

Darlingtonia

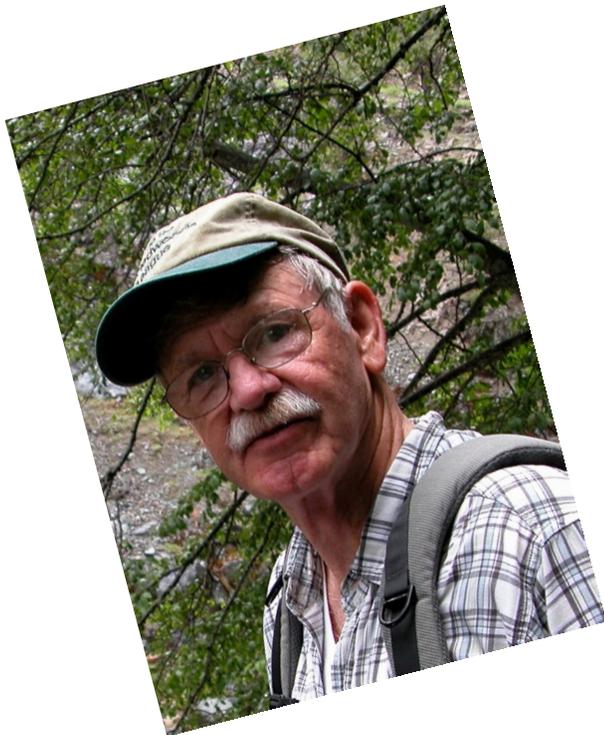
Newsletter of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

FALL 2012
October-
December

JOHN O. SAWYER – KIN TO THE EARTH

By Michael Kauffmann

Dancing with raindrops from car to porch on any number of oft-spectacular Humboldt Bay days, I was hungry for a lunch date. As I shook my hands dry the push of a bell initiated the shuffle of feet, a



crack of the door—and soon after—a long, sincere, chuckle. The opening door revealed a smile to go with the laughter. It was the same way every time, and I always loved it. John's spirit was contagious and he always brightened my day.

Once inside we would sit in the living room and chat, catching up with Jane, discussing a recent issue of Backpacker Magazine, or the latest

developments in the world of conifers—eventually make our way to the car for lunch at the Sushi Spot in downtown Arcata. Just as the restaurant was pre-determined so was our order. Edamame, Klamath Rolls, and a pot of tea would stimulate several hours of conversations swirling with conifers, flowering plants, places, sustainability, and biodiversity across the Klamath Mountains. As we talked we delved into Klamath facts, theories, and hypotheses all the while reminiscing about wilderness trips across the range. For Sawyer, trans-Klamath adventures had been occurring for a long time. He knew and loved the landscape.

John joined the faculty at Humboldt State University in 1966, where he became Professor of Botany and soon a nationally recognized

(Continued on page 10)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| Feature Article: JOHN O. SAWYER – KIN TO THE EARTH | 1 |
| Field Trips and Plant Walks | 2 |
| Thank you, City of Arcata | 2 |
| Chapter Programs and Meetings | 3 |
| Volunteer Corner | 4 |
| Field Trip Reports: Sanger Lake and Youngs Valley | 5 |
| How to Introduce Native Plants into an Urban Garden | 8 |
| Chapter Contacts | 9 |
| Native Plants Come to Old Town Eureka (Part 2) | 12 |
| Members' Corner | 14 |
| Ballot for Chapter Officers | 15 |
| Proposition 37 Endorsement | 15 |
| Calendar of Events | 16 |

Find out what's happening:

- Visit our website:
www.northcoastcnps.org
- Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS>
- Sign-Up for Activities
Notifications: http://northcoastcnps.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71:subscribe-to-activities-test&catid=35:activities&Itemid=145

FIELD TRIPS AND PLANT WALKS

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. Address questions about physical ability requirements to the leader. It is wise to contact the leader if you are coming, in case plans change.

October 14, Sunday. Day hike. Save the day for being outside, at either **Jacoby Creek Forest** to see the old-growth western red cedars or **Horse Linto** to see fall colors of black-fruited dogwood. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Important: contact Carol (822-2015; theralphs@humboldt1.com) in October to find out where we'll go.

October 27, Saturday. Looking at Lichens Day Hike. Questionably plants, definitely native, unquestionably important, and usually small, lichens are an overlooked link in our ecosystems. Learn how to focus on them during a day of roadside stops and modest hiking with **Tom Carlberg**, hopefully in the oak woodlands and Douglas-fir forests in the Horse Mountain-Cold Spring area. If the weather is snowy or stormy at high elevation, we'll explore in the dune forest instead. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Dress for the weather!! On the mountain it can be cold! Bring lunch and water and (important) a hand lens if you have it. For information contact Carol 822-2015 or Tom 442-0530.

November 3, Saturday. Berry Glen Trail Day Hike. Yuroks, gold seekers, and U.S. Presidents have walked this route which now connects Lady Bird Johnson Grove and Elk Meadow on Davison Rd. in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Completed in 2010 this link makes a 3.5-mile one-way hike through old growth redwoods. We'll shuttle cars so we need to walk only one way. The group will decide whether to walk it going uphill or downhill. Bring lunch and water. Dress for the weather. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Return late afternoon. Please tell Carol (822-2015) you are coming.

Thank you, City of Arcata!
by Carol Ralph

Before a summer logging operation in a section of the Arcata Community Forest, the City of Arcata offered us an opportunity to salvage plants that were in the path the equipment would drive on. Michael McDowall, Natural Resource Technician, spent several hours showing us where this was. The equipment would follow old skid roads used about 20 years ago. These routes proved to have been good nurseries for western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)! On several different days in June various CNPSers entered the forest with buckets, trowels, and shovels, and captured small plants from these roads. We took home and potted up for future plant sales well over 200 trillium seedlings and juveniles and a smattering of Smith's fairy bells, milk maids, ferns, and other forest plants. Wow!

These trillium are now in the care of our growers who are experienced with raising this species and sharing their knowledge with others. By supplying these plants at our sales we hope to discourage people from being tempted to dig plants in the wild. Taking any plant from the wild should be done only with the land owner's permission, by a person with some experience in transplanting plants, and with consideration for the population in the wild.

Thank you, City of Arcata, for helping us spread these fun, valuable plants into yards of people who care about native plants!

Thank you, Anna Bernard, Carol Ralph, Judie Hinman, Karen Isa, Steve Coppin, Randi Swedenburg, Kathy Dilley, Chris Brant, Sabra Steinberg, Tami Camper, Pete Haggard, Angie Lottes, Debra Boni, Sara Starr,

(If you would like to join the ranks of our growers, to learn by doing, please contact Chris Beresford 826-0259, thegang7@pacbell.net.)

CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

EVENING PROGRAMS

The North Coast Chapter of CNPS (www.northcoastcnps.org) offers 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.; program at 7:30 p.m.

Botanical FAQ's: At 7:15 p.m. Pete Haggard or some other presenter shares a brief, hands-on demonstration and discussion of some botanical topic.

Oct 10 "**Floral Jewels among All That Rock at Lassen National Park.**" Following 5 years of collecting field data in this "Bermuda Triangle of Vegetation Mapping," **Ken Stumpf and Chris Stumpf** will present a stunning, colorful, and informative pictorial tour of the floristic features found in this confluence of the Sierra Nevada, the Cascades, and the Great Basin. Enjoy the show of both common and rare flowers and test your field botany skill in identifying them.

Members may vote for officers at this program.

Nov 14 "**Discoveries and Fun with Local Fawn Lilies**" What rare fawn lilies (*Erythronium*) grow on Green Diamond land? This important and deceptively simple question led botanists **Cheri Sanville and Bianca Hayashi** on a path of scientific discovery. They will describe the species of fawn lily that live here and tell what they learned upon close examination.

Dec 12 **Native Plant Show & Tell.** An informal evening for anyone to share photos, artifacts, readings, or food relating to native plants and their habitats. Contributors will include Ned Forsyth showing many years of record shots of Mt. St. Helena, Jenny Hanson and Elaine Allison sharing botanical fun from Upper Klamath Lake, and others. If you would like to contribute, contact Dave Imper at dimper@suddenlink.net or 444-2756.

Jan 9 To be announced.



21st Annual Cal-IPC Symposium

October 11-13, 2012

Wine County Double Tree , Rohnert Park, CA

Bay to Basin: Coordinating Response to Invasive Plants Across California

The Cal-IPC Symposium brings together natural resource managers, research ecologists and volunteers stewards to discuss the latest information in wildland weed research, control techniques, prioritization, program design, and policy.

For more information, visit the Cal-IPC website at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/>

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

Thank you!

- **John McRae** for leading a rare plant treasure hunt, a field trip searching for *Lewisia kelloggii*.
- **Tom Pratum** for designing and mailing a membership renewal reminder post card.
- **City of Arcata** for offering us pre-logging plant salvage privileges.
- **Anna Bernard, Carol Ralph, Judie Hinman, Karen Isa, Steve Coppin, Randi Swedenburg, Kathy Dilley, Chris Brant, Sabra Steinberg, Tami Camper, Pete Haggard, Angie Lottes, Debra Boni, Sara Starr,** for salvaging and potting up little forest plants. (See article elsewhere)
- **Sydney Carothers, Cara Scott, Adam Canter, Jen Kalt, Courtney Otto, and Carol Ralph** for August monitoring of Lassics lupine as part of our cost-share project with Six Rivers National Forest.

Volunteers needed. Big jobs and small, every one important. Every job-holder is eligible to be on our Steering Committee.

- **Program Chair.** The job is to be sure we have program speakers and publicity for them, monthly September through May. Carol and others often suggest speakers and make the first contact. The Program Chair follows up. The primary qualification for the job is planning ahead and remembering to contact people and to submit publicity to the publicity channels. It is helpful but not required that the program chair be able to attend programs and introduce speakers. Meet interesting people while maintaining one of the important and visible public functions of the chapter and providing substance to the monthly chapter get-together.
- **School Visits Organizer.** One of the most important and fun aspects of the spring wildflower show is sharing it with school classes. A template and procedure is available to accomplish this, as well a list of people who like to teach and guide the students. The organizer recruits classes and puts it all together.
- **Chief Outreach.** Keep our displays and handouts in good shape for use at various public events, about 6/year. A good group of volunteers help staff the table (booth).
- **North Coast Journal Reporter.** Submit our events to the calendars of this publication.
- **Tri-City Weekly Reporter.** Submit our events to the calendars of this publication.
- **Science Fair Coordinator.** A brief, fun job one day each year in mid-March, selecting the recipient of our chapter's award.
- **Flier Designer.** Create the flier for each evening program (9/year) and send it electronically to our distributors.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Sanger Lake and Youngs Valley

July 27-29, 2012

by Carol Ralph

Head for the hills! That is what 21 eager explorers did on this late July weekend, headed out of the fog into the rugged Siskiyou Mountains of Six Rivers National Forest northeast of Gasquet. Armed with helpful information from the staff at the Gasquet ranger station, we followed Highway 199 north to Knopki Creek Rd. (also called 18N07) (at milepost 30.12), turned right, and drove steadily uphill on this gravel road for 15 miles to a "T" junction where

lilies blooming along this road: the cheerful red-orange, pendant "turk's caps" of Vollmer's leopard lily (*Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *vollmeri*); the yellow, pendant "turk's caps" of Wiggins' leopard lily (*L. pardalinum* ssp. *wigginsii*); the pink, nodding "turk's caps" of Kellogg's lily (*L. kelloggii*); the large, white, fragrant trumpets of Washington lily (*L. washingtonianum*); and the small, deep red trumpets of Bolander's lily (*L. bolanderi*). *The Jepson Manual* treatment of *Lilium pardalinum* notes intergradation and hybridization among the subspecies *pardalinum*, *shastense*, *vollmeri*, and *wigginsii* in the Salmon Mountains, Marble Mountains,



Youngs Valley Hike-1 Among the cinquefoil, yarrow, and cornlily in Youngs Valley. Photo by Rita Zito

Sanger Lake is left 1/2 mile and Youngs Valley Trail is right 3/4 mile. At about 5,000 ft elevation, among white fir (*Abies concolor*) and Sadler oak (*Quercus sadleri*), under a deep, blue sky, breathing deeply of dry, "piney" air, and basking in warm sun, we were definitely in the hills.

The 15 miles could be done in one hour, but various sights warranted stopping along the way. Some of us stopped at a modest pullout and scrambled down a crumbly, vertical slope to see the waterfall in Knopki Creek. Most of us stopped at the wet ditches and streamlets to admire lilies, California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*), and California lady's slipper (*Cypripedium californicum*) with green fruit. The best lily-spotter of our group saw five taxa of

and western Siskiyou County and applies the adverb "confusingly." While lily aficionados can recognize the characters of these subspecies, most of us were happy simply to recognize the variation within the species *pardalinum*. Broken Rib Mountain dominated the vista across the canyon, the center of the Broken Rib Botanical Area. The road entered Port Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) territory, so it had two "POC" gates (at miles 8.8 and 12.3) that are closed and locked during the wet season to prevent introduction of the spores of Port Orford-cedar root disease. (Ask at the ranger station if the gates are open.) Port Orford-cedar was one of the nine species of conifer we saw along this road.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

We camped the two nights at an unmarked, unimproved, what Forest Service calls "dispersed" campsite called Stevens Camp. The entrance was on the left 0.1 mi toward the trailhead from the junction. Our twenty-one people, nine vehicles, and sixteen tents reached maximum capacity of this lovely site in a grove of stately, old Port Orford-cedar and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Large incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) and thickets of the shrubby Sadler and huckleberry oaks (*Quercus sadleri* and *vacciniifolium*) completed the picture except for the young (10-20-ft tall) white fir that were crowding in. A clear, flowing creek bubbled quietly between banks lush with shrubby Sitka alders (*Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*) (pedicels longer than cones) and other streamside vegetation. A rock knoll with a gnarled pine on top provided a different habitat. The camp and nearby area offered ample botanizing opportunity. Among the common mountain plants we encountered in and near camp were Gray's lovage (*Ligusticum grayi*), big-leaf sandwort (*Moehringia macrophylla*), California bluebell (*Asyneuma* (formerly *Campanula*) *prenanthoides*), naked-stem buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*), big deervetch (*Hosackia* (formerly *Lotus*) *crassifolius*), and spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*). Some of the notables we saw were: broad-leaved and northwest twayblades (*Listera convallarioides* and *banksiana* (formerly *caurina*)), white-flowered and slender bog-orchids (*Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys* and *P. stricta*), Alaska rein-orchid (*Piperia unalascensis*), three penstemons (*Penstemon* spp.) and the penstemon-look-alike woodland penstemon (*Nothochelone nemorosa*), mountain boykinia (*Boykinia major*), sneezeweed (*Helenium bigelovii*), vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*) (central leaflet three-lobed). Sunday we discovered that we had neighbors in the pristine water of the stream--larval Pacific giant salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*), with external gills.

Saturday we hiked to Youngs Valley and back, an all-day expedition. Some of us walked the half-mile to the trailhead, making fewer cars to squeeze into the skimpy parking area. We were a very dispersed group of hikers, some inspecting more plants than others, taking 3-4 hours to cover the three miles to the valley. The trail is an unsurfaced road bulldozed long ago to a mine in Youngs Valley but recently blocked to exclude vehicles from the Siskiyou Wilderness. It climbs gradually across a southwest-facing slope of mixed conifers and vistas of Siskiyou peaks. At the crest of the ridge is an open stand of scraggly red or noble fir (*Abies magnifica* or *procera*), many branches dead from *Cytospora*

fungus canker, with a Sadler oak understory. The trail curves left and descends steadily across a south-east facing slope through shady conifers. We spotted five species of mycoheterotrophs (non-green, vascular plants that rob nutrients from a mycorrhizal fungus growing symbiotically with trees): western and spotted coralroots (*Corallorhiza mertensiana* and *maculata*), pine drops (*Pterospora andromedea*), snow plant (*Sarcodes sanguinum*), and pine sap (*Monotropa hypopitys*). At a stream and wet ditch in this shady forest were other treats--mountain boykinia, bog deervetch (*Hosackia* (formerly *Lotus*) *pinnata*), *Lilium pardalinum*, slender bog-orchid, broad-leaved twayblade, western false asphodel (*Triantha* (formerly *Tofieldia*) *glutinosa*), and sneezeweed. A bit farther downslope we were in a Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) woodland with Sadler oak and tobacco brush (*Ceanothus velutinus*) understory, and the roadcut rocks had green and red tints of serpentinite. At a small stream crossing a white rushlily (*Hastingsia alba*), and California lady's slipper bloomed, and a dense, green, plantain-like rosette proved to be smooth grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) in bud. Around the third and last hairpin turn we reached the valley floor, at about 4300 foot elevation.

The trail entered the valley in a dry forest of firs and incense-cedar, including some magnificent individuals. Brightening this partial shade were the white heads of Gray's lovage and the fine, red trumpets of scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), and twining in its shrubbery was the rare English peak greenbriar (*Smilax jamesii*). Soon the wide valley opened in view. It was remarkably flat, and probably was used hard in the past when the mine was operating. Now its green was fading, while summer colors danced under the blue sky-- white heads of yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), yellow dots of cinquefoil (a palmate-leaved species probably *Potentilla gracilis*; a pinnate-leaved species possibly *Drymocallis* (formerly *Potentilla*) *glandulosa*), and occasional clear pink heads or spikes of two species of checkerbloom (*Sidalcea* spp.). Where bare dirt and dry gopher work prevailed a pink haze of tiny, thread-stemmed plants thrived. Out in the center of the meadow, near a large rock and some small pools, tall swamp onion (*Allium validum*), sneezeweed, bistort (*Bistorta* (formerly *Polygonum*) *bistortoides*), *Lilium pardalinum*, rosy spiraea (*Spiraea splendens* (formerly *densiflora*)), white rushlily, and California corn lily (*Veratrum californicum*) bloomed.

On the return along the same trail, thanks to

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

communication with passing hikers, we discovered Cracker Meadow, down a spur below the trail about 2/3 of the way up out of the valley. This higher, smaller meadow was rolling and lushly green. One portion was a large patch of low huckleberry (*Vaccinium*) shrubs riddled with channels of slow or stagnant water. The other portion was sedgy-grassy-rushy with colorful, wet-meadow flowers in the nearer, wetter end. Curiously, California pitcher plant was among the dense, lush grass on a mound at this end.

side was easy, going through azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*) and an open understory of Sadler oak and huckleberry oak. We noted beautiful, green mats of slender wintergreen (*Gaultheria ovatifolia*). The trail on the south side, across a north-facing slope, required a little clambering but was worth it to see denizens of a rich forest floor : vanilla leaf, western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), stream violet (*Viola glabella*), white-veined wintergreen (*Pyrola picta*), pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), little prince's pine (*Chimaphila menziesii*), one-sided wintergreen



Discovering Cracker Meadow. California pitcher plants were in the tall, grassy patch (front right).

Back at camp we celebrated the successful day--10 species of conifers (see note 1), 5 species of mycoheterotrophs, meadowsful of flowers, perfect weather, a spontaneously ruptured shoe held together with teamwork and ingenuity-- with a scrumptious, potluck campfire meal followed by songs, with a guitar, around the campfire.

Sunday morning we spent at Sanger Lake, which we had visited briefly Friday evening as the shadows engulfed this tranquil, six-acre lake and crept up the rocky mountain behind it. In the lake floated modest patches of yellow pond-lily (*Nuphar polysepala*) and a fringe of shrubby alders and willows separated the water from the dark, encircling conifers. When we returned Sunday morning and walked around the lake, we found seven species of conifers. The trail on the north

(*Orthilia secunda*), rattlesnake orchid (*Goodyera oblongifolia*), queen-cup (*Clintonia uniflora*), northwestern twayblade. This trail also skirted a rock outcrop, where we recognized little-leaf montia (*Montia parvifolia*). At the far (east) end of the lake was a grove of large Port Orford-cedar and some wet ground draining into the lake. Here we encountered some flowers familiar from the coast-- red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), fringe-cups (*Tellima grandiflora*), star Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum stellata*), long-tailed ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), Hooker's fairy bells (*Prosartes hookeri*), twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*), stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*)--as well as some encountered only in the mountains--mountain boykinia, tall swamp onion, and undetermined species of *Mitella* and *Saxifraga*. A small patch of

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

lilies was diagnosed as a hybrid leopard lily, *Lilium pardalinum wiggins x vollmeri*. The flowers varied in the evenness of their color; they had yellow pollen on yellow anthers. A pair of candystick (*Allotropa virgata*) brought the trip total of mycoheterotrophs to six.

The idyllic scene at the lake was marred by a boy's inappropriate shooting and by inappropriate toilet habits of the large family squeezed inappropriately into the only beach-like, clear space on the lake, appropriated as their campsite. At least their van was useful to us; parked in the small pullout that serves as parking for the lake, it was a signal that the lake, out of sight from the road, was here. This is clearly a site needing some recreation management attention from the Forest Service.

Our short visit to the Sanger Lake corner of the world proved it is a place worth revisiting. The access road and the trail to Youngs Valley cover a great altitudinal range, and the area has numerous habitats, from chaparral and rocky outcrops to

streams, seeps, lakes. The result is good plant diversity, where something will always be blooming. This year, a late year, we found late July was a perfect time for lilies and mycoheterotrophs. We should return for more thorough botanizing in the places we went and to explore further the road north beyond Sanger Lake.

Note 1. Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), red or noble fir (None had cones.) (*A. magnifica* or *procera*), knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*), western white pine (*P. monticola*), sugar pine (*P. lambertiana*), Jeffrey pine (*P. jeffreyi*), Brewer's spruce (*Picea breweriana*), Port Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*).

Note 2. The Gasquet ranger station (office of the Smith River National Recreation Area) has a handout called "Dispersed or Primitive Campsites, Smith River National Recreation Area, Six Rivers National Forest" that describes location, size, and important features of these unmapped campsites at 27 sites in the Recreation Area.

How to Introduce Native Plants to an Urban Garden

[from *The Carleton Voice*, magazine of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota]

[Look! They are planting native plants in Minnesota too! The species are different, but the principles are the same. Carol Ralph]

Native plants often are seen as the messy neighbors who move in next door to the perfect petunias and play loud music while setting off bottle rockets next to their junker cars.

"It's not difficult to introduce native plants to an urban yard, but politically it can be problematic," says Dennis Easley, Carleton's superintendent of grounds. "Many people think native plants look like weeds. You have to fool your neighbors into thinking you have a regular garden in order to keep the peace. That's where the tricks come in."

Make it look intentional. "Avoid seed mixes. Insert plants with distinguishing characteristics to appear purposeful. Prairie dock, for example, has striking foliage--large banana-shaped leaves that stick straight up from the ground. The cup plant has leaves that hold water--you can see insects and birds drinking from them."

Use mainstream varieties. "Joe-pye weed and black-eyed Susan are conventional--there are horticultural varieties--yet they are native to Minnesota. Because they are beautiful and recognizable, they won't worry your neighbors. The Department of Natural Resources can identify native plants for every part of the country."

Cut trail. "Many corporate campuses attempt to integrate native plants and grasses into the landscape. Groundskeepers mow turf grass trails around the natives to appear intentional and give the effect of a park or nature sanctuary. We do that at Carleton, and you can follow a similar approach in your home landscape."

Coexist. "At Carleton I plant daffodil bulbs in with the prairie grasses. The daffodils burst forth at the first hint of spring, while warm-season grasses remain dormant."

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

| | | | |
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| NEC NC CNPS Representative | Jennifer Kalt | 707-839-1980 | jenkalt@gmail.com |

COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The *Darlingtonia* Newsletter (quarterly),
2. Our chapter's website: www.northcoastcnps.org
3. E-mail lists/forums (Announcements, Business, and Gardening – subscribe from the **E-mail lists and Forums** page on www.northcoastcnps.org).
4. Facebook www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS

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 no later than: 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.

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 jenkalt@gmail.com).

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.

(Continued from page 1)

authority on plant ecology, conifers, and the vegetation and flora of California, especially of the Klamath Region. He was particularly proud of his cadre of graduate students (over 50 of them!) many of whom now occupy professorships, and responsible positions in state and federal agencies and the conservation movement around the country. John's friendship and rigorous, theory-driven exploration of

and piecing together patterns in the vegetation.

At the end of an era for pioneers, Sawyer and his colleagues were pioneering the understanding of large-scale landscape vegetation patterns. While he saw and loved the Western landscape broadly, he especially loved the Klamath Mountains and helped to define its flora. His countless hours of field research, extending well beyond his formal retirement, resulted



ecological ideas with his students and colleagues created personal and professional bonds that will last beyond a lifetime.

Sawyer never shied away from taking students into the field for hands-on experiences. He insisted everyone needed such adventures to learn about the natural world in a proper way. His class field trips included thousand mile bus rides to the Mojave Desert or shorter jaunts to trek students across, over, and around the ridges, canyons and mountain tops of the Klamath. All the while searching for plant species

in over forty scientific publications and three books – *Trees and Shrubs of California*, *Northwest California: A Natural History*, and *A Manual of California Vegetation*, which was adopted as the state standard for vegetation classification. This love of native plants led to him being active in the Save the Redwoods League and the Ecological Society of America. John was President of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and a founding member and first President of the North Coast Chapter of CNPS.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

I think what most excited me about John was his love of wild places. When he spoke of ideal wilderness he did so with a twinkle in his eye and a giddy-up in his voice. Over the years I knew him he revealed many of the favorite places he adventured in search of plants and patterns—but the one that came up most often was the Russian Wilderness.

G. Ledyard Stebbins first made him aware of the rare conifers around Russian Peak and asked John to journey there to help establish a better understanding of the area for the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California organized by CNPS. In the late 60's and early 70's he, along with numerous colleagues and students, trekked through this country to inventory the plants (especially the

conifers!). In Sugar Creek Canyon they found 400 species of vascular plants and in one roughly drawn square mile around Little Duck Lake he and Dale Thornburg discovered 17 species of conifers. They affectionately called this The Miracle Mile to celebrate the amazing diversity here. This work and the new understandings his research established ultimately led to the area's preservation as



the Russian Wilderness in 1984. Something he was undeniably proud of.

John was one of the strongest people I know. He was indefatigable in the face of his long term illness. No matter how sapped of energy through years of treatments, he never stopped laughing, learning, and sharing. Recently, his doctors told him that his options were exhausted and that his life could be prolonged somewhat, but the quality of it (most expressly his ability to walk and get around on his own) could not. He declined quickly in the summer of 2012 and died comfortably, at home with the people he loved nearby—under a canopy of redwoods.

John influenced many of us as botanists, ecologists, biogeographers, and lovers of nature. But most importantly he was a model for the strength of the human spirit and the unalterable enjoyment of life through its ups and downs. His spirit and essence will always live on in our hearts and minds as well as in the wild places he so dearly loved.

I thank Jane Cole, Jim Smith, Todd Keeler-Wolf, Michael Mesler and Allison Poklemba for their contributions to this story.

NATIVE PLANTS COME TO OLD TOWN (PART 2): THE GHD NATIVE LANDSCAPE

By Lia Webb

This second in a series of articles on the topic of "Native Plants Come to Old Town" focuses on the new native landscaping in front of GHD's (formerly known as Winzler & Kelly) office at 718 Third Street (at H St), Eureka.



View of GHD new office and a corner garden bed that was cut out from the parking lot to maximize planting area and permeability.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The GHD garden includes a mix of dune and coastal species in the more exposed areas, and riparian shrubs and understory species elsewhere. A recent addition of woolly aster also known as sand-aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*, formerly *Lessingia filaginifolia*) from the garden of Carol Ralph is thriving with August blooms, even in the hard pack soil near the telephone pole. Horse tail (*Equisetum hyemale*) is doing so well that it will need to be thinned out and transplanted. Swaths of California fescue (*Festuca californica*) and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) provide color variation throughout the year, creating seasonal interest while contrasting with the painted building wall. The graminoids also add movement when the wind is passing through. The garden gives us a sense of place, and we hope it does for you too.

In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, the garden design is also technically impressive as it reduces water demand by 100% of baseline (i.e., from what would be typical for the vicinity). The project received LEED credit for Water Efficient Landscaping SSc1 Path 7 (Reduce Irrigation by Minimum 50%) and Path 8 (No Potable Water Use or Irrigation). The garden layout also maximizes permeable area to approximately 1,492 sf within a

highly constrained area between an existing building, an alley, roads, sidewalks, and the minimum required parking area. A small swale area receives water from the approximately 124 sf entrance awning and provides both percolation and retention before flowing into a perforated pipe and discharging to a lower elevation garden bed. Other garden beds receive sheet flow from the parking lot.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The project started with identifying the opportunity and making the case for why native landscaping would be of benefit to the long term sustainability of the site. Economic incentive of low-maintenance landscape, urban beautification, and public buy-in were emphasized as benefits of such a landscape. The concept was spearheaded by GHD staff which included a landscape ecologist and designer, soil scientist, biologist, and others. The case was easily made to the rest of the GHD team and subsequently required approvals from the building owner and the City of Eureka.

One challenge was maximizing the usable landscape area as the existing site was mostly paved parking lot with some small planting strips. This was accomplished by cutting existing pavement to widen the planting areas while also removing unused corners of the parking area.

The next challenge was to brainstorm optimal functions that could be feasibly incorporated into the design and layout. Concepts that were considered include stormwater retention and percolation, wind blocks, balance of shade and sun, visual screens while not blocking views from and to the building, seasonal interest, plant diversity, and mimicking habitat types found locally in coastal Humboldt County. The final design included a swale area to retain and percolate stormwater and minimizes impervious surfaces by increasing planting areas. Additionally, while parking curbs are a common feature, it was important to enhance the garden's ability to receive and percolate stormwater runoff by removing these physical barriers. The native garden concept also provided a fantastic opportunity to team with Samara Restoration, who provided the plant layout, plant propagation from native stock, installation of topsoil, plants, and four inches of fine Douglas fir mulch.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

A common perception of native plant gardens is that low maintenance means no maintenance. The truth is that our landscape plants are growing in a non-natural state, and since the general purpose is to enhance and beautify the human-built environment, this garden does receive “low-maintenance” activities. For example, during the first year the plants received weekly summer hand watering to promote deep rooting and long term sustainability and health of the plants. Now in the second year the garden receives light maintenance such as trimming dead material, adding mulch, and weeding until the plantings fill in. Once the plants are fully established it is anticipated that the need for weeding will be greatly reduced since the dense plantings will not leave much space for non-target species.

SURPRISES

It has been extremely rewarding to see how interested and passionate GHD employees have become about the garden. There is a real ownership to our outdoor space that would not likely have been there had we simply planted typical annual flowers and other non-native varieties. Employees often ask about “that beautiful grass with the yellow heads” while some more technical folks inquire about using more plants to screen onsite drain outlets and other infrastructure features. The GHD garden has inspired several employees to start native landscapes at their own residences, and to better understand how a native garden could be incorporated into client projects. They are proud of the beauty and simplicity of the area, and that it is a demonstration of the natural beauty that surrounds us and represents why many of us choose to live in Humboldt County. It provides all of us a sense of place and more meaningful work experience when we can look out the window and see a reflection of the landscape that we are so invested in.

Being in an urban area, there were questions about how the new landscaping would hold up with all the varied pedestrian traffic in the area. Other businesses have had troubles with vandalism, including plants and gardens. We are pleased to report that we have had very little trouble with vandalism of our native plants and garden, and have actually observed passers-by picking up trash from the garden beds. It has also been rewarding to notice salamanders and other animals enjoying the garden.

RECOGNITION

Besides adding to the LEED Certification of the redevelopment of the site, the GHD garden has

received recognition from the Surfrider Foundation program and is listed on their online map of demonstration gardens. Look for our “Ocean Friendly Garden” sign. Urban runoff from gardens and hard surfaces is one of the top sources of ocean pollution from pollutants such as pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, sediment, oil, brake pad dust, and animal waste. These materials can run off properties during rain storms

or when sprinklers overwater and/or overshoot the landscape. In addition, the use of gas-powered equipment to mow lawns, prune, and haul away vegetation generates air pollutants that eventually settle and get washed into waterways. Clearly gardens and hard surfaces can be beautiful, resourceful, wildlife-friendly, and reduce or prevent runoff. The Ocean Friendly Garden principles of Conservation, Permeability, and Retention (CPR) can be applied to your garden to help revive our watersheds and oceans:

- **Conservation** of water, energy, and habitat through use of native and climate adapted plants, spaced appropriately for mature growth.
- **Permeability** through healthy, biologically active soil, and permeable materials utilized for driveways, walkways, and patios that allow water to percolate into the soil.
- **Retention** devices like rain chains, rain barrels and rain gardens retain water in the soil for the dry season, preventing it from running off the property.

GHD was also recently recognized by the City of Eureka after receiving a 2012 Award of Merit by the Keep Eureka Beautiful Committee. This recognition is due in part to our garden, which complements and adds to the first visual impression of our newly remodeled office space.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Promoting expansion and continued connectivity to other native planting areas in Old Town is a goal for the local employees of GHD. Continuity could be enhanced throughout public spaces, providing expanded sense of place in this beautiful coastal urban interface. With future possibilities of coastal trails and walkways through Old Town, as well as other local projects, there are many opportunities for further implementation of native landscapes. Education and leading by example also help other individuals and the public better understand the many benefits of using native plants. A walking native plant tour could be a great activity and enhance visitor appreciation for the special unique habitats and plants that make Humboldt County home.



MEMBERS' CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DE-ANNE HOOPER
CRAIG KNOX
BENJAMIN LARDIERE
HELENA OROZCO
CARA SCOTT
GWEN THOELE

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

ART WILSON
BARBARA KELLY
BEN LUCKENS
CARL TUCK
CLARE GOLEC
COLIN FISKE
DENNIS HOGAN
DIANA CHAPMAN
DR. BRUCE KESSLER / PAM
KESSLER
ERIN DEGENSTEIN
HEATHER BRENT
JENNIFER WOOD
JENNIFER TOMPKINS
JOANNE HOLMES
JOHN MCRAE
JOHN YOAKLEY
JUDIE SNYDER
KATHRYN CORBETT
LEAH MAHAN
LEIA GIAMBASTIANI
LLOYD MCCLELLAND
MARIE KELLEHER-ROY
MARLA KNIGHT
MICHAEL STUART / BETHEL
LABORDE
PAUL ANDERSON
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STEPHANIE KLEIN

SYLVIA WHITE
TOM ALLEN / KATY ALLEN
TOM LISLE
WENDY WAHLUND
WILLIAM WOOD
WILMA W. JOHNSTON

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

- ◆ **Bamboo & Maples**, 10% discount on plants, 445-1281
- ◆ **Freshwater Farms**: 10% off plant purchases, 444-8261
- ◆ **Greenlot Nursery**, 10% discount on plants, 443-9484
- ◆ **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!

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.
- ◆ Receive the quarterly journal *Fremontia* (the statewide newsletter), our chapter's quarterly newsletter, and *Darlingtonia*.

- ◆ Receive discounts at local businesses

Membership fees:

- ◆ Individual \$45; Family \$75; Student or Limited Income \$25.
- Organization (For consultants, companies, agencies, small nonprofits, and nurseries) - Details at <http://cnps.org/cnps/join/organizations.php>

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/>
- Please notify the state office when your address changes. Email cnps@cnps.org and put 'Member Address Change' in the subject line. MEMBERS—see your membership expiration date on the first line of your newsletter's address label.

ELECTION OF NORTH COAST CNPS OFFICERS

PLEASE VOTE.

We have elections too! Every two years we elect our chapter's president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. Nominations were open all summer. Chapter members may vote in person at our October 10 evening program, at the October 9 business meeting, or by mailing the ballot (Election, North Coast CNPS, P.O. Box 1067, Arcata CA 95518-1067) by October 9, 2012.

President Carol Ralph Write in _____

Vice-President Kim McFarland Write in _____

Secretary Frances Ferguson Write in _____

Treasurer Michael Kauffmann Write in _____



You can make a difference!

PROPOSITION 37 ENDORSEMENT

At our September business meeting, the North Coast Chapter of CNPS's steering committee unanimously voted to endorse Proposition 37 (Genetically Engineered Foods Labeling Initiative Statute (reference the official state voter guide at <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/37/>)).

Our concern is with the unintentional spread of GMO pollen and genes and their potential negative impact on wild (native) plants since almost no research has been done to document these impacts (reference the Union of Concerned Scientists' "Risks of Genetic Engineering" http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/science_and_impacts/impacts_genetic_engineering/risks-of-genetic-engineering.html and Jen Kalt's (NC CNPS Conservation Chair's) article about the "Round-up Ready" gene that escaped into native bentgrass populations in the National Grasslands in eastern Oregon (*Darlingtonia* Spring 2007 http://northcoastcnps.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60&Itemid=148&dir=JSROOT%2FDarlingtonia&download_file=JSROOT%2FDarlingtonia%2FDarlingtonia_2007_1_Spring.pdf)).

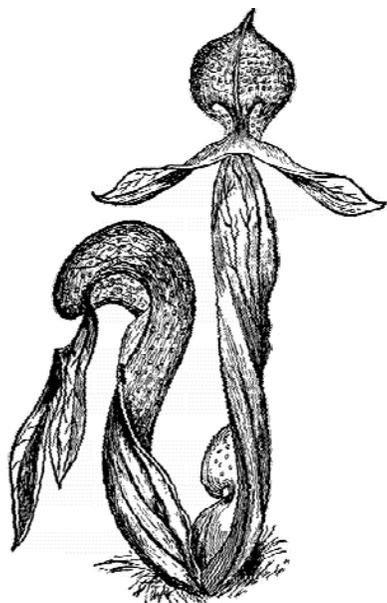
We considered whether labeling food would be the best way to address GMO risks to native plants, but concluded that informed consumers, making wiser decisions, could influence the use of GMO technology.

CNPS, North Coast Chapter
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Visit us at
NorthCoastCNPS.org

CALENDAR of EVENTS

(Plant Walks & Hikes—Page 2 / Programs— Page 3)

October

- ◆ Wed 10: Program
- ◆ Sun 14: Day Hike
- ◆ Sat 27: Day Hike

November

- ◆ Sat 3: Day Hike
- ◆ Wed 14: Program

December

- ◆ Wed 12: Program

January

- ◆ Wed 9: Program