President’s Message

Hope to see you at our second “Native Plants in the Landscape” garden tour, the Mother’s Day Wildflower Show in May, and our wonderful walks, hikes, and programs. Now’s the time to see the hills blue with creeping sage, silverbush lupine, and California lilac, and yellow with bush poppy and fremontia. Larkspur spangles the canyons with red. Thanks to the help of all of you members and volunteers, the Shasta Chapter is having a wonderful year!

~ Susan Libonati, President

In Memoriam

We are saddened to announce that Phil Aldrich, member of both the Shasta Chapter CNPS and the Audubon Society, passed away on Friday, February 29, after several years of fighting cancer. Phil will be remembered by us for his enthusiasm on Shasta Chapter fieldtrips, his gentleness, his friendliness, and the many hours he helped us with plant sales and the Native Garden Tour, and as a speaker about his and his wife Linda’s trip to Hawaii at a Chapter meeting. We will greatly miss Phil.

This year’s scholarship and the Native Garden Tour are dedicated to the memory of Phil.

Shasta Chapter Scholarship

The Shasta Chapter CNPS Scholarship Committee has determined that the 2008 scholarship will be awarded to Amber Galusha. Amber is currently graduating from Shasta College with a strong background in Horticulture and will be attending Chico State University in the fall, pursuing a degree in Environmental Horticulture. I have asked Amber to attend the June CNPS meeting to give members an opportunity to meet this worthy recipient.

Starting this year, the Shasta Chapter Board has authorized an increase in the scholarship from $1,000 to $1,500. This money will be granted in two installments during the school year.

~ Jay Thesken, Scholarship Chairperson

Sign up for Summer Plant Watch!

This summer, we will need volunteers to watch the plants at Shasta College that are waiting for the fall plant sale. In past years, we have had some trouble with the watering system and lost a substantial amount of our stock just prior to the fall 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, for 5 to 10 minutes each visit. We need about 8 to 10 volunteers. Please call Terri or Jay Thesken at 221-0906 or Susan Libonati at 347-4654 to sign up!
Fieldtrip Follow-ups

Salt Creek Saunter
On Saturday, March 8, a half dozen wildflower enthusiasts took a 4-mile hike on Salt Creek and the Sacramento River Trail in Redding with member David Fritchle. Salt Creek was flowing well as we gingerly hopped across it at the beginning of the trail below Highway 299 West. It was sunny and in the 60s—a very pleasant early spring day. We saw the very early bloomers, such as shooting star, scarlet frilltary, hound’s tongue, woodrush, pipevine, lomatium, Indian warrior, wild cucumber, sandwort, rockcress and brodiaea. Fresh shoots were emerging on the buckeye, wyethia, mountain mahogany, Fendler’s meadowrue, yellow sanicle, mulefat, mugwort, yampah, clematis and honeysuckle. Still in dormancy were redbud, buttonwillow, Brewer’s oak, spicebush and valley oak. Many thanks to David who explained both the history and natural history of this most interesting creek flowing right through our own backyard.
~Terri Thesken

River Bend Rendezvous
A fieldtrip on Saturday, March 29, to the Yana Trail in the BLM’s Sacramento River Bend Area found wildflowers covering the river terraces and valleys to the east of the Sacramento River. Although not as abundant as in years past, there were plenty of species to gaze upon on this windy, cool and partly sunny day. Thirteen hikers attended the 8½-mile jaunt and were treated to flora such as goldfields, yellow carpet, birds-eye gilia, lupine, frying pan poppy, elegant brodiaea, Ithuriel’s spear, wild hyacinth, bluedicks, meadowfoam, purple sanicle, yellow sanicle, buttercups, popcorn flowers, phacelia, fawn lily, lomatium, tidy tips, collinsia, sedum, wood violet, bee plant, sandwort, white and pink shooting stars, wild onion, red maids, dwarf sack clover, butter-and-eggs, white hyacinth, dudleya, larkspur, woodland star, woolly sunflower and pipevine. We were beginning to wonder at the beginning of the hike whether it was a fauna hike or a flora hike, as we came upon a ringtail cat skeleton, a dead coyote, a garter snake, and sat down next to a yearling rattlesnake hiding under a rock at lunchtime! We had great, sweeping views of the Sacramento River and the snow-capped mountains surrounding the north valley as we hiked and lunches. We also came across archaeological sites and the remains of the old 1870’s Sierra lumber flume that crossed this area on its way from Manton to Red Bluff. We try to do this hike once a year, so get in shape for next spring!
~Terri Thesken

Vernal Pool Voyage
Although the dry spring took some of the color out of our April 12 vernal pool field trip, eight CNPSers were able to find pockets of glory in the drying remains of the Stillwater Plains vernal pools. Highlights included finding the Red Bluff dwarf rush (CNPS List 1B.1) perched atop gopher mounds. Although normally a whopping three inches tall, most of the plants were only half this size and had fewer flowers than usual due to the spring drought. We also found four other species of rush; woolly meadowfoam (CNPS List 4.2); cicendia, a diminutive member of the gentain family; Howell’s quillwort, a primitive spore-bearing plant; both the floating and terrestrial forms of water-starwort; two species of goldfields; several species of popcorn flower; the last yellow carpets of the season; cuspidate downingia; water buttercup; and many other vernal pool denizens.

Thanks to Melinda Graves for arranging access to this private parcel, which is under a conservation easement managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
~Don Burk
Plant Propagation and Sales
Thanks to all the volunteers who helped propagate some 1,500 plants since January! We had the first of three plant sales for 2008 during Shasta College’s Spring Plant Sale on April 17-19. We also are selling plants at the second Native Garden Tour on May 3, and will sell more plants at the October 4 Fall Plant Sale, also at Shasta College. We are propagating beloved standby plants such as Western redbud (Cercis occidentalis), as well as more unusual and hard-to-find Matilija poppies (Romneya coulteri) and woolly blue curls (Trichostemma lanatum).

Special thanks to long-time propagation manager Susan Erwin who created such a firm base for us to build on, and thanks to all the volunteers of 2008: Sue & Joe Blakemore, Michelle Draggs, Dave & Sandy DuBose, Jane Elmore, Kay Gibson, Pat Gilbert, Rowena Goodner & son John, Donal Jonio, Barbara Kapsenberg, Jeremy Kelley & sons Jeremy & Justin, Frank Kosko, Mary Laferriere, Chase Lentz & daughter Celeste, Marion McMahon, Julie & Jim Nelson, Rose Powder, Marylys & Max Richman, Ren Rosin, Kar & Terry Stoker, Jay & Terri Thesken, Susan Toroni & Marina, and Martin Van Orsow.

~ Susan Libonati,
Plant Propagation Manager

Friends of the Herbarium Workshops
The next three Saturday workshops sponsored by CSU, Chico’s, Friends of the Herbarium are as follows. For details about these workshops and registration information, please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

May 10: Introduction to Keying the Fabaceae.
John Dittes and Josephine Guardino

May 17: Botanical Illustration. Judy McCrary

June 14: Introduction to the Willows of California.
John Bair

A Warm Welcome to New Chapter Members!

Barbara Donohue, Adin
Shauna Hee, Weaverville
M. Laferriere, Anderson
Chase Lentz, Anderson
Doug Mandel, Redding
Sherry McGary, Alturas
Jessica Moeller, Anderson
Gail Stream, Redding
Margaret Widdowson, Shasta Lake

Events of Others


May 17, Saturday. Irrigation and Basic Water Management lecture. 10 AM to noon. Fee. Turtle Bay Museum. 242-3108.


June 7, Saturday. Songbird Research demonstrations by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologists. 8 AM. Free. Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve 241-2026.

June 7, Saturday. Lavender demonstration. 10 AM to noon. Fee. Turtle Bay Museum. 242-3108.

June 14, Saturday. Fearless Pruning class. 10 AM to noon. Fee. Turtle Bay Museum 242-3108.


CNPS Training Program
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


Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory
ADDRESS: PO BOX 993595, REDDING, CA 96099-0194
WEB SITE: www.shastacnps.org

2008 OFFICERS
PRESIDENT – Susan Libonati (347-4654)
VICE-PRESIDENT – Pat Gilbert (225-2066)
TREASURER – Pete Figura (229-7781)
SECRETARY – Dan Fehr (246-1910)
ACORN GRANT COMMITTEE CHAIR – Donal Jonio (221-4280)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Laurie Burk (347-0849)
PLANT PROPAGATION MANAGER – Susan Libonati (347-4654)
PUBLIC CONTACTS – Jay & Terri Thesken (221-0906)
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Jay Thesken (221-0906)
WEB MASTER – Greg Lockett (greg.lockett@att.net)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Special Event! This is our Second Annual “Native Plants in the Landscape Garden Tour.” See five gardens in the Redding/Cottonwood/Bella Vista/Palo Cedro area that incorporate and highlight the use of native plants and companion planting. The tour will run from 10 AM to 4 PM and will include native plants for sale and backyard birding information. Volunteers are needed! Please call Donal Jonio to help: 221-4280.</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>15th Annual Mother's Day Wildflower Show. Sponsored by Shasta Chapter CNPS and Klamath National Forest. Hundreds of native plants and wildflowers will be 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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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Chapter Meeting. Our Shasta Chapter President Susan Libonati will present a slideshow entitled “Summer in the Pines.” Learn to identify our local conifers at this hands-on talk, and be ready for our summer fieldtrips to higher alpine locations! Meet at 6 PM in the Community Room of 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.</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Plant Propagation Session. 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 weeding and transplanting nursery starts and rooted cuttings. Bring clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Fieldtrip/walk. Join member Martin Van Orsow for a wildflower walk. Meet at 1 PM at the Spiritual Enrichment Center parking lot, 1905 Hartnell Avenue in Redding. Walks typically begin by 2 PM and are over by 4 PM. Call Martin at 474-1732 for more information.</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>Fieldtrip. Join Jay &amp; Terri Thesken for an early summer hike on the Crystal Creek Trail of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. This hike will be approximately 4 miles, with some gradual climbing from an elevation of 1,675 feet to 2,300 feet. The trail follows an old logging road, passes beneath alder and big leaf maple trees next to Crystal Creek, and goes through oaks and pines. We should see some of the tiger lilies that are abundant in this area. Meet in Redding at 8 AM at the back side of City Hall (Parkview Avenue side), 777 Cypress Avenue. Bring your park pass, sturdy hiking boots, water and lunch. Call Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for more information.</td>
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<td>June 19</td>
<td>Chapter Meeting. This will be another special outdoor Chapter meeting to kick off the summer, at members Dave &amp; Sandy DuBose's ranch at 5810 Parkville Road. Bring a potluck dish and drinks to share for dinner and take a look around the DuBose’s beautiful property. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 to RSVP. Meet at 5 PM at Dave’s property. Dinner will be around 6 PM. Directions: From I-5, take the Deschutes Road exit at the Outlet Stores in Anderson. Go east and north to Dersch Road; turn right onto Dersch Road; go about three miles to Parkville Road; turn right (south) on Parkville Road; pass the pioneer cemetery. About three miles down Parkville Road, you will reach a complex of barns and farmhouse at a curve in the road. This is Parkville Ranch. Stop here! Call 365-8403 if you get lost.</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Fieldtrip. Join Susan Erwin, botanist with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, for an alpine fieldtrip on the Swift Creek Trail in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Depending on the condition of the trail, we may get to Parker Meadow and Foster’s Cabin, approximately 5 to 6 miles in. This will be a potentially lengthy, moderate hike through serpentine forest, at elevations of 4,000 to 5,200 feet. Hopefully, we will see California pitcher plant, California lady’s slipper, azaleas, and other early summer bloomers. Meet in Redding at 7:30 AM at the back side of City Hall (Parkview Avenue side), 777 Cypress Avenue. Or meet at 9 AM at the Rush Creek Road/Hwy. 3 intersection. Directions: from Redding, take the Deschutes Road exit, pass the pioneer cemetery. About three miles down Parkville Road, you will reach a complex of barns and farmhouse at a curve in the road. This is Parkville Ranch. Stop here! Call Susan Erwin at 778-9884 for details.</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Plant Clean-up Session. 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 weeding, spiffing up, and transplanting. Bring clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Fieldtrip/walk. Join member Martin Van Orsow for a wildflower walk. Meet at 1 PM at the Spiritual Enrichment Center parking lot, 1905 Hartnell Avenue in Redding. Walks typically begin by 2 PM and are over by 4 PM. Call Martin at 474-1732 for more information.</td>
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<td>July 6</td>
<td>Fieldtrip in Siskiyou County. We will travel to the Duck Lakes in the Russian Wilderness in Klamath National Forest. This will be a long, 9- to 10-mile roundtrip hike at elevations ranging from 4,400 to 6,600 feet. This area is known for 17 species of conifers in California, of which we should see at least 13 or 14! Be prepared for a moderately strenuous hike, taking all day. Call Jay &amp; Terri Thesken at 221-0906 to RSVP (we can only take a limited number of hikers) and for directions and time.</td>
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No meetings in July or August. See you on a summer fieldtrip!