I have been enjoying our meetings this fall, which now take place in the new Redding Library, behind City Hall off Parkview. We have a new meeting time of 6 PM, to enable us to conclude business by the time the library closes. We have had wonderful presentations on insects and fire ecology. The November meeting, last of the season, features Ron Russo, leading expert on insect galls. (See calendar, page 4.) Galls are the weirdos of the plant world—pink anemone galls, large oak apple galls, conelike midge galls on juniper. Galls are induced to grow by a parent insect who lays an egg on a host plant. The resulting tumor houses the young. Join us on Thursday, November 15, to learn more about this fascinating topic (and don’t forget, new time of 6 PM). Posters and books will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Early rains have rolled out the emerald carpet beneath the blue oaks while the California fuchsias are still blooming. And the fall plant display is winding down with a substantial pelting rain of acorns. My blue oaks have produced their first crop since 2003. These oaks are clever. By skipping a year or so between crops, the numbers of gobbling animals are reduced. If the jays and squirrels are happy this year, can the young blue oak trees be far behind?

I’m thankful for the oaks, and for you, our members, for your gift of time and your financial support. We appreciate all that you do, and look forward to seeing you in November.

~Susan Libonati, President

25th Annual CNPS Native Plant Sale

This year’s native plant sale was held on Saturday, October 13. It was a fun day and we sold around 500 plants. The proceeds will be used for Acorn Grants and college scholarships. Turnout this year was very good for the Member’s Only Pre-Sale the day before, when we sold close to 40% of our plants—it pays to be a member!

We made several improvements in the propagation process this year. We had volunteer members who “adopted” plants for the summer to give them less water or more shade—thank you Michaelanne Howden, Malin Low and Martin Van Orsow. We also had volunteer members who “adopted” a week to stop by Shasta College to check on the plants and be sure all was well at the greenhouses—thanks to all of you who committed a week or just stopped by in-between. Lastly, thanks to Tom Vasquez and West Valley High School for monitoring our cuttings this year at their greenhouses. Although we didn’t get as many plants as we’d hoped for in the end, the students did a great job in the effort and got to add native-species propagation to their resumés, and in turn we laid the tracks for trying new things next year.

There are about 300 plants that weren’t sold that will continue to grow for next year’s sale. Propagation sessions will begin in January or February for next year’s sale. If you are interested in participating, watch upcoming newsletters for propagation times or contact Susan Libonati at 347-4654.

~Susan Erwin
This year we finally timed it right! On Sunday, October 14, seven CNPSers were treated to a fabulous show of fall colors at McCloud Falls. We saw all three falls on a four-mile roundtrip hike to Middle and Upper Falls. Bright shades of red and yellow blended with the dark greens of the evergreen conifers. Western dogwood trees were a brilliant red, along with red-twig dogwood and some Ribes. Yellow shades included black oak, big-leaf maple, vine maple, thimbleberry, hazelnut and alder. Orange and gold shades in-between included Oregon ash, mountain ash, Indian rhubarb along the river, and ferns. All of these colors were quite beautiful under a green canopy of Douglas fir, white fir, Ponderosa pine, sugar pine and cedar, with bright blue skies overhead. We were also treated to some very large Pacific yews right along the trail to Middle Falls. After visiting the Middle Falls, we climbed up the switchback trail and on to Upper Falls, where we had lunch by the river. Other species along the trail included huckleberry, chokecherry, snowberry, snowbrush ceanothus, wild rose, spiraea, jack-of-the-rocks saxifrage, wild ginger, greenleaf manzanita, squaw carpet ceanothus, and Solomon’s seal. Of course, we had to stop in McCloud for ice cream on the way home! *

~ Terri Thesken

**Fieldtrip Follow-up**

**Fieldtrip for Fall Colors**

This year we finally timed it right! On Sunday, October 14, seven CNPSers were treated to a fabulous show of fall colors at McCloud Falls. We saw all three falls on a four-mile roundtrip hike to Middle and Upper Falls. Bright shades of red and yellow blended with the dark greens of the evergreen conifers. Western dogwood trees were a brilliant red, along with red-twig dogwood and some Ribes. Yellow shades included black oak, big-leaf maple, vine maple, thimbleberry, hazelnut and alder. Orange and gold shades in-between included Oregon ash, mountain ash, Indian rhubarb along the river, and ferns. All of these colors were quite beautiful under a green canopy of Douglas fir, white fir, Ponderosa pine, sugar pine and cedar, with bright blue skies overhead. We were also treated to some very large Pacific yews right along the trail to Middle Falls. After visiting the Middle Falls, we climbed up the switchback trail and on to Upper Falls, where we had lunch by the river. Other species along the trail included huckleberry, chokecherry, snowberry, snowbrush ceanothus, wild rose, spiraea, jack-of-the-rocks saxifrage, wild ginger, greenleaf manzanita, squaw carpet ceanothus, and Solomon’s seal. Of course, we had to stop in McCloud for ice cream on the way home! *

~ Terri Thesken

**IT’S THE GIVING THAT MAKES IT HAPPEN:**

**Getting Ready for the Plant Sale**

This year’s plant sale could not have happened if not for the hard work and commitment of so many people. This year, well over 200 hours of volunteer time were spent throughout the year by the following people (forgive me for forgetting last names or individuals who didn’t show up on this list):

Mari, Sharleen Beckwith, Ren Rosin, Kay Gibson, Malin Low, Michaelann Howden, Karen Schewermann, Wayne Steffes, John & Rowena Goodner, Kate Kirkman, Joe & Sue Blakemore, Julie Nelson, Susan Libonati, Pat Gilbert Martha & Bruce Webb, Frank Kosko, Marlys Richman, Jay & Terri Thesken

Marla Knight, Kevin Martyn, Martin Van Orsow and Lemoine Waite.

Plants were donated or provided at low cost from the Shasta-Trinity Nationa Forest (Twyla Miller), Cornflower Farms, Frank Kosko, Julie Nelson and a lot of really generous CNPS plant enthusiasts with extra plants at home.

I especially want to thank the army of volunteers who showed up for the pre-sale work party. It was raining hard most of the time but pots just kept moving with nary a complaint. This took the ultimate in dedication and you guys are my heroes.

My other heroes are those of you who show up time after time, year after year. You do it because you love plants and gardening. You guys know who you are, hopefully you know how much I appreciate it, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You’re the ham hock that makes the soup really good. *

~ Susan Erwin

**The Acorn Grant Program**

One of the ways in which the Shasta Chapter supports the mission of CNPS, it regard to increasing understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants is through the Acorn Grant Program. The objective of the Acorn Grant Program is to promote practical knowledge and education regarding California native plant and/or native plant habitats to students attending area K-12 schools. Acorn Grant applications are submitted to and reviewed by the chapter grant review committee. The committee awards the grants based on the information submitted and on committee discretion. Awarded grant monies are designated for specific purchase to the grantee based on the grant review committee decision for this project. The grant monies for funding the Acorn Grant Program are obtained primarily through annual native plant sales held by volunteer members of the chapter. Acorn Grant can be awarded monetarily (up to $500) or as native plants and materials. Awarded grant monies can be used for purchase of native plants, gardening tools, gardening irrigation equipment, native plant books, native plant posters, native plant pictures field trip supplies, field guides, etc. Currently, there are two elementary school: that have been awarded grants for on-going projects that have planned completion dates by next summer. If anyone knows of a school that may have some interest in a native plant project, contact me by e-mail (dfjorca@charter.net) and I will send a grant application to the school. *

~ Donal Jonio

Acorn Grant Chair

**Calling All Native Plant Gardeners and Enthusiasts**

This year’s plant sale could not have happened if not for the hard work and commitment of so many people. This year, well over 200 hours of volunteer time were spent throughout the year by the following people (forgive me for forgetting last names or individuals who didn’t show up on this list):

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~ Susan Erwin
Calling All Native Plant Gardeners and Enthusiasts

Based on our very successful native plant garden tour (and plant sale) held in May 2007, the Shasta Chapter Board has proposed a native plant garden tour for 2008. There were six outstanding gardens in the tour in 2007 and that raises the big question: “Are there six more gardens out there for the tour of 2008?”

That is the question that I am posing to our members in this newsletter. At this moment, there are two gardens tentatively on the list. If any of you have a garden to offer or know of someone with one to offer, let me know. Thank you very much! ♡

~ Donal Jonio, Garden Tour Chairperson
221-4280

Needed: New Plant Propagation People

We are sad to announce that Susan Erwin is taking a break from plant propagation for CNPS. Thank you, Susan, for your years of dedication. We are looking for people interested in being part of the plant propagation and sales process in any way. Here are just some of the volunteer opportunities: Overall coordinator, Plant Sale coordinator, Monthly propagation group session leader, Plant hosting at your home, Soil fetching, Labelling and signage. Whatever you choose, we guarantee you’ll have a great time working with other wonderful folks! Please call me at 347-4654 if you are interested in any part of the job, large or small. ♡

~ Susan Libonati

Events of Others


November 4, Sunday. “Autumn Natural History Walk” with Frank Kosko. Meet at the orange pipe gate on Clear Creek Road, 7 miles west of Hwy 273, west of the Clear Creek Bridge, at 9 AM. Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve. 241-2026.


November 10, Saturday. Sacramento River Fall Float Trip. 8 AM to 5 PM. $35 for Trust members or $45 for non-Trust members. No children under 18. Must RSVP. Sacramento River Preservation Trust. 345-1865.

November 17, Saturday. Talk on rose selection, pruning and care. 10 AM to noon. $6/member and $8/nonmember. Pre-registration required. Turtle Bay Exploration Park. 242-3108.

November 18, Sunday. Walk through the USDA 1904 Old Plant Introduction Station. Meet at the station gate at the end of Cramer Lane at 9:45 AM. Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes Dempsey: 342-2293.

November 24, Saturday. Fieldtrip on Ten-Mile House Trail to Big Chico Creek. Meet at the “Green Gate” to Upper Bidwell Park at 10 AM. Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes Dempsey: 342-2293.

First & last Saturdays. McConnell Garden Tours. 9:30 AM. Free with Park or Garden admission. Turtle Bay Exploration Park. 243-8850.

Herbarium News

Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium at California State University, Chico, will hold their 2007 Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 3, in Holt Hall room 129 on the CSU, Chico, campus. The reception begins at 3 PM, and the meeting at 4 PM. Everyone is invited.

Two presentations will be featured. Prairie Johnston, the 2007 Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award recipient, will present “The Effect of Four Levels of Irradiance on the Survival and Growth Rate of Artemisia douglasiana, Clematis linguistifolia and Vitis californica.” This presentation will be followed by the Joyce Lacey Memorial Lecture, “Herbaria and other Natural History Collections: their Importance in Conservation and Sustainability,” presented by Dr. Tom Griggs, senior restoration ecologist for River Partners.

The Friends of the Herbarium will be taking their special guests out to dinner following the annual meeting; all are invited to join them. For further information or to RSVP, please call 898-5381. More details can be had by visiting www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/friends/.html

Workshop

The last of the Friends of the Jepson Herbarium 2007 workshops, Mycorrhizae at Albion Field Station, will be held Friday through Sunday, November 9 - 11, presented by Teresa Sholars and Matteo Garbelotto. A course description is available at ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops, or you may call Cynthia Perrine at 510/643-7008 for further information.
November 15 Thursday

Chapter Meeting. Join Ron Russo, author and instructor, for a talk on “Oak Apples and Other Plant Galls.” Many California native plants, especially oak trees, are host to several hundred species of insects that chemically program the plants to produce swellings or tumors called “galls” for their developing larvae. Ron will show and explain many of these fascinating galls. In addition to conducting training seminars throughout the US for county, state and federal agencies, Ron worked for and retired from the East Bay Regional Park District after 37 years. He has also published journal articles and field guides on galls, fish, mammals and intertidal life, and was an instructor for the California Academy of Sciences, UC Berkeley Extension and California State Parks. He also guides trips into southeast Alaska’s rainforest and inland passages. Meet at 6 PM at our new location at the Redding Public Library on Parkview Avenue, west of the Redding City Hall. A Board meeting will be held directly afterwards at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding.

November 18 Sunday

Fieldtrip. Join us for a “BATM” fieldtrip—Buckeye, Acorns, Toyon, Mistletoe! We typically pick a place where we can see the bright red-berried toyon at this festive time of the year, and perhaps gather a buckeye, an acorn or two, or some mistletoe! Bring warm clothes, a snack and water. Meet at 9 AM at the rear parking lot (Parkview Avenue side) of the Redding City Hall. Call Jay or Terri Thesken for details at 221-0906.

December 9 Sunday

Fieldtrip. Join Chapter President and mycologist Susan Libonati for a mushroom identification fieldtrip. The location will be announced on the day of the fieldtrip, depending on the rainy season. Susan has a Ph.D. in Botany and presently teaches at Shasta College. Meet at 9 AM at the rear parking lot (Parkview Avenue side) of the Redding City Hall. Bring boots, lunch and water. Call Susan for details at 347-4654.

No meetings in December.

Happy Holidays!

New Tree Society

A new group is forming locally to focus on trees and our urban forests. Did you know that trees say a lot about a community? Properly selected, well-placed and maintained trees state that a community has an interest and pride in its local surroundings. Such trees, as part of well-tended landscape, can increase property values by as much as 10 to 25 percent. Trees not only clean our atmosphere and give us oxygen but they affect the temperature of their surroundings. Well-placed trees around homes can have a significant cooling effect.

Learn about the importance of trees in our local area, and how to live with and garden in ways compatible with our oaks. Find out what type of trees to plant in our varied landscapes and not have problems. Learn how to properly care for trees, including the benefits of proper pruning on the health and welfare of trees. Through meetings and related activities, this group will provide information about trees, encourage the planting of trees suitable for the area, and participate in tree planting projects. To become involved and learn more about this exciting new group, contact Rico Montenegro at ricosplants@hotmail.com or 365-1920.

~ Rico Montenegro

CNPS Plant Science Training Program

The last training session for the year sponsored by the CNPS Plant Science Training Program is as follows. For more information, visit the CNPS state website at http://cnps.org/cnps/education/ or contact Josie Crawford at 916/447-2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org

Wednesday & Thursday, November 7 - 8

Riparian Ecology and Plant Identification for Professional Botanists,
Casitas Springs, Ventura Co.

(David Magney & Cher Batchelor)

2007 Officers

President: Susan Libonati-Barnes, 347-4654;
libonati@earthlink.com
Vice-President: Pat Gilbert, 225-2066;
pgilb@parks.ca.gov
Treasurer: Pete Figura, 229-7781;
pfigura@dfg.ca.gov
Secretary: Dan Fehr, 246-1910;
dehr@dfg.ca.gov
The Shasta Chapter
of the
California Native Plant Society
presents

Oak Apples
and
Other Plant Galls

A talk by author & instructor
Ron Russo, leading expert
on insect galls

6 PM
Thursday
November 15
Redding Public Library
in the Conference Room

For more information, please contact Chapter President,
Susan Libonati, at 347-4654