



The CALYPSO

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER,
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MENDOCINO COAST WILDFLOWER SHOW

Come see what's blooming
on the Coast!

The DKY Chapter is hosting it's first Annual Mendocino Coast Wildflower Show on May 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and May 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location is the former Coldwell Banker office at 39351 Highway One in Gualala next to the Gualala Hotel.

The wildflowers are putting on a grand display this spring so the variety of plants at the show is sure to be impressive. The native species will be arranged by plant family and some non-natives will also be on display. Come see the show on Mother's Day Weekend.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Nancy Morin



What a wonderful time of the year this is in our area! Nature in all her glory, changing almost daily. Truly, an area that seems fairly drab one day can be a riot of color only a few days later. I had the opportunity to talk about our beautiful native plants at the Coast Community Library on April 22 (Earth Day) thanks to Beth Knoche and the Friends of Coast Community Library. I had a great time and the audience had very interesting questions, but afterwards I kept thinking about all the things I forgot to mention or that people might have wanted to know.

"Tips of icebergs" is the phrase that keeps going through my mind. And, to me, the important corollary is that we should "look closer." Take *Umbellularia californica*, the California Bay Tree, for example. I mentioned in the talk that it was a relative of the European Bay that we cook with, and avocados (but forgot to include cinnamon, and sassafras), in the family Lauraceae, but did I say that this genus has only this one species, and it only occurs in California and southern Oregon? Or that this family flourished 100 million years ago? The whole family has only about 50 genera, and we have this one very special one.

[President's Message, cont. from p. 1]

Every species or genus has its own story, and any particular plant has many stories—its relationship with the soil and water as it grows, the many insects and microbes that live in and on it, the other plants with which it may have a friendly (or unfriendly) relationship, the pollinators and then the seed dispersers, and then the fungi and microbes that break down its aging tissues so the whole process can start again.

If you look at one of our ocean bluffs, or a moist roadcut, or look closely at the plants you are sitting next to while you eat your lunch you start to realize how much fascinating diversity there is in just a square foot. Knowing what you are seeing—at least the name of the plants—gives you a key to unlock much more information about each one: what it is related to, where else it grows, perhaps special chemical or anatomical qualities, whether it is poisonous or tasty. Looking carefully and patiently will reward you with pleasure and interest even if you don't know what the plant is called or what the morphological parts are.

On May 12 and 13, at our first ever Wildflower Show, you will be able to stare at plants to your heart's content. The plants will be labeled, and we will have microscopes, books, and experts to help you learn about what you are seeing. Please come! Also, Julia Larke is doing a fabulous job of gathering and displaying wildflowers at the Ford House—thank you, Julia!

Just a couple of CNPS organizational notes: The next Chapter Council Meeting will be in Berkeley June 2 and 3. If you would be interested in going, please let me know. The search for a new Executive Director is moving along and initial interviews are being held.

RARE PLANT QUEST

As the Calypso was going to press, DKY president, Nancy Morin was going to southern California to follow up on an extremely exciting discovery. Kate Harper, with a group of avid amateur botanists who have been studying the plants of Anza Borrego Desert State Park for years, found twenty extremely tiny plants (at most 6 mm

tall) of *Nemacladus*, threadplants, the genus that Nancy is currently studying. They emailed photographs to her and she agreed with them that they had found a population of *Nemacladus twisselmannii*, which otherwise is known only from two very small populations on the Kern Plateau, about 210 miles northeast. Even those populations have been seen only sporadically, every few years. The plants are federally listed. So Nancy is on her way to see the newly discovered population for herself, to gather more information, and to work with the local team to search for more plants in the area.



Disjunct population of a rare threadplant, *Nemacladus twisselmannii* recently discovered.

DKY Volunteers needed for invasive plant removal at MCBG

DKY Volunteers are needed to assist and lead the MCBG/UC Davis Master Gardener's work day party to remove invasive exotic (*Lampranthus* sp.) on the Botanical Gardens Coastal Bluff. Scheduled work party date is Saturday, May 19th 12 – 2PM. DKY volunteers can identify native flora for the Master Gardener graduates within the work areas. We will start hand pulling *Lampranthus* seedlings around the Mt. Promontory site, and also work along the bluff area. Contact Mario Abreu by May 10th if you can participate: 964-4352 ext 23, naturalist@gardenbythesea.org,

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Lori Hubbard

New land acquisitions & coastal pines:

On Mendocino's south coast, local trail advocates have been working with the Trust For Public Land to get two new parcels added to the Stornetta Public Lands. The first of these has been acquired, and can be accessed via a gate behind the Point Arena city hall building. It will make a great segment of the California Coastal Trail, with spectacular ocean views, but seems to have little to offer, botanically.

Now various interested parties are looking to acquire the second, larger parcel. It appears to be full of Monterey pines, planted long ago and naturalized on the site. Why anyone would plant Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) here when there are already bishop pines and shore pines nearby is a great mystery.

In any case, many of these non-native pines are dead and dying, and CNPS wants to know why. Some may have reached the end of their lifespan, but there are also smaller dead trees out there, indicating pathogens – maybe gall rust, maybe something else.

CNPS will investigate sources of funding to remove as many Monterey pines as possible and re-establish stands of bishop and shore pine. Our next step is to get some tree experts to assess the tree situation on the parcel.

As for other vegetation on the parcel, we don't yet know what the shoreline is like. The first parcel has little in the way of bluff vegetation, so it is not clear what we will find.

Jug Handle & funding for state parks:

By now you may have seen the good news that enough money has been raised to keep Jug Handle State Reserve, and its Ecological Staircase Trail open for another year. <http://www.olmstedparkfund.org/donate.php>

This effort was the work of Alden Olmsted, whose father, John Olmsted, was instrumental in saving the staircase many years ago. Alden has shown that local, grassroots efforts can help save our imperiled state parks.

It doesn't take large donations, just many small ones. Please visit the website

<http://www.olmstedparkfund.org> for more information. Perhaps you will decide to make a donation, since saving this local park will have to be done one year at a time.



LOOK FOR THIS DONATION BUCKET AT YOUR FAVORITE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK!

The Mendocino Tahoe Conservancy was founded by naturalist, John Olmsted - <http://www.mendotahoe.org>. He was a determined, resourceful activist, and it's gratifying that his son is following in his footsteps.



DKY's Environmental Partners Coast Audubon Society

www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org

May 12 Navarro River & Beach field trip. Meet 8:00 am south end of Navarro River bridge.

May 16 Weds. Bird Walk: 8:00 am, meet at MCBG entrance.

Mendocino Area Parks Association

www.mendoparks.org

Lists status of State Park closures.

Wildflower Display at Ford House Museum in Mendocino, April 6 - May 31

Mendocino Land Trust

www.mendocinolandtrust.org

Big River Docent Interpretive Walks: 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. from June to September.



Pat Howard Memorial Wildflower Display

The Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is continuing Pat Howard's tradition of displaying native and some non-native plants of the Mendocino area at Ford House Museum during the months of April and May.

Pat recently passed away and her intelligent cheerful spirit is much missed. She organized the wildflower display at Ford House for many years and her fellow members of the DKY Chapter plan to maintain the tradition.



Pat Howard & Pat Bauer, "The Two Pats"

Pat Howard (1934-2012)

Beloved friend of the Mendocino/Little River Community, passed away March 26, 2012 at The Lodge at The Woods. She was born in El Dorado, AR July 7, 1934 to Tom and Mary Howard. The family moved to San Diego, where she attended High School. She received her BS in Classics at Pomona College in 1956; and a Masters Degree in Library Science at UC Berkeley in 1961. Pat retired as Head of the Acquisitions Division of the Bancroft Library on October 31, 1989. The job title hardly revealed the breadth and depth of her accomplishments. She vastly expanded and strengthened the Western Americana and Latin Americana collections at Bancroft, and she was responsible for the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

In Mendocino County, Pat was active with the California Coast Genealogical Society, MAPA, and the California Native Plant Society. She volunteered at the Ford House, Kelly House, Van Damm and MacKerricher State Parks. She is survived by Patricia Bauer, her partner of 40 years; Robert Howard, her brother; Karen Howard, sister-in-law; nieces Kris Scolini, and Stacy Howard, and five great nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to The Ford House, MAPA and Woodlands Wildlife.

Norm Jensen (1941-2012)

(a brief glimpse into his life - jointly written from the musings and piecing together of a life by two good friends)

It is hard for us to know as we didn't think to ask in time – but – either Norm Jensen knew of his fascination with the flora of the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains before he arrived in southwestern Oregon in 2001 (he was fifty-nine), or he very quickly acquired it, as evidenced by his participation in NPSO flora forays that same year. He immediately put his long-standing interest in photography to valuable use by compiling an extensive photographic record of the wildflowers of this region. His collection totals over twenty thousand superb images.

Norm befriended many Forest Service, BLM, Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service botanists from the start, seeking their help in the identification of his photos, wanting to know more about the flora of our region and to locate and experience botanical “hotspots”. He soon started volunteering his services on project after project for agency personnel. His last project was collecting seeds from the last two wild Whitebark Pines on Mount Ashland to preserve the special genome of that species in the Siskiyou Mountains.

Norm's eventual passion became to find and photograph rare wildflowers – utterly intrigued as he was by the Siskiyou endemics. He traveled extensively in our region, camping in his beloved grey van to get that magical early morning light coveted by photographers and avoid the wind. His visits to family members in northern California and the Rocky Mountain states were often timed to correspond with native plant society hikes, and he expanded his Society memberships to include the California and Utah native plant societies in addition to the NPSO.

In 2004, he put his computer skills to use by volunteering to create a website for the Dorothy King Young chapter of CNPS (Mendocino County) and continued to serve as their webmaster until his death. He also served as the NPSO webmaster since 2006 and set up and moderated the NPSO Discussion List. He posted many, many of his flower photographs on the CalPhotos website, and later in the NPSO Photogallery, which he set up and managed. His personal botanical websites were creative, whimsical, and artistic: <http://mitella.org/> and <http://botanicals.mymesis.com/photos/main.php>. It's worth checking them out!

Norm lived in a rustic cabin surrounded by Douglas-fir, Madrone, Ponderosa Pine and White Oak in Takilma in the Illinois Valley for seven years. It had an outhouse for a bathroom and no running water, and he loved it. Maybe his longevity there had something to do with the fact that about half the time he could indulge in all the modern amenities in someone else's house! During his time in the Illinois Valley, he acquired extensive knowledge of the location of the many special plants that grow there and shared his knowledge with other plant lovers by leading multiple NPSO field trips. His final residence was in Medford, where he shared a house with the owners.

Prior to moving to the Rogue Valley, Norm lived in the San Francisco Bay area where he taught school – he loved teaching his third graders! He claimed to have been the first person to bring a computer into the classroom there, most probably one that he put together from a kit. He taught himself to sail – and spent lots of time sailing in San Francisco Bay.

Norm was a very special person who has left behind not only the extensive family to whom he was very attached, but also the many friends that he made during his 11 years in Oregon, and those previous. His memory lives on in our hearts, and his many exquisite photos populate a number of web pages. His artistic sense is on display in his wildflower photography and in the composition, arrangement and design of his websites. Norm chose to use his time here on earth doing the things he truly loved. He was a man of peace – gentle, patient, and generous with his time. He walked in beauty.

Cecile Shohet and Alex Maksymowicz

SHOLARS TALK: BISHOP PINE FORESTS IN DECLINE

by Nancy Morin

Teresa Sholars gave an inspiring talk on the state of our Bishop Pine forests to a packed audience at a College of the Redwoods lecture May 1, 2012. She gave an overview of Bishop Pine, *Pinus muricata*, a two-needled species, that requires heat to open its cones (called "serotiny"), begins to produce seeds at the age of 5–6 years, and lives about 80–100 years. It is relatively short-lived for a conifer.

The species is found in discontinuous populations from Baja California to Patrick Point in Humboldt County. Trees north of the Bay Area have waxy needles and differ from southern trees in some chemicals, leaf anatomy, and phenology, and are called the "blue form". The largest forests of these are centered on Fort Bragg. The "blue form" does not interbreed with the southern "green form."

Teresa pointed out that the makeup of forests containing Bishop Pine differs from the coast inland. Closest to the coast, on young terraces, Bishop Pine grows with Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta* subsp. *contorta*). Slightly inland, on the second terraces, Bishop Pine grows with Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*).

Inland, from 2–5 miles, on older terraces and old dunes, Bishop Pine occurs with Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and chiquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*). On slopes it can occur with redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and of course Bishop Pine also grows in pygmy forest vegetation.

Although Bishop Pine cones open most reliably under high heat, such as from a fire, they can also open on a hot day. Seedlings cannot tolerate shade however, so an event such as a fire or logging may result in a larger number of seedlings becoming established. However, many years of fire suppression has resulted in fewer new trees becoming established. Many of our local stands of Bishop Pine are nearing the end of their natural life spans and there aren't enough young trees to form replacement stands.

Other stresses on these populations include further fragmentation as trees are cut down for development, larger numbers of pathogens (in part a result of fire suppression), and

interplanting with Monterey pine. Bishop pines are especially stressed by western gall rust (*Endrocronartium harknessii*), a fungus, and dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium maritimum*), a parasitic plant. Teresa reported on the results of studies by two of her students, who found that of 208 bishop pines, a large proportion of both dead and alive trees had either the galls or the dwarf mistletoe, or both, and only 14% had neither pathogen. Teresa cautioned that the pathogens may be symptoms of larger and more complex problems.

Teresa urged the audience to get involved in a number of different approaches toward protection and restoration. She said that, in her experience, protecting established seedlings could be one of the most effective and inexpensive methods of restoration. This could simply be by putting light fencing around the seedling to keep it from being eaten or mown. It would be important to get the word out broadly so people in the community understand the value of having bishop pines restored and so they know what to do. Other actions recommended were:

- Map and assess existing stands.
- Discourage or prevent stand conversion.
- Identify potential areas of land for acquisition.
- Learn about other existing efforts to monitor Bishop Pine forest health and collaborate with them.
- Develop protocols for protection and management.
- Develop informational materials and distribute them.
- Facilitate information exchange and collaboration through symposia and conferences.

She suggested that the Dorothy King Young Chapter of CNPS could spearhead the development of protocols and could create and distribute educational materials.

After a session of very interesting questions, the audience expressed their heartfelt appreciation for Teresa's long career of educating and energizing so many people in the community and her commitment to learning about and protecting intact ecosystems.

GARDENING AT THE WILDLAND EDGE

by Lori Hubbart

If you are gardening next to a wild area, you may wonder: How wild is wild? Where does the garden end and the wild begin? What to plant, and where?

Even non-pristine ecosystems, are made up of intricate relationships, with processes and functions that are important in many ways. Thus it makes sense to keep your garden from unduly influencing and altering local biotic communities.

Many garden plants are not “bad” in natural areas, having little impact one way or another. However, even “harmless” garden plants, when planted in a wild habitat, will take up space that could have been occupied by a plant that actually has a role in the ecosystem.

We gardeners have the urge to make things lovelier, removing plants, pruning branches, adding new plants. It can be a strong impulse, one that ecologists and conservationists may not understand. With wild-growing native plants, it helps to use a light hand. Prune a heavy-limbed older manzanita sparingly, but if you need to walk under it, a few judicious cuts probably won't harm it. Limb up trees for fire safety, but be careful to avoid a butchered disaster that under-planting with low shrubs cannot alleviate.

Trouble may ensue from making changes that impact natural processes in a major way, whether you make the changes all at once, or gradually. People living in areas of Northern Maritime Chaparral have been known to clear space for a garden by mowing down Eastwood manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*). The manzanita re-grows as an impenetrable thicket, because this species has a woody, basal burl that is “programmed” to re-sprout after fire or other disturbance.

Cutting down bishop pine forest (a rare plant community) can wipe out your bolete mushroom crop, as well as depriving many wild creatures of food and shelter.

A gardener might feel that a stand of native rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) just cries out for a low-growing, pink-flowered

companion plant. It could be tempting to under-plant wild rhodies with something non-native. In fact, there is a local native that is a perfect companion for our wild rhododendrons. Meet rosy hosackia, formerly *Lotus aboriginus*, now *Hosackia rosea*. It has gray-green foliage and small, bright pink pea flowers blooming in April and May.

It's exciting to get to know your local flora, observing where and how plants grow and trying to draw conclusions about them. Books are essential, but the writers' information may be limited.

According to some sources beach strawberry, *Fragaria chiloensis*, is found only on sandy dunes and bluffs. It occurs naturally at my place on heavy topsoil, where it sets a few white flowers, but seldom produces fruit. It makes a nice groundcover for sunny areas, and not just on sandy soil. It's a bit thirsty, so give it regular water, or plant it in a low-lying area that retains moisture.

You might identify a lovely native plant in your area that would be perfect for your garden, but doesn't seem to be for sale anywhere. Just because no one is growing it doesn't necessarily mean it can't be grown. Wait until the seeds are ripe and then try growing it yourself.

An example of such a plant is yellow false lupine, *Thermopsis californica* (syn. *T. macrophylla*). It occurs here and there along the coast and up on the ridges. It has gray-green leaves and lupine-like pea flowers of bright yellow, and will spread underground to form showy stands. As with many plants in the pea family, pre-soak seeds to speed germination, then plant them out in cool conditions.

Some gardeners create separate zones for edible plants, non-local plants and strictly local natives. Some keep all their exotic plants in large containers. Other gardeners grow edibles and exotics near the house, gradually transitioning to local natives at the outer, wilder edges.

Gardening invites us to practice generosity, by sharing plants with other gardeners, by providing food and shelter for wild animals, and by respecting the complex workings of nature even when we can't perceive them.

Dorothy King Young Chapter

OFFICERS 2012

President: Nancy Morin, 882-2528, nancy.morin@nau.edu

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Secretary: Lori Hubbard, 882-1655, lorih@mcn.org

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VEGETATION	Rhiannon Korhummel	
WEBMASTER	OPEN	

All phone numbers area code: 707

Webmaster needed! If you're interested,
please contact Nancy Morin at
882-2528 or nancy.morin@nau.edu



Bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*,
blooming early in December near Elk,
CA. Photo by Norm Jensen, 2011.



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER

Membership in the California Native Plant Society is open to all. The task and mission of the Society is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of California native plants. The challenge is to preserve their natural habitat through scientific, educational, and conservation activities. Membership includes subscription to *Fremontia*, as well as our local chapter newsletter, the *Calypso*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

I wish to affiliate with the DKY Chapter _____

or, other chapter _____

(Please check, or name a chapter; CNPS will make assignment if none is specified by applicant.)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Student/Limited Income	\$25
Individual	\$45
Family/International/Library	\$75
Plant Lover	\$100
Patron	\$300
Benefactor	\$600
Mariposa Lily	\$1500

Memberships are available for businesses and organizations. Contact CNPS for more info: 916-447-2677 ext. 204, sflowerdew@cnps.org.

Make check out to the California Native Plant Society:
mail check and application to:

Bob Rutemoeller, Membership Committee
DKY Chapter, CNPS PO Box 577
Gualala, CA 95445

MEMBERSHIP: Renewal - your renewal date is listed on the address label of your CNPS Bulletin. If you have any questions, contact Bob Rutemoeller at 884-4426 or brutem@mcn.org.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next Board meeting is June 14th, 2:00 p.m., Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg. For information, contact Nancy Morin at 882-2528

CALYPSO: Send newsletter items to Julia Larke, jlake@mcn.org, 964-2845. You can request an emailed pdf file of the Calypso: contact Bob Rutemoeller at 707 884-4426 or brutem@mcn.org. Help save trees, paper, and postage by switching to an email version.