President’s Message

Spring is around the corner. There is an abundance of Chapter activities scheduled for March, April, and early May. We need lots of volunteers to make these events successful.

Have a wonderful spring, and enjoy the wildflowers. ♢

-Ken Kilborn, Shasta Chapter President

Please note: my computer was hacked and a message soliciting money was sent to everyone in my contact list. Please remove any att.net e-mail address for me from your contact list and replace with my new address: ken.kilborn@gmail.com

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Chapter Members!

Djaunna Lankford, Yreka
Richard & Tammy Douse, Palo Cedro

Scholarships Available

Our annual Shasta Chapter CNPS Scholarship application period is quickly approaching. Any graduating high school or community college student from Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc, or Lassen counties who will be entering a 4-year university as 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. Recipients of this award are invited to our June meeting to meet and interact with our members.

Funding for our scholarships comes primarily from our plant sales. Generous members have also made specific donations to the scholarship program to promote our chapter’s educational goals.

Student applications will be available on our web site (shastacnps.org) and will be mailed to all local high schools and community colleges by the middle of April. Applications will also be available at our April 19 meeting. The application deadline is Friday, May 4. If you know of a student who qualifies for this scholarship in 2012, please call me at 221-0906 for more information. ♢

-Jay Thesken, Scholarship Committee Chair

A Botanist’s Bonanza!

Need the new name of a California native? Here’s the secret link! Just enter a name or list of names at this site and it will return the latest and greatest from the new Second Edition of The Jepson Manual! ♢

http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange/JMtoJMII.html
Shasta Chapter Writes for the RRS

Starting in March, the Shasta Chapter will sponsor a California native plant column in the Home & Garden section of the Redding Record Searchlight (RRS). This column will run on the first Saturday of every month. If you have a native plant that is dear to your heart, and that you would be willing to research and write about, let me know. Any native plant related topic is fair game. Topics could include (but are not limited to) water thriftiness of natives, growing a native plant from seed, propagating a specific plant from cuttings, fire resistant natives, etc.

Please submit topic of interest to me before writing the article. This will avoid any conflicting submissions. I will notify you if there is a conflict or not.

Articles should be around 500 words, preferably in an electronic format (MS Word .doc format or compatible). We also would like to have original photos of your topic. Again, these should preferably be digital .jpeg files of no less than 1 MB in size. If you need suitable photos to accompany your article, please ask. A number of our members have offered to provide original photos.

Once the article is written, please have it read by someone else for clarity and accuracy before submitting it. Once you are satisfied with you article, you may send it to me by e-mail at ken.kilborn@gmail.com if it is in digital format, or to the Shasta Chapter address, attention Ken Kilborn, if the article is hand-written or typed. Please send each photo in a separate e-mail. Once submitted, each article will be proofread for grammar and content by our member review committee.

Articles will be placed in the queue to be published in the order of submission (barring conflict with articles being written by Laura Christman of the RRS). Three topics are already in queue:

- March 3: pipevine (Richard Hayes)
- April 7: Pacific dogwood (Julie Nelson)
- May 5: California poppy. (Julie Nelson)

Special thanks to Doug Mandel for suggesting that we become involved in this project. These articles will help others become more aware of native plants and it will give our Shasta Chapter a more visible presence in the community. Please submit your topics soon to assure that this is a successful project, and do not hesitate to call me at 221-2339 for further information. ✿

-Ken Kilborn

2012 Native Plant Garden Tour

Our fourth Shasta Chapter native plant garden tour is scheduled for 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, May 5. Our past three garden tours have been very successful due a strong interest in our community for native plant gardening. Our garden tours have offered great inspiration to the public to make their own gardens more native, especially in the interest of water conservation. I have found that the general public is very receptive not only to our garden tours, but to our plant sales and nature walks, as well.

To date, the tour committee has selected four gardens for this year’s tour. A fifth garden is in the works but not confirmed. The gardens vary in size, shape, design, complexity, and age. There will be a plant sale at one of the gardens. Our plant propagation group is extremely active and will offer garden tour attendees a significant number of plants for sale. We will also sell native plant books, posters, and related materials at the plant sale site.

We are also pleased to once again feature members of the Wintu Audubon Society. They have generously donated their time to sit at some of the tour gardens and offer their expertise of our local bird populations. They also have informational items for sale, such as what native plants attract what types of birds. This is kind of a two-for-one deal.

The tour committee has continued the economically-based $5 each per ticket and $5 each for plants. Such a good deal for both. As a non-profit organization, a small part of the ticket and plant sale money goes into the tour’s ticket printing and promotion expenses. The largest part of the money goes into our Shasta Chapter scholarship and grant programs. Tickets will be available at local nurseries, beginning around mid-April.

This is also the time I wish to ask my fellow members to consider and plan volunteer time to help out at our garden tour. Mostly, we need help to sit at the gardens to greet our public guests, and to set up and oversee our plant sale. Whatever time you can spend will be much appreciated. I will bring a sign-up sheet to our next meeting. My e-mail address and phone number are listed below. Thank you all.

-Donal Jonio, Garden Tour Chair
221-4280; dfjonio@charter.net
Several Shasta Chapter members headed down to San Diego in January for the CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference, subtitled: Conserving and Restoring the Roots of California's Richness. It turned out to be a huge event, attracting 800 attendees. Even before the conference itself, there were two days of workshops and fieldtrips, plus a reception to celebrate the publication of The Jepson Manual Second Edition.

On each conference day, there were four or five different sessions to choose from, with presentations covering everything you could imagine: ecology of rare plants, vegetation mapping, invasive plants, CEQA updates, rare plant communities, renewable energy, fire ecology, habitat restoration, horticulture, tribal conservation, education, mitigation, and much more. There were region-focused sessions covering the whole of California and even slightly beyond, into Baja California; the highlight, of course, was Botanical Wonders of Northern California. One session gave students an opportunity to present their research. Hot topics were the latest in new software and online tools for identifying plants and the huge desert solar projects. On a lighter note, there were music and poetry sessions, silent auctions, and exhibitions of botanical art and photography. In between talks, there were several rooms of posters to browse. Each day featured a keynote speaker, topped off by Dr. Peter Raven, one of the world’s leading botanists.

A new event at this conference was the Public Day Program, a series of free talks and workshops designed to interest members of the public.

All in all, a memorable conference, and a huge thank you must go to the literally hundreds of organizers and volunteers.

-Margaret Widdowson

Propagation Report

We had three propagation sessions in January and February for our upcoming 2012 plant sales, including a session or two in the rain! In fall of 2011, after our last plant sale, we only had 560 plants left in our inventory, and now, only 5 months later, we are already back up to 1,600 plants, with more on the way. Great job on the part of all of our volunteer propagators. We also appreciate the numerous contributions of all of our plant, acorn, seed, and cutting suppliers. We couldn’t do it without all of you.

As a reminder, propagation sessions at the Shasta College horticulture area are now held on the Sundays following our regular Chapter meetings, at 10 AM. Upcoming propagation dates are March 18 and April 22. We can always use help, and it is a fun way to get your hands dirty and meet fellow CNPS-ers!

We will be selling California native plants at the April 13-14 McConnell Arboretum Spring Plant Sale, as well as at the Shasta College Spring Plant Sale on Thursday-Saturday, April 19-21 (See Calendar, page 8.) We will also have a select number of native plants for sale at the CNPS Native Garden Tour on Saturday, May 5. ♔

Donations Requested

The Sacramento River Discovery Center is searching for some regional native species to replace stock that has disappeared from its garden. If you are growing natives or have seeds to share, I have a list of desired species and would be very appreciative of any donations. (The list is not quite ready—still playing detective, looking for missing plants!) Please contact me at bhughel@tehamaed.org or 527-1196 for further information. Thank you! ♔

-Bobie Hughes, Volunteer Executive Director, Sacramento River Discovery Center

Feedback Needed

The CNPS Vegetation Program is querying Chapters to determine their interest in holding spring or summer workshops in their respective areas. The purpose of these workshops is to teach Chapter members how to sample rare vegetation types using their Releve and Rapid Assessment methods. The Shasta Chapter does not feel that there is enough interest in this sort of workshop in our area at this time, but wants to give members a chance to respond. Anyone who has input may contact Rare Plant Chair, Don Burk, at 347-0849. ♔

-L to r: Terri Thesken, Karen Little and Margaret Widdowson at a Shasta College propagation session, February 19.
**Fieldtrip Follow-ups**

**Chamise Peak Clamber**
A break in January weather brought out six participants to the Chamise Peak Trail north of Redding. The trail starts in a blue oak-gray pine woodland and alternates through chaparral and canyon live oak in an area that appears to have gone without a fire for at least 60 years, with very tall whiteleaf manzanita and a few live and dead knobcone pines. The lack of chamise along the trail indicates that it may have been overgrown by the dense whiteleaf manzanita. At the top of the peak, we had views of Mount Shasta, Shasta Lake, and snow-covered mountains to the west.  

- David Ledger

**Traversing the Crystal Creek Ditch Trail**
Twenty walkers, most of whom were new to CNPS, came out for this level two-mile amble at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Several Shasta College botany students from Susannah Fulton’s botany class joined the walk. As this trail is in a shaded riparian area, many deciduous shrubs and trees had just started to leaf out, making identification difficult. However, we were able to use old leaves and seeds remaining on the plants to identify them. The trail transitioned from buckbrush and gray pine at the trailhead, to white alder, bigleaf maple, and scouring rush at the end. This February 11 walk took a little over two hours.  

- David Ledger

**Cloverdale Loop Lope**
A sunny, cool winter morning greeted a record number of 24 hikers on Saturday, February 18, for a two-mile early-blooming wildflower jaunt on the Cloverdale Loop Trail in the foothills southwest of Redding. We hiked to the scenic overlook of Clear Creek and Mule Mountain Ridge, through foothill oak-pine woodland. With this season’s noticeable lack of rain, we only saw a few wildflowers. These included whiteleaf manzanita in full bloom, pipevine, some shooting stars, a couple of saxifrage, yellow sanicle, Indian warrior, only two mission bells, and one buttercup! Potential bloomers that weren’t out yet, but should be in the next few weeks, included poppy, soap plant, woolly sunflower, lupine, lonicera, yarrow, brodiaea, and fawn lily. Trees and shrubs included canyon live oak, interior live oak, blue oak, black oak, Oracle oak, willow, an incense cedar, grey pine, buckeye, buttonwillow, poison oak (lots of it!), keckelia, coffeeberry, greenleaf manzanita and whiteleaf manzanita.  

- Terri Thesken
Chico Herbarium Workshops

The following 2012 workshops are being offered by CSU, Chico, Friends of the Herbarium 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

April 27. Reproductive Biology of Table Mountain Wildflowers. Adrienne Edwards and Rob Schlising

Cal-IPC’s Field Courses

The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) is offering two field courses for 2012. For course details and registration, please visit www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/ Contact Jen Stern at jrstern@cal-ipc.org or the Cal-IPC main office at 510/843-3902 for further information.

April 24-26
Ben Lomond, Santa Cruz County
Ben Lomond Quaker Center
April 24: Invasive Plant Biology & Identification
April 25: Invasive Plant Control Methods
April 26: Mapping Invasive Plants

June 5-7
Idyllwild, Riverside County
James San Jacinto Mountains UC Natural Reserve
June 5: Strategic Approaches to Invasive Plant Management
June 6: Invasive Plant Biology & Identification
June 7: Invasive Plant Control Methods

Siskiyou Field Institute Events

The Siskiyou Field Institute, based out of Deer Creek Center in Selma, Oregon, is offering the following two-day classes. Reservations are required. For further information, please visit their web site at www.thesfi.org or contact the institute at 541/597-8530.

March 24-25: Introduction to Bryophytes with Scot Loring; $100.
March 28-29: Survey and Manage: Bryophytes and Lichens with Scot Loring; $150.
April 14-15: Introduction to Lichens with Daphne Stone; $150.
March 3, Saturday. Upper Yahi Trail Hike in Bidwell Park. 9:30 AM. Meet at Horseshoe Lake in parking lot E in lower Bidwell Park, Chico. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Wes Dempsey (342-2293) & Gerry Ingco (893-5123). (See Calendar, page 8.)

March 9-10, Friday-Saturday. Arbor Day Celebration. 9 AM to 3 PM. Turtle Bay Exploration Park: 242-3145.

March 9-23, Fridays. Friday Tree Tours on the CSU, Chico, Campus. 10 AM. Meet at Bidwell Mansion. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS: Wes Dempsey (342-2293) & Gerry Ingco (893-5123).

March 10, Saturday. Second-Saturday Bird Walk at Turtle Bay. 8 AM. Meet in the parking lot behind the monolith. Wintu Audubon Society: Bill Oliver (941-7741).


March 15, Thursday. Local Weekday Bird Walk at Lema Ranch. 8 AM. Meet at the north parking lot off Hemingway Street in Redding. Wintu Audubon Society: Bill Oliver (941-7741).


March 21-25, Wednesday-Sunday. San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. 10 AM to 7 PM Wed-Sat; 10 AM to 6 PM Sun. San Mateo Event Center. 415/684-7278 or 925/605-2923. www.sfgardenshow.com


March 24, Saturday. Bird Walk at Anderson River Park. 8 AM. Meet in the parking lot next to the park amphitheater. Wintu Audubon Society: Bill Oliver (941-7741).

Call for Volunteers

You may have noticed that we have quite the line-up of Chapter events this spring! With the April 13-14 Spring Plant Sale at the Arboretum, the April 19-21 Spring Plant Sale at Shasta College, the CNPS booth at the Whole Earth and Watershed Festival on April 28, the Native Garden Tour on May 5, and the May 13 Mother’s Day Wildflower Show in Yreka, we’ll need lots of members to help out with these events! Typically, volunteering involves setting up, staffing 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 & Terri Thesken at 221-0906 or thesken@snowcrest.net, or Ken Kilborn at 221-2339 to sign up. We will also have sign-up sheets at the Chapter meetings and propagation sessions.

Still Looking for Leaders

We could still use some volunteers to lead fieldtrips, especially those of you who have led walks before. If anyone would like to lead a walk for the first time, we could arrange for a co-leader to help allay first-time jitters. Interested parties, please call me at 355-8542.

-David Ledger, Fieldtrip Chair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Carpool to Chico to join the Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS walk on the Upper Yahi Creek Trail in Bidwell Park to view early spring wildflowers. We will meet at the Redding City Hall south parking lot on Parkview Avenue at 8 AM. Bring good hiking boots, water, and lunch. No dogs, please. For more information, call David Ledger at 355-8542.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Join our long-time Shasta Chapter member Wayne Steffes for a presentation of his best nature photos from various locations in the north state, including Lassen Volcanic National Park. Wayne does extensive exploring in our beautiful area, and his photos are award-winning proof that we are lucky to live here. Meet at 7 PM at the Shasta College Health Science &amp; 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join Jay &amp; Terri Thesken for a 5-mile level hike on the Iron Canyon Trail of the Sacramento River Bend BLM area north of Red Bluff. This bluff-top trail guarantees spectacular views of the Paynes Creek area, the Sacramento River, and surrounding mountains. We should see some early spring bloomers at this lower elevation. Meet at 9 AM at the Redding City Hall parking lot on Parkview Avenue. Or, meet in Red Bluff at 9:45 AM at the Holiday Market parking lot on Antelope Boulevard. Bring good hiking boots, water, and lunch. No dogs, please. Call Jay &amp; Terri at 221-0906 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td><strong>Plant Propagation Session.</strong> Two-hour work session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. The greenhouses are located at the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We will be weeding and potting up rooted cuttings that we started in January and February. Bring rooted plants, 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join Don Burk on a poke-along through some local vernal pools. Destination to be determined, depending on what is blooming in the Redding/Red Bluff areas. Most likely, we will caravan to several different vernal pools, all of which will be off-trail, so expect uneven terrain and, with any luck, wet feet! Meet at 9 AM at the Redding City Hall south parking lot on Parkview Avenue. No dogs, please. Please call Don at 347-0849 for further information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13-14</td>
<td><strong>Turtle Bay McConnell Arboretum Spring Plant Sale.</strong> We could use some volunteers to staff the booth for a few hours! The Turtle Bay/Arboretum Member Party &amp; Pre-Sale is Friday, 5 PM to 8 PM; the General Public Sale is Saturday, 9 AM to 2 PM. Both will be held at the arboretum nursery, 1100 Arboretum Drive, Redding. Call Ken Kilborn at 221-2339 to volunteer to help out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip.</strong> Join Jay &amp; Terri Thesken for an 8- to 9-mile hike to the Yana Trail area of the Sacramento River Bend Recreation Area north of Red Bluff. The bluffs adjacent to the Sacramento River are typically covered with wildflowers at this time of year. This will be a long, all-day hike that requires good hiking boots, water, and lunch. No dogs, please. Space will be limited, so call Jay &amp; Terri at 221-0906 for time, directions, and further information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting.</strong> Mike Magnuson, wildlife biologist with Lassen Volcanic National Park, will present Pikas in Peril, a pilot study program in Lassen Park. Mike holds a BS in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State and has been managing this project for several years. Since many of our summer fieldtrips are in Lassen Park, we have a particular interest in this tiny, cute critter and its shrinking habitat. Meet at 7 PM at the Shasta College Health Science &amp; 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19-21</td>
<td><strong>Shasta College Spring Plant Sale.</strong> This 3-day spectacular spring plant sale will be held at the greenhouse/horticulture area of Shasta College. We will be selling our spring-blooming native plants, so call Jay &amp; Terri Thesken at 221-0906 to volunteer for a few hours to help out. Set-up is on Wednesday, April 18, from 4 PM to 6 PM. The plant sale is 8 AM to 5 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>