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The

CALYPSO

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

FALL PLANT SALES RETURN!!

October 29, 2022, at the Gualala Community Center November 5, 2022, at Town Hall in Fort Bragg 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day

We are so happy to offer Fall plant sales again. These dates are a little later than usual, but certainly still at the beginning of the best time to plant. We are refining the list of plants that will be on sale and are developing relationships with some nurseries that are new to us. The plants on sale will be a combination of familiar and new species. We'll have great books for sale and knowledgeable people on hand to answer questions. Proceeds from plant sales are our main source of program funding, but our primary objective is supporting more people planting more natives in their gardens. Planting and watching plants are the best ways to learn about them. Native plants bring year round joy, providing habitat and food for other wildlife.



If you are interested in helping with the plant sale, please contact me, president@dkycnps.org.







Dr. Jun Bando has been hired as the new Executive Director for the California Native Plant Society! Dr. Bando is an ecologist with a 20-year career spanning higher education, international diplomacy, and advocacy. Most recently, Dr. Bando served as the Senior Advisor for Strategy and Transformation at the California Council for Science and Technology (CCST). Prior to her work with CCST, Dr. Bando served as a special advisor and diplomat for the U.S. government, a lecturer at San Jose State University and the University of San Francisco, and consultant to the CSU Office of the Chancellor. She earned her PhD in Ecology at the University of California, Davis in 2005. She replaces Vince Scheidt, a San Diego-based environmental consultant, former CNPS board member, and long-time conservation advocate who served as the CNPS interim executive director during the organization's transition to new leadership. She starts on October 10, 2022.

President's column:



The announcement that Jun Bando had been hired as Executive Director of the CNPS State organization was made at the quarterly Chapter Council meeting on September 10 (I attended by zoom), which was held at Camp Pollock, on the

American River, hosted by the Sacramento Valley Chapter. This has been a long, careful search. Vince Scheidt, acting Executive Director during the interim, stabilized the organization then guided it through a time of rapid growth. The staff has grown tremendously as CNPS strategically takes advantage of major donations and increased federal and state funding aimed at conservation of biodiversity. Membership has grown from just under 9,500 members in July of 2018 to almost 12.000.

One of the new hires is Adam Searcy, Rare Plant Scientific Coordinator, who will work on the "Potential Species of Conservation Concern on National Forest Lands." As part of the forest plan revision process, the US Forest Service (USFS) is compiling a list of potential Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) for each forest. A Species of Conservation Concern is a species for which the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about its capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area. The USFS evaluates revised forest plans to determine if they provide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population of each Species of Conservation Concern. The Pacific Southwest Region

of the USFS entered into cost share agreements with CNPS in 2017 and 2019 to develop detailed reports (Profiles and Accounts) compiling the best available information for potential SCC on one or more of the six northwestern forests in California (including Mendocino, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, Lassen, and Modoc National Forests). Completed reports are at CNPS Rare Plant Inventory | SCC.

Much progress has been made on the Rare Plant Inventory, adding references for 40 species, microhabitat information and threat categories for many, and reviewing all the species for which more information was needed (rank 3).

Sam Young, Important Plant Areas Program Manager, reported that they are launching into their final round of modelling before releasing the Important Plant Areas map to the public. The models involve analyzing many different characteristics of any particular quadrant, including soils, vegetation cover, terrain, geology, and of course species occurrence. A new feature made available to us was the ability to see how well known (based on vouchers and observations) any particular area is. This is where our local issues of private property that has never been surveyed and general lack of collecting become obvious. On the south part of our chapter, documentation of plants along the Gualala Ridge is clearly lacking. I will work with our Rare Plant Chairs to develop a strategy for relocating historic collections and searching likely habitats for rare plants that have been reported in our chapter area.

Coastal Prairie Restoration for Behren's Silverspot Butterfly Extracted from the Fort Ross Website: https://www.fortross.org/viola-adunca

The Behren's silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene behrensii*, BSSB) was listed as a federally endangered species in 1997. Its distribution is coastal Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, from Manchester to the Russian River, and the largest known population is located near Point Arena. Initial surveys of this range from 2006 through 2018 identified critically low numbers of BSSB.

Behren's silverspot butterfly occupies early successional coastal terrace prairie/grassland habitat that contains its caterpillar's host plant, western early blue violet (*Viola adunca*), adult nectar sources, and suitable adult courtship areas. This habitat is strongly influenced by proximity to the ocean, with mild temperatures, moderate rainfall, and frequent summer fog. Factors such as soil and climatic conditions, salt-



Speyeria zerene behrensii, Behrens silverspot. Image Fort Ross Conservancy.

spray or mist, and disturbance regimes (such as fire) are believed to have historically contributed to maintaining low, open prairies within the subspecies' range by suppressing encroaching trees and shrubs.

Current threats to the *Viola* habitat include invasion by exotic vegetation (in particular non-native perennial grasses), natural succession, fire suppression and development. The number of *Viola* plants are currently insufficient to support a sustaining population of BSSB.

With the help from the <u>Disney Conservation Fund</u> (DCF), Florida University (FU), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Sonoma Mendocino Coast District of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) have expanded upon an existing project to improve coastal prairie habitat that specifically targets the expansion of the Viola adunca. DPR and USFW determined that restoration of native coastal prairie species and a reduction of other threats to the subspecies and its habitat is essential to maintain and grow their habitat. To this end, DPR has started implementing seasonal, short-term, rotational grazing and mowing techniques at Manchester State Park and added similar treatments at Salt Point State Park with the funding provided by the DCF.

Efforts to conserve the Oregon silverspot butterfly have included propagation and outplanting significant numbers of Violas, which led to an increase in this population. A lack of nectar plants has also been implicated as a limiting factor for the adult life stage. Therefore, DPR will be planting 5,000-10,000 Viola and 372 nectar plants within the treatment areas.

The ultimate goal of this work is to increase BSSB populations at these sites by reducing competition and thatch from non-native grasses, thereby increasing Viola numbers.

Viola Adunca

Commonly referred to as the early blue violet, hookedspur violet, or western dog violet, this is a low growing plant (2-4 inches tall), with heart shaped leaves, and pansy-like bluish-violet flowers that hang at the tips of their slender stalks, is a California native. The leaves and flowers are edible, with high levels of vitamins A and C. However, the rhizomes, fruit, and seeds are poisonous to humans and can cause an upset stomach, intestinal problems, and respiratory and circulatory depression. It does best on upland restoration sites where competition from invasive plants and grassy thatch are kept to a minimum.



Viola adunca, photo J. Larke.

And in Other Butterfly News...

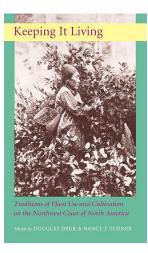


Diane Hichwa asks that you please report any monarch butterflies seen in the Mendonoma area. Let her know how many. And, if you know, what plants they are nectaring on. There will be an official Thanksgiving Count and a New Years count as we watch by then for overwintering. It is great if you can report your sighting on iNaturalist (iNaturalist.org) since that gets it officially on record. If you are willing to keep the records of monarch sightings, or help with the counts later in the Fall, please let us know: dhichwa@earthlink.net.



Keeping it Living: Traditions of Plant Use and Cultivation on the Northwest Coast of North America. A series of articles edited by Douglas Deur and Nancy J. Turner present the story of traditional plant cultivation practices that challenge the perception that peoples of the Northcoast were noncultivators. Included is an article about estuarine root gardens of Pacific silverweed, Potentilla anserina, and springbank clover, Trifolium wormskjoldii, two highly valued root plants found locally. Available at the Mendocino County https://www.mendolibrary.org/ --recommended by Julia Larke.

Have a book you like? Send information about it and why you like it to editor@dkycnps.org.

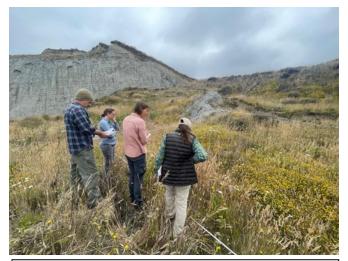


Training to Assess North Coast Sensitive Plant Communities

--Claudia Voigt, Sara Bandali, Dominic DiPaolo~North Coast Vegetation team

In late July, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Vegetation Program held a 4-day sensitive plant community training and calibration along the North Coast. Together a total of 36 participants, CNPS Chapter members (from Dorothy King Young, North Coast, & Sanhedrin), California Department of Parks & Recreation (CDPR) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, and other local partners reviewed the vegetation sampling procedure for the fine-scale vegetation mapping project of the North Coast and North Coast Ranges ecoregions. Our field training focused on sampling sensitive plant communities. Sensitive plant communities in California are natural communities that are of limited distribution statewide (with ranks of S1 to S3) and are vulnerable to environmental effects of land use changes and/or other threats. See this page under the Sensitive Natural Communities heading online for more information.

During the training, participants visited a range of landscapes at Lanphere Dunes, Trinidad's Elkhead, the Lost Coast Headlands, Ocean Ranch at Table Bluff, and Humboldt Lagoons State Parks' Dry Lagoon.



Teresa, Claudia, Andy, and Jennifer assessing the plant species within a diverse vegetation plot along a coastal prairie. Image: Sara Bandali.



Ashley, Hank, Tony, Barbara, Sara, Claudia, Dominic and Britney assessing a plot of Dune Mat (<u>Abronia latifolia - Calystegia soldanella - Lathyrus littoralis association</u>) at Dry Lagoon within Humboldt Lagoon State Park. Image: Renee Pasquinelli

Participants observed a variety of natural

communities from coastal scrub, riparian forests, coastal prairie, dune forest, and dune mat to salt marsh flats. Vegetation data were collected using the survey methods described in CNPS' Rapid Assessment, Relevé, and Reconnaissance <u>protocols</u>. Participants documented at least 12 different <u>alliances</u>, and completed an impressive total of 16 surveys during the training event! One alliance we saw at Lanphere Dunes was a Beach pine woodland (*Pinus contorta* ssp. *contorta* Forest & Woodland Alliance). The data collected at this training

will be compiled with other data being collected across the North Coast and in 2023 and 2024 will be analyzed to produce a fine-scale vegetation map of the region. It will provide managers with information that will help with conservation decisions for these sensitive vegetation types.

A big thanks to everyone who came out and contributed their time and expertise! We look forward to exploring more sensitive communities together with you and collecting much needed data this year and beyond!



Sara Bandalli, CNPS Barbara Rice Intern.

Mill Bend Conservation Plan Completed

--Nancy Morin

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy introduced the Mendonoma community to its Mill Bend Preserve Conservation Plan on September 17, 2022, at the Gualala Arts Center. The event included presentations, displays, and tours of the site. I was not able to attend, but I was on the Stakeholder Sounding Group, people who were invited to provide input as the plan developed. The plan itself is comprehensive, addressing the current status of every aspect of the site, recommending strategies to restore highly degraded areas, and proposing development that facilitates use by visitors while protecting the natural areas.

https://www.rclc.org/mill-bend-conservation/

The Mill Bend Preserve property is 113 acres with land on both sides of the Gualala River and its estuary. It was purchased by Redwood Coast Land Conservancy in 2021 with funding from California State Coastal Conservancy, California Natural Resources Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as many local organizations and individuals. Acquisition of the property actually began in 2019, facilitated by the Allemall Foundation, so this has been a multi-year effort. Kathleen Chasey, RCLC Board Member, was successful in getting grants and developing partnerships to fund the project. She also did the background work necessary to start the planning effort. Dave Shpak became Project Manager in December, 2020. He coordinated with the RCLC Board, multiple government agencies, community advisory groups, and Prunuske Chatham Inc. to develop the plan, which was funded by a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. Information about it will be available on the RCLC website. The introduction to the plan abstract says. "The Preserve is now protected in perpetuity and available to support the ecological functions of and human connections to this landscape."

DKY member Peter Warner did a vegetation and floristic assessment, and Jon Thompson, also DKY, did a floristic survey of the lower Mill Bend area. Julia Larke worked with Jon on part of his plant survey. This is a topographically and biologically diverse area. West of Highway 1 are coastal wetlands, riparian, and upland habitats. During summer and fall the Gualala River mouth is usually closed and a freshwater to brackish lagoon forms. Most of the woody vegetation has been cut at some point in the site's history; timber cutting began in 1864 and continued as a commercial endeavor until

1963, continuing to some degree until 2010. Plant communities on the site include Redwood Forest, Bishop Pine Forest, Alder Forest, Coyote Brush Scrub, Willow Thickets and Gravel Bars, Emergent Marsh, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Beds, and Grassland. Each has its own challenges, although "manage invasive species" appears for each. A team of volunteers has frequent work parties to remove weeds from the site, and the improvement is apparent. Compared with other forests on the coast, the Bishop Pine stands at Mill Bend are quite healthy. They appear to be 60 years old or younger and do not show signs of disease yet. In the Coyote Brush Scrub, which is often in disturbed areas, there are small stands of Point Reves ceanothus. Ceanothus gloriosus var. gloriosus (CNPS 4.3), and coastal bluff morning glory, Calystegia purpurata subsp. saxicola (CNPS 1B.2). Coastal bluff scrub occurs on steep and rocky terrain adjacent to the Coyote Scrub. Peter Baye reported patches of wigeongrass (Ruppia cirrhosa) and sago pondweed (Stuckenia pectinata) in 2017 (Calypso July-August 2017) in the submerged aquatic vegetation along the estuary, both adapted to the variable fresh to brackish conditions and sandy, gravelly substrates of this estuary. Julia Larke found Ruppia on her gravel bar exploration this year. Most of the grassland has non-native species, but there are scattered plants of California oatgrass (Danthonia californica), and small patches of purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra). Swamp harebell (Eastwoodiella californica, CRPR 1B.2) and fringed cornlily (Veratrum fimbriatum. CRPR 4.3) were also found.

The Conservation Plan outlines steps for restoration and protection of each of the plant communities and species of conservation concern. Volunteer teams continue to remove non-native plants and improve the habitats, and a hardy group of volunteers continues to search for and document the plants. So far, about 180 species of native plants had been documented on the site!



Mill Bend Preserve. Image Prunuske Chatham, Inc.

Gravel bar explorations at Mill Bend Preserve

--Julia Larke

The recent heat wave drove me to the river where I discovered the pleasures of botanizing gravel bars and riverine pools at Mill Bend Preserve in Gualala. It is wonderful that this priceless estuary of such vital importance to so many wildlife species has been preserved through the dedication of the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy as well as by the outpouring of community support and funding that resultedn in the Conservancy's acquisition of the land. I am one of a vegetation monitoring group at Mill Bend led by Cheryl Harris and including Laura Baker, Mary Hunter, Nicole Forte, and Joaquin Jacobs, environmental caretaker at Mill Bend. The group has been documenting plant communities on the Preserve and just recently the focus is on the estuary.

Looking out as you cross the Gualala River Bridge at this time of year, the river's gravel bars appear to be flat, barren expanses of cobblestones and smaller pebbles lying adjacent to the reduced flow of the main course of the river as it fans out at the Mill Bend estuary, the interface zone between river and sea. Wearing water sandals, I waded in pools along the river's edge and crossed to the gravel bar that I assumed would be essentially bare of vegetation. However, up close I found numerous occurrences of tall flatsedge, *Cyperus eragrostis*, a native species, along with non-natives, pennyroyal, *Mentha pulegium*, prostrate knotweed, *Polygonum aviculare*, and rabbitfoot grass, *Polypogon monspeliensis*. Plants of the gravel strand are hardy colonizers adapted to conditions of flooding and drying out with little available soil to provide nutrients. It comes as no surprise that many of these same genera that are introduced here are found on gravel bars in Europe as natives; their tolerance of a wide range of environmenal conditions is a trait that allows them to successfully compete in new habitats.



Frogfruit, also called turkey tanglefoot, *Phyla nodiflora*, is adapted to the harsh conditions of a gravel bar. J. Larke photo.

I was pleased to discover two species not commonly seen in this area. *Phyla nodiflora*, frogfruit or turkey tanglefoot, is a small perennial in the Verbenaceae that occurs in North America and beyond in warm temperate and tropic climates. Some believe that it may be naturalized in parts of its range but most sources still list it as a native. Though usually less than 15 cm in height (just a few inches tall), this small perennial attracts numerous insect pollinators and is a larval host for

several butterflies, including the Buckeye.

Mimetanthe pilosa, downy monkey flower or snouted monkey flower, is monotypic, meaning it is the only species in the genus. Though soft and fuzzy looking, Mimetanthe has

gland-tipped hairs that make it faintly sticky and give it a not so sweet scent. I still find it appealing. A member of the Phrymaceae found in western United States and in Baja California, it is an annual 10 cm to ~35 cm, a little over a foot tall, and it occurs in moist sandy streambeds and washes.

I checked the California Consortium of Herbaria CCH2 https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/ and there are relatively few coastal collections for these two plants. This may mean that they have been underreported for this area.

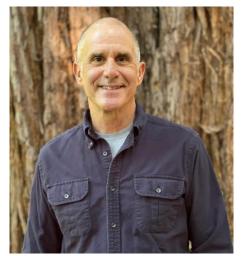


Mimetanthe pilosa, photo J. Larke.

The rise in use of digital observations via Calflora and iNaturalist is definitely increasing awareness of species and their locations. And, it is so quick. Making a plant collection and placing it in a herbarium such as the one at Mendocino College's Coast Center Campus in Fort Bragg continues to provide the most tangible species identification and location information. The California Consortium of Herbaria (CCH) is an invaluable resource. https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/

I also examined aquatic plants in the brackish waters of the estuary and can report on them in a future article. Closing on a serious note, here is the Environmental Protection Agency's recent announcement about estuaries dated July 5, 2022: *Climate changes including rising sea levels, altered rain patterns, drought, and ocean acidification threaten to degrade estuaries.* At least the estuary preserve at Mill Bend is in good hands for the land management efforts that will be needed to address these alarming environmental predictions. https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/climate-adaptation-and-estuaries.

And in other Redwood Coast Land Conservancy news...



Redwood Coast Land Conservancy announced that Jim Elias would step into the role of Executive Director on September 6. Founded 30 years ago, RCLC's mission is to protect and restore the natural habitats of Southern Mendocino and Northern Sonoma Counties and to connect people to those landscapes.

With the 2021 acquisition of Mill Bend Preserve—the southern gateway to coastal Mendocino County—Board of Directors President John Walton described the organization as now needing professional staff. "RCLC has always relied heavily on its board members and local volunteers to achieve its goals. However, the workload has simply outgrown us." Mr. Elias has devoted his professional life to leading nonprofit organizations dedicated to natural resource conservation and community development objectives. His work spearheaded acquisition initiatives that permanently protected more than 60,000 acres of natural, recreational, and agricultural landscapes in the Sierra, Rocky Mountains,

and Intermountain West. "Impactful and lasting conservation is always a shared effort. I'm honored to join RCLC's committed team toward preserving our coastal lands and providing new points of public access," Elias said. "On a personal note, my family and I have deep roots in the North Bay. You can often find us in the ocean, on a river, or wandering the back roads of the Coast Range by bike. I'm eager to get started."

Preliminary list of Plants for 2022 Plant Sale

Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Ceanothus gloriosus v. gloriosus glory mat	
Actaea rubra	western baneberry	'Anchor Bay'	
Alnus rubra	red alder	Ceanothus thyrsiflorus	blueblossom
Angelica hendersonii	Henderson's angelica	Chamerion (Epilobium) fireweed	fireweed
Apocynum cannabinum	Dogbane	angustifolium	
Aquilegia formosa	Columbine	Clarkia concinna	red ribbons
Aralia californica	Spikenard	Clarkia amoena	farewell to spring
Arctostaphylos columbiana	Columbia manzanita	Corylus cornuta subsp.	hazelnut
Arctostaphylos Emerald Carpet		californica	
Arctostaphylos nummularia	pygmy manzanita	Deschampsia caespitosa holciformis	coastal tufted hair grass
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	bear berry		Double was alle bases als se
A material and a survival and a		Dicentra formosa	Dutchman's breeches
Arctostaphylos x media		Diplacus (Mimulus) aurantiacus	bush monkeyflower
Armeria maritima	sea pink	Diplacus aurantiacus	sticky monkeyflower
Artemesia douglasiana	California mugwort	Epilobium canum 'Matole California fuchsia Select'	
Artemisia californica	coastal sage brush		
Asarum caudatum	wild ginger	Erigeron glauca	seaside daisy
Calycanthus occidentalis	spice bush	Eriogonum latifolium coast buckwheat	
Carpenteria californica	tree anemone	Eriogonum nudum	naked buckwheat
-		Eriophyllum lanatum	woolly sunflower

Erysimum menziesii concinum	wallflower		
Erythranthe cardinalis	cardinal monkey flower	Rhododendron occidentale	western azalea
Eschscholzia californica	coast poppy	Ribes sanguineum	pink flowering currant
maritima		Rubus parviflorus	thimbleberry
Fragaria chiloensis	beach strawberry	Rubus spectabilis	salmonberry
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	Salvia spathacea	hummingbird sage
Garrya elliptica	silk tassel	Satureja douglasii	yerba buena
Grindelia stricta var. platyphylla	gum plant	Scrophularia californica	bee balm
Heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon	Sidalcea malviflora	checkerbloom
Heterotheca sessiliflora	golden aster	Silene laciniata	cardinal catchfly
Holodiscus discolor	cream bush	Sisyrinchium bellum	blue-eyed grass
Hosackia gracilis	Persian carpet	Stachys chamissonis	tall hedge nettle
Iris douglasiana	Douglas iris	Symphiotrichum (Aster) chilense	California aster
Limnanthes douglasii	Douglas meadowfoam	Tellima grandiflora	fringe cups
Lonicera involucrata	twinberry	Tiarella trifoliata	sugar scoop
Maianthemum dilatum	false lily of the valley	Tolmeia menziesii	piggyback plant
Maianthemum stellatum	false Solomon's seal	Vancouveria hexandra	northern vancouveria
Monardella villosa	coyote mint	Viola adunca	western dog violet
Morella californica	wax myrtle	Vitis californica	California grape
Nemophila menziesii	baby blue eyes	This canjornica	camorina Stape
Oxalis oregana	redwood sorrel	MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER Membership in the California Native Plant Society is open to	
Phacelia bolanderi	Bolander's phacelia		
Phacelia californica	California phacelia		

DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER OFFICERS 2022

ninebark

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Physocarpus capitata

president@dkycnps.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Katy Pye vicepresident@dkycnps.org

SECRETARY: Katy Pye (temp)
TREASURER: Nancy Morin (temp)

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Area code is 707 unless otherwise indicated

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			
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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

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 \$500

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 \$1,000

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Make check to: California Native Plant Society & mail to: Bob Rutemoeller, Membership Committee

DKY Chapter, CNPS PO Box 577

Gualala, CA 95445

Next Board Meeting: contact Nancy Morin at president@dkycnps.org. All members are welcome to attend meetings. Calypso newsletter: please send items to

editor@dkycnps.org. If you choose to receive the emailed pdf version of the newsletter, contact Bob Rutemoeller at 884-4426 or brutem@mcn.org. View issues of Calypso at www.dkycnps.org.