



The CALYPSO

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 577, Gualala, CA 95445
\$5.00 per year, non-members
Volume 2016, Sep-Oct '16

DKY Native Plant Sales by Mario Abreu

Saturday, Sept. 24, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Gualala Community Center

Saturday, Oct. 1, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Fort Bragg Town Hall

The fall plant sales are almost here. There will be many plants available at the sales which are not listed below because we'll be adding plants donated by Ken Montgomery of Anderson Valley Nursery. There are always surprise additions to the sale list.

Seeds - collected by Peter Baye (these go quickly!):

Antirrhinum vexillocalyculatum. Gualala River Wheatfield Fork watershed.

Clarkia amoena. Sonoma Coast provenance, garden population.

Clarkia concinna. Gualala River Wheatfield Fork watershed.

Madia elegans. all yellow rays. " "

M. elegans - yellow/maroon blotch. " "

Nicotiana quadrivalvis. Gualala River Wheatfield Fork watershed.

Perennials/Annuals/Ferns/Grasses

Armeria maritima Sea Pink
Asarum caudatum Wild Ginger
Asarum lemmonii Wild Ginger
Blechnum spicant Deer Fern
Calamagrostis nutkaensis Pacific Reed Grass
Dudleya cymosa Liveforever
Dudleya farinosa Liveforever
Eriogonum latifolium Coast Buckwheat
Eriogonum l. rubescens Red Buckwheat
Eriogonum l. rubescens Suzi's Red Buckwheat
Erysimum concinnum Coast Wallflower
Festuca californica California Fescue
Festuca idahoensis 'Siskiyou Blue' Fescue
Festuca i. 'Tomales Bay' Fescue
Festuca rubra 'Patrick's Point' Fescue
Iris douglasiana Douglas Iris
Juncus patens Rush
Maianthemum dilatatum False Lily-of-the-Valley
Mimulus aurantiacus Monkey Flower
Mimulus a. 'Fiesta Marigold' Monkey Flower
Petasites palmatus Western Coltsfoot
Phacelia californica California Phacelia
Polypodium scolieri Leather-Leaf Fern
Polystichum munitum Western Swordfern



Available at the sale: *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*, pink flowering currant
© Doreen L. Smith, 2006

Sedum spathulifolium Stonecrop
Sisyrinchium bellum Blue-Eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium californicum Yellow-Eyed Grass
Tellima grandiflora Fringe Cups
Tolmiea menziesii Pig-A-Back Plant
Woodwardia fimbriata Chain Fern

Shrubs/Trees

Baccharis pilularis Coyote Brush
Baccharis p. 'Twin Peaks' Coyote Brush
Ceanothus thrysiflorus California Lilac
Frangula (Rhamnus) californica Coffeeberry
Garrya elliptica Silk Tassel Bush
Ribes sanguineum var. *glutinosum* Pink Flowering Currant
Ribes speciosum Fuchsia Flowered Gooseberry
Salvia apiana White Sage
Salvia clevelandii Sage
Vaccinium ovatum Huckleberry

Botanical Gems - Coastal gumplant by Peter Baye

Grindelia stricta DC var. *platyphylla* (Greene) M.A. Lane (TJM2)



Flowerhead of *Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla*, showing gummy white resin among the erect to recurved phyllaries, and a leaf-like bract directly below the flowerhead.

All photos in article by Peter Baye.



Mass displays of mid-summer blooms worked by native bumblebees cover the mounding forms of var. *platyphylla* at bluffs north of Alder Creek.

Some of our botanical gems in the Mendocino-Sonoma Coast are perhaps too familiar or too common to be recognized for their outstanding value. The coastal gumplants in our area may qualify for this peculiar fault: not being rare or endemic or beyond their traditional geographic range, but having exceptional horticultural, ethnobotanical, and ecological worth.

Following the second edition of the *Jepson Manual's* treatment of *Grindelia* by Abigail Moore, we can still identify our coastal gumplants of salt marshes, dunes and bluffs as one of two varieties of *G. stricta*: var. *platyphylla*, and var. *stricta*, consistent with the first edition. But the gumplants have been in a taxonomic state of benign semi-anarchy in California since the beginning of California botany. The original 1925 *Jepson Manual*, influenced by the complex splitting of species and varieties in Steyermark's perspicacious monograph on the genus, is nearly impossible to cross-walk to the modern *Jepson Manuals*. Munz at least provided a rather full list of *Grindelia* synonyms in his *Flora*, allowing a view of the transfer of var. *platyphylla* by various authors to *G. robusta*, *G. rubricaulis*, and *G. latifolia*. The current *Flora of North America* taxonomic treatment of the genus more or less surrenders, and takes the radical (desperate or enlightened?) step of treating just about all coastal *Grindelia* species, and

some inland ones, as synonyms of a juggernaut hyper-variable "compilospecies" of *G. hirsutula* – along with a list of all the species that were traditionally given that rank.

Luckily, we have only two varieties of the traditional *Grindelia stricta* on our immediate coast that are relatively well-segregated by morphology and habitats. *Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla* grows on salt-spray or brackish soil habitats, both wetland and upland, including unstable coastal bluffs and cliffs, weathered sand of stabilized old sand dunes, brackish high salt marsh flats of lagoons or washovers, and coastal stream mouth deltas and floodplains. Bluffs from Sea Ranch to Alder Creek commonly support upland populations of var. *platyphylla*. Vegetatively, as the name *platyphylla* suggests, they have broad, blunt sessile (to clasping) leaves, with blades often widest above the middle, and broad leafy bracts usually clustered right below the flowerhead.

Highly prostrate populations of var. *platyphylla* are also found in wet brackish marsh flats from Point Arena to Manchester (Alder Creek, Brush Creek, Davis Pond Slough, for example). Most of our bluff populations of var. *platyphylla* are also fairly consistently prostrate, mounding, or decumbent in habit, but some, like the marsh bank populations



A day-flying moth pollinates *G. stricta* var. *platyphylla* at the end of October at Manchester Dunes.

along the Ten Mile River near the South Fork, are coarse, erect forms, like those of Salmon Creek in Bodega Bay and to the Marin Coast. These tall subshrubby variants of var. *platyphylla* approach some traits found in San Francisco Bay *Grindelia stricta* var. *angustifolia*. But var. *platyphylla* generally has large, leaf-like bracts clustered right below the flowerheads, and the flowerheads tend to be single or few-branched on thick stems.

Grindelia stricta var. *stricta* is a little more 'strict' in its habitats as well as growth habit: prostrate more ascending to upright, found almost entirely in brackish to fresh-brackish tidal marshes, either in the high marsh or along channel banks. Ten Mile and Big River estuaries support some of the largest populations of this variety. Var. *stricta* lacks the leafy bracts right below the flowerhead, and its leaves have a long-tapered base.

Taxonomic instability is a small price to pay for the native plant horticultural virtues of *Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla*, and its garden hybrids. What other native perennials can produce bright, showy flowers almost all year round; stay green and vigorous without irrigation, tolerate flooding, waterlogging, drought, soil salt, salt spray, and frost; repel insect herbivory and deer browsing; display a wide range of growth habits from prostrate to tall subshrubs; and self-sow and spread so much that they have to be weeded? Perhaps there are some near-rivals, but I can't think of any up to the time of writing this.

For generalist gardeners who aren't partial to California natives, few native perennials other than *Grindelia* can compete with exotic cultivars in terms of showy flowers with long (summer-fall) bloom periods, low

maintenance, wide environmental tolerances, and minimal or no watering requirements. It's a mystery to me that *Grindelia stricta* (and its former synonyms) has been given marginal to no treatment in classic California native horticultural books (e.g., Lenz, Schmidt, and even Lester Rountree). Perhaps the more arid "weedy" looking inland forms of *G. camporum* biased perceptions of its beauty? Or was it overlooked because of the circularity of having no cultivars selected, owing in turn to its lack of adoption by renowned native California plant pundits?

Grindelia stricta's simultaneous tolerance to drought and flooding is remarkable, but it follows from its wide ecological amplitude from dry bluffs to high salt marshes. What was entirely unexpected for me was its ability to thrive so far from the coast, in my inland coastal mountain garden that regularly endures long, intense heat waves unknown on the coast, as well as hard freezes in winter – an uncommon performance for a obligate maritime plant. I've grown it successfully in sunny spots next to ditches that are too wet in winter and too dry in summer for almost anything other than *Juncus patens*; annuals or weeds can't compare with its summer-flowering splendor.

Old, shrubby specimens with too much bare stem growth for esthetic tastes leaning towards tidiness can be hard-pruned down to the budded crown above ground level in late winter. Hard-pruned plants resprout with great vegetative vigor, though with delay in flowering in summer. Leaving plants to sprawl, or lean and layer (root on contact with the ground) results in clonal masses that can be either desirable or overwhelming, so pruning is optional.

The whitish gummy resins (especially in the flower buds) of gumplants appear to deter most browsing animals and insects, almost as much as tarweeds. The variety of growth forms of *Grindelia stricta* var.



Grindelia stricta var. *platyphylla* in bud.

platyphylla is an artifact of co-planting it with prostrate and upright ecotypes or varieties of *G. stricta*: the progeny are exceedingly

variable and delightfully adaptable to all parts of the garden. And the seedlings are indeed "invasive" in a very welcome way: they self-sow in paths, edges, under fruit trees, roses, and citrus in my orchard. The bees, syrphid flies, and butterflies attracted by gumplants benefit from its very long flowering season: the main one, from April to October, is supplemented by stray flowerheads that sometimes brighten older branches in sunny, mild weather in fall and winter.

The value of gumplants isn't just ornamental. Kashaya Pomo used the sticky resin of flowerheads in "bud" stage as an adhesive and sealant. This traditional ethnobotanical use of the diterpene resin has recently been "rediscovered" for industrial commercial production in the Klamath Basin by Oregon State University researchers Richard Roseberg and Rachel Bentley. Northern Pomo made a tea from the leaves or whole plant of the related inland *Grindelia camporum* (with which *G. stricta* is lumped under FNA's *Grindelia hirsutula*!). The tea is ascribed many medicinal properties, including use for skin and respiratory ailments. *Grindelia* preparations were used in some U.S. and British hospitals for treatment of respiratory infections until 1960, according to Garcia and Adams (2009) *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West*.

If being common is a vice of gumplants, it's a vice I would earnestly recommend cultivating!



A spontaneous garden hybrid between *Grindelia stricta* var. *angustifolia* (San Francisco Bay gumplant) and var. *platyphylla*, exhibiting erect subshrubby habit of var. *angustifolia*, and leaf and bract traits of var. *platyphylla*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Nancy Morin

Our friends in the Florida Native Plant Society created the 2016 Native Plants for Your Yard poster and posted it on FaceBook.

I like it a lot. Native plants growing in their native place are tough, experienced (they evolved to thrive in their native conditions), and dependable.



And using native plants in your garden is better for the environment. Grown in the right place they need less water, do better without fertilizers, don't require pesticides. They won't escape and smother other plants like exotics can. So, choosing native plants for your garden makes sense if you want to use fewer resources and, ultimately, do less work.

As we look forward to our annual native plant sales, which will be September 24, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Gualala Community Center and October 1, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fort Bragg Town Hall, I'd like to think about the many other reasons to grow native plants.

First, the plants themselves. The early blooming pink flowering currant, *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*, lifts our spirits while winter is still with us. Fringe cups and false-lily-of-the-valley, perhaps with a chain fern, create a feeling of serenity. A patch of Douglas iris is sweetly fragrant, and the silky petals have such lovely patterns. The clear orange of our local sticky monkey flower is like a bit of captured sunlight. Our senses are enriched and our psyches soothed by native plants.

Then, there is the fun that comes with the plants. For one thing, there is nothing like watching the same plants through the seasons. You learn what their youngest shoots look like, and what their fruits and seeds are like. You get to know how they are when the year has been good for them, and when their leaves fade if the year has been hard. And



Available at the plant sales: *Mimulus aurantiacus*, sticky monkey flower. Nancy Morin, Miner Hole Rd, Point Arena-Stornetta Lands.

our native plants provide shelter for little animals, nesting spots and foraging for birds, pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies and hummingbirds, all of which we get to watch because they are right outside our home.

Plants like coyote brush, which may seem to have little aesthetic value, not only add valuable texture to the garden but also are havens for many insects, which draw flocks of birds. It is so exciting to see dozens of bushtits and kinglets working over the coyote brush and the ceanothus. I love my wax myrtle for its bright color and spicy smell, but also because the yellow-rumped warblers play in it, almost doing cartwheels, and because bluebirds come to eat the berries.

There are many other DKY activities to look forward to this fall. The celebration in honor of rededicating the Charlotte M. Hoak Pygmy Forest on Saturday, September 10, will be festive. At meetings last year the Pygmy Forest Working Group identified public outreach as one of two things urgently needed to encourage conservation of this rare vegetation and we are deeply grateful to the Fort Bragg Garden Club for all they have done, and done so magnificently, in this regard. The other urgent need was an assessment of the pygmy forest so the powers that be would know where it occurs, and this, as you know, is underway.

We plan to have one or more talks and walks focused on the Gualala River floodplain so we can learn more about what is at stake in the current logging plan dispute. The group inventorying plants of the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument, UC Botanical Garden curator, Holly Forbes, and her student assistants, plan to make one more trip this year and it will be interesting to learn what is

still blooming. Their last foray turned up some interesting finds, including *Sparganium eurycarpum*, Sparganiaceae, an obligate wetland plant common in other parts of the U.S. and Canada but unusual in California and rarely seen on the north coast.

Conservation Update by Peter Baye

The lawsuit over the Dogwood Timber Harvest Plan is now in progress. The lawsuit (petition) was filed in Sonoma County Superior Court (case SCV 259216) by Friends of Gualala River and Forest Unlimited attorney Ed Yates just before CNPS had finalized its approval, but CNPS is still expected to join as co-plaintiff. The defendant is California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); Gualala Redwood Timber, LLC (GRT) is the real party in interest. Gualala Redwoods Timber immediately commenced logging when the two outstanding post-permit surveys - botanical and northern spotted owl - were submitted by GRT to California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

As soon as attorney Yates confirmed the logging was in progress, he moved to file a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to halt the logging, supported by expert declarations affirming irreversible significant harm to rare plants, wetlands, floodplain habitat, and redwood forest vegetation. Teresa Sholars and Prof. Will Russell of San Jose State University (whose areas of specialization include redwood forest ecology research) generously provided expert declarations, and Dr. Stuart Siegel, adjunct professor of Earth Sciences at San Francisco State University and National Estuarine Research Reserve climate resilience specialist, provided expert declarations on impairment of riparian forest wetlands and their functions. But before the TRO was filed, Gualala Redwood Timber's attorney proposed a voluntary court-enforced agreement to halt logging without the TRO, until the Preliminary Injunction hearing in mid-September.

The agreement allows GRT to haul and load logs already felled so they can be trucked to the mill, but allows no further logging (felling of redwoods). The agreement is in effect. About 7 (up to 11) truckloads redwoods from Dogwood THP were seen heading east on Skaggs Springs Road during one westbound drive. GRT appears to have moved in great haste to fell as many redwoods as possible in advance of a possible TRO. An expedited Preliminary Injunction hearing was granted for September 14, despite opposition from GRT. The Preliminary Injunction, if granted, will halt

further logging until the court rules on the CEQA and Forest Practices Act case.

Other CNPS chapters, including Marin and Milo Baker, are expressing interest in supporting DKY. **To donate to the DKY Legal Defense Fund**, mail checks payable to: DKY CNPS, P.O. Box 577, Gualala, CA 95445.

Mendocino College Coastal Field Station

by Steve Cardimona

The Mendocino College Coastal Field Station has been an integral part of the college



science faculty curricula for decades. The station belonged to the US Coast Guard from 1935 until 1980 when Mendocino College became the owners. A uniqueness of the site is that, by restricting general public access over the years in order to preserve the sensitive biological habitats, the biological systems have been generally protected from the kinds of trampling seen in adjacent areas.

Students in marine biology participate in activities at the field station that document the diversity of life in the intertidal zone, and the coastal prairie species on the marine terrace also show a wide diversity. Earth science students have studied the rock exposures and erosion, as well as the geologic structures and the tectonics of the area.

Challenges ahead include finding funds to continue to repair, renovate and remodel the old Coast Guard LORAN buildings. Over the years, the college has modified the garage and shop building into an education facility where students participate in class and laboratory activities. The houses have been modified to provide dorms for overnight stays, an important component for field work in rural Mendocino County. Educators and researchers from many places have utilized the field station because of the unique facility and location. [Editor's note: an important study that's ongoing is research by marine scientists

examining the collapse of the bull kelp forest in Northern California waters. A number of negative environmental impacts are thought to have contributed to the kelp forest die-off. <https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2016/03/30/perfect-storm-decimates-kelp/>

The college, with recent work funded by the National Science Foundation, is currently preparing a strategic planning document and developing ideas for maintenance and future use of this magnificent educational resource on the Mendocino County coast. In conjunction with researchers from UC Davis, a bioblitz for the field station's 15-acre coastal prairie is in the planning stage. For further information, or to express interest in volunteering in the upcoming biological assessment, please contact Steve Cardimona, 707 468-3219, scardimo@mendocino.edu.

News from Teresa Sholars

Mendocino College Herbarium. Teresa Sholars reports that Mendocino College administration members toured the herbarium at the Fort Bragg campus and they are very supportive about maintaining it. Digitizing the collection is still a high priority. **Pygmy Forest Vegetation mapping.** Teresa is working with CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife data analysts in Sacramento to help them understand subtleties in sampling terms: they thought "tall" and "short" pygmy forest species were the same. However, a 10" DBH tree that is 80 years old is qualitatively different from a 10" DBH tree that is five years old. Once the classifications are determined they can be ranked for conservation.

Pygmy Forest Photography

Contest Winners

by Peggy Martin

There were 30 photo entries from residents of Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and Albion in the contest, which challenged people to creatively capture a unique or common feature of the local Pygmy Forest. Photographers Ron LeValley and Ken Van Der Wende of The Mendocino Coast Photographer Guild and Gallery selected a winning photograph in six categories. In addition to the contest prizes of \$50 and a \$25 Harvest Market gift card, winning photographs will be on display at the Ford House Visitor Center and Museum, and included in the *Find the Magic! Rediscovering Our Pygmy Forest 2017* Calendar. Awards will be presented at 6:00 p.m. at the Ford House Open House, on Sept. 10. To view all the entries, go to <http://teachertrades.net/pygmy/>

Find the Magic! Rediscover Our Pygmy Forest - Photo Contest Winners



Close-up: Bear Grass by Joshua Lowell



Plant Life: *Pygmy Manzanita*
by Linda Lawley



Overall Winner: *Lichen River* by Sherrie Spires



Wildlife: *Butterfly Perched on Huckleberry Frond* by Patricia Marien



Natural Light: *Carnivorous*
by Molly Boynoff Klein



Scenic: *Hans Jenny Pygmy Forest* by Joshua Lowell

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



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

Next Board Meeting: For time and date of the next board meeting contact Nancy Morin at 882-2528, nancy.morin@nau.edu. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. **CALYPSO items:** Send articles and photos to Julia Larke, jlarke@mcn.org.



Potamogeton natans, floating pondweed, in calm waters of the same coastal prairie creek pictured at right. Julia Larke, June 2016.



Coastal prairie stream habitat at the Point Arena-Stornetta Lands. Jenny Richards, a botanist friend of Nancy Morin's visiting from Miami, took this photo in August 2016.