Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 25 &
Sunday, September 26

Freshwater Farms Reserve
North Coast Regional Land Trust
5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

In Person Shopping by Appointment on Signup Genius

Physical Distancing & Masks Required

To schedule an appointment and see a list of available plants, visit our website at: http://northcoastcnps.org

Please bring your own box

Questions? Email us at: northcoastcnps@gmail.com

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Find out what’s happening:

• Visit our website: NorthCoastCNPS.org
• Visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS
• Sign-Up for Activity Notifications by emailing: theralphs@humboldt1.com and request to be added
• Visit Instagram page: instagram.com/northcoastcnps
## Evening Programs and Field Trips

### Evening Programs

**Evening Programs** are free, public presentations on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. During covid restrictions and for non-local speakers, programs will be via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. The link to register will be on our website northcoastnps.org during the weeks before the program. When gathering is safe, meetings will be at the Six Rivers Masonic Lodge, 251 Bayside Rd., Arcata. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m.

**September 8, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** "An Exploration of Coastal Plant Communities and the Journey to Heal them at Seawood Cape Preserve" Join preserve steward Jessie Bunkley for a photographic exploration of several north coast ecosystems found on The Wildlands Conservancy’s Seawood Cape Preserve, including spruce-fir and redwood forests and coastal scrub. Learn about the interplay between native and invasive species, and ongoing efforts to restore ecosystem function and balance. Via Zoom.

**October 13, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** "Marvelous Mycoheterotrophs: The Beauty and Science of Floral-Fungal Freeloaders" If you’ve ever been fascinated by a waxy, alien-looking plant without green parts in the woods that doesn’t even seem like it should be real, you may have been enchanted by a marvelous mycoheterotroph! Mycologist and teacher Lea Bendlin of Oregon Mycological Society will discuss the biology and associations of these strange-looking plants that depend upon fungi for survival, as well as some of the scientific discoveries that led to the current understanding of how they function. She will also help you to know and recognize some local species and learn how they might help in successful mushroom hunting! Via Zoom.

**November 10, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** "Our Treasured Coastal Prairies, Ecology and Maintenance" Coastal prairies make up a thin sliver of existing grasslands in California but are important in supporting wildlife, pollinators, and carbon sequestration and in providing natural beauty for Californians. Despite their small size, they can host greater species diversity than interior areas due to summer fog influence. Justin Luong, a graduate student at UC Santa Cruz and a director of the California Native Grassland Association, has recently surveyed 36 coastal prairies to see what happened after restoration efforts. He will show examples of the prairies and their flora, enumerate the many threats to them, and report the results of management efforts. Climate change, drought, and local adaptations all enter the story. Find more at justinluong.com or Twitter @JustinCLUong. Via Zoom.

**December 8, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** Native Plant Show and Tell. A chance for anyone to share photos or stories from their plant adventures during the year. If you would like to share, contact Susan Thorsell, LSThorsell@gmail.com. Check the website to learn if we will meet in person.

### Field Trips Fall 2021

Please watch for updates on our Web site (www.northcoastnps.org) or sign up for e-mail announcements at https://northcoastnps.groups.io/g/activities. Outings are open to everyone, not just members. All levels of expertise, from beginners to experienced botanizers, are welcome. We mean it! Contact the leader so you can be informed of any changes and to ask questions. Covid protocols will adapt to the existing conditions. All participants should have masks with them.

**September 19, Sunday. Ocean Ranch Day Hike.** Even at the end of a droughty summer the wetlands in the Eel River estuary will have water and lush plants. We will walk 2-4 miles in Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife’s Ocean Ranch Unit and Table Bluff County Park, finding pasture, dune, and wetland plants. We might add a visit to the South Spit. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata), 9:30 at Bayshore Mall, or 10:00 at the trailhead. Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com. See Hike 51 in Hiking Humboldt vol. 2.

**October 3, Sunday. Horse Mountain Field Trip.** We saw Horse Mountain in Six Rivers National Forest in early spring. Let’s see it in early fall. Indian Butte Rd. has both serpentine and “normal” soils, rocky outcrops, and in normal years a seep and wet ditch. Manzanitas, ceanothus, conifers, and succulents are guaranteed. We will make a loop trail by returning via the old ski slope up to the radio towers on the summit. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

**November 6, Saturday. Plan A: Monument Fire Field Trip.** Assuming this fire along Highway 299 is out and that I can find a place to visit where it has burned, we will drive and/or walk through freshly burned landscape, noting how it impacted the vegetation. In future years we will return to see what happens next. If you know a possible area for this trip, please tell Carol. Check the website and watch email announcements to learn if this plan develops.

**Plan B: Patrick’s Point Day Hike.** The spruce forest, coastal bluffs, coastal meadow, and rocky outcrops of Patrick’s Point State Park always have some surprise among the diverse plants there. Is the grape fern still on the steps on Ceremonial Rock? Has the Tracy’s Mistmaiden been awakened by fall rains? We will walk 2-4 miles on park trails. Meet at 9 a.m. at Pacific Union School (3001 Janes Rd., Arcata). Dress for the weather; bring lunch and water. Contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com

**December.** A fine time for a botanical walk somewhere. Date and destination to be announced later.
North Fork Smith River  May 14-17, 2021
by Carol Ralph (all photos by author unless noted)

The North Fork Smith Botanical Area was established in Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) in 1990 to protect the many rare plant species and distinctive plant communities on this mountainous spread of ultramafic soils between the North Fork Smith River and Stony Creek and Elk Ridge, right up to the Oregon border. With the opening of a VRBO (Vacation Rental By Owner) cabin on an inholding adjacent to the North Fork River Access and the Forest Service campground locally known as Major Moore's, a comfortable way to explore this remote corner of the Klamath Mts. became possible. The rustic, off-the-grid cabin and surrounding grounds for us were a comfortable, interesting, lovely base camp for our three-night weekend. The hosts of this unusual property (VRBO property #2004536) are a warm and talented couple. An hour from Crescent City nowadays, this VRBO is at the site of the former stagecoach stop, known as Rockland, on the road between O'Brien and Crescent City. Today a bridge provides easy river crossing for motorized vehicles.

From the outside world these days there are three ways to connect with County Road 305 (aka Wimer Rd., Low Divide Rd.), which continues to the North Fork Smith River. None is well signed. In order of increasing challenge for your vehicle they are: 1) Rowdy Creek Rd. (County Rd. 308) off of Highway 101 from the town of Smith River, 2) Low Divide Rd. (County road 305) off of 197 (North Bank Rd) off of Highway 199, 3) Gasquet Mountain Rd. (17N49) off of Highway 199 between Hardscrabble Creek and Gasquet. As for all counties, maintenance of little-traveled back roads is not a high priority. These roads are not paved and their condition can change suddenly. Have a good map, good tires, and preferably good clearance. In our group the Subarus did fine. Despite what the maps say, County Road 305 no longer connects to O’Brien.

We approached the Klamath Mountains on the Rowdy Creek Road. We felt like explorers approaching the unknown as we drove steadily and gradually uphill through Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) and then Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) timberland, watching coastal species like Evergreen Huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum) and Poison Oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) disappear as mountain species like Western White Pine (Pinus monticola) appeared. When we abruptly entered an open, rocky woodland of pines and shrubs, we knew we had reached the "serpentine," our lay name for the various soils derived from ultramafic rock. These poorly developed soils lack the standard plant nutrients nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, have very little calcium relative to magnesium, and have toxic elements like chromium, nickel, and cobalt. [Lectures about serpentine soils and plants recorded at our Spring 2021 Wildflower Show can be found on our website through the Archived Evening Programs page under the Education tab.] This difficult environment repels most plant species and has selected for those that have evolved to meet these challenges.

As the road continued north, the wide-open vegetation of the serpentine ridge presented a big sky and grand vistas. To the east across the deep canyon of the river was North Fork Smith River Botanical Area, encompassing High Plateau Mountain. More winding road brought us suddenly into a Douglas-fir forest, demonstrating the sharp edges of soil types and their profound effect on vegetation. Rhododendrons (Rhododendron macrophyllum) here were blooming. Back into serpentine we crossed the gentle Pine Flat Mountain and proceeded on a dramatic descent to the river, zig-zagging down a precipitous slope covered with black spires of burned trees in a shrubby tapestry of gray Shrub Tanoak (Notholithocarpus densiflora var. echinoides), gray-green Hoary Manzanita (Arctostaphylos canescens), dusty green Box-leaf Silk-tassel (Garrya buxifolia), green California Bay (Umbellularia californica), green California Coffeeberry (Frangula californica), and bright green Western Azalea (Rhododendron occidentale) dressed in fresh white and pink blossoms. We arrived with relief at the bridge over the North Fork Smith River and our destination camp in a level, shady grove of large Port Orford-cedar (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana), Douglas-fir, and Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens). While the entire steep surrounding landscape was recovering from the fierce Biscuit Fire of 2002, here by the river the stately old trees provided green and shade.

Rockland. We could easily have used all our botanizing time around our camp in plant-rich Rockland. Because we used the days to go farther afield we botanized here as a group only Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. The distinct areas we explored were 1) the flat around the buildings; 2) a stream and flat called "across the creek" in the down-river direction from the buildings; 3) the steep, rocky fen uphill from the pond and fire pit; 4) the river access across the road (on 18N27); 5) a brushey seep uphill from the river access, which we were guided to on an informal path to the right (upriver) from the end of the pavement, watching for a sometimes wet, small meadow and an azalea thicket to the right; and 6) the campground across the river and the flat around it.

(Continued on page 4)
Along the river was a line of White Alders (Alnus rhombifolia), Bigelow’s Sneezeweed (Helenium bigelovii), Sparse-flowered Bog Orchid (Platanthera sparsiflora), Round-leaved Sundew (Drosera rotundifolia), Cotton-grass (Calliscirpus [Eriophorum] ciniger), a paintbrush (Castilleja sp.). Some of the diverse upland species we encountered blooming were Thompson’s Iris (Iris thompsonii), Bridges’ Triteleia (Triteleia bridgesii), Small-flowered Death-camas (Toxicoscordion micrantha), Deltod Balsamroot (Balsamorhiza deltoidea), Pussy-ears Calochortus tolmiei, a different paintbrush (Castilleja sp.), Pacific Star Flower (Lysimachia [formerly Trientalis] latifolia), Modesty (Whipplea modesta), False Lily-of-the-valley (Maianthemum racemosum), Brook Wakerobin (Pseudotrillium rivale), Beargrass (Xerophyllum tenax), Milkwort (Polystichum californica), Dog, Moosehorn, and Wedge-leaf Violets (Viola adunca, lobata, and cuneata). I saw serpentine specialists related to two coastal species: a white-flowered bleeding heart described as Oregon Bleeding Heart (Dicentra formosa ssp. oregana) and the yellow-flowered Siskiyou Inside-out Flower (Vancouveria chrysantha). The small, wet meadow had Camas (Camassia quamash) finished blooming and Labrador Tea (Rhododendron columbianum), as well as glorious Western Azaleas blooming. In the campground, in a stand of large, fire-scarred Douglas-fir, grayish-green-leaved Hoary Manzanita and dull green-leaved Gasquet Manzanita (Arctostaphylos hispidula) grew side-by-side. Nearby was a pleasant pine woodland and a small, shaded stream. Along the river was a line of White Alders (Alnus rhombifolia), but very few willows.

Pine Flat Mountain. Saturday we drove back up the steep hill to the west, to a wide pullout on the south side of the road at mile marker 21.04 and parked there to botanize Pine Flat Mt. We walked south on a rough, dirt road through an area notable for being level or gently sloped. We were in a pleasing, open forest of Jeffrey Pine (Pinus jeffreyi), Western White Pine, Douglas-fir, and Knobcone Pine (Pinus attenuata) with a diverse shrub understory of Tanoak, California Coffeeberry, California Bay, Pinemat Manzanita (Arctostaphylos nevadensis), Rhododendron, Western Azalea, Cream Bush (Holodiscus discolor), Huckleberry Oak (Quercus vaccinifolia), Common Juniper (Juniperus communis), Serviceberry (Amelanchier sp.), and Siskiyou Mat (Ceanothus pumilus). During a one-day field trip on June 5, 2004, following the same route to see the Biscuit Fire area, John Sawyer told us that less productive sites have trees, while more productive sites have shrubs. This level area was clearly more productive. Where the soil was rockier, the shrubs were sparser. What’s more, this area apparently did not burn in the Biscuit Fire. We encountered a few shallow pits left by prospectors with bulldozers. We saw many of the same flowering species we saw at the camp. We added Spreading Phlox (Phlox diffusa) and Showy Phlox (Phlox gracilis), a horkelia (possibly Silky Horkelia sericata), Siskiyou Corn Lily (Veratrum insolitum, the only corn lily that grows in uplands), a ray-less arnica (an Arnica sp. lacking the petal-like feature of aster family flower heads), and the focus of a past treasure hunt, Opposite-leaved Lewisia (Lewisia oppositifolia). This tiny plant with pure white flowers as big as the rest of the plant, was in a few flat, gravelly areas. Among larger rocks we found another treat, the brown-dappled bells of Siskiyou Fritillary (Fritillaria glauca). Some of us walked as far as a damp swale crossing the road, very roughly a mile from the cars. There we found the tiny, yellowish stem and curved, purple flower of Naked Broomrape (Aphyllon [formerly Orobanche] uniflora), a tiny, parasitic vascular plant. We saw many, many more species, each wonderful and intriguing. It was a totally exhausting day from the barrage of plants, and it was an exhilarating day in a lovely habitat.

North Fork Smith Botanical Area. Sunday morning we set out to see the actual North Fork Smith Botanical Area (NFSBA). The botanical area was established by the Smith River National Recreation Area Act of 11/16/1990 as one of a number of Special Interest Areas “to manage for their unique ecological values for public use, education, and enjoyment.” In the case of a botanical area this means “for protection of unique botanical values, for educational purposes, and for recreational use compatible with these values. The primary goal is to manage for the full complement of species and plant communities as well as the natural processes that support these elements.” In the case of NFSBA the botanical values are “its large number of rare and endemic plant species, distinctive plant habitats and plant communities.” These statements from the document “Special Interest Area Management Strategy” of SRNF (January 1998) are the “rules” that the Forest Service has to play by. Sometimes they need reminding.
Visiting the NFSBA in our case meant roadside botanizing. The website says it has gravel roads, no foot trails, and no visitor facilities, that it is best viewed from "the primary road which encircles the area--the Wimer Rd." "Winter travel discouraged". Smaller roads may be closed seasonally to prevent introduction of Port Orford-Cedar root disease, as well as for major road damage. The botanical area is centered on High Plateau Mountain, with significant serpentine barrens and Jeffrey Pine woodland. Mining features such as dozer tracks, ditches, flumes, and pits can be anywhere.

Lacking the vehicles or bodies for exploring the core of the botanical area, we happily drove east up Wimer Rd (Country Road 305) and parked at the first large pullout, a small quarry on the left 2.5 miles up from the bridge. We walked from there along the road up to the curve at the next saddle. Next we drove 15 minutes farther to a pullout where the map indicated the Cleopatra Mine, and walked up the hill there. The landscape was vast and steep; shrub-covered ridges stretched from horizon to horizon. This lack of trees is the legacy of the Biscuit Fire of 2002. We were looking at 19 years of recovery. The diverse shrubs, the same assortment we saw west of the camp, had sprouted from their bases. Scattered charred snags remained of the open woodland pines, while young Kno- 
cone Pines to 6 ft tall were finally rising to re-establish this dimension of the habitat. Despite the barren appearance of the landscape and being limited to near the road, we accumulated a diverse plant list including many species we’d seen previous days. At the quarry we found the first blooming Serpentine Catchfly (Silen a serpentinicola) of the trip, a stunning and distinctive little rare plant (California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2) identified by one of us currently surveying it with SRNF. Looking through the blackened snags, across a valley we saw a brown swath of old Darlingtonia across a valley we saw a brown swath of old Darlingtonia macroceras) plastered like yellow starfish on the wet bank, some holding up their deep purple, violet-like flowers. 

L. E. Horton Natural Research Area. On the way home on Monday some of us stopped along Wimer Rd. somewhere near mile marker 15 (9.4 miles from Highway 101 via Rowdy Creek Rd.), hoping to locate the L. E. Horton Fen, which I had seen on a long-ago trip. We walked some dirt roads on this east-facing slope which a map showed as the L. E. Horton Natural Research Area. We found no fens, but we enjoyed walking among the upland serpentine species we had been befriending for 3 days. This included some stunning red Serpentine Catchfly flowers. This slope was not as bereft of trees as in the botanical area. It had islands of trees, including Douglas-fir, as well as scattered Western White, Knocone, and Lodgepole Pines.

Threats. Lacking stands of large trees to cut down, these superficially barren landscapes in SRNF may seem safe from destruction. Not so. Riding off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is a popular and important form of recreation, and it relishes bumpy, rocky, scenic landscapes. In the Smith River Recreation Area of SRNF the rules about what form of transport can use which roads were worked out over an exceptionally long period of negotiations and recorded in the Smith River Travel Management Plan. Along Wimer Rd, we saw blue fiberlite posts featuring an OHV icon and "OHV funding at work," and a yellow road sign saying "off highway vehicle combined use next 19.5 miles," meaning that non-street vehicles may travel on that road. Plans are in motion to open the Pine Flat Mountain area to OHVs on designated roads. According to John McRae, Forest Botanist, the plan requires that before opening to vehicles, monitoring the Lewisia oppositifolia must be done for three years and road improvements like water bars and barriers to spur roads must be made. If subsequent surveys after OHV use starts to show the lewisia population declines more than 15%, controlling actions, like road closures, must be taken. Botanists have already monitored transects for Lewisia oppositifolia for four years now.
Fall Native Plant Sale, September 25 & 26

By Chris Beresford

Our North Coast Chapter will hold its annual fall plant sale on Saturday, September 25 and Sunday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our nursery at the Freshwater Farms Reserve, North Coast Regional Land Trust, 5851 Myrtle Ave. (Old Arcata Road), Eureka. Due to the rise in Covid cases in the county, attendees will need to pre-sign up. The link will be active as of September 5th at www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5A823A2F9-cnps3. Covid protocols will be followed and masks must be worn.

At the sale, in addition to a wide variety of plants (perennials, shrubs, trees, ferns, bulbs, grasses, groundcovers, vines, dudleyas and sedums) for a variety of growing conditions here on the north coast (sun, shade, part sun/shade and wet/moist), we will offer plants that were not at our spring plant sale, or that sold out quickly.

**Shrubs** - *Diplacus (Mimulus) aurantiacu*us v. *puniceus*, Red Bush monkeyflower; *Salvia leucophylla*, Purple Sage; *Salvia clevelandii*, Cleveland Sage.

**Perennials** - *Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*, Beach evening primrose; *Eriogonum compositum*, Arrow leaf buckwheat; *Eriogonum elatum*, Tall woolly buckwheat; *Penstemon anguineus*, Siskiyou penstemon; *Penstemon deustus*, Hot rock penstemon; *Penstemon humilis*, Low Beardtongue; *Penstemon newberryi*, Mountain pride penstemon; *Penstemon roezlii*, Roezli’s penstemon; *Darlingtonia californica*, California Pitcher Plant.

**Bulbs** - *Erythronium purpurascens*, Purple fawn lily; *Erythronium citrinum*, citrus fawn lily.

In addition to the plants we propagate, 6 local nurseries: Samara Restoration, Lost Foods, Mattole Restoration Council, Brant Landscaping, Bob Vogt, and Beresford’s Bulbs, will add to the species available. As we get closer to the sale, an updated inventory list can be found at www.northcoastcnps.org>Gardening>Native Plant Sales.

Experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and help you make the best plant selections for your garden space and habitat type. Reference books will also be available (we are so old school!)

We will also have waterproof gardening aprons made from recycled potting soil bags for sale.

We prefer cash and personal checks as it saves us the fee, but will accept credit cards. Please bring your own box or other container to transport your plants home in.

**Remember that fall is the best time to plant!** By doing so, your new plants have the fall and winter rains to water them and the time to put in new roots before their spring growth starts.

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Nursery news and thank you’s

The nursery continues to thrive and grow with the help of our dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Sharon King, Karen Is, Laura Guild, Joan Tippett, Christine Kelly, Carol Ralph, Barbara Reisman, Barbara Wilkinson, Nancy Brockington, Ron Melin, Anita Gilbride-Read, Jessi vonFloto, Sydney Carothers, Celeste Thaine, Tim Hickman, Kate Rowe, Suzan Logwood, Christy Wagner, David Callow, Ashley Dickinson, Brian Dormen, Janet Stock, Kellie, Lincol, and Ada Johnson, Steph Morian, Charlie, Cecil, Stephen Underwood, Alice Ford-Sala, Gina deSoto, June Janes, Ruby Devoe and Jason Roberts. Wow, what a group! All these volunteers help grow the amazing numb-er of plants that we produce. They also help maintain the nursery by weeding, cutting back berries, sweeping and cleaning up the nursery area.

I would also like to thank our watering team who work hard ensuring that our plants stay well hydrated, especially in the shade house. I think watering is one of the hardest jobs at the nursery, with the changes in weather, wind and various watering needs of our plants. Thanks to Sydney Carothers, who recently took a break and to Celeste Thaine for taking her place, to Christy Wagner and Sharon King for regularly watering and to Karen Is for backing us all up. Thanks to Barbara Reisman for overseeing the watering operations at the nursery site.

In addition to our workdays, we have volunteers who take on special tasks and I would like to recognize them and thank them all for all their contributions:

Barbara Reisman continues to be the “2nd in command” and helps cover when I am not there. She also keeps track of what needs to be done and provides help to our volunteers while I am drawn in way too many directions. In addition, Barbara performs myriad other tasks such as cleaning up the barn swallow poop outside our hoophouse door, shopping for things we need, helping me with the plant inventories, and ordering our labels. Thank you Barbara, so very much.

Jessi vonFloto continues to stock and clean up the plants at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand. He checks our plant shelves weekly, adding different species as they start to bloom and look their best. Thank you, Jessi!

Barbara Wilkinson continues to provide us with shade starts from her garden such as ginger, redwood violets and bleeding heart. Thank you so much Barbara.

Chris Brant continues to weed-eat around the perimeter of our fencing as well as helps get ready for the plant sale by cleaning up the check out area. Thank you, Chris, for always helping when we ask you, it is greatly appreciated!

As you can see, it takes a lot of volunteers to grow and maintain all the plants that we raise. This not only funds our chapter activities, but also builds awareness of the importance of native plants, especially with what is happening to the native insect populations, which impacts the lo-

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(Continued from page 6)

cal bird population, and on and on. Please spread the word as to why we should all put native plants in our gardens. If you would like to help at the nursery, contact me via our nursery email at: northcoastcnps@gmail.com.

Demonstration Garden Updates

We have recently had workdays in the demonstration garden to clean it up and add or replace plants. It had gotten out of hand and we realize we need at least one workday a month in the garden. Thanks to Kellie Johnson, Jason Roberts, Ruby Devoe, Janet Stock, Christine Kelly, and Barbara Reisman for helping to meet our goal of having our garden look its best for the upcoming plant sale.

Christine Kelly and I have been working on a long-term project of signage for the garden. I am happy to say our plant signs with scientific and common names just arrived. Now you can see plants in our garden and know what they are. Please come and visit while you attend the fall sale.

Chapter Plant Stand

The chapter continues to actively stock and maintain native plants at the Kneeland Glen Farm Stand at Freshwater Farms Reserve, 5851 Myrtle Ave., Eureka, open daily from 12 – 6. Please check our website: www.northcoast.org> Native Plant Sales, to see a plant list with links to informational plant signs or the Calscape database for descriptions of the plants. We update this regularly to provide the most current information possible. If you do not find what you are looking for, contact us at northcoastcnps@gmail.com. If we have the plant(s), we can arrange for you to pick them up at the Farm Stand.

Fall Plant Sale – Help Needed

Volunteers are needed Wednesday 9/22 to help us offload participating nursery plants, Friday 9/24 to help set up, and Saturday and Sunday to help with the sale itself. If you can help all day or for one shift, it will be greatly appreciated. We need people morning or afternoon to direct cars, greet people, advise people on plants, tally purchases, keep the stock organized, and carry purchases to cars.

If you can help, please contact Anita via email at nita.gread@gmail.com or at 839-4645.

1-gallon Pots Needed

The nursery needs clean 1-gallon containers since we try not to purchase new ones. Please remove dirt with a brush and then clean in water to remove the rest. We can sterilize them at our nursery, but don’t have the volunteers to do both. We ONLY need 1-gallon pots. If you can help, please contact us at: northcoastcnps@gmail.com to plan for drop off. Please do not leave pots at the nursery.

A Small Garden Makes a Big Difference

by Carol Ralph

To see how a small, diverse, native garden hosts diverse native wildlife, especially the six-legged kind, visit the Arcata Community Center Native Plant and Wildlife Garden on the hillside opposite the Arcata Community Center. Our chapter, led by Pete Haggard, established this garden 22 years ago. It now has about 50 species of plants providing a long nectar season and host plants for many larval insects, as well as lots of interest and beauty for humans. See more on our website under the "Gardening" tab. If you want to help, write: phaggard@suddenlink.net

Pete standing where the sweat bees, native pollinators, nest at the top of the garden. By Ann Wallace

Sweat bee nest holes. By Pete Haggard

Anise Swallowtail larva feeding on angelica. By Pete Haggard

Field Crescent nectaring on Maple-leaved Checkerbloom. By Pete Haggard
Native Plant Gardens for Viewing Any Time: from Trinidad to Eureka

Updated August 23, 2021

If you know of other gardens that should be on this list, please contact Carol at 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com.

Public and Commercial Gardens

Most accessible at any hour. Listed north-south.

Patrick’s Point State Park Native Plant Garden, 4150 Patrick’s Point Dr., Trinidad. Started by the Trinidad Garden Club in the 1960’s and periodically re-vitalized by volunteers working with State Park staff, this diverse garden has a map and plant list to use in it. What started as a Bracken Fern-y meadow is now quite forest-y.

Trinidad Museum Native Plant Garden, behind the museum. A fairly large, creatively designed, volunteer-planned and maintained, diverse, authentically local, native plant garden.

Arcata Tractor Supply, Giuntoli Ln, Arcata. This landscape shows the result of a knowledgeable, professional landscaper working with the corporate customer’s requirements. Species are mostly CA, not Humboldt County natives, cultivars that perform well in mass production and diverse garden conditions.

Bureau of Land Management office, 1695 Heindon Rd. Beds right in front of the building.

Mad River Hospital, Janes Rd., Arcata. Beds in front of Shaw Medical Pavilion use Evergreen Huckleberry and a few other native species.

Walker Garden, Humboldt State University, on the walkway between Science D and greenhouse. Container garden has species selected by Dr. Dennis Walker to bloom while students are present and show a diversity of plant families. Species are native to California, but not necessarily Humboldt Co.

Arcata Community Center Native Plant and Wildlife Garden, on the hill beside Healthsport in Arcata (300 Community Park Way), established in 1999 under an agreement between CNPS and the City of Arcata. A diverse bed designed to attract native wildlife, in particular the six-legged kind, planned and maintained by Pete Haggard, a CNPS volunteer. He would love some help.

Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, South G St. The path up into the building wraps around the garden, which was fully replanted in 2021 by volunteers. Maintaining this garden is another opportunity for people wanting to learn about native plants and help the community.

City of Arcata has installed native plants at many infrastructure projects, such as the Community Center, the roundabout on Sunset Ave and Foster, the firehouse on 10th St, the city parking lots on 7th St, the sidewalk strip on Samoa Ave. Most of these show what happens with lack of maintenance (weeding) despite good intentions.

Sequoia Park Zoo, 3441 W St., Eureka. Practicing what Douglas Tallamy advocates, for the sake of wildlife of all sizes, the zoo has firmly committed to converting their landscape entirely to native plants. Open daily except Monday. Check the website for current admissions and covid protocols: https://www.sequoiaparkzoo.net/ Admission charged! Caring for animals requires money!

California Department of Fish & Wildlife, 619 Second St., Eureka. Around two sides of the building is a carefully designed native plant garden that uses species commercially available at the time. The small trees are Strawberry Tree (Arbutus unedo), not a native, but a well behaved, easy-to-grow, right-size species related to Madrone.

(Continued on page 9)
Second and H Streets, a curbside garden around a City of Eureka parking lot. Despite a history highlighting different landscaping styles of the garden creator and city’s maintenance crew, thirteen species of native woody plants persist, some in bizarre shapes. Also a non-native tree.

GHD Building, 3rd and H Streets, Eureka. At least 23 species of natives, mostly perennials plus a few shrubs, are in the narrow beds around the parking lot and building.

Urology Associates, 2576 Renfrew St., Eureka (off Harrison in the hospital zone). This landscape has been in mostly native plants for a long time.

Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B St., Eureka. On the B St. side are two adjacent small pollinator gardens installed by Bill Rodstrom to show that even a small space can host a diversity of pollinators. Maintained by volunteers (as are most functions of the center).

Eureka Waterfront Trail along Waterfront Drive west from C St. The strip between sidewalk and street (which I’m told landscapers call the "Hell Strip") has been planted with about 9 species of California native plants.

Humboldt Botanical Garden, behind College of the Redwoods. Extensive CA native garden, many amazing gardens and trails through riparian and hillside habitat. See website for admission policy and covid protocols: www.hbfg.org Admission fee; puts your money to good use!

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, Loleta (Hookton Rd. exit). A modest but sincere garden in an expansive landscape. Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/Humboldt_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

Residential Gardens Viewable from the Street

Please respect the owner’s privacy; stay on the sidewalk. Listed north-to-south. [This list is just a beginning. If you can add to this list, please tell Carol!]

Every gardener knows that a garden is never finished. After all, it is dealing with living, growing things, so by definition is changing constantly. For the same reason every garden, even a native plant garden, needs maintenance, which different owners can provide in different amounts, depending on other aspects of their lives. We appreciate these owners sharing their creations so that we can see native plants and how they perform in real gardens.

Many gardens have non-native as well as native plants combined, for historical, sentimental, practical, or irrational reasons. In looking at these gardens do not assume everything is native! You have to learn to identify the species. Some day we might have species lists for these gardens, but that is a distant prospect at the moment. Practice native plant identification in our natural areas using a good field guide. (See https://northcoastcnps.org/index.php/activities/plant-id-aids)

99 Langford Rd. (off Scenic Dr.), Trinidad. Almost entirely native, merging with the forest behind.

1386 Fernwood Dr., McKinleyville.

322 Chartin Rd., Blue Lake.

980 Union St., Arcata (between 7th and 11th, uphill side). Always cheerful with California Poppies, this small yard is entirely native. The owner has had to learn to pull out poppies for the sake of having other species. She has also had to remove or prune shrubs as they reach full size.

2151 Lewis Ave, Arcata (Greenview development). A typical front yard in a development, this garden is small but packed with diverse species to provide pollinators what they need and caterpillars for birds, while maintaining some order and attractive beds.

1701 Virginia Way, Arcata (Sunny Brae) A stunning, artistic, and usually floriferous garden, entirely native. The owner is making the back yard a habitat garden.

2904 Williams, Eureka (Williams & Grotto in Henderson Center area) The side yard on Grotto St. almost entirely native; the front yard on Williams St. is mixed native and non-native.

2424 B St., Eureka front yard almost all native plants.

2578 Donna Dr., Eureka (at the top of Humboldt Hill). A diverse mix of common and esoteric native species. A list is available (possibly nearby this document on the website). Created and maintained by Brant Landscaping.

VOTE for CHAPTER OFFICERS

2021 Ballot

The chapter elects four officers—president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary—every two years. The votes may be cast by mail (by October 6, mailed to North Coast Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1067, Arcata, CA 95518) or in person/by Zoom at the October evening program, Wednesday, October 13.

Our candidates hope to have the support of a large proportion of our members. If you would like to participate in governing our chapter, please contact any one of our officers.

President: Carol Ralph write-in________________

Vice-president Andrea Taylor write-in________________

Secretary Marisa St. John write-in________________

Treasurer: Anita Gilbride-Read write-in________________
See here some of the things our volunteers have done and are doing. 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

Thank you!

Michael Kauffmann for seven years of consistently exciting evening programs. The large audiences and vibrant atmosphere in them spoke to your success. These important and enjoyable monthly gatherings are essential in bringing together our members and future members. We also thank you profusely for leading us into Facebook and Instagram. In 2020 you saved us from Covid paralysis by leading us into the Zoomosphere promptly.

Melinda Groom for reliable, delicious, creative, thoughtful, even elegant refreshments at our evening programs through many years of being our Hospitality Chair. Melinda’s gracious offerings made the evening gathering a social, not a meeting.

Native Plant Consultants Carol Moné, Ron Johnson, Karen Isa, Chris Brant, Donna Wildearth, Carol Ralph, and Melanie Johnson for sharing their observations, expertise, and knowledge with gardeners wanting advice on planting native plants in their yards. You are great native plant ambassadors!

Karen Isa, Nancy Brockington, Steven Underwood, and Carol Ralph for taking the CNPS booth to the Humboldt Redwoods State Park centennial celebration, including a conifer cone collection and a live Darlingtonia that brought visitors in to the native plant world.

Karen Isa for the spectacular spread of nibbly food at our volunteer appreciation event in July at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center.

Welcome Aboard!

Katrina Henderson as Invasive Plant co-Chair.

Susan Thorsell as temporary Program Chair.

Barbara Russell as Hospitality Chair. Barbara is looking forward to in-person evening programs so she can do her job!

Kellie Johnson for joining our website management team.

Help Needed

contact Carol Ralph 707-822-2015 or theralphs@humboldt1.com

Pot washers! Wash gallon and four-inch plastic pots for our nursery to use. Work at our nursery or at home. Keep them out of landfills and reduce our cost of producing native plants.

Program Chair (or co-chairs). Contact speakers, schedule them, submit publicity—the year’s programs can all be ready well ahead of time. The program chair needs to be a good, reliable communicator by email or phone and be able to plan ahead. Ideas for speakers can come from anyone. The chair follows up. The job could be divided between two people.

Native Garden Advocate. Updating and disseminating our list of public and street-viewable residential native plant gardens will help people see native plants in gardens and learn how to fit native plants into their own. See the current list on our website.

Are you using Calscape?

“Our goal at Calscape is to help Californians restore nature and save water one garden at a time. We do this by showing people which plants are really native to any location in the state, helping them figure out which ones they want, and where to buy them and how to grow them.

California is extremely environmentally diverse. Different California native plants evolved to grow in areas of the state with very different temperatures, rainfall levels, summer drought periods, air moisture levels, and marine influences, among other factors. Because of this, it’s always best to grow California native plants in the areas in which they evolved. They are easier to grow, healthier and require little or no artificial irrigation when they are planted in an area in which they evolved and naturally belong.

True native plants are the foundation for nature restoration. They attract butterflies, birds, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, bees and other pollinators that evolved with those plants, and over time create a working natural ecosystem, without pesticides, and without artificial fertilizers. The butterfly and bird life in particular in a true natural garden is often spectacular. With the right plants, it’s not hard for homeowners to create small patches of nature throughout even the developed part of the state.”
Gilded Darlingtonia Awards

In covid-appropriate settings earlier this year four of our most extraordinary volunteers were presented our highest award for chapter service, the Gilded Darlingtonia.

Pete Haggard has served as our Native Plant Gardening Chair for "forever." Always ready to share his considerable knowledge and experience in gardening and in entomology over the years Pete has given countless lectures and garden tours and countless hours nurturing native plant gardens in public places as well as at his home. His leadership and negotiations with the City of Arcata established the Arcata Community Center Native Plant & Wildlife Garden in 1999, and his energy and time have developed and maintained it, as well as prompted the installation of an interpretive sign. He has truly brought the native plants to the people. His legacy is great. Thank you, Pete.

Barbara Reisman jumped right in as a volunteer when she arrived in Humboldt County and has made herself indispensable. Her background as an educator served us well as she served as Education Chair, organized our booth for public events, and now as she trains new volunteers at the nursery. Her English major background now serves us as she is Editor of this newsletter. Barbara has also taken on major responsibility at the nursery, is active on our Steering Committee, participates in communications with the state CNPS office, and knows how to get insurance papers from them. Thank you, Barbara.

Karen Isa first served the chapter as Poster Sales Person. With good organization and a spare bedroom she has upgraded the position to be Merchandise Sales, and she keeps our booth material organized as well. She is project oriented, using her creative and artistic skills in various media--fabric, paints, food, metal and wood, Word--to produce for us name tags, fruit bouquets, carry-case for pop-up, rack for brooms and dustpan, and other useful, fun, and beautiful things. The aprons presented to three volunteers at the July volunteer appreciation event were especially notable. She is familiar with what is available in all kinds of stores and is generous with useful items she finds there. Our nursery, where she spends untold hours grooming, watering, and encouraging plants, has benefited greatly from her Santa instincts. She saw the need for volunteer training there and created concise, illustrated signs for that purpose. She is always thinking and readily makes lists of observations, feedback, and potential action. Thank you, Karen.

Anita Gilbride-Read saved our previously amateurish chapter from financial confusion as our native plant production and sales increased dramatically over the years. As Treasurer Anita's good nature and bookkeeping training have kept up with Chris Beresford's ambition to cover the earth with native plants. Knowing on which line of the spreadsheet to enter each expense is not trivial, as our operations bring in more players and procedures. Anita is ready at any time to tell us how our spending and sales compare to what we budgeted, and she easily makes the budget for the steering committee to approve. Additionally, she volunteers at the nursery, works the cashier table through every plant sale, deals with the piles of money generated (another non-trivial task), and recently has scheduled plant sale volunteers. Her competence and low key demeanor are behind the scenes, but she knows about everything we do. She is one of our buttresses. Thank you, Anita.

Previous recipients of the Gilded Darlingtonia are Kim Imper, Felicity Wasser, Larry Levine, Jen Kalt, Tony LaBanca, Steve Darington, Frances Ferguson, Tom Pratum, Marisa St. John, and Chris Beresford.

Pete accepts his Gilded Darlingtonia while giving a tour of the Arcata Community Center Native Plant & Wildlife Garden. By Ann Wallace
Know Your Invasive Species: three cornered onion (*Allium triquetrum*)

**WHO?** Three cornered onion is a perennial herb that grows up to 12 inches tall. It has grass-like leaves from February to July and flowers from April to June. Leaves are light green and clustered at the base. Flowering stalks are triangular in cross-section. Flowers are white and drooping. The plant smells of onions or garlic and has an edible bulb.

**WHERE:** Three cornered onion was introduced from Europe and can grow in full shade to full sunlight, and prefers moist well drained soils. It occurs in disturbed areas and roadsides.

**WHY:** Three cornered onion spreads quickly and is difficult to eradicate. Bulbs can live up to six years in the soil and require multiple years of removal. This plant displaces native species and alters habitat.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP:** Hand removal and disposal of bulbs or digging larger areas around the plant to ensure removal of all bulbs is effective. Please report locations of three cornered onion within California State Parks to Michelle Forys at michelle.forys@parks.ca.gov or 707-677-3109.

Know Your Invasive Species: Italian arum (*Arum italicum*)

**WHO:** Italian Arum is a perennial herbaceous plant that can grow up to 1.5 feet tall. The tuber forms thick roots that grow daughter tubers after the plant is established. The dark green leaves are triangular in shape with distinct marbled venation. It produces up to 5 inflorescences per year. Each inflorescence may flower up to 3 times per year and is composed of a spathe and spadix. These turn to orange-red berries that can be dispersed by way of birds.

**WHERE:** Italian Arum is native to Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa. It is an invasive species found along the Pacific Coast. It prefers wet or disturbed areas, but is highly adaptable to many soil conditions.

**WHY:** Due to its growth and ground cover, Italian Arum overcrowds and outcompetes native species. It is resilient and difficult to eradicate. It can spread quickly through tuber propagation and seed dispersal by bird consumption.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP:** Herbicidal treatment can be effective, but requires repeated use and monitoring for the following growing seasons. When removed, the plant should be bagged to prevent spread. It is important to wear protective clothing due to toxic qualities of the plant. Please report locations of Italian Arum within California State Parks to Michelle Forys at michelle.forys@parks.ca.gov or 707-677-3109.

References:


Native Plants That Attract Hummingbirds
Compiled by Jennifer Kalt (3/97)

Aquilegia formosa (Western columbine)
Castilleja spp. (Indian paintbrush)
Delphinium nudicaule (red or orange larkspur)
Dichelostemma ida-maia (firecracker plant)
Epilobium canum (wild or hummingbird "fuchsia")
Epilobium septentrionale (Humboldt "fuchsia")
Ipomopsis aggregata (scarlet gilia or sky rocket)
Keckiella corymbosa (red-flowered rock penstemon)
Lonicera spp. (honeysuckle)
Diplacus [Mimulus] aurantiacus (sticky monkey flower)
Erythranthe [Mimulus] cardinalis (scarlet monkeyflower)
Pedicularis densiflora (Indian warrior)
Penstemon spp. (penstemon or beardtongue)
Frangula californica (coffee berry)
Frangula purshiana (cascara sagrada)
Rhododendron spp. (rhododendron)
Rhododendron occidentale (western azalea)
Ribes spp. (currants and gooseberries)
Silene californica (catchfly or campion)

You will find many of these plants for sale at our nursery!

Welcome to our Demonstration Garden
We hope you will visit the garden we have created at the nursery to show you what our plants look like in a habitat garden. Here’s a preview!

The garden gate. All photos by Carol Ralph

Descriptive signs
Annuals-poppies are still blooming
Pacific reed grass and milkweed pair
MEMBERS’ CORNER

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

Bob Miller  
Cara Smith  
Carol Bowden  
Henry Millstein  
Igal Levy  
Jane Cole  
Jocelyn Tipple  
Larissa Wickizer  
Marcia Thorndike  
Nancy Pera  
Sally Peterson

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Carrie Grant  
Elizabeth Tallent  
Karen Angel  
Alan Wolski  
Anna Bernard  
Annalee Veach  
Art Wilson  
Barbara Kelly  
Barbara Schumacher  
Bruce Howard  
Cat Francisco  
Christine Aus  
Christy Graham  
Dayna Glagolich  
Dennis Walker  
Gail Baker  
Joann Olson  
John Yoakley  
Jordan Mayor  
Jude Power  
Katharine Shapiro  
Kathy Pitts  
Ken Berg  
Ken Miller  
Kerry Byrne  
Kirk Terrill  
Kjirsten Wayman  
Laura Lalemand  
Lisa Hintz  
Melissa McLeod

Michael Mesler  
Michael Stuart  
Oscar Vargas  
Pamela Bullen  
Philip Nicklas  
Randi Swedenburg  
Randy Davis  
Rebecca Zettler  
Richard Boothe  
Rita Zito  
Ronald Hildebrant  
Sabra Steinberg  
Sharon King  
Steve Conger  
Sue Marquette  
Susan Hubbard  
Susan Steinman  
Tristan Cole  
William Eastwood

Membership Benefits

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

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

- **Plant Sales**
  - Contact Chelsea at nec@yournec.org

- **Invasive Plants**
  - Steve Underwood
  - Katrina Henderson (co-chair)
  - 707-768-1942
  - unde1942@gmail.com
  - khenderson94@sbcglobal.net

- **Native Plant Gardening**
  - Pete Haggard
  - 707-839-0307
  - phaggard@suddenlink.net

- **Native Plant Consultation**
  - Melanie Johnson
  - 707-502-8856
  - mjokega@reninet.com

- **Plant Communities**
  - Barbara Russell
  - Frank Milezick (Asst.)
  - 707-825-0137
  - bjrhumboldt@gmail.com
  - frankm6385@yahoo.com

- **Field Trips and Plant Walks**
  - Carol Ralph
  - 707-822-2015
  - theralphs@humboldt1.com

- **Rare Plants**
  - Dave Imper
  - Greg O’Connell (Co-Chair)
  - 707-444-2756
  - 707-599-4887
  - dimper@suddenlink.net
  - gregoconnell7@gmail.com

- **Conservation Advisor**
  - Sydney Carothers
  - 707-822-4316
  - sydneyc@humboldt1.com

- **Programs**
  - Susan Thorsell
  - 530-514-3137
  - lsthorsei@gmail.com

- **Hospitality**
  - Barbara Russell
  - Frank Milezick (Asst.)
  - 707-822-5360
  - bjrhumboldt@gmail.com
  - frankm6385@yahoo.com

- **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 Chelsea at nec@yournec.org

- **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**: To subscribe, go to < northcoastcnps.groups.io/g/activities>
  - **Like us on Facebook** www.facebook.com/NorthCoastCNPS

  - **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 Melanie Johnson at 707 502-8856 or mjokega@reninet.com to put you in touch with volunteer consultants who will arrange a visit to look at what you have and help choose suitable plants for your garden.
Darlingtonia

Visit us at northcoastcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September
♦ 6 Evening program
♦ 19 Field Trip

October
♦ 3 Field Trip
♦ 13 Evening program

November
♦ 6 Field Trip
♦ 10 Evening program

December
♦ 8 Evening program