Reporting Wild Plant Occurrences
Just Got Easier
By Calflora’s John Malpas, Cynthia Powell, and Roy West

Calflora released in April a beta version of our updated Observer Pro for Android, a smart phone and tablet application that allows users to “quickly and efficiently report wild plant occurrences.” We also have an iPhone/iPad non-pro version.

Observer Pro makes it easy to use your Android phone to record observations of plants you find in the wild and then wirelessly upload them to the Calflora website.

Observations may include:
- Date (from phone’s internal clock)
- Photo (using phone’s camera)
- Plant name (using searchable list of > 10,000 common and scientific names)
- Location (using the phone’s GPS and confirmed on a map)
- Polygon shape around observation

Observer Pro is customizable, with a number of powerful features for supporting a variety of botanical projects:
- Custom forms to make it simple to collect the data you need.
- Offline maps custom aerial image maps or topo maps of any region at the resolutions you require for use on Observer Pro when you have no data connection.
- Custom plant lists project-specific plant lists, to speed up entry of plant names.
- Custom projects bundles of forms, maps, plant lists, and other useful resources, with your organization’s name and logo, for use by your project or team.

Observer Pro is also part of Calflora’s new Weed Manager system to be completed in March of 2015. For those of you tracking invasive plants, Weed Manager allows you to keep track of how an infestation polygon of a species changes over time, e.g. how percent cover or size of polygon changes.

For more information about the application and links to download either version, visit Calflora’s application webpage at: www.calflora.org/entry/applications2.html
Please watch for later additions on our Web site (www.northcoastcnps.org) or sign up for e-mail announcements (Northcoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. Direct questions about physical ability requirements to the leader. It is wise to contact the leader if you are coming, in case plans change.

July 12-13, Saturday-Sunday. Bear Lake Day Hike or Backpack Overnight. We will explore the Bear Peak Botanical Area in the Siskiyou Wilderness. This is an overnight backpacking trip with the option to day-hike. The first day we will hike the three miles to camp at Upper Bear Lake. The hike is moderate and very exposed, through a burned area, and drops steeply into the lake basin. The next day we can explore the botanical area and/or hike on to Red Hill, a very interesting open forest with Port Orford-Cedar and Brewer’s Spruce growing out of red rock. Meet at the Panamnik Building in Orleans (same building as the Post Office, 38150 Hwy 96) at 10am, or at the Elbow Springs Trailhead at 12:00. Please contact Tanya Chappel at 530-627-3202 or tanya@mkwc.org. Arcata people may want to camp somewhere nearby on Friday or Sunday night.

July 18-20. Wetlands and Cascade Mountains in Rocky Point, Oregon. The many wetlands of Upper Klamath Lake near Rocky Point offer a diversity of wetland plants, both perennial and ephemeral, even in a drought year. The Ralphs’ cabin near Rocky Point Resort will be headquarters for half-day explorations by canoe or by foot of the tule-and-cat-tail marsh along Recreation Creek, the vernal pool aspect of Harriman Springs and Four-Mile Marsh, the mountain meadow uplands and marsh of Big Meadow, the streamside lilies and mosquitoes of Seven Mile Creek, and other sites as time permits. Ralphs offer cabin space and tent sites (very rustic), and Rocky Point Resort, a small, rustic resort, offers tent sites (5), RV sites, cabin, and motel units, as well as canoe rental. Contact Carol for more details as soon as you think you might come (707-822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com).

July 26, Saturday. Trinity Monkeyflower Rare Plant Treasure Hunt at Horse Mountain Botanical Area. We will first locate a known site of the recently described *Erythranthe trinitiensis*, a yellow monkeyflower that occurs on serpentine in wet meadows and on roadsides. Once we establish a visual image of the plant and it’s habitat, we will spread out in search of more sites of this rare species, which CNPS recently ranked as 1B.3, generally within 1/4 mile of roads. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd, Arcata) to carpool to Horse Mountain. Bring lunch, water, boots, and protection from the sun. Return late afternoon. Please contact John McRae at 707-441-3513 or at jmcrae@fs.fed.us.

August 2, Saturday. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Orchids in the Dunes. Do our dainty, native orchids bloom in a dry year? Join Carol Ralph on the forest and dune trails of Lanphere Dunes to find out. Learn about five species of orchid that live there. Walk 1-2 miles, partly on soft sand. Meet at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd, Arcata) to carpool to the protected site. Co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of the Dunes. Call 444-1897 to RSVP.

August 23, Saturday. Oregon Fireweed Rare Plant Treasure Hunt at Grouse Creek. To locate an historic occurrence of *Epilobium oreganum*, the Oregon Fireweed, rare plant listed 1B.2, we will drive and hike along Forest Service roads near Grouse Creek, a tributary to the South Fork of the Trinity river. This site was first and last recorded in 1888 by two botanists, E. R. Drew and V. K. Chestnut, who rode on horseback from Eureka to Hyampom and noted this fireweed growing rankly along brooks near Grouse Creek. They assigned a new name, *Epilobium exaltatum*, to their finding, which is now considered a synonym for *E. oreganum*. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd, Arcata) to carpool to Grouse Creek. Bring lunch, water, boots, and protection from the sun. Return late afternoon. Please contact John McRae at 707-441-3513 or at jmcrae@fs.fed.us.

September 6, Saturday. Big Lagoon Day Hike. Even in a dry year the wetlands of the bog and the lagoon edge should have fresh, green things to look at, including the rare bog Club Moss. We will probably explore the spruce forest, the sandy spit, and the ocean bluff as well. This will be off-trail tramping around, not great distances. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd, Arcata) or at 9:30 a.m. at Big Lagoon School. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Wet feet are a real possibility. Please tell Carol you are coming: 822-2015, theralphs@humboldt1.com

October 12, Sunday. Field trip. Destination to be announced.

November 1, Saturday. Field trip. Destination to be announced.
Evening Programs

Evening programs are 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 p.m.; Botanical FAQ’s at 7:15 p.m., and program at 7:30 p.m. For information or to suggest a speaker or topic contact Michael Kauffmann at 707-407-7686 / michael_kauffmann@yahoo.com.

Sep 10  "Pyrodiversity and its Importance to the Northern California Flora"– Dr. Jeff Kane, HSU Fire Ecologist – The floral diversity of northern California is partially due to the pyrodiversity of the region. In most cases, plants are not simply adapted to fire but require specific fire characteristics to persist on the landscape. This talk will present regional examples of native plants and their different strategies to persist in fire-prone ecosystems. Through understanding the importance of fire to plant biodiversity, the talk will then address some of the current and future issues in northern California.


Nov 12  Book Release Party! Field Guide to Grasses of California – Dr. James P. Smith — Grasses and grasslands are of increasing interest to conservationists, biologists, and gardeners. There are more than 300 species of native California grasses and they are found in almost every climate—from cool, wet forests to hot, dry deserts. Despite their importance, grasslands remain one of the most under protected of California’s vegetation types, and native grasslands have undergone the greatest percentage loss of any habitat type in the state. Join us for an evening celebrating the past, present and future of California grasses with our own agrostologist superstar. Books will be for sale at this event.

Dec 10  Native Plant Show and Tell. An informal evening for anyone to share photos, artifacts, readings, or food relating to native plants and their habitats. More information coming soon.

Call for Nominations

Elections in October! Now’s your chance!

The chapter elects four officers--president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary--for 2-year terms every two years. A person may nominate himself or another member for any position by submitting his/her name by August 31 to Marisa D’Arpino (marisa_nativecalifornian@yahoo.com / 707.601.0898 / PO Box 898, Blue Lake, CA 95525). The ballot will be published in the newsletter mailed about October 1. Votes may be cast by mail or in person at the October Steering Committee meeting (Thursday, October 2) or evening program (Wednesday, October 8).

Our chapter is governed by a Steering Committee composed of "Job-holders" and following our Operating Procedures. As a chapter of a state-wide organization governed by a true board, and operating more informally, we codified the way we do things in these Operating Procedures rather than in "by-laws." The four elected officers are part of the Steering Committee. Any "job-holder" may join the Steering Committee, when approved by that body. Not all Job-holders choose to join the Steering Committee. Some jobs are essential and well-defined, e.g. treasurer. Some jobs are specialized, e.g. Yahoo! Group Moderator. Some jobs are broad and open to the interpretation of the holder, e.g. Conservation Chair. All are important and improve the effectiveness of the chapter. (See Volunteer Corner in this newsletter for some un-elected jobs that need people, maybe you!)

The Steering Committee meets one evening each month, September through May (currently first Thursdays) for 1.5 hours. All chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings. We value input from all sources. Tell Carol if you’d like to attend. (822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com).
Volunteer Corner

Phone Carol 822-2015 or write theralphs@humboldt1.com to volunteer, ask questions, or make suggestions.

Thank you!
[See separate articles for Wildflower Show and Plant Sale thank-you's.]

- **Melinda Groom** for many, many years of reliable, delicious refreshments and a very hospitable environment at our evening programs
- **Chris Beresford** and **Anna Bernard** for an incredible, record-breaking spring plant sale
- For leading walks or trips: **Pete Haggard, Virginia Waters, Tanya Chapple, Carol Ralph, Jenny Hanson, Rich Ridenhour, Michael McDowall,** and **Laura Julian**
- For tending our table at the Humboldt Permaculture Guild Seed and Plant Exchange: **Karen Isa, Stephanie Klein, April Caito, Frank Milzcik,** and **Carol Ralph**
- For growing Miner's Lettuce to give away at that event: **Carol Ralph, Anna Bernard**
- For tending our table at Godwit Days: **Sylvia White, April Caito, Greg O'Connell, Frances Ferguson, Barbara Kelly, Audrey Miller,** and **Carol Ralph**
- For taking our table and our plants to the Humboldt Bee Festival, an inspired and especially effective move: **Karen Isa.**
- For hosting dig-and-divides: **Melissa and Todd Kraemer,** **Peggy** and **Roger Pryor**
- For giving us empty gallon and four-inch pots, and trays: **Peggy Pryor, California Conservation Corps**
- For salvaging plants for our sales: **Anna Bernard, Judie Hinman, Carol Ralph**
- For extraordinary potting up achievement: **Anna Bernard** and **Karen Isa**

Volunteers needed. Big jobs and small, every one important. Every job-holder is eligible to be on our Steering Committee. Contact Carol at 822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

- **Hospitality Chair.** The job is to enhance the atmosphere of the evening program by providing modest refreshments. We have 9 evening programs each year, on second Wednesdays September through May. The Hospitality Chair need not attend every program, if other people have been trained to perform the tasks. Various members often contribute food, and a donation jar generally covers costs. Staffing the kitchen and greeting visitors over the snack counter is actually fun. Good instructions and personal coaching are available from the past chair.

- **Conservation Chair.** We need a good communicator to be in touch with people working on various conservation issues and to report to the Steering Committee in person and to the membership via the newsletter. The chair would probably be interested in following one or more issues her/himself. S/he need not know all about any issue now, or even know what is an EIS or DEIS; s/he will learn a lot! If you want to learn about nickel mining, range management, or roads in National Forests, you would enjoy this job.

- **Plant Sales.** We want to fill these six positions to spread the work of putting on the plant sales. Plant propagation is dealt with separately. Our plant sales are exciting events to be part of.
  - **Sale Planner:** contact person; knows what everyone is doing; sets the date and location, in consultation with others.
  - **Sale Manager:** arranges layout and set-up; transport; marketing aids (section signs, lists for specific uses, etc)
  - **Horticultural Information Officer:** keeps the inventory database and label text; can make the plant signs
  - **Volunteer Coordinator:** schedules workers for the sales; encourages volunteers to help pot up and plant -sit
  - **Nursery Liaison:** communicates with the nurseries before the sale; checks their plants in and out; calculates their share of the revenue
  - **Publicity Coordinator:** orchestrates print (newsletter, Econews, newspapers), online (web site, Facebook), fliers, and radio publicity; makes photos available for these

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Rare Plant Big Day in the Trinidad Area
8 June 2014
by Carol Ralph

After many years of sporadic outings to favored spots in the Trinidad area, I realized that I had learned the locations of a good number of rare plants. Maybe other botanizers would like to see these species, singled out by committees of botanists as deserving of extra attention? So eight of us found ourselves walking toward the north along the back of the beach at Moonstone Beach. Without any trouble we encountered Pink Sand-verbena (........), a plant rare everywhere in its range on California and Oregon coasts and seriously threatened in most populations, presumably by coastal development and heavy beach use by humans, information summarized in its rare plant rank, 1B.1.

Nearby was a clump of the robust, green foliage of Seaside Pea (Lathyrus japonicus) with a few flowers opening. This species lives on coastal beaches and dunes from our North Coast to Alaska and even around the globe in those latitudes, plus in Chile and Argentina. Such a wide range! Why have we given it a California rare plant rank? It is ranked 2B.3, indicating it is rare in California and common elsewhere (rank 2) and few populations in California have known threats (.3). True, this pea is uncommon in California, occurring on a few beaches in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Do we need to protect it with a rare plant rank if so much of the species lives elsewhere? Why do we care about the rank 2 species? Because plants at the edges of the species' range are the pioneers of the species, facing new challenges, meeting new selection pressures, adding to the species' genetic diversity. If disaster strikes at the core of the species' range (disease, introduced herbivores, sea level rising, etc.), the genetic diversity preserved at the periphery may carry the species forward.

A little farther along the beach, where a bench of vegetated sand was left above the high water, we spotted a handsome, yellow-flowered evening-primrose. After seeing the erect buds, cylindrical fruit (ovaries), erect buds, dense spike, 23-mm petals shorter than the sepals, and the stigma the same height as the anthers, we knew we were seeing Wolf's Evening-primrose, not the common, feral species Oenothera glazioviana. Wolf's Evening-primrose lives only in coastal sand, bluffs, and roadsides in the most northern California coast and southern Oregon coast, plus, confusingly, in Trinity County. It well deserves its rank 1B.1.

At the north end of the beach the sunny rock faces were decorated with Sedum, Dudleya, Bush Monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), Riverbank Lupine (Lupinus rivularis), and more, while the drippy rock crevices were festooned with Common Yellow Monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus), and the rocky benches accented with clean, dramatic rosettes of Tall Coastal Plantain (Plantago subnuda). In the damp sand at the back of the beach were monocots to study--Common Three-square (Schoenoplectus pungens), Three-ribbed Arrow-grass (Triglochin striata), Tall Flatsedge (Cyperus eragrostis). The biomass of English Ivy (Hedera helix) was frightening.

We drove up the coast just a little to Houda Point, a good place to see Tracy's Mistmaiden (Romanzoffia tracyi) in the proper season, which is in early spring. Along the trail down to the beach, on a mossy bed clinging to the north side of the rock cliff a bit above head height, were the crispy, brown leaves and stems, the remains of the lush, green, clumped foliage. Its small seed capsules and its tiny, fuzzy bulbils in the leaf axils were there to see, and we spotted one tiny, green plant at waist height in the shadiest, dampest crack in the rock. This adventurous plant lives only on rocky ocean bluffs from our North Coast through Washington. It is ranked 2B.3, another species rare in California, more common elsewhere, another species at the edge of its range in California.

The only mistmaiden still green. The fuzzy lumps at the base of the leaves might be tubers, usually obscured in the typical clumps of foliage, or might be fallen, axillary bulbils that lodged in this rock crack and sprouted.

(Continued on page 7)

Tom Pratum, North Coast Chapter Treasurer

For the recent fiscal year ending March 31, the chapter received $22,944 in income and had $19,820 in expenses. This leads to a net of $3,124. While we prepare our budget to break even every year, this past year we took in more plant sale revenue than predicted and also saw a slight increase in donations. We also changed our sales tax accounting to include sales tax with each item sold (e.g., plant, t-shirt, poster, etc), which leads to its inclusion in both income and expenses. While expenses related to the State meeting in Trinidad were one of the largest expenses we had over the year, approximately 90% of that expense was offset by donations made during that meeting. A breakdown of our income and expenses for the past fiscal year is shown in the charts below.

Chapter Income (total $22,944)

- miscellaneous (< 1%)
- sales tax collected (6%)
- donations (15%)
- membership funds returned by state (3%)
- sales: posts, t-shirts, etc (9%)
- sales: plants (67%)

Chapter Expenses (total $19,820)

- misc expenses (2%)
- sales tax collected (7%)
- special projects (education and conservation - 5%)
- expenses related to state meeting in Trinidad (12%)
- Wildflower show (10%)
- program related costs (5%)
- education and outreach (4%)
- newsletter printing and mailing (Darlingtonia and Econews - 19%)
- plant sale related purchases (28%)
- poster and t-shirt purchases (8%)

If you would like further information or have any questions about the information presented here, please contact Tom Pratum at tkp@whatcomssl.org or 707-382-8640.
We quickly explored the dense, coastal scrub on top of Houda Point, a mix of Salal (Gaultheria shallon), Evergreen Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), Coast Silk Tassel (Garrya elliptica), Coyote Brush (Baccharis pilularis), Nootka Rose (Rosa nootkaensis), California Blackberry (Rubus ursinus), Thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus), and more, all constantly pruned by the almost constant, northwest winds. From down on the beach we could see clinging to the edge of this scrub, out where it could get some light, mats of Roadside Fern (Polypodium calirhiza), Small-flowered Alumroot (Heuchera micrantha), and Broadleaf Stonecrop (Sedum spathulifolium).

We spotted a larkspur (Delphinium sp.) blooming in this mat, and in a similar situation on the tiny, steep island off the beach a patch of Ithuriel's Spear (Triteleia laxa) was blooming.

Next we hurried out to Elk Head, all the way to its northwest corner, called Megwil Point, to see the famous Black Crowberry (Empetrum nigrum). The wind at this point is famously fierce, and it was this day. After quickly peering over the edge of the cliff at the nearest of these low, dense, dark green, finely textured shrubs, some of us retreated, while others of us followed the narrow paths through the waist-high, dense scrub to a better place to go down the cliff and see the plant up close. This is the southernmost population of this species, which is common farther north, but occurs in California only on the coast in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, in settings like Megwil Point. It seems the biggest threat to its existence would be the cliff collapsing into the sea. It has the California rare plant rank 2B.2. It is another species, like Seaside Pea and Tracy's Mistmaiden, that is common farther north. Our scattered, California populations are at the southern edges of the species’ ranges.

Elk Head offered other botanical fun. Along the trail, in the only non-scrubby habitat, were Columbia lilies (Lilium columbianum), Tolmie’s Pussy Ears (Calochortus tolmiei), a paintbrush (Castilleja sp.), and a sneezeweed that seemed like Bigelow's (Helianthemum bigelovii).

With little time left in the afternoon, we made one more stop, at the native plant garden of the Trinidad Museum. It was a delightful garden of entirely local native plants. Its diverse palette was filling in and settling in, creating pleasing spaces of varying character—meadow, pond, sunny slope, shady strip. The Ocean Spray (Holodiscus discolor) was spectacular. The garden began as an expanse of wood chip mulch on cardboard, on top of unpromising, discarded highway fill, with a condition that no trees taller than 20 feet would be planted, and no irrigation after the first two years. The talent of the designer and the gardeners was evident.

Of the 12 species of rare plants I thought we might see this day, we saw only five. We did not have the drive of the bird-watching lister going after a rare bird for his list. We needed common plants on our lists, so we happily looked at common plants on our lists, so we quickly spotted the three rare sand plants, Dark-eyed Gilia (Gilia millefoliata), Beach Layia (Layia carnosa), and Menzies Wallflower (Erysimum menziesii). All are California Rare Plant Rank 1B, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. We knew where to search thanks to the experience of Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service botanists who have worked out here a lot. BLM has an ongoing long-term dune restoration project—removing European Beach Grass (Ammophila arenaria)—now encompassing 64 acres. The South Spit is a mixture of ownership all open to the public.

We drove 1.3 miles north of the Table Bluff County Park parking area, parked near the first tree on the left, and walked east toward the bay, into sparsely vegetated, stabilized sand mounds. We quickly spotted the three rare sand plants, Dark-eyed Gilia (Gilia millefoliata), Beach Layia (Layia carnosa), and Menzies Wallflower (Erysimum menziesii). All are California Rare Plant Rank 1B, rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere in their ranges. These were species truly special to see. Not many plant-watchers have these on their “life lists.” We also noticed the beautiful, yellow-flowered Beach Evening-primrose (Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia) and the cute Dwarf Carrot (Daucus pusillus). Aren’t they just as precious as their officially “rare” companions? Well, yes. And maybe just as important. The rare plant rank is not a measure of beauty or importance. It is a measure to make us pay attention to a
MEMBERS’ CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Grace Farmer / Kyle Farmer
Ellen Krohn
Jacqueline Lee
Robert McGuiness
Zachary Neider

THANK YOU

RENEWING MEMBERS
Dr. Pauline M. Baefsky, PhD
Melinda Bailey
Stefani Brandt
Patricia Brennan
Randy DeValle
Frances Ferguson
David Fix / Jude Power
Mervin Hanson / Maxine Hanson
Lee House
Erik Jules
Amy Livingston / Eli Asarian
Leah Mahan
Carol Moné
William Murphy
Courtney Otto
Claire Perricelli
Ed Schreiber
Barbara Schumacher
Carol Smillie
Sabra Steinberg
Janet Stock
Michael Watanabe / Joan Watanabe
Susan Whaley / Richard Whaley
Carol Woods
Beverly Zeman
Rebecca Zettler

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
Support these local businesses and with proof of your North Coast membership, receive discounts on your purchases.

- **Greenlot Nursery**, 10% discount on plants, 443-9484
- **Lost Foods Native Plant Nursery**: 10% discount on plants, 268-8447, LostFoods.org
- **Mad River Gardens**: 10% discount on plant purchases, 822-7049
- **Miller Farms**: 5% discount on plant materials, 839-1571
- **Pierson’s Garden Shop**, 10% discount on all garden shop items (except sale or non-discountable items—please ask staff before going to register), 441-2713
- **Samara Restoration LLC**, 10% discount on plants, 834.4379 / samararestoration.com

JOIN THE CNPS

NORTH COAST CHAPTER!
To join or renew, you can either:
- Send your name and address, check (payable to CNPS) CNPS, 2707 K St., Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 -5113.
- Pay on-line http://www.cnps.org/cnps/join/
Re-visiting the Spring Wildflower Show

2014 Wildflower Show; another spectacular presentation of nature’s floral wonders!

The mood was convivial, the weather co-operative, the displays outstanding; who could ask for more? When you walked into the Manila Community Center main hall, the fragrance was almost overwhelming, thanks to all of those magnificent blossoms on exhibition!

Wildflower Show visitation and Native Plant sales were on a par with last year’s record highs, a tribute to the growing popularity of this event. There were informative and beautiful displays, great programs by experts in their fields, guided walks in the dunes, painting and drawing instruction accompanied by music, and of course- hundreds of flowers, what a wonderful weekend!

This is my last year as Chairperson, though not for lack of affection for the event! Circumstances are creating conflict with my available time and I find that I must withdraw as lead coordinator, though I will still maintain some level of involvement in ensuing years. Helpers are always needed for this worthy event that our Northcoast Chapter provides as; it could not be presented without many dozens of volunteers contributing many hundreds of hours of their time.

If you missed this year’s 32nd annual celebration; you missed a celebration indeed! Join us next May for another event to remember -you will not be sorry or disappointed!

Richard Beresford
(retiring) Wildflower Show Chair

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**RECYCLING BOTANICAL BOOKS**

- Are you running out of space for all those books?
- Do you like books on plants but can’t afford book stores?
- Are you no longer using that tree field guide?
- Have you enjoyed that coffee table book long enough?
- Have you moved on to pollination and have too many fern books?

Donate books to or come shop at the chapter’s botanical book sale November 12 at the evening program. All plants and only plants, including taxonomy, gardening, field guides, world plants, etc. Books donated to the chapter will be available, priced-to-sell, to benefit the chapter.

To donate contact Carol Ralph 822-2015.
Wildflower Show Coordinator. In some ways our biggest event of the year runs itself, but it really needs a central person to communicate with everyone, be the contact, and keep the big picture. This person gets lots of credit and thanks from the many people who enjoy the show.

School Visits Coordinator for the Wildflower Show. One of the very important functions of the show is to bring elementary school students face-to-face with all those beautiful, interesting, intriguing wild plants. This requires someone with time to communicate, mostly by e-mail, with various schools and teachers somewhat early in the school year and arrange the schedule. Finding instructors for the lessons and escorts for the classes can be a team effort. The Coordinator would want to be present on the day of the visits, May 1, 2015, to see it all work.

Volunteers make it happen!

THANK YOU, WILDFLOWER SHOW VOLUNTEERS!
by Carol Ralph

What a great celebration of wild California plants! I think you'll agree it was fun too. "Thank you!" to these 90 volunteers for ....

- Conscientious, friendly leadership and brilliant publicity: Coordinator Richard Beresford
- Careful collecting of the specimens: Tony LaBanca, Sydney Carothers, Laura Julian, Tami Camper, Green Diamond botany crew, Ned Forsyth, Elaine Allison, Wanda Naylor, Chris and Richard Beresford, Jackie Lee, Rebecca Manion, Kim Hayler, Clare Golec, Carol Vandermeer
- Coordinating the collectors: Tony LaBanca
- Sorting and identifying plants: Ned Forsyth, Dennis Walker, Sydney Carothers, Judie Hinman, Elizabeth Wu, Elaine Allison, Shawna Faulkner, Tracie Brant, Dana York, Tony LaBanca, Rebecca Manion, Stephanie Morrissette, Jim McIntosh, Steven Schade, Scott Harris, Grayson Sandy, Steve Plant, John McRae, Danny Morgan, Larry Levine
- Re-creating the database, making the flier, making family signs, connecting with the past, watching to improve the future: Larry Levine
- An amazing display of mosses: Marie Antoine
- An intriguing display of lichens: Tom Carlberg
- Another fun Art Night: Rick Tolley
- Live music at Art Night: Mon Petit Chou
- Scheduling School Visits: Carol Ralph, Scott Harris
- Teaching lessons to the school groups, multiple times: Jenny Hanson, Wanda Naylor, Adam Cantor, April Caito
- Assisting the instructors: Kay Corbett, JoAnn Olson
- Walks in the dunes for the school groups: Friends of the Dunes staff Suzie Fortner and Justin Legge and volunteers Ryan Spencer, Kerry Leslie, Taylor Paez, Carly Kolpin, Tom Collom
- Escorting school groups: Kathryn Johnson, Charlene Swenson, Gura Lashlee, Katy Allen, Rebecca Twiss, Lisa Brewer, David Schumaker
- An interesting presentation on Yurok interaction with plants: Skip Lowry and Sandra
- An informative presentation on medicinal uses of some wild plants: Christa Sinadinos of the Northwest School for Botanical Studies
- A display of medicinal wild plants: her students
- A practical presentation on photographing wildflowers: Sharon Falk-Carlsen
- Walks in the dunes for the public: Friends of the Dunes docents
- The always-popular bug table: Pete Haggard
- The awesome invasive plant display: Laura Julian
- An interesting display of edible, native plants: Monty Caid and Lost Foods Nursery
- An attractive display of dune plants: Carol Vandermeer of Friends of the Dunes
- A colorful backboard of plant photos: John McRae and Six Rivers National Forest
- A table full of plant books for purchase: Northtown Books
- Botanical expertise at the "Ask an Expert" table: Greg O'Connell
- Refreshments for volunteers! Katy Allen and Melinda Groom
- Staffing tables during the show: Carol Woods, Frank Mielczik, Cherilyn Neider, Kay Corbett, Noah Lurtz, Rita Zito, Carol Mone, Sue Leskiw, Don Zeman, Carol Ralph, Becky Deja, Rose Ann Dinsmore, Jim Waters, Virginia Waters, Frances Ferguson, Ann Burroughs
- Docenting on the floor during the show: Elizabeth Wu, Dennis Walker, Zack Neider, Nezzie Wade, Greg O'Connell
- Preparing the showroom: Frank Mielczik, Zack Neider, Barbara Riesman, Tom Allen, Katy Allen, Virginia Waters, Jim Waters, David Callow, Alex Alegría, Becky Deja, Carole Wolfe and other Manila Community Center folks, Larry Levine
- Cleaning up: Stephanie Klein, Stan, Jim Waters, Virginia Waters, Sydne Carothers, David Price, Greg O'Connell, Larry Levine, Laura Julian, Ann Burroughs, Richard Beresford, C.J. Ralph, Carol Ralph, Tom Pratum
- Transporting jars: Tom Allen
- Storing the jars: Suzanne Isaacs
- Planting and retrieving roadside signs: David Callow, Janelle Egger, Rick Tolley, Virginia Waters,
**Communications**

North Coast CNPS members have four ways to share information with each other:

- The *Darlingtonia* Newsletter (quarterly),
- Our chapter’s website: www.northcoastcnps.org
- E-mail lists/forums To subscribe, send an email to:
  - For Announcements: NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
  - For Gardening: NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Facebook www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS

**EcoNews and You**

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. We have a seat on their board of directors.

The NEC is the only organization with which we share our mailing list. We think it is important that our members receive *EcoNews*, an informative publication about conservation issues in our area. Our chapter pays NEC to mail *EcoNews* to our members who are not also NEC members. You can reduce this cost to our chapter by joining NEC at www.yournec.org or requesting your *EcoNews* be electronic (contact Gary Falxa at gfalxa@suddenlink.net).

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**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 to our coordinator, Bev Zeman at 677-9391 or donjzeman@yahoo.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.
SPRING PLANT SALE THANK YOU

On behalf of the plant sale committee, we wish to thank all of the volunteers that made the plant sale held in conjunction with the spring Wildflower Show such a success. The plant sale continues to provide a steady means of supporting the efforts of our chapter.

To those that helped out by assisting with putting labels in all of our plants, providing starts from their yards, moving of the plants to the sale site, setting up, checking in and out the nurseries, answering plant questions, working the cashier table and helping with take-down after the sale – a Big Thank You – we could not have done this without all of your help! Those who volunteered to help make the sale such a success are: Carl Chatfield, Sydney Carothers, Carol Smillie, Gisela Rohde, Wanda Naylor, Chris Brant, Randi Swedenburg, Judie Hinman, Tom Stafford, Alan & Barbara Wilkinson, Sam Rich, Gordon Skagg, Bojan Ingle, Martha Randall, Catherine Walling, Connie Gregerson, Kathy Goodman, Mary Issacson, Anita Gilbride-Read, Rita Zito, Bev & Don Zeman, Virginia Chatfield, Donna Wildearth, Matt Burgesser, Ron & Melanie Johnson, Cynthia Packard, Barbara Reisman, CJ & Carol Ralph, Joyce Houston, Gura Lashlee, April Kato, Sabra Steinburg, Carol Woods, Judie Snyder, Ann Burroughs, Jackie Lee, Marianne Knox and the indispensable Sylvia White, Kim McFarland and Karen Isa. Many of these volunteers helped out multiple times over the course of the plant sale with a variety of tasks.

Thanks to Gura Lashlee for taking photos for us of the sale.

Thank you to Johnson’s Mobile Rental, especially Kenny Eisner and Eva Minton, for donating the delivery and use of the security fence that enabled us to leave the plants worry-free over night.

A special thanks to Ann Burrows for printing up all of our plant labels. With her assistance, we are able to have labels with plant information on them that is readable and

VISIT THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY’S RARE PLANTS PROGRAM WEBSITE (CNPS.ORG/CNPS/RAREPLANTS) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- RARE PLANT RANKING SYSTEM
- RARE PLANT INVENTORY
- RARE PLANT DATA
- STATUS REVIEW PROCESS
- … AND MORE!

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Carol Ralph, Ann Burroughs

- Re-lettering signs: David Callow, Carol Ralph
- Lettering at bargain price: Expo-Art
- Photographing specimens for future database: Gura Lashlee, Jim Waters, Ann Wallace
- Posting fliers: many people
- A comfortable and affordable venue: Carole Wolfe and Manila Community Services District; Brian Little and Redwood Coast Montessori School
- Security fencing for the plant sale plants: Eavie Minton and Kenny Eisner at Johnson Mobile Rental
- Greenhouse lilies for the students to dissect: Sun Valley Group
- Food for the volunteers: Los Bagels, Ray’s Food Place, North Coast Co-op, Wildberries Marketplace

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species and its habitat. The ranks include a threat component too. The wallflower and the layia are seriously threatened in California; their ranks are both 1B.1. The gilia has been determined to be only moderately threatened and assigned 1B.2. (The “B” means the species is extant, not extirpated or extinct.)

Proceeding toward the bay, out into the salt marsh, comfortably dry at this season and tide, we found the intense pink spears of Humboldt Bay Owl’s Clover among the dirty green, intriguing, tangled mat of Pickleweed (Salicornia sp.), Marsh Jaumea (Jaumea carnosa), Saltgrass (Distichlis spicata), and arrowgrasses (Triglochin maritima and maybe concinna).

Young, fuzzy, gray leaves of Point Reyes’ Birds-beak (Chloropyron (formerly Cordylanthus) maritimum ssp. palustre) were here too, and California Sea Lavender (Limonium californicum) and Beach Sand-spurrey (Spergularia macrantha). Of these many unfamiliar species in this unfamiliar habitat, only the owl’s clover and bird’s-beak were listed as rare, 1B.2 (rare everywhere in its range; moderately threatened).

Our next stop was north, almost to the parking area near the jetty and bathrooms, and out a dirt road to the right. Driving out this a short ways, then walking over the small dunes brought us to the shore of the bay. Here, sprawled on the open sand zone between the dunes and the wet sand of the shallow bay, was a wonderful mix of yellow and pink--Yellow Sand-verbena (Abronia latifolia) and Pink Sand-verbena (Abronia umbellata var. breviflora), with some pink-flowered European Sea Rocket (Cakile maritima) sprinkled in. We settled in the warm sand to eat lunch and contemplate these

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two sand-verbenas, one with fleshy, shiny, horizontal leaves and heads of yellow flowers, the other with thinner, grayer, vertical leaves and heads of magenta flowers and a listing of 1B.1, the most rare and most threatened rank. Both A. latifolia and A. umbellata (the species, both varieties combined) range over the entire California coast and into Oregon, and A. latifolia all the way to British Columbia. The consensus of botanists who have studied all available information on the taxonomy and distribution of these plants was that the pink variety we were seeing, A. umbellata var. breviflora, was more rare than the other taxa and deserved the attention that a rank would afford it. There we were, giving it our full attention, knowing it was rare, but impressed with its care-free show of delightful flowers.

Our next two rare plant stops brought us face-to-face with some taxonomic problems of rare plants. On the roadside bluff just up from the county park parking area is a scattering of a cheerful red paintbrush (Castilleja). One source told us that Oregon Coast Paintbrush (Castilleja litoralis, aka C. affinis subsp. litoralis), ranked 2B.2 (rare in California, common elsewhere; moderately threatened) was here, so we used the key in The Jepson Manual, our only source of such information, to try to determine if this was it. Variation among the plants and overlap in key characters were great enough that we could not decide whether we were looking at this rare species or at the more common Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis. Similarly, at a spot along the road among pastures on top of the bluff we gazed at a checkerbloom, unable to decide if it was Coast Checkerbloom (Sidalcea oregna subsp. eximia) or Siskiyou checkerbloom (Sidalcea malviflora subsp. patula). In this case both choices were listed 1B.2, so we at least knew we were looking at an officially rare plant. The real life problem of distinguishing and delineating species, which can be interbreeding and variable, is frustrating for those of us who want a simple answer. It can be threatening to a landowner who has "other plans" for land with a rare species.

When you gaze at a plant such as this lily, that grows in only a few places on the planet, you feel it should look different, in some way be calling for help. But it doesn't. It fits right in, in the fabric of its habitat. If it is trying to tell us something, we are not hearing. To know its plight we have to inform ourselves. For most of us that means going to web sites such as Calflora (www.calflora.org), which tells if a species is rare, and the Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California (www.rareplants.cnps.org), which tells what the rank is and summarizes other information. After we know it is rare, we have questions. Was it always this rare? Why doesn't it grow elsewhere? What does it need? How does it disperse? Each of these botanical treasures has different answers to these questions. It will take us a long time to answer them, too long. Even with the answers, we (the collective "we") lack the conviction to act. The important answers are known for the Western Lily, but populations on both private and public lands are succumbing to "hands off" habitat management.

Our rare plant big day tally included eight species listed 1B, one or two 2B, and one 4. With a bit more expertise and a bit less distraction by interesting, common species we could have found a few more. The list was a satisfying, if alarming, summary of a rewarding day. We also learned that the South Spit is a good destination for dune, beach, and bluff botanizing.

(Continued from page 12) Studying the salt marsh, conveniently dry. The bay is to the left, Table Bluff is in the background.

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Was it the allure of the "rare" that brought 24 people to search the lush forests and dramatic sea cliffs of Patrick's Point State Park for rare plants? A rare bird brings bird-watchers from near and far. Do rare plants bring plant-watchers? The human spirit seeks the rarely seen, the seldom experienced. Is it competitive? One-upmanship? Affirming one's own uniqueness? Belief that the rare is also important? Never mind. We were out for a fun day observing plants and other aspects of the natural world. We had a "treasure" map from the park botanist to help us.

Only 100 meters from the visitor center toward the native plant garden, we found the first plant to study. In the mossy beds under the dense, young spruce were the 4-inch tall stems of a twayblade, a tiny orchid. Unfortunately it was not blooming, and most of us were not confident to decide the species based on the shape of the two leaves. Our treasure map showed Heart-leaved Twayblade (Listera cordata) here, but the most experienced among us thought the leaves were like Northwestern Twayblade (Listera banskiana(formerly caurina)). Heart-leaved Twayblade has a limited distribution in California, only the very northwest corner, and the experts who have studied available information on its range, taxonomy, abundance, and habitat have concluded that it is uncommon enough in California that it should be monitored regularly, earning it California Rare Plant Rank 4.2. The Threat Rank ".2" means it is moderately threatened in California, in this case probably by logging. Outside of California Heart-leaved Twayblade ranges through much of the northern hemisphere. On the other hand, Northwestern Twayblade is not on the rare plant list, though its total range is only the Pacific Northwest east to Yellowstone, and it also is found in California only in the northwestern counties. Apparently the experts, with more information than we have, have concluded Northwestern Twayblade is not as uncommon as Heart-leaved and doesn't need the special attention afforded by being listed. Were we looking at a "rare plant?" Officially, going by the list, no. Our experienced observer was right. In June I confirmed these twayblades were Northwestern, having the undivided lip on the flower. Given more time that March day we could have seen Heart-leaved Twayblade blooming, in a different spot, as confirmed by one of our group walking in. Personally, I feel that either twayblade is rare to me and a discovery worth noting.

We walked through the native plant garden, which was being rejuvenated, to the Sumeg Village, where we surveyed the trees around the clearing. We saw 6 species of conifers, including Bishop Pine (Pinus muricata). Moving on toward and through the Agate Beach Campground we found Trailing Black Currant (Ribes laxiflorum), listed 4.3 (limited distribution; low threat), sprawling as it does and dangling its tassles of pinky green flowers. Then, along the Rim Trail we found the leaves of Seacoast Angelica (Angelica lucida), bright green and hairless. It is another "limited California distribution-moderately threatened" plant, rank 4.2. Pacific Reedgrass (Calamagrostis nutkaensis) was rank around it, a handsome, large, native grass that likes the exhilarating atmosphere of ocean bluffs. In my travels in coastal Humboldt and Del Norte Counties I encounter Trailing Black Currant and Angelica lucida regularly, in the right habitat. They don't seem "rare" to me; they seem quite vigorous and happily reproducing. The botanists with the broader view see greater uncertainties and risks, enough to warrant putting these two species on the list 4, "watch list." Knowing that, I pay closer attention when I see these friends.
common elsewhere, and not much threatened. (The "B" means it is extant, not extirpated or extinct.) Its range includes all the coast of Oregon and Washington, plus Humboldt and Del Norte Counties in California. Its habitat, however, rocky ocean bluffs, is a very limited one, so its population can not be large. This species is truly "rare," not just on a "watch" list. Its habitat is not a place people can build houses or drive vehicles, so it seems safe from threats of that kind. We proceeded to the lookout on Wedding Rock, finding four species of *Plantago* there, half of them native. The angelica common in the saddle and on the slopes here was Henderson's Angelica (*Angelica henderonii*). Its leaves were fuzzy underneath. It is not a "listed" species, though its overall range is much less than *lucida's*. I begin to wonder if the experts making these lists have enough data to make satisfying conclusions. I suspect the botanical world needs many, many more records of where things grow.

Next we checked the manzanitas on Lookout Rock, one prostate, one a shrub, though none of us felt qualified to identify them with certainty. The Oregon Spikemoss (*Selaginella oregana*) we saw on this rock was more abundant on the next rock, Ceremonial Rock. We also saw Leather Grape-fern (*Sceptridium* (formerly *Botrychium*) *multifidum*), as well as four commoner fern species, on the trail around the base of Ceremonial Rock. Leather Grape-fern is very uncommon in my personal world, but it has no rare plant rank. Near and at the top of Ceremonial Rock were leaves of *Triteleia* and *Brodiaea*, signs of special summer color to come.

Those who stayed all day on this hike covered three miles of scenic trail and saw two (almost 3) list 4 (watch list) species, one list 2b (rare in California, common elsewhere) species, five species of umbellifer, amazingly colorful Sitka spruce flowers, six species of fern, five of plantain, and much more. What a rich and delightful park!

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informative. Ann saves us literally hours and hours of time, not to mention saving our wrists and hands!

Three local nurseries/growers also participated by providing plants for our plant sales: Samara Restoration, Lost Foods Native Nursery, and Brant's Landscaping. These folks provided the great shrubs, trees, perennials that we do not grow ourselves.

The sale also could not have occurred without the assistance of all of the individuals who provided us collected seeds to start plants, grew and provided us plants, who "baby-sat" plants between sales, and who enabled us to come to their homes to divide or dig-out native plants from their yards (Melissa & Todd Kraemer, Alan & Barbara Wilkinson, Wilma Johnston, Carol Ralph, Jeremy Rockweit, Karen Isa) for us to grow and sell—another Big Thank You to all of you!

With the help of our plant propagation group, we had increased the number of species that we were able to offer and that made a big difference in the money that was made for our local chapter. If anyone wants to collect seed for us in the wild, please do so! We will continue to work toward the goal of increasing the number of different plant species that we have for sale and could use help with this ongoing project.

To get e-mail alerts from the plant propagation group, please join our Gardening with Natives Yahoo! Group [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthCoast_CNPS_Gardening).

If we have missed anyone, our sincere apologies on our oversight!

Our next sale will be held on [Saturday October 4th at the Bayside Grange](http://sf.gardenweb.com). See you there!

Chris Beresford and Anna Bernard

Additional Thank You's from Chris and Anna

We would like to thank the following volunteers who helped us transplant plants up into new containers for the plant sale since the last newsletter: April Kato, Carol Wood, Judie Hinman, Karen Isa, Kim McFarland, Sylvia White, Bjorn Ingle, Melissa & Todd Kramer and Carol Ralph.

Plant Sale Needs Space!!!

The plant sale has become so successful, that we have outgrown the space for it at the Beresford’s and Bernard’s homes. We need a group of volunteers to take some of the 100’s of 1-gallon plants for the summer (sun plants) until our next plant sale on October 4 at the Bayside Grange or we need to find a larger dedicated space somewhere else to keep the plants until and after the next sale.

If you have a space of say, 100’x100’ that has water, could be fenced off for deer if needed, don’t mind our volunteers coming over to maintain our plants as needed, is within the Eureka/Arcata area, please let Chris or Anna know. If anyone has any ideas or other suggestions of possible spaces, please let us know.

The plant sale supports our chapter and it’s many activities, such as the free Wildflower Show, a page in the bi-monthly newsletter of the Northcoast Environmental Center’s EcoNews, scientific research projects, school educational programs, to name a few. We all need to help out to ensure that we can continue to be able to provide these needed funds.
Darlingtonia

Visit us at NorthCoastCNPS.org

CALENDAR of EVENTS
(Field Trips—Page 2 / Programs—Page 3)

July
♦ Sat-Sun 12-13: Field Trip
♦ Fri-Sun 18-20: Field Trip
♦ Sat 26: Treasure Hunt

August
♦ Sat 2: Field Trip
♦ Sat 23: Treasure Hunt

September
♦ Sat 6: Field Trip
♦ Wed 10: Program

October
♦ Sat 4: Plant Sale
♦ Wed 9: Program
♦ Sun 12: Field Trip

November
♦ Sat 1: Field Trip
♦ Wed 12: Program

December
♦ Wed 10: Program