PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The end of fall and the beginning of winter is an interesting time to be a native-plant lover. Showy displays and bright colors of flowering plants are done. In most cases, seeds have dropped. Grasses have turned brown. And many of those special places that we hold dear have lost that extra shine that spring and summer bring. Luckily, manzanitas, conifer trees, and live oaks can hold us over until spring!

As things wind down out there in the natural world, it’s nice to have the time and space to turn to Shasta CNPS activities that focus more on the human environment.

Rare plant conservation work has David Ledger, Don Burk and others busy reviewing City development plans. They are hard at work supporting the conservation of a local Redding endemic plant, Brodiaea matsonii. (Read article on page 3 to see how you can help!)

Our fall plant sale, spearheaded by Terri Thesken and accomplished by many other volunteers, occurred last month. This event helps Shasta CNPS bring native plants and all their benefits into local yards, helping to connect that natural world and the human environment. (See article, page 2.)

Speakers Steve Buckley and Steve Schoenig gave two amazing talks at recent Chapter meetings, connecting collections of native plants in the wild with modern computer systems. Computer programs such as Public Lands Flora and Consortium of California Herbaria have allowed for increased understanding of native plants and their natural systems, not to mention all the ways these sort of computer systems can raise new, interesting, and important questions.

Through the winter, I hope you can find a way to connect with CNPS—through those few plants we can admire through the winter months, or through the myriad activities in the human environment that help to move forward the organization’s goals. And along the way, you’ll make new friends who you just know you’ll be able to call up to go on a botany-intensive hike whenever you want! ☃

-Laura Brodhead, President, Shasta Chapter CNPS

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID FRITCHELE

SEPTEMBER 14, 1938—OCTOBER 6, 2017

The Shasta Chapter CNPS is profoundly saddened to report the sudden passing of longtime member David Fritchle.

Born in Denver, Colorado, David came to California to work in engineering, and retired to Redding in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Janni, daughter, Melissa, and sister, JoAnn.

David was fondly known as the Grass Man due to his special interest and expertise in native grasses. He was passionate about bringing the land back to its natural state, and was a very active member of the Shasta Chapter CNPS.

In honor of one of our most beloved members, the Chapter will dedicate next year’s scholarship in David’s name.
**Native Plant Sale Results**

Our annual fall pre-sale and plant sale at Shasta College on October 13 and 14, respectively, resulted in the sale of a total of 445 California native plants! We had 18 helpers show up at the work party on the afternoon of the Friday pre-sale, and another 15 helpers for the Saturday 6-hour public sale. A lot of good information was given out at the sales about our California native plants. Many of the buyers had been inspired by the CNPS Garden Tour on April 29 this year, and were looking to buy native plants to replace the lawns they removed this summer. Many buyers were also impressed by the new Native Landscape Planting Guide that was provided by the Chapter and the State office of CNPS. The brochure is specific to our Chapter area and has great ideas for garden landscapes using our local native plants.

Many thanks to our dedicated 2017 propagators and other CNPS members who insure the success of these plant sales by their countless hours of help *all* year long. 🌼

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**Return of the Salmon Festival**

Not many salmon returned to the Coleman Fish Hatchery this year, nor did the large crowds of people who usually attend. However, our Shasta Chapter was there for the first time, on Saturday, October 21, and it was a valuable learning experience.

This is an easy way to have a presence at an important event like this. The US Fish and Wildlife Service provided all of the tables, chairs, and canopies, so it only required our taking a couple boxes of material to the site and arriving at 8:30 am. We had a display of acorns in the different sub-genera of *Quercus*, buckeye seeds, and many conifer cones.

There were many children, more than at the Watershed Festival, and many booths had displays to attract them. Wintu Audubon helped children make quail whistles out of clothespins; Shasta College Natural Resource Club had a spinning wheel, where children could earn a piece of candy if they could name the animal the wheel landed on. Variations of this concept were used by Sierra Club and other groups.

We did hand out our limited literature to adults as well as newsletters and CNPS business cards. One teacher asked if we could lead a fieldtrip or speak to a class for children about native plants, which *David Ledger* agreed to. *Doug Mandel, Vickie Hall, Ashton Smith,* and *David Ledger* volunteered at this event and were invaluable help. This seems to be a worthwhile and easy, low-effort outreach for the Chapter to use in the future. 🌼

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*David Ledger,*
Conservation Chair
NEW RELEASE: Northern California Grass Key

The Identification Key to the Grasses of Northern California and Northwestern Nevada is the most comprehensive and up to date tool for identifying all the grasses known to occur in this part of California, from Lake and Placer counties north, and in Washoe and Humboldt counties, Nevada. This key provides a different approach than The Jepson Manual key and includes some rare weeds not covered in that standard reference.

The key was written by the Carex Working Group (CWG), known for its field and herbarium work on sedge and grass taxonomy and biogeography, and their many workshops to teach identification skills for these plant groups. The CWG is also the author of The Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest.

This key provides the common and scientific names (with authors) for each species. Names used in both The Jepson Manual (version 2) and USDA PLANTS Flora of North America are provided where they differ. The booklet also includes illustrations of basic grass morphology, a glossary, and recommended resources for grass identification.

Prices for a single copy are: $20 + $7 shipping and handling for a hard copy, $35 (includes shipping and handling) for a hard copy plus a PDF for personal use, and $10 for a PDF for personal use alone. Agencies wanting a multi-use license should contact us for a price. To order, please contact the Carex Working Group at cwg@peak.org or 541/760-1311.

-Carex Working Group

HELP SAVE THE RARE REDDING BRODIAEA

The Shasta Chapter of CNPS is appealing a Planning Commission decision that may affect the rare Sulphur Creek Brodiaea (Brodiaea matsonii) at the December 19 Redding City Council meeting.

Sulphur Creek Brodiaea is one of the rarest plants in California. It only grows in one place in the world—in the streambed of upper Sulphur Creek in Redding. The plant grows immediately upstream of the Vistas Subdivision, which was approved in February 2000; surveys have not been conducted to determine exactly where the plant grows in relationship to the subdivision site. Only two sections of the subdivision have been completed. The Use Permit for the final two sections of the subdivision was up for renewal before the Planning Commission on August 22. The Shasta Chapter asked that additional studies be conducted to evaluate potential effects of the subdivision on the rare plant, but our request was denied. We are appealing based on the fact that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations require a new environmental study when significant new information is discovered. As the plant was not known as a distinct and rare species until 2010, it was obviously not considered in the City’s 17-year-old environmental study. This new information requires a new environmental study.

As part of the mission of CNPS is to preserve native plants and their habitats, it is important for us to let the City know that they need to insure that this plant does not become extinct due to short-term economic considerations.

We are asking all CNPS members and supporters to write letters to the Redding City Council urging them to insure that all CEQA regulations are followed to make sure that this rare plant does not become extinct. For samples of letters to write, please look on our website or contact me at dledger@sbcglobal.net. The City Council meeting starts at 6 PM on Tuesday, December 19, and your attendance, and especially your statements, are important.

-David Ledger, Conservation Chair

FIELDTRIP FOLLOW-UPS

KaNaKa PeaK, September 23

This seven-mile, out-and-back hike to the top of Kanaka Peak in the southern part of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area did not have many blooming wildflowers (just California goldenrod, mountain sage, slenderstem lessingia, Spanish lotus, and mugwort), but it did have varied habitats and great views. From the top of Kanaka Peak we could see Sutter Buttes, the Cascade and Sierra mountains, Yolla Bolly mountains, Mt. Shasta, and Whiskeytown Lake, as well as Igo, Ono, and the Bald Hills. This trail features populations of tanoak, ponderosa pine, canyon live oak, and black oak, with scattered incense-cedar, interior live oak, and, in riparian areas, white alder and bigleaf maple, with many Pacific dogwood in the understory and even Shasta maidenhair fern near the top. The trail is well maintained and most of the climb is gentle, so it was not a difficult hike. Eight intrepid people showed up on this fieldtrip and enjoyed lunch at the top. Very few people were on this trail so for most of the hike we had it to ourselves. Thanks to Chris Harvey for his help identifying a few unknown wildflowers on the trail.

-Desmond Ledger

Fieldtrip Follow-ups continued on page 4.
FIELDTRIP FOLLOW-UPS, CONTINUED

WHISKEYTOWN WATER DITCH TRAIL, OCTOBER 1

This used to be a beautiful walk in a riparian area overlooking Crystal Creek—cool even in summer, with a canopy of trees providing shade, and evaporation from the rapidly flowing Crystal Creek taking heat up into the atmosphere, out of the canyon.

Unfortunately, while the trail is still beautiful, many of the trees have died and were removed by the Park Service after Crystal Creek canyon was flooded when a huge valve for the water pipe running from Trinity Lake to Whiskeytown Lake at Carr Powerhouse broke. This valve is located just upstream from Crystal Creek Falls, and when the torrent of water rushed downstream, it damaged the little diversion area that routes water into Crystal Creek Ditch. Rather than using sand bags or other means to temporarily divert water into the ditch and provide water for the trees in the hot summer, the Park Service closed the trail for several years before restoring the diversion. In the interim, many trees died and have been removed, resulting in a much sunnier trail.

The trail used to start with a gently sloping switchback leading from the parking lot to the ditch, and allowed easy trailside identification of Brewer’s oak and other common chaparral shrubs. For some reason, this part of the trail was removed and replaced by large wood squares filled with uneven cobble. Steep steps now lead down to the water ditch. One member of our group fell on this section but wasn’t injured.

Despite this, the twelve of us did enjoy seeing a plant new to many of us—musk monkeyflower (Mimulus moschatus)—not a rare flower, but uncommon in Shasta County. Thanks to Chris Harvey for keying this out. The plant has a yellow corolla, with a leaf that has a very hairy upper surface, while the underside of the leaf feels like a thin cooking oil or WD40, a key aid in identification. Other plants on the trail included canyon live oak, ponderosa pine, white alder, bigleaf maple, Douglas-fir, and incense-cedar in the canopy, with an understory of spicebush, mock orange, deerbrush, California hazelnut, Pacific dogwood, black-fruited dogwood, redbud, Douglas spirea, thimbleberry, skunk brush, snowdrop bush, and oceanspray, among many others. Five-fingered fern, fragile fern, western serviceberry, Klamath plum, and red-osier dogwood appear to have been eliminated by trail renovations. Despite numerous cuttings of western azalea over the last few years, a few determined individuals still keep re-sprouting. One or two days before our fieldtrip, Park Service employees took a weed whacker and cut every single California goldenrod on the trail, as well as a number of other natives. A lesson to land managers everywhere: make sure all employees working on trails, including supervisors, have knowledge of native plants. The Himalayan blackberries are still thick and thriving. Nonetheless, this is still a beautiful trail any time of year and worth the drive.

- David Ledger

DRY FORK TRAIL, OCTOBER 15

Dry Fork Trail next to Lake Shasta certainly lived up to its name as the lack of any significant rain since our wet winter and spring was evident, especially affecting Lemmon’s ceanothus and white-leaved manzanita. However, because of the changing aspect of the trail and wet springs in the various canyons we traversed, we were able to see Shasta maidenhair fern, chain fern, wild raspberry, California bay, and white alder in the damp canyons. The trail also has a small forest of Spanish broom and Scotch broom with many patches of Himalayan blackberry. The black willows (Salix gooddingii) and the buttonwillows below the trail in the lake bed still had lush green foliage over most of the area.

Counting internodes on the ponderosa and knobcone pines, we were able to determine that a fire had crossed the trail at 7- and 14-year intervals, possibly longer in other areas. The large ponderosa pines and Douglas-firs were little affected by the fires. We did not see any gray pines on the trail, either as a result of too frequent fires or previous die-off from old smelters in the area, without rejuvenation. It is possible the soil is an issue, but gray pines can grow on many poor soils, including serpentine moonscapes.

While the trail is fairly level, it is not smooth or well-maintained, and it seemed like a very long five miles to most of the nine fieldtrip participants.

- David Ledger
EVENTS OF OTHERS

Nov. 2, Thursday. Workshop and Walk in Bidwell Park with Calflora. 9 AM. Meet at the Horseshoe Lake parking lot in Middle Bidwell Park. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Marjorie McNairn: 530/343-2397.

Nov. 4, Saturday. Ride the Fenwood Ranch. 9 AM to 3 PM. $40; must RSVP. Shasta Land Trust. 530/241-7886.


Nov. 15, Wednesday. Guided Nature Walk: Riparian Systems and Restoration Projects on Yreka Creek. Noon to 2 PM. Free. Meet rain or shine at the Oberlin Trailhead, located 0.1 mile east of Fairlane Road, on the left, in Yreka. US Fish & Wildlife Service. 530/842-5763.

Nov. 18, Saturday. Ponderosa Way to Middle Butte Creek: Upper Ridge Nature Preserve, Magalia. 9 AM. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 & 99) west parking lot. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Marjorie McNairn: 530/343-2397.


JEPSON HERBARIUM WEEKEND WORKSHOP

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is offering the following workshop. It requires pre-registration and a fee. Details on this workshop and other wait-listed workshops can be found at ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/ For further information, contact jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu or 510/643-7008.

December 8–10. Mushrooms of the Bay Area. (Location: UC Berkeley and field sites.) Else Vellinga.

Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory

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FACEBOOK: facebook.com/shastachaptercnps

2017 OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT – Doug Mandel (530/241-3069)
SECRETARY – Margaret Widdowson (530/223-4732)
TREASURER – Vickie Hall (920/226-0687)
MEMBER-AT-LARGE
VACANT

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CONSERVATION CHAIR – David Ledger (530/355-8542)
FIELD TRIP CHAIR – David Ledger (530/355-8542)
GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR – Analia Bertucci (530/680-6841)
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Susan Gallaugher (530/246-3815)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Laurie Burk (530/347-0849)
PLANT PROPAGATION MANAGER – Vacant
PROGRAM CHAIR – Robin Fallscheer (530/225-2311)
RARE PLANTS CHAIR – Don Burk (530/347-0849)
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Vacant
WEBMASTER – Analia Bertucci (530/680-6841)

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BOOK AND POSTER SALES CHAIR – Bud Widdowson (916/752-0938)
NATIVE GARDEN TOUR CHAIR – Vacant
MMH GARDEN MAINTENANCE CHAIR – Vacant

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Chapter Members!

Megan Malson, Shasta Lake
Kristen Schreder, Redding
Valerie Sinco, Redding

SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE EVENTS

Below are the last of the 2017 classes that are being offered by the Siskiyou Field Institute, based out of Deer Creek Center in Selma, Oregon. For further information, please visit their website at thesfi.org, or contact the institute at 541/597-8530.

Nov. 12. Edible Mushrooms of the Siskiyous. Mike Potts; $60.

HORSETOWN-CLEAR CREEK PRESERVE EVENT

The last fall event at Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve (HCCP) is as follows. This event will start at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Highway 273, just west of the Clear Creek bridge, and is free. Please see horsetownclearcreekpreserve.org for further information.

November 5, Sunday, 1 PM
Acorns: A Native American Staple, with native Wintu, Ted Dawson

A Winter Welcome to Our Newest Chapter Members!

Megan Malson, Shasta Lake
Kristen Schreder, Redding
Valerie Sinco, Redding

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Fieldtrip: East Weaver Creek Trail, Weaverville. This is a slightly uphill,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>loop in the East Weaver Creek drainage at about 3000-foot elevation. Hopefully</td>
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<td>there will still be some fall color from bigleaf maple, dogwood, and Oregon ash.</td>
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<td>Even if all the leaves and fruits are gone, we will be walking under mature</td>
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<td>conifers and madrones. We may also see an interesting patch of California</td>
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<td>groundcone (<em>Boschniakia strobilacea</em>). Bring lunch to eat by the creek. Meet at</td>
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<td>the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot near Chase Bank at 9 AM to carpool to Weaverville.</td>
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<td>Rain cancels. For more information, call John Springer at 530/917-0567.</td>
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<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Fieldtrip: Oregon Gulch Outing. This fall-colors fieldtrip will take place on</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>380 acres of City of Redding-owned land in Oregon Gulch in southwest Redding—an</td>
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<td>undeveloped urban island of native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, and animals. The</td>
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<td>walk is an easy 3 to 4 miles on undeveloped trails of uneven terrain with</td>
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<td>several short steep climbs. Wildflowers will not be in bloom; however, this will</td>
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<td>be a good way to learn to identify shrubs, trees, and other plants from habitat,</td>
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<td>growth pattern, stems, barks, buds, and leaves. Walk leader David Ledger will</td>
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<td>identify native plants in the area and give participants a free plant list. Due</td>
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<td>to limited parking, please meet at Holiday Market Parking lot near CVS at 9:30 AM</td>
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<td>for carpooling. Dogs on leash okay. Light rain okay; heavy rain cancels. For more</td>
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<td>information, contact David at <a href="mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net">dledger@sbcglobal.net</a> or 530/355-8542.</td>
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<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Matson Mower Howe Celebration Garden Maintenance Workday. Join us for a fall work</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>session at 2 PM at the Matson Mower Howe Celebration Garden adjacent to the North</td>
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<td>Valley Art League Carter House Gallery at 48 Quartz Hill Road in Caldwell Park,</td>
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<td>Redding. We will be raking sycamore leaves and completing other general garden</td>
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<td>maintenance activities. Bring your rake, hand tools, gloves, and drinking water.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Members of the North Valley Art League will also be assisting. Rain cancels. For</td>
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<td>more information, please contact David at <a href="mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net">dledger@sbcglobal.net</a> or 530/355-8542.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Chapter Meeting. Fawn lilies are some of the earliest blooming species in the</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>mountains in our area, as the buds often develop beneath the snow. Robin</td>
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<td>Fallscheer has been monitoring them on private timberlands for over ten years as</td>
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<td>part of her job in the Redding office of California Department of Fish and Wildlife.</td>
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<td>Scott Mountains fawn lily (<em>Erythronium citrinum</em> var. <em>roderickii</em>) and Klamath</td>
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<td>fawn lily (<em>Erythronium klamathense</em>) are the subjects of her talk, *Response of</td>
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<td>Rare Species of Erythronium to Even-Aged Silviculture*. Meet at 7 PM at the Shasta</td>
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<td>College Health Science &amp; University Programs building in downtown Redding, 1400</td>
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<td>Market Street, Community Room 8220 (clock tower building at the north end of the</td>
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<td>Market Street Promenade; enter on south side of building). A Board meeting will be</td>
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<td>held before the regular meeting, at 5:30 PM, at the downtown From the Hearth, in</td>
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<td>the back room.</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Fieldtrip: Redding Arboretum Trails. This late-fall walk will provide another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>lesson in identifying native plants without their familiar flowers or leaves. We</td>
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<td>will take an easy 2- to 3-mile loop around the Redding Arboretum and then finish</td>
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<td>up with a walk through Turtle Bay’s California Native Plant Garden. Walk leader</td>
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<td>David Ledger will give members a list of common plants in the Arboretum. Meet in</td>
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<td>front of the parking lot behind the Redding Civic Auditorium at the entrance to the</td>
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<td>Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay Museum. Dogs on leash okay. For more information,</td>
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<td>contact David at <a href="mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net">dledger@sbcglobal.net</a> or 530/355-8542.</td>
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No meeting in December.
See you on fieldtrips and in the New Year!
