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The CALYPSO

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PROGRAM: Two Hemispheres, Two Table Mountains, Two Springs 2006

Chapter member Mary Sue Ittner to present slide show and talk on spring wildflower trips Saturday February 23rd at the Gualala Community Center. Potluck is set for 6:00 p.m. with talk to follow.

One special spot in California to view spring wildflowers is Table Mountain, an elevated tabletop with steep cliffs, located in Butte County. Bob Rutemoeller and Mary Sue Ittner joined their friends, Dard and Mary Hunter, to visit this Table Mountain in April 2006 when it was especially spectacular since there had been late rains and cool enough temperatures that the tabletop was covered in flowers.



Mary Sue Ittner crossing the annual covered expanse of Table Mountain in Butte County, CA © 2006 by Bob Rutemoeller.

In August and September that same year Bob and Mary Sue traveled to South Africa where they visited the second Table Mountain, one of the world's most famous landmarks, near Cape Town. Vegetation here is very different. Mary Sue will talk about the natural history of both places and share some of the photographs that she and Bob took during their visits.

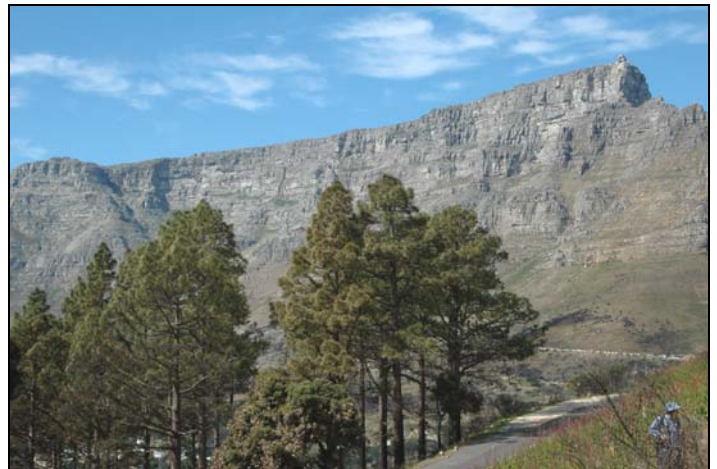


Table Mountain in South Africa taken from Lion's Head © 2006 by Bob Rutemoeller.

Volontaire Voluntario Volunteer
Freiwilliger 志願者 волонтер
εθελοντής ボランティア Vrijwilliger



Our Chapter needs you!

SPRING 2008 FIELD TRIPS

by Peter Warner

The following schedule is generally tentative, and dates or activities could change. Please consider that I generally prefer to know who's attending a trip at least 3 days in advance; low potential attendance for a trip may prompt me to cancel. Please call or email me if you plan to attend a trip, so that I can make plans accordingly. Thank you for your consideration. Peter Warner: (707) 964-8242; corylus@earthlink.net

March 15, Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg; *Blennosperma nanum* var. *robustum* survey.

Meet at the north end of Glass Beach Drive in Fort Bragg; bring lunch and water; easy access and gentle terrain. State-listed rare, *Blennosperma* grows only at Pt. Reyes and Glass Beach. Little is known about this annual plant's ecology, although it's recently been the center of attention as State Parks plans a California Coastal Trail segment from the Pudding Creek Trestle south to the former Georgia-Pacific Mill site. In order to initiate conservation measures designed to preserve and enhance the *Blennosperma* population at Glass Beach, the plan for this trip is to provide a detailed map of its distribution and a population estimate, and to develop appropriate management objectives to reduce competition from invasive plants. Participants will assist in mapping, collecting data, and locating monitoring sites for future assessment of conservation efforts. Heavy rain or extreme wind may necessitate postponement until March 22. Please RSVP to Peter Warner (937-9176; 964-8242) if you're planning to participate.

April 5, Saturday, 10 a.m. (tentative date)

Moat (aka Mote) Creek Reserve, Pt. Arena; invasive plant management, trail planning, botanizing.

Meet at the Reserve's south access, off Hwy. 1 (please call for detailed directions); bring hand tools for weeding (straight-bladed shovels are especially effective on bull thistle), lunch, water; be prepared for wet ground; gentle to moderate terrain. Rain cancels.

April 12 or 19, Saturday (tentative date & place)
Skaggs Springs Road, milepost 10.

Elaine Mahaffey has offered to lead this trip to old roadcuts and adjacent forest, woodland, and riparian habitats. Details will be forthcoming in the next Calypso.

April 24-25, Thursday & Friday

Plant Collecting for the Anderson Valley Wildflower Show.

Please help support the Anderson Valley Wildflower Show through the conscientious collection of coastal plants for educational purposes. I generally try to get out Thursday afternoon and early Friday before heading to Boonville to assist in identification and labeling of the plant collections for the show on Saturday and Sunday. We especially need coastal native grasses to bolster the usual plethora of weedy non-native grasses. If you would like to assist me, please let me know so we can coordinate these efforts.

April or early May (dates uncertain)

Mojave National Preserve

Depending on weather and my schedule, I plan on spending several days in the Mojave Desert. The Mojave National Preserve is one of my favorites, and I plan on joining several others for botanizing and camping in this place of solitude and scenic grandeur. If you have yet to spend time there, I invite you to join me. Let me know of your interest, and I'll inform you about my travel plans as spring blooms across the desert.

May 3, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Mayacamas Audubon Sanctuary, near Geyserville, Sonoma County.

This trip has not been well attended in recent years, and I'm opening up the invitations to CNPS members. The Geysers Fire in 2004 completely burned the Sanctuary, yet the land has come alive with lush displays of wildflowers, demonstrating the resiliency of this fire-adapted landscape. The pace of this trip is leisurely across moderate terrain; plant list provided.

May 24, Saturday, 9 a.m.

Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve; grassland vegetation sampling, botanizing.

Meet at the Pruitt Creek gate (near the Reserve's east end, along Orr Springs Road); bring lunch and plenty of water; moderately strenuous walk. We'll spend part of the day conducting a grassland assessment using the CNPS sampling protocols, and we'll also visit populations of the rare hybrid *Dichelostemma venustum* (*D. idamaia* X *congestum*).

May 31, Saturday; the Geysers geothermal area, Sonoma County.

I don't have any details about this trip; a visit to this area will be a first for me. The upland serpentine soils provide habitat for endemic species, so I look forward to exploring a new area and the surprises it will provide.

June 7-8, Saturday & Sunday (tentative date);

Tracyina rostrata field survey: Univ. of California – Hopland Field Station, Mendocino National Forest.

I have few details for this trip, and the dates may change. *Tracyina rostrata* is a cryptic grassland annual in the Asteraceae, known from fewer than 15 occurrences in the North Coast Ranges. We'll visit an extant population at Hopland, then travel to Mendocino National Forest for a weekend of surveys and camping.

Other trips on the docket - dates to be determined:

- 1) Pt. Arena Lighthouse, weeding – an opportunity to visit the edge of the continent and improve habitat for native plants.
- 2) Mote Creek Reserve: I plan at least one more trip, probably in May, for more weeding and trail work; details in the next Calypso.
- 3) Salt Pt. State Park: This is always on my list of spring destinations – possible trips include weeding and botanizing on the Memorial Day weekend, or a one-day trip including a visit to the mysterious forest of non-photosynthetic plants, the pygmy forest, and the upland coastal prairie.
- 4) Stornetta BLM property – my invitation to BLM to lead field trips and to conduct surveys for rare plants will yet materialize...

For more information on any of these field trips, please contact Peter Warner at: 964-8242 or corylus@earthlink.net.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Lori Hubbard

After some spectacular January storms, I was off to the Northern California Botanists Symposium in Chico. The many 15-minute presentations followed by brief question and answer sessions made it a whirlwind tour of what's happening in California botany.

The DKY Chapter was well represented by Peter Warner, Teresa Sholars, Julie Verran and Yours Truly. Teresa gave an insightful presentation about the non-obvious, but vital organisms and processes that surround plants. Let's hope that Julie will write a detailed account of the symposium for the Russian River Times, like her "Botany Rocks" article last year.

During the socializing periods, people talked excitedly about the recent storms, all hoping for enough rain to trigger another great blooming season in the deserts. It is hard to plan such trips in advance, when the weather is so unpredictable.

Even if we don't have a desert trip as a chapter, we can still make our own trips, if conditions warrant it. Closer to home, we might consider a spring chapter trip to Walker Ridge and Bear Valley. There is also talk of another summer camping trip to the Mount Lassen area, visiting different places than those we've seen previously.

Programs are also promising, with Mary Sue Ittner's talk on "The Two Table Mountains" starting off the season. Other possible programs include Peter Baye on the Gualala River Estuary, Jim Bishop on the bristlecone pines, and Matteo Garbelotto with new Sudden Oak Death information.

In these strange, dangerous and oh-so-interesting times, thank goodness for the plants. Whatever this year brings, there will be beauty in it.

CHAPTER NEWS

Farewell to a friend: Florence Van de Water passed away on January 21, 2008. She is fondly remembered as a person who loved the out of doors, hiking and camping with family and

friends. There will be an obituary for Florence in the next issue of the Calypso.

Bev Sloane has retired: The DKY Chapter would like to give a hearty THANK YOU to Bev Sloane, who has served as Southern Hospitality Chair for many years. She has done the job with sublime efficiency and graciousness. Thanks, Bev, for providing all those tasty refreshments for countless meetings. How can we ever replace you?

Hospitality Chairs needed! Help make our public program meetings gracious and welcoming.

Plant Watch volunteers needed! – Count rare plants each season and visit lovely coast locations.

If you can volunteer for these jobs, please call Lori at 882-1655.

Chapter Bylaws: As we work to make our chapter board more effective, some bylaws would help. Does anyone have a copy of the old chapter bylaws? Jon Thomson and I searched the chapter archives, but did not find it. Please call Lori at 882-1655 if you have any leads!

Manzanita illustration: As reported in the last *Calypso*, the DKY Chapter Board voted to donate \$200.00 for a botanical illustration in the Flora of North America. We hoped for the Fort Bragg manzanita, *Arctostaphylos nummularia*, but the artist has decided not to illustrate that species. Instead, we will sponsor a drawing of the hairy manzanita, *A. columbiana* – a beloved and archetypal shrub from our region. The limited reproduction rights still apply, so we are eager to see the final illustration.

The Calypso newsletter returns to b&w printing after an experimental color issue because the cost was prohibitive. You may still view the newsletter in color at www.dkycnps.org.

NEW DIRECTOR AT BOTANICAL GARDENS

by Nancy Morin

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens has hired Christopher Woods as its new Executive Director. Woods most recently was Executive

Director of VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver, B.C. Before that he was vice president for horticulture and external operations at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and executive director of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

From 1981 to 2003 he designed and directed Chanticleer, a pleasure garden outside of Philadelphia. During his time at Chanticleer he brought the Flora of North America project to the attention of his Board, as a result of which they developed a partnership with the project and provided its core funding from 2000 to the present day.



New Executive Director of the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Christopher Woods.

Woods brings both an appreciation of the beauty and value of native plants and ecosystems as well as vision for how the Botanical Gardens can play a significant role in their conservation. "I fell in love with California's native flora when I first visited the state in 1977. When I became fortunate enough to work at the Santa Barbara Botanic garden and to learn from the staff, especially Carol Bornstein, I fell in love again," he said.

According to Woods, "Botanic Gardens are at the forefront of plant conservation worldwide. I believe it imperative that the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens be at the forefront of plant conservation in coastal northern California."

Propagating genetically appropriate native plants for revegetation and restoration projects is one way MCBG can use the expertise and skill of its staff and volunteers in conservation efforts. He worked with Mario Abreu to develop a contract with Caltrans to grow some 1,000 plants for revegetation of the Noyo River Bridge replacement project.

Woods started work at MCBG January 2, 2008; Nancy Morin served as interim Executive Director in the six months after Rich Owings left the position.

CONSERVATION

by Lori Hubbart

Thoughts on Ethics: The Northern California Botanists symposium drew almost 300 attendees, including quite a few students and recent graduates. One session was devoted to the issue of certification for botanists, with speakers from several professions that already have certification programs. This brought up the subject of ethics, which was very refreshing.

Can botanists to be held to a set of conservation standards, and if so, who would define those standards? Happily, many ethical issues are rooted in the principles of science itself

For example, science must be transparent, with findings shared and made publicly available. Thus, botanists who sign non-disclosure agreements with their employers are failing to practice good science. While we may not persuade everyone to care deeply about conservation, we can set the bar high, for accurate botanical reports and sound science.

CNPS has come a long way on ethical issues in the last 15 years. Chapter conservationists have objected to volunteers holding state CNPS positions while opposing CNPS policies in their professional roles. David Magney has led the way on certification for botanists, and a CNPS workshop on botanical surveys included a discussion of botanical ethics.

Gualala retaining wall: After an appeal to the county by CNPS, Environmental Commons and Friends of the Gualala River, the applicant has reportedly changed the design of the retaining structure. It is now called a “structure” rather

than a wall, with claims that it will be more esthetically acceptable and easier for plants to grow on. The project would still remove native bluff vegetation, destabilize the bluff and force the reestablishment of the Gualala Bluff Trail onto a fill area where native plants might not grow. It is also a segmented, “piecemealed” project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Glass Beach Headlands: An onsite meeting with representatives of State Parks, the Department of Fish and Game, the City of Fort Bragg, Mendocino Land Trust and CNPS did much to facilitate communication between regulatory agencies and stakeholders. Discussion of regulations, conservation and other issues resulted in several proposed improvements to the trail alignment. At this point, it still looks like the trail needs an Environmental Impact Report, but in any case, mitigations will be critical to the success of the project. Long term weed control is the key, as merely getting hikers out of the wild habitat will not save the plants.

Two very rare plants occur at Glass Beach Headlands: *Chorizanthe howellii*, Howell’s spineflower, found only along the Mendocino coast from Pudding Creek to the mouth of Ten Mile River, and *Blennosperma nanum* var. *robustum*, found only at Pt. Reyes National Seashore and at Glass Beach.



Federally endangered *Chorizanthe howellii*, Howell’s spineflower, Glass Beach Headlands © June 2007 by Peter Warner.



State-listed as Threatened, *Blennosperma nanum* var. *robustum* (Point Reyes blennosperma) in bloom at Glass Beach Headlands © March 2006 by Peter Warner.

BIG RIVER STEWARDS

Opening of Interpretive Kiosk at Big River Beach

The Mendocino Land Trust is pleased to announce the completion of an interpretive kiosk at Big River Beach. The kiosk has been a collaborative effort by Big River Stewards volunteers, the California State Parks Mendocino District, and Dunlap Roofing.

Located next to newly-installed restrooms at the parking area closest to the Main Haul Road, the kiosk shelters four interpretive panels that describe the cultural and natural history of the Big River property and display various Big River Stewards events.

With the recent summer 2007 survey of visitation to Big River showing that 3,200 visitors make use of the beach and the Main Haul Road for hiking, biking and horseback riding each week, the interpretive kiosk enhances the learning experience and enjoyment for residents and visitors alike concerning Big River's unique history and natural resources endowment.

To learn more about the Stewards' work, or to RSVP for a workday, please contact Stewards Coordinator Matt Coleman at 962-0470 or by e-mail at mcoleman@mendocinolandtrust.

INVASIVE PLANTS

by Peter Warner

Invasive Plant management

Gorse: Other than all the Scotch broom that's been forced to recline on the land I live on, there's a lot more happening to reduce non-native plant cover along the Mendocino Coast that I've been remiss in failing to report. Perhaps most obviously on the minds of many coastal residents, based on the frequent queries I get, are the efforts to banish gorse from Jug Handle State Natural Reserve and from the community of Caspar.

Although funding was reduced for this year, State Parks has put out a bid to contract for this year's follow-up gorse work including burning of debris piles and more biomass removal and piling. The Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area (WMA), through the diligent work of coordinator Tara Athan, has secured funding for removing outlying gorse patches, including a start on the several acres infested at the Caspar Waste Transfer Station. In addition, the support of the Caspar community has been enormous, and thanks to Guil Dye, Caroline Schooley, Judy Tarbell, WMA coordinator Tara Athan and others, a resolution for ridding the county of gorse will soon be before the Board of Supervisors for consideration. A proposal for further funding through the Mendocino Fire-Safe Council may also provide additional financial assistance.

Cal-Trans and the California Conservation Corps continue to do a great job in keeping the Highway 1 roadside relatively gorse-free. Yet, as we know, gorse is a persistently formidable foe, and years of relentless lobbying for funding and on-the-ground work remain ahead. Invasive plants pay no heed to human economics – they just keep on doing what they do so well. The support of adjacent landowners, the WMA, CNPS, State Parks, Mendocino County and others will be essential if this latest effort to remove gorse is to be sustained, and ultimately, successful.

Beachgrass: State Parks has also committed substantial funding to the improvement of western snowy plover habitat, as well as restoring ecosystem dynamics, in the Inglenook Fen – Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve. Crews continue to work on reducing beachgrass cover, and the recovery of native plant habitat and historical dune topography has been a most rewarding result of these efforts.

Iceplant: State Parks staff has also removed lots of iceplant in the Preserve and elsewhere at MacKerricher State Park in the past year, including an effort to recover habitat for Howell's spineflower, a federally endangered annual that only grows at MacKerricher and a few adjacent properties. Efforts to reduce iceplant cover will be extended to Manchester State Park next fall, in order to recover habitat for the federally endangered Pt. Arena mountain beaver.

Monterey Pine: With funding assistance from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State Parks crews have also removed several acres of Monterey pines from Manchester State Park, part of a long-term recovery plan for the endangered Behren's silverspot butterfly. Monitoring for this butterfly has been conducted the past 2 years by State Parks and BLM on their respective lands in the Pt. Arena area.

In support of these efforts, please let me know what you're doing to remove invasive plants, as every bit of volunteer or paid effort needs to be documented to improve funding opportunities for the essential work of recovering native plant habitat. Contact: Peter Warner (707) 964-8242; corylus@earthlink.net

Weed Management Area Note

The Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area (WMA) continues its effort to improve the quality of the landscape adjacent to the Boatyard Shopping Center at Highways 1 and 20 in Fort Bragg. As part of its commitment to demonstrate the ecological value of reducing invasive plants and increasing native plant cover, WMA volunteers worked for 4 days this past December with a California Conservation Corps crew to clear weeds and plant native plants in this area. The California Dept. of Transportation

(thank you to Bob Melendez) generously funded the labor provided by the CCC (Ukiah). The plants were grown at Jughandle Creek Farm and Nature Center in Caspar (thank you, Helene Chalfin).

We planted about 825 container-grown *Erigeron glaucus*, *Armeria maritima*, *Grindelia stricta*, and *Festuca rubra*, and so far, winter rains have given these plants a good start on covering this heavily disturbed landscape. We also weeded an area of *Iris douglasiana* planted last winter (these plants were recovered from a future development site across Hwy. 1), as well as an area of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* plants donated by the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens (thank you, Mario Abreu).

A great deal of work remains on this project over the coming years, most notably the removal of the woody invasives (Scotch broom, cotoneaster, Armenian blackberry, English ivy), and the control of a range of herbaceous annuals and perennials that will continue to ply their trade on this vulnerable piece of earth. If you're interested in assisting the WMA in turning the tide against weeds, please contact coordinator Tara Athan at (707) 485-1198, or coord@mcwma.org.

MAXIMUM FINE FOR ESCAPE OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CREEPING BENTGRASS: USDA Assesses The Scotts Company \$500,000 penalty

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 2007--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) concluded an investigation into alleged infractions by The Scotts Company, LLC regarding genetically engineered glyphosate-tolerant creeping bentgrass. Under a settlement agreement, Scotts agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500,000 which is the maximum penalty allowed by the Plant Protection Act of 2000. This is a severe civil penalty and underscores USDA's strong commitment to compliance with its regulations. See story at:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentid=only=true&contentid=2007/11/0350.xml>

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		fax 882-1645
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Secretary:	Nancy Morin	882-2528
Treasurer:	Mary Hunter	785-1150



MEMBERSHIP

New Member: Cindy Freebairn-Smith, Gualala

Renewal – your renewal date is listed on the address label of your CNPS Bulletin; if you are not sure of the date, please ask Bob Rutemoeller.

Gift Memberships - Give a friend or neighbor a gift membership!

Contact: Bob Rutemoeller at 884-4426 or brutem@mcn.org if you have any questions.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AT LARGE	OPEN	
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CONSERVATION	Lori Hubbart	882-1655
EDUCATION	OPEN	
FIELD TRIPS	Peter Warner	964-8242
HISTORIAN	Ramona Crooks	884-3585
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South Coast	Roberta Ram	884-4847
INVASIVE PLANTS	Peter Warner	964-8242
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at Sea Ranch	Roz Bray	785-2694
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Sonoma Co.	Dorothy Scherer	882-2850
South Coast	Mary Rhyné	884-3043
VEGETATION		
North & South	OPEN	
WEBMASTER	Norm Jensen	
	webmaster@dkycnps.org	

All phone numbers are Area Code 707.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 5th at the Point Arena Library. All are welcome to attend. For details, contact Lori Hubbart at 882-1655.

CALYPSO DEADLINE: Send newsletter items by Sunday, February 10th to: Julia Larke, P.O. Box 1631, Fort Bragg, CA, 95437; 964-2845, jlark@mcn.org.

CHAPTER WEBPAGE: www.dkycnps.org. If you have any nature photographs or articles for posting on the website, please send them to Norm Jensen, webmaster@dkycnps.org.

CNPS 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 the quarterly *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/Retired/Limited Income	\$25
Individual	\$45
Family/Group/Library	\$75
Plant Lover	\$100
Patron	\$300
Benefactor	\$600
Mariposa Lily	\$1,500

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