

MAY 2013

The *Pipevine*

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



General Meeting

MAY 1, 2013

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Butte County Library, **OROVILLE**

directions on page 4.

Fascinating Places and Plants

of the **Feather River Ranger District** of the

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

Presented by

LINNEA HANSON and LAWRENCE JANEWAY

Join Linnea Hanson and Lawrence Janeway to learn about some of the interesting places and neat plants that they have found on the Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest. The Feather River Ranger District ranges from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada from Concow, south across the North Fork of the Feather River Canyon to Brush Creek, across the Middle Fork of the Feather River to Challenge, and then eastward, upslope through the mixed conifer forest to Little Grass Valley Reservoir, and on upwards into the red fir forest to Pilot Peak, Mt Fillmore, and other high peaks. They will talk about the many wondrous sights to see and plants they have found, including some of the rare plants and some of the projects they have been involved with.



Linnea Hanson is retired from the Forest Service and is currently teaching General Botany at Shasta College in Redding. She was the award-winning Forest Botanist on the Plumas NF for many years and then became the District Botanist on the Feather River Ranger District and finally the District's Ecosystem Manager. She is currently the President of Northern California Botanists, a founding board member, and is also a board member and founder of the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium.

Lawrence Janeway is the Acting District Botanist for the Feather River Ranger District. He has held various botanical positions on the Plumas NF since 1989, including botanist positions on the Beckwourth Ranger District and as the Assistant Forest Botanist. On Fridays Lawrence can be found in the Chico State Herbarium, where he is the curator. He is also on the board and a founding member of Northern California Botanists.

Hutchison's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *hutchisonii*) July 6, 2011 ridge near Little Grass Valley Reservoir by Lawrence Janeway

Field Trips

Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco, Co-chairs

BUTTE CREEK BLM TRAIL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

May 5
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) at 9 am. Bring lunch, water sun/insect protection, hiking gear, and money for ride sharing. We will drive east on Hwy 32, 17.5 miles to Garland Rd and then 5 miles east to the trailhead near Butte Creek at about 2,000 feet elevation. This is an easy three mile round trip on an almost level trail. We follow a section of scenic Upper Butte Creek. The trail follows closely to the stream with wooden foot bridges, a steel stairway, winds through a narrow band of riparian vegetation with a variety of flowering plants. A mixed coniferous forest extends up the canyon walls. There is evidence of historic mining activity. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293.

TEN-MILE HOUSE TRAIL & GUARDIAN'S TRAIL LOOP UPPER BIDWELL PARK

May 12
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) at 9:30 am. Bring lunch, water sun/insect protection, hiking gear, and money for ride sharing. We will drive east 9 miles on Hwy 32 to the Green Gate Trail head. We will follow an historic wagon road a short distance to the Guardian's Trail and follow it on a level grade, 1.6 miles sw, then we go down the steep Bloody Pin Trail 0.9 mile, follow the level Anne Bidwell Trail north 1 mile on the level. We reach the Ten Mile House Rd and follow it up a steep grade climbing about 700 feet in elevation gain in 1 mile to return to the Green Gate Trail. On the way we will have walked past buckeye and black oak in flower. We shall stop at a spring where an old homestead once stood. Because we will have traversed a variety of vegetative habitats, we should see a diverse selection of flowering plants and shrubs. Total miles 4.7 miles. Not recommended for children. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293



BUTTERFLY VALLEY BOTANICAL AREA PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

May 26
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) at 8 am. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, wear shoes appropriate for a bog. Take money for ride sharing. We will drive northeast on Hwy 70 about 84 miles near the town of Quincy CA. Butterfly Valley, elev 3,590–3,800 ft, was designated a protected botanical area due to its diversity of plant life. The area is a home of the rare insect capturing pitcher plant, *Darlingtonia*, which only grows in limited and scattered bog habitats. We will visit several locations in the area, each offer something different and unique in plant life. We will have lunch on a nearby open timbered flat where the forest floor is carpeted with large clumps of bear-grass. It was used for many purposes by Native Americans. Learn about Butterfly Valleys rich and colorful history. There will be no extended trail walking. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER & CARIBOU FISHERMAN'S TRAIL PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

June 2
Sunday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) at 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, hiking gear, and money for ride sharing. We will drive a total distance of 65 miles, one way. Mostly we will be driving Hwy 70 along the scenic Feather River Canyon to the Caribou Arm of the river where we will make roadside stops. We expect to see Shasta lilies and lady's slipper orchids where small streams cross the road. The road ends at P.G & E nostalgic 1920's town site and power house. The hike is three-miles round trip. The trail is level but not maintained and may be overgrown. The river is crossed twice on foot-bridges. We are hoping for show of cascading white-water. OPTION: Some folks may rather see the areas natural features from the paved road. Do not take children on this trail. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

Executive Board Meeting

MAY 15, 2013
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Gerry Ingco
530-893-5123

Vice President's Message

by Angie Tilaro, Vice President.

If you ask people what they know about the Audubon Society or Sierra Club, they'd undoubtedly be able to answer you. However, if you ask about the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), their answer would probably be "What's that?". Although CNPS is handicapped by not having nationwide exposure, our contribution is just as important as environmental groups that protect birds and animals. Some would even argue that we're more important since plants are the foundation of all life on earth. Even so, at times it seems as if we're one of the best-kept secrets in California. To help you understand what we do, here's our Mission Statement: *To conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.*

Think about tumbleweed and you'll have an idea of what we're all about. That invasive plant, which arrived in the U.S. about 150 years ago, has now spread throughout the West. In Texas a farmer opened his door to find it completely blocked by tumbleweed. In California, star thistle is following the same pattern, spreading uncontrollably and crowding out native plants.

CNPS dedicates itself to projects that help reverse such damage. Here's a short list of some of our accomplishments:

- Work on local projects with other organizations (River Partners, Friends of Bidwell Park) to eliminate invasive plants such as Star Thistle and Privet plus encourage native plants. For example, if you go to the Nature Center in Bidwell Park or Teichert Ponds you'll notice a big difference.
- Support the effort by Butte County's Agricultural Commissioner to quarantine the sale of Scotch Broom (major fire hazard) at local nurseries.
- Sponsor many ongoing programs that support our Mission Statement (horticulture, education, conservation of native plants and rare plants).
- By the time you receive this newsletter, our biennial Wildflower Show will have been held.

Legislative Notes

by David Anderson

BYPASSING THE CONGRESSIONAL GRIDLOCK

An early champion of conservation, President Theodore Roosevelt, signed into law the Antiquities Act of 1906. Briefly, this law gives the President of the United States the power, without action by Congress, to create national monuments for the protection of objects of "historic or scientific interest." Happily, the courts have given the act a broad interpretation which authorizes its use to protect natural wonders and wilderness values. As noted previously in this column, the Antiquities Act of 1906 was invoked by President Clinton in 2000 to create the 328 acre Giant Sequoia National Monument, and by President Obama in 2012 to create the Fort Ord National Monument.

Many national monuments have been created by acts of Congress, but, in this time of paralyzing partisanship in Congress, it is fortunate that the President can act on his own in creating national monuments. Among other potential uses, the Antiquities Act could be employed to create a national monument of 1600 acres on the western boundary of Yosemite National Park. Those acres, which were originally intended to be in the park, would have been added by H.R. 5907 (2012), but that bill died in committee.



Some of the work we do requires knowledgeable botanists; however, most of our tasks just require a warm body.

- The outdoor invasive plant clean-ups have tasks that require little physical strength or knowledge, 2-3-hour commitment.
- Rare Plant Field Trips need helpers. Being knowledgeable is a nice asset, but not necessary. These trips are great opportunities to become a plant "apprentice".
- Two people are needed for Membership and Education Chairs.

How about it? Can you spare a little time to make a difference? Do you have any ideas to help us become more effective? If nothing else, just convince a friend to come to one of our Field Trips or to our monthly meetings. We'd greatly appreciate whatever you can do to help spread the word that we're an important organization.

OROVILLE LIBRARY

for GENERAL MEETING on MAY 1

(from pg 1) Exit Hwy 70 at Montgomery Ave, go east to Lincoln (past Ford dealer and City Hall offices). Turn right (south) on Lincoln (one-way) following it under the tracks, where it becomes two-way. Library is on left as you approach the light at Mitchell. Turn left into library parking lot. Additional parking on the other side of the Library.

VOLUNTEER in MAY

by Janna Lathrop, Events Chair

Come join us at our information and outreach table at the Endangered Species Faire on Saturday May 4. Set up is at 8 am (can always use 1 - 2 helpers). The Faire is from 10 - 4. This is one of the longest running environmental fairs in California; a family friendly event with lots of food, music, fun and fellowship all set in the splendor of Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park. If you can help staff our booth for a two-three hour shift, please contact Janna at jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net Thank You

CNPS MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER BUDGET

PROJECTED INCOME & EXPENDITURES FOR
FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2013 TO MARCH 31, 2014

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
1 NEWSLETTER	2600
2 BULK MAIL PERMIT	200
3 POSTAGE	450
4 P.O. BOX	124
5 SALES TAX (including WFS)	300
6 CHECKS AND SUPPLIES	150
7 CONSTANT CONTACT	126
8 HORTICULTURE/PLANTS (nursery)	500
9 BOOKS AND SHIRTS (except for WFS)	500
10 DONATIONS	0
11 PROGRAMS (including dinners)	200
12 EVENTS/OUTREACH/VIDEO	600
13 MEMBERSHIP	150
14 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION	100
15 WF SHOW OR GARDEN TOUR	1825
16 SPECIAL PROJECTS (Yahi Trail, Invasives, CCNC)	1000
17 COMPUTER AND OTHER EQUIPMENT	0
18 AV FUND (encumbered)	0
19 SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS	300
20 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE	250
21 WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT	200
22 MISC.	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,575

INCOME	AMOUNT
1 CNPS SUBVENTION	600
2 DONATIONS (except for Annie B's)	250
3 WF SHOW OR GARDEN TOUR	4000
4 ANNIE B	3000
5 BOOKS AND SHIRTS (except for WFS)	500
6 PLANT SALES (except for WFS)	325
7 TRANSFER FROM RESERVES	900
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,575

MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER AWARDS STUDENT SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS



The 2013 Chico Science Fair was held March 21 - 28 and Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS participated by giving 4 prize awards to plant based or plant related science experiments. Each prize award was a CNPS logo student backpack, a Nature Journaling Pad and award certificate. Thank you to MLC judges Hesh Haplan, Woody Elliott and Janna Lathrop for organizing.

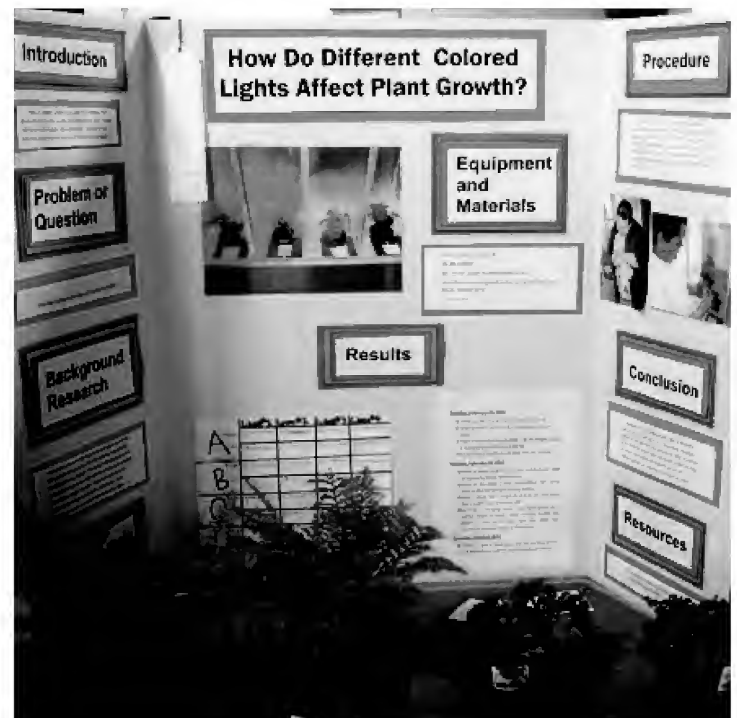
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Regan Hightower for *Pine Cone Seeds*
Grades 1 - 3, Sierra View Elementary School

Joanna Crum for *Colorful Chlorophyll*
Grades 4 - 6, Sierra View Elementary School

Lilia Diaz for *The Effect of Heat on the Sprouting of Seeds*
Grades 7 - 8, Chico Junior High School

John Tuttle for *How Do Colored Lights Affect Plant Growth*
Grades 9 - 12, Fair View High School



In 2008, Catie Bishop originated the Volunteer Recognition Committee and the formal process of recognizing our local members for their contributions.

She arranged for the award itself, and the Committee has recognized a number of our long-contributing members. She has remained the Chair of this committee since its inception. At the program meeting on April 2, 2013, as a surprise to her, the Volunteer Recognition Committee honored her with the award.

Catie has been secretary for the Mount Lassen Chapter for six terms, and from 1996 until 2007 when she was not elected as secretary, she was elected Member-at-Large. She has been steadfast in volunteering her time and expertise in staffing tables and providing displays for many CNPS activities such as the Snow Goose Festival, Oroville Wildflower Weekend, and plant sales, and has provided exploration through the microscope for the Wildflower Show and the Endangered Species Fair. For the Table Mountain field trips she developed and used a simple pictorial flower key to engage the participants more fully in looking at plants.

Catie initiated and organized two popular and successful native plant garden tours, a first for this chapter. She has also grown and contributed many plants for our chapter plant sales, and has assisted in transporting plants to the plant sales.

She has played a large role in the success of the Wildflower Show by initiating ways to improve it. For example she reintroduced the art displays that had been present at the original shows in 1986 and 1987, but were discontinued, and included photography. She organized a contest for high school students to submit their native plant art, the winning entry to be used as a new design for Chapter T-shirts. Her effort brought back the special programs, improved the nature walks, and provided new displays. Her latest effort is to get one of the illustrations by Susan Bazell printed on aprons that can be sold at the Wildflower Show.

After two years of persistence, Catie has succeeded in organizing with CSU, Chico Herbarium, a workshop on Nature Journaling and a special evening program by noted author, illustrator and naturalist Jack Laws.

At the state level of CNPS, Catie has been our Chapter Council Delegate from 2008 until the present. She reports back to our Board of Directors by submitting a typed report of quarterly Chapter Council meetings, and of the activities of the state organization. She also sits on the state Volunteer Recognition Committee, and often attends meetings of the Education and Membership committees.

Catie Bishop has done an outstanding job of promoting, supporting and representing our Mount Lassen Chapter.

Thank You CATIE BISHOP

by Margie McNairn and Jim Bishop



NATIVE PLANTS for the *Garden*



by Jennifer Jewell

The spring woodland garden has many bright stars in the form of shrubs: ceanothus and mahonia come immediately to mind. But look a little closer and you will see how lovely the ribes are as well this time of year. The native ribes are far more soft-spoken but have equally nice things to say as their brighter companions.



Ribes are perhaps best enjoyed in more private, contemplative spots in the garden than bigger, bolder shrubs. Near a bench? Close beside a pathway for easy viewing and touching? Their delicate fragrant flowers and foliage want such close encounters (but do take care for the possibility of thorns!) Appealing to people and wildlife, ribes - placed-well - play an important role in the garden year-round.

Ribes is the only genus in the gooseberry (Grossulariaceae) family and according to the Jepson Manual it includes 120 species, with many more cultivars. Commonly known as currants or gooseberries, ribes are informally designated as currants if they do not bear thorns or gooseberries if they do. Ribes are prized for their ornamental value, the wildlife they attract and their flavorful edible berries.



Many many ribes are native to California. I have several pink flowering varieties throughout my garden as well as the yellow flowering *R. aureum* and the tiny red flowering *R. viburnifolium* (aka Catalina Island currant, Catalina Perfume, etc.), the spicy fragrant foliage of which is a good ground cover in partial shade under un-irrigated blue oaks.

through the *Seasons*

There are many more I could and would like to grow, including fuchsia flowered ribes (*R. speciosum*), with its showy red pendant blooms all in a row beneath its branches in early spring; the white flowered form (*R. indecorum*) which is said to bear very good berries; the Canyon Gooseberry (*R. menziesii*), with its petite little red and white blooms, and more ...

A nice handful of native ribes will thrive in the North State home garden, but if I had to choose one to start with, I would choose one of the pink flowered forms – specifically *R. sanguineum*, which is found easily in the trade. *R. malvaceum* or *R. nevadense* are both very nice as well and possible to find at specialty native plant nurseries or native plant sales.

All three of these pink flowering forms are thornless and bear graceful pendulous pink flower clusters flushing from reddish-deep-pink to pale-pink to white for quite some time from late winter to early spring. The leaves are soft, a little sticky and when brushed or bruised emit a resinous, pleasant woodland scent. The plants prefer a bit of shade especially from late afternoon sun, and will tolerate full summer drought conditions or irrigated garden conditions. They will go dormant and loose their leaves if they receive no summer water, but they perk right back up in fall with first rain. In time, these plants will grow to erect, shapely open shrubs. They can make very nice single focal points, or play well tucked into other shrubs along a busy border. While they are deer resistant, the deer in my neighborhood do lightly browse the newest growth in late winter sometimes.



ROCK LOVERS

by Rex Burress

I was snooping around the woods during the spring equinox milestone, marveling at the lovely illumination that glowed out of a break in the storm clouds.

The mossy rocks near the Feather River Nature Center were arrayed in soft green magnificence, as if the half inch of rain was a last hurrah before the mosses and lichens reverted to summer-brown dormancy.

Although there are certain human beings called rockhounds, who have an extraordinary love for rocks, especially the sparkling gemstone type that they pursue in extraordinarily rugged desert and mountain locations, there are animals and plants with such a love for rocks that they build their homes there.

No better example exists than on some of those mossy nature center rocks, where the Hot Rock Penstemon flourishes right on top! The long, trailing stems cascade in shrub-like profusion down the sides of the ancient volcanic boulders where, evidently, roots are threaded into rock cracks.

There is a mystery as to how that first plant got started on the rock-top, and why it grows on rocks instead of the soft earth. It seems each entity into nature's family is given a special assignment and ability to fill that niche! The rock penstemon has spread to other rocks until a rock-top colony occupies a dozen perches.

Classified as *Penstemon deustus* variation *pedicellatus* in the Snapdragon Family, it is also called Beard-Tongue because of a hairy mouth in the tubular blossom. I examined them closely, and could see the soft spines on the opposite, lance-like leaf edges, just as described. The blossoms that appear in late April attract a host of insects. There are over 250 species of penstemon in the U.S.A, but one, at least, loves rocks. Because *deustus* does well in the desert, it is also called Scab-land Beard-tongue.



The most apparent rock lovers are the lichens that plaster themselves on the surface and endure the hot summers until, like the mosses, rain once again refreshes their growth.

Across the river is another rock lover, not because of preference, but because the pistache tree-seed had been dropped into a crack that reaches ten feet to the water! Thus the stunted, shrub-like "Little Red Tree" has survived for many years in its precarious position.

On Table Mountain, there is another rock lover—the mountain jewelflower, *Streptanthus tortuosus*, found only on the basalt outcrops. At least, it is safe from munching cows in its rough retreat! The yellowish urn-shaped blossoms are formed from the sepals of the flowers, not the petals, while the leaves cling to the stems like a child staying close to its mother.

Also, the mountain violet, or oakwoods violet, *Viola purpurea ssp quercetorum*, is found in the cobble piles when it could grow out in the field like its kin the Douglas' violet. Other rock lovers includes the bitter-roots, *Lewisia rediviva*, and the volcanic onion, *Allium cratericola*.

Several bird species are rock lovers, especially cliff swallows that attach mud-jug nests on sheer rock walls, as well as sheer bridges!

Lizards take advantage of rock crevices as hide-aways, and I recall finding a chuckwalla lizard in an Arizona rock crack, where it repelled my inspection by merely swelling its body as a wedge. I can't recall all the rattlesnakes I have seen slip into a rock fortress.

Bats love cave-rock homes, as do a number of cave dwellers. A human home made of rock will be more substantial than one of wood! One of the Three Little Pigs found that out, too!

The violets in the rocks have broken the rocks."

– Tennessee Williams

Gold does not rust on the ground, and rocks don't get soaked in the rain.

FRIENDS of the HERBARIUM

California State University, Chico

May 11

POACEAE I - SPRINGTIME GRASSES WORKSHOP

Basic grass identification using species found during spring and early summer months in California's Valleys and Foothills. Instructor John Dittes, California Botanist and Consultant. Chico State Herbarium website: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

May 17

SPRING PLANT PHOTO CONTEST

For 6 - 12 grade students. Display to be held during OPEN HOUSE, May 17, in the Chico State Herbarium, CSU, Chico. Cash Prizes. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 10. Chico State Herbarium: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

To Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK

Join the City of Chico's Park Division Volunteers. For information contact LISE SMITH-PETERS, Volunteer Coordinator, or check webcalendar at: http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/volunteer_calendar.asp

May 2 & 3 1 - 4 pm

VOLUNTEER IN THE PARK

Madrone Work Area (off Vallombrosa) meet on Vallombrosa at the Madrone entrance. Remove invasive weed trees, including plum, hackberry, hawthorns and catalpa. Poison oak at site so dress appropriately. Call 624-3982 prior to session for information. Important - please wear long sleeves and closed toed shoes.

May 4 10 am - 1 pm

VOLUNTEER SATURDAY IN THE PARK

Madrone Work Area (same as above)

May 9 1 - 4 pm

VOLUNTEER THURSDAY IN THE PARK

Madrone Work Area (same as above)

May 23 & 24 1 - 4 pm

VOLUNTEER THURSDAY AND FRIDAY IN THE PARK

Madrone Work Area (same as above)

Keep up with **MLC Activities**
on our website and Facebook

California Native Plant Society,
Mount Lassen Chapter
and LIKE US

facebook

mountlassen.cnps.org



Officers & Chairs

ELECTED OFFICERS

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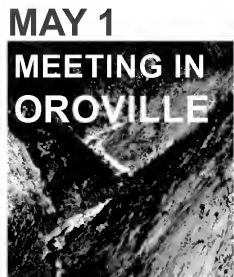
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Time Value
MAY 2013 issue



Pipevine



Phyllis would say

Join Today!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

new _____

renew _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Send Membership Application to:

CNPS
2707 K STREET, SUITE 1
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-5113

Student / Limited Income	\$25
Individual	\$45
Family / Library	\$75
Plant Lover	\$100
Patron	\$300
Benefactor	\$600

mountlassen.cnps.org



April

- 27 - Jack Laws Workshop /Lecture
- 27 - Thomes Creek RPTH
- 28 - Pulga to Mayaro

May

- 1 - General Meeting
- 4 - Endangered Species Faire
- 5 - Butte Creek BLM
- 12 - Upper Bidwell Park
- 15 - Ex Board Meeting
- 26 - Butterfly Valley

June

- 2 - Caribou Trail
- 9 - Annual Picnic
- 19 - Ex Board Meeting