



# Darlingtonia

WINTER 2017  
JAN-MAR

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

## PROTECTING WESTERN AZALEAS BY CAROL RALPH

Head-high shrubs laden with large, ruffled flowers in fresh, clean whites and pinks, wafting heavenly fragrance into the spring air--Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) is definitely among our charismatic megafauna.

Its well-deserved attention has inspired its protection in parks and reserves. Here in North Coast CNPS territory we have two azalea reserves, the Azalea State Natural Reserve (2 miles east of Highway 101 on North Bank Rd, just up Azalea Rd. in McKinleyville) and the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area (at the left end of Kane Rd. north of Big Lagoon). Both are managed for azaleas by California State Parks. Our May 23, 2015, field trip visited both (read about it in the Summer 2015 issue of *Darlingtonia*, downloadable at [http://northcoastcnps.org/images/stories/Darlingtonia/Darlingtonia\\_15\\_03\\_Summer.pdf](http://northcoastcnps.org/images/stories/Darlingtonia/Darlingtonia_15_03_Summer.pdf)).

The challenge in managing for azaleas is in preventing other shrubbery and eventually trees from overgrowing them. In the natural process of succession, native, woody plants sprout and grow among the azaleas, eventually shading them out. Natural "disasters" such as fire can return the upper hand to azaleas, which are adapted to fire and readily sprout from the base. When non-native, aggressive plants like Himalaya Blackberry are added to the mix, the need for fire or fire-equivalent is especially urgent. In other words, azaleas live in a high maintenance environment.

State Parks, which operates in a low budget environment, has worked with this challenge. The Azalea State Natural Reserve still has azaleas after more than 70 years in State Parks care. Everyone would like them cleaner and pruned, but at least many are still there. This was also the state of things in 1960, when a speaker to the American Rhododendron Society reported the plants and trails overgrown in the Azalea State Reserve (E.P. Breakey. 1960. J. American Rhododendron Society 14(3)).

The North Coast Chapter is joining the California Garden Clubs and the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in assisting State Parks in restoring the azaleas. Drawing on a fund just established by California Garden Clubs (which was instrumental in the original purchase of the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area), State Parks has established the Stagecoach Hill Western Azalea Propagation and Restoration Project, which is raising seeds and cuttings from this remarkably diverse population to plant back in the reserve. The project also will remove encroaching trees at this population this winter.

With articles, field trips, lectures, and displays we are raising the profile of the reserves, hoping to attract a core of local volunteers to help with the hand-clipper work of maintaining the azaleas. The combination of big machinery clearing big areas followed by volunteers doing hand work has been successful in restoring an azalea population on Hooper Bald in the Nantahala National Forest in the Appalachian Mountains of North

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**Find out what's happening:**

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## FIELD TRIPS, LONG AND SHORT

**Please watch for updates** on our Web site ([www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)) or sign up for e-mail announcements ([Northcoast\\_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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 requirements to the leader. Weather and fires can require destination changes.

**February 25, Saturday. Freshwater Lagoon Day Hike.** In the string of lagoons along the coast north of Humboldt Bay Freshwater Lagoon is the one where Highway 101 is right on the spit between the lagoon and the ocean, a dramatic, straight stretch. The road was not always there. Old State Highway still traverses the slope east (inland) of the lagoon for roughly 3 miles, accessing a few weekend houses. We will do a car shuttle and walk this very lightly traveled road, through Red Alder forest, watching for Red-flowering Currant blooming, and hoping for the red-flowered trillium that likes this habitat, Giant Purple Wakerobin (*Trillium kurabayashii*). We might have time to walk along the lagoon, looking at wetland plants, or the beach, looking at sand plants. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. It helps to know you are coming: Carol 822-2015.

**March 26, Sunday. Redwood Creek Day Hike.** Masses of Giant Purple Wakerobin (*Trillium kurabayashii*) should be waiting for us about 1.5 miles up the Redwood Creek Trail in Redwood National Park. (Trailhead at the bottom of Bald Hills Rd. just north of Orick) The yellow variant of this deep red trillium occurs here, providing fodder for speculation on trillium taxonomy. The riparian and forest edge vegetation will provide early spring fun: Hazelnut in full bloom, several gooseberries, Skunk Cabbage, and possibly early clues of the rare *Cardamine angulata*. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata) or arrange another place. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Return late afternoon. It helps to know you are coming: Carol 822-2015.

**April 15, Saturday. Field trip.** Destination to be decided.

**April 22, Saturday, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Native Plants in Gardens and Forest.** Join Carol Ralph, Pete Haggard, and Anna Bernard for a walk from the Arcata Community Center to Arcata Community Forest and back to see native plants in public and private landscapes and in a redwood forest. We will identify a range of native plants and invasive plants, see wildlife in a native plant garden, and think about how to mimic wild habitats in the confines of gardens. Hopefully, trillium will be blooming in the forest. The walk is about 3 miles on sidewalks and good paths, with about 250 ft. elevation gain. Call 826-7050 to register for this free trip sponsored by California Native Plant Society at Godwit Days, or register for Godwit Days at [www.godwitdays.org](http://www.godwitdays.org).

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If you would like to help plan all-day field trips or 2-hour plant walks, Carol wants to talk with you!

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**February 1-3, 2018**  
Workshops & Field Trips January 30-31

**Los Angeles, CA**  
Los Angeles Airport Marriott

## SAVE THE DATE!

The CNPS 2018 Conservation Conference will be held on February 1-3, 2018, at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott in sunny Los Angeles!

The conference website (<https://conference.cnps.org/>) will be kept up-to-date as plans develop. Registration coming summer 2017!

Every 3 years, the CNPS Conservation Conference brings together California's conservation community to share ideas and information at the largest gathering of its kind. Scientific sessions cover a broad spectrum of topics, and special events provide time for collaboration, networking, and appreciation of our beautifully diverse flora.

Start networking now – RSVP and share the Facebook event page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1387097401303773/>)!

## CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

### 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. and program at 7:30 p.m. For information or to suggest a speaker or topic contact Michael Kauffmann at 707-407-7686 / [michaelekauffmann@gmail.com](mailto:michaelekauffmann@gmail.com).

- Jan 11** "Explore the Mysterious Marble Mountain Wilderness." **Dana York**, former botanist for Death Valley National Park and Oregon's Umpqua National Forest, will share some of the natural wonders of the geologically diverse landscape of the Marble and Salmon Mountains. The correspondingly diverse flora includes some interesting and beautiful rare plants, such as Subalpine and Silver Firs, Brewer's Spruce, Klamath Gentian, Sticky-leaf Arnica, Howell's Tauschia, and Baker's Globe Mallow. Eye-catching common plants are there too. Beyond the realm of chlorophyll, Dana's virtual trek will lead into one of the many caves in the Marble Mountains.
- Feb 8** "Places and Plants of the Middle Klamath River" with **Tanya Chappel** of Mid-Klamath Watershed Council.
- Mar 8** "Tall Tree Physiology: Downsides to Being Tall and How Trees Compensate" with **Lucy Kerhoulas** of HSU Forestry Department.
- Apr 12** Hear **Bruce Palmer**, past president of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, speak on the family Ericaceae (which includes azaleas).
- May 10** Rob Fernau

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Carolina (different species of azalea, same habits). Publicity can also help attract money. A fund will soon be established, possibly with Redwood Parks Conservancy, to which people can donate money that will be spent only for azalea reserve maintenance. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is hosting that group's annual meeting, April 27-30, 2017, and including a field trip to Stagecoach Hill.

If you love azaleas, if you love walking in the Azalea State Natural Reserve, if you wish you were closer to either reserve and want it to be there when you eventually get there, consider lending a hand...and money. Tell Mary Lou Goodwin (707-442-1387; [mlgoodwin@outlook.com](mailto:mlgoodwin@outlook.com)) that you could help at azalea work days. Donate to the California Garden Club Incorporated azalea propagation fund (mail check to Mary Lou Goodwin, 1312 Gates St., Eureka, CA 95501-2627). Donate to the Redwood Parks Conservancy, specifying the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Fund (mail check to 1111Second St., Crescent City 95531; or online at <https://redwoodparksconservancy.org/donate-rpc>. Information: 707-464-9150). If you know of a wild azalea plant or population that is disappearing under larger plants, clear out the bullies. The azaleas will reward you immediately with renewed vigor.

Put it on your calendar now to visit the Azalea State Reserve and the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area in late May or early June. Watch for a CNPS field trip there too.

#### Learn about Azaleas and Other Rhododendrons by Carol Ralph

The American Rhododendron Society (ARS) will have its annual International Convention right here in Eureka on April 27-30, 2017, at the Red Lion Inn. That is the same weekend Eureka celebrates the Rhododendron Festival. Organized by our local, energetic and talented Eureka Chapter of ARS, the convention offers field trips to the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area and other places, a plant sale, art sale, photo show, and flower show, plus these great speakers: Dr. Steve Sillett, Humboldt State University professor of tree-top fame; Dr. Peter Raven, renowned plant taxonomist and evolutionist, of the Missouri Botanical Garden; Bruce Palmer on the family Ericaceae (which includes azaleas); Mike Stewart, President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation; Steve Hootman, Curator and Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden; Giselle Schoninger of Kellogg Garden Products, which makes Gardner and Bloome potting soil.

Sounds great! You might catch the *Rhododendron* fever! You can find more information and register on the Eureka Chapter's website: <http://eurekarhody.org/convention.php>.

You will also be able to hear Bruce Palmer speak on the family Ericaceae, which includes this genus, at our North Coast CNPS chapter's April 12 evening program (Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. and program at 7:30 p.m.).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Carrother's (Crother's) Cove Trail 23 October 2016 by Carol Ralph

Seven CNPSers traversed this short trail, which straddles the very north end of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and a piece of Redwood National Park, off the southern section of the Coastal Road, on a cool, damp, clean, and fresh day. The sign at the trail head says "Coastal Trail." The trail was a very old road, which now felt like a trail, that led to the Johnson farm and a weekend house of Mr. Crothers, both now nonexistent. Jerry and Gisela Rohde point out in their book that the spelling of the trail's name has been corrupted by some mapmaker (*Best Short Hikes in Redwood National and State Parks*, 2004, The Mountaineers Books).

The old road went through a young forest, a stand of Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) all of modest proportions (9-24 inches diameter breast high), with an understory of pure Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). Perhaps this was a pasture of the Johnson farm a hundred years ago. A few struggling Wax Myrtle (*Morella californica*) suggested a recently more open surrounding. As an interpretive sign along the Coastal Road told us, the coastal forest of Sitka Spruce, Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), and Red Alder



A mighty fine Sitka Spruce along the trail in the gulch along Johnson Creek. The base of the tree is old enough it no longer has the flakey bark that is a great field mark.



Cauliflower fungus at the base of a Sitka Spruce.  
Photo by Gail Kenny

(*Alnus rubra*), which all withstand the winds and salt from the ocean, is a buffer that protects the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) farther inland. The rumble of crashing surf let us know the entire way that we were on the coast. Along the road farther

down, near Johnson Creek, we encountered a few stately, large spruce, presumably spared by farmer Johnson. At the base of one of these spruce was a white, fleshy, hydrangea-flower-like fungus, the Cauliflower Mushroom (*Sparassis crispa*), the most spectacular sight of the day.

Where the trail and creek met the beach was a thicket of Red Alder and Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*). The beach supported sand plants: European Beach Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), European Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Beach Burr (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), Yellow Sand Verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), the rare Pink Sand Verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), and the not-so-common Beach Silvertop (*Glehnia littoralis* in the carrot family). The lagoon promised by the Rohde's in their book apparently had been ripped away by the sea,

which now regularly washed up close to the thicket. A knee-high soil bench about 10 x 10 ft., thickly grown with Small-seeded Bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpa*), Slough Sedge (*Carex obnupta*), and three-sided stems of Three-square (*Schoenoplectus pungens*) was all that remained of a wetland at the mouth of Johnson Creek. The edge of the bench with the last clump of Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) was half fallen off. Clumps of Spike Rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) were suffering, probably from salt water exposure. Was this the

work of one great storm? Or is this a result of sea level rise?

On the wet, back edge of the beach we found two non-native, widespread members of the goosefoot family, Chenopodiaceae. This family, which has tiny, green flowers lacking petals, is easy to ignore when showy flowers are around, but this time of year their odd, dry, crowded fruits looked interesting. A



Mexican Tea (left) and Fat-hen, in full fruit, looking much as they do in full flower.

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remarkably large and luxuriant Fat-hen (*Atriplex prostrata*), sprawled over large driftwood, greeted us as we arrived at the beach. Its triangular leaves had two pointy “ears” at the base (hastate), and some were mealy (scaley) on the back. A close look at the Grape-nuts-sized green lumps in the inflorescence found they were like clam shells or two hands, palm-to-palm, around a seed. All *Atriplex* have fruit like this, with varying sizes and shapes of lumps on the “fruiting bracts.” I have seen this Eurasian species most abundant in salt marshes, though no one has called it invasive. The other member of the Chenopodiaceae was sprawling but trying to be upright, grayish-green, fuzzy, with smallish leaves variable in their toothiness or lobing, and hard-to-interpret green lumps along the stem in the inflorescence. The distinctive feature was the fragrance released when rubbed. To some of us it smelled good and lemony. To others it smelled vile, like gasoline or other petroleum product. Such is Mexican Tea (*Dysphania* (formerly *Chenopodium*) *ambrosioides*). It’s strong odor is a clue that it has many surface glands, which look like tiny, shiny droplets on the skin or tip or a hair. The droplets are present even when the plant and air are dry, so you know they are not water. They may get sand and dirt stuck in them.

One of the few plants that had flowers was another species that I find by smell, a hedgenettle (*Stachys*). When you smell the musty aroma of hedgenettle, you should watch you step; it is likely to be wet. I have easily identified Coast Hedgenettle (*Stachys chamissonis*), which is tall, always growing in a ditch, and has relatively long flowers. The hedgenettle along the trail this day was one of the smaller, not-so-wet species. We examined a good number of inflorescences and concluded that the leaves among the flowers (bracts in the inflorescence) were all less than half the size of the leaves below the inflorescence. This character plus the pink flowers defined Rough Hedgenettle (*Stachys rigida*), although Mexican Hedgenettle (*S. mexicana*) (magenta to purple flowers; some large leaves among the flowers) and Ajuga Hedgenettle (*S. ajugoides*) (white flowers) are in our area also.

This short trail produced unexpected, interesting sights. It always pays to go outside with your eyes open! The forest and the dramatic beach were beautiful. The general lack of invasive species was comforting. The hike back up to the cars seemed long and steep to some, but it took only 35 minutes.

**Cold Spring on the Day of Dispersal  
September 25, 2016  
by Carol Ralph**

Like all true firs, the “White” Fir at Cold spring, along Forest Highway 1 in Six Rivers National Forest has cones that sit upright on the upper branches and disintegrate there, releasing the winged seeds to flutter to the ground. Fir cone

scales are plentiful on the forest floor, but the only entire fir cones there are those cut and dropped by squirrels. On this fall day eight of us stepped out of the cars at Cold Spring on the magic day when the gusting wind was filled with fir cone scales and seeds. We were witnessing the cone disintegration and dispersal of this prolific species. [This fir is considered a widespread hybrid between Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) and White Fir (*Abies concolor*), but apparently doesn’t have a convenient name. See Kauffmann, 2012, *Conifer Country*.]

We inspected the totally dry state of Cold Spring, a historically reliable spring, and hiked the informal trail going vaguely north through forest, past rock outcrops, and across serpentine barrens to a smaller spring and then back. After that we visited the meadow downhill from Cold Spring. The sun was bright but mellow; the sky was clear, clear blue; the vistas stretched to the Mad River Slough, the Eel River Bottoms, and the smooth, deep blue ocean beyond. Thinning oaks broke the light into dapples. Maples blazed yellow on their mossy boughs.

Much of the botanizing was matching dried crisps of plants with what we had seen blooming on previous visits. In the old fir forest near the spring, where we regularly have seen Phantom Orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*) and Spotted Coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata*) blooming, we found brown, dry stems with seed pods cracked open and empty. Anyone can easily distinguish these species when they are blooming.



Pods upright means Phantom Orchid; pods pendant means coralroot .

Both are chlorophyll-free orchids deriving their nutrients through fungi mycorrhizal with trees. The above-ground part of each is a single stem with the flowers on it. Phantom Orchid is pure, ghostly white, with largish flowers (sepals 12-20 mm). Spotted Coralroot is purplish brown with smaller (sepals 5.5-10 mm), red-spotted, white flowers. We felt very clever that we could still distinguish these species in their skeletal state. The Phantom Orchid pods were larger and stood up, contrastingly dark

against the light stem. The coralroot pods were smaller and hung down, and the stem was dark like the pods. In a

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## MEMBERS' CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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### THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

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### 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 CNPS!

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>

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/CONTACTS

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<b>Workshops</b>	Gordon Leppig	707-839-0458	gleppig@dfg.ca.gov
<b>Wildflower Show</b>	Position Open		Contact President Carol Ralph
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### 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](http://www.northcoastcnps.org)

Issue	Print Date	Submission Date	Announce Events In
Winter	January 1	December 1	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr
Spring	April 1	March 1	Apr, May, June, Jul
Summer	July 1	June 1	Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct
Fall	October 1	September 1	Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

E-mail newsletter articles, factoids, tidbits, etc. to the Newsletter Editor by the submission date.

Articles should generally be no more than 1,000 words and images can be any size and in these formats: JPG, JPEG, BMP, GIF, or PNG (note preferred location in the article and send image as a separate attachment).

- **E-mail lists/forums** To subscribe, send an e-mail to:
  - For Announcements: [NorthCoast\\_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NorthCoast_CNPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
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- **Like us on Facebook** [www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS](http://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](http://www.yournec.org) or requesting your *EcoNews* be electronic (contact Gary Falxa at [gfalxa@suddenlink.net](mailto:gfalxa@suddenlink.net)).

## 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 share our experiences gardening with natives. This service is free. We hope it will inspire you to join CNPS or make a donation.

Contact our coordinator, Samantha O'Connell at 707-601-0650 or [maineflower@gmail.com](mailto:maineflower@gmail.com), who 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.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Everything we do is with volunteer labor. Every job, small or large, is important for getting things done. We appreciate our many, talented, generous volunteers. You can be one too! Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com)

### Thank you!

**Karen Isa, Kathryn Johnson, Jon Hill, Elaine Allison, Carol Woods, Audrey Miller, Zeal Stephanoff, Rita Zito, Barbara Kelly, Tom Pratum, and Frances Ferguson** for great team work, problem solving, and presentation of our booth at the North Country Fair.

**Kate Rowe** for remembering *Econews* deadlines and assembling our contributions for "CNPS Happenings" in that publication.

**Karen Isa** for taking charge of the t-shirts even before she became T-shirt Sales Person.

**Barbara Reisman** for stepping into nursery responsibility during Chris Beresford's absence.

**Greg O'Connell** for stepping into chapter leadership during Carol Ralph's absence.

### Welcome Aboard!

**Karen Isa** as T-shirt Sales Person

**Jobs Needing People** Contact Carol Ralph for details.

**Econews CNPS page editor.** Six times per year this person contacts contributors to our chapter's page in *Econews* (publication of the Northcoast Environmental Center), assembles calendar items and interest articles, and submits them to *Econews* editor. Not difficult, but important!

**Conservation Issue Specialists.** Follow some conservation issue of your choice and keep us informed in the newsletter and at Steering Committee meetings.

**Collectors** for the Spring Wildflower Show. With a little training you can help bring wild beauties to the show. Collecting will be on Thursday, May 4.

## FROM SEED TO SALE: THE FALL PLANT SALE

by Carol Ralph, Chapter President

I am always thrilled and amazed when a seed sprouts. That is what happens by the thousands at Chris Beresford's house, where our nursery volunteers under Chris' supervision sprinkle seeds into trays filled with just the right mix of potting soil and perlite, pat them down just so, water them gently, and put them in Chris' small green house. There the magic happens. We come back in following weeks and find seedlings! Soon they are ready to prick out, holding them very carefully by just the leaves, and plant into six packs. After some time in a cold frame, the plants move to our nursery. Soon they will be ready to move up to four-inch pots, and many of them will move on to gallon pots.

Grooming plants, root-pruning plants, moving plants within the nursery, figuring out diseases, and sterilizing pots are other tasks our amazing volunteers tackle. Every step of the way the little plants have to be protected from sow bugs, slugs, snails, sparrows, jays, rats, and deer, as well as drought. A heroic team of waterers spends hours dispensing water to each and every plant, three days each week, if no rain helps.

Meanwhile, plants are counted and labels ordered from a hugely generous, talented volunteer who prints them for us, so that each plant sold at the sale is identified for the person taking it home.

Our fall plant sale on September 24 was the culmination of this journey for about 1,500 plants. Our talented volunteers arranged the plants attractively, inventoried the contributions from other nurseries, supervised parking, welcomed every visitor, explained the pricing, advised shoppers, answered questions, provided food for volunteers, kept track of the money, helped carry plants to cars, and all around made it a fun, worthwhile event for everyone there. Melanie Johnson gets special mention for contacting and signing up all these volunteers.

Each year the fall sale sets a new record. This is the foundation and framework of our chapter's bank account. My "Thank you" here to the people who helped produce the plants and sell them is given with sincerity, warmth, appreciation, and respect. THANK YOU! Every one of you did a fantastic job.

Mary Alward

Chris Brant

Chris Beresford

Anna Bernard

Ann Burroughs

Virginia Chatfield

Colin Fiske

Connie Gregerson

Sara Griffith

Pete Haggard

Jack Horwitz

Karen Isa

Melanie Johnson

Ron Johnson

Michelle Kamprath

Craig Knox

Marianne Knox

Evan Mahony-Moyer

Jill Mefford

Wanda Naylor

Greg O'Connell

Samantha O'Connell

Cynthia Packard

Barbara Reisman

Gisela Rohde

Zeal Stefanoff

Sabra Steinberg

Jane Stock

Randi Swedenburg

Chris Tominello

Elaine Weinreb

Donna Wildearth

Carol Woods



*Happy plants on their way to a new home with happy gardeners at the fall plant sale*

(Continued from page 5)

coralroot inflorescence the lower, older flowers already show this pendant posture. We also found a dry, brown stem of Pinesap (*Monotropa hypopitys*), a mycoheterotroph in the wintergreen family, with numerous dried flowers having swollen ovaries at the bases of the trumpet-shaped pistils.

Concerned about the grazing that happens here as part of an allotment with the Forest Service, I was relieved to see no cow sign in the meadow, and no fresh cow sign in the forest around Cold Spring itself. Cow footprints were throughout the wet area at the small spring to the north, and the lilies, rushes, monkshood, and bog orchids all browsed, though not recently. Without the attraction of water, the cows went elsewhere, a possible benefit of drought. A new feature we encountered, which we reported to the Forest Service, is rock climbing hardware installed on the rock we call Split Rock. The Forest Service has no rules against it, but from our point of view it seemed inappropriate.

### Scenes from Grove's Prairie November 5, 2016 by Carol Ralph

Grove's Prairie is at 4,100 ft elevation in Six Rivers National Forest, accessed from the north side of Willow Creek or from Hawkins Bar. Our chapter last visited there in September, 2009. Read about it in the winter 2010 issue of *Darlingtonia*, available on our website, [www.northcoastcnps.org](http://www.northcoastcnps.org).



What do Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) fruits taste like? The lone tree in the upland portion of Groves Prairie, bare of leaves, provided the answer. The Mountain Alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), Red-stem Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), and Cascara (*Frangula purshiana*) thicket along the stream was behind the photographer.

The red, split-open fruits of Western Burning Bush decorated a fall-plumaged bough. Earlier in the fall, the fleshy, red arils containing seeds would have been hanging on the tips of the fruit sections.



Grape-fern (*Sceptridium multifidum*) in all its glory in the meadow. This evergreen fern showed up nicely when everything around it was turning brown. The clustered, brown sporangia are on a separate part of the frond from the leaf blade. Photo by Evan Mahoney-Moy.



(Continued on page 11)

**Oak Woodland Restoration Ahead**  
**Reprinted from the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's**  
**Autumn 2016 newsletter** ([http://ncrlt.org/sites/ncrlt.org/files/NRLT%20News%2010-16\\_06.pdf](http://ncrlt.org/sites/ncrlt.org/files/NRLT%20News%2010-16_06.pdf)) **with permission**

The last few months have brought some very exciting news for our region's treasured oak woodlands. On Saturday, September 24, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed AB 1958 updating the Forest Practice Act to allow for restoration of northern California's oak woodlands. The bill was introduced by Assemblymember Jim Wood and proudly co-sponsored by the Buckeye and the Northcoast Regional Land Trust.

Prior to passage of AB 1958, state regulations required replanting of conifers subsequent to timber harvest. The new law clarifies that removal of conifer trees from oak woodlands does

not constitute a conversion of forestland. It also creates a seven year pilot exemption to the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) process that allows landowners to harvest smaller diameter conifers removed as part of oak woodland restoration activities. Although the oak exemption is now law, landowners will likely have to wait another year or so for the Board of Forestry to adopt their enabling language. If all proceeds as planned, the exemption should be on the books by January 1, 2018. In the interim, this is a great time for land managers to begin thinking about, and planning for, oak woodland restoration activities.

Coupled with the legislation, this summer a "special prescription" for oak woodland management was adopted by the California Board of Forestry. This special prescription provides a THP pathway for landowners who are interested in restoring oak stands that are being

outcompeted by larger-diameter conifer trees. With this special prescription all the basic THP preparatory requirements are required including: wildlife surveys, archeological surveys, and geologic review. This prescription eliminates the requirement to replant the stand with conifer seedlings by allowing post-project stocking to be met with two oak species: Oregon white oak and California black oak. The oak special prescription will be available on January 1, 2017.

Taken together, the legislation and the special prescription represent a holistic policy package that is the culmination of many years of work by ecologists,



*Oak woodlands conserved by NRLT at Chalk Mountain Ranch.*

foresters, and other oak advocates that will give land stewards the ability to more easily and affordably restore and protect our region's beautiful and ecologically important oak woodlands. As more landowners learn about these new tools, it is exciting to think

about the potential in conserving the biodiversity, cultural significance, and climate resiliency that is inherent in this unique habitat type.

We are grateful to Assemblymember Jim Wood and his staff for introducing and guiding AB 1958 through the process. We also want to recognize and thank Yana Valachovic and her team at U.C. Cooperative Extension, Lauren Sizemore and the Buckeye, and Mike Miles and the Board of Forestry. A very special recognition goes to the landowners and the many oak advocates out there for their leadership, research, and outreach on the importance of oak woodland conservation. To learn more about our commitment to protecting and restoring oak woodlands, feel free to call us (Northcoast Land Trust at 707-822-2242).

The old growth Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) preserved around Grove's Prairie was magnificent. Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) lit the understory



Fallen from the canopy, the prickly husks of Chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*) nuts and a disintegrated cone of a fir, still attached to its twig, brought some of the nitty-gritty of tree reproduction to us earthbound creatures. The fir cone has dropped its scales, individually, releasing the seeds attached to each one. This fir, like the others at about 4,000 ft elevation in our nearby mountains is a widespread White Fir-Grand Fir hybrid. Its habitat is mountains, not coast, a White Fir (*Abies concolor*) character; it's needles are uneven lengths, a Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) character.



Pale yellow ghosts of Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys tryphylla*) glowed above a carpet of shining, green Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*) on the floor of the old growth Douglas-fir grove.

This bridge over the creek in the old growth Douglas-fir grove at Grove's Prairie was a good place to examine the red fruits of Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), the conifer on the left, and the very different red fruits of Western Burning Bush (*Euonymus occidentalis*), the pale yellow-leaved shrub on the right.



Western Azalea

## 2017 WILDFLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

Same great event; *new location*  
(Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B St., Eureka).

May 5, Friday, 1-5 p.m. show only, no sale  
May 6, Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. show and sale  
May 7, Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. show and sale

The show features hundreds of fresh, wild flowers from our area for viewing, smelling, and study, while the sale offers hundreds of native plant species, most local, in pots for purchase.

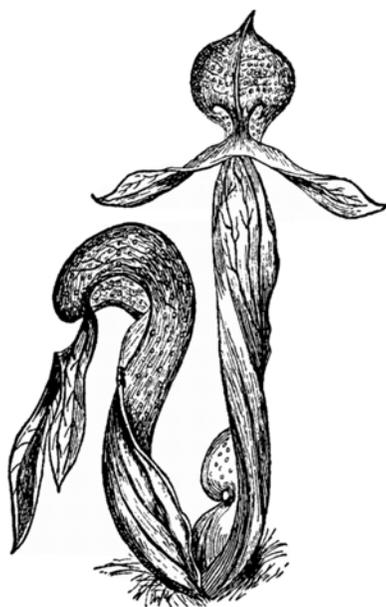
We are excited about developing our event in its new home. Join us! If you want to help put on the wildflower show, contact Carol Ralph (707-822-2015; [theralphs@humboldt1.com](mailto:theralphs@humboldt1.com)). If you want to help the plant sale, contact Chris Beresford (707-826-0259; [thegang7@pacbell.net](mailto:thegang7@pacbell.net)).

CNPS, North Coast Chapter  
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## *Darlingtonia*



Visit us at  
[NorthCoastCNPS.org](http://NorthCoastCNPS.org)

## CALENDAR of EVENTS (Field Trips—pg 2 / Programs-pg 3)

### *January*

◆ 11 Program

### *February*

◆ 8 Program

◆ 25 Hike

### *March*

◆ 4 Workshop

◆ 8 Program

◆ 26 Hike

### *April*

◆ 12 Program

◆ 15 Field Trip

◆ 22 Plant Walk

### *May*

◆ 5-7 Wildflower Show

◆ 6-7 Plant Sale

◆ 10: Program