**2008: A Successful Year for Plant Sales**

This year has been a good one for native plant sales, primarily due to the generosity of the CNPSers who donated used plant pots, cuttings and divisions of thriving native species, seed starts, and especially their time. Very successful plant sales in the spring, fall, and at the native garden tour added substantially to our coffers. These dollars represent hundreds of volunteer hours.

While dollars are wonderful, and we use them to support students and school programs about native plants, they are not the most valuable part of what we do. The education of the public, the involvement of the propagation team, the placement of appropriate native plants in gardens where water hogs might have been, and most of all the feeling of camaraderie that we generate when we are helping to make our north state an ever-more-wonderful place to live—these things are our truly priceless contribution to our north state community.

-Susan Libonati,
President and Plant Sale Chair

---

**January 2009 Propagation Kickoff!**

Come all ye propagators and propagator wanna-bes to the January kickoff of the CNPS propagation year! Bring cuttings and seeds, pots (4-inch and gallons), and especially yourselves. No previous knowledge needed. We will continue to have propagation sessions on the Sundays following our third-Thursday of the month meetings, at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. Here are the dates a few months in advance: January 18, February 22, and March 22 (see calendar, page 6).

-Susan Libonati,
President and Plant Sale Chair

---

**Famed Horticulturist to Speak**

Saturday, January 24, 10 AM to noon
Shasta College, Room 802 (in the 800 building)

As our gift to the plant-loving community of the north state, Shasta Chapter CNPS and Shasta College Master Gardeners present a free lecture by **M. Nevin Smith**, Director of Horticulture at Suncrest Nurseries, and speaker, photographer, and author extraordinaire. The lecture, entitled *Propagating California’s Native Plants*, is a light-hearted romp through half a life’s experience of propagating California native plants. Mixing tales of triumph and disaster, Smith will show us a wide variety of plants and scenes from their propagation. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, there will be some hands-on demonstration and a question/answer period. So bring yourselves, all the plant lovers you know, and your knottiest propagation questions to this two-hour event.

M. Nevin Smith is the author of *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California* (2006, UC Press). Lyrical and fascinating, Native Treasures is as beautifully written as it is useful. If anyone can make propagation recommendations into a song that touches the heart, Smith can. He grew up in the hills of Sonoma County, learning to love the plants and animals of the native landscape. He worked summers at his parents’ nursery, eventually embracing the life of a nurseryman. He has a passion for the unusual plants of the world and has developed a specific interest in the native plants of California, launching new plant introductions and revivals of garden-worthy plants for California gardeners.

This event is co-sponsored by Shasta Chapter CNPS and Shasta College Master Gardeners. Special thanks to **Ed Sampson** of CNPS and Master Gardeners for facilitating this event, and to Shasta College for providing the venue.
**Fieldtrip Follow-ups**  
**Waters Gulch Walk**

On Sunday, November 2, three weather-hardy CNPSers took the 3-mile fall color hike at Waters Gulch trail along the shore of Lake Shasta. Actually, the “shore” was 157 feet below the trail! The trail was fresh with rain from the night before and early morning, and we were treated to some very early fall colors, including big-leaf maple, wild grape, Oregon grape, redbud, black oak, and buttonwillow. Other shrubs and trees that would sport fall colors in the weeks to follow included Oregon white oak, dogwood, ninebark, Shasta snow-wreath, pipevine, Indian rhubarb and California snowbell. We saw four varieties of ferns, and hill sides draped with vibrant green maidenhair fern. It was fun to identify already-spent wildflowers and plants including columbine, firecracker brodiaea, mule’s-ears, iris and lilies. Mosses and lichen were busy soaking up our first significant rainfall, and mushrooms were right around the corner.

-Terri Thesken

**November Mushroom Prowl**

Twelve mushroom-prowlers (including nine from the general public) headed to the Lakehead area on a cold but beautifully sunny November 23rd day. Special thanks to Pat Gilbert and Ken Kilborn, who assisted me with the gathering and identification. We found many species of mushrooms, and everyone went home with at least a handful of edibles. Here’s a sampling of what we saw: coccora (*Amanita calyptroderma*, never eat an Amanita no matter how edible; it’s not worth the risk!), honey mushroom (*Armillaria mellea* complex, good because it’s edible, bad because it’s a tree attacker), golden horns (*Calocera cornea*, waxy golden horns ¼ inch tall), pine spike (*Chroogomphus ochraceus*, orange-fleshed and edible), crested coral (*Clavulina cristata*, with pointy-tipped branches), oak loving collybia (*C. dryophila*, one of the first species to fruit under oaks in the fall), fragrant clitocybe (*C. odora*, blue (really) and fragrant, and a good edible), wolf-fart puffball (*Lycoperdon*, puffing dark spores at every touch), fairy parasols (assorted *Marasmius* and *Mycena*, tiny parasols in white, yellow, tan, and pink), alkaline mycena (*M. alkalina*, smelling of bleach) pure purple mycena (*M. pura*, lovely in translucent lavender), birds’ nest fungus (*Nidula niveotomentosa*, holding tiny eggs in a “nest” on wood), short-stemmed russula (*R. brevipes*, white, peppery, and breaking like chalk) false turkey tail (*Stereum hirsutum*, leathery, banded, and smooth tan beneath), cone-lover (*Strobilurus trullisatus*, which favors Douglas-fir cones), true turkey tail (*Trametes versicolor*, banded like a turkey tail, with white pores beneath), wood fingers (*Xylaria polymorpha*, black stalks tipped in white), and fuzzy foot (*Xeromphalina campanella*, tiny orange trumpets on wood).

-Susan Libonati

**Acorn Grant Program Update**

To update our members on the current goings-on with our chapter’s Acorn Grant Program (AGP), we currently have two area schools in the program: Anderson Heights Middle School and Foothill High School. Both schools have been granted $500 each for the purchase of plants and landscaping materials to promote our objective of the AGP, which is to give practical knowledge and education regarding California native plants and/or native plant habitats to students attending area K-12 schools. Also important to note, the Chapter currently has funds to support additional grants should you know of any area schools that may be interested. Information on and applications for an Acorn Grant can be found on our Chapter website.

~Donal Jonio,  
Acorn Grant Chair

**Forest Service Website Update**

Announcing the launch of a new piece of the national Forest Service Celebrating Wildflowers website that is all about a landscape I love:

www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/communities/serpentines/index.shtml

Contributions to this piece came from many photographers and botanists associated with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest—you will notice that the Eddys, Trinity Alps, and Rattlesnake Creek Terrane are heavily represented among the photos illustrating this very comprehensive treatment of the serpentines of NW California and SW Oregon. The splash page painting by artist Steve Buchanan is available as a poster; if you ask nicely, I will give you one. Contact me at jknelson@fs.fed.us

-Julie Nelson,  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest Botanist
The California Native Plant Society’s second statewide conservation conference, the CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions, is right around the corner! Slated for January 17-19 at the Sacramento Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, California, the CNPS 2009 Conference will be co-located with the Western Section of the Wildlife Society’s annual meeting, which will take place January 21-23.

Many half-day, full-day and two-day workshops are still available. They include: The Art of Field Sketching: Drawing Plants, The Art of Field Sketching: Drawing Wildlife, Basics of Native Grass Seed Collection and Storage, Basic Wilderness First Aid, Invasive Plant Management Workshop, Naturalizing the Urban Fabric—Creating Habitat in the City, Mutual Gains Negotiations, and Vernal Pool Invertebrates.

Partial rebates for conference registration are available to on-site conference volunteers. More details are posted at www.cnps.org/registration. For further information, please contact Cynthia Perrine at csgperrine@yahoo.com.

---

Working Landscapes: The Environmental Benefits of Grazing

The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD) will host a seminar on Working Landscapes: The Environmental Benefits of Grazing, on Thursday, January 29, from 9 AM to noon at the WSRCD office at 6270 Parallel Road in Anderson, CA. At this event we will discuss the multiple benefits of managed grazing, issues facing ranchers, agencies and environmental groups, and present alternative solutions to conflict. Our featured speaker will be Dan Dagget, author of Beyond the Rangeland Conflict: Toward a West that Works and Gardeners of Eden.

The District will also present a short video that demonstrates the environmental, cultural and social benefits that are provided by local ranches, also known as “working landscapes.” Grazing is used as a holistic management tool to control the vegetation and provide forage for the livestock in order to provide food and fiber for people. There will be discussions about conservation benefits along with the importance of partnerships to promote the sustainability of livestock grazing and preservation of open space. A copy of the video and an educational binder of research summaries will be provided to each participant.

There is no fee for the seminar or the seminar materials, and lunch will be served at no cost; however, registration is required by January 23. Space is limited. To RSVP or for more seminar information, please contact Priscilla Benson at the WSRCD at 365-7332 ext. 201 or priscilla@westernshastarcd.org.

The seminar series, ten events in all throughout the Sierra Nevada region, is funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, State of California, and coordinated by the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. The seminar offers agency staff, environmental groups, ranchers and the public an opportunity to come together for a dialogue about grazing in search of common goals toward preserving these important working landscapes.
The Geese Have Landed!

Online registration is now available at www.snowgoosefestival.org for the 10th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway, January 22-25. Act now! Spots fill up quickly!

This year there is a special hotel/motel lodging rate at $75 per night with the Best Western Heritage Inn (www.bwchico.com; 894-4600) and the Heritage Inn Express (www.heritagehotelgroup.com; 343-4527), both in Chico. Make your reservation directly with the hotel/motel on or before January 9 and tell them you are attending the Snow Goose Festival. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@snowgoosefestival.org or 345-1865.

Growing Natives: Celebrating California’s Beauty in Dry Times

Creating beautiful waterwise gardens with California native plants is the theme of this two-day symposium, slated for March 28-29, co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. The Saturday program takes place in Lafayette and includes presentations on the flora of California (by botanist and author Glenn Keator), garden design (by author Carol Bornstein), the structure of the garden (by Phil van Soelen from Cal Flora Nursery), herbaceous perennials and bulbs (by plantsman Roger Raiche), creating a native meadow (by David Amme), and connecting with the garden (by Mike Evans from Tree of Life Nursery). The program includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and wine reception. A selection of books will be available for purchase.

The Sunday program at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley begins with an inspiring talk by Director Steve Edwards, followed by a choice of guided garden walks and workshops on plants for dry gardens, aesthetic pruning, principles of irrigation, and gardening practices. After lunch in the garden, the program continues at Native Here Nursery with a presentation by Charli Danielsen and an opportunity to purchase plants. The day concludes with an invitation to visit two spectacular private native gardens: the Fleming garden in Berkeley and the Greenberg garden in Lafayette.

Registration closes on March 21; late registration begins on March 1. Members and subscribers of the sponsoring organizations receive a discount on registration fees. Registration forms and details are available at www.nativeplants.org. For further information, please contact Margot Sheffner at office@pacifichorticulture.org or 510/849-1627.

Birds and Their Habitats Class

Shasta College is offering a class entitled Birds and Their Habitats for the Spring 2008 semester, taught by Len Lindstrand III of Redding’s North State Resources. The class is geared toward the general public, students, professionals, and anyone else interested in our local natural resources. It will provide an introduction to bird and habitat ecology, bird-friendly native landscaping, and field identification, with a focus on northern California. The class will meet on Thursday evenings, February 26 to April 30, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Three Saturday field trips to local birding hotspots are also included. Contact the Shasta College Admissions office at 242-7650 for details.
Events of Others

January 10, Saturday. Second Saturday Bird Walk. Meet at the parking lot behind the Monolith at Turtle Bay at 8 AM. Wintu Audubon Society. John Coon: www.wintuaudubon.org


January 17, Saturday. Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Outing. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Redding Convention Center to carpool or arrive at the Refuge by 9 AM. Wintu Audubon Society. Bob Yutzy: www.wintuaudubon.org

January 17, Saturday. Fearless Plant Selections for Your Garden. 10 AM to noon. Fee; must RSVP. McConnell Arboretum: 242-3108.

January 22-25, Thursday-Sunday. Tenth annual Snow Goose Festival in Butte County. Events include birding and wildlife fieldtrips, presentations, activities and workshops. (See article, page 4). Contact: info@snowgoosefestival.org, or 345-1865.

January 24, Saturday. Switching to Organic. 10 AM to noon. Fee; must RSVP. McConnell Arboretum: 242-3108.


February 21, Saturday. “Northern California Mushrooms,” a mushroom identification walk with Susan Libonati. Meet at 11 AM at the orange pipe gate on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273, just west of the Clear Creek bridge. Horsetown Clear-Creek Preserve: 241-2026.

February 22, Sunday. CSU, Chico, Greenhouse Tour. 10 AM to noon. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Tim Devine: 345-8444.

February 27, Friday. Climate Change and the California Desert Conference. 9 AM to 5 PM. Joshua Tree Community Center, Joshua Tree. Free, but must RSVP. National Parks Conservation Association. Seth Shteir: 760/366-7785.


### Shasta Chapter CNPS Calendar of Events

**Contact Susan at 347-4654**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 15 Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Welcome back to the first meeting of the New Year! Join us for a talk and tour through the national Forest Service’s “Celebrating Wildflowers” internet website, by Julie Nelson, Forest Botanist for Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The website details thousands of wildflowers on our national forest and grasslands, and strives to educate the public about the value of native plants. <strong>(See article, page 2.)</strong> Julie has been a professional botanist since 1976 and has conducted numerous rare plant surveys and conservation work in California and Oregon. Julie has a B.S. in botany from Oregon State University and a M.S. in biology from Northern Arizona University. Meet at 6 PM at the Redding Public Library on Parkview Avenue, west of City Hall. A Board meeting will be held afterwards at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding. <strong>Also, come prepared to vote for the new slate of officers for the Shasta Chapter!</strong> (Ballot on page 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 18 Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plant Propagation Session.</strong> Let’s get going for the 2009 Plant Sales! Come to our first-of-the-year two-hour work session, starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. The greenhouses are located near the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We will be potting up any new materials you may bring! Bring rooted native plant divisions, seedlings, and cuttings, as well as clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 25 Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Get to know the native plants and habitats in Redding’s own backyard with a 2.3-mile hike on the Meiners Loop trail in BLM’s Swasey Recreation Area off Swasey Road in west Redding. The loop hike has a gentle, 300- to 400-foot elevation gain, and is located in an area approximately 1,500 feet in elevation. Try your hand at identifying our native vegetation in the winter! 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 at the Meiners Loop trailhead if you know where it is, at 9:30 AM. Bring good hiking shoes, water and lunch. Heavy rain (or snow!) cancels. Call Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for more information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 15 Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join us for a winter walk on the wild side of the Arboretum in Redding. We will take the 2-mile paved loop walk around the Arboretum, and check out the Sulphur Creek drainage, the Sacramento River frontage and the recovery of the area after this summer’s wildfire. The walk is level. Meet at 9 AM at the south entrance to the Sundial Bridge near the Turtle Bay Museum café. We will be walking across the bridge on our way to the Sulphur Creek Arboretum area. Bring water. Heavy rain cancels. Call Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for details.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 19 Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Join us for CNPS member Wayne Steffes’ “Best of 2007”—beautiful and unique photographs of the flora, fauna, and natural resources of the north state! Meet at 6 PM at the Redding Public Library on Parkview Avenue, west of City Hall. A Board meeting will be held afterwards at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 22 Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plant Propagation Session.</strong> Two-hour work session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. The greenhouses are located near the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We will be potting up new materials. Bring rooted native plant divisions, seedlings, and cuttings, as well as clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**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)

**FIELDTRIP CHAIRS** – Jay & Terri Thesken (221-0906)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** – Laurie Burk (347-0849)

**PLANT PROPAGATION MANAGER** – Susan Libonati (347-4654)

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR** – Jay Thesken (221-0906)

**WEB MASTER** – Greg Lockett (greg.lockett@att.net)

---

**A Warm Welcome to New Chapter Members!**

*Margaret Kerr, Redding*

*Richard Lis, Shasta Lake*

*Kathleen Tyler, Yreka*