President’s Message

It is time to get out and enjoy the spring wildflowers! March and April are the optimal time to enjoy the wildflowers in the north state. Come join us on one of the many hikes planned during the spring. There is also a car caravan trip with limited walking and maximum exposure to the wildflowers planned for March 26. Come join us, bring the family and have some fun!  

-Ken Kilborn, 
Shasta Chapter CNPS President

Election Results are In!

Our officers for 2011 are: President Ken Kilborn, Vice-President Robin Fallscheer, Treasurer Terri Thesken, and Secretary Margaret Widdowson. Congratulations to the successful incumbents and nominees, and thanks to all our members for voting! Thank you too, to Pete Figura, for years of diligent service on the Board, both as Treasurer and, most recently, as Vice-President.

We also have a new Fieldtrip Chairman—David Ledger. David would be glad to hear from members who have ideas for fieldtrips, or who might like to volunteer to lead a fieldtrip to a favorite wildflower viewing spot! He can be reached at 355-8542 or 243-8076.

Call for Volunteers

Members will notice that we have quite the line-up of chapter events this spring, with the April 14-16 Spring Plant Sale at Shasta College, the CNPS booth at the Arboretum Plant Sale on April 29-30, and the May 8 Mother’s Day Wildflower Show in Yreka. We need members to help out with shifts at each of these events. Typically, this involves setting up, manning booths, selling plants or books, giving advice, or just being friendly. You do not have to be a plant expert to participate! If you can spare a few hours for any of these events, please contact Jay or Terri Thesken at 221-0906 or theskensnowcrest.net, or Ken Kilborn at 221-2339 to sign up. We will also have volunteer sign-up sheets at the chapter meetings.

-Terri Thesken

Notes on Membership

Renew Online!

Did you know that you can renew your CNPS membership online? Go to www.cnps.org and click on the JOIN button. It reduces mailing costs for CNPS, and is simple to do. Give it a try!

Archived Data

The State office of the California Native Plant Society needs help in establishing join dates for members who joined prior to 1990. If you became a member of any chapter of CNPS before 1990, please contact Laurie Burk at 347-0849 or laurie@burk@gmail.com to let her know when you first joined. That might be more difficult than it sounds, but if you’ve kept all of your Fremontias, they could provide a clue. Or, if you were a charter/founding member of the Shasta Chapter, it was formed in the fall of 1982. The state office is only looking for an approximate date, so your best guess is all that is required. Thank you for your assistance and your many years of service to CNPS!
Fieldtrip Follow-Ups

MARY LAKE TO WESTSIDE TRAIL

It was 39 °F, with low overcast skies, yet 12 people showed up for the Mary Lake to Westside Trail walk led by David Ledger on January 29. Walking around the west edge of Mary Lake we saw willows, whiteleaf manzanita and common manzanita in bloom. An old chestnut tree from a former homestead site sat next to the trail. Into the foothills, we saw hound’s-tongue and Indian warrior in bloom, and a very large patch of goldback ferns under some black oak trees with juniper moss nearby. Common chaparral plants seen included coffeeberry, coyote brush, foothill bedstraw, Pacific snakeroot, toyon, Lemmon ceanothus, buck brush, yerba santa, deer brush and mountain mahogany. Birder Barbara Peck helped us identify many birds along the way. ♣

-David Ledger

SALT CREEK TO MULE MOUNTAIN PASS TRAIL

The Salt Creek to Mule Mountain Pass Trail walk brought out ten members on this February 5 fieldtrip led by David Ledger. This walk started out in a mixed knobcone pine, black oak, gray pine habitat and went up the north face of Mule Mountain through a mixed conifer forest. Henderson’s shooting stars, milk maids and hound’s-tongue were in bloom. We also saw numerous ferns, mosses and lichens along the shaded trail. Four of our group chose to shuttle cars and walked on through to the BLM’s Swazey Drive recreation area. ♣

-David Ledger

CLOVERDALE LOOP TRAIL

A soggy, very cool winter morning greeted four hardy CNPS hikers on Saturday, February 19, for a 2-mile early-blooming wildflower jaunt on the Cloverdale Loop Trail in the foothills southwest of Redding. We hiked to a high, scenic overlook of Clear Creek, through foothill oak-pine woodland, and were treated to slopes of blooming shooting star, mission bells fritillary and fawn lily! The whiteleaf manzanita was also in full bloom, in addition to a few Indian warriors, lomatium, sanicle, bedstraw, buttercup, saxifrage, brodiaea and miner’s lettuce. Potential bloomers that weren’t out yet, but should be in the next few weeks, included poppy, soap plant, phacelia, woolly sunflower, lupine, lonicera and yarrow. Trees and shrubs included canyon live oak, interior live oak, blue oak, black oak, oracle oak, willow, an incense cedar, gray pine, poison oak (quite healthy!), keckiella, coffeeberry, greenleaf manzanita and whiteleaf manzanita. We also saw many mushrooms, including colorful jellies and turkey tails, as well as lichens and several ferns. These new BLM trails along the Clear Creek corridor are a real treat! ♣

-Terri Thesken

-Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory

ADDRESS: PO BOX 990194, REDDING, CA 96099-0194
WEB SITE: www.shastacnps.org

2011 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Ken Kilborn (221-2339)
VICE PRESIDENT – Robin Fallscheer (225-2311)
TREASURER – Terri Thesken (221-0906)
SECRETARY – Margaret Widdowson (223-4732)
FIELDTRIP CHAIR – David Ledger (355-8542)
GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR – Donal Jonio (221-4280)
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@gmail.com)

A Warm Welcome to New Chapter Members!

Kathie Barron, Corning
Kai Kong, Redding
Julia Schreiber, Happy Camp
Propagation Report

We had our inaugural propagation sessions in January and February for our upcoming 2011 plant sales! As a reminder, propagation sessions at Shasta College horticulture area are now held on the Wednesday after the regular chapter meetings, at 2 PM. We can always use help, and it is a fun way to get your hands dirty and meet fellow CNPS-ers!

Many thanks go to our faithful propagators who showed up for the January propagation (no rain this time!): Ken Kilborn, Chris Gray, Frank Kosko, Michele Driggs, Susan Gallaugher, Karen Little, David Fritchle, and Jay & Terri Thesken. We potted up a record number of plants (300 or so) in about 2 hours! Thanks also to our “suppliers”—Julie Nelson for the blue-eyed grass and Shasta snow wreath (a first for us!); Michele Driggs for the matilija poppy and Mattole River fuchsia; David Fritchle for the iris, spiraea, Oregon ash, spicebush, redbud, columbine, grasses, and many other cuttings; Len Lindstrand for dogwood, snowberry, mock orange, ninebark, huckleberry oak, buckeye, spiraea, wood rose, gooseberry, and wild grape cuttings; and Jay & Terri Thesken for redbud, toyon, pipevine, bleeding heart, buckeye, cedars, and Oregon grape. Other suppliers are always welcome, so please join us at the next propagation on Wednesday, March 23!

We will be selling California native plants at the Shasta College Spring Plant Sale April 14-16 as well as certain California native species at the Arboretum Spring Plant Sale on April 29-30 (see calendar, page 6, for details). Our annual Fall Sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 24, so mark your calendars!

- Terri Thesken

NCB Scholarships Available

Northern California Botanists (NCB) provides competitive botany and plant ecology research scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who are studying botany or plant ecology. Research scholarships will be funded with the goals of:

- encouraging undergraduate students to pursue academic endeavors toward careers in botany;
- promoting undergraduate and graduate botany and plant ecology research; and
- implementing objectives of the NCB mission.

Research scholarships consist of $1,000 awards, designed to support basic undergraduate and graduate research. Several awards are given out each year. Students may reapply and receive scholarship awards up to a maximum of two years for undergraduates and graduates pursuing a Masters degree, and up to a maximum of four years for graduate students pursuing a Doctorate degree. Awardees must demonstrate satisfactory research and academic progress.

For details and an application packet, please go to www.norcalbotanists.org/scholarships.htm. Further questions may be directed to ncbotanists@gmail.com. Applications must be received by March 31.

Scholarship Update

Our annual Shasta Chapter CNPS Scholarship application period is quickly approaching. Scholarship applications will be available on our website (shastacnps.org) and will be mailed to all local high schools and community colleges by the end of March. The application deadline this year will be May 6. Any graduating high school or community college student from Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc or Lassen County entering a 4-year university with a life sciences major is eligible to apply. Depending on the number and quality of applications received, and by direction of our chapter Board of Directors, we will award either one or two scholarships of $1,500 each this year.

Funding for our scholarships comes primarily from our plant sales. In 1996 and 1999, long-time member Elizabeth Lennon donated $1,000 in memory of longtime friend and CNPS member Chispa Olsen. During the past three years, our Board of Directors has dedicated scholarships in the memory of long-time chapter members who have passed away in recent years. One of this year’s scholarships will be re-dedicated to the memory of Laing Sibbet since his wife, Joanne, and other family members have made donations this past year in his name.

If you know of a student who qualifies for this scholarship, please have him or her call Jay Thesken at 221-0906 for more information.

- Jay Thesken
Chico Herbarium Workshops

The following spring 2011 workshops are being offered by CSU, Chico, Friends of the Herbarium. They all fall on Saturdays and will be 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 26.  Introduction to Lichen Identification. Tom Carlberg.
April 30.  Introduction to Keying the Fabaceae.
June 18.  Introduction to the Willows of California (Salicaceae). John Bair.

Jepson Herbarium Workshops

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is offering the following spring 2011 workshops. All require pre-registration and fees. Unless otherwise noted, workshops take place at UC Berkeley and surrounding areas. Details on the workshops can be found at http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/ For further information, contact jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu or 510/643-7008.

April 9-10.  A Crash Course in Flowering Plant Families. Linda Ann Vorobik.
May 6-8.  Flora of the Santa Cruz Sandhills. (Location: Ponderosa Lodge, Mount Hermon and field sites in Santa Cruz County.) Jodi McGraw and Randy Morgan.
May 20-22.  Mimulus. (Location: Sierra Nevada Research Institute Yosemite Field Station in Wawona.) Steve Schoenig.

Run for the Wild

Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Center (SWRR) is holding its 11th annual Run for the Wild—a 2-mile walk/run, and a 5-mile run—at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 2, at Anderson River Park. Come on out to walk or run in support of the SWRR!

For more information or to obtain an entry form, please contact Kim Stempn at 275-2816 or liveoak4@com-pair.net Due to the state of our economy, we reduced the entry fee to $15 for adults and $8 for those 18 and younger (there is a $5 late fee after March 26). Beautiful t-shirts are available for $8. All proceeds go directly to fund animal care (e.g., medications, food and supplies). Flyers will be available at the Redding YMCA and can be printed from the SWRR website (which also includes a list of small items needed for the upcoming spring baby bird season!) at www.shastawildliferescue.com

CNPS Workshops and Professional Training

The following are the spring 2011 CNPS workshop offerings. Discounted registration fees are offered to CNPS members. See http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/ for descriptions and registration. Please contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or 916/447-2677 ext. 205 for further information.

May 3-4.  Introduction to Riparian/Wetland Plant Identification. (Location: Ventura River and Casitas Springs Community Center.) David Magney with Cher Batchelor and David Brown.
June 7-9.  Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevê. (Location: Sonoma County.) Julie Evens and Deborah Stout.

Siskiyou Field Institute Events

The Siskiyou Field Institute is offering the following events in April and into May. All take place at the Deer Creek Center in Selma, Oregon. For further information, please visit their web site at www.thesfi.org, or contact the institute at 541/597-8530.

April 2-3:  Introduction to Bryology; $100.
April 9-10:  Leave No Trace Trainer Course; $100.
April 30 to May 1:  Ecological History of the Klamath-Siskiyous: A Landscape Approach; $100.
May 7:  Hiking and Botanizing on the Illinois River; $100.
Events of Others

March 5, Saturday. Intermountain Birding & Brunch. 9 AM to noon. $45; must RSVP. Fall River Mills & McArthur. Intermountain Fall River Branch of the American Association of University Women. 410-3027.

March 6, Sunday. Tour of Lower Bidwell Park Old Board of Forestry Trees and Plantations. 10 AM. Meet at Chico Creek Nature Center. Mt. Lassen CNPS. Wes: 342-2293.


March 11, Friday. Tree Tour of the CSU Chico Campus and Bidwell Mansion. 10 AM. Meet at Bidwell Mansion. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes: 342-2293.

March 12, Saturday. Hike in Upper Bidwell Park. 9:30 AM. Meet at Horseshoe Lake parking area E. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes: 342-2293; Gerry: 893-5123.


March 19, Saturday. Arbor Day Celebration. 11 AM to 2 PM. McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. 242-3178.

March 23-27, Wednesday to Sunday. San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. 10 AM to 7 PM Wednesday to Saturday and 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday. San Mateo Event Center. www.sfgardenshow.com; 415/684-7278 or 925/605-2923.

March 25, Friday. Tree Tour of the CSU Chico Campus and Bidwell Mansion. 10 AM. Meet at Bidwell Mansion. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes: 342-2293.

March 26, Sunday. Walk to see Plants that the Maidu used for Medicine, Crafts, and Food. 9 AM. Meet at Horseshoe Lake parking area E. Mt. Lassen CNPS. Wes: 342-2293.

March 26, Saturday. Presentation: Finding Your Way—Navigating with GPS. 10 AM. Meet at the parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273. Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve. 241-2026.

March 26, Saturday. Walk with the Horticulture Manager. 9:30 AM. Free. McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. 242-3178.


March 27, Sunday. Hike to see Spotted Fawn Lilies and McNab Cypress. 9 AM. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 99 & 32). Mt. Lassen CNPS. Gerry: 893-512.

April 2, Saturday. Hike: Boot’n on the (Sutter) Buttes. 10 AM. $25-$35. Shasta Land Trust. 241-7886.

April 8, Friday. Tree Tour of the CSU Chico Campus and Bidwell Mansion. 10 AM. Meet at Bidwell Mansion. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Wes: 342-2293.

April 9, Saturday. Second Saturday Bird Walk. 8 AM. Turtle Bay & Kutras Lake. Meet in the parking lot behind the monolith at Turtle Bay. Wintu Audubon Society. Bill Oliver: 941-7741.

April 9-10, Saturday to Sunday. Bear Valley Wildflower Tour. 9 AM. $25-$30; limited to 20 people. Shasta Land Trust. 241-7886.


April 14-16, Thursday to Saturday. Shasta College Spring Plant Sale. 8 AM-5 PM Thursday & Friday; 9 AM-3 PM Saturday. 242-7500.

April 14-20, Thursday to Wednesday. 16th Annual Godwit Days: California’s North Coast Spring Bird Migration Festival. Arcata. Registration required. 1-800-908-WING; www.godwitdays.com


April 17, Sunday. Walk with David Ledger: Clear Creek Wildflowers and Wild Plants. 10 AM. Meet at the parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273. Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve. 241-2026.


April 23, Saturday. 2011 Whole Earth and Watershed Festival. 10 AM to 3 PM. Redding City Hall Sculpture Park. Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. www.wholeeartheawardeshedfestival.org

April 29-May 2, Friday to Monday. 2011 Point Reyes Birding Festival. Registration required. 415/663-9312; www.pointreysbirdingfestival.org


April 30, Saturday. Spring Plant Sale. 9 AM to 3 PM. Turtle Bay/McConnell Arboretum. 242-3178.

May 1, Sunday. Birding with Barbara Peck: Early Bird Watchers. 8 AM. Meet at the parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273. Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve. 241-2026.

May 6-8, Friday to Sunday. California Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival. Crescent City. Registration required. 1-800-343-8300; www.calredwoodsbirdfest.org

A Good Resource

Another excellent resource for plant-related events in our area can be found on Doug Mandel’s website: shrb.blogspot.com Find fun and educational events, including Master Gardener’s and other organization’s meetings, classes, plant sales, and lectures.
March 5 Saturday
Fieldtrip. Walk along South Fork Mountain Road overlooking Whiskeytown Lake with great views of Shasta Bally. This area was severely burned during 2008 from escaped back fires started by CalFire and is an excellent place to observe the recovery of vegetation following a wildfire. This will be a 6-mile round trip walk with a gentle elevation climb through a variety of plants and habitats. Conifers range from knobcone pine and gray pine to sugar pine and ponderosa pine. Wildflowers should include showy phlox, Applegate’s paintbrush, Indian warrior, mule ears, wild iris and various lomatium. Meet at Redding City Hall’s south parking lot on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM. Bring umbrella if needed, but heavy rain cancels. For more information, contact Ken Kilborn at 355-8542.

March 17 Thursday
Chapter Meeting. Join our Shasta Chapter President Ken Kilborn for a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Identification of Common Wildflower Families of Northern California,” using examples of local wildflowers. Bring your Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers (Peterson field guide) to the meeting so that Ken can explain the families using the book’s key. Ken is a retired biology instructor from Shasta College, and will also be leading a fieldtrip on March 26 to some of his favorite wildflower locales. Meet at our new time and location: 7 PM at the Shasta College Health Science & University Programs building in downtown Redding, 1400 Market Street, Community Room 8220 (clock tower building at the north end of the Market Street Promenade; enter on south side of the building). A Board meeting will be held before the regular meeting, at 5:30 PM at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding.

March 19 Saturday
Fieldtrip. Join member David Fritchle for an early spring walk on the wild side of the Arboretum in Redding. David will lead the level, 2-mile paved loop walk around the Arboretum, and check out early bloomers, the Sulphur Creek drainage, the Sacramento River frontage and the recovery of the area after the summer 2008 wildfire. Meet at 9 AM at the north end of the Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay in Redding. Heavy rain cancels. Call David Fritchle at 246-4094 for details.

March 23 Wednesday
Plant Propagation Session. Two-hour work session starting at 2 PM at the Shasta College greenhouses. The greenhouses are located at the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We will be potting up any new materials you may bring, and rooted cuttings that we started in January and February. Bring rooted starter plants, clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.

March 26 Saturday
Fieldtrip. Join Ken Kilborn (retired Shasta College Biology/Botany instructor) on a car caravan to some of his favorite wildflower viewing areas. This trip will last approximately 4 hours, depending on the number of wildflowers in bloom. Bring lunch and water. Walking will be limited to ½ hour or so per stop. Meet in Redding at 9 AM at the south side of City Hall (Parkview Avenue side), 777 Cypress Avenue. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, call Ken at 221-2339.

April 2 Saturday
Fieldtrip. Take a wildflower walk at Salt Creek from Highway 299W to the Sacramento River Trail—a beautiful area in Redding’s own backyard. This trail follows a varied terrain with over 200 different species of plants that have been identified by CNPS member David Fritchle. This is a 4-mile downslope walk, but does cover rough terrain and requires some agility. We will meet at the Sacramento River Trail south side parking lot off Benton Drive at 9 AM and carpool to the trailhead. The Redding City Council approved a 450-parcel subdivision above the creek this year, so this may be the last spring to see the area in its undeveloped state. No dogs, please. For more information, call walk leader David Ledger at 355-8542.

April 14-16 Thursday-Saturday
Shasta College Spring Plant Sale. This 3-day spring extravaganza is from 8 AM to 5 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday, and will be held at the greenhouse/horticulture area of Shasta College. We will be selling our spring-blooming native plants, so call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 or Jay & Terri Thesken at 221-0906 to volunteer for a few hours to help out.

April 21 Thursday
Chapter Meeting. Eric Knapp, Research Ecologist with the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Redding, will give us a presentation on Natural Variation in Plant Populations, using beautiful photographs from his many trips in the California outdoors. Eric holds a BA in Biology, an MS in Agronomy, and a PhD in Genetics from UC Davis. Eric is also an avid hiker, backpacker, mountaineer and photographer with published work in the California Wilderness Record and Backpacker Magazine, in addition to his many scientific articles. Meet at our new time and location: 7 PM at the Shasta College Health Science & University Programs building in downtown Redding, 1400 Market Street, Community Room 8220 (clock tower building at the north end of the Market Street Promenade; enter on south side of the building). A Board meeting will be held before the regular meeting, at 5:30 PM at Angelo’s Pizza Parlour in the Foundry Square, 1774 California Street, Redding.

April 27 Wednesday
Plant Propagation/Clean-up Session. Two-hour work session starting at 2 PM at the Shasta College greenhouses. The greenhouses are located at the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We will be sprucing up, weeding, and potting up nursery starts and rooted cuttings. Bring rooted plants, clippers and any other tools you might need. Please call Susan Libonati at 347-4654 for further information.

April 29-30 Friday & Saturday
Turtle Bay McConnell Arboretum Spring Plant Sale. Turtle Bay/Arboretum Member Party & Pre-Sale is Friday, 4 to 8 PM, and the General Public Sale is Saturday, 9 AM to 3 PM, at the Arboretum, 1100 Arboretum Drive, Redding. We will have a booth and could use some volunteers to help staff it for a few hours! Call Ken Kilborn at 221-2339 or Jay & Terri Thesken at 221-0906 if you can help out with the booth.

May 8 Sunday
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 from 10 AM to 4 PM 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 (and it’s free!). If you would like to volunteer to help with the exhibit (Saturday or Sunday), or sell books and posters, please contact Jay & Terri Thesken at 221-0906 or Marla Knight at 468-1238.