members of the Shasta Chapter. All in all it was a great two-day event with lots of people talking about plants!

--- Susan Libonati-Barnes, President

Northern California Botanists Symposium

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--- Susan Libonati-Barnes, President

Fieldtrip Follow-ups

Mushroom Prowl 2006

Some fifteen brave souls joined me for a Mushroom Prowl to the Lakehead area on November 19. We were lucky to be out on the one day of November when there had been enough rain, temperatures were above freezing, and it wasn’t raining. Mushroom prowlers were prostrate on the ground for much of the day, photographing everything we found. We covered maybe 300 yards in the day, looking for mushrooms large and small (we found mostly small). Our youngest member was also the best mushroom spotter. (Thank you, Greg, for pointing out so many species we might otherwise have missed.)

If you think of the mushroom season as beginning with the fall rains, we were there for the very start. Early-season mushrooms have to deal with alternate wet and dry; as a result, there were lots of drought-tolerant wood-rotters and the jelly fungi that prey upon them (false turkeytail Stereum hirsutum and the parasitic orange jelly Tremella). We also had fun finding the horsehair mushroom (Marasmius androsaceus), which dries to sub-invisible strands, then rehydrates when it rains; the amazingly fragile mushroom stalks grow from the veins of oak leaves. There were oak-loving Collybius everywhere (Collybia dryphila group); smallstarts of oyster mushrooms (Pleurotus ostreatus group); a lovely pink conk (Fomitopsis cajanderi) that prefers to rot tree tops; and fairy hair (Typhula), which looks like a brown grass seedling; we never would have seen it without that stray ray of sunshine!

--- Susan Libonati-Barnes

Trail Trek

Cloudy skies turned into sprinkles and then rain as 19 folks took a walk on the “wild side” of the Arboretum in Redding on Saturday, February 24. After crossing the Sundial Bridge, we took the River Trail for a short distance west to see the pipevine in full bloom on the fence surrounding the formal Arboretum grounds. Then we proceeded over the Sulphur Creek bridge for the two-mile stroll through the 200+ acres on the east side of the creek. Lisa Endicott, horticultural manager for the Arboretum, showed us the many successful plantings associated with the oak woodland and riparian areas of the property, including interior live oak, valley oak, baccharis, elderberry, willow, coffeeberry, toyon and numerous other shrubs and forbs. As we strolled along the trail through the Arboretum, we saw pipevine, white-leaf manzanita and miner’s lettuce in full bloom. We also discussed soap plant, some mushrooms, the native blackberry, native grasses and the control of some of the non-native exotic species on the property. Later this spring, Lisa indicated that the naked buckwheat and showy milkweed would be putting on a show along the trail, so be sure and make some time to visit! The loop trail is reached by turning right at the north end of the Sundial Bridge and then crossing the green Sulphur Creek bridge.

--- Terri Thesken
2007 Garden Tour Overview

On Saturday, May 5, the Shasta Chapter will hold its first-ever native plant garden tour. We have selected six gardens in the area that we think offer a great deal of opportunity for the public to see native plants growing and prospering in private garden landscapes. As you probably know, the mission of CNPS is to increase the understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants and what better way than to see native plants growing in a backyard garden. The theme for the garden tour deals with “companion” gardening which, in this sense, regards private garden landscapes that include native plants growing with non-native plants. Our goal is to demonstrate that natives and non-natives can co-exist if the growing conditions are beneficial to both types of plants.

Native plants have adapted hardiness to local weather and soil conditions. Native plant varieties may not offer the showiness and color that non-natives produce, but do offer more resistance to disease and hardiness in growth. Native plants also attract native wildlife, such as hummingbirds, butterflies and bumblebees.

As one feature of the tour, we are offering a native plant sale at one of the gardens. Some chapter members and friends are currently propagating and potting-up many of the plant types that will be seen growing and flowering in our tour gardens. The plan is to get the public interested in native plants at the tour and offer for sale many of the plants that they see and have interest in growing themselves.

As another feature to the tour, we will have members of the local Audubon Society at each of the six gardens. They will offer information and expertise as to the local bird population and what plants (native and non-native) will be good bird attractants.

The price of a ticket for the tour will be $5 per person (a good deal!). A ticket fee is necessary to recover the tour promotion costs and the rest will go into the chapter scholarship and grant programs. The tour will run from 10 AM to 4 PM. I will need up to 15 volunteers to greet the public and assist in answering questions or giving out information. Volunteers will not be bound to work the entire six-hour stretch—the volunteer schedule will be flexible. If you are ready to volunteer or have questions about the tour, I can be reached by email at dfjorca@charter.net or at the monthly meetings.

~ Donal Jonio
Garden Tour Chairperson

Shasta Chapter E-mail List

And as an adjunct to what Greg has put forth on page one, the Shasta Chapter would like to be able to inform its members of late-breaking news that doesn’t make it into the newsletter in a timely manner. This would include information on educational opportunities, field trips and any other event deemed of interest to our membership at large.

To facilitate more prompt information dissemination, we are generating an e-mail list for interested members. Those members who have provided e-mail addresses when they applied for membership to CNPS will soon receive an e-mail from me asking whether or not they wish to be included in future mailings. These mailings are always blind-copied to the recipients for confidentiality, and addresses are never shared. If you do not receive such a mailing from me within the next couple of weeks and are interested in being included in future mass mailings, simply drop me a line to that effect at burk@c-zone.net.

~ Laurie Burk,
Editor

Sign up for Summer Plant Patrol

Water Watchers Wanted!

This summer, we will need volunteers to watch the plants at Shasta College that are waiting for the fall Plant Sale. Last year, we had some trouble with the watering system and lost a substantial amount of our stock just prior to the plant sale. To prevent that from happening this year, we are asking for volunteers to take one week during the summer and visit the plants to check and make sure the water is on. This would involve two to three visits in a week, just for 5 minutes each visit.

We already have several weeks signed up for, but still need about 7 to 8 volunteers. Please call Susan Erwin (778-9884) if you would like to help out with water system checks.

Adopt a Native Plant

Many of the plants we have in the Autumn Plant Sale are adapted to going without water all summer long and actually suffer if watered too much when it’s hot. These plants don’t do as well as they could under the regular watering regime at the college. The current irrigation system does not allow for different watering regimes and must be set to accommodate the plants that need water the most.

I’m looking for folks who would be willing to keep all the pots of one or more species that require little water in the summer at their home until sale time, then bring them in for the sale in October. Adoption time would be approximately May to October. Because these species are in pots (and dry out faster than in the ground), some water is needed occasionally throughout the summer, but for the most part all that would be needed is a space to put them and a periodic check for wilting. In almost all cases, skipping watering while going on vacation for 2 weeks during the summer won’t affect the plants. For most species, there are no more than 20 pots, and for many there are as few as 2 or 3 pots. Some weeding would be desirable, but not necessary. If kept dry, weeds should be kept at a minimum.

Please call me if you would like to help out and adopt a plant: 778-9884.

~ Susan Erwin

~ Laurie Burk,
Editor
Spring Wildflowers Class at Shasta College
Botany 50, Wildflowers of California
Shasta College
Monday nights, March 19 - April 30 (except April 2)
Saturday field trips on March 24 and April 21

Want to find out about the spring wildflowers of the north state? Sign up for a six-session course at Shasta College, taught by Susan Libonati. The class is intended for amateurs as well as flower students, and features six Monday-evening sessions and two Saturday field trips. See what’s happening in spring in the world of flowers! For more information, call Susan at 347-4654.

Cal-IPC Field Courses

Find your way out of the thistle and come to the Cal-IPC Wildland Weeds Field Course entitled “Wildland Weeds Control Techniques: Northern California” being presented at Turtle Bay Exploration Park on Thursday, April 12, from 8 AM to 5 PM. This course will provide practical demonstrations of weed control methods, taught by invasive weed experts with years of on-the-ground experience. The focus will be on locally important weeds and relevant control strategies, and covers a spectrum of techniques including mechanical, chemical and cultural controls; revegetation and propagation. Registration is $125 for Cal-IPC members and $145 for non-members. Register on-line at www.cal-ipc.org.

CNPS is holding a 3-day public vegetation sampling workshop on March 13-15 with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Muir Heritage Land Trust in Martinez, CA. This workshop is distinct from others in that a certificate of completion will be offered to people who participate for all three days and who personally complete two Rapid Assessment field forms on the third day. The next vegetation workshop will be later in the summer/fall. Thus, we hope you can join us this spring! Workshop is limited to the first 25 registrants and costs $425. Call or email CNPS Training Coordinator Josie Crawford (916/327-8454; jcrawford@cnps.org) for further information.

Free Vernal Pool Workshop

Expert advice at no charge can be had at a workshop on vernal pools from 8 AM to 12 PM on Friday, April 13, in Tehama County. Hosted by the Tehama County Resource Conservation District, this workshop is funded by the CALFED Watershed Program and sponsored by a grant agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. For more information, contact the Tehama County Resource Conservation District at 527-3013, ext. 3, or visit their web site at www.tehamacountyrcd.org.

CNPS Botanic Survey Workshop

CNPS is presenting a new 3-day workshop entitled “Protocols for Botanic Surveys” from May 1 to 3 at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve, Bodega Bay. This course will cover protocols for doing botanical surveys using guidelines from CNPS and includes a certificate of completion for participants who complete CNDDB forms satisfactorily and pass an open-book exam. Registration deadline is March 31. Cost is $625 if paid before March 20, $675 after March 20. Call or email CNPS Training Coordinator Josie Crawford (916/327-8454; jcrawford@cnps.org) for further information.
Events of Others

**March 10, Saturday.** Jellys Ferry to Inks Creek Hike. 9 AM to 2 PM. $5; RSVP. Sacramento River Preservation Trust: 345-1865.

**March 14, 21, and 28, Wednesdays.** Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS arboretum tours at Bidwell Mansion State Park and Chico State University campus. Meet at Bidwell Mansion at 10 AM. Wes Dempsey: 342-2293 or Gary Vercruse: 898-6222.

**March 17, Saturday.** Audubon Society fieldtrip to McConnell Foundation’s Lema Ranch. 8 AM. Rob Santry: 365-8217 or Phil & Linda Aldrich: 365-6770.

**March 17, Saturday.** Turtle Bay Exploration Park “Blooming Shrubs of Australia” in the Arboretum. 9 AM. Lisa Endicott: 243-8850.

**March 21, Wednesday.** Bus trip to the de Young Museum’s annual floral art show in San Francisco. Fee. Shasta County Arts Council. 241-7320.

**March 24, Saturday.** Bald Hill Hike. 9 AM to 2 PM. $5; RSVP. Sacramento River Preservation Trust: 345-1865.


**March 31, Saturday.** Audubon Society all-day fieldtrip to Millville Plains/Parkville Road/Jelly’s Ferry. 7:30 AM. Bill Oliver: 241-2187.

**April 19-21, Thursday-Saturday.** Shasta College Spring Plant Sale at the greenhouses/horticultural area. 8 AM to 5:30 PM Thursday & Friday; 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday.

**April 27-28, Friday-Saturday.** McConnell Arboretum Plant Sale. Friday evening (Arboretum members only) and Saturday, 9 AM to 12 PM (open to the public). CNPS will be staffing an information booth. Martin Van Orsow: 222-4945.

**April 28, Saturday.** Audubon Society all-day fieldtrip to the Ash Creek Wildlife Area east of Bieber. 7:30 AM. Bill Oliver: 241-2187.

**May 9, Wednesday.** Drought-tolerant plants tour. McConnell Arboretum. 243-8850.

**May 12, Saturday.** Annual Rose Garden Tour. 10 AM to 4 PM. Shasta Rose Society. Dean Davis: 547-3605.

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**Jepson Herbarium Workshops**

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium are pleased to present a broad range of topics this season. Unless otherwise specified, workshops are held at UC Berkeley. Course descriptions are available at ucjeps.berkeley.edu/ workshops, or call **Cynthia Perrine** at 510/643-7008 for further information.

**March 17-18:** Introduction to Morphology and Identification of Flowering Plants. (Linda Ann Vorobik)

**March 24-25:** Basics of Botanical Illustration. (Linda Ann Vorobik)

**March 24-25 and March 31-April 1 (2 weekends):** Fifty Plant Families in the Field. (Linda and Richard Beidleman). Full—waitlist only.

**April 5-8:** Eastern San Diego and Imperial County. (Jon Rebman)

**April 12-15:** Lichens of the Mojave National Preserve. (Larry St. Clair)

**April 14-15:** Introduction to Field Collecting Techniques. (Abby Moore & Mike Park)

**April 20-22:** Chorizanthe at Sedgewick Reserve. (Jim Reveal)

**April 28:** Using Electronic Keys for Botanical Identification. (Tom Rosatti and Chris Meacham)

**April 28:** Using the Jepson Online Resources. (Tom Rosatti and Chris Meacham)

**May 3-6:** Shasta/Trinity Limestone Endemics at Shasta Recreation Area. (John Sawyer)

**May 10-13:** White Mountains Flora from Owens Valley. (Jim Morefield)

**May 12-13:** Poaceae. (Travis Columbus). Full—waitlist only.

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**2007 Officers**

President: **Susan Libonati-Barnes**
347-4654; libonati@earthlink.com

Vice-President: **Pat Gilbert**

Treasurer: **Pete Figura**
229-7781; pfigura@dfg.ca.gov

Secretary: **Dan Fehr**
246-1910; dfehr@dfg.ca.gov
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
<td>Join Jay &amp; Terri Thesken for a 5-to-6-mile level hike on the Iron Canyon Trail of the Sacramento River Bend BLM area north of Red Bluff. This bluff-top trail guarantees spectacular views of the Paynes Creek area, the river and surrounding mountains. We should see some early spring-bloomers at this lower elevation! Meet at 9 AM at the Redding City Hall parking lot, on the back (south) side of the building, next to Parkview Avenue. City Hall address is 777 Cypress Avenue. Or meet in Red Bluff at 9:45 AM at the Holiday Market parking lot on Antelope Boulevard. Bring good hiking boots, water, and lunch. Call Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>Join long-time Shasta Chapter CNPS member and photographer Wayne Steffes for his annual slideshow of his extraordinary photographs of plants and other natural resources in the north state! Meet at 7 PM at the California Department of Fish &amp; Game conference room, 601 Locust Street, Redding. A Board meeting will be held at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square on California Street, downtown Redding, before the meeting, at 5:30 PM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
<td>Join us for a Saint Patrick’s Day fieldtrip to the Nature Conservancy’s Dye Creek Preserve in Tehama County. The guided hike will be approximately two miles on a level trail, and will take 3 to 4 hours. Meet at 9 AM at the Redding City Hall parking lot, on the back (south) side of the building, next to Parkview Avenue. City Hall address is 777 Cypress Avenue. Or meet in Red Bluff at 9:45 AM at the Holiday Market parking lot on Antelope Boulevard. Bring good hiking boots, water and lunch. Call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for more information.</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Plant Propagation Session</td>
<td>One-to-two-hour work session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. The greenhouses are located near the back of Shasta College, where the livestock barns are. We will be potting up any new materials you may bring as well as rooted cuttings that we started in January and February. Bring cuttings, clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Erwin at 778-9884 for further information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
<td>Join us for an extraordinary, all-day driving fieldtrip to Bear Valley in Colusa County off Highway 20. David Fritchle will lead the fieldtrip to this wildflower hot-spot. Meet at 8 AM at the Redding City Hall parking lot, on the back (south) side of the building, next to Parkview Avenue. City Hall address is 777 Cypress Avenue. Or meet in south Cottonwood at 8:45 AM at the Park &amp; Ride across from the Texaco Station at the Bowman Road exit off of I-5. Bring water and lunch, and be prepared to drive. Call David Fritchle at 246-4094 for more information.</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>Join us for an evening in Kauai, with a presentation by members Phil &amp; Linda Aldrich on their recent trip to the Hawaiian islands, complete with both plants and birds. The presentation will include a discussion of the evolution of plants and birds on the remote islands. Meet at 7 PM at the California Department of Fish &amp; Game conference room, 601 Locust Street, Redding. A Board meeting will be held at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square on California Street, downtown Redding, before the meeting, at 5:30 PM.</td>
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<td>April 19-21</td>
<td>Shasta College Spring Plant Sale</td>
<td>at the greenhouse/horticulture area of Shasta College. We will be selling some of our spring-blooming plants, so call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 if you can volunteer for a few hours to help out. The sale is from 8 AM to 5:30 PM on Thursday and Friday; 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Plant Propagation Session</td>
<td>Same as above for the March 18 Plant Propagation Session.</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
<td>Join Jay &amp; Terri Thesken for a fieldtrip with Kelly Williams of the Bureau of Land Management to the Bald Hills area of the Paynes Creek/Sacramento River Bend area. This hike is limited as to the number of hikers we can take, so call Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for more information and to reserve a spot.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
<td>Join member Martin Van Orsow for a walk in the Brandy Creek area of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Meet at 2 PM at the Brandy Creek parking lot. Call Martin at 222-4945 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Special Event!</td>
<td>This is our First Annual “Native Plants in the Landscape Garden Tour.” See six gardens in the Redding/Cottonwood area that incorporate the use of native plants and companion planting. To purchase your $5 ticket, or to volunteer to help, call Donal Jonio at 221-4280. (See article, page 3.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
<td>Join member Pat Gilbert and State Park Ranger Tim Davis for a spring hike in Peace Valley, a State Park property within the Sutter Buttes of Sutter County. Learn about geology, history and wildflowers of the area. Plan on a 3- to 4-mile level hike with two areas of moderate hiking. Bring lunch, water and sturdy hiking shoes. High clearance vehicles advised. This is a fieldtrip that is limited to 25 people, so call Jay or Terri Thesken for details and to reserve a spot: 221-0906.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>14th Annual Mother’s Day Wildflower Show</td>
<td>Sponsored by Shasta Chapter CNPS and Klamath National Forest. Hundreds of native plants and wildflowers on display at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds in Yreka (first northbound exit off of I-5). This is a fantastic display and a special place to take moms. 10 AM to 4 PM. If you would like to volunteer to help with the exhibit (Saturday or Sunday), or sell books and posters, please contact Marla Knight at 468-1238.</td>
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