President’s Message

This mild May and June have been kind to the native plants in the garden. Stupendous Matilija poppies, elegant white sage (Salvia apiana), and brilliant sulfur flower look terrific. In our propagation area, white yarrow, Bigelow’s golden daisy, and woolly blue curls are a vivid combination. Cleveland sage’s fragrance is wafted on the air. Put these natives on your “must-have” list and claim them at the Fall Plant Sale (tentatively set for September 27).

~Susan Libonati, President

Plant Propagation

We’re delighted to report some handsome profits in plant sales from the Shasta College Spring Plant Sale in April, and nearly as much again in plant sales from the Native Garden Tour.

We just had a bang-up propagation session on June 22, where nine volunteers potted up the remaining young plants. Welcome to new members of the crew—Melinda Graves, Ann Power and Chris Gray—and profound thanks to everyone who has been helping this year. We are now restocked for the Fall Plant Sale.

Summer plant propagation work days are slated as follows:

• Sunday, July 20, 10 AM
• Sunday, August 24, 10 AM
• Sunday, September 21, 10 AM
• Friday, September 26, 2-5 PM (Plant sale setup)
• Saturday, September 27, 9 AM to 1 PM (Plant sale)

Shasta Chapter Fall Plant Sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 27, from 9 AM to 1 PM, so mark your calendars now, and come have fun with our enthusiastic crew. If you are able to help set up for the sale, or help on the day of the sale, please contact me at 347-4654.

~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; it doesn’t take much time (perhaps two 5-minute visits per week). Call Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 to sign up for a week.

IN MEMORIAM

Dave DuBose, 1938 - 2008

It is with great sadness that the Shasta Chapter reports the passing of Dave DuBose, 70, on the morning of June 24, 2008.

Dave was a beloved icon of Shasta County and revered for his knowledge of natural resources and local history. Dave taught natural resource and agriculture courses at Shasta Community College for 34 years and continued to share his wealth of knowledge, post-retirement, as a representative of numerous boards and groups, including several years as the president of Shasta Chapter CNPS. He was a highly sought-after guest lecturer and field trip leader. Dave’s legacy lives on through former students who pursued careers with a multitude of natural resource agencies.

The Shasta Chapter CNPS extends its most sincere sympathies to the DuBose Family in this time of loss.
Fieldtrip Follow-ups

Crystal Creek Caper
On Saturday, June 7, ecologist Jennifer Gibson, with the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, led us on a delightful fieldtrip for 1.5 miles along Crystal Creek at the Park. Shaded by a canopy of black oak, canyon live oak, blue oak, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar, alder and dogwood, we hiked along tumbling Crystal Creek and were treated to spicebush in full bloom, along with dozens of tiger lily. Also blooming were western azalea, buckeye, bleeding heart, Indian pink, mock orange, oceanspray, wyethia, woolly sunflower and honeysuckle. A special aspect of this trail is the historic component, with a circa-1850s ditch flume and trestle, a 1913 clean-out house with a water-powered rotary rake, stone retaining walls, sluices, a short carved stone tunnel for the water ditch, and remains of the diversion dam and ditch headworks at the end of the trail on Crystal Creek. This trail is relatively short with only a 35-foot elevation gain, and is close to Redding, for a cool place to explore on your own in the summer.

~Terri Thesken

Trinity Alps Trek
On Saturday, June 21, Shasta Trinity National Forest botanist Shauna Hee led seven hikers on a day of discovery in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. We hiked approximately 5 miles roundtrip along Swift Creek, with exciting weather including morning thundershowers and afternoon blue skies. We hiked the trail along the rushing creek, past Granite Creek, and along a scenic granite gorge up Swift Creek toward Twin Lakes. Serpentine outcrops, green meadows and a shady canopy of ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, Douglas fir, sugar pine, and incense cedar accented the hike. Streamside and meadow habitats provided us with a very showy and fragrant display of western azalea in full bloom, California lady’s slipper, California pitcher plant and rein orchids. Other bloomers included western iris, death camas, Lemmon’s catchfly, woolly sunflower, penstemon, Klamath coneflower, Bigelow’s sneezeweed, common monkeyflower, colomia, Swertia albicaulis, rattlesnake plantain, tolfeldia, swamp thistle, tinker’s penny, Lemmon’s ceanothus, huckleberry oak and ninebark. An added bonus at the end of the trip was the Washington lilies and bear grass in full bloom along the roadside. Many thanks to botanists Shauna and Mike for their extensive knowledge of the area, and for sharing it so graciously with all of us!

~Terri Thesken

Mother’s Day Wildflower Show 2008 Review
Hundreds of visitors admired hundreds of spring wildflower species—from brodiaea to snowplant—as a real Mother’s Day celebration. Other events and vendors at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds on the same day contributed to the atmosphere of fun. Thanks to Marla Knight and her team of botanists and loyal volunteers who gathered and identified the plants and arranged the displays. Laurie Burk created elegant new sage-green name cards for all the flower species that blend beautifully with the blooms.

Interest in CNPS books and information was steady throughout the day. Special thanks to Linda Aldrich who represented Wintu Audubon Society while answering all sorts of questions and helping to sell CNPS books all day. Thanks also to Paula Fong, whose images enhanced the exhibit. The variety of information available seemed to be very satisfying to the visitors, who were eager to learn about everything in the natural world.

~Susan Libonati

Annual Potluck Picnic June Meeting
Nearly 30 Shasta Chapter members and guests gathered for the annual June Potluck Picnic and Meeting on June 19 at members Martin & Beverly Van Orsow’s historic ranch in Inwood. It was a very pleasant evening, where we enjoyed learning about the history of the Wengler Place. Martin and Beverly explained that the property served as a blacksmith stop for travelers on the Noble Emigrant Trail, and includes pole-built structures such as a wagon house, smokehouse, larder, and guesthouse dating from the 1850s. The current ranch house, built in the mid-1940s, is constructed of cement and volcanic rock, the same as what was used in the construction of Shasta Dam. The Van Orsows have done a tremendous amount of work in restoring and retaining the old buildings, clearing blackberries and poison oak (by using goats), and preserving spring-fed Buckskin Creek and the surrounding yellow pine forest, and more than 60 fruit trees on the property. We also enjoyed seeing the many chickens, peacocks, Friesian horses, a pony, and the goats on the wooded property.

CNPS had native plants available to purchase at the picnic, and great food was prepared by all who came (including Dan Fehr with his barbecued sausages!). Thanks to the biologists who allowed themselves to be interviewed by National University biology students, and very special thanks to hosts Martin and Beverly Van Orsow for providing us with such a nice venue, tour, and camaraderie!

~Susan Libonati and Jay & Terri Thesken
2008 Garden Tour Postscript

Our chapter held its second native plant garden tour on Saturday, May 3, and the outcome was mostly successful. I say mostly because it was not patronized as well as last year’s garden tour but we made enough money to pay for tour expenses and add some money to fund our scholarship and grant programs.

As with last year, there were many aspects that made the tour both a successful and memorable event. We showcased five area gardens that represented the theme, “water-wise gardening with native plants,” very well. These five gardens offered our public patrons a good variety of native plant landscapes. We also received some great publicity for the event in large part by way of Laura Christman’s newspaper article. Holding a native plant sale during the tour was a significant money maker, and incorporating our good friends from the local Wintu Audubon Society into the tour is always a welcome bonus. Then there was the weather, that turned out great for everyone. And of course, we had exceptional volunteers. Many aspects came together just right to make our event successful.

Now it is time to thank the most important volunteers – the garden hosts. Thank you to Ron & Susan Toroni, Len Lindstrand, Barbara Kapsenberg, Barbara Prince and Karlene & Terry Stoker for offering up your time and splendid native plant gardens for the world to see. Tour patron comments were complimentary of all the gardens, and I am sure the event will always be memorable to you all. It was a pleasure to meet and work with you during the past eight or so months.

Next, I want to thank the volunteers for their work prior to and during the garden tour. To be a successful non-profit organization, you must have dedicated and hard-working volunteers to promote the cause. The following volunteers helped with plant propagation, tickets and posters, advertising, plant sales, book sales, and/or by greeting and counting patrons at each of the host gardens: Susan Libonati, Dan Fehr, Rowena & John Goodner, Terri & Jay Thesken, Pat Gilbert, Don & Laurie Burk, Pete Figura, Linda Aldrich, Susan Toroni, Martin Van Orsow, Dave & Sandy DuBose, Terry & Karlene Stoker, Len Lindstrand, Lee & Pat Bunnell, Joe & Susan Blakemore, Dave Fritchle, Michelle Driggs, Laura Christman, Ren Rosin and Don Brand.

Also, a thank you to the Audubon Society members for making their expertise in bird-watching available to the patrons: Bob & Betsy McCarville, Linda Aldrich, Nola Wade, Nancy Modeen, Connie Word, Ester Cox, Rose Powder, Bill Oliver and Don Goodykoontz.

I also want to give special thanks to a number of people: Pat Gilbert and Susan Libonati for running a very successful plant sale, Pat Gilbert (again) for helping design and produce our tour posters and tickets, Karlene Stoker for her advertising skills and for providing the space in her yard to set up our plant sale, and both Len Lindstrand and Susan Toroni for offering their time and gardens for the newspaper article.

I hope I mentioned everyone who helped out with the tour. It was a pleasure to meet and work with you all.

~ Donal Jonio
2008 Garden Tour Chairperson

Celebrating Wildflowers Website

The U.S. Forest Service Celebrating Wildflowers website now has a brand new feature on pollinator strategies—very interesting reading! See: http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/plantstrategies/index.shtml While you are on the site, be sure to navigate around the website to learn about rare plants, wildflower gardening, aspen community ecology, lichens, and so much more! It’s packed with photos and in-depth information on plants of our national forests and grasslands. Every week there is a new Plant of the Week. Coming later this year are features on serpentine plants and communities, ferns, and ethnobotany, so visit the site often.

~ Julie Kierstead Nelson

Did You Know...

...that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices. Go to www.cnps.org and click on the JOIN button.

A Warm Welcome to New Chapter Members!

David Klasson, Redding
Paul Turk, Redding

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 (glockett@att.net)

Events of Others

July 6, Sunday. Fieldtrip to Jonesville Meadows. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy. 32 and 99) at 9 AM with lunch and water. Lassen Chapter CNPS. John Copeland: 530/343-1748.

August 31, Sunday. Fieldtrip to Deadfall Lakes and Mt. Eddy in the Klamath Mountains. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy. 32 and 99) at 8 AM, or at the summit of Stewart Springs Road and the PCT trailhead to Deadfall Lakes at 10:45 AM. Lassen Chapter CNPS. John Whittlesey: 530/533-2166.

A Warm Welcome to New Chapter Members!

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<tr>
<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 20</td>
<td><strong>Plant Propagation/Weeding Session.</strong> 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 potting up nursery starts and rooted cuttings. Bring clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 or Jay &amp; Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for further information.</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip in Siskiyou County.</strong> 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, 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 (limited number of hikers) and for directions and time.</td>
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<td>August 17</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join Jay &amp; Terri Thesken and Wayne Steffes for a hike to Paradise Meadows in Lassen National Park. We will expect to see abundant wildflowers, cascading streams and springs at the 6,600- to 7,200-foot elevation on this 4-mile roundtrip hike. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy boots. Meet in Redding at 8 AM at the back side of City Hall (Parkview Avenue side), 777 Cypress Avenue, or meet at the Loomis Museum parking lot near the north entrance of the park at 9:15 AM. Call Jay &amp; Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for more information.</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
<td><strong>Plant Weeding Session.</strong> 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 getting ready for the Fall Plant Sale. 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>Sept. 18</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Welcome back to the first meeting after the long summer! Join Darlene Southworth, botanist from Oregon, for a talk on the “Hidden Life of Native Plants: Mycorrhizas and Plant Roots;” emphasizing her work in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Darlene has a PhD. in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley. She taught biology at Southern Oregon University for 22 years and is active in the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Meet at 6 PM in the Community Room of the Redding Public Library on Parkview Avenue, west of City Hall. A Board meeting will be held after the meeting.</td>
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<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td><strong>Members-only Plant Pre-sale.</strong> 2-5 PM at the Shasta College greenhouses located near the back of Shasta College, by the livestock barns. Buy plants before the sale opens to the public on Saturday! This plant pre-sale is open to standing members only, but memberships will be sold at the gate. Volunteers are needed to help weed, organize and label plants for the sale on Saturday. Call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td><strong>26th Annual Native Plant Sale.</strong> The public plant sale will be from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Shasta College Farm/greenhouses. The greenhouses are located at the northeast end of the Shasta College campus, near the livestock barns. Buy plants, books, posters and many other items related to the native flora of California. Gates will open at 9 AM—no early birds, please. Call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for information.</td>
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*No meetings in July or August. See you on September 18 for the first meeting after summer break!*