

NOVEMBER 2014

# The *Pipevine*

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



## CONIFEROUS RICHES of Northern California

Presented by DYLAN BURGE, Ph.D.  
Assistant Curator of Botany, California Academy of Sciences

**G**rowing up in Butte Creek Canyon, I was constantly exposed to the incredible diversity of plant life in the Sierra Nevada foothills. No wonder I ended up as a professional botanist at the California Academy of Sciences! At the Academy, I use powerful scientific tools to unravel the secrets of California's natural plant diversity, and to help non-scientists understand how this type of science is done - a task that I love and one very compatible with the goals of the the California Native Plant Society.

One part of my research deals with conifer diversity, and figuring out how climate and soil interact to influence where and when we find certain species of plants. Using animations, plant habitat photos, and other media, I will discuss the remarkable diversity of conifers found in northern California, and review the best scientific information available on why they are found here, including the dramatic geological history of northern California, and subtle ecological patterns only recently discovered. I'll briefly talk about how expanded botanical documentation, by scientists and non-scientists, is desperately needed if we are going to learn more about why plants occur where they do, and how we can use this information to protect them. This will include a "how to" session using several of the online botanical documentation tools that are currently available, for example iNaturalist.



*Dylan Burge is the John Thomas Howell Curatorial Chair of Western North American Botany at the Cal Academy. His research focuses on patterns of plant diversity in Western North America, especially the intimate ecological and evolutionary relationship between plants and soils. Dylan's favorite plants to study are the jewel flowers (*Streptanthus*) and California lilacs (*Ceanothus*). Other plant groups that he studies include grapes (*Vitis*) and manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*).*

**W**e will be electing **MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER 2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS** at this General Meeting. See page 3. for the nominations ... *and COME AND VOTE!*



### **DRAKESBAD TO DEVILS KITCHEN LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK**

November 1  
Saturday

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwys 32/99) in time to leave at 8:30 am. Bring a light jacket, lunch, water, insect/sun protection, money for ride sharing and Park Pass. Call leader for an alternate meeting place. We drive east on Hwy 32 about 66 miles to Chester in Plumas County, then about 16 miles to the trailhead near the Drakesbad Resort in Lassen Volcanic National Park. At ele 5640 ft, the 4.2 mile roundtrip by trail to Devil's Kitchen begins at the Warner Valley Campground. The level of difficulty is moderate with 400 ft gain, wandering through meadows along Hot Spring Creek and under giant old growth conifers. Devils Kitchen features belching fumaroles, mud pots, and steam vents amid rock outcrops in a dazzling array of fiery colors. Leaders: Gerry Ingco, 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

### **OLD USDA PLANT INTRODUCTION STATION ARBORETUM**

November 16  
Sunday

Meet at the gate of the Mendocino Nat Forest Genetics Resource Center on Cramer Lane at 10 am (from the Skyway Take Dominic south to Morrow Lane, turn left on Morrow to Cramer, follow signs to gate). The station was established in 1904 as a research center to test plants from around the world for their use in agriculture, industry, and medicine. We will see some of the original pistachio, kiwi, tung oil, Shantung maple and Camptotheca (pancreatic cancer cure) trees that originated those industries. The easy nature trail is paved and the trees identified. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123 and Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

Bear on Mt Harkness trail, Oct 5, 2014 by Gerry Ingco

## **Executive Board Meeting**

November 19 - 7 pm

KarroLynn Yells 530-534-3551

## **Legislative Notes**

by David Anderson

### **GOVERNOR APPROVES 2 MORE CNPS SUPPORTED BILLS**

**D**uring the last half of September Governor Brown approved Assembly Bill No. 2104, relating to common interest developments and Assembly Bill No. 2193, relating to fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement.

In essence, AB 2104 provides that governing documents or guidelines of common interest developments shall be void and unenforceable if they prohibit the use of low water-using plants as a group or as a replacement of existing turf; or if they prohibit or restrict compliance with either water efficient landscape ordinances adopted under the Government Code or regulations or restrictions on the use of water adopted under the Water Code. For good measure the new law also prohibits an association from imposing a fine or assessment against a member for reducing or eliminating the watering of vegetation or lawns during a period of Governor or locally declared drought emergency under the Government Code.

AB 2193 enacts the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act and requires the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to approve a habitat or restoration project, as defined, if specified conditions are met as determined by the director. The Act also creates the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. The Department is authorized to accept funds and to assess fees for the account. Monies in the account will be available for the purposes of administering the Habitat and Restoration Act. The new law will be automatically repealed on January 1, 2022. A habitat restoration project is defined in the law as "a project with the primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat." Notwithstanding this rather narrow definition, the legislative findings preceding the operative provisions of the law recognize the need for protection and restoration of plants and ecosystems as well as fish and wildlife. In any event, the restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat will have a beneficial effect on native plants and ecosystems. The law is designed to provide an expedited and coordinated agency permitting process for small scale restoration projects.

# President's Message

by Catie Bishop, President

## CALIFORNIA BOTANIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Not many people think about the safeguards that are in place to protect the environment. Even though they may have heard about a developer being required to put together an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS, how many people know what goes into that document? As CNPS is interested in protecting native plants and habitats, we often comment on the native plant survey portion of a developer's EIS. You may think, as I naively did, that when a developer did an EIS on a parcel of land, they were required to hire a competent botanist to survey for rare plants, and assess impacts to those plants by the proposed development. I also thought the results of that survey were made available to the public for comment along with the rest of the EIS. Many botanical surveys are never seen by the public or even agency personnel. This is because consulting botanists have been required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement. This egregious document effectively puts a gag order on a botanist not to reveal their findings of rare plants to anyone but the developer.



I learned about this while attending the last Chapter Council meeting, and some of the material that follows is taken from writings by Dave Magney, Chapter Council Chair and a consulting botanist himself. Developers often hire untrained or unethical personnel to conduct plant surveys and impact assessments. No formal standards exist to define what a professional consulting or agency botanist is, nor are there any guidelines on appropriate or minimum professional standards. Lack of guidance, a code of ethics, and/or standards from a professional organization supporting the professional botanist has led to countless occasions of misidentifications, substandard work, and inaccurate to even fraudulent reports. That has led to poor, inadequate, and unsuccessful mitigation, and the validation and perpetuation of substandard-quality work, leading to significant losses to the California native flora. So the State CNPS is proposing a Botanist Certification Program.

Many professional organizations use standards of certification. As with these other professions, a robust Botanist Certification program will provide a clear and consistent mechanism to recognize, standardize, and promote minimum requirements for consulting and agency botanists. This will improve the quality of field work and impact assessments, resulting in higher quality floristic studies and improve the protection of California native plants.

The California Botanist Certification Program will provide:

- Minimum standards and experience to identify those who are qualified to work as a botanist
- Educational support in the form of workshops and training courses
- A mechanism to keep standards of professionals high by means of certification and decertification
- A mechanism for the public (including regulatory agencies) to clearly identify who is considered qualified, as recognized by (botanist) peers
- Support the professional botanist by establishing a Code of Ethics (including non-acceptance of Confidentiality Agreements).

The California Botanist Certification Program is designed to be financially self-sustaining with minimal staff requirements covered primarily through application and testing fees, and periodic certification renewal fees. However, modest funds are needed to support the focused staff time that is required to compile materials, coordinate partners, and initiate the program. That's why I will be asking our Board to approve a donation to help get the Botanist Certification Program off the ground.

### MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER Nominations 2015 Elected Officers

Candidates were nominated by the Nominating Committee consisting of Jim Bishop and Woody Elliott. Elections will be held at the upcoming General Meeting of the Chapter: Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Nominations may also be made from the floor at this meeting, provided that consent has been obtained from the nominee(s).

#### MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND AND VOTE

President	CATIE BISHOP
Vice President	JANNA LATHROP
Secretary	ANN ELLIOTT
Treasurer	JOHN MEEHAN

#### Members-at-Large

RON COLEY
PAUL MOORE
NANCY PRAIZLER
KARROLYNN YELLS

**Vote!**



**PLEASE JOIN US**

**MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER**  
at the **HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
**FARM CITY CELEBRATION**

**November 8, 2014 10am - 2pm**

**Bidwell Mansion Historic State Park**

FREE FAMILY EVENT with arts & crafts, animal displays  
antique farm equipment, food booths and much more.

**VISIT OUR BOOTH**

**Welcome!**

**NEW MEMBERS 2014**

- Brian Anderson
- Clark Austin
- Paula Cunningham
- Floral Native Nursery & Restoration
- Elizabeth Gibbs
- Margaret Grover
- Monte Johnson
- Rae Lynn Kirk
- Jessica Kolstad
- Jennifer Lara
- Peter Laughton
- Thomas Resk
- Patti Tauscher
- Grant Thorton
- Terri Wolt

For information about becoming a member of  
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
contact Membership Chair KarroLynn Yells  
530-534-3551, KarroLynnY@att.net  
or use the application on last page  
of this newsletter

**BLOCK PARTIES WITH A PURPOSE**

by NANI TEVES,

Watershed Coordinator, Butte Environmental Council

The Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Butte Environmental Council are pleased to announce a new project called Block Parties with a Purpose. The project is free and supports residents joining together to clean up sections of Chico's urban creeks of weeds and garbage.

Over the years, local urban creeks have become choked with invasive plant species as well as increases in garbage. Invasive plant species out-compete beneficial native plants and provide fuel for fires, while excessive garbage pollutes the water and leaves neighborhoods looking neglected. Tackling this problem is intimidating for everyone: neighbors, the city, businesses, and advocacy and environmental groups. But when we get together and boost combined efforts, urban waterways can once again be the beautiful little neighborhood creeks and healthy wildlife habitat corridors that they once were.

HOW THIS PROJECT WORKS • An interested neighbor steps forward and gathers 20 volunteers, sign-up on the BEC website, choose a block party date (Oct 25, Nov 8 or 22). • CNPS and BEC match their efforts the day of the event with \$1,500 in tools, dumpsters, equipment, food, expertise, and people power.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND In the spring of 2014 the Mount Lassen Chapter of CNPS was awarded a Waste Management Think Green® grant to remove invasive weeds and organize creek clean-ups. With CNPS' significant work to restore biodiversity along Chico's creeks through invasive plant removal, and BEC's long history of organizing the community for Creek Clean-up's, the two organization decided to team up and take these efforts even further by empowering and supporting those who care most to take action – the people living adjacent to urban streams.

**THANK YOU SYMPOSIUM HELPERS**



# SUCCEED WITH NATIVE PLANTS

## SUCCESSFUL HORTICULTURE SYMPOSIUM

by CATIE BISHOP, Symposium Coordinator



For a whole year the Chapter has been planning for and working on our first ever Horticulture Symposium. On September 14, 2014 we welcomed 83 people into the Chico Women's Club to learn how to *Succeed with Natives*. There were 4 speakers and a panel discussion.

The first speaker, all the way from San Diego, our State Horticulture Program Director Susan Krzywicki revved up the crowd by promoting the benefits of using natives in the home landscape. Next was Bernadette Balics a professional landscape designer from Davis. She talked about garden planning and layout, and also brought various paving products for people to see what's available. Glenn Keator, author, naturalist and teacher, who lives in Berkeley, showed pictures and talked about native plants that would fit into various home habitat niches. John Whittlesey, a well-known local landscaper, who is also an author of a new book about *Salvias*, taught us how we can make our yard pollinator friendly. The last session was a panel discussion for the audience to ask specific questions of all the speakers.

Participants enjoyed morning coffee fruit and muffins, and lunch with homemade cookies around outdoor tables. There was a plant sale, CNPS sale table, and handouts with more specific information about planting natives under oaks, deer resistant varieties, or growing natives in containers. Master Gardeners had a table promoting pollinator gardening, and Altacal Audubon had a table with information on bird-friendly gardening. All that and door prizes too!



Opening presentation "Native Plant Gardening for a Water-Challenged Future" by Susan Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, at Chico Womens Club.

Top - Panel discussion for the audience to ask questions of all the speakers.  
l-r Susan Krzywicki, Glenn Keator, John Whittlesey, Bernadette Balics, and our own Horticulture Chair, Paula Shapiro. Photos by Woody Elliott

I'd like to again thank our financial sponsors: Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Floral Native Nursery, River Partners, Butte Environmental Council, Chico UPS Stores #1244; and our prize donors: Home Depot, Lundberg Family Farms, Ron Ginochio, Collier's Hardware, and Northern Star Mills.

This Symposium wouldn't have happened without the efforts of many of our members. We had a group of members who came the day of the Symposium to pitch in and help with whatever needed to be done. They helped with setting up the room the day before, setting out food, helping at the sales and plant tables, and that very important, but not so glamorous job, of clean up. Thanks to all of you: Marjorie McNairn, Anne Ferry, Syb Blythe, Dody Domish, Nancy Groshong, Susan Mason, Hesh Kaplan, Nancy Shanks, and Susie Cunningham. You all have great community spirit, and your helping hands are much appreciated.

It would have been impossible to pull something like this off without a dedicated planning committee working for months to get every detail just right, and provide a quality experience for the participants. So let's give a big Thank You to: Catie and Jim Bishop, Janna Lathrop, Cindy Weiner, John Meehan, KarroLynn Yells, Paula Shapiro, Suellen Rowilson, Ann Elliott, and Woody Elliott, and Denise Devine. Each of you helped not only during the planning stages, but on the day of the event to set up, take down, and doing your respective jobs all day, going the extra mile to make it all go so smoothly. I heard so many good comments from the participants about how well organized everything was.

The Symposium offered varied information to a large number of people interested in having a more sustainable and water-conserving garden. We all learned that our gardens can provide habitat for the birds and bees, beauty and diversity for the homeowner, and a healthier environment. All in all I'd say we had an enjoyable and productive day.



Kristina Schierenbeck presents the finer points of locally derived native plants.

Alice B. Heckert Native Plant Garden at Chico Creek Nature Center, described by Judi Maxfield, former garden manager for Mount Lassen Chapter.



Eve Werner, Landscape Architect, describing a front yard she designed and installed over a lawn to reduce maintenance.

Woody Elliott reports, "Twenty native plant aficionados spent September 13, 2014 visiting gardens in north-central Chico. The trials and tribulations of establishing these urban landscapes were described by their designers and installers. Participants had a fine time peppering the local "experts" with questions of what might work installing native plants in their gardens. All agreed that much was gained from seeing what works in the ground. More such opportunities will be scheduled by Mount Lassen Chapter."

Emilie White's multipurpose garden Photos by Woody Elliott



**THESE BUSINESSES** support the goals of the California Native Plant Society and offer its members a 10% discount. **THANK YOU**

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November 8

**FALL PHOTO CONTEST & ANNUAL MEETING  
of the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium.**

Special Guest Lecture "Exploring the Conifer Diversity of the Klamath Mountains and Beyond" by MICHAEL KAUFMAN. Over the past 10 years Michael has walked over and around the Klamath Mountains in an attempt to better understand the region's ecology through the eyes of the conifers. More details on Chico State Herbarium website at [csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html](http://csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html)

November 15

**INTRODUCTION TO KEYING CAREX**

Carex is the largest genus in California with about 140 native species. LAWRENCE JANEWAY is currently the curator at the Chico State Herbarium and also the acting District Botanist on the Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest. Contact [ljaneway@csuchico.edu](mailto:ljaneway@csuchico.edu) More details on Chico State Herbarium website at [csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html](http://csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html)

**MEMBERSHIP**

*If you have changed your . . .*

address, phone number or e-mail  
please notify Mount Lassen Chapter CNPS  
Membership Chair, KarroLynn Yells at  
530 534-3551 or [karrolynn@att.net](mailto:karrolynn@att.net)

This will help eliminate returned Pipevines  
from the Post Office. *Thank You, KarroLynn*

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

California Native Plant Society,  
Mount Lassen Chapter  
and LIKE US



[mountlassen.cnps.org](http://mountlassen.cnps.org)



*Officers & Chairs*

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

(530)

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Past President	SUELLEN ROWLISON <a href="mailto:suellen@garlic.com">suellen@garlic.com</a>	897-0226
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Membership / Hospitality	KARROLYNN YELLS <a href="mailto:karrolynn@att.net">karrolynn@att.net</a>	534-3551
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Vol. Recognition / Chapter Council Delegate	CATIE BISHOP <a href="mailto:cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net">cjbishop1991@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Events	JANNA LATHROP <a href="mailto:jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net">jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net</a>	228 0010
Yahi Trail	STEPHEN OVERLOCK <a href="mailto:stephenoverlock@sbcglobal.net">stephenoverlock@sbcglobal.net</a>	892-0635
CCNC Gardens	CLAIRE MEEHAN <a href="mailto:meehanclaire1@gmail.com">meehanclaire1@gmail.com</a>	

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NOVEMBER 2014 issue



# Pipevine



Phyllis would say

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter*

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Send Membership Application to:

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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](http://mountlassen.cnps.org)

## Calendar

2014

### October

- 25 - BEC Block Party
- 25-26 - Chico Home & Garden Show

### November

- 1 - Drakesbad Lassen VNP
- 5 - General Meeting - VOTE
- 8 - Harvest Festival
- 8 - BEC Block Party
- 16 - Old Plant Station Walk
- 19 - Ex Board Meeting
- 22 - BEC Block Party

### December

- 3 - General Meeting
- NO Ex Board Meeting