



The CALYPSO

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Environmental Partners Potluck canceled in response to COVID-19 concerns

Leaders of the four organizations sponsoring the Mendocino Environmental Partners Potluck have decided not to hold the March 16 event in Mendocino. The decision was made in recognition of health officials' recent advice regarding public gatherings and the spread of COVID-19. The potluck and awards ceremony was scheduled for 6 p.m. at St. Anthony's Hall. The Mendocino Land Trust is the designated host for this year's event; other participating organizations are the Mendocino Area Parks Association, the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society and the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Winners of this year's Matt Coleman Environmentalist of the Year award, Betty Stechmeyer, Lenny Noack and Tom Wodetzki, will be honored in a ceremony at the Mendocino Land Trust office at a date to be determined.

All four organizations appreciate your understanding at this time and your ongoing support of their environmental missions. Notice will be sent out if the event is rescheduled. Please call Mendocino Land Trust with any questions 962-0470.

Meet DKY Intern - Alexis LaFever-Jackson by Susan Wolbarst



A native Californian, Alexis LaFever-Jackson is the first-ever Barbara Rice intern for the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. The internship is funded by David Rice to continue the work his late wife Barbara had been doing in and around The Sea Ranch, where she led a group of volunteers in creating a rare plant census and documenting other aspects of TSR plants.

Alexis, 24, graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 2019 with a B.A. in environmental studies. Her senior thesis was a study of chaparral habitat post-fire. She monitored species composition and tagged individuals to track regrowth. She grew up in Riverside County, where she graduated from Murrieta Mesa School. Her interest in native plants began when she was walking her aunt's dogs in Santa Cruz, near where she attended Cabrillo College, and noticed the plants and mushrooms growing along their routes.

Alexis went on to attend community colleges in different parts of the state, such as Yuba City and Orange County, with vastly different climates than Santa Cruz. On hikes near these campuses, she perceived the differences in plant and mushroom populations in each place and how they responded to diverse regional climatic conditions. These perceptions strengthened her interest in ecology. "It amazed me how different the ecology could be in one state," she said.

Alexis brings valuable experience to the internship, having previously worked as a field assistant at the 4,000-acre Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary in southeast Orange County, where she removed invasive plants and used Best Management Practices to avoid spreading invasives and disease. Prior to that, she worked for The Nature Conservancy at Consumnes River Preserve monitoring restoration sites by conducting vegetation surveys. She has also built native plant collections through seed germination, nursery work, and planting in gardens at UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and created solar plans for contractor installation.

She eagerly anticipates the six-month internship in Mendocino County. "Just exposing myself to another part of California, another ecosystem. It's really exciting to me to get exposed to the flora up there." Also, Alexis looks forward to working "with other volunteers who are as excited as I am about native plants."

A recent CNPS workshop on vegetation mapping she attended in Redlands was "a nice way to brush up on my GIS skills and brush away the cobwebs." While she loves doing field work and creating the maps and species lists, she looks forward to learning more "about the entire process of vegetation mapping and how the maps are going to be used," during her internship, which will include one week per month in Sacramento.

When she's not busy building vegetation maps, Alexis says she loves reading and cooking. She also likes taking her niece and two nephews on hikes. "I enjoy spending time with my family and showing them why they should love the outdoors and California native plants as much as I do." 🌱



President's Message

by Nancy Morin

Most of California has received less than a quarter of the average rainfall in January and February.

Southernmost California has had more than normal rainfall so far, but Northern California had no rain at all in February. We have had an occasional fog or morning mist, but the plants have certainly suffered. Getting a few sprinkles at the beginning of March has helped clear the air and many species seemed to renew their effort at flowering.

Many people have been basically sheltering in place in response to concerns about Covid-19, but without a good system of testing, there is no way to monitor the progress or behavior of the virus, so we don't really know how much to worry or even who has been carrying the virus. Similarly, if we don't keep track of how the plants respond each year to changing climate, we have no way to predict what can be expected in the future.

There are many ways plants respond to their environment and this has been documented, with one of the earliest studies begun in 2007. [Project Budburst](#) began as a citizen science effort to capture information, mostly on cultivated plants, such as first leaf, first flower bud, first fruit, as observed directly.

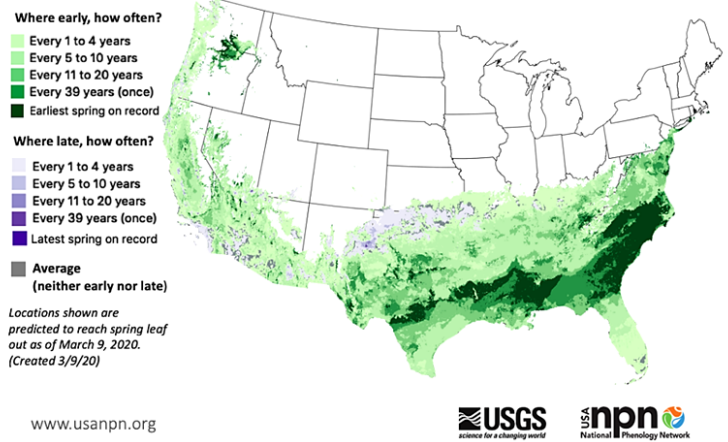
The [California Phenology Project \(CPP\)](#) was launched in 2010 with funding from the National Park Service Climate Change Response Program to design and implement long-term phenological monitoring and [CPP public education](#) in California. CPP is capturing data on designated individual plants located in seven pilot parks (Redwood National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, John Muir National Historic Site, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and Joshua Tree National Park).

The CPP is part of the [USA National Phenology Network \(USA-NPN\)](#) which tracks the timing of seasonal events in plants and animals. An interesting example of their work is seen in the temporal animation maps of "Spring Leaf and Bloom Anomalies Indices" ["USA-NPN Status of Spring"](#).

In a related project, the [California Phenology Thematic Collections](#) has been recording information from herbarium specimens. Volunteers enter information on the name of the plant, date and place the collection was made, and then whether the plant was in flower or fruit at the time. Online databases that store photographs with associated data provide a parade of flowering each year. Although it is not as systematic as Budburst or CPP, people tend to photograph

How typical is this spring compared to recent decades?

In a 39-year period of spring leaf out, how often do we see springs like 2020?



Spring leaf out is three to four weeks earlier than a long-term average (1981-2010) in some locations. <https://www.usanpn.org/news/>

a plant when they first see it in flower, and a good photograph can be the basis of an educated guess as to how long it has been in flower.

iNaturalist and CalFlora are the two citizen science resources it is easiest to contribute to, and I encourage all our DKY members who are out and about photographing regularly to consider depositing a copy of your photographs in one of them. Your phone or camera probably captures latitude and longitude data, which goes with the image. The surveys that Teresa and Renee have been doing, and that our new Barbara Rice intern, Alexis La Fever-Jackson (whom we are very pleased to welcome), will be doing, to characterize and map plant communities also is important in giving us a baseline to understand how these complex assemblages change as the climate changes.

The USA National Phenology Network has reported that bud break and flowering is three to four weeks earlier this year than historical averages (<https://www.usanpn.org/news/spring>). I suggested to botanical colleagues some 30 years ago that recovery plans and seed banking should start to focus on populations on the edge of ranges. Plants that are able to successfully flower early, or that seem to thrive in drier or warmer conditions than their core populations, may be the hope of the future. This requires that pollinators and seed dispersers also be in sync, of course. We need to know where those early flowering individuals are. Folks looking for superblooms in the desert should not bemoan a sparser display in a dry year—those are the survivors.

This leads me to encourage you to join in one of the many wildflower walks we have planned for California Native Plant Week, or that Rhiannon has organized. Generally, California Native Plant Week is early for our DKY Chapter's spring flora, but you never know what you will see, and we should value every plant that manages to bloom after this very dry winter.

March and April Field Trips by Rhiannon Korhummel

Check [DKY Chapter Activities](#) for updates on possible cancellations because of rain or COVID-19.

Sunday March 29: Pygmy Forest Walk

A mostly flat 2.5 mile out and back walk in pygmy forest. There will be a brief discussion about the unique edaphic conditions of the pygmy forest as well as introduction to the new vegetation types recently described for these soils. Along with learning about plant species which typically are found in our beloved pygmy forests, we will also see several lichen species that occur in the pygmy forests. Bring snacks/lunch and appropriate clothing. Rain will cancel. Sorry, no dogs. If you would like to attend, **RSVP to rkbotanist@gmail.com and you will receive directions to the location.** Parking is limited so please plan to carpool. Walk begins at 10 a.m.

Sunday April 19: Chamberlin Creek Waterfalls, Jackson Demonstration State Forest

A 2 mile loop walk in north coast evergreen and coniferous forests. A lovely little waterfall situated in a small grove of large redwoods is located at the bottom of a canyon. While the walk to and out of the canyon is steep, the steep stretches are short; however there is a climb so be prepared for such conditions. We will see plants typical of redwood and north coast evergreen forests. Rock outcrops and rocky areas are located along the walk; these features typically harbor species different from the surrounding forests. There will be brief discussions about fern and moss life cycles, and ecology of some typical forest species. Bring snacks/lunch and appropriate clothing. Rain will cancel. Sorry, no dogs. If you would like to attend, **RSVP to rkbotanist@gmail.com and you will receive directions to the location.** Parking is limited so please plan to carpool. Walk begins at 10 a.m.



Annual Ford House Museum Native Plant and Invasive Weed Display & Photo Exhibit of Wildflowers and Bees April 1st – June 30th 2020

Ford House has presented the spring wildflower exhibit since ~2004 when it was organized by DKY members Pat Howard and Pat Bauer and from 2012 through 2017 it was continued by Julia Larke. Since then DKY Education Chairman/Ford House Museum Volunteer Mario Abreu has developed it into an exceptional educational plant exhibit that is a fine example one of the goals of the California Native Plant Society... “to increase public enthusiasm and support for California’s native plants”.

A photo exhibit accompanies the wildflower display and this year’s presentation is by DKY member Katy Pye, pollinator garden activist and wildlife photographer. Don’t miss seeing her beautiful photographs of wildflowers and bees that illustrate the importance of native plants and their pollinators.

Ford House Visitor Center & Museum
45035 Main St, Mendocino, CA 95460
Open every day - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
www.mendoparks.org



Note: Because of concern for spread of COVID-19 these planned events may be canceled.

Celebrating California Native Plant Week April 11-19, 2020

California Native Plant Week is held the 3rd week of April as established by the California State Assembly and Senate Resolution ACR 173 (Evans). The first Native Plant Week, held in 2011, would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Mike Ross, Barbara Wolf, Nancy Morin, Mark Naftzger, Diana Ruiz, the CNPW Committee and chapter members. Contributions by many volunteers transformed California Native Plant Week from text in a bill, to a program that promotes, educates, and helps conserve California's rich native flora for future generations. CNPS Native Plant week history: <https://www.cnps.org/conservation/california-native-plant-week>

Coast Community Library in Point Arena and Fort Bragg Library will offer wildflower displays during Native Plant Week. Ford House Museum in Mendocino will have a wildflower display as well as a photo display of bees and wildflowers throughout the months of April, May and June. [Check DKY Chapter Activities](#) for updates on possible cancellations because of rain or COVID-19.

Monday, April 13, 1:30 pm – WILDFLOWERS OF MENDOCINO COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS. The Gardens are home to many native plant communities from creek-side to woodland to ocean bluff. Leader: Mario Abreu. Meet at Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden's visitor center entrance, 18220 North Hwy 1, Fort Bragg. Free. Contact 937-3115, abreu@mcn.org.

Tuesday, April 14, 1:30 pm – WILDFLOWERS OF SKAGGS SPRINGS ROAD. There is a rich diversity of plant species found along the road in this area. It is shady in the morning and can be cool so dress accordingly. Leader: Nancy Morin. Park at the east side of Haupt Creek Bridge, west of the Annapolis Road intersection. Contact 882-2528, nancy.morin@nau.edu.

Wednesday, April 15, 1:30 pm – ALDER CREEK WILDFLOWERS, MANCHESTER STATE BEACH. See what's booming at the edge of the San Andreas Fault. Mostly easy walk. Leader: Peter Baye. Meet at small parking area just west of Hwy 1 at Alder Creek Beach Road (road closed sign). Dogs are not allowed on the trail in this State Park. Contact botanybaye@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 16, 1:30 pm – WILDFLOWERS OF GLASS BEACH. This is a classic wildflower spot that harbors many rare and interesting plants and fabulous ocean views. Leader: Teresa Sholars. Meet at entrance to Glass Beach, Fort Bragg. From Highway 1, turn west on Elm Street (Denny's is on the corner) and drive a few blocks to Glass Beach Drive. Contact 937-4130, tsholars@mcn.org

Saturday, April 18, 2019, 1:00 pm – WILDFLOWERS OF POINT ARENA LIGHTHOUSE. The windswept headlands at the lighthouse offer an example of relatively undisturbed coastal bluff scrub habitat. Leader: Julia Larke. This is an easy walk. Meet at the entrance to the Lighthouse (kiosk staff will allow access) at the end of Lighthouse Road, Point Arena.

Update on County's Proposed Oak Woodland Ordinance – 3/15/2020

by Renée Pasquinelli

As reported last month in the Calypso, the DKY and Sanhedrin Chapters of CNPS have raised serious concerns regarding the expedited process being used, and lack of meaningful protections being proposed by the County for an oak woodland ordinance. Mendocino County Planning's stated purpose and intent for the ordinance is to protect oak woodlands and individual oak trees as sensitive and unique natural communities.

A goal is to "retain and manage the oak resources of the County and provide adequate regulations to ensure perpetuity of oak trees and oak woodlands within Mendocino County." Oak resources are defined as individual oak trees, heritage oaks, and oak woodlands, but only of the genus *Quercus*. The ordinance would apply to all lands containing oak resources that are inland from the Coastal Zone.

While we certainly support the protection of oaks and oak woodlands, we do not see how County Planning can achieve that goal without first having an understanding of where existing oak woodlands and heritage oaks occur, the ecological significance of existing oak populations, and the current and foreseeable future threats to oaks and oak woodlands. The County process being used to develop an oak ordinance, especially without first having a countywide oak management plan, is putting the cart before the horse.

An ordinance is being proposed that contains mitigations, but without having and disclosing baseline information upon which to measure impact levels and whether proposed mitigations will be effective. You first need an understanding of what you have before assuming that the measures proposed will afford meaningful protection.

The County is also claiming that the proposed ordinance is exempt from CEQA, because impacts will be evaluated for individual projects when they are proposed. This is piecemealing at its worst. The feared result is that the proposed ordinance will fail to address the cumulative impacts of systematic oak removal. In addition, by not having current baseline information, there is no understanding of what constitutes a significant impact, and consequently, no ability to determine whether mitigations are successful from an ecological perspective in reducing impacts to an insignificant level.

Greg Guisti, retired UC Forest Advisor was one of the editors of an excellent document entitled [A Planner's Guide for Oak Woodlands](#). This guide is also

recommended by the California Oaks Coalition and we have urged County Planning to read and follow the guidance provided in the document. Most pertinent, the guide discusses the ecological value of oak woodlands, the need for first gaining an understanding of what a county has (baseline information), the importance of scientifically-based information, and the importance of the CEQA process and comprehensive public involvement in planning.

A quote from the document states: "The goal of conserving oak resources should be to achieve a long-term sustainable oak woodland resource. The well-being of oak woodlands as an ecological unit, rather than that of individual trees, must be at the forefront of the discussion."

In the late 1990s to 2000, the UC Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program, under the leadership of Greg Guisti, worked collaboratively with the County of Mendocino to form and engage the Oak Conservation Committee, which "consisted of individuals who have long had an interest and/or experience in oak woodland management throughout Mendocino County...The committee was charged with addressing the directive provided to counties by the Board of Forestry in 1993 to develop locally based conservation strategies. The committee met monthly over a period of six months."

The resulting document, published in February 2001 (<http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/files/17071.pdf>), provided sound planning recommendations, as well as a rough overview map of oak woodlands in the county created by using 1990 Landsat satellite images.

Although the document and the data used to develop it is now approximately 20 or more years old, it also could be reviewed, referenced, and where appropriate, updated by County Planning as a basis for developing a comprehensive countywide oak management plan prior to the formation of a County oak ordinance.

The public is urged to send comments to the County Planners, the County Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors.

A County Planning Commission public workshop regarding the oak ordinance, which was to be held on March 18th, has been postponed due to public health concerns due to the coronavirus. The workshop may be rescheduled in late April, although a specific date has not yet been determined. 🌱

**DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
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Unless otherwise listed, area code is 707.



**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 subscriptions to *Fremontia*, *Flora* and the chapter newsletter, *The Calypso*.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Tel. _____ E-mail _____

Please choose the chapter you wish to join; CNPS will make the assignment if none is specified by applicant.

I wish to affiliate with the DKY Chapter _____
 or, other chapter _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Student/Fixed Income	\$25
Individual	\$50
Plant Lover	\$120
Supporter	\$500
Patron	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$2,500

Make check to: **California Native Plant Society**

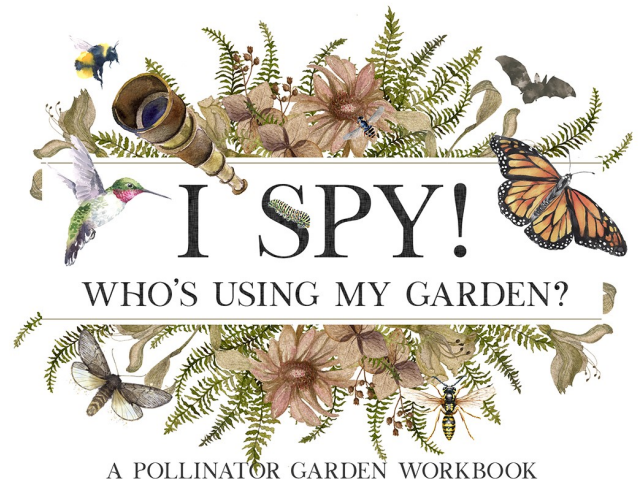
Mail check and application to:

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

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be announced. For information, contact Nancy Morin at nancy.morin@nau.edu. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. **Calypso:** If you wish to contribute items contact jlarke@mcn.org. If you choose to receive the emailed pdf version of the newsletter, contact Bob Rutemoeller at 884-4426 or brutem@mcn.org.



Bombus melanopygus visiting *Heracleum maximum* (cow parsnip). © Katy Pye, Big River State Park trail, 2/9/20.



by Katy Pye

2019