President’s Message

Prior to our Fall 2013 Plant Sale, Susan Gallaugher worked tirelessly to create a series of spreadsheets displaying the characteristics of the plants sold at our plant sales. These spreadsheets will help customers determine which plants are best for their particular garden situations. These lists are available on the Shasta Chapter’s website (www.shastacnps.org) under Plant Sales > Plant Charts by Growth Habit. The charts available are: full lists by scientific name and common name; trees; shrubs; herbaceous perennials; groundcovers; vines; and grasses, rushes, and sedges, followed by abbreviations and definitions used in the charts. Thank you Susan for the many hours spent making these professional looking spreadsheets.

Shasta Chapter members have written excellent articles, accompanied by great photographs, that appear the first Saturday of the month in the Redding Record Searchlight’s Home and Garden section and on www.redding.com under Lifestyles > All Home and Garden. Up until April 2013, full access was given to view these articles. Since then, only paid subscribers can access the full article. With the formatting help of Laurie Burk, our Firecracker newsletter editor, we have been able to republish these entire articles with their high quality photos on our own website. Thanks, Laurie.

Thanks to all the chapter volunteers who have made our activities fun and successful.

- Ken Kilborn, President, Shasta Chapter CNPS

Fall 2013 Plant Sale Results

The annual Fall Pre-Sale and Plant Sale at Shasta College on October 11 and 12 was busy and productive. We had a great amount of volunteers, not only throughout the summer in preparation for the sale, but also during the two-hour work party before the pre-sale on the 11th. Everyone weeded, swept, labeled, placed signs, and made our growing area look great before buyers piled in on Friday afternoon. The Saturday plant sale was somewhat slower than in past years, but we still managed to sell a total of 583 plants and 9 books over the 2 days. Many of our helpers gave out valuable plant information, growing tips, and recommendations for buyers’ home gardens. (See photo, page 4.) We are now down to 530 plants in our inventory (after a high of nearly 2,500 in April), so propagation for the April 2014 Spring Plant Sale is currently under way!

The funds from these plant sales go to our scholarship program (we were able to give out four $1,500 scholarships this year), to our Acorn Grant/Oak Tree Grant programs and, in addition, to a new $1,000 research grant to Northern California Botanists.

Many thanks go to our dedicated propagators and other members who insure the success of these plant sales. We could never do it without such great help. Thank you!

Please feel free to join us at Shasta College for the upcoming propagation sessions in November and December. (See calendar, page 6.)

-Terri Thesken, Plant Propagation Manager
CNPS Plants in Redding's New Parks

If you haven’t already been, you may want to check out two of Redding’s newest riverside park/open space areas. California native plants from Shasta Chapter CNPS have been planted in both Turtle Bay East (at the north end of Bechelli Lane, on the east side of the Highway 299 bridge across the Sacramento River) and in the Henderson Open Space, west of the Raley’s store on Hartnell Avenue. Turtle Bay East has a pollinator garden with many of our chapter’s plants that attract butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and other pollinators. Henderson Open Space was the recipient of an Oak Tree grant from the chapter, and about 50 California native plants from CNPS have been planted in this riparian riverside park. The chapter appreciates Randy Smith and the City of Redding’s Terry Hanson for using California native plants to educate the public about these important river resource areas.

Y-Terri Thesken

Scholarship Fund Donation

Many thanks go to Carl Wulfestieg for his recent donation to the Shasta Chapter Scholarship Fund. This fund primarily comes from our annual plant sales, and funds scholarships for students going into 4-year universities or colleges, studying the life sciences. This year, Shasta Chapter was able to fund four $1,500 scholarships and a $1,000 research grant.  

-Jay Thesken

A Native Plant Trip to New Mexico

Four Shasta Chapter CNPS members, Bud & Margaret Widdowson and Jay & Terri Thesken, traveled to New Mexico in September for the annual meeting of the national Eriogonum Society. The four-day meeting entailed lectures, labs for species identification, and two all-day fieldtrips to remote parts of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah in the Four-Corners region to see over 13 species of Eriogonum (buckwheat). In addition to renowned botanists and buckwheat experts from throughout the United States, we were also fortunate to have a Navajo ethnobotanist who escorted us into the Navajo Reservation for a look at species that only occur there. If you are interested in learning more about the Eriogonum Society, their website is www.eriogonum.org

Y-Terri Thesken

Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve

Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve (HCCP) still has vacancies on its Board of Directors. If you are interested in a Board position with this worthy organization, please contact Cathy Scott at 241-2026, or e-mail her at horsetownhccp@gmail.com

Upcoming events at the preserve include:

November 3, Sunday, 1 PM
Gold Rush History Walk
With HCCP Board member, Cathy Scott.

November 10, Sunday, 1 PM
Acorns: A Native American Staple
With native Wintu herbalist, Ted Dawson.

For all events, meet at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273, just west of the Clear Creek bridge. All events are free. Please call 241-2026 for further information.

CHICO HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

The following fall 2013 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


SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE EVENTS

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


November 8–10. Mushrooms! David Lebo; $140.

FIELDTRIP FOLLOW-UPS

NATIVE PLANTS OF THE REDDING ARBORETUM WALK

Despite clouds and rainy skies, 14 people showed up for a walk around the Redding Arboretum on September 21. We identified plants ranging from common oaks such as interior live oak, valley oak, and blue oak, to plants such as creeping and common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis* and *S. albus*, respectively), vinegar weed (*Trichostemma lanceolatum*), and common spikeweed (*Hemizonia pungens*). We also saw many indigo bushes (*Amorpha californica*; see article “An Aside” and photo on page 4.).

After walking along the trails with ever-increasing rainfall, Doug Mandel took us around the new native plant garden. Just as we finished the tour (down to seven wet participants in the rain at this time), it started pouring rain and ended our outing. A plant list of selected common plants in the arboretum was provided to participants.

-David Ledger

CAMDEN HOUSE—MILL CREEK TRAIL HIKE

This was a beautiful, mostly level three-mile riparian walk along Clear Creek and Mill Creek near the Camden House at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area on Saturday, September 28. Fourteen people participated, including one student from Susannah Fulton’s botany class at Shasta College. Among the plants we saw were blackfruit dogwood, snowdrop bush, western serviceberry, creeping snowberry, spice bush, mock orange, skunk brush, clematis, greenbriar, wild ginger, Sierra gooseberry, oceanspray, and still-blooming Indian pink and common madia (*Madia elegans*). Plants with feet wet along the riparian area included umbrella plant, tiger lilies, California spikenard, and many chain ferns. A plant list was provided to participants.

-David Ledger

Fieldtrip Follow-Ups continued on page 4.
SALT CREEK HIKE

This fall fieldtrip on Saturday, October 19, followed lower Salt Creek from Highway 299 to the Sacramento River Trail and back. This is a riparian area with Salt Creek mostly dry this time of year except for a few scattered pools of water. The surrounding hillsides are blue oak-gray pine woodland with an understory of chaparral. Much of the trail is in the shade along the north face of a hillside below a soon to be built 400-unit housing development. Eleven homes will be built on very steep hillsides above Salt Creek, a salmon and steelhead trout bearing stream, necessitating the clearing of most of the native trees and shrubs below the homes for fire safety. Sixteen people went on the walk and each was given an extensive plant list compiled by CNPS member David Fritchle, who helped identify plants along the trail. As many participants were somewhat new to native plants, we concentrated on identifying common plants along the trail to see how well they had learned the plants. Most passed.

-Y-David Ledger

AN ASIDE ON ALICE EASTWOOD

There are a number of shrubs of indigo bush (*Amorpha californica*), Fabaceae family, along the trails at the Redding Arboretum. This species has many herbarium specimens from Shasta County dating back to 1912 (many from Kennett, now under Shasta Lake.) The first two were collected by Alice Eastwood, a pioneering woman botanist who collected two specimens in the Montgomery Creek area.

Eastwood graduated from high school in 1879 as valedictorian, and taught at her alma mater; however, she did not go on to college to seek a formal degree, but taught herself botany. Her plant collections and knowledge so impressed the California Academy of Sciences that by 1894 she became Curator and Head of the Department of Botany. She is credited with saving some 1,500 type specimens from the California Academy of Science collection during the San Francisco 1909 earthquake-related fires. She discovered a number of California native plants and 17 species are named after her as well as the genera *Eastwoodia* and *Aliciella.* She did extensive collecting of specimens throughout North America, including Shasta County. In 1950 at the age of 90, she retired from her position at the Academy. She lived from 1859 to 1953.

-Y-David Ledger

Annual Fall Plant Sale on October 12. Photo by Jay Thesken.

Fieldtrip leader David Ledger (far right, facing camera) instructing hikers at Salt Creek on October 19. Photo by Susan Gallaugher.

Unofficial official Shasta Chapter photographer, Susan Gallaugher, caught doing one of the many things she excels at. Susan is also our Membership Chair and is the author of the new Plant Charts posted on the web. Here she is shooting mountain mahogany on the Salt Creek fieldtrip of October 19. Photo by Doug Mandel.


Buckeye seeds on the Salt Creek hike of October 19. Photo by Susan Gallaugher.
Exciting news: for the first time in our history, the California Native Plant Society now has a full-time staff Horticulture Program Director! CNPS sought a Horticulture Program Director who could help chart the course of California’s oldest native plant gardening program, and ultimately selected Susan Krzywicki.

Susan comes from our San Diego chapter, where she helped to grow that chapter’s amazing horticulture program. She worked to build a successful garden tour, deliver training symposia, and otherwise engage thousands of San Diegans in growing native plants. While doing all this, Susan has also helped other groups (such as Surfrider Foundation, San Diego County Water Authority, and Port of San Diego) in their work in adopting and promoting California native plant horticulture.

CNPS has worked for decades to grow interest in gardening and landscaping with California native plants. This is one of our keynote successes. Now, the Horticulture Program is ramping up, and we are looking forward to input from members throughout the state. If you want to learn more about the program or have suggestions, please e-mail Susan at skrzywicki@cnps.org.

Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory

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

2013 OFFICERS
PRESIDENT – Ken Kilborn (221-2339; ken.kilborn@gmail.com)
VICE PRESIDENT – Robin Fallscheer (225-2311)
TREASURER – Terri Thesken (221-0906)
SECRETARY – Margaret Widdowson (223-4732)
CONSERVATION CHAIR – David Ledger (355-8542)
FIELDTRIP CHAIR – David Ledger (355-8542)
GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR – Donal Jonio (221-4280)
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Susan Gallaugher (246-3815)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Laurie Burk (347-0849)
PLANT PROPAGATION MANAGER – Terri Thesken (221-0906)
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Jay Thesken (221-0906)
WEB MASTER – Ken Kilborn (221-2339; ken.kilborn@gmail.com)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip: Brandy Creek Falls</strong>. This is an easy, four-mile, largely shaded round-trip hike to Brandy Creek Falls at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. A good portion of the trail is under a dense canopy of tanoak with little understory. This is a good example of plant succession following clear-cut logging of the area in the early 1960s. Walk leader David Ledger will identify many riparian plants along the trail, and a plant list will be provided to participants. Meet at Redding City Hall’s south parking lot on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM. No dogs, please. For more information, call David at 355-8542.</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip: Oregon Gulch Outing</strong>. This fieldtrip will be on 385 acres of City of Redding owned land in southwest Redding. Seven organizations in the area, including the Shasta Chapter CNPS, are advocating keeping this land as open space, preserved as a natural area. This area is gray pine-blue oak woodland with extensive chaparral and a riparian stream that is federally listed for steelhead trout. We will walk the length of the area and identify plants along the way. This hike will be 3 to 4 miles, mostly level but on uneven, undeveloped trails, steep in a few areas, with a 200 ft. elevation climb to great views of western mountains. Meet at Redding City Hall parking lot on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM to carpool to the trailhead. No dogs, please. For more information call David Ledger at 355-8542.</td>
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<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Meeting</strong>. Join Shasta Chapter members Jay &amp; Terri Thesken for a photo presentation of their month-long trip to Chile in March 2013. Jay &amp; Terri covered about one-third of this very long country and saw fantastic forests of Araucaria, or monkey puzzle, trees as well as several Nothofagus (beech) species and other plants foreign to us. 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 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>
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<td>Nov. 24</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, potting up, and propagating cuttings and seeds. Any propagative material or California native plants you may want to donate are always appreciated! Please call Jay &amp; Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for further information.</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip: Sacramento River Bend Recreation Area Hike</strong>. This will be a hike of about 4 miles in the Sacramento River Bend Recreation Area south of Battle Creek, featuring open grassland, blue oak woodland, and riparian areas. Some parts of the trails are fairly rough and will require balance and agility. Meet at Redding City Hall’s south parking lot on Parkview Avenue at 9 AM. No dogs, please. For more information, call David Ledger at 355-8542.</td>
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<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td><strong>Plant Propagation Session</strong>. Even though there is no chapter meeting in December, we will still have a propagation session. Join us for a two-hour work session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses. We will be propagating cuttings and seeds; donations of California native species are welcome. The greenhouses are located near the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. Please call Jay &amp; Terri Thesken at 221-0906 for further information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td><strong>Fieldtrip: New Year’s Day Westside Trail Hike</strong>. Start the New Year off right with an easy-to-moderate 4- to 5-mile walk starting at Mary Lake and proceeding up the Westside Trail through chaparral and oak woodland. We should see manzanita, coyote brush, Indian warrior, and hound’s tongue starting to bloom. We will identify many different plants typical of chaparral and oak woodlands. There are great views of Redding and surrounding areas at the top of the trail. Meet at 9 AM at Mary Lake and Lakeshore drives. No dogs, please. For more information, call David Ledger at 355-8542.</td>
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**No chapter meeting in December. See you in the New Year!**

**A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Chapter Members!**

Judy Mauzey, Redding
Randall Smith, Redding
Michele Swartout, Red Bluff