

Darlingtonia

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

LASSICS UPDATE (WITH A CAUTIONARY NOTE)

By Sydney Carothers and Lisa Hoover

This year marks the 6th season of demographic monitoring of the rare Lassics endemic, Lassics lupine (*Lupinus constancei*) under a cost-share partnership between the North Coast Chapter and Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF), with additional participation in a variety of studies by U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS). *Lupinus constancei* is known only to the Lassics Botanical and Geologic Area of the SRNF, now partially encompassed by the newly designated Mt. Lassic Wilderness.

CNPS, SRNF, and USFWS have expended considerable energy undertaking an integrated approach to promote the conservation of the lupine. Besides demographic monitoring (which equates to tracking the fate of individuals over time), ancillary studies include multi-year seed bank experiments, quantifying the edaphic variables of suitable habitat, and the role of disturbance, specifically herbivory. In regard to the latter, monitoring in 2002 and 2003 indicated a loss of a number of plants and fruits to herbivory. In order to better understand the extent of herbivory on reproductive success and fitness, biologists with USFWS, SRNF and California Department of Fish and Game are investigating the composition and abundance of small mammals through photo-documentation and track plating methods, as well as experimenting with various enclosure designs to reduce the incidence of herbivory. Visual evidence of this investigation includes the wire enclosures around lupine plants noted as "strange sights" by Carol Ralph in her Lassics field trip report in last winter's Darlingtonia. These enclosures, meticulously hand-built by our own Dave Imper, have been successful in deterring seed predation by small mammals and appear to have bolstered reproductive success of the lupine since their initial installation in 2003.

The Lassics region is a spectacular and unique area. So enjoy the great views and Jeffrey pine landscape, but when in the area of Mt. Lassic, be mindful to use the existing trail developed by SRNF to avoid the fragile habitat of the Lassics lupine. The lupine occupies steep, loose, unstable settings, and as recruitment has been a serious issue, every seedling trampled means significant consequences to the population. Seedlings blend with their serpentine substrate and can be very hard to see, and are easily buried or uprooted by foot traffic.

For this reason and because every footstep in this setting leaves a deep imprint with a ripple effect to the population, we ask that visitors to the Mt. Lassic area be sure to follow the signed loop trail to the summit along the southwestern flank of the peaks and not go cross-country across the scree slope on the northeast side of the peaks.

Editor's note: Sydney Carothers is a consulting botanist and has performed the demographic monitoring since 2001. Lisa Hoover is the forest botanist at Six Rivers National Forest and has been the lead person on the Lassics lupine project since its inception.

Sydney and Lisa have noticed more visitors since the area was designated a wilderness area last year. Please heed their caution and use only official trails while you enjoy the beauty of the area

"The Mount Lassic Wilderness, located approximately 20 miles northeast of Garberville, now has a total of 7,279 acres. It is a picturesque cluster of peaks offering impressive views of the Coast Range. The area contains unique rock formations such as Mount Lassic and Red Lassic that are visible from as far away as the King Range Wilderness to the west and the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness to the south.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp live in the area's seasonal wetlands. Vernal pools usually occur at much lower elevations (most notably in the Central Valley), thus making this habitat extremely unique.

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FIELD TRIPS AND PLANT WALKS

Please check our Web site (www.northcoastcnps.org), watch the local papers, or join our e-mail notification group (go through our Web site) for later additions.

JULY 4, Wednesday. 1-3 p.m. ARCATA MARSH PLANT WALK. "What's in a name? Words, weeds, and wildflowers." Enjoy the greenery and flowers at Arcata Marsh and learn the significance of terms like native, non-native, and invasive. Meet naturalist Jenny Hanson at the Marsh Interpretive Center on south G St. for a level, 1-mile walk. 444-2553.

JULY 8, Sunday. BOARD CAMP MT. DAYTRIP and optional overnight. At close to 5,000 ft. elevation in the serpentine zone of Forest Service Rte 1 (Titlow Hill Rd.) south of Horse Mt., Board Camp area offers fun botanical exploration. The state of the roads, our vehicles, and the group's ambitions will determine how much we walk on roads, on trails, or cross country. Some of us want to camp up there Saturday night (primitive camp). For coming up Sunday, meet at 8:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) to carpool. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of 4N38 (the turn to Board Camp) and FS 1. Best call Carol 822-2015 to say you're coming, especially to join the camp-out.

JULY 14, Sat. 10 a.m.-12 noon. SUMMER WILDFLOWER WALK, ELK HEAD. Look for lilies and gentians with botanist Birgit Semsrott on this level, 1-mile walk through alder and spruce forest, coastal scrub, and coastal prairie. Meet at College Cove parking lot north of Trinidad on Stagecoach Rd, north of Anderson Ln. 825-0680.

AUGUST 3-5. Friday-Sunday. BIG FLAT IN THE TRINITY ALPS, FIELD TRIP. The road up Coffee Creek off Hiway 3 (north of Weaverville) offers plenty of geology, as well as mountain wildflowers, to amuse you on the hour to Big Flat, at the end of the road. Here, at 5,760 ft. elevation, is an unimproved Forest Service campground where we can stay while we explore this mountain meadow and some trails that ascend from it. Call Carol Ralph 822-2015. ARTISTS NOTE: Rick Tolley and other artists are bringing their portable paints and pencils and taking advantage of the alpine inspiration of this place.

AUGUST 11, Saturday. 1-3 p.m. MAD RIVER BEACH PLANT WALK. Lots of the aster family blooms in late summer. Meet them with botanist Birgit Semsrott on this easy walk through sand flats and dunes. Meet at the beach parking lot at the end of Mad River Rd. 825-0680.

SEPTEMBER 9. Saturday. WETLAND DAY TRIP. Destination to be announced. 822-2015.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

STONY CREEK TRAIL

by Carol Ralph

After two rendezvous, at 11:30 a.m. on March 31, 2007, 17 eager botanizers were finally heading out Stony Creek Trail near Gasquet on Rte 199 in Six Rivers National Forest. Armed with an up-to-date list from Dr. Smith, featuring the latest names and families, and comforted by the vast experience and good memory brought along by Veva Stansell, we were ready for spring! We found it close to the ground where we stepped out of the cars: precious, pink calypsos (*Calypso bulbosa*) and white brook wakerobin (*Pseudotrillium* (used to be *Trillium*) *rivale*) (Now in the bunchflower family, *Melanthiaceae*, along with beargrass and death camas.)

We needed no list or taxonomy to marvel at the fawn lily beds (*Erythronium californicum*) (still in *Liliaceae*) dappling the wide, mossy shoulder of the trail through the brushy understory of this very mixed, evergreen forest. Their creamy, nodding blossoms glowed even on this overcast, chilly day. Mottled, strap leaves of all sizes indicated plenty of young as well as mature plants. We can thank the Six Rivers National Forest, in whose jurisdiction the first part of this trail falls, for periodically clearing the encroaching shrubbery back from the trail, allowing light to reach these healthy beds. Oregon anemone (*Anemone oregonum*) likes these beds too. The first of their blue-violet, globe-shaped buds were opening to reveal a starburst of creamy anthers displayed on a violet rosette of "petals."

Along the gentle climb across the forested slope it became clear that spring was definitely later than it was on April 3, 2004, our last trip here. Irises and fairy bells were blooming then; this year not. Still, the earliest bloomers, like milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*) and valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis*) were delightful.

Rocks on a small flat near the river provided good perches for our lunch stop. Nothing like two species of *Lomatium* for entertainment while eating sandwiches! Clusters of sparse, gray-green leaves with few, straight, long, narrow leaflets were *Lomatium triternatum*, just opening the first yellow flowers in the umbels on their erect, foot-tall flower stalks. Clusters of finely divided, dense, parsley-style, gray leaves were *Lomatium macrocarpum*, with tightly closed, fuzzy buds on near-horizontal flower stalks, which would later stand upright.

We followed the informal track upstream through a rocky, *Darlingtonia* "bog". The Port Orford cedar and other woody vegetation coming up in these bogs spells trouble for the *Darlingtonia*, which don't tolerate shade. In this wet place we puzzled over some pointy, green spears of new leaves emerging from a foot-wide clump of old, dead, smashed, iris-like leaves with two two-foot tall, dry flower stalks bearing loose heads of open capsules. Someone noticed the stalks were sticky. Aha! *Tofieldia*! Its new name is *Triantha occidentalis*, in the false asphodel family, *Tofieldiaceae*, split off of the lily family.

(Continued on page 11)

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

NORTH COAST CHAPTER'S SEMI-ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

SEPTEMBER 22nd and 23rd - time and location TBD (for information when available, sign up for our Announcements e-mail on our chapter's website). A wide array of native plants will be available, from wildflowers to trees and shrubs for landscaping. Bring the beauties of Humboldt's forests, meadows, and dunes to your garden! All proceeds help support the North Coast Chapter's activities

SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE RIVERS TO PEAKS WEEKEND

JULY 6TH TO 8TH at the new Deer Creek Center in Selma, OR. The weekend will include their Annual Dinner on July 7th and lots of great courses including:

- Conifers with Frank Callahan ~ July 7th
- Native Bees with Michael Mesler, PhD ~ July 7th & 8th
- Flora and Landscape with Steve Jessup, PhD ~ July 7th & 8th
- After the Fire: The Natural Regeneration of Forests with Jeff Shatford and Maria Ortiz ~ July 7th and 8th
- Plus many more classes, call us or visit our website for more information.

PLANT PROFILE

by Carol Ralph and Kim Imper

Lilium columbianum

July is lily month, the peak of bloom for the most species over the widest range of elevation, of the real lilies, genus *Lilium*, those tall, large-flowered, elegant, herbaceous perennials. Here in northwest California we have an exciting number of lily species, more than anywhere else on the continent. One of the most frequently encountered species is the orange-flowered, upland species, *Lilium columbianum*, called Columbia lily, tiger lily, and probably some other things as well.



Columbia lily is abundant in the Botanical Management Area in the redwood forest along Highway 101 south of Crescent City. Motorists could easily be distracted by the stunning display of candelabras of these 2-inch, orange, pendant "turbans". Lily viewing is difficult and noisy along that road, so luckily the same lilies are thriving in the big, mowed meadow at Patrick's Point State Park. There a lily-fancier can study closely the curled, orange petals with dark freckles inside, the cluster of protruding stamens, and the whorls of leaves. The dry habitat and orange, strongly curled petals define this lily as *columbianum*.

A pink, strongly curled lily flower in a dry habitat would be *kelloggii* (Kellogg's lily). An orange, strongly curled lily flower in a wet habitat, such as a marshy place or streamside, would be *pardalinum*

(leopard lily). A red-with-yellow-and-green-center, strongly curled lily flower in a marshy or boggy habitat would be the endangred *occidentale* (western lily).

The regimen of winter mowing is what maintains both the roadside and the meadow for the lilies and other flowers along 101 and at Patrick's Point. If not mowed, woody vegetation would soon shade out these sun-loving flowers. This is exactly what is happening at Elk's Head in Trinidad, part of Trinidad State Beach, where a few Columbia lilies struggle up through the tangle of salal and such.

Wild populations of any of these lilies are precious and deserving of protection by the public and landowners. People who want to grow lilies can find all of the local species and infinite crosses and varieties available from reputable propagators.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

EVENING PROGRAMS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS (www.northcoastcnps.org) holds free Public Programs on the second Wednesday of each month (September through May) at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 and program at 7:30 p.m. You don't have to be a CNPS member to attend! Contact Audrey Miller, Programs Chairperson at taurdrey-birdbath@suddenlink.net or 786-9701, with speaker or botanical subject suggestions.

- September 12** **"BE THERE! How to put yourself in the right place at the right time to take good photographs."** **Larry Ulrich** will discuss techniques that will guide photographers and observers of nature in predicting the best time and location to be during the year for optimum photographic opportunity. He will show over slides that will illustrate the results of being in the right place at the right time
- October 10** **"Exploring California's Deserts"** A discussion with slides of flowering plants in the Mohave Desert and some of the Great Basin in Colorado Desert areas. **Jeff Hogue, CR professor**
- November 14** **"Poseidon to Zeus. A snapshot of the Oregon Coast Range, its geology and botany."** **Don Begnoche**
- December 12** **Members Night**
- January 9** **"Carnivorous Plants"** **Barry Rice** will discuss carnivorous plants with an emphasis on local species

BUSINESS MEETING

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS holds business meetings to discuss a variety of topics related to running the organization. The next meeting will probably be in September. Meetings are from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Northcoast Environmental Center. You must be a North Coast CNPS member to attend.

GET INVOLVED

Contact an appropriate person from our roster (p. 8).

Secretary to take notes and write up minutes of our business meetings, maximum 9 per year, 1.5 hrs in evenings. Learn about everything we do. Contribute to and influence the future of native plant conservation!

Writers, photographers, editors for a field guide to redwood flora. Yes, the chapter is writing a book, and you can help. Contact Kim Hayler at 441-2058(W), 839-3481(H), or khayler@sbcglobal.net.

Walk leaders to share enthusiasm for and knowledge about native plants.

Big thinkers to help plan the wildflower show.

Join the North Coast CNPS—By joining CNPS you add your voice to that of other native plant enthusiasts wishing to increase awareness, understanding, appreciation, and conservation of California's native flora. Members receive the quarterly journal *Fremontia* (the statewide newsletter), our chapter newsletter, *Darlingtonia*, and the *North-coast Environmental Center (NEC) newsletter, EcoNews*. Membership fees: Individual \$45; Family \$75; Student or Limited Income \$25 (Membership fee minus \$12 is tax deductible).

To join or renew, you can either:

- Send your name and address, check (payable to CNPS) or credit card information to CNPS, 2707K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.
- Pay on-line <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/join/>

Please notify the state office and/or our Membership Chairperson if your address changes.

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

IMPRESSIONS OF THE 2007 SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

by Carol Ralph

Open sky, ocean air, ocean roar beyond the dunes, nippy breeze, sand.

School of the '50's, breezeways, concrete, chipped paint, holes for nesting birds, humble.

Multi-purpose room, aromas sweet and musty, sky light from broad eastern window, studious voices.

Tables, white, crowded with jars, large, small, and tiny, presenting flowers: showy and elegant in the lily family; tall reaching for wind and pollinators, in the grass, carrot, and mustard families; woody and uncomfortable pieces of naturally elegant shrubs and trees; cute, precious, and curious entire plants in baby food jars.

Big petals with simple messages--trillium; tiny flowers with crooked necks--tonella; fantastic shape--columbine.

Paper cards, white and pink; names, various, ever-changing, ever-in-doubt.

"So that's what that is!"

A face in a jar brings memories from a distant, scenic, mountain spot.

Other people who also actually look at little yellow flowers; sharing an "ooh" moment.

In this spartan setting these messengers from the forests, fields, and marshes deliver beauty, connections, hope, and resolve.

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The 2007 Spring Wildflower Show, May 4, 5, 6, was visited by approximately 1,000 people, including 10 classes of elementary school children.

We are currently brainstorming the 2008 Wildflower Show and can always use more good heads with good ideas. Contact Carol Ralph 822-2015.



Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*)
Photo courtesy of Pete Haggard

THANK YOU!

Dear Folks,

I would like to thank the members of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for the wonderful Spring Wildflower Show, held at the Manila Community Center this past weekend. Nothing could have prepared me for the dazzling array of flowers that had been collected, organized and labeled by the dedicated volunteers of this organization. I am most appreciative of the time and effort that went into producing this show, which so beautifully showcased the remarkable diversity of plant life and the wonderful people that makes our area so special. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Raymond

Eureka

Northcoast Chapter of CNPS extends a hearty thanks to Los Bagels, Muddy's Hot Cup, Wildberries, Northcoast Co-op, and Ray's Arcata Store for their generous contributions of refreshment provisions for our 2007 Wildflower Show volunteers. Their support made a huge difference in what we could do to keep our working team up and going.

Here are most of the people who earned this thanks:

For collecting and identifying: Sydney Carothers, Laura Julian, Jen Kalt, Sunny Loya, David Loya, Tony LaBanca, Amy Livingston & Cheri Sanville & the Green Diamond botany crew, Helen Consantine-Shull, Aimee Weber, John McRae, Denise Del Secco & Emily Walters of Friends of the Dunes, Cara Witte, Barbara Kelley, Melissa Brooks, Kim Hayler, Don Davis, Ned Forsythe

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For coordinating the collectors: Tony LaBanca

For sorting, arranging, identifying: Marcus Jones, Whitney Mayer, Jayne Owen, Natalie Cabrera, Janelle Egger, Gail Penso, Yuko Wenzel, Jenny Moore, and others

For maintaining database and sharing expertise all weekend: Steve Darington

For making the flier, managing the species cards, storing and remembering lots of things, carrying the vision, and general help: Larry Levine

For Publicity: Larry Levine, Jennifer Tompkins, Rick Tolley, Carol Ralph

For Art Night: Rick Tolley

For the bug table: Pete and Judy Haggard

For displays: North Coast Redwood Interpretive Assoc. (Jeff Russell), Friends of Dunes (Denise DelSecco), Suzanne Isaacs

For lectures or walk: Ruthie Maloney, Sabel Rose Regalia, Robin Bencie, Frank Milelczik, Mike Mesler

For sharing responsibility : Steve Norman

For lilies to dissect: Sun Valley Floral Farms

For organizing school visits: Judie Snyder, Maggie Donovan-Kaloust

For teaching lessons: Colette Beaupre, Cara Witte, Ron Johnson, Ali Lindgren, Maggie Donovan-Kaloust, Nancy Ihara

For guiding classes: Sharon Lopez, Jean Guthrie, Lil Stodder, Jim White, Kay White, Jan Niclai, Adair Paul, Marilyn Hagar, Marilyn Davidson, Karen Mayer

For set up: Frank Milelczik, Marisa D'Arpino, Jeff St. John, Carol Ralph, Jim Waters, Virginia Waters, Becky Deja, Larry Levine

For clean up: Jenny Gerding, Steve Norman, Virginia and Jim Waters, CJ and Carol Ralph, Rita Zito, Judie Haggard, Charlene Crump

For keeping volunteers fed all weekend: Melinda Groom

For working shifts during the show: Gwynneth Carothers, Paul Carothers, Frances Ferguson, Ann White, Mark Fritzke, Pauline Baefsky, Gail Penso, Jen Kalt, Andrea Culbertson, Joan Watanabe, Robert East, Sylvia White, Carol Monet, Bev Zeman, Don Zeman, Rebecca Green, Noah Lurtz, Jim and Virginia Waters, Rita Zito, Marcus Jones, Kathy Dilley, Donna Wildearth, Dave Bigger, Steve Norman, Frannie Martin, Jenny Gerding, Elaine Weinreb, Joan Rainwater-Gish

For hosting signs: Freshwater Farms, Cocina Michoacana, Noah Lurtz's family, Miller Farms, Grondalski Insurance, Murphy's Mkt Blue Lake

For putting up signs: Dave Bigger, Anda Webb, Janelle Egger, Rick Tolley, Carol Ralph

For storing signs: Freshwater Farms

For storing and transporting our huge jar collection and signs: Suzanne Isaacs

For re-lettering signs: John Bair, Suzanne Isaacs, Janelle Egger

For posting fliers: many and varied

For lending books: Gordon Leppig, Noel Krahforst, Carol Ralph, Carol Monet

For coordinating all these volunteers: Larry Levine, Carol Ralph



THANK YOU

Steve Norman for a year of concise, accurate, fairly timely minutes of our business meetings.

Robin Bencie, Liz McGee, Carol Ralph, Pete Haggard, and **Larry Levine** for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm with "the public" by leading plant walks.

Kathy Dilley and **Frank Milelczik** for submitting logo designs for our Open Garden series.

Jennifer Tompkins, Pete Haggard, and **Carol Ralph** for inventing and executing the Open Garden series, a simpler event than the Garden Tour, but not trivial.

Kathy Dilley for continuing conscientiousness in coordinating native plant consultations.

Tamara Camper for heroic effort in pulling together all the numbers for our financial statement.

Paul Carothers for becoming the Poster Runner



**The North Coast Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society**
invites all to their inaugural
Open Garden Summer Series

This is an informal way to enjoy visiting one selected garden and its owner(s) without having to rush to other gardens. There is no need to pre-purchase tickets or RSVP. Suggested donation: \$5.

Saturday, June 16th, 10 am - 3 pm - Eureka

This Eureka garden will inspire all gardeners who want to recreate or restore a native habitat. Come see how this homeowner hand-cleared blackberries, allowing existing natives and planted natives to flourish. Native plants include: seven kinds of berries, skunk cabbage, cattails, water parsley, and Douglas iris. Contact Pete at 839-0307 for directions.

Sunday, July 15th, 10 am - 3 pm - Fortuna

Sun or shade, wet or dry, and clay; all these conditions are found in this Fortuna yard. A wide variety of California or northwest native trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials, and annuals are growing in this not-quite-wild / not-quite-tame landscape. 1020 Angel Heights Road, Fortuna. For directions or more information, contact Janelle at 725-2195.

Sunday, July 22nd, 10 am - 3 pm - Bayside

A variety of native trees, shrubs, and forbs have been planted on what was, until 1999, a nearly treeless lot. A natural-bottom pond, modest flower garden and poetic landscape architecture have resulted in a leafy, wildlife-friendly oasis one block off Old Arcata Road. 1632 Hyland Street, Bayside. For directions or more information, contact Jude or David at 822-3613.

Saturday, August 18, 10 am - 3 pm - Eureka

Red-twig dogwood, twinberry, red-flowering currant, red elderberry, Douglas and Del Norte iris are a few of the natives waiting to welcome you to this inspiring Eureka garden where the homeowners replaced traditional, high-maintenance lawns with a variety of wildlife-attracting native plants. Stroll past a small pond (with a solar-powered pump) while enjoying the scent of mock orange and wild rose flowers floating through the garden as hummingbirds and songbirds flit about you. 4977 Lundblade Drive, Eureka. For directions or more information, contact Kathy at 825-7665 or Pete at 839-0307.

For directions and other information about the Open Garden Series, or to nominate a garden for a future Open Garden, please contact Pete Haggard at 839-0307 or phaggard@suddenlink.net.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

President	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Vice President	Felicity Wasser	826-7712	wasserfw@yahoo.com
Secretary	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details
Treasurer	Tamara Camper	839-0665	tamaracamper@Yahoo.com
Bookkeeper	Frannie Martin	822-7196	solopackerfrances@hotmail.com
Membership	Stephen Lazar	476-8681	warnshuze@yahoo.com
Invasive Plants	Suzanne Isaacs	668-1821	sli@Reninet.com
Native Plant Gardening	Pete Haggard	839-0307	phaggard@suddenlink.com
Native Plant Consultation	Kathy Dilley	825-7665	kad16@humboldt.edu
Plant Sales	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jkalt@asis.com
	Sunny Loya	441-9545	sunny@mcbaintrush.com
Education	Judie Snyder	826-7735	snyderj1@suddenlink.net
Legislation	Marisa D'Arpino	601-0898	marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com
Conservation	Jennifer Kalt	839-1980	jkalt@asis.com
Programs	Audrey Miller	786-9701	taudreybirdbath@suddenlink.net
Field Trips	Carol Ralph	822-2015	theralphs@humboldt1.com
Rare Plants	Kim Imper	444-2756	dimper@softcom.net
	David Loya	834-5013	davidloya1@msn.com
Plant Communities	Tony LaBanca	826-7208	tlabanca@dfg.ca.gov
Newsletter Editor	Marisa D'Arpino	601-0898	marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com
WebPage & Publicity	Larry Levine	822-7190	levinel@northcoast.com
Book & Poster Sales	Felicity Wasser	826-7712	wasserfw@yahoo.com
Workshops	Gordon Leppig	839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov
Wildflower Show	Position Open		Contact Carol Ralph for Details

COMMUNICATIONS

North Coast CNPS members have three ways to share information with each other: the **Darlingtonia Newsletter** (quarterly), our chapter's website (www.northcoastcnps.org - updated regularly), and e-mail lists/forums (Announcements, Business, and Gardening – subscribe from the **E-mail lists and Forums** page on www.northcoastcnps.org).

The *Darlingtonia* is the quarterly newsletter of the North Coast Chapter of CNPS. Items for submittal to *Darlingtonia* should be sent to marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com by each quarterly deadline: December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Botanical articles, poetry, stories, photographs, illustrations, sightings, news items, action alerts, events, factoids, tidbits, etc. are welcome and appreciated.

We, the North Coast Chapter of CNPS, are a member organization of the **Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC)**, a valuable voice for conservation in our area. This means we have a seat on the board of directors, currently filled by Felicity Wasser, who is the NEC treasurer. It also means that as our member you are automatically entitled to receive the NEC's monthly publication, **EcoNews**.

Due to the vagaries of membership lists, you might not be receiving this informative newsletter. If you are a member of our chapter, do not receive *EcoNews*, and want to receive it, phone 707-822-6918 or e-mail nec@ournec.org and leave the pertinent information for Serena.

WELCOME ABOARD

Judie Snyder as Education Chair, having passed the trial-by-fire at the wildflower show.

NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS

Letter from the Editor:

Dear North Coast CNPS Members,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy days to respond to the newsletter survey. We had 24 respondents - an 8% response rate (that's really good - most surveys are lucky to get 1%). We were thrilled to know that you are happy with the information provided in the *Darlingtonia*. A summary of the newsletter survey results follows this letter.

Thank you also to all of the newsletter content providers and previous editors for making the *Darlingtonia* such an outstanding native plant newsletter. Without you, the newsletter wouldn't be what it is today.

We will continue to provide you with interesting field trip reports, rare plant articles, program schedules, project updates, and conservation information. We will also see how we can incorporate more native plant propagation, garden design, gardening, and plant identification information. Your comments help us determine how to best meet your native plant needs and how to most wisely allocate our budgets.

Please feel free to contact me or other chapter chairperson with ideas for newsletter articles or programs (see Contact Information on page 8), or if you would be interested in writing/have an idea for an article for the *Darlingtonia*.

Sincerely,

Marisa D'Arpino
North Coast CNPS Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Survey Results Summary:

- The survey respondents had a mix of professions. The largest group (of ten) were current or retired plant-related professionals.
- One-third of the respondents were interested in gardening with native plants.
- We had a 100% satisfaction rate (65% very satisfied / 35% satisfied).
- All respondents read all or part of each issue.
- The Calendar, Field Trips/Plant Walks, and Field Trip Reports were the top three consistently read sections. Several people commented that they skip the more technical articles.
- Gardening with Natives (plants, pests, design, etc) and Featured Plants (medicinal uses, how to ID, bloom time, wildlife/insect relationships, etc.) were the two most requested features. The CNPS statewide survey also identified gardening as a number one interest.
- Two follow-on questions were asked of those who provided an e-mail address. The questions were: whether they would be like an electronic version of the newsletter to be available and if they would like to receive an electronic version instead of a paper copy. Most responded that they thought an electronic copy would be nice for looking up old articles and showing visitors to our website what we do, while one-third said that they would like the option to receive an electronic version.

BOOK REVIEW

WILDFLOWERS FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR

by Carol Ralph

How to take good photos may be a topic of interest only to the photographers among you, but when the speaker is Larry Ulrich, all of you should take note. To see how special such a presentation will be, I invite you to browse through one of his books, *Wildflowers of California*, photography by Larry Ulrich, text by Susan Lamb; Companion Press, Santa Barbara, California, 1994.

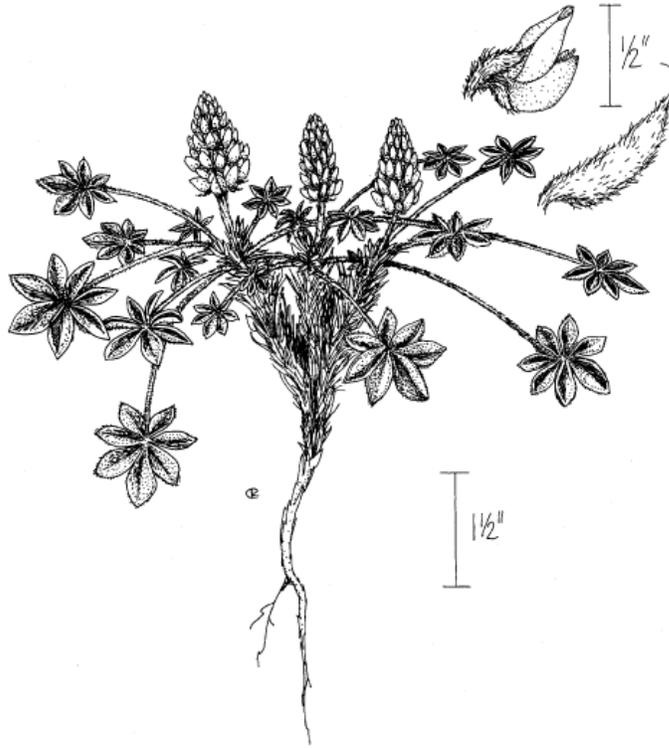
Every photo in this book says, "Sit down and gaze at me." Each captures the essence of the scene or the plants. If you have been there, you will recognize it. If you know that flower, you will be transported to the place in which you met it.

Besides being stunning each photo is accurately identified botanically and geographically. Many of the photos are from the North Coast. This is the Ulrichs' home. Others are from other great California places you may have visited or have on your list to visit. A few moments in this book will carry you great distances or teach you a new flower.

In September you can hear from Larry himself how he captures these awesome images. See the listing of evening programs.

(Continued from page 1)

Unusual soils make this area fascinating to botanists, and six rare plant species have been identified in the region. Other species include northern spotted owl, blue grouse, marten, fisher, and goshawk. Old-growth forests of Douglas fir, incense cedar, and Jeffrey pine cover much of the area." From *Wilderness.net*, "an Internet-based tool connecting the natural resource workforce, scientists, educators, and the public to their wilderness heritage through ready access to wilderness information" <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=wildView&WID=683&tab=General>



Drawing by Christina Paleno Ericksen

For more botanical information about the Lassics, see "The Lassics in August" field trip report in the Winter 2006 *Darlingtonia*.

NATIVE PLANT CONSULTATION SERVICE

Are you wondering which plants in your yard are native? Are you unsure if that vine in the corner is an invasive exotic? Would you like to know some native species that would grow well in your yard?

The North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society offers the Native Plant Consultation Service to answer these questions and to give advice on gardening with natives. If you are a member of CNPS, this service is free, if not, you can join or make a donation to our chapter.

A phone call or e-mail to our coordinator, Kathy Dilley (825-7665 or vandk@quik.com), will put you in touch with a team of volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to your property to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.

(Continued from page 2)

The path brought us to a gravelly flat dotted with the tiny, white faces of *Viola cuneata*, each with two dark "eyes" and elegant, deep purple backs of the petals. When someone found a group of three checker lilies blooming, we hunkered down with Jepson for some team botany. About 8 inches tall, each plant had a whorl of 2 or 3 tapered, strait leaves and one flower, a different mix of pale or greenish yellow mottled with brown-purple (What do you call that color?), nodding, and a shiny, yellow stripe (the nectary) 2/3 the length of each petal. The conclusion: *Fritillaria affinis* var. *affinis*. (Still in Liliaceae)

I learned later that the "bogs" and flat up this side stream, Stony Creek, and the flat where the trail comes down and we ate lunch are in the parcel acquired last year by the Siskiyou Land Conservancy. The boundary between Six Rivers National Forest and this important, rare plant site, the Stony Creek parcel, is about halfway down the hill and is not marked.

The walk back to the trailhead was surprisingly quick, as our wonder-quotient for the day was satisfied, and our minds and bodies were refreshed with a dose of early spring.

On the way to and from the Stony Creek Trail parts of our group enjoyed botanical sights worth reporting for others to enjoy. At the Hiouchi visitor center in the woods among the poison oak were *Trillium ovatum* and *Trillium kurabayashii* blooming and, for the sharp-eyed, twayblade (*Listera*) in bud. Under the oaks at the Gasquet ranger station was a fine stand of pink *Erythronium revolutum* and a sprinkling of *Pseudotrillium rivale*. At the Botanical Trail, at milepost 17.9 up Hiway 199, things looked mostly like winter, the bizarre "cobra heads" of *Darlingtonia* waiting patiently for warmer days. At Klamath Beach Road, just south of the Klamath River, the roadside stand of *Trillium kurabayashii* was spectacular.

GUTHRIE CREEK TRAIL

by Carol Ralph

On April 15, 2007, 17 adventurers, most of them botanically inclined, gathered to explore the Guthrie Creek Trail, 4 miles south of Ferndale on the Centerville Rd. The upper stretch of this trail borders, and the lower stretch is in, one of those small holdings of the Bureau of Land Management, this one called Lost Coast Headlands. The central third of the one-mile trail is in private property. This trail reaches the mouth of the creek, although "the last portion of the trail (near the beach) is non-existent and is not maintained for public use", as the sign at the top warns. We ate lunch at this spot, sitting in the bowl created by a recent small landslide. Two of our group had the agility, time, and inclination to cross the creek on logs and poke around the driftwood on the small beach, keeping a close eye on the high tide waves. The trail does little to explore the actual BLM property, which, other than a small piece of streambed and willow thicket, is steep, thickly vegetated coastal scrub, forested gully, and massive, unstable, gray, crumbly cliffs falling into the ocean.

Our botanizing focused on the trailside vegetation through old grazing land growing up in coyotebrush. It was a good review of non-native pasture plants and weeds. The general green herbage and the purple blooms of *Lupinus rivularis* and *Iris douglasiana*, two of the native species present, glowed in the spring sunshine. The south-facing slope was sheltered and warm. We took advantage of the assortment of vetches and pea to study the difference: pistil like a toothbrush and new leaves curled in *Lathyrus*; pistil like a bottlebrush and new leaves folded in *Vicia*. Many species were not yet blooming.

In fact, the most exciting find, near the start of the trail, was not blooming in the morning and was in the afternoon: vibrant pink, 6-"petaled," yellow-throated, upright trumpets in the sparse, short grass of the hard, compact dirt road. One flower on each stem, above 2 bracts; up to 5 stems on a plant, with leaves that reminded us of crocus. This arose from a brown-coated, "bulb" and a thick, vertical, underground "stem". Considerable time consulting all our books found nothing close. Thanks to the historian in the group we knew that there had been a settlement in the Guthrie Creek area, so we tasked a landscaper to delve into her horticultural books at home. There the answer emerged: *Romulea thodei* from South Africa, in the iris family. A hiker who visited this trail weeks later reported this pink flower along much of the trail down. (It might be the source of some misinformation on the BLM sign, that you might see *Brodiaea jolonensis* here.) Did the settler who added this bit of cheer to her cabin garden stop to think what it might do after she was gone?

The good company, sunny day, and easy, though steep trail made a fun day. The thickets of the coastal scrub and the tangles of the forested gullies of this BLM parcel are still waiting to be explored.

**CNPS, North Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 1067
Arcata, CA 95518**

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CALENDAR

Check our website for additions and updates www.northcoastcnps.org

Date	Event	Page		Date	Event	Page
Jul 4 Wed	Plant Walk	2		Sep 9 Sat	Field Trip	2
Jul 8 Sun	Day Trip	2		Sep 12 Wed	Monthly Program	4
Jul 14 Sat	Plant Walk	2		Sep 22-23 Sat-Sun	Plant Sale	3
Jul 15 Sun	Open Garden	7		Oct 10 Wed	Monthly Program	4
Jul 22 Sun	Open Garden	7		Nov 14 Wed	Monthly Program	4
Aug 3-5 Fri-Sun	Field Trip	2		Dec 12 Wed	Monthly Program	4
Aug 11 Sat	Plant Walk	2		Jan 9 Wed	Monthly Program	4
Aug 18 Sat	Open Garden	7				