

# *Darlingtonia*

Newsletter of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society  
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

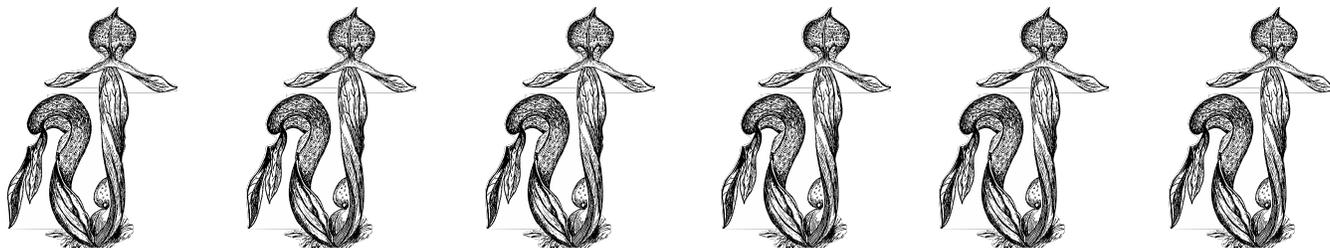


*Lily lovers hard at work restoring habitat for the Federally endangered western lily.*

## **WESTERN LILY HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAYS, POINT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 19-20, 2004**

**BY DAVE IMPER**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Native Plant Society want to thank the 28 volunteers that braved wind, uncertain terrain, and blisters to make the 1st Annual PSG Habitat Restoration Workdays a rousing success. Over the course of two days we restored a half acre of declining habitat for the Federally endangered western lily, paving the way for controlled goat and/or cattle grazing to help maintain the habitat. The Service and CNPS co-sponsored the event, which we hope to make an annual event. With continued effort we expect Point St. George will play a critical role in the recovery of this rare and beautiful species. Double dipper awards go to Peggy Dunavan and Alan Justice for showing up both days, and special thanks to Felicity Wasser and Ron Johnson who drove from Eureka to attend. Our appreciation also to Bob Mize, instructor at the College of the Redwoods Del Norte campus, for attending and encouraging his students to participate. Future western lily habitat restoration workdays are scheduled for January 28 and 29, 2005, at Table Bluff in Humboldt County. Contact David Imper, (707) 822-7201 for information.



# CHAPTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & PRESENTATIONS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS holds free Public Programs on the second Wednesday of each month (September through May) at the Arcata Masonic Lodge, 351 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:45 and program at 8:00 p.m. You don't have to be a CNPS member to attend!

### January 12th

Join Local botanist Jenny Moore for a talk entitled:

#### **Blue Ridge to Bayou - Botanical Treasures of the Southeastern United States.**

Come with us to a fascinating, new bioregion. Jenny's talk will highlight characteristic, interesting, rare, medicinal, and other pretty plants from a variety of habitats in the southeast. We will see many slides from her floristic study in the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains as well as other interesting areas such as swamp forests, salt marshes, and long-leaf pine forests.

### February 9th

Join PALCO botanist Maralyn Renner for a talk entitled:

#### **Plant Research at PALCO**

Don't miss this chance to learn about PALCO's rare plant program and the state of special interest and rare plants on PALCO lands. Maralyn Renner will be speaking to us on the habitats, disturbance responses, and the results of monitoring research on several rare species, including: Humboldt milk-vetch, coast fawn lily, and the maple-leaved checkerbloom.

### March 9th

Geoff Teal: speaking on his Favorite historical botanist

April 13th: Chad Roberts: "Vernal Pools and North Coast Seasonal Wetlands -- Alike and Not Alike"

May 11th: Gabi McLean: "We took out our lawn and so can you!"

## Introduction to the Salicaceae of California (Cottonwoods and Willows) Workshop

Saturday, April 9, 2005

9-5 pm at HSU

The willow family is one of the most important flowering plant families in the state of California and contains two genera *Populus* and *Salix* (cottonwoods and willows respectively). Cottonwoods and willows are found throughout the state at many elevations and within all bioregions. The cosmopolitan nature of this family and its place as the canopy dominant within most riparian systems make it a "must know" family that every field botanist should have familiarity. The morphological plasticity of the group makes it a challenge to learn and identify many members of this family- this workshop is your ticket to a greater personal understanding of this complex group. Almost 1/3 of all North American willow species can be found in California.

This workshop will cover all native members of the genus *Populus* that can be found in the state and introduce students to all 31 species of *Salix* found in California. The goal of the workshop is to instill confidence in students regarding critical characteristics used in the Jepson keys. The workshop will begin with a brief presentation focusing on the taxonomy, geographic distribution and key identification characteristics. Fresh cottonwoods and willows material will be available to illustrate the variety of vegetative and flowering characteristics used in the Jepson keys. Special emphasis will be placed on willow species commonly found in Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte Counties. All experience levels are encouraged to participate. We will use the Keys in Jepson extensively. Additionally, the instructor will provide some helpful corrections/updates to the Jepson key, a Humboldt Bay willow key, and a Hardwood key to the common trees and shrubs growing along the Trinity River mainstem will be handed out.

This workshop is co-sponsored by the  
HSU Natural History Museum.

Participants should bring a hand lens dissection equipment, including extra-fine forceps; a Jepson Manual, and a lunch.

Registration is \$50 for CNPS or HSU Natural History Members and \$75 for non-members.

For more information or to register, call Spring Garrett @  
826-4479.

# FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

**January 29, Saturday LICHEN AND BRYOPHYTE FIELD TRIP TO PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK.** Bring lunch, water, hand-lens, and rain-gear. To carpool from Arcata, meet at Pacific Union School at 9:15. Otherwise, meet at Visitor's Center near Elk Prairie at 10am. Call Sunny Bennett at 441-9545 with any questions. Heavy rain cancels.

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**February 26, Saturday. DUNE AND BLUFF DAY HIKE.** Dare the February weather. Come hike through wet pastures, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, sand dunes, and ocean beach at the end of Table Bluff at the south end of Humboldt Bay. The plan is to start at Ocean Ranch of the Eel River Wildlife Area and end at Table Bluff county Park, where we will have shuttled a vehicle. Map distance is less than 2 miles. Bring lunch and dress for the weather, including wet feet. Meet at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) at 8:30 a.m., at the Mac-Donald's end of Bayshore Mall parking lot at 9:00 a.m., or at the Ocean Ranch parking area at about 9:30 a.m. Call Carol Ralph (822-2015) to tell her you're coming and to find out if there is a Plan B.

§

**March 19, Saturday. WILLOW WALLOW (Day trip).** A 3-stop driving tour to see a variety of willows, hopefully blooming, guided by enthusiastic willow fan John Bair. We will see coastal willows in Blue Lake, inland willows at Big Rock near Willow Creek, and higher elevation willows at a place yet to be determined. Bring lunch and dress for the weather, including cooler temperatures inland and higher elevation. Waterproof boots are a good idea but not essential. Walking will be minimal. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or 9:00 a.m. at the bridge on Hatchery Rd. in Blue Lake. Phone John Bair (442-2646) to tell him you are coming or to ask questions.

§

**April 2, Saturday. BURNT RANCH AND GRAY'S FALLS DAY TRIP.** Last May at these two campgrounds along the Trinity River we saw beds of fawn lily (*Erythronium*) all finished blooming. This year let's try to see them in full flower. There will be other early spring fun as well. Each site has a trail down to the river in the gorge. We will walk these, but you can see plenty around the campgrounds without that extra effort. Bring lunch; dress for the inland weather. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or at 9:15 a.m. at Buttercup Bakery in Willow Creek (or another place of your choosing). Call Carol Ralph (822-2015) to tell her you are coming or to ask questions.

§

**June 11-12, Saturday-Sunday. RED MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP (TWO-FLOWERED PEA).** Explore the 40 acres that members of our chapter bought to save the two-flowered pea (*Lathyrus biflorus*), an extremely rare species. We are hoping that the road will be passable and that the pea will be in full bloom, in its own diminutive way. Other fun mountain plants will be blooming. Details will be worked out later and will involve four-wheel drive vehicles and keys for gates. Probably we can arrange a day trip option and an overnight option. The property is three hours from Arcata, on Red Mountain south of Dinsmore, north of Black Lassic. Contact Carol Ralph (822-2015) or Dave Imper (444-2756).

# FIELD TRIP REPORTS

## Wetland in the Rain...

By Carol Ralph

Eleven people, prepared for a wetland walk, arrived at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Loleta on October 17. We were ready for some water, but the quantity that poured out of the sky that morning defeated the defenses of everyone and shortened our walk considerably. Paper and pencil and our wonderful checklist from Andrea Pickart were useless. Kyle Wear led us around the loop trail, with detours into a field or two. We actually looked at as many roadside weeds, growing along the dike path, as true wetland plants. Stands of cattails (*Typha latifolia*) in the fresh water and mats of brass buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*; not native) on mud and brackish water were obvious. Along the slough, which is salt water, we could compare the graceful, drooped culms of a clump of native hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and the straight, thick culms of a clump of introduced cordgrass (*Spartina densiflora*).

The best find was a new arrow-grass for the list, figured out the next day at home in a dry house. We spotted the patch of clumped, fresh, bright green, grassy-looking leaves of this plant among the otherwise dull or brown herbacious vegetation along a ditch. The fleshiness of the leaves and the little knobs on the flower stalk were the clues it was *Triglochin*, not a grass really, but in the arrow-grass family, Juncaginaceae. Its leaves were only about 1 foot long, and the flower stalk was shorter than that. That clearly made it *T. striata*, not the larger *T. maritima*, whose flower stalk sticks tall and straight above the foliage, 1-3 feet tall, and is common in our salt marshes and along brackish ditches.

All members of this expedition get points for being cheerful and interested despite decidedly squishy and squally conditions.

## Here Passed the Canoe Creek Fire...

By Carol Ralph

The drama and dilemmas associated with wildland fires are common knowledge these days, so we were excited to spend a day with Steve Norman, a fire ecologist, examining an area burned by the Canoe Creek Fire in Humboldt Redwoods State Park just one year ago. Ten of us, including CNPS Executive Director Pam Muick, hiked the Canoe Creek Loop Trail from the Garden Club of America Grove on an absolutely lovely fall day, Sept. 25, 2004. After crossing the South Fork Eel River the trail goes along the top of the river bank through open redwood forest, eventually curving away from the river. It crosses the gravelly bed of Canoe Creek and soon climbs up a slope into Douglas fir-tan oak forest with dense, 2-m tall evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) and hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) understory. Here the trail reached the edge of the burned area, so we could compare burned and unburned.

By examining the rings of a cut tree in the hillside forest Steve could tell us that that forest has burned about every 13-15 years over the life of that tree. He has determined that the riverside redwood forest was burned about every 10 years by the Native Americans. Seeing the dense, unburned understory, we could appreciate one reason why they would--just so they could move around in the forest. Theoretically, burning and subsequent regrowth resulted in more abundant and sweet berries. We saw vigorous sprouting from the base by huckleberries, tan oaks, and redwoods.

The burned forest we walked through had some dead, black trunks, but most canopy trees were alive and well. A year of leaf litter was on the ground, covering the black ash of the burn. Redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*) had sprung up and carpeted the forest floor just as before the fire. Many sword ferns (*Polystichum munitum*) were now black, leafless stumps, but some stumps had sprouted fresh, green leaves. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) was abundant. We saw a good variety of "the usual suspects" in a redwood forest, including redwood ivy (*Vancouveria planipetala*), an iris, redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*), branched Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), coastal wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), gold-back fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*), lady fern (*Athyrium felix-femina*), five-finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*), sugar scoop (*Tiarella trifoliata*), trail plant (*Adenocaulon bicolor*), stream violet (*Viola glabella*), vanilla leaf (*Achlys californica*), trillium (*Trillium sp.*), and starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*), though none were abundant.

We saw evidence of some interesting aspects of fire behavior. In areas where smaller plants were not severely burned, so we know the fire was not raging tall, charred redwood bark 30 ft up the trunk demonstrated that redwood bark is indeed flammable. It had ignited at ground level and smoldered upward as far as dry bark could sustain the combustion. We noted that even bark coated with river sediments deposited in the 1964 flood could burn this way. Some of us had known that the sun foliage from the tops of redwoods is shorter-leaved and more wirey than the flat sprays in the shade, lower portions of the trees. Steve pointed out that the sun foliage, knocked down by winter winds, creates a looser, more flammable litter than the flat sprays, which lie flatter on each other and the ground. He said the amount of litter we were seeing, deposited in only one year since the fire, was enough to carry a fire. We saw a 2-foot deep pit with arm-size tunnels leading down out of it, the totally burned out stump and roots of a

(Continued on page 5)

# CHAPTER EVENTS

## Western Lily Habitat Restoration Workdays, Table Bluff, Humboldt Co. - January 28-29, 2004

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is coordinating two volunteer workdays on Friday January 28 and Saturday January 29, to restore endangered western lily habitat on Table Bluff. The endangered western lily (*Lilium occidentale*) is known from less than 30 sites along the coast between Coos Bay, Oregon and Table Bluff, California. A primary cause of its decline over the past 100 years is the conversion of its habitat to shrubland and forest. A total of four populations, and one of the largest populations rangewide remain on Table Bluff. Volunteers will plant lily bulbs and manually clear habitat, necessary until controlled grazing can be implemented as a long term tool to maintain the habitat.



Volunteers should come prepared for wet weather, and bring lunch and water, gloves, and any brush-clearing implements (loppers, machete, brushwhacker, rake). Attendees will be registered as volunteers for the Fish and Wildlife Service for the day. Meet at the south end of the Bayshore Mall parking lot in Eureka at 9am. Volunteers may work until noon, or the entire day if they choose. Call Dave Imper, USFWS, 822-7201 with any questions.

*(Canoe Creek Fire – Continued from page 4)*

tree. A long, straight trench was the bed of a fallen log the fire consumed.

An obvious trait of this slowly moving fire (5 yds /hour) was that it missed patches. A long narrow bed of trail plant, sugar scoop, and stream violet along the trail was an obvious, big patch, and there were numerous others. Besides the haphazard unburned patches there was the real refugium of the creek bed, where it may never have burned.

I was disappointed when I learned that the burned area we were exploring was the result of a back-fire lit "by dropping ping pong balls filled with napalm." I felt as though we weren't seeing the "real" fire, which was far up on the ridge and had crossed into private land, causing considerable bad feelings. Presumably the fire behaves the same, regardless of how it started.

Our day in the burn revealed not a mass of devastation, but a pleasantly clear forest with fresh, green life springing up in a variety of ways. The ecological scene was much more depressing in the river bed, where exotic weeds, including some of the most invasive, were in the majority.

## Election Results Are In!

Thanks to everyone who cast their votes for the 2004 chapter elections. All four people that were nominated were unanimously voted in.

The following three incumbents remain for another two-year term: Carol Ralph, President; Felicity Wasser, Vice President; and Tamara Camper, Treasurer. Additionally, Suzanne Isaacs joins the chapter board as the new Secretary. Suzanne served as interim Secretary this fall after our previous secretary, Karen Colson, was no longer able to serve.

Thanks to Karen for the months she was Secretary, thanks to Suzanne for agreeing to join our chapter board for a full term, and thanks to Carol, Felicity, and Tamara for continuing in their roles as elected board members!

Kim Hayler  
2004 Nominations Chair

# CHAPTER PROGRAM REVIEWS

## PLANT SPECIES DIVERSITY IN CALIFORNIA SERPENTINE

review by Wanda Naylor

Dr. Hugh Safford presented our November program on Wednesday, November 10th, entitled, "PLANT SPECIES DIVERSITY IN CALIFORNIA SERPENTINE: Regional Patterns and Possible Causative Factors." In order for us to understand the basics of serpentine biogeography, Dr. Safford treated us to a whirlwind review of Geology 1A: plate tectonics, rift zones and subduction zones; igneous and metamorphic rock; and the earth's crust, mantle, and core. Pointing out that "serpentine" rock is correctly called serpentinite, our speaker explained that this material originates in the deeper layers of the earth, the mantle. This heavier material, called "ultramafic" is rich in magnesium and iron. Mafic, apparently from Mag + Fe (for iron). Serpentinite derives from peridotite, after being subjected to water and heat.

Showing a map of California, and the location of a series of North-South ultramafic belts, Dr. Safford declared, "The Trinity Alps don't just look like the Sierra Nevada, they are the Sierra Nevada." The Trinities are essentially the northern Sierra, offset to the west by tectonic processes. Serpentine soils comprise only a small amount of the California landscape; however, they are extremely important in terms of endemic and rare plants.

Since ultramafic substrates are not common at the earth's surface (at least in California), they are a difficult place for plants to grow.

While the audience passed around samples of such intriguingly named minerals as "lizardite" and "benitoite," we continued to learn about the properties of serpentinite soils. The "Serpentine Syndrome" includes such factors as low soil fertility and possible toxicity. These factors lead to some of the following ramifications:

Low productivity/low rates of growth

Open vegetation structure

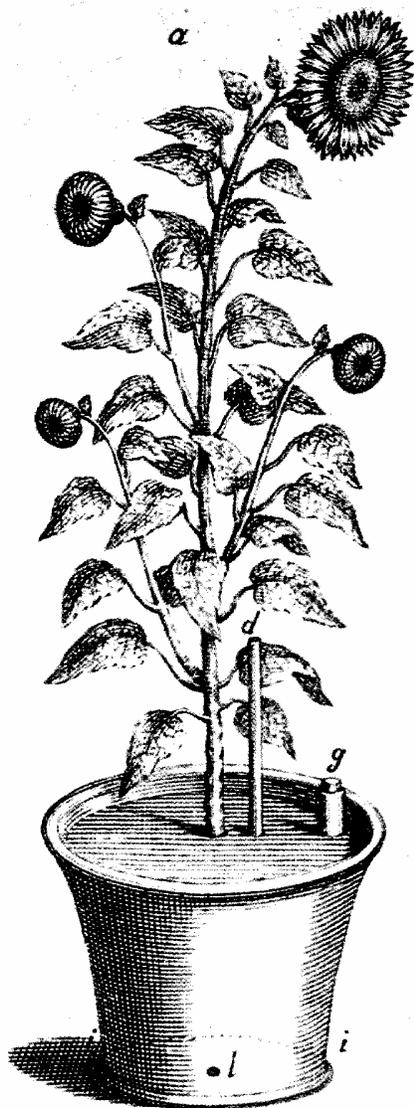
High ratio of native to exotic species

High rates of endemism

The last part of the talk was called a "Virtual Gazetteer" of serpentine areas in California. Our nearby Klamath region contains the N. Fork of the Smith River Botanical Area, the Horse Mountain Botanical Area, Cedar Basin Research Natural Area, and the Mt. Eddy/Scott Mts. areas. (Don't miss the December program; we'll be hearing more about Mt. Eddy and Mt. Scott then.) As we traveled farther south, we were tantalized by gorgeous shots of such plants as *Calochortus obispoensis*, the San Luis mariposa lily; *Asclepias solanana*, serpentine milkweed; and *Ceanothus jepsonii*. This final part of the presentation made many of us feel like hopping in our cars that moment and taking off for some of these lands of the ultramafic and ultra-fascinating.

Dr. Hugh Safford is the regional ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, and a research associate at U.C. Davis. He can be reached at [hughsafford@fs.fed.us](mailto:hughsafford@fs.fed.us). Our thanks to him for an entertaining and inspiring evening.

# THANK YOU



## New Plant Sales Co-Chair: Sunny Bennett

After serving as our chapter's Book and Poster Sales organizer and Hospitality coordinator, Sunny Bennett is moving into a new realm as Plant Sales Co-Chair. Along with Jennifer Kalt, she will coordinate the semi-annual plant sales, answer native plant propagation questions, and deliver potting soil and pots to the volunteer growers. Welcome aboard, Sunny! To request potting soil and/or pots, or to get involved with the Plant Sales team, email Sunny at sunnybennett@sbcglobal.net or Jen at jkalt@asis.com.

## Thank You to all the hard-working members of the North Coast Chapter!

**Sunny Bennett** for selling books, posters, and T-shirts for us, and proceeding with the second edition of the T-shirt, and running the fall plant sale.

**Debra Parsons** for the friendly face and delicious refreshments at our evening meetings and other events.

**Peggy Dunavan** for tracking our membership and welcoming new members so well.

**Kim Hayler** for expertly running our election.

**Larry Levine** for representing us at state chapter council meetings and for heroic service in maintaining our Web site.

**Suzanne Isaacs** for promptly recording what we decide at our business meetings.

**Kathy Dilley** for very ably coordinating the Native Plant Consultants.

**Tamara Gedik** and **Stephanie Morrissette** for finding us good speakers, making fliers, and taking care of many details in the course of presenting our programs.

**David Loya** for giving us a computer to use with our digital projector.

**Greg Jennings** for getting out our newsletter on schedule and making it look so nice.

**Pete Haggard** for countless presentations about gardening with native plants.

**Sunny, Debra, Larry,** and maybe others for reliably bringing the building key and mastering the security system so we can have our meetings in the Lodge.

**Mary Wheatley** for getting our announcements in "Econews."

**Larry Levine** for organizing local plant walks.

**Jen Kalt** for countless THP reviews and letters on behalf of native plants, for running our plant sales, our main source of funds, and generally for being our respected conservation voice in many ways.

**Tamara Camper** for building us a budget.

**Carol Ralph**, our president, for providing guidance, motivation, and help to all of us.

# CHAPTER PROGRAM REVIEWS

## SEDGES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Reviewed by Carol Ralph

If you ever wondered what a sedge looks like, you should have been at our October meeting to learn just that from Gordon Leppig. Gordon's love of wet feet has led to his great knowledge of plants in wet places, and that includes most sedges and their relatives in the family Cyperaceae. As a group these have solid stems, which may be triangular, round, or square, bearing three-ranked leaves and inflorescences called spikelets, in which only one bract is below each flower and the fruit is an achene with a single seed. The flower, being wind pollinated, is not showy, though the spikelets and inflorescences, in their various forms and presentations, can be quite attractive. These wetland plants are good at binding soil and providing food for waterfowl and cover for myriad creatures.

Some common relatives of sedges are tules (bulrushes, e.g. *Scirpus* (now *Schoenoplectus*) *acutus*), tiny bulrush (*Scirpus* (now *Isolepis*) *cernuus*). I saw this species in a nursery labelled "fiber optic grass.", spike rushes (*Eleocharis*), and papyrus-type things (*Cyperis*).

The true sedges, genus *Carex*, make the largest genus in the state, with 135 species, of which 37 are CNPS listed as rare. Gordon showed us wonderful portraits of a great variety that he has known and loved. All might be called "bunchgrass" by the uninitiated, but within that basic profile I could see hope for learning to recognize many sedge species without dealing with microscope and heavy jargon. Clumps can be delicate or massive, tall or short. Leaves can be long and slender, very long and fine, very short, drooping, or relatively erect, bright green or blue-green. Spikelets can be held high or flopped over. They can be brown or black, droopy cylinders or spikey balls, large or small. Some sedge species are habitat specific, living, for example, only in gravel bars, or floating islands. The common names of the sedges reflect these distinctions: flaccid sedge, torrent sedge, star sedge, mud sedge, Scooby-Doo sedge.

If you want to know one sedge around here, it should probably be the slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*), which is abundant in fresh and brackish wet places.

Gordon showed us that the world of sedges is an exciting and beautiful place. When you are ready to move beyond the eye-catching lilies, sunflowers, and such, ready for another challenge, you are ready to enter that world.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT: FERNDALE COASTAL FORESTS

by Carol Ralph

Not all our forests here behind the redwood curtain are redwood forests. The coastal spruce forest was our destination on November 6, as a congenial group explored two pieces of the spruce forest on private properties along the coast south of Ferndale. The day proved to be a good review of our common shrubs. Only a few had lost all their leaves and totally baffled us.

First we visited a farm with a wet but sunny exposure along Reas Creek, not far out of Ferndale. We walked a hillside where cows kept paths open among patches of regenerating forest. Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and red alder (*Alnus rubra*) were erupting above the thickets of cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*), elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*), hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), a cherry (*Prunus* sp.), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), a rose (*Rosa* sp.), and gooseberry (*Ribes divaricata* (smooth fruit)). A large, spreading, round-canopied willow (*Salix* sp.) graced a knoll. A few big-leaf maples (*Acer macrophyllum*) shone yellow against the spruce at the edge of a meadow. A feral apple (*Malus*) tempted two of us to scramble up a steep, thick hill to investigate. An abundance of douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) graced the pasture. Hiding in thickets were bits of yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*), star Solomon's seal (*Smilacina stellata*), and inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*). Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), coastal wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), and lady fern (*Athyrium felix-femina*) were there too. At the head of a water ditch skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), water parsley (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*), small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*), American brooklime (*Veronica americana*), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.) enjoyed the sogginess. The

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# CONSERVATION NOTES

## Underwood Potential Wilderness Area Threatened by Proposed Logging Road

The Underwood Potential Wilderness Area, which includes the area that many of us know and love as "Hell's Half Acre," is currently threatened by a proposed road to an inholding of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), which wants access to log 160 acres right in the middle of this roadless area. The logging road would be approximately 4,800' long, and would log 40,000 board feet of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine in old growth stands that have been identified as suitable Northern Spotted Owl habitat. The road would cross 4 seasonal streams that are tributaries to Underwood Creek, which flows into the Wild and Scenic South Fork Trinity River just upriver from Hell's Half Acre Creek.

We are working with the American Lands Alliance, the Environmental Protection Information Center, the Northcoast Environmental Center, and other conservation advocates to postpone the issuing of the road-building permit until the land can be bought by a land trust or other suitable landowner that will permanently protect the area.

The North Coast Chapter submitted scoping comments to Six Rivers National Forest on SPI's proposed Special Use Permit. Public scoping is the initial phase of public comments, which will be used to develop an Environmental Assessment of Environmental Impact Statement. To sign up for action alerts, email Jennifer Kalt, the chapter's Conservation Chair, at [jkalt@asis.com](mailto:jkalt@asis.com).

(Ferndale Field Trip – Continued from page 8)

pastures hosted a full array of herbaceous weeds, including a fiercely spiny, unfamiliar one I later resolved to be spiny clothbur (*Xanthium spinosum*), a relative of cocklebur.

South along the Centerville Rd., past the beach and the Navy base, we enjoyed our lunch on a patio with a dramatic view of the ocean and then shuttled to the ridge to walk down an old logging road. The west slope of the ridge was pasture or coastal prairie stretching down to the ocean cliffs, and the east slope was tall, damp spruce-alder forest. We walked a couple miles down through this forest. This older forest included grand fir (*Abies grandis*), wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*), a few Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and one western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*). Thickets of salmonberry and stinging nettle filled the understory. A very spiny gooseberry with brilliant red leaves (*Ribes menziesii*) enlivened the edge of an old log deck. Fringecups (*Tellima grandiflora*) and coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus*) were occasionally along the road, as was the less common golden saxifrage (*Chryso-splenium glechomifolium*) in wet places. Along the creek at the bottom of this slope, where our hosts had cleared a path to view a small waterfall, we spotted trillium (*Trillium* sp.), a five-finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*), and a carpet of redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*).

Both sets of hosts of this delightful day were well informed and rapidly getting to know the botanical denizens of their properties. We thank them for sharing these areas with us. We are very pleased that the stewards of these forests know what they have.

## Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2004

The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act, also known as SB 1334, sponsored by Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles), was signed into law on August 24. Nearly 45,000 messages were sent to the Governor in support of improving oak woodlands protection, thanks to the organizing efforts of the California Oak Foundation. The bill protects oak woodlands by setting restrictions on development in woodland areas. It also requires that counties consider plans that would protect twice as many oaks as the development removes. SB 1334 creates a set of options that can be used to fulfill an existing legal responsibility that was created by the California Environmental Quality Act, but which has been largely ignored. These options include the purchase of conservation easements, planting oaks to replace dead or dying trees, and the restoration of former oak woodlands. The act protects true oaks, which are members of the genus *Quercus*, so tanoaks are not protected.

More than one million acres of California's oak woodlands have been destroyed since 1950. Threats to oak woodlands include the fragmentation of large ranches into small lots as California's population expands into the wildland-urban interface. In Nevada County, the median size of landholdings in 1957 was 550 acres, and by 2001 had been reduced to just 9 acres. This fragmentation leads to increased roads, the spread of exotic plant and animal species, and fencing that harms wildlife. This legislation will help protect one of our most valuable native habitats.

For information on oak conservation, or to sign up for regular updates on oaks issues, visit the California Oak Foundation at <http://www.californiaoaks.org>.

## JOIN CNPS NOW!

### North Coast Chapter

Membership in the California Native Plant Society, a statewide nonprofit organization, is open to all. The task and mission of CNPS is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of California native plants. The challenge is to preserve their natural habitat through scientific, educational, and conservation activities. Membership includes subscriptions to the informative quarterly journal *Fremontia*, the statewide newsletter *Bulletin*, and our local chapter newsletter *Darlingtonia*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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