



The CALYPSO

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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The 2015 Annual
**Environmental Potluck
& Matt Coleman Environmentalist of the
Year Award**

Monday, March 16, 2015

Caspar Community Center, 15051 Caspar Road, Caspar, CA

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Matt Coleman Award

7:10 pm Program:

Jeanne Jackson

Amazing Sights:

Natural Wonders on the Mendocino Coast



Courtesy of Craig Tooley

Jeanne is the author of *Mendonoma Sightings Throughout the Year*, featuring photos by Craig Tooley. She writes a weekly column for the Independent Coast Observer

Bring your own plate, silverware, and beverage, and a potluck dish for 8 people.

Hosted this year by The Dorothy King Young
Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
For more information, contact Nancy Morin 882-2528



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Nancy Morin



This promises to be a very exciting year for our Dorothy King Young chapter of the California Native Plant Society! We will host the annual Environmental Partners Potluck (this honor rotates among the four partners, so we only get to do it every four years). In addition to being a great opportunity to exchange news with our fellow environmentalists, it also is when the Matt Coleman Environmentalist of the Year award is made. This year we will recognize Lori Hubbard's many years of effective work advocating for conservation of our rare plants and plant communities, advising on best practices for resource management, and inspiring a love a plants through the many talks she has given, walks she has led, and articles she has written. Lori probably will not be able to join us at the potluck—she and Greg are settling into their new home in Washington, but she will be with us in spirit.

Then in April we'll have a wealth of activities during California Native Plant Week—April 18—26. See the calendar on p. 5 of this issue for details. Two workshops on Sudden Oak Death Syndrome will be held in May, in Fort Bragg on May 8 and Gualala on May 9, and we'll also be gearing up for the annual Wildflower Show at the Gualala Community Center May 23 and May 24. Later this year DKY will host the statewide meeting of CNPS's Chapter Council. This will be September 12 and 13, and will let us show off our beautiful coast to native plant enthusiasts from all over the state.

The Bureau of Land Management folks who are developing management plans for the Point Arena Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument would like DKY chapter members to help with long-term monitoring of plants and vegetation on the land. This is a pretty huge area, and we really need to work out a systematic procedure for making sure we cover it adequately. Meanwhile, any of you who take walks there, please make notes about what you see and where. Take pictures if you can.

A map is being developed and this will help us note where a particular plant was seen for those who don't have GPS.

There will be many possibilities for volunteering through the year. Please send articles or even short notes to Julia Larke for the Calypso. Let me or Mario Abreu know if you would be willing to lead a wildflower walk, or if you would like to have a wildflower walk on your property. Let's all enjoy what promises to be a wonderful year.

MARCH-APRIL RARE PLANTS

Spring is definitely busting out on the Coast! Our area has definitely received more rain than last year. We are at or have exceeded our 8-year average in some places (keeping in mind that with climate change and increasing warmth the 8-year average doesn't reflect historical averages). This is a great time to be watching out for patterns of change in nature—especially plants. Julia Larke has seen at least one *Lilium maritimum* in bloom near her home off Ten Mile Ridge near Point Arena—typically this doesn't bloom until May. *Wyethia lanceolata*, which I always think of as a summer-blooming plant, has a few flowers on Lighthouse Road. The small, odd *Toxicoscordion* (*Zygadenus* as was) that blooms very early has been seen at The Sea Ranch and on Lighthouse Road. Teresa Sholars thinks it is on some of the pygmy forest sites. I think the Lighthouse Road population is new, or at least has never had so many plants in past years. I'd be very interested to learn where else it is growing.



Toxicoscordion sp. Nancy Morin, March 5, 2015

There are some rare plants that we hear about often. This would be a good year to note new or expanded populations. Examples of early spring-bloomers in this category are *Calystegia purpurata* subsp. *saxicola* (coastal bluff morning-glory), *Castilleja mendocinensis* (Mendocino Coast paintbrush), *Erigeron supplex* (supple daisy), *Erysimum concinnum* (bluff wallflower), and *Sidalcea malviflora* subsp. *purpurea* (purple-stemmed checkerbloom).

Here are some of our less common plants that can be expected to bloom in early spring, that we can be looking for:

Castilleja ambigua* var. *humboldtiensis (Humboldt Bay owl's clover or Johnny-nip)—flowers like the familiar Johnny-nip but plants fleshy and found in salt marshes. Plants of *C. ambigua* var. *ambigua* occur on the headlands near the Point Arena Lighthouse station and at Manchester dunes.

Fritillaria roderickii (Roderick's fritillary)—currently considered a synonym of *Fritillaria biflora* var. *biflora* (also known as *F. grayana*), but there are only three reports of this variety north of San Francisco, one at the Boonville Cemetery, one near Hwy. 1 south of Schooner's Gulch, and one just north of Anchor Bay. The only other fritillary on the coast is *F. affinis*.



This photo has not been definitively identified but we think *Castilleja ambigua* var. *humboldtiensis* would be similar. Any fleshy *C. ambigua* would be of interest.
© Doreen L. Smith, Apr 15, 1996. Salt marsh preserve, S. of Inverness, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co.



Fritillaria biflora var. *biflora*
© Asa Spade Apr 14, 2013
Evergreen graveyard, Boonville, Mendocino Co.



Gilia millefoliata
©2013 Vernon Smith
Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin Co.

Gilia capitata* subsp. *pacifica (Pacific gilia). Pacific gilia has flowers in dense heads. ***Gilia millefoliata*** is the rare, densely glandular species we mostly hear about.



Gilia capitata subsp. *pacifica*
© Asa Spade Jun 6, 2010
Northern coastal bluff scrub, Anchor Bay, Mendocino Co.

Hesperevax sparsiflora* var. *brevifolia (short-leaved evax)—a funny tiny plant in the sunflower family. It has densely hairy gray leaves and few tiny flowers in an inflorescence.



Hesperevax sparsiflora var. *brevifolia*
© Aaron Arthur Apr 3, 2013
Fort Bragg, Mendocino Co.

Kopsiopsis hookeri (small groundcone)
This is a parasitic plant. The only part above-ground is the yellow, cone-like inflorescence.



Kopsiopsis hookeri
© Doreen L. Smith Apr 17, 2004
Kent Woodlands, Marin Co.

There are three species of ***Lasthenia*** to look for:



Lasthenia macrantha ssp. *macrantha*
© 2011 Zoya Akulova Pt. Cabrillo, Mendocino Co.

Lasthenia californica subsp. *bakeri*
(Baker's goldfields)—Phyllaries free, annual

Lasthenia californica subsp. *macrantha*
(perennial goldfields)—Phyllaries free, perennial

Lasthenia conjugens (Contra Costa goldfields)
—Phyllaries fused at base

Let's all be vigilant and watchful. It may be that a plant you would pass by as not interesting is actually blooming outside its normal time or is rarely seen in our area. You can find information on plant distribution (and sometimes photographs) from the CNPS online Rare Plant Inventory at www.cnps.org (click on Rare Plants tab on top). Exact locations (if georeferenced these can also be displayed on a map) based on herbarium specimens are available in the Consortium of California Herbaria database (<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>). Lots of additional information and photographs are on CalFlora (www.calflora.org) and CalPhotos (www.calphotos.berkeley.edu). – N. Morin



PYGMY FOREST VegCAMP

For four days thirty-four great ecologists and botanists (including 10 DKY members) trained in the technique of rapid vegetation assessment (quickly estimating things like percent cover of dominant species, for instance) and then mapped and assessed vegetation that potentially was pygmy forest. Many of them generously travelled a considerable distance and donated their time for this effort.

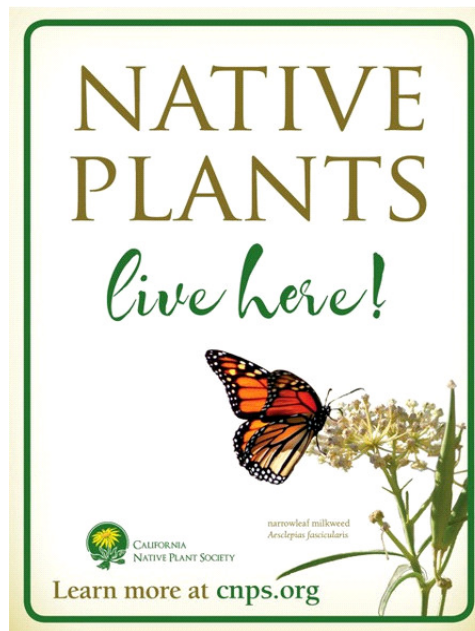
Public and private lands were included. Some of the areas were difficult to access but richly rewarded those who persevered. Thanks go to the VegCAMP (Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program of California Fish and Wildlife) for putting together the training, sampling, methodology, equipment, and logistics. State Parks provided a meeting room.

Teresa Sholars provided a gathering space and lodging for some of the participants. Follow-up mapping sessions are already being scheduled. We will report the results in a future issue of Calypso.

The team assessed Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodland. According to *A Manual of California Vegetation Online*, *Hesperocyparis pygmaea* is dominant or co-dominant in the tree canopy with *Pinus contorta* ssp. *bolanderi*, *Pinus muricata* and *Sequoia sempervirens*. Shrubs of heights similar to the cypress may include *Arctostaphylos columbiana*, *Arctostaphylos nummularia*, *Gaultheria shallon*, *Rhododendron columbianum*, *Rhododendron macrophyllum* or *Vaccinium ovatum*.

Trees are less than 2m tall; the canopy of trees is open to intermittent. The shrub layer is open to intermittent and the herbaceous layer is sparse. Lichens and mosses occur on the soil surface and on the woody plants as epiphytes. This vegetation type is found on uplifted marine terraces and associated sandstone. Soils are acidic spodosols of the Blacklock soil series with cemented hardpans that are seasonally flooded.

If you think you might have Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodland on your land and you would like to have it assessed, let Teresa Sholars know. Similar vegetation on the Gualala Ridge and in Salt Point State Park may be a variation and should be assessed. ###



Native Plant Garden Sign

If you are a gardener and have native plants in your garden, this is the sign for you! Show off your commitment to California native plants by displaying this beautiful 9"x 12" full-color aluminum sign on a wall - or attach it to a garden stake. The general public will benefit by seeing your native plants in garden settings and the signs give the CNPS website address, through which they can go to www.cnps.org/gardening where they can learn about our "**3 Ps**" of gardening:

Plant Local • Plant Light • Plant Well

Aluminum with two mounting holes, full-color 9"x12" Price: \$36.00

Source: store.cnps.org/products/native-plant-garden-sign

FIELD TRIPS IN MARCH

Wildflower Walks & Guided Hikes at Salt Point State Park

Led by Susanna Barlow

Thursday, March 5, 2015, 11 am - Meet at Fisk Mill Cove parking lot, the most northern parking area, near Sentinel Rock. Spectacular ocean views, spring wildflowers, coastal geology. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring a bag lunch, water, and binoculars. This hike may go long, plan for at least 2 hours, there is a lot to see, and March is the month to revel in this beautiful spot. Park day use fees apply.

Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10 am - Meet at Kruse Ranch Road, rhododendron loop parking, we will hike the Phillip's Gulch, Chinese Gulch loop trails. Last month we saw the first spotted coral root orchids. This is a fabulous hike when it is gusty on the coast, quiet and secluded, complete with ferns, dells and woodsy wildflowers. Hike will take 2 hours.

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 8 am - Meet at Stump Beach parking lot. These early morning hikes have the most beautiful slanting light, it is worth rousing yourself out of bed. Pelagic cormorants are nesting on the far cliffs, and the marine terraces are bright with color. Wildflowers abound. Hike ends by 9:45 in time for the Fort Ross School community market.

Questions? Contact Susanna Barlow at 707-847-3437 or email at susannab@fortross.org



Montgomery Woods State Reserve Hike with Peter Warner

March 28, 2015 – Saturday; 10 a.m. at the Pruitt Creek trailhead, to about 4 p.m. Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, Pruitt Creek watershed

This jaunt will explore the backcountry of the Reserve's Ross Addition, starting at the Pruitt Creek trailhead along Orr Springs Rd., about 1 mile east of the old-growth grove parking area (about 1.5 miles beyond Orr Springs from Ukiah). We start out in a riparian stand of redwoods, often dappled with numerous early-flowering herbs, then meander upslope through Douglas-fir and hardwood forests, oak woodlands, chaparral, across grassland, rocky talus slopes, and a few small wetlands. A plant list for the Reserve is posted on the Sanhedrin Chapter website.

<http://sanhedrin.cnps.org/index.php/native-plants/locations-and-plant-lists#montwoods>.

Be prepared for one or more creek crossings – waterproof or old shoes and walking sticks are advised. Otherwise, pack a lunch, plenty of water, and prepare for a moderately strenuous walk of up to 5 miles.

Ride-sharing is strongly encouraged, as parking at the trailhead is limited. Sonoma County parties should meet at 8 a.m. at the River Rd. – Hwy. 101 commuter lot. From Ukiah, allow about 45 minutes to the Reserve.

Please contact Peter Warner if you plan to attend, or if you subsequently cancel. (707) 666-9071; email phytopagan@sonic.net.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK - April 11- 19 2015

California Native Plant Week is held the 3rd week of April, each year, 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 wonderful program that promotes, educates, and helps conserve California's rich native flora for future generations. From: CNPS Native Plant week history - <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/nativeplantweek>

Chapter events:

- Monday April 13 - **Wildflower Walk, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens.** Leader: Mario Abreu, MCBG naturalist. Meet at 10 a.m. at Garden entrance. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens has many beautiful native plant communities, including riparian, bishop pine, meadows, and coastal bluff.
- Tuesday April 14 - **Pygmy Forest on Mendocino Redwood Company lands.** Leader: Hayley Ross, Botanical Resource Coordinator at Mendocino Redwood Company. Walk will begin at 10 a.m. and specific information about meeting place will be emailed; or contact Nancy Morin @ 882-2528 or Hayley at hross@mendoco.com.
- Thursday April 16 - **Alder Creek with Thursday Ramblers.** Meet at 9:05 at pullout for Gualala business directory and at Anchor Bay (west side of Hwy 1) at 9:15. The hike starts at the public access from Highway One on about mile marker 22.27 at 9:45. We will turn in at Alder Creek Beach Road, then turn directly left and park on the road that parallels Highway One. We will walk down the road where it is closed until we come to the trail that leads to the environmental campground hoping to see wildflowers and walk back via the beach if we can. We may change the direction of the hike depending on the wind. We will have lunch afterwards at Beverley Thompson's lovely garden to view spring flowers (Rhododendrons and Azaleas to name a few.) Leaders: Bob Rutemoeller & Mary Sue Ittner, 884-4824.
- Friday April 17 - **Ten Mile Dunes - The Ecological Relevance of Sand.** Leader: Peter Warner. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., or a bit later for those so inclined to explore further. While it looks like barren open sand to those who fail to see, the Ten Mile Dunes ecosystem provides a considerable array of habitats — although sand is a consistent substrate throughout! We'll explore dune plant and animal habitat diversity, and spend some time looking at several rare and endangered plant populations. Meet at the Ward Avenue "elbow" parking area in Cleone at 9 a.m. Be prepared for expected atmospheric conditions, bring lunch, water, and hats, and wear sturdy footwear (it's not just a stroll on the beach). For further information, call or email Peter Warner (707) 666-9071 or (707) 328-8251; phytopagan@sonic.net.
- Saturday April 18 **Salal Loop walk, The Sea Ranch.** Leaders: Mary Hunter and Barbara Rice. Meet at 10 a.m. at Gualala Point County Park parking upper parking lot. You'll walk through beautiful riparian areas, glens, bishop pine forests, alders, and on coastal bluffs.
- Sunday April 19 - **Point Arena-Stornetta Unit California Coastal National Monument.** Leader: Nancy Morin. Meet at 10 a.m. at the corner of Hwy 1 and Lighthouse Road. We'll see what is blooming in the meadows, wetlands, and on the bluffs.

**DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
OFFICERS 2015**

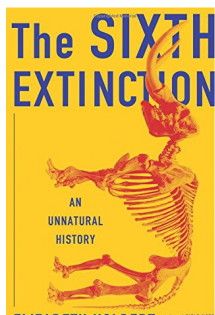
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CONSERVATION	OPEN	
EDUCATION	Helene Chalfin	964-1825
FIELD TRIPS	Mario Abreu & Nancy Morin (temp)	
HISTORIAN	Ramona Crooks	884-3585
HOSPITALITY	OPEN	
INVASIVE PLANTS	Mario Abreu	937-3135
MAILINGS	Ramona Crooks	884-3585
MEMBERSHIP	Bob Rutemoeller	884-4426
NEWSLETTER	Julia Larke	882-2935
PLANT SALE	Mario Abreu	937-3155
PLANT WATCH	OPEN	
POSTERS	Lynn Tuft	785-3392
PUBLICITY	OPEN	
PROGRAMS	OPEN Nancy Morin (temp)	
RARE & ENDANGERED:		
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Inland	Clare Wheeler-Sias	895-3131
Sea Ranch	Lynn Tuft	785-3392
South Coast	Jon Thompson	884-4847
VEGETATION	Teresa Sholars	962-2686
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All phone numbers are area code 707

CALYPSO items: Send to jarke@mcn.org. If you wish to switch to a digital version of the newsletter, send an email request to Bob Rutemoeller brutem@mcn.org



Book Review: *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*

by Elizabeth Kolbert. This 2014 book is a must read for all who live on planet Earth. Kolbert, an award-winning science writer for The New Yorker, continues in the footsteps of another great New Yorker writer, John McPhee. *The Sixth Extinction* looks at the history of how humans came to understand the complexities of the fossil record and evolution, and the concept of extinctions. Kolbert then examines the current mass extinctions taking place worldwide by interviewing researchers whose studies include work with the Panamanian golden frog (already extinct in the wild), reef-building corals (gone by 2050 if current trends in ocean acidification and temperature rise continue), and North American hibernating bats

(the devastating white-nose fungal disease is killing millions of these insect-eating bats in 25 states and five Canadian provinces, to date). Kolbert makes this depressing topic interesting and the intelligence and ingenuity of the people she interviews gives hope that somehow human caused mass extinctions can be turned around. – Julia Larke, ed.



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 _____

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

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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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

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