



Redbud Review

Newsletter of the Redbud Chapter—Nevada and Placer Counties
California Native Plant Society

www.redbud-cnps.org

Spring 2015

Field Trips

All of our field trips are free, and are open to non-members as well as members. Unless stated otherwise, we walk slowly, identifying and appreciating the plants as we go. Children are always warmly welcome, but dogs are not. (Service dogs are an exception!)

To allow for more flexibility around changing weather, and spontaneity, many of our field trips are not included in this newsletter, but will be advertised on our Web Page (www.redbud-cnps.org/) and our Yahoo Listserv. To join our listserv, please go to our Web Page and click on “YAHOO! Groups Join Now!” on the left side of the page. You’ll receive an email one or two weeks prior to each trip. You can also check our Facebook page (Redbud Chapter—California Native Plant Society).

Always bring water, and lunch/snack, hand lens, wildflower book, and sun protection and/or rain gear as needed. Most trips are led by more than one botanist.

Wildflowers on South Yuba Trail from Edward’s Crossing

Saturday, April 4, 2015, 9 AM to 1 PM

Meet at the Full Circle Demonstration Garden in the Rood Center.

Leader: Roger McGehee.

Description: This trail always provides a spectacular and diverse wildflower display! We will park on the south side of the Edwards Crossing bridge and walk a mile or so downstream on the South Yuba Trail. This trail is fairly gentle, and provides nice views of the river in addition to the wildflowers. Meet at the Full Circle Demonstration Garden in the Rood Center on Highway 49 in Nevada City at 9 AM. We will then carpool down to the river and return to the Rood Center by 1 PM. This trip will not be cancelled by rain, but it WILL be cancelled by a prediction of snow below the 3000 foot level. I will be selling our books at member rates at the trailhead. If you wish to buy our Wildflower book, bring a check made out to Redbud Chapter for \$27.61. If you wish to buy our Trees & Shrubs book, bring a check made out to Redbud Chapter for \$32.24.

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Evening Programs

The Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is pleased to announce our community education “Passion for (Native) Plants Lecture Series” for 2015, FREE to members and non-members alike.

We offer our community an excellent lecture every other month throughout the year, alternating between the Auburn/Placer Co Library and the Nevada County Library. So, mark your calendars to reserve the fourth Wednesdays in June, August and October to mingle with fellow native plant enthusiasts, hear from speakers who are passionate about our natives and eager to share their expertise with you. **Further details are on the back page of this newsletter.**

We will alternate lectures between the Madeline Helling Library in Nevada City and the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St., Auburn.

April 24 (Please note date change 🐸):

Symphony of the Soil is a film that reveals the wondrous interdependence and interplay of microal organisms and flora. Discussion to follow with fungi expert!

June 24: *A Special Relationship.* Oh, the wonders! Please come to know our dear and specialized **horny toads** (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) that dwell in the hostile environment of California’s serpentine soils.

August 26: *A Visit to the California Prairie*— a habitat so unappreciated, rare and extraordinary that you must come to hear our U. C. Davis scholar describe it!

October 28: *Creating Bird-Friendly Landscapes*—a slide-based talk that gives you the information you need to attract and support wild birds into your gardens and properties. Includes descriptions of the the varied habitats and essential elements that create benefits for the wide variety of wild birds in our Sierra foothill region. Many photos illustrate bird species, behaviors, and habitat requirements, as well as the best California native plants for creating bird-friendly landscapes. Also, there will be handouts with an outline of all this for you to use!

For more information, visit our web site or call Leslie Warren, our Program Chair at (530) 878-0738 🐸

Field Trips (continued from page 1)

Codfish Falls

Thursday, April 16

Leader: Diane Cornwall

Codfish Falls Trail: North Fork of the American River, Ponderosa Way, Placer County

Meeting Time and Location: Meeting in Cool at the Holiday Market at the intersection of 49 and 193 at 8:30am and at the Raley's Parking lot, 13384 Lincoln Way in Auburn at 9:00am.

Duration: 4 to 5 hours

Description: This trail provides excellent views of the river and ends at an impressive 40 foot waterfall. In this riparian woodlands ecosystem there are many species that will be in bloom. A fuller description of this trail is in the book, American River Canyon Hikes by Jim Ferris, Michael Lynch and Sheila Toner.

Level of Difficulty: Easy, but trail narrows at times with steep drop-offs to the river.

Bring: Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, lunch and sturdy shoes and hand lens(optional). Plant list will be provided.

Contact: Diane Cornwall dancingwildflowers@me.com
(530) 888-1404.

Steven's Trail

Saturday, April 25

Leader: Diane Cornwall

Stevens Trail: North Canyon Way in Colfax

Meeting Time and Location: 8:30am at Holiday Parking Lot, intersection of 49 and 193 in Cool, or 9:00am at Raley's, 13384 Lincoln Way in Auburn, or at the trailhead at 9:30am.

Duration: 6 hours

Description: It is 3.2 miles to the river and about one and one half hours down and 3 hours back up with over 1000 feet change in elevation. The wildflower displays are very beautiful with many colors and species. Beautiful views of the North Fork of the American River are around very bend. A full description of the trail can be found in the American River Canyon Hikes by Jim Ferris, Michael Lynch, and Sheila Toner.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate up and down, narrow in places and some steep drop-offs.

Bring: Water, lunch, bug spray, hat, sunscreen and sturdy shoes. Hand lens is a good option. Plant list is available.

Contact: Diane Cornwall, dancingwildflowers@me.com,
(530) 888-1404

Rare Plants of the Chaparral, Nevada County

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 10 AM to 12 PM

Meet at the Nevada County Animal Shelter.

Leaders: Denise Della Santina and Karen Callahan.

The endangered Stebbins' Morning-glory, *Calystegia stebbinsii*, grows in just two places in the world—the Pine Hill Preserve in El Dorado County and south of Grass Valley near McCourtney Road. By the beginning of May the Morning-glory plants will be in bloom surrounded by groves of McNab Cypress and chaparral shrubs such as Fremont Silk Tassel, Lemmon's Ceanothus, and Semota White Oak. We'll get acquainted with the Chaparral Sedge and the wildflowers that thrive on serpentine and gabbro soils. Bring water/snacks/sun protection. Level and easy.

To get there: from the Nevada County Fairgrounds, take McCourtney Road south for 3.5 miles to the Sammie's Friends parking lot at 14647 McCourtney Road. The Animal Shelter is operated by the non-profit group "Sammie's Friends". The entrance is on the left just before the county's transfer station/landfill. If you miss the turn continue on for a short distance toward the transfer station where there is space to turn around. Meet at 10 AM at the parking lot for the Shelter.

Clementine Trail

Saturday, May 30

Leader: Diane Cornwall

Lake Clementine Trail, North Fork American River, Placer County, Auburn SRA

Meeting Time and Location: We will carpool from the Holiday Market at the intersection of 49 and 193 in Cool at 8:30am and the Raley's parking lot, 13384 Lincoln Way in Auburn at 9:00am. You can also arrange to meet us at the trailhead. There is a fee for parking at the trailhead.

Duration: 3 hours

Description: We will be looking for the blooms of the Oval-Leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*) which only blooms for two weeks. There should be many other wildflowers along the trail. The hike begins at the far side of the Old Foresthill Bridge and we will go 1.9 miles to near the dam face waterfall at Lake Clementine.

Level of Difficulty: Easy, except for areas where trail narrows due to washouts.

Bring: Water, snacks, bug spray, hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. A hand lens is optional. Plant lists are available.

Contact: Diane Cornwall at dancingwildflowers@me.com
(530) 888-1404

Drum Powerhouse Road, Dutch Flat, Placer County.

Sunday, May 31, 2015

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

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Field Trips (continued from page 1)

Meet at Monte Vista Inn parking lot.

Leaders: Jeanne Wilson, Joe Riley and Karen Callahan.

Description: The rock gardens and mossy seeps along the Drum Powerhouse Road are home to Leopard Lilies, Pacific Sedum, Bleeding Hearts, Stream Orchids, and a wonderful diversity of flowering shrubs. The paved 6-mile-long road ends at the Powerhouse and usually has little traffic. Our group will park at turnouts and walk along segments of the mostly level road that overlooks the forest-covered Bear River canyon. Redbud member, Jeanne Wilson, has created a fantastic Web site with photographs of dozens of plant species found along the road. The address is: http://www.marable-family.net/DutchFlatWildflowers_db/. The road cut exposes interesting rock formations. Geologist, Joe Riley, will be on hand to help us recognize the oldest rocks in the Sierra Nevada (the Shoo Fly Complex) and the massive serpentine rock outcrops next to the road. Bring water/ snacks/sun protection. The going is level and easy.

Due to limited parking, reservations are required to limit the number of people on this trip to 15. Please send your reservation to Karen's email: penstemon@nccn.net or call her at 530-272-5532. Also, note that this field trip is not suitable for children younger than 12 years. The road presents hazards for children. There is a steep drop off from the road plus loose overhead rocks in many places.

To get there: Take the Monte Vista-Dutch Flat exit from I-80 and go north of the freeway on Ridge Road. We will meet at the Monte Vista Inn parking lot just north of I-80 at 9:30 AM. If you miss the group, or are the driver, continue on Ridge Road. At the sign to Dutch Flat, go left onto Sacramento Street, cross the railroad tracks, and continue through the historic village of Dutch Flat. Go right onto Main Street and onward several miles to Nary Red Road on the left. Look for the Drum Powerhouse Road turnoff on the left. Once on Drum Powerhouse, travel a few miles past the homes to the beginning of the open area.

Yuba Gap

Saturday, June 6, 2015

10 AM to 1 PM

Meet at Yuba Gap.

Leader: Roger McGehee

Description: This area tends to have an early bloom for its elevation. It is also quite varied, with rock outcroppings, meadows, and forests. Last year at this time we found an abundance of wildflowers even though it was a drought year! Hopefully it will provide a good bloom this year as well. I suggest that you bring snacks, water, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, and rain gear in case we get hit by a thunderstorm. This trip will last about 3 hours.

From Auburn or Colfax, take I-80 East, exit Yuba Gap, turn right onto Lake Valley Road, drive about 100 yards and park

on the dirt pull-out. Look for my bright red SmartCar...

From Nevada City, take Highway 20 to I-80, then head west, toward Sacramento. Then take the Yuba Gap exit, turn left onto Lake Valley Road, drive about 200 yards and park on the dirt pull-out. Look for my bright red SmartCar...

If you wish to provide or join a car-pool, please email me at rogm@sbcglobal.net with the town in which you live and I will share your email address with others in your area so that you can contact each other. (I have room for one person, first-come-first-served, Nevada City only...)

I will be selling our books at member rates. If you wish to buy our Wildflower book, bring a check made out to Redbud Chapter for \$27.61. If you wish to buy our Trees & Shrubs book, bring a check made out to Redbud Chapter for \$32.24.

Trees & Shrubs Walk

Sunday, June 14, 2015

9 AM to 3 PM

Meet at the Full Circle Demonstration Garden at the Rood Center on Highway 49 in Nevada City.

Leader: Roger McGehee

Description: We will carpool up to the parking area for the South Yuba Trail at the South Yuba Campground on North Bloomfield Road between Edward's Crossing and Malakoff Diggins. We will start off in a grove of Knobcone Pines, cross a creek beside a small waterfall, traverse a forest, and head down toward the river on an exposed slope with lots of good views of the river canyon below. This trail is known for its diversity of trees and shrubs, as well as wildflowers. Bring snacks, water, sunscreen, and your Trees & Shrubs book. I will be selling our books at member rates at the trailhead. If you wish to buy our Wildflower book, bring a check made out to Redbud Chapter for \$27.61. If you wish to buy our Trees & Shrubs book, bring a check made out to Redbud Chapter for \$32.24.

If rain is predicted, bring rain gear and we will leave our books in the car and just enjoy hiking in the rain!

Other trips: Don't forget to check our Website or Facebook page, or sign up for our Yahoo Listserv for additional field trips!

Want to Share your Knowledge about Native Plants?

The docent program run by the State Park at Bridgeport is looking for people who can describe the plants they see at the visitor center and on walks through the park. Don't be shy, they provide training and support, and you'll soon be in the swing of things. Contact Mark Wetherbee to find out the date of the next training session. And if you know something about birds, or local cultures as well, as many of you do, so much the better. Bridgeport is one of the top ten wildflower sites in the state, so this is a great chance to educate folks about our beautiful native plants.

President's Note

Greetings and Happy Spring! As usual the Redbud Chapter has been buzzing around like busy little bees and flutter-bys. Here are a few of the flowers we have been pollinating...

In addition to the great accomplishment of publishing "Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer Counties", Redbud has supported Sierra Streams Institute in providing nature journaling and hands-on botany for Yuba River Charter School students; provided funding for the Auburn SRA native plant garden; assisted with genetic studies on Fremontodron; led a Scotch Broom Challenge for the 7th year at Hells Half Acre; and continues to offer native plant walks and a lecture series in both counties. Thank you all for your help in these endeavors!

The new Redbud Chapter *Karen Callahan Annual Research Scholarship* was awarded to two PhD students studying native plants within our Counties. California's ongoing drought and the consequences of climate change will undoubtedly have a strong influence on California's native plant populations. **John Mola** is studying *Penstemon rydbergii*, its habitats, and associated pollinators, to determine if forests can serve as microclimate refugia for native mountain meadow plants. **Sandra Namoff** is studying *Calystegia stebbinsii* genetics to understand how populations of this endangered species in Placer and Nevada County are responding to habitat threats and environmental variation. Your Redbud Chapter is actively working with Nevada County to protect and manage this plant population at the McCourtney Road transfer station. Please, join us on the May 3rd field trip to learn more! Results of these studies will help guide conservation and management of native plants within the context of ongoing threats.

It was a difficult decision, but Redbud has decided not to hold a Spring Native Plant Sale this year. The drought really has cemented the fact that **Fall is the best time for planting**. We hope to see you at our Fall sale. We plan to provide more educational booths and activities to make this an event for the whole family. Do you have native plants or goods to sell, gardening strategies, activities or information to share? Please contact us so we can start the planning early. We can include appropriate information in the next newsletter, to be published before the sale.

Our Board members and the small handful of active volunteers have full plates with the aforementioned activities, and more, and we can use your help! Most urgently we need someone to help with our membership. This is an important role and one that can fit well into various personal schedules. We are also still looking for help with publicity, the website, invasive plants, restoration, and conservation. Please, if you can, step forward! Many, many sincere thank-yous to Joan Jernegan, Brad Carter, Carl Wishner, and Karen Weise for all the time and effort you have given to our Redbud chapter over the years! And now, please welcome Jeanne Wilson, Julie Becker and Susan Chalpin to the Board! Cheers to you all!

Denise Della Santina 🌸

State CNPS 2015 Workshops

Registration: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

March 24-25: Rare Plant Survey Protocols: A Scientific Approach

Location: Borges Ranch, Walnut Creek
Instructors: Heath Bartosh & Aaron Sims

March 26: CNDDDB (California Natural Diversity Database) & BIOS (Biotogeographic Information & Observation System) training

Location: CDFW Office of Training & Development, Sacramento
Instructor: Roxanne Bittman

April 21-23: Measuring & Monitoring Plant Populations

Location: Sierra Foothills Research & Extension Center, Browns Valley
Instructor: John Willoughby

May 6-7: Introduction to Plant Family Identification

Location: Center for Earth Concerns, Taft Gardens, Ojai
Instructor: David Magney

June 3-5: Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Releve

Location: El Portal Community Center, Yosemite National Park
Instructors: Jennifer Buck-Diaz (others TBD)

July 6-8: Introduction to Plant Family Identification

Location: Sagehen Field Station, Truckee
Instructor: David Magney

TBD: Vegetation Mapping

Location: Sacramento Area
Instructors: Julie Evens, Todd Keeler Wolf (others TBD)

Mid/Late October: Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé

Location: Redding Area
Instructors: Julie Evens, Jennifer Buck-Diaz

Nov 4-5: CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Impact Assessment

Location: Ventura Area
Instructor: David Magney

Questions? Contact: Becky Reilly, Education Program Director, California Native Plant Society
2707 K St, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113
(916) 447-2677 ext 205
breilly@cnps.org 🌸

Deadline for Articles

Do you want to share your particular knowledge about native plants with fellow members? Or maybe you want to start a plant photography techniques group, or have ideas about how to expand membership of Redbud in our community. Whatever the subject, plan to have your article ready by July 21st. Don't worry about picky things like style, that's the editor's job. Go for it! 🌸

Our Trees & Shrubs Book is Up and Running

Our chapter's new *Trees & Shrubs* book, released in November, has already garnered rave reviews from members, store owners and newspaper columns as well—and it's not just sweet talk. The reviews are well-deserved.

"Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer Counties, California" is an exquisite 529-page guidebook offering descriptions and photographs of every native tree, shrub or woody vine known to grow in our two-county region—a region gifted with amazing plant diversity due to its variation in elevation, rising from valley grasslands, up through foothills, meadows and conifer forests all the way to the eastern side of the Sierra.

Of course the gorgeous color photographs, over 700 of them, are the most obvious feature of the book. Not just basic shots of individual trees and shrubs, but detailed close-ups showing prominent aspects of each species. Could be leaves, fruit, berries, buds, flowers, seeds, nuts, bark or catkins, all-in—all making it easy to get acquainted.

There are over 200 species described in the book—all arranged by family. A full 70 pages are devoted to the Rose Family (Rosaceae) which includes raspberries, cherries, plums, Toyon, serviceberries, mahogany and hawthorn. The 30-page Buckthorn Family (*Rhamnaceae*) focuses on a wide range of Ceanothus species, varying from groundcovers to tall shrubs, but the family also includes coffeeberries and Hollyleaf Redberry.

No matter the size of the family, every species in the book is allotted at least a two-page spread. The Sweet-shrub or Calycanthus Family (*Calycanthaceae*) only lists one species—the familiar Western Spicebush. Same is true of the Grape Family (*Vitaceae*) which only lists the California Wild Grape. Still, each gets its full two pages. No species gets short shrift.

In its presentation, the book strikes a healthy balance, rendering it suitable for knowledgeable plant enthusiasts as well as casual outdoor strollers. The more learned readers will be likely to study the taxonomy and habitat notes. And they will definitely appreciate the authors who took the time to sort through the maze of species in the Willow Family (*Salicaceae*), even providing a seven-page key to native willows, zoning in on bud types along with leaf blade sizes, lengths and surfaces.

On the other hand, less serious readers might just want to know the difference between a pine, a cedar and a fir. Or finally be able to understand the familiar shape of all flowers in the Pea family (*Fabaceae*) with their banners, wings and keels.

But regardless of expertise, I imagine everyone will enjoy the numerous botanical anecdotes sprinkled throughout the book. Under the heading of *'Did You Know ...?'*, readers can learn about beetle pollination, gene banks,

plant communication, exploding seeds, conifer design, promiscuous oaks, elderberry cordials, fire blight, landing strips for butterflies and more. Tempting tidbits indeed!

But if all this isn't enough, rounding out the book at the end are three more special features: *'Places to See Trees and Shrubs in Nevada and Placer Counties'*, describing a number of trails and preserves; some fascinating pages exploring the development of galls; and a comprehensive glossary of botanical terms. The whole book is rich with information.

Now having lavished so much praise on the book itself, something our chapter can deservedly point to with pride, we cannot forget to acknowledge the dedicated group of plant enthusiasts and photographers who actually created this treasure. We acknowledge the splendid work of the Editorial Review Committee, led by Chet Blackburn: Karen Callahan, Julie Carville, Nancy Gilbert, Richard Hanes, Shawna Martinez, Roger McGehee, Bill Wilson, and Carl Wishner. Other contributing authors, illustrators and photographers were: Karen Wiese, Alan Stahler, Kathy Van Zuuk, Cindy Rubin, Vicki Lake, Ames Gilbert, and Cyndi Brinkhurst. We as a chapter thank you profusely for your efforts.

Call it the quintessential labor of love. Over four years, on a purely voluntary basis, nine intrepid committee members attended over 70 editorial board meetings. They did research out in the field, shared ideas, gathered photographs, wrote-up descriptions, then reviewed and revised and polished. Surely a phenomenal undertaking with grand results.

As most Redbud Chapter members know, the *Trees and Shrubs* book is the companion volume to our *Wildflowers* book which was published in the fall of 2007. It is no accident that, more than seven and a half years later, it's still in demand; it has lasting appeal.

I fully expect our *Trees and Shrubs* book to have the same holding power. There are numerous stores, gift shops, nurseries and parks that carry books on plants and the environment, and as Book Marketing Chair, it is my pleasure to tap these markets. I get to show off the new book on *Trees and Shrubs* and to remind storekeepers that the older book on *Wildflowers* is still available in limited quantity.

All the places that currently carry the *Trees and Shrubs* book are listed under town names on the Redbud website: www.redbud-cnps.org. (You have to scroll down to see them.) This list will be growing exponentially in the weeks and months to come.

We are counting on these stores to display and promote our books to the public, and hopefully to keep them in stock for years to come. We are not just in this for quick online sales, although that's fine if someone lives out of the region and it's the only choice available. Instead, we are in this for the long run. For this reason, it is essential that we support our local stores just as we support our native plants and our beloved environment.

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Trees and Shrubs Book (continued from page 5)

Think of the magic word: sustainability. We place the books in suitable stores. Customers see the books and buy them. This benefits the stores and subsequently they order more books. And as time goes by and sales are steady, they keep the books in stock. As a result, the books develop a presence and we have a working system that's in balance. In short, we have sustainability. Let's go for it!

Julie Becker

Trees and Shrubs of Native and Placer Counties, California retails for \$34.95. Redbud members are eligible to buy the book at a 15% discount. To do so, contact one of these three people:

Roger McGehee – rogm@sbcglobal.net

Chet Blackburn – chetblackburn@yahoo.com

Julie Becker – jbecker@infostations.com 🐾

What to Do About Neonicotinoids?

Many of you will be aware of the controversy surrounding the use of a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids, hailed as the answer to safety concerns with the previous generations of chemicals used to control plant pests. Those chemicals were most often sprayed or dusted; usually the larger part missed the plants, and poisoned non-target insects and the humans that applied the insecticides impartially. Neonicotinoids are a class of chemicals related to nicotine, the chemical in tobacco that kills or repels insects by affecting their neurology, and which also happens to create a powerful neurological dependency when applied to humans in minute quantities (anything more is fatal). What is so appealing to farmers and nurseries is that these new variants are taken up systemically, that is, by the whole plant, from roots to tips, and remain in the plant from months to years. Thus only one application is needed, and any pest that eats any part of the plant gets a dose of poison. In the last ten years, neonicotinoids have supplanted most of the former mainstay pesticides, and have become the “industry standard”.

It has become apparent in recent years that neonicotinoids (shortened to ‘neonics’) so liberally applied are affecting beneficial insects far more than originally anticipated. In fact, the chemical companies blithely skipped over rigorous, long-term testing in favor of short-term (90-day!) experiments, and even to date have performed no studies whatsoever on the synergy of combinations of these chemicals with others frequently applied to plants at the same time, such as fungicides. To be sure, there is controversy, and the chemical companies vigorously defend their products and their methods, as is their right.

I have followed this ‘battle of viewpoints’ from the start, and I had a personal and a commercial interest in doing so. Nearly thirty years ago, Nancy and I started a native plant nursery, and full of zeal and enthusiasm, tried to make informed decisions about chemicals. These were days before sophisticated research on the internet was possible, and

local county agricultural departments were wholeheartedly in favor of all chemicals from A to Z. However, U.C. Davis had started an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program in some subversive corner of their campus, and I latched on to that—and the reasons it came into being. I was also a nurse at a hospital down in the valley, so one way or another I became aware of numerous cases of poisoning due to the casual indifference to safety in many agricultural operations; that was the norm in those times.

Long story short, we decided we would use no insecticides, fungicides or pesticides whatsoever in our nursery; not only were we concerned for our own safety, but for the safety of our customers, who probably knew even less than we did about the risks. The penalty was that this made it much harder to grow healthy plants to maturity and make some kind of profit!

Back to the present, and the reason for this essay. Redbud organizes plant sales, as you know. A couple of years ago, it occurred to us to ask the suppliers of native plants that we invite to these sales if they used neonicotinoids. To our dismay, we received two kinds of answers. There were those that admitted straight-up that they did, citing the “industry standard”, and those that said they would get back to us, but never did, despite several inquiries; they actively avoided saying yes or no...

Here is why it matters: neonicotinoids, as mentioned, are found in every part of the plant, including flowers, pollen, and nectar. This means all insect pollinators are poisoned, and they either die or their nervous systems stop working correctly. For example, bees (both European honeybees and native bees) are unable to find their way back home. You are probably aware of the phenomenon, “Colony Collapse Disorder”, and how commercial crops that need pollination are at serious risk because so many hives have died out. Experiments (the results of which are automatically attacked by the chemical industry) have shown that neonics affect navigation, memory, and communication in bees, and moreover lower immune resistance to diseases and parasites such as varroa mites.

So, here we are, encouraging the use of native plants, and selling native plants that kill or weaken pollinators. I've mentioned honeybees; they are the most studied because of their commercial importance. But we have more than 4,000 species of native bees in North America, and they actually do most of the work (four times that of a honeybee) and are vital not only for commercial agriculture, but for the continuance of the native plants we love, and in turn, the whole ecosystems that they underpin. Of course, bees are not the only pollinators, and all insects that come to the plant, butterflies, wasps, flies, beetles and so on are equally affected.

Is this what we want to do, continue placing plants in our neighborhood that poison insects (and other invertebrates)

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What to Do About Neonics? (continued from page 6)

for months to years? Of course not. But what is the answer? Is collectively (you, me, us) trying to persuade nurseries to change their practices, enough? And if we decide to make the changes, how do we go about it? I welcome your comments and specific suggestions relevant to the way our chapter does things at: nancyames@spiralemail.com

Nancy Gilbert has proposed one avenue elsewhere in this newsletter: start growing our own plants, and share them with each other and at the Redbud chapter's public sales. Other CNPS chapters run their own plant propagation schemes; for example, the East Bay chapter has leased a growing ground on Merritt College's land for thirty years. Three years ago, the Sacramento chapter made co-operative arrangements with a valley nursery, and has a thriving operation. However, both chapters have the dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers that make these programs work. *Ames Gilbert*

Note: I know there is controversy about the effects of neonicotinoids, but I cannot possibly go into the various arguments for and against in this space. I have often wished that some impartial, trusted organization would step up and sort out the conflicting claims. Luckily, my wishes came true this last January. You can download the summary documents at their site below, and judge for yourself.

Finally, although I've focused on native plants, the issues are the same for almost all other plants sold by nurseries at this time. Those beautiful arrays of plants that beckon to us when we visit the nurseries this spring carry the same potential dangers, and require the same thoughtful decisions about whether to buy or not. We can put pressure on the providers of plants to at least tell us what practices they follow, so we can make informed choices, and we can encourage them to reconsider their practices and the consequences beyond the bottom line.

Ames Gilbert

Here's the site I mentioned:

http://www.tfsp.info/assets/WIA_2015.pdf

"The Worldwide Integrated Assessment of the Impact of Systemic Pesticides on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (WIA) made a synthesis of 1,121 published peer-reviewed studies spanning the last five years, including industry-sponsored ones. It is the single most comprehensive study of neonics ever undertaken, is peer reviewed, and published as open access so that the findings and the source material can be thoroughly examined by others.

Some aspects of this analysis have been broadly acknowledged before (e.g. risks to honeybees), but some have not (e.g. risks to birds, earthworms, other pollinators and aquatic invertebrates).

29 authors representing many disciplines synthesized the scientific knowledge of the impacts (real and potential) of these systemic pesticides."

News About a New Rare Plant...

Chaparral Sedge: A new sedge from the Chaparral of Northern California.

There are 140 indigenous species of sedges or, *Carex*, (*Cyperaceae*) known from California according to experts Peter Zika, Lawrence Janeway, and Barbara Wilson. They wrote the formal description of *Carex xerophila*, the Chaparral Sedge, published 2014 in Madrono, (the Journal of the California Botanical Society), Vol. 61, No. 3. Their article presents evidence that the Chaparral Sedge is a separate species. So far, the range of this species is on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada in Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, and Yuba Counties.

Typically, the grass-like sedges grow near streams and lakes. However, *Carex xerophila* grows in dry, rocky places in serpentine and gabbro chaparral habitats. With its tough narrow leaves and deep roots it is definitely a survivor!

The plants form a low tufted ground cover, often in bare, sandy places below McNab Cypress and Whiteleaf Manzanita. The tiny inconspicuous flowers are found on short stems beneath the leaves. According to the authors, the small brownish seeds of the Chaparral Sedge are dispersed by ants.

Karen Callahan

Proposal to Create a Redbud Propagation Committee

I have been propagating native plants for many years and have had lots of successes and also some busts, but always have found it interesting and rewarding. I and others in Redbud like the idea of starting up a Plant Propagation Committee. So, I am inviting any interested chapter members who would like to be part of such a group to contact me at this email address: nancytowhee@gmail.com

I envision a group of at least a half a dozen of us propagating plants from our local area that we would like to have for our own home properties, as well as species that we could trade/barter among ourselves. We could also sell extra plants at the Redbud Chapter's fall plant sale. This would make local and hard-to-find native plants available, as well as providing native plants that have been grown without the use of pesticides or herbicides (see separate article on Neonicotinoids in this issue).

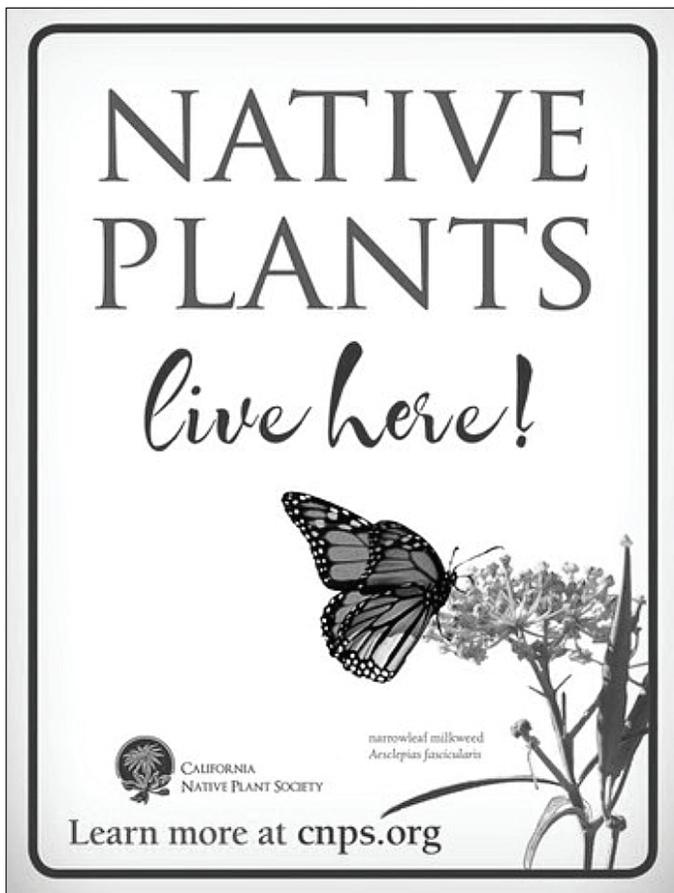
If there is sufficient interest, I will contact each person to set-up an initial meeting to discuss details of how the group would function, what plants we would like to propagate, if and how we might receive reimbursement for pots and potting materials for those plants that are made available to the Redbud chapter's plant sale, etc. I already have over a dozen local native plant species up and growing for this season and it would be much more fun if I could share information and plants with a group of like-minded folks!

Nancy Gilbert

Vital Signs

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. "Plant" the sign amongst your natives to let passers-by know that you are part of the growing community of ecologically advanced gardeners. They will be encouraged to learn more by linking them to the California Native Plant Society.

This black-and-white picture just gives you the idea; the CNPS store shows it in full color, and you can order it there: store.cnps.org/products/native-plant-garden-sign



An Appreciation

Many of you will remember Fred Hodgson as he cheerfully and energetically worked in various roles supporting our Redbud Chapter. His sunny disposition and ready smiles were contagious, and he helped draw in many new members, treating them from the first as friends. He had that rare quality of being present to and genuinely interested in whoever he was conversing with, which invariably drew an equivalent response. His playful good nature helped us through many an hour preparing for plant sales, no matter how early—or late—that hour! We are so sorry he passed away last summer, and we really miss his humor, insight, competence and hard work in equal measure.

Ames Gilbert

Education Chair Report: Educational Grants

1. Sierra Streams Institute: Kelly Hickman updated us on last year's science education project with the Yuba River Charter School 5th graders. With Redbud funding (which YRCS and the CA Coastal Commission matched) the students worked with SSI scientists and educators, to do CNPS Open World nature journaling, create an Open World field guide to the Deer Creek Tribute Trail, and engage in hands-on botany lessons within two school years.

SSI intends to offer classes for 8–5th graders to include the hands-on 'Open World Through Nature Journaling' curriculum written by John Muir Laws for CNPS, which will cover topics on botany, forest health and disturbance, wildflowers and pollination, and two field trips. The I-Naturalist program started March 17. The proposal included details of their grant expenses and requested funds. Kelly noted that they hope to improve their program next year by involving Redbud members... On March 25th, the Board voted to award \$1,500 towards this program.

2. Grass Valley Charter School: Alex Ezzel, Adventure and Service teacher at Grass Valley Charter School, and Katie Duncan, their Garden Coordinator, both teach the 550+ students at GVCS about the importance of native plants, as well as overseeing the installation and maintenance of the California native plants for their new and ongoing restoration projects. GVCS has been engaged in a variety of work around native plants over the years, including the removal of non-natives (Bennett St Meadow, Land Trust/Scotch Broom Removal, etc) as well as the planting of native grasses, willows, etc at Bennett St Meadow, Spenceville Wildlife Area, local CSA farms, and salmon habitat restoration.

Nancy Gilbert met with Katie at the GVCS to tour the school's Outdoor Science Lab area. The plan is to expand the current food growing project to include an area for the propagation and growing on of native plants, to be used for restoration projects as well as for the proposed new pollinator garden and pond area in the Outdoor Lab. Katie submitted a grant proposal for funding the plant propagation project to Redbud chapter at the March 25th Board meeting, and the Board voted to award \$3,400.

3. California Native Habitat Garden at Briar Patch (BP) Retention Basin: Nancy Gilbert coordinates both Redbud and BP volunteers; they completed the planting of the garden, installed decomposed granite under the picnic pavilion, spread wood chip mulch, installed bluebird houses, and did extensive weeding and other maintenance work during 2014. You can now see a variety of wildlife-friendly native plants doing well, and view birds, reptiles, smaller mammals and sometimes deer when the area is not busy. The picnic shelter is very popular place to enjoy meals or snacks. Nancy discussed long-term plans for the expansion or relocation of BP with the manager; they agreed that Nancy will continue to coordinate workdays for the garden, but that Redbud won't provide more funds until BP's future is clear.

Nancy Gilbert

Welcome New Members (May 2014 – Jan 2015)

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Nina Allen
Glenn Bardet
Pamela Brillante
Susan Chalpin
Jonathan Crowe
Matt Dunnahoe

Mark Eclnes
Kate Ferroggiaro
Kathy Gipson
Joan Goff
Mark Hennelly
Lisa Hickman

Sarah Little
Eileen Moon
Sara Noah
Barbara Perdue
Christine Pieper

And thank you to all of our loyal renewing members!

California Native Plant Society, Redbud Chapter Board of Directors

March, 2015

Officers:

President: Denise Della Santina (clearcreeknatives@gmail.com) 650-888-6392
Vice President: OPEN
Treasurer: Jeanne Wilson (jxmotes@icloud.com) (530) 570-8009
Secretary: Cyndi Brinkhurst (clbrinkhurst@gmail.com) (530) 274-1924
Newsletter Editor (acting): Ames Gilbert (nancyames@spiralemail.com) (530) 272-4775

Committee Chairs:

Membership Chair: OPEN
Membership Co-Chair: OPEN
Program Chair: Leslie Warren (leslie@wizwire.com) (530) 878-0738
Field Trips Chair: Roger McGehee (rogm@sbcglobal.net) (530) 264-8555
Fall Plant Sale Chair: Rebecca Baer (rebel.baer77@yahoo.com) (530) 273-8897
Publicity Chair: OPEN
Education Chair: Nancy Gilbert (nancyames@spiralemail.com) (530) 272-4775
Rare Plant Specialist: Karen Callahan (penstemon@nccn.net) (530) 272-5532
Invasive Plant Specialist: Dan Lubin Dan.Lubin@parks.ca.gov) (530) 272-0298
Conservation Chair: David Magney (david@magney.org) (530) 273-1799
Book Marketing Chair: Julie Becker (jbecker@infostations.com) (530) 265-8197
Restoration Chair: OPEN
Webmaster: Bill Wilson (wilson@yosemite.edu) (530) 265-8040
Chapter Council Delegate: Denise Della Santina (clearcreeknatives@gmail.com) (650) 888-6392
Hospitality Chair: Susan Chalpin (sgchalpin@saber.net) (530) 277-3914
Hospitality Co-Chair: OPEN
Publications: Rebecca Baer (rebel.baer77@yahoo.com) (530) 273-8897
Member at Large: OPEN
Member at Large: OPEN

Note: The job of a "Member at Large" is to advocate the interests of the members to the Board. This is a great way to 'dip your toes in the water' as a volunteer!

NEEDED: A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS

An organization is only as effective as its members. Do any of the OPEN or Acting positions above appeal to you? Will you volunteer? If you are interested, come to any public meeting, Board meeting, or contact an officer above, and find out more! Are particular qualifications needed? NO (though your experience and expertise are certainly welcome!)—just a love of our native plants, enjoying working with like-minded folks, and the willingness to have fun! Most positions are very flexible, you can work on the schedule that suits you. For example, the Board meets about ten times a year (see actual dates on our website) to set goals and guide the direction of our chapter, but it is not necessary to come to every meeting. And you'll have great mentors!

Note: One of our most pressing needs is for a Membership Chair. This job calls not only for someone who can keep details of our members current, but who can also lead the search to find new members, whether at our plant sales, or by reaching out to the community at large. There are so many folks who love and appreciate our native plants and landscapes, but until you tell them, they may not know there is an organization that is dedicated to protecting our fragile heritage, now and in the future.

CNPS-Redbud Chapter
P.O. Box 2662
Nevada City
CA 95959
www.redbud-cnps.org



Membership Renewal

Your label shows your membership expiration date. You can renew your CNPS membership online—it's quick and easy, and reduces renewal mailing costs. Go to: CNPS.org and click on the JOIN button!

Passionate about (Native) Plants 2015 Lecture Series

7-9 P.M. 4th Wednesdays alternate months. These lectures are free and open to all.

- **NOTE NEW DATE!** April 24 (Auburn) – “Symphony of the Soil” Film and Lecture (*Due to date conflicts, this program has been rescheduled to April 24th*)
CNPS with Master Gardeners and special guest
Lester Millroy, Conservation Biologist
- **Aug. 26 (Auburn)** – A Visit to the California Prairie
Glen Holstein, UC Davis
- **Oct. 28 (Nevada City)** – Creating Bird-Friendly Landscapes
Nancy Gilbert, CNPS

Nevada City—Madeline Helling Library, Rood Center
Auburn—Placer County Library on Nevada St.

Gardens Gone Native Garden Tour

The CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter is organizing a tour of thirty (!) notable native plant dominated gardens in their area on April 11th. Register at: gardensgonenative.eventbrite.com to reserve your space and get a brochure and directions. This is a great opportunity to see ideas that have been actualized, and learn from the owners directly. And for those of you who would like to see how a volunteer-run nursery operation works in practice, or want some spring plants, or wish to learn from experts on many interesting subjects, the chapter is having their spring plant sale at their Elderberry Farms nursery on April 18th. Go to their web page at: SacValleyCNPS.org for more details and directions.