Plant Sale Success
Dear Members:
When I think of my years as President of the Shasta Chapter, I think of all the reasons for being part of this organization. I say that I want to raise money for the activities we support: scholarships, Acorn and Oak Tree Grants, native garden tours, wildflower shows, plant and book sales, and public education in all its forms. True enough, but even more true for me is that I love being around a wonderful group of plant lovers, who together have such a wealth of plant knowledge.

I have had a blast leading mushroom prowls, following hike leaders through the hanging meadows of Mt. Lassen, stuffing myself at potluck picnics, learning from our program presenters, and propagating, propagating, propagating (native plants, that is).

I know that you are as pleased as I am that Ken Kilborn is willing to head the chapter in 2010. And I am profoundly grateful to all of you who served as officers and sat on the board during my term with the Shasta Chapter: Don Burk, Laurie Burk, Dave DuBose, Susan Erwin, Dan Fehr, Pat Gilbert, Pete Figura, Dave Fritchle, Rowena Goodner, Donal Jonio, Greg Lockett, Lynne Peterson, Terri Thesken, Jay Thesken, Martin Van Orsow, Margaret Widdowson, and Bud Widdowson. I’ll still be co-chair (with Dave Fritchle) of Plant Propagation and Sales.

What’s really important? We did lots of interesting things. We learned about lots of native plants. And we had lots of good times doing it. Thanks to all of you who have enriched these years for me, and here’s to many more years of plant fun for all of us. ♥

-Susan Libonati,
Out-Going President
Davis Gulch Hike

On Sunday, November 8, eight hikers took the 3.5-mile fall colors trip along Davis Gulch trail at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Fall colors, which were not as vibrant this year as in years past, included the yellows of black oak, big-leaf maple and elk clover, and the orange-ish yellow Brewers oak. We saw a couple of dogwoods turning slightly pink, and toyons with their bright red berries. We also saw honeysuckle with red berries; wild grape turning yellow and red; and spicebush, redbud, snowdrop bush and buckeye with seed pods. The canyon live oak were green and stately along the trail, along with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, incense cedar, grey pine, knobcone pine and sugar pine. Several types of ferns, including sword fern, bracken fern, chain fern, black stem fern and maidenhair fern, were encountered along the trail, along with many galls on the toyon, Brewers oak and other oaks. This year seems to be a great acorn year, and the trail was covered with acorns from black oak and canyon live oak, making hiking somewhat hazardous at times! We also saw numerous mushrooms after the rains of the previous week. At the end of the trail, we were treated to the sight of a school of kokanee salmon in Brandy Creek!

- Terri Thesken

Grizzly Gulch Walk

With two nature-walk leaders from the Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve and our own Shasta Chapter botanist in company, there was no shortage of plant knowledge on the November 21 Grizzly Gulch walk! Starting in a riparian zone, the eight participants followed walk leader David Ledger through a long winding section of chaparral along a steep mountain side. Each turn provided differing amounts of shade and sun, offering a great variety of plants and lichens. We observed many of the common chaparral shrubs and herbs as well as silk tassel (in bloom, as was naked buckwheat), keckiella, and the cliff-brake ferns: coffee fern and bird’s-foot fern. At 2,000 feet, we reached a canyon live oak woodland with a riparian area fed by a year-round stream that had banks covered with mosses, ferns and a few liverworts. A little higher in elevation, travelling around the north face of Mad Mule Mountain, we reached the edge of a mixed conifer forest and stopped at a small shaded and moss-covered waterfall. There we observed California spikenard, chain fern and mock orange.

- David Ledger

December 6 Mushroom Prowl

Some 25 mushroom prowlers, featuring many new faces as well as old friends, found at least 40 species of mushrooms near Lakehead. The temperatures had been below freezing for some days before the event, and most finds were “mushroomsicles;” participants narrowly escaped becoming “mushroomsicles” themselves!

Each year, the mushrooms found are quite different. High points for 2009 included honey mushrooms, oak-loving collybia, blood-red milky cap, amethyst laccaria, lots of slippery jacks, a king bolete (our first), slimy cowboy’s hanky (need I say more?), and many poisonous entolomas. (See the full list on page 3.)

Special thanks to Ken Kilborn, who assisted with gathering, labelling, transportation, and identification. The next mushroom event is Friday, February 19, at 1 PM at Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve. (See Events of Others, page 5.)

-Susan Libonati

Shasta Chapter hikers on the Davis Gulch Trail at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, November 8.
This is Susan Libonati’s fungi list from the fieldtrip that she led on December 6. (See article, page 2.) All names are provisional, depending only upon visual features and brief examination.

Coccora, *Amanita calyptroderma*—never eat an Amanita; even if you think it’s edible, it’s not worth the risk!

Honey mushroom, *Armillaria mellea* complex—good because it’s edible, bad because it’s a tree attacker

King bolete, *Boletus edulis*—one of the best edibles

Golden horns, *Calocera cornea*—waxy golden horns ¼” tall

Funnel mushrooms, *Clitocybe* sp.

Oak loving collybia, *C. dryophila*—one of the first species to fruit under oaks in the fall

Brown poison, *Conocybe* sp.

Purple cort, *Cortinarius* sp.

Inedible entoloma, *Entoloma lividum* 

Rosy polypore, *Fomes subroseus* 

Pig snout mushroom, *Gomphidius* sp.

Common gymnopilus, *Gymnopilus sapineus* 

Thin oyster mushroom, *Hohenbuehelia petaloides* gp.


Cowboy’s hanky, *Hygrophorus ebuneus* gp.—these are snotty!

Dispersed hypholoma, *Hypholoma/Naematoloma dispersum* 

Sulfur tuft, *Hypholoma/Naematoloma fasciculare* 

Thread heads, *Inocybe* sp.

Amethyst laccaria, *Laccaria amethystina* 

Common laccaria, *Laccaria laccata* 

Red milky cap, *Lactarius rufus* 

Blood red milky cap, *Lactarius sanguifluus* 

Gilled polypore, *Lenzites betulina* 

Bitter leucopax, *Leucopaxillus amarus* 

Wolf-fart puffball, *Lycoperdon*—puffing dark spores at every touch

Fairy parasols, asst. *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

Rabbit ear fungus, *Otidea leporina* 

Cup fungus, *Peziza* sp.

Short-stemmed russula, *R. brevipes*—white, peppery, and breaking like chalk

Burning russula, *Russula emetica* gp.

Shrimp russula, *Russula xerampelina* 

Lake’s bolete, *Suillus lakei* 

Slippery jacks, *Suillus fuscotomentosus* 

True turkey tail, *Trametes versicolor*—banded like a turkey tail, with white pores beneath 

Witches’ butter, *Tremella* sp.

Classes on Fruit Trees

Free classes on fruit trees are once again being offered in January. Topics will include how to choose, plant, train, properly prune and care for all types of fruit trees. Rico Montenegro will teach these classes at Wyntour Nursery on the following dates in January:

- Saturday, January 9, at 10 AM and 1 PM
- Sunday, January 17, at 1 PM
- Saturday, January 30, at 10 AM and 1 PM

There will also be a hands-on workshop at a working orchard in Happy Valley on January 16 at 1 PM. Please contact Johanna at 357-2416 for more information on this event.

Also, a volunteer, hands-on restoration project involving the 100- to 150-year old Camden House apple orchard trees at Whiskeytown National Park is slated for early February. The date is still to be determined, but it will be either the first or second Saturday of February. Please feel free to contact me for further information at 365-1920.  

-Rico Montenegro
The 11th Annual Snow Goose Festival in Chico, January 28-31, will again celebrate the spectacular winter waterfowl migration in the northern Sacramento Valley. Millions of geese, ducks, swans and other birds arrive here from as far away as the Arctic regions of Alaska, Canada, and Siberia, making the Sacramento Valley the most important wintering area along the great Pacific Flyway. The festival tells the story in live action, with over 50 field trips and workshops that range into six counties. The field trips spread out from the Chico Masonic Family Center in Chico into the rice fields, wildlife refuges and river walks where mild winter weather, abundant food and lots of water draw the avian arrivals.

Geese, swans, ducks and sandhill cranes have been spending their winters in the Sacramento Valley for thousands of years. Waterfowl and shorebirds migrate south on all the US flyways, but on most other routes, cold weather keeps them on the move. Here in the Sacramento Valley, mild winters allow the birds to stay in one area, creating a viewing opportunity like nowhere else.

And the Snow Goose Festival is the perfect way to explore this natural wonder. Many local wildlife naturalists will be leading field trips to educate participants about our winter neighbors. In rice fields and on refuges, birding experts will explain how to pick out a swan from a goose from a duck. Other field trip leaders will track sandhill cranes, the largest of our waterfowl visitors that are famous for their territorial dance. Some trips are scheduled around fly-offs, when thousands of snow geese take off in unison as they move to a new feeding area. Observers are thrilled by the overhead sounds of a million honking ducks and geese. Festival trip leaders have scouted out the very best sites to see all the action.

The festival also provides an opportunity to build a complete picture of the rich diversity of plant and animal life in the north Sacramento Valley. There is an amazing variety of programs on wildlife and habitats in addition to rice fields and refuges. Festival field trips go to vernal pools, the seasonal home of rare plants and animals; a grassland savannah in search of raptors; a nature preserve to band saw-whet owls; and even the scenic Sutter Buttes to look for resident wildlife. Some of the new field trips offered this year include “Kayaking on the Thermalito Afterbay,” “Digiscoping,” “Cranes, Swans and Egrets,” and “Beginning Birding by Ear.”

The Snow Goose Spectacle may be the festival’s drawing card, but the depth and breadth of the nature experiences offered provide a rich and diverse program. Workshops teach about nature photography, beginning birding, birds in your backyard, watchable wildlife, wood ducks, decoy duck carving and much more. There are many free nature activities for children, and armchair adventures for the less hardy. Free wildlife art exhibits and fascinating nature displays offer something for everyone.

Other highlights of the festival include a Friday night Wildlife Art Exhibit and an Uptown/Downtown Reception with free trolley rides between the two hosting galleries. The Gathering of Wings Banquet on Saturday night will feature keynote speaker Stephen Shunk, well-paid birder and woodpecker specialist, talking on Birding through the Veil of Winter.

All festival events are affordably priced and, for out-of-towners, local hotels are offering special rates. For more detailed information, a schedule, or to make reservations, call Jennifer Patten, festival coordinator, at 345-1865, or visit the festival’s website at www.snowgoosefestival.org.

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 (916/574-2010)
TREASURER – Pete Figura (229-7781)
SECRETARY – Margaret Widdowson (223-4732)
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)
Chico Herbarium Workshops

The first two workshops of the new year offered by CSU, Chico, Friends of the Herbarium are listed below. Both 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

February 6. Introduction to the Identification of Bryophytes. Shana Gross

February 27. Health and Safety for Workers in the Field Sciences. Josephine Guardino

Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is offering the following winter 2010 workshops. All require pre-registration and fees. Unless otherwise noted, workshops take place at UC, Berkeley, and surrounding areas. Details on the workshop can be found at http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu.workshops. For further information, contact jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu or 510/643-7008.


February 20-24. Crustose Lichens. Irwin M. Brodo. (Location: Bodega Marine Laboratory, Bodega Bay and surrounding locations.)


March 17-21. Inventorying the Floristic Frontier: A Botanical Expedition into the Far-Eastern Mojave/Sonoran Deserts of California. Jim André and Tasha La Doux. (Location: Granite Mountain Desert Research Center and remote field locations.)

March 20-21 and 27-28. Fifty Plant Families in the Field. Linda and Richard Beidleman. (This is a 4-day course over two consecutive weekends.)

Events of Others


February 19. Friday. Identification of Northern California Mushrooms with Susan Libonati. Meet at 1 PM at the HCCP parking area (orange pipe gate) on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273. Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve. 241-2026.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 21 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Welcome back for the first meeting of the New Year! Join us for a program about the conifers of northwest California by Michael Kauffmann, science teacher, author of the hiking guidebook Conifer Country; and plant enthusiast from Eureka. Michael will talk about the stunning conifer diversity fostered in our region, including the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, the Klamath Mountains and the North Coast. Michael’s photographs, maps, and poster will offer us a peek at the wilderness that our Chapter enjoys. Michael’s website is <a href="http://www.conifercountry.com">www.conifercountry.com</a>. Meet at 6 PM at the Redding Public Library on Parkview Avenue, west of the Redding City Hall. A Board meeting will be held afterwards at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding. <em>Also, come prepared to vote for the new slate of officers for the Shasta Chapter.</em></td>
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<td>January 23 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Get to know the native plants and habitats in Redding’s own backyard with a 2.7-mile hike on the Wintu Loop trail in BLM’s Swasey Recreation Area off Swasey Road in west Redding. The loop hike has a 300- to 400-foot elevation gain and is located in an area of approximately 1,500 feet in elevation. Try your hand at identifying our native vegetation in the winter, or if we’re lucky, find very early bloomers! 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 Wintu 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>
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<td>January 24 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Plant Propagation Session.</strong> Let’s get going for the 2010 Plant Sales and Garden Tour! 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 that you may bring! Bring native plant rooted divisions, seedlings, cuttings, clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.</td>
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<td>January 30 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Shasta Divide hike. This is an easy to moderately difficult four-mile hike along a ridge separating Whiskeytown Lake and Old Shasta. The trail offers fantastic views of Whiskeytown Lake, Trinity Alps, the Cascade range and the Sacramento Valley as it meanders through mixed conifers with groves of low-elevation sugar pine and ponderosa pine. Some parts of this three-hour hike are steep and require agility and balance. A plant list will be provided. Meet in the south parking lot behind City Hall on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM. For more information, call David Ledger at 355-9442. Rain cancels.</td>
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<td>February 6 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join us for a winter walk on the wild side of the Arboretum in Redding. We will take the two-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 the summer 2008 wildfire. The walk is level. We may include the new 3/4-mile loop trail in back of Turtle Bay Museum to see the nesting bald eagles and other winter birds on the Sacramento River. 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>
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<td>February 18 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Join us for a slideshow about the natural history of southwestern Australia, with a focus on wildflowers, forest habitats, endemic birds and wildlife management. The presentation will given by Jonathon Foster, and Margaret &amp; Bud Widdowson, wildlife biologists, project managers and botanist with Jones &amp; Stokes in Redding. The Widdowsans and Jonathon took their trip to Australia in October 2009, and we are lucky to have them present their fascinating travels to us. Meet at 6 PM at the Redding Public Library on Parkview Avenue, west of Redding 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>February 20 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Clear Creek Vista Trail walk. This is an easy four-mile walk though riparian, black oak woodland and chaparral on a trail above Clear Creek. The changing face of the trail presents a diversity of plant species. Possible flowers blooming: Henderson’s shooting star, manzanita, pipevine, western hound’s-tongue and snowdrop bush. Most of the walk is level, however there is about a 400-foot elevation climb. A plant list will be provided. Meet in the south parking lot behind City Hall on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM. For more information, call David Ledger at 355-9442. Rain cancels.</td>
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