PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our Chapter got off to a good start this year with our January meeting bringing 39 people out to see Ken Decamp’s excellent slide show from his new book, *Wildflowers of the Trinity Alps, Including the Russian and Marble Mountain Wilderness Areas and the Trinity Divide*. We sold 18 copies of his 334-page book at that meeting. Each page features one to four plants in full color with extraordinarily clear photographs, which makes identifying plants much easier. Our new meeting place in the United Way building has proved to be more conducive to socializing than our previous place at Shasta College.

Our new fieldtrip chair, John Springer, led three field trips from January through mid-February, I have led two, and we still have two more scheduled for the month at this writing. That’s seven fieldtrips, which is way more than most CNPS chapters have. Thanks to John for his enthusiasm in offering so many fieldtrips. We look forward to seeing what he has lined up for the rest of the year.

Our propagation committee, led by Margaret Widdowson, has been implementing many of the Best Management Practices that State CNPS has adopted to prevent the plant pathogen *Phytophthora* from infecting our native plants. This is an ongoing process and will continue to be addressed in *The Firecracker*.

On the conservation front, we are working with various groups in the Shasta Environmental Alliance in strengthening the City of Redding’s tree ordinance. We are currently working with these groups to try to save as many trees as possible at the proposed Costco site on Bechelli Lane. The draft EIR on Costco is due out in mid-March.

Unfortunately, the work and time required to organize Shasta Environmental Alliance is too much for me to continue as president of the Shasta Chapter. My last day will be March 31. Our chapter is in need of volunteers, especially to chair our scholarship committee, and to take over as Chapter president. ☘

-Spring Plant Sale

The Spring Plant Sale at Shasta College is set for Thursday through Saturday, April 12–14, so mark your calendars for a great 3-day sale, preceded by the members-only sale on Wednesday, April 11. We will be selling California native plants from 8 AM to 5 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday. We need plenty of members to help out with shifts at this event. The type of help we need typically involves setting up (Wednesday, April 11, from 2–4 PM), selling plants, giving advice, moving plants, or just being your friendly self during the sale. You do not have to be a plant expert to participate! If you can spare a few hours on any of these days, please call or text Margaret Widdowson at 916/752-0941 or Susan Libonati at 530/515-9247, or e-mail ShastaCNPSPropagation@gmail.com. We will also have sign-up sheets at the upcoming March Chapter meeting and propagation sessions.

While we continue to implement the new practices that CNPS has adopted, a lot of things will remain the same and be familiar at our Spring Plant Sale. This year we will be selling plants in quart-sized containers as well as in the familiar gallon-sized containers.

Our annual plant sales help fund many of the Chapter’s activities including scholarships, grants, programs, and the general running of the Chapter. ☘

-Plant Propagation Committee

-David Ledger, President
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Scholarship Applications Available

Our annual Shasta Chapter CNPS scholarship application period is quickly approaching. An updated student application will be available on our website at shastacnps.org in the next few days, and will be mailed to all local high schools and community colleges in our area by the first week of April. Applications will also be available at our April 19 Chapter meeting. The application deadline this year is Friday, May 2. Any graduating high school or community college student from Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc, or Lassen counties who is entering a 4-year university with a natural sciences major is eligible to apply.

We will award at least one scholarship of $2,000, which this year will be dedicated to the memory of long-time Chapter member David Fritchle. Funding for our scholarships comes primarily from our plant sales, and sometimes from member donations. Sincere thanks to Barbara & Dave Klasson and Joann Roskoski & Michael Koterba for their generous donations to this scholarship, given in David’s name.

Recipients of this award are invited to our June meeting to meet and interact with our members. If you know any students who qualify for this scholarship in 2018, please have them call me at 530/347-0849 for more information.

-Don Burk,
Interim Scholarship Committee Chair

Local Girl Does Good!

Back in January, our past Scholarship Committee Chair, Jay Thesken, received the following communication from our 2017 scholarship recipient, Meredith Clayton. It is rewarding to know that the Shasta Chapter and its scholarship program does indeed make a difference. Way to go, Merry!

Hi Jay!

I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year! I finally got my grades in for my first quarter at Western Washington University. I took a little bigger of a class load this quarter in effort to be able to get into the Environmental Science program as soon as possible. This means I will be applying to the program by the end of this year and the counselor for Huxley College (the environmental college at Western) gave me an override so I can start taking environmental classes at the end of this year. Thanks to some of the advice I was given from you guys I am taking a soils class as one of my first major classes and I am very excited to get started! The same counselor also informed me that if I continue with my work ethic my professors will most likely invite me to join them on the studies and projects they are working on so that has become my next goal. I also have been paired up with a specific professor as an advisor through Huxley who is a plant ecologist. I am looking forward to learning from him and am excited to have his help throughout my time at Western. Attached is a copy of my unofficial transcript, let me know if this is enough for what you guys need. Thank you again for the opportunity to earn this scholarship and the opportunity to learn from everyone who attended the barbecue.

Thank you!
Merry Clayton

Conservation Conference 2018

The recent CNPS Conservation Conference, held once every three years, was another rousing success, and not only because of the enthusiastic crowd cheering on the contestants for the inaugural Botanical Tattoo Contest.

One of the hottest topics at the Conference was the water mold, Phytophthora (from the Greek, for “plant destroyer”), that causes root rot. I spoke with Steven Goetz, Co-Chair of the CNPS Ad Hoc Committee on Phytophthora, after a Phytophthora Strategy Session, and he said, “The implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in order to eliminate Phytophthora and other pathogens from CNPS native plant nurseries is absolutely a mission of CNPS.” Dan Gluesenkamp, Executive Director of CNPS, said, “CNPS will educate native plant nurseries and give special attention to stock propagated or sold by our local chapters.” For an in-depth article on Phytophthora and other topics of the conference, please visit shastacnps.org.

There I discuss the virulence of Phytophthora, the “plant disease triangle,” the importance of BMPs, and native plant nurseries that are implementing BMPs throughout California and producing better quality nursery stock than ever before.

The most interesting presentation was by Dennis Mudd, ex tech company CEO and avid mountain biker. After twelve years and four phases, he created a home landscape based on the local plant palette. It was so successful that he created http://calscape.cnps.org/ so others would have the same opportunity. Calscape “lets users discover which plants are truly native to where they live,” he said.

The importance of native plants was brought into focus by the opening plenary speaker, entomologist Doug Tallamy, Ph.D. His popular talk will be rebroadcast at our April 19 Chapter meeting (see Calendar, page 9). Basically, native plants are the keystone energy source for insects, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, which humans rely on for survival.

The need for more native seed suppliers echoed throughout the Conference, especially for ecotypes of which there are only two producers in California, Hedgerow Farms being one of them. The National Seed Strategy of 2015 was developed to deal with the native seed shortages and to help plant the “right seed in the right place at the right time.”

There was so much more. I encourage everyone to experience the next CNPS Conservation Conference, in 2021!

-Doug Mandel
What’s Happening

The Plant Propagation Committee and propagation volunteers are hard at work adapting and implementing the new best management practices for minimizing the risk of root-rot pathogens in our Chapter’s nursery, while simultaneously propagating plants for our annual Spring Plant Sale. It is definitely a year of transition as we continue to adapt, and it is rewarding to see the plants getting bigger for our annual Spring Plant Sale.

This year we will be offering plants in quart-sized containers for the first time. This is one of the new practices that we are starting, which encourages better root growth—rooting in a plant is stimulated when roots come in contact with its container. We will also sell plants in the usual gallon size.

We have started to have more regularly scheduled propagation sessions. The next propagation session will be on Saturday, March 10, starting at 10 AM (see Calendar, page 10). If you are interested in joining us and want to keep up with the propagations, e-mail us at shastacnpspropagation@gmail.com and we will be more than happy to add you to the list and keep you updated.

The members of the Plant Propagation Committee are: Susan Libonati, Doug Mandel, Chris Gray, Susan Gallaugher, Dave Wallace, Robin Fallscheer, and Margaret Widdowson (Chair). Please contact Margaret (916/752-0941) or Susan Libonati (530/515-9247) with any questions.

Spotlight: Ceanothus

Ceanothus, the wild lilacs or California lilacs, are a group of shrubs that are found across North America, but reach their maximum diversity in California, with more than 40 species in the state. Locally, several species grow around the Redding area. Buckbrush (Ceanothus cuneatus), very common in chaparral around Redding, has white flowers that appear very early in the spring. Deer brush (C. integerrimus) is common in clearings and open woodlands and produces long spikes of flowers in a range of pale blue to white. Lemmon’s ceanothus (C. lemmonii) is a low-growing shrub with deep blue flowers that bloom April to May. It can be seen in the low foothills around the valley, especially along Highway 44 around Shingletown. Higher still, mahala mat (C. prostratus) forms flat mats covered with lavender-blue flowers. These shrubs often line roadsides in conifer forests.

Famous for the pure blue colors of the flowers, ranging from sky blue to deep cobalt, ceanothus has long attracted horticulturists and gardeners, and many species have been cultivated.

For the upcoming Spring Plant Sale, we have several different ceanothus varieties for sale:

- ‘Frosty Blue’ is a vigorous and fast grower that forms a vase-shaped large shrub that can reach 15 feet tall, although it is likely to be smaller in most gardens. White flower bracts (covering the buds) give the abundant blue flowers a “frosty” accent. A great drought-tolerant shrub for a sunny spot, it also tolerates heavier soils.
- ‘Concha’ is considered by many to be one of the best cultivars. Free-flowering and very tolerant of typical garden conditions, this shrub can grow up to 6 feet tall, and can be pruned to a more compact size. Also tolerant of garden conditions,
- ‘Skylark’ is a neat shrub well-suited to small gardens. It flowers later than other varieties.
- ‘Joyce Coulter’ is one of the best groundcover ceanothus varieties, creating 2- to 3-foot mounds of shiny green leaves and cascading over walls and banks. The dark blue flowers are produced for many weeks starting in late winter, and sometimes even appear again in the fall.
- ‘Yankee Point’ also forms a mounding groundcover. Originally from coastal California, this cultivar does best with some afternoon shade in the Redding area.

Late Winter Gardening Tip

During prolonged winter drought, a monthly deep watering of your native plants will provide root moisture to sustain them through their spring bloom. If the dry weather continues and the temperatures warm, increase the deep watering to approximately two times per month.

Recommended Reading

We encourage you to read Doug Mandel’s online article on what he heard and saw at the CNPS 2018 Conservation Conference, posted on our web site at shastacnps.org. In the article he covers: how important implementing best management practices is to CNPS, how destructive Phytophthora has been and continues to be, the plant disease triangle, the success that some nurseries have had in eliminating Phytophthora occurrences, and how much more there is to learn.

-Plant Propagation Committee

The cultivar Ceanothus ‘Concha’, or California lilac ‘Concha’. Photo by Susan Gallaugher.
WESTSIDE TRAIL, NEW YEAR’S DAY

This was our 7th annual New Year’s Day Westside Trail fieldtrip, and perhaps the warmest we have had, with temperatures reaching 60 degrees. This time we started at the end of Kilkee Drive and walked the two miles or so to the “Top of the World,” with views of the Trinity Alps (with almost no snow), Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen, the Sierra Nevada, and the Yolla Bolly Mountains. On the way up, we learned to identify the male and female coyote brush, finding that the male flowers were already dried out and the female flowers had set seeds but weren’t quite mature. Both common (Arctostaphylos manzanita) and whiteleaf (A. visida) manzanita were starting to bloom and a few vanilla-scented cudweeds were in bloom. Walk leader David Ledger concentrated on the more common plants as we had three newcomers among the 18 participants. They learned the different blue, black, interior live, and oracle oaks on the trail, as well as the difference between gray and knobcone pines. Other plants were Lemmon’s ceanothus, Lemmon’s keckiella, goldback fern, bird’s-foot fern, climbing bedstraw, yerba santa, hoary coffeeberry, and of course, many toyon filled with red fruits. At the top, Yojiro Sadohara opened a cold bottle of white wine from his backpack and, with a small cup for each, we toasted in the New Year. ☘ -David Ledger

OAK BOTTOM WATER DITCH AND GANIM MINE TRAIL, JANUARY 6

The sun shone on nine native plant lovers as we started our morning on the Oak Bottom Water Ditch Trail. The trail lived up to its name with a 20-foot long, ankle-deep water-filled section, which we had to pick our way around.

Toyon was our featured plant. Toyon is thought to be the only California native plant with a common name derived from what local indigenous peoples called it. The scientific name, Heteromeles arbutifolia, can be translated to “arbutus-leaved different apple.” The fruit is a pome (a fruit in which the hypanthium becomes fleshy), similar in its formation and anatomy to our domesticated apple (genus Malus). This places it in the apple subfamily of Rosaceae (the rose family), thus Heteromeles, or “different apple.” The Spanish colonialists thought the glossy, finely serrate leaf resembled the Spanish madrone (Arbutus unedo), thus arbutifolia, or “arbutus-leaved.” In previous years, the toyons in this area along SR 299 have sported massive crops of bright red fruits, but this year there were almost none to be seen (perhaps the plants are taking a year off?). When we finally found some fruit, we stopped to read The Jepson Manual descriptions of toyon and of the Rosaceae family.

Rosaceae—what puts a plant in the widely variable rose family? We discussed stipules (paired, fused to the petiole, or free), flowers (parts often in fives; presence of a hypanthium—a cup-like enlargement at the base of the flower that surrounds the ovary to varying degrees), ovary position (in the case of the toyon, half-inferior, harkening to the inferior ovary position of most rose family members that form pomes), fruit (amazing variety—pome, achene, drupe, follicle, blackberry- to raspberry-like), and leaf (often serrate, simple or compound). For “show and tell,” we looked at specimens of Photinia sp. in fruit, remarkably similar to toyon, illustrating why the native was once categorized in that genus. We also examined specimens of cotoneaster fruits—like toyon and apple, pomes showing the same star-like, five-part, radial symmetry at their ends. These samples of landscape plants were kept in plastic bags to avoid introducing non-native seeds into the recreation area.

Other native members of Rosaceae on this hike included: chamise (small needle-like leaves in bundles, fruit an achene), birch-leaf mountain mahogany (simple leaves serrate at the end, fruit an achene, the style of the ovary morphing into the feathery plume so characteristic of that plant), and sticky cinquefoil (Drymocallis glandulosa, formerly Potentilla glandulosa, pinnately compound leaves, fruit an achene). The handful of species we observed gave us an idea of the remarkable diversity of Rosaceae.

We also saw knobcone, grey, and ponderosa pines; oracle, black, interior live, canyon live, and Brewer’s oaks; tobacco brush (Ceanothus velutinus), deer brush, and buckbrush. California buckeye, coffeeberry, whiteleaf manzanita, poison oak, milkwort, gumweed (Grindelia sp., in bloom), Sonoma sage, and goldback fern rounded out the list.

Hiking up the hillside past the Ganim Mine cutoff, our second destination was a group of Fremont’s silk tassel. Fieldtrip Follow-ups continued on page 5.
Fieldtrip Follow-ups, continued from page 4.

(Garrya fremontii). Someone noted that our elevation at that point was 1700 feet. While not blooming as prolifically as last year, there was still an impressive display of 4-inch long tassels of white flowers gently swaying in the breeze. The species is dioecious, having male and female flowers on separate plants. Last year, David Ledger identified some of these specimens as male. We stopped for a snack under the pendulous blossoms and enjoyed the view of Whiskeytown Lake, before heading back down to the cars.

The species is dioecious, having male and female flowers on separate plants. Last year, David Ledger identified some of these specimens as male. We stopped for a snack under the pendulous blossoms and enjoyed the view of Whiskeytown Lake, before heading back down to the cars.

- John Springer


TRAIL 58, JANUARY 20

Six CNPS members and two canines braved the morning chill to experience the sights of Trail 58. At the trailhead, Bob Madison showed us how a trail guide, courtesy of the Trails and Bikeways Council of Greater Redding, could be accessed by scanning the QR code on the information kiosk with a smart phone. The trail guide was written by Chris Harvey, so we didn’t need the guide since we had the author in person on our hike!

We climbed up to the old mining water ditch that the trail follows, and Chris filled us in on some of the history and still-visible infrastructure. Along this ditch, JoAnne Wright pointed out an oracle oak. Several of us have internalized knowledge of this tree after David Ledger’s New Year’s Day hike, on which he so clearly explained how this hybrid has blended attributes of its two parents: the points and lobes of black oak leaves, and the leaf retentiveness of interior live oak. It helped that we had seen it before, and had it reinforced on subsequent hikes. As we descended down to the level of the creek, we saw many early leaves of red larkspur (Delphinium nudicaule), which Chris was able to identify from his knowledge of the trail from previous hikes. Pacific sedum (Sedum spathulifolium) was also on rocks along this part of the trail.

The focus of the day was the nested or rock polypody (Polypodium calirhiza). Polypody ferns have “many feet” (broad, rounded pinnae or leaflets) and naked yellow sori (spore bodies) on the undersides of the leaves. P. calirhiza is very successful in this area of the Middle Creek drainage, completely carpeting some of the steep walls that border the creek. Identified as a separate species by botanists in 1991, it was discovered to be a hybrid of Polypodium californicum and Polypodium glycyrrhiza. The species part of its name (cali- + rhiza) is a coupling of parts of the species names of its two parents. We reviewed the fern life cycle and the overlapping distributions of the two parent species. DNA study has revealed that nested polypody is a tetraploid with 148 chromosomes, twice the number of chromosomes of either of its parents. This hybrid was able to expand its range into drier inland habitats. The Missouri Botanical Garden herbarium has a specimen collected by John Muir in 1875 in the Sierra Nevada, originally identified as P. californicum, which they have since reclassified as P. calirhiza.

It was a great day for ferns. We were rewarded with five of the seven ferns listed on the local area plant list: rock polypody, goldback fern, Indian’s dream (Aspidotis densa), narrowleaf sword fern, and bird’s-foot fern. The first four were seen along the shady, wet, north-facing first half of the walk. The bird’s-foot fern was growing in profusion on the hotter, south-facing banks beside the Middle Creek bike path.

It was a good day for fungi, too. We saw Jack-o-lanterns—beautiful large yellow-orange fungi that apparently have the eerie ability to fluoresce in the dark! We also saw witches’ butter, turkey tails, and several other species, one of which may have been Coprinopsis sp. or Coprinellus sp. (Thanks to Susan Libonati for online help with identifications.)

Returning down the Middle Creek bike trail, we saw California pipevine in bloom, interlaced with vines of western morning glory. We also saw hollyleaf redberry, massive grey pines, and snowdrop bush still retaining its hard round fruit capsules, which have the appearance of beautiful finished wood. Thanks to Chris for also being very familiar with this part of the trail, and showing us all these sights. His two chihuahuas were happy when we got back to the cars and they could rest their short little legs.

- John Springer

WIN TU LOOP/MeINER’S LOOP TRAILS, FEBRUARY 3

On an unseasonably warm and spring-like February 3rd, we started at the west trailhead and hiked clockwise on the northern part of the Meiner’s Loop Trail in the Swasey Recreation Area. Eight adult CNPS members and three kids enjoyed the height of the Henderson’s shooting star bloom. The sides of the trail were sprinkled with stems...
of flowers in shades varying from pale lavender to deep magenta. BLM has been clearing the thick manzanita understory from uphill areas bordering this part of the trail, making a beautiful habitat of dappled shade from oaks and taller manzanitas, just perfect for wildflowers. We also saw a few Indian warriors blooming in this area.

We hiked a little way up The Escalator Trail to the stream crossing to enjoy California pipevine and stream banks lined with rock polypody. Returning to the loop, we saw a variety of oaks and pines, and searched for and found a small specimen of hollyleaf redberry to allow comparison with the interior live oaks. More exposed areas of the trail were thick with the grayish fronds of bird’s-foot fern. California buckeye and Lemmon’s keckiella were leafing out, and peas were starting to trail their vines.

Descending on the east side of the loop, a small colony of about twelve stems of spotted fritillary (Fritillaria atropurpurea) was discovered, again in a cleared area beside the trail. BLM is doing a very good job thinning the understory—the main goal may be to create fire breaks, but the wildflowers are loving it.  

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**BLM CLOVERDALE TRAILS, FEBRUARY 10**

Eleven of us started out at the Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve parking area and hiked up the hill into the Cloverdale Trails. This walk was advertised as 3½ miles, but we also did the Piety Hill loop trail, which made it almost five miles. Common manzanita was well into fruiting, while whiteleaf manzanita was in various stages of bloom. Along the trail we saw Henderson’s shooting star, Indian warrior, foothill lomatium (Lomatium utriculatum), nested polypody, bird’s-foot fern, and mission bells. Most of the area is blue oak–gray pine habitat, with considerable buckbush and whiteleaf manzanita. This area, which was once extensively mined, has a large number of common foothill woodland and chaparral plants. It should be at peak bloom in early March. One spot on the trail is on a high cliff with impressive views of the Clear Creek canyon. Walk leader was David Ledger, substituting for John Springer.  

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**FIELD NOTES**

**The Jepson Manual**

Do you have a “new” Jepson Manual that you are no longer using and would like to donate to the Chapter? As noted in our January 6 fieldtrip write-up, we like to consult Jepson in the field, but the copy I am using is the old version—so many names have been changed! We would love to get our hands on the newest version!

**CALL FOR FIELDTRIPS AND LEADERS**

Got an idea for an awesome fieldtrip? Or want to lead a fieldtrip to one of your favorite trails? You don’t need to know all the plants as there’s bound to be other CNPS members attending who can help out with plant IDs. Also, if an unknown plant is present in abundance, a small specimen can be brought to the monthly Chapter meeting for identification. Contact me at with your ideas for fieldtrips or to volunteer to lead one!  

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- John Springer, Fieldtrip Chair  
530/917-0567; springseep@yahoo.com
**CNPS Workshops and Professional Training**

CNPS is offering the following workshops. Discounted registration fees are available to CNPS members. See cnps.org/workshops for full descriptions and registration information. Please contact Becky Reilly at breilly@cnps.org or 916/447-2677 ext. 207 for further information.

- **March 21–22.** Rare Plant Survey Protocols. (Location: Oxnard and Point Mugu State Park.) Heath Bartosh and Aaron Sims.
- **April 2–5.** San Luis Obispo County Flora. (Location: San Luis Obispo County.) Dave Keil.
- **April 16–18.** Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy. (Location: UC Davis and vernal pools in Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo counties.) Carol Witham and Jennifer Buck-Diaz.
- **May 1–3.** Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé. (Location: San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay.) Jennifer Buck-Diaz and Rachelle Boul.

**Chico Herbarium Workshops**

CSU Chico Friends of the Herbarium is offering the following workshops, which will be conducted on the CSU Chico campus. For details about these workshops and registration information, please go to friends.of.the.chicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/

- **April 14.** Identifying Lichens to Genus. Tom Carlberg.
- **April 21.** Introduction to Keying Manzanitas (Arctostaphylos, Ericaceae). Tom Parker and Mike Vasey.

**CA Native Grasslands Association Events**

The California Native Grasslands Association is offering the following workshop and field day. For details about these events and registration information, please go to cnga.org

- **March 6.** Landscaping with Nature: Designing, Building, and Maintaining Attractive Native Landscapes that Support Wildlife and Reduce Water Usage. Putah Creek Lodge at UC Davis Arboretum.
- **April 20.** 11th Annual CNGA Field Day at Hedgerow Farms. 21905 County Road 88, Winters.

**Research Scholarship Available**

Northern California Botanists is now accepting applications for the Botany Research Scholarship Program for the 2018–2019 academic year. Northern California Botanists provides competitive botany and plant ecology research scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students attending accredited colleges and universities. Research scholarships consist of $1,000 awards, designed to support basic undergraduate and graduate research. Applications are due March 31. For further information, please visit http://www.norcalbotanists.org/scholarships.htm 🌿

**Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops**

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is offering the following workshops. They require pre-registration and fees. Details on these workshops and other, wait-listed workshops can be found at ucejps.berkeley.edu/workshops/ For further information, contact jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu or 510/643-7008.

- **March 24–25.** Introductory Plant Families for Botanically Curious. Allyson Ayalon and Javier Jauregui Lazo. (Location: UC Berkeley.)
- **March 30–April 1.** Introductory Plant Families for Botanical Rookies. Allyson Ayalon and Anna Larsen. (Location: UC Berkeley.)
- **April 5–8.** Exploring Tejon—Native Landscapes, Diverse Flora, and Spring Wildflowers! Neal Kramer, Nick Jensen, and Maynard Moe. (Location: Tejon Ranch, in Kern and Los Angeles counties.)
- **April 19–22.** 50 Plant Families in the Field: Monterey Bay. Linda Beidleman. (Location: Hastings Natural History Reservation and Monterey Bay field sites.)
- **May 9–11.** Wetland Delineation. Terry Huffman. (Location: Rush Ranch, Suisun City.)

**Siskiyou Field Institute Events**

Below is one of the first 2018 classes that is 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.

- **March 4.** Raptors and Shorebirds of the Klamath Basin. Bud Widdowson; $60.

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**Shasta Chapter CNPS Directory**

**ADDRESS:** PO Box 990194, Redding, CA 96099-0194

**WEBSITE:** shastacnps.org

**FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/shastachaptercnps

**2018 OFFICERS**

- **President** – David Ledger (530/355-8542; voice only, no texts)
- **Vice President** – Susan Libonati-Barnes (530/347-4654)
- **Secretary** – Analia Bertucci (530/680-6841)
- **Treasurer** – Vickie Hall (920/226-0687)

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

- **Vacant**

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- **Conservation Chair** – David Ledger (530/355-8542)
- **Fieldtrip Chair** – John Springer (530/917-0567)
- **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 Chair** – Margaret Widdowson (916/752-0941)
- **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** – David Ledger (530/355-8542)
- **Native Garden Tour Chair** – Vacant
- **MMH Garden Maintenance Chair** – Vacant
**Events of Others**

**March 3 and April 7, Saturdays.** Discover Birding at Turtle Bay. 9–11 AM; free. Meet in Venture Properties’ parking lot, in Redding. Wintu Audubon Society. Roberta Winchell: 530/945-8342.

**March 10 and April 14, Saturdays.** Second Saturday Bird Walks at Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. 8 AM to noon; free. Meet at the end of Metz Road, Redding. Wintu Audubon Society. George Horn: 530/524-7484.

**March 10, Saturday.** Upper Yahi Trail, Bidwell Park. 9 AM. Meet at east Horseshoe Lake parking lot, Chico. Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Marjorie McNairn: 530/343-2397.


**March 15, Thursday.** Local Weekday Birdwalk at Anderson River Park. 8 AM to noon; free. Meet at Anderson River Park’s amphitheater parking lot. Wintu Audubon Society. Brooke McDonald: 530/604-2945.

**March 18, Sunday.** North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, Butte County. 9 AM. Meet at Chico Park & Ride’s west lot (Hwys 99 & 32). Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Woody Elliott: 530/588-2555.


**March 24, Saturday.** Millville Plains Outing. 8 AM to 4:30 PM; free. Meet at Kutras Park parking lot, Redding. Wintu Audubon Society. Larry Jordan: 530/949-5266.

**March 24, Saturday.** Spotted Fawn Lily and McNab Cypress, Lassen National Forest. 9 AM. Meet at Chico Park & Ride’s west lot (Hwys 99 & 32). Mt. Lassen Chapter CNPS. Marjorie McNairn: 530/343-2397.

**March 31 and April 28, Saturdays.** Walk with the Horticulture Manager. 10:30 AM. Park fee. McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. 530/243-8850.


**April 14, Saturday.** Annual Spring Luncheon and Plant Sale Fundraiser. 9:30 AM; lunch at 11:45 AM. $20; must RSVP. Redding Wonderland Garden Club. Cheryl Wheeler: 530/547-1742.

**April 18-24, Wednesday to Tuesday.** 23rd Annual Godwit Days Festival. A week of birding in Arcata and vicinity. $35. City of Arcata. 707/826-7050; https://godwitdays.org/

**April 21, Saturday.** Whole Earth and Watershed Festival. 11 AM to 5 PM. Redding City Hall and Sculpture Park, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding. Peggy Rebol: 530/243-2403.

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**VERNAL POOLS CONFERENCE 2018**

**VERNAL POOL LANDSCAPES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

This prestigious conference is sponsored by AquAlliance and will be held on Wednesday, April 11, and Thursday, April 12, at Sierra Nevada Brewing Company in Chico. Fieldtrips to explore some magnificent local sites will take place on Friday, April 13.

Eminent scholars, agency representatives, and other professionals will present research and case studies regarding plant and animal species dependent on vernal pool landscapes, conservation efforts, legal cases, and management techniques that have been used to enhance the economic and biological viability of certain lands. Registration is now open and can be accessed at www.aqualliance.net.

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**Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve Events**

Early spring events at Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve (HCCP) are as follows. All events 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 are free. Please see horsetownclearcreekpreserve.org for further information.

**March 3, Saturday, 9 AM**

**Trail Reclamation Project.**

We need help to keep our trail loops in the Preserve that were affected by the Clover Fire available for use. Please join us for a morning of trail maintenance. We will provide extra tools and water but ask you to bring gloves, snacks, and any of the following tools if you have them: McLeods, shovels, rakes, and loppers.

**March 24, Saturday, 9 AM**

**Natural History Walk on Cloverdale**

with HCCP Board member **Don Neptune.**

**April 8, Sunday, 1 PM**

**Clear Creek Wildflowers and Wild Plants,**

with Shasta Chapter CNPS President **David Ledger.**

**April 14, Saturday, 8:30 AM**

**Early Bird Watchers,**

with local bird expert **Barbara Peck.**

**April 29, Sunday, 11 AM**

**Butterflies,**

with butterfly expert **Chris Gray.**

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

Jane Dyer, Mt. Shasta
Glenn Fine, Weed
Alicia Logan, Cottonwood
Sonja Williams, Weaverville
**April 12–14**  
**Thurs.–Sat.**  
**Shasta College Spring Plant Sale.** This annual 3-day plant sale will be held at the greenhouse/horticulture area of Shasta College. On Wednesday, April 11, we’ll be setting up and weeding from 2–4 PM, with the Members-Only Pre-Sale afterwards, from 4–6 PM. The Pre-Sale is for current CNPS members only, but you can join on the spot! The public plant sale will be from 8 AM to 5 PM on Thursday and Friday; and 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday. We will be selling both quart-sized and our normal gallon-sized California native plants: shrubs, ground covers, and flowering plants. Please volunteer for a few hours to help out by calling or texting *Margaret Widdowson* at 916/752-0941 or *Susan Libonati* at 530/515-9247, or by e-mailing ShastaCNPSPropagation@gmail.com.

**April 12**  
**Thursday**  
**Board Meeting.** Shasta Chapter Board members will meet at 5:30 PM at Round Table Pizza in Sunset Plaza, at 3633 Eureka Way, Redding, to conduct Chapter business. The general membership is always welcome to attend.

**April 19**  
**Thursday**  
**Chapter Meeting.** This month’s meeting will feature popcorn and a movie! The opening address by *Doug Tallamy* at the CNPS 2018 Conservation Conference was so informative, entertaining, and inspirational that we’re going to show the recorded version for this month’s presentation. Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and is the author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. Plants that evolved in concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. Tallamy explains why this is so, why specialized food relationships determine the stability and complexity of the local food webs that support animal diversity, why our yards and gardens are essential parts of the ecosystems that sustain us, how we can use our residential landscapes to connect the isolated habitat fragments around us and produce valuable ecosystem services, and what we can do to make our landscapes living ecosystems once again. Meet in the Northern California United Way Conference Room at 2280 Benton Drive, Building B, Redding, at 7 PM. Building B is the second building on the right as you drive into the parking lot from Benton Drive. Doors open at 6:45 PM for pre-meeting botany, books, and plant ID!

**April 22**  
**Sunday**  
**Fieldtrip: Bailey Cove Trail, Shasta Lake.** This should be a nice Earth Day celebration, late enough in the spring so that we have a few blooms. We might see iris and some of the pea family. Also, the Shasta maidenhair is on the north side of this peninsula, along with several other ferns. Bush poppy should at least be leafing out. Bring lunch. Dogs OK on leash. Light rain OK; heavy rain cancels. Meet at Mount Shasta Mall parking lot near Chase Bank at 9 AM for carpooling. Park pass required for each car. For more information, call *John Springer* at 530/917-0567.

**April 28**  
**Saturday**  
**Fieldtrip: Clikapudi Trail, Shasta Lake.** We will hike this trail to look for common viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*), which may even be in bloom. This shrub is CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3 (rare, threatened, or endangered in California; common elsewhere). This will be an out-and-back hike, but we might find a nice place to picnic along the lake shore, so bring lunch. Dogs OK on leash. Light rain OK; heavy rain cancels. Meet at Mount Shasta Mall parking lot near Chase Bank at 8:30 AM for carpooling. For more information, call *John Springer* at 530/917-0567.

**April 28**  
**Saturday**  
**Plant Propagation Session.** We will have a two-hour propagation session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses, located at the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We anticipate moving plants from quart-sized to gallon-sized containers in preparation for summer and the Fall Plant Sale. For further information, please call or text *Margaret Widdowson* at 916/752-0941 or *Susan Libonati* at 530/515-9247, or e-mail ShastaCNPSPropagation@gmail.com.

**May 5**  
**Saturday**  
**Fieldtrip: East Weaver Creek, Weaverville.** As promised, we will return to this trail for a totally different experience from the fall hike. There may be bleeding hearts, spotted and scarlet fritillaries, Solomon’s seal, fairy bells, and hopefully, higher up the drainage, calypso orchid—they put on quite a show in the early spring. We may also check in on the California groundcone to see what it looks like this time of year. Bring lunch. Dogs OK on leash. Light rain OK; heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Placer Street Holiday Market parking lot near CVS at 8 AM for carpooling. For more information, call *John Springer* at 530/917-0567.
**March 3 Saturday**  
**Fieldtrip.** Join Jay & Terri Thesken for a fieldtrip to the Purple Elm Trail section of the Westside trails in west Redding. This hike will be approximately 4 miles on uneven and sometimes rocky terrain. We will make it a one-way hike and stage vehicles. We’ll be in foothill oak woodland and expect to see wildflowers such as Indian warrior, manzanita, redbud, pipevine, hound’s-tongue, brodiaea, and shooting stars. The top of the trail affords good 360-degree views and is a good lunch spot. Meet at the parking lot on the Parkview Avenue side of Redding City Hall at 9 AM to carpool. The hike will take 4 to 5 hours. No dogs or other pets, please (too much poison oak). Call Jay & Terri at 530/221-0906 for further details.

**March 8 Thursday**  
**Board Meeting.** Shasta Chapter Board members will meet at 5:30 PM at Round Table Pizza in Sunset Plaza, at 3633 Eureka Way, Redding, to conduct Chapter business. The general membership is always welcome to attend.

**March 10 Saturday**  
**Plant Propagation Session.** We will have a two-hour work session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses, located at the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We anticipate doing some weeding and a lot of potting up of cuttings to prepare for the April 12–14 Spring Plant Sale. For further information, please call or text Margaret Widdowson at 916/752-0941 or Susan Libonati at 530/515-9247, or e-mail ShastaCNPSPropagation@gmail.com.

**March 15 Thursday**  
**Chapter Meeting.** While the vernal pools of the Central Valley are well studied, much less is known about the snow-fed vernal pools of the Modoc Plateau. Kirsten Bovee, a botanist on the Lassen National Forest, will present research from these montane vernal pools, where livestock exclosures intended to protect Orcuttia tenuis (federally listed as threatened) have provided an opportunity to investigate how livestock grazing has structured vernal pool plant communities. Meet in the Northern California United Way Conference Room at 2280 Benton Drive, Building B, Redding, at 7 PM. As you drive into the parking lot from Benton Drive, Building B is the second building on the right. Doors open at 6:45 PM for pre-meeting botany, books, and plant ID!

**March 17 Saturday**  
**Fieldtrip: Mill Creek Trail, Whiskeytown Recreation Area.** We will hike up Mill Creek to find that other member of the Aristolochiaceae family, wild ginger, and practice keying it out. Crossing the creek, we will climb on up the hill to see what else we might find. Bugs can be prolific on this trail, so bring bug spray if you use it. This will be another shorter, out-and-back walk, so we should be back to the cars by 1 PM. Dogs OK on leash. Light rain OK; heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Placer Street Holiday Market parking lot near CVS at 9 AM for carpooling. Park pass is required for each car. For more information, call John Springer at 530/917-0567.

**March 25 Sunday**  
**Fieldtrip: Dye Creek Preserve.** This hike is on the 37,000-acre Dye Creek Preserve in Tehama County just south of Red Bluff in the foothills of the east valley, on property that is a part of The Nature Conservancy’s protected lands. We will hike up the trail in the wide Dye Creek Canyon cut out of basalt rock, with high mesas above the trail, to a large wide natural cave once used by Native Americans for shelter. This is a very unique area with many different wildflowers, trees, and shrubs. This is a five-mile up-and-back hike of moderate difficulty, with parts very uneven. The lower part of Dye Creek Preserve is a working cattle ranch, but livestock are kept out of Dye Creek Canyon. Reserve a space for this unforgettable hike as it is limited to 20 people and you must sign a liability waiver for The Nature Conservancy and CNPS. We will leave Redding at 8 AM. For meeting place and to reserve a space, e-mail David Ledger at dledger@sbcglobal.net

**March 31 Saturday**  
**Plant Propagation Session.** We will have a two-hour work session starting at 10 AM at the Shasta College greenhouses, located at the back of Shasta College, near the livestock barns. We anticipate doing some weeding and a lot of potting up of final cuttings to prepare for the April 12–14 Spring Plant Sale. For further information, please call or text Margaret Widdowson at 916/752-0941 or Susan Libonati at 530/515-9247, or e-mail ShastaCNPSPropagation@gmail.com.

Calendar continued on page 9.
Native Plant Sale
Spring 2018

www.shastacnps.org

Shasta College Farm Greenhouses
April 12 & 13, Thurs & Fri: 8 to 5
April 14, Sat: 9 to 3

• Prizes    • Free Design Ideas    • Plant ID—Bring Your Photos