Election Results are in!

Our officers for 2009 are:

President:  Susan Libonati-Barnes
Vice-President:  Pat Gilbert
Treasurer:  Pete Figura
Secretary:  Margaret Widdowson

Congratulations to the successful incumbents and nominees, and thanks to all our members for voting! And many thanks to Dan Fehr for his past years of service as Secretary to the Shasta Chapter.

Successful Speaker!

On Saturday, January 24, nearly 230 native plant enthusiasts packed a large lecture hall at Shasta College for a 2-hour presentation on native plant propagation by M. Nevin Smith, horticulturist and author of Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California. The program was co-sponsored by Master Gardeners, Shasta College, and the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Mr. Smith discussed various propagation techniques for California native plants, including seeding, divisions and cuttings. His slides were very detailed, informative and particularly applicable to our area, including north to Siskiyou County. Mr. Smith provided many useful tips to our plant sale propagation team, as well as to gardeners interested in starting or maintaining their own gardens. The audience showed its appreciation with numerous questions and input after the lecture. We are grateful to Mr. Smith for travelling so far to provide Redding with this excellent lecture!

Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory

Address: PO Box 990194, Redding, CA 96099-0194
Web Site: www.shastacnps.org

2009 Officers
President – Susan Libonati (347-4654)
Vice-President – Pat Gilbert (225-2066)
Treasurer – Pete Figura (229-7781)
Secretary – Margaret Widdowson (223 4732)

Acorn Grant Committee Chair – Donal Jonio (221-4280)
Field Trip 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!

Jan Carter, Redding
Robert Cooper, Redding
John Springer, Redding
FIELDTRIP FOLLOW-UPS

MEINER’S LOOP LEARNING EXPERIENCE

On Sunday, January 25, we had a healthy number of participants on a CNPS fieldtrip—19 hikers showed up for a midwinter/early spring trip to the Meiner’s Loop of the Swasey BLM trail system on the west side of Redding. It was a cool, sunny day following a light rain the night before, as we hiked the 2.3-mile trail through foothill pine/oak woodlands along a branch of Olney Creek. The focus of the trip was to try to identify species during the winter when they are often without leaves or flowers. We were surprised by some very early bloomers, including shooting star, hound’s tongue, brodiaea, and whiteleaf manzanita. Other early starters, though not in bloom, were soap plant, sanicle, buttercup, fritillary, iris, honeysuckle, yerba santa, several ferns, and woolly sunflower. We had fun identifying the major trees, including five species of oak (canyon live, interior live, blue, black and oracle) and three species of pine (gray, knobcone and ponderosa), along with buckeye. Shrubs that we encountered included toyon (in full red berry), spicebush, snowdrop bush, coffeeberry, wild rose, and loads of very healthy but dormant poison oak.

Be sure to explore these easily accessible BLM trails so close to town!

WILD AND WINDY WALK

Sunday, February 15, dawned cold, wet and windy for our fieldtrip on the wild side of the Arboretum in Redding! Two hardy souls (guess who?!) took the 2-mile loop hike anyway, bundled up and with umbrellas the entire time. Everything was green, but still mostly in hiding for the winter. The early bloomers included whiteleaf manzanita, pipevine, and willow. We checked out the oracle oaks on the north side of the Arboretum, the naked buckwheat on the west side, and saw elderberry leafing out all over. Bird-watching for winter-migration ducks and birds on the Sacramento River was good, with buffleheads, golden-eye, ring-necked ducks, mergansers, and cormorants in abundance.

-Terri Thesken

Propagation Report

We are presently in full swing on propagation for our upcoming 2009 plant sales! We will be selling California native plants at the Shasta College Spring Plant Sale on Thursday-Saturday, April 16-18 (8 AM to 5 PM on Thursday & Friday, and 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday). Our annual Fall Sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 26, so mark your calendars.

Many thanks go to those of you who have contributed long hours at our regular propagation sessions on the Sundays after our monthly Chapter meetings. The new starts are looking great! Also, thanks to member (and new Secretary) Margaret Widdowson, we now have 750+ new seedlings to pot up and prepare for the sales. Margaret made a trip to Cornflower Farms south of Sacramento to pick up the many boxes of plants and deliver them up to Redding. Many thanks also to Frank Kosko, Pat Gilbert, Wayne Steffes, Susan Gallagher and Jay & Terri Thesken for the hours spent at marathon propagation sessions, outside of the regular propagation meetings. Our inventory of plants is now in the thousands. Our President and Plant Sale chairman, Susan Libonati, says, “Thank you to all the seed shuckers and donators of cuttings and divisions, past and coming up!” We’re looking forward to a successful year in selling our plants, while educating the public on the virtues of gardening with California natives.

And of course, we can’t forget to thank Gold Leaf Nursery, for their generous donation of 500 one-gallon pots to help with our propagation. Gold Leaf has donated pots to CNPS for the past two years.

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. 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!
Forest Service Needs Support to Protect Native Plants

This spring, Firecracker readers have a unique opportunity to speak up for native plant communities as local national forests decide where off-highway vehicles (OHVs) will be allowed to drive and ride. We can support the efforts of dedicated US Forest Service (USFS) staff by submitting individual written comments in favor of Forest Service planning alternatives that provide the greatest protection for rare plants and their habitats.

In 2003, USFS Chief Dale Bosworth named the spread of noxious, invasive alien species as one of the four significant threats to our public forests and rangelands. Modoc National Forest recently stated, “vehicle traffic is a major factor and vector in the introduction and spread of noxious weeds” and, “the presence of these invaders affects many other resources such as soil, wildlife habitat, and sensitive plants.” Off-highway vehicles’ knobby tires are very efficient at spreading invasive plant species and damaging fragile soils. A study by Montana University found that one OHV dispersed 2,000 spotted knapweed seeds on a 10-mile course and, in 2003, scientists found OHVs to be the primary vector spreading noxious weeds in roadless areas.

Motorized off-road travel has historically been permitted on the majority of national forest lands, with the exception of wilderness and other special interest areas. In 2005, responding to growing concerns, the Forest Service published the Final Travel Management Rule that will end unregulated off-road driving, and designate roads, trails, and areas open to motorized use. Randy Moore, USFS Regional Forester for California, recently wrote, “The process of designating roads, trails, and other areas for motor vehicle use is one of the top issues in managing the national forests today... Motor vehicle use needs to be balanced with many different uses of our national forests, while ensuring the protection of the land, wildlife, and other recreational visitors.”

The Lassen, Shasta-Trinity and Klamath national forests will each solicit critical public input when they issue Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) for Travel Management. Forest Service staff will accept written comments for a limited time on each DEIS.

As it would be very time consuming for individuals to contact each forest and monitor each comment period, another avenue for involvement is available. A local independent website, the Northern California National Forest Off Highway Vehicle Route Designation Portal, has been tracking the OHV issue since 2005, providing interested parties with information, web links, and an easy-to-use e-mail comment format. This website can be found at www.snowcrest.net/ecoshasta/ohv It is import that native plant enthusiasts, hikers, equestrians, birders, anglers, and others support the Forest Service’s efforts by submitting comments that encourage the conservative management of OHVs and the protection of minimally disturbed naturally vegetated areas.

Bob Musgrove is a CNPS member who earned his MS in Environmental Education in Southern Oregon University’s Department of Biology. He lives in Mount Shasta where he teaches school and works as a mountaineering guide.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Shasta Chapter Scholarships

It is time to find qualified applicants for our 2009/2010 scholarships! Last year, our Chapter Board authorized an increase in the scholarship amount to $1,500. In 2008, a qualified recipient was not found for the award, so this year, there will be two $1,500 scholarships available. The scholarships will be in honor of two members of our chapter who passed away last year: Dave DuBose and Phil Aldrich.

Our annual scholarship is for a high school or community college student who is going into a four-year university life science program. The scholarship applications have been mailed to 48 schools within Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc and Lassen counties. In addition, 24 media outlets have received a press release to further publicize our scholarships. Applications will be at the March CNPS chapter meeting for anyone who may know of a qualified applicant. They are also available on our Chapter website at www.shastacnps.org Completed applications are due by April 3. If you would like more information about this program, please call me at 221-0906.

Bob Musgrove

NCB Scholarships

Each year, Northern California Botanists (NCB) provides several competitive botany and plant ecology research scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. The application period is now open for the 2009-2010 academic year. The application deadline is March 31. For more information and an application form, please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/scholarships.htm
Chico Herbarium Workshops

CSU, Chico’s, Friends of the Herbarium workshop offerings for 2009 are as follows. Except for the June workshop, all fall on Saturdays and are conducted on the CSU, Chico, campus. For details about these workshops and registration information, please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

March 14
Introduction to Identifying Northern California Grasses (Poaceae)
John Dittes

March 21
Introduction to the Secrets of the Soil
Sherry Yarnell and Andrew Conlin

March 28
Name That Wildflower
Linnea Hanson, Jenny Marr, and others

April 18
Vernal Pool Floristics
John Dittes

April 18
How to Lead a Successful Natural History Field Trip
Tanya Heaston and Linnea Hanson

April 25
Vegetation Monitoring
Kyle Merriam

May 9
Health and Safety in the Field
Josephine Guardino

May 16
Botanical Illustration
Judy McCrary

June 22-28
Flora of the Western Great Basin
(Location: Eagle Lake Field Station)
Mike Williams

August 15
Ethnoecology of California Wetland Plants
Michelle Stevens and friends

September 12
Asteraceae
John Dittes

October 10
Oak Woodland Ecology and Management
Doug McCreary

Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium are offering the following spring weekend workshops at UC Berkeley (unless otherwise indicated). All require pre-registration and a fee. Details on the workshops can be found at http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu.workshops. For further information, contact Ceclie Shohet at cshohet@berkeley.edu or 510/643-7008.

March 7
California Biogeography and Phylogenetics
Ben Carter and Ekaphan “Bier” Kraichak

March 21-22
Introduction to Morphology and Identification of Flowering Plants
Anna Larsen and Bianca Knoll Nakayama

March 28-29 and April 4-5
Fifty Plant Families in the Field
Linda & Richard Beidleman

April 16-19
Flora of Saline Valley
(Location: Death Valley National Park)
Dana York

May 9-10
Poaceae
Travis Columbus

May 16-17
Wetland Restoration
John Callaway

May 28-31
Flora of the San Jacinto Mountains
(Location: San Jacinto Mountains, James Reserve)
Tim Krantz

June 11-14
Mid-Elevation Flora of the White Mountains
(Location: White Mountain Research Station)
Jim Moorefield

June 18-21
The Inland Flora of Humboldt County
(Location: Boise Creek Campground, Humboldt County)
Michael Mesler and John O. Sawyer

March 10 & 24 and April 7, Tuesdays. Tree Tours at CSU, Chico, Campus and Bidwell Mansion State Park. Meet in front of Bidwell Mansion at 10 AM. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco: 893-5123.

March 14, Saturday. Second Saturday Bird Walk. 8 AM. Meet at the parking lot behind the Monolith at Turtle Bay. Wintu Audubon Society. John Coon: www.wintuaudubon.org


March 18-22, Wednesday-Sunday. San Francisco Garden Show at the Cow Palace. Wed.-Sat. 9 AM to 8 PM; Sunday 9 AM to 6 PM. www.gardenshow.com


March 21, Saturday. Millville Plains, Leopard Drive and Parkville Road Outing. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Redding Convention Center to carpool. Wintu Audubon Society. Bob Yutzy: www.wintuaudubon.org


March 29, Sunday. Nature Walk. 12:30 PM. Meet at the Center for Spiritual Living, 1905 Hartnell Ave., or at the parking lot at Clover Creek Preserve off of Shasta View Drive. Linda Aldrich: 365-6770.

March 29, Sunday. Spotted Fawn Lilies And McNab Cypress Fieldtrip. Meet at Chico Park and Ride (Hwys 32 and 99) at 9 AM or at the trailhead in Magalia at the parking lot across the Skyway from the old train station depot at 9:45 AM. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Gerry Ingco: 893-5123.


April 4, Saturday. Dye Creek Preserve Outing. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Redding Convention Center to carpool. Wintu Audubon Society. Bill Oliver: www.wintuaudubon.org


April 12, Sunday. UC Davis Arboretum Tour. Meet at 8 AM at the Chico Park and Ride (Hwys 32 and 99) in the west parking lot. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Gerry Ingco: 893-5123.

April 16-18, Thursday-Saturday. Shasta College Spring Plant Sale. 8 AM to 5 PM Thursday & Friday; 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday. (Details in Calendar, page 6.)


April 25, Saturday. 2009 Whole Earth Festival. 10 AM to 3 PM. Redding City Hall Community Room & Sculpture Garden. 515-2151.


May 2, Saturday. Annual Rose Garden Tour. 10 AM to 4 PM. Shasta Rose Society. Donal Jonio: 221-4280.

Fun New Websites

Two new websites have come to our attention in recent weeks. Both are interactive, forum-type sites, geared toward gardeners and nature lovers.

The Wildlife Gardeners site has a “green” emphasis and can be found online at: www.wildlifegardeners.org

The Adopt a Plant website focuses on our “personal contact” with plants, especially natives, and is at: www.squidoo.com/adoptaplant

Happy surfing! ♪
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> <strong>Marily Woodhouse</strong> will give us a PowerPoint presentation that investigates clear-cut practices in northern California, and their potential effects on habitat and watersheds such as Battle Creek. Marily lives in Manton and is the Sierra Club organizer for their campaign to stop clear-cuts in California. 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>
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<td>March 22</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 <strong>Susan Libonati</strong> at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join member <strong>David Fritchle</strong> for a 3- to 4-mile early spring hike along the unique Salt Creek, between Highway 299/Eureka Way and the Sacramento River in Redding. We will then take the Sacramento River trail to the south side parking lot. David has observed 200+ plant species along this trail, in addition to old mining activity, waterfalls, pools and great fish! Bring sturdy hiking boots, water and lunch. 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 is located at 777 Cypress Avenue—just west of the Cypress Avenue bridge over the Sacramento River. Call David Fritchle for details at 246-4094.</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join us for a fieldtrip to the private property of <strong>John &amp; Mary Carr</strong> on Oak Run Road. We did this fieldtrip in 1999, and enjoyed a few hours of hiking in hilly foothill/oak woodland habitat, with loads of wildflowers. This hike is limited in terms of number of hikers, so it will be necessary to RSVP to <strong>Jay or Terri Thesken</strong> at 221-0906. It will be a morning/early afternoon fieldtrip.</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Join us for a talk and presentation titled “Building Ponds for Wildlife,” by <strong>Kathy Biggs</strong>, author, dragonfly enthusiast and wildlife pond creator. Kathy lives in Sebastopol and has property in McCloud, and gives talks and leads fieldtrips in the western states. Kathy will demonstrate the steps in creating a wildlife pond using California native plants. Expect to see photos of dragonflies and other wildlife that such a pond could attract. Kathy is the author of California’s first dragonfly guide, a southwest dragonfly guide, and a dragonfly coloring book, all of which will be available for purchase at the meeting. 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>
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<td>April 16-18</td>
<td><strong>Shasta College Spring Plant Sale.</strong> 8 AM to 5 PM on Thursday and Friday; 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday. This 3-day spring extravaganza will be at the greenhouse/horticulture area of Shasta College. We will be selling our spring-blooming native plants, so call <strong>Susan Libonati</strong> at 347-4654 to volunteer to help out for a few hours.</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join long-time Shasta Chapter member and botanist <strong>Don Burk</strong> for a fieldtrip to see vernal pools in the Redding/Red Bluff area, with the destination(s) selected based on blooming conditions. Vernal pools are home to spectacular wildflower displays and rare flora and fauna. 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 is located at 777 Cypress Avenue. Bring good hiking shoes, water and snacks. Call Don Burk at 347-0849 for more information.</td>
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<td>April 19</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 <strong>Susan Libonati</strong> at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td><strong>16th Annual Mother’s Day Wildflower Show.</strong> 10 AM to 4 PM. 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. Sponsored by Shasta Chapter CNPS and Klamath National Forest. If you would like to volunteer to help with the exhibit (Saturday or Sunday), or sell books and posters, please contact <strong>Marla Knight</strong> at 468-1238.</td>
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