Bulletin

# CNPS Scores Victory—Temporarily—for Endangered Algodones Dunes Plants

If you were reading the newspapers carefully in August you may have noticed that CNPS was a key player in getting Federal wildlife officials to propose designating 53,000 acres in the Algodones Dunes system as critical habitat for the Peirson's milk-vetch.

Peirson's milk-vetch is protected as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act due to CNPS's efforts so, this advance in the protection process is good news. However, the controversy swirling around this incredible plant and its unique habitat is far from over. Three weeks after the draft critical habitat was published, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced it would consider delisting the Peirson's milk-vetch.

## THE ALGODONES DUNES AND ITS AMAZING ENDEMIC PLANTS

Geographically, this 200+ square mile system is primarily in California, but blowing into Mexico at a rate of 3 inches per year. The moving sands and less than 3 inches of annual rain create harsh conditions, limiting the vegetation that grows there and making the dunes home to a suite of rare plant species.

The dunes sunflower *(Helianthus niveus* ssp. *tephrodes)* is listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act and is typically found with the Peirson's milk-vetch *(Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii)*. Both species grow in the "deep" dunes, usually in "bowls" on the leeward side of tall dunes. Little is known about the ecology of either species, but we are learning more every year.

Sand food *(Pholisma sonorae)* is the most unusual looking species on the dunes. It is a parasitic flowering plant, hosted primarily by the dune buckwheat *(Eriogonum deserticola)* and coldenia *(Tiquilia plicata)*. It is found outside the dunes, but is threatened due to collecting, agriculture and off highway vehicles (OHVs) across its range. Historically, it was eaten by indigenous peoples, hence its common name.



*CNPS volunteers examine an endangered dunes sunflower in the Algodones Dunes* Photo: Ileene Anderson

Other rare species found on the dunes include the giant Spanish needle *(Palafoxia arida* var. *gigantea)* and Wiggin's croton *(Croton wigginsii)* found on the "flanks" of the dunes where the vegetation is more stabilized.

The Peirson's milk-vetch serves as an umbrella species. If CNPS can protect it we will achieve protection for other sensitive but unlisted species and maintain the dune ecosystem, including unique animals like the flat-tailed horned and the fringed-toed lizards.

## CNPS BEHIND PROTECTING DUNE ENDEMIC PLANTS

The Algodones dunes are: A) the largest dunes system in California; B) a mecca for OHV free play; C) a botanical wonderland of endemic

*continued on page 5*

# Gabi McLean's San Gabriel Valley Home Native Garden

*Ruminations on the benefits of replacing your lawn with a native landscape*

It's morning. The cool air greets me as I step outside, car keys in hand, purse tucked under my arm, maneuvering carefully so my business suit won't brush the carport pillar. I catch a glimpse of the poppy blossoms still folded up in the hazy morning light. The soft breeze carries the fragrance of the white sage. My eagerness to meet my tight work schedule dissolves, and I turn toward the wildflower patch with the promise of bright orange poppies strutting in the midday sun, butterflies

> ***"... welcome the surprises—the oak seedling planted by a scrub jay; the elderberry that grows so fast and furiously that I can't keep up with pruning; the heart-leaf penstemon that barely survived for two years and now is showering us with orange-red flowers."***

dancing on the golden sun cup blossoms, and carpenter bees buzzing in the purple sage. As I watch, a hummingbird stops in midair and turns its attention to the woolly bluecurls and the showy penstemon. For a moment, the hummer and I connect; its world is as busy as mine, and we both find reprieve in the garden. Now I know it's spring. Now I know I can withstand another hectic workday—when it's over, the garden will be there and offer me a place to put my mind at peace.

It's early Saturday afternoon and blazing hot. Stuck in the house, paying bills and answering emails,

*continued on page 6*

# From the Desk of the Executive Director ...

These are some of the toughest political times for plants and our environment that I've experienced in my adult life—sadly reminiscent of the James Watt era. To meet these challenges CNPS is working harder than ever to be more strategic. However, we also simply need to do more. To make this possible, CNPS volunteers, board and staff are focused on program planning and fund raising this fall.

It may seem strange to get excited about planning—but you should have been at the meetings! The retreats are dynamic think tanks where volunteers and staff share insights and identify opportunities. All of CNPS's programs—Conservation, Vegetation, Horticulture and Education, Rare Plant / Local Flora—have convened retreats to set goals and priorities for the coming year. I'll collect the results and draft a single plan which will be the basis for next year's budget.

Fundraising is at the heart of maintaining and expanding CNPS programs. Our first Major Donor Campaign is underway. Please encourage plant loving folks you know to give or increase their gift—a donation of $250 or more earns you the distinction of being a major donor! Over the coming months I will travel throughout the state to meet with Chapters and donors to discuss our programs. Please contact me if you have suggestions or would like to plan a visit to your chapter.

*Fundraising is at the heart of maintaining and expanding California Native Plant Society programs.*

Finally, CNPS is fortunate to be working with two accomplished photographers, Marcus and Rosalie Wardell, who have put together a stunning native plant photo exhibit that will be showing in museums across California for the next two years. The back cover has the particulars on the exhibition's opening in Yuba City.

*Pam Muick, Executive Director, pmuick@cnps.org*

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# Conservation Director Speaks Out

In August the Conservation Program held a retreat of staff and volunteer leaders to assess needs and program design for 2004. It hasn't been an easy year for the environment, both from Washington's policies and California's budget crisis, so you would think we'd be in a pretty black mood, but not so! There are so many signs that the public is about to force the proverbial pendulum back in the opposite direction.

I am very happy with the work done by staff, so our plans are to pretty much stay the course in 2004. If we can find more financial resources we may hire staff to help with Central Valley and Bay Area conservation work. We will produce more tools for chapters—such as a *Coastal Act Tool Kit*—and post them on the CNPS web page. I am creating a 'dog-and-pony show' that will tour the chapters to show you the full range of things we are doing.

Back to pushing on the pendulum ... On page seven Dr. Emily Roberson, our Senior Policy Analyst, tells why CNPS has joined with other organizations in a letter protesting the federal government's failure to support critical habitat designation for a number of plants, poor science in decisions to essentially dismantle the Sierra Framework, and many other federal issues.

On page one Ileene Anderson, Southern California Regional Botanist, outlines our difficult struggle to protect rare endemic plants from off highway vehicles in the Algodones Sand Dunes. Ileene is also giving informed scientific input to BLM on three giant desert plans that cover the Mojave and working to come to an agreement on the protection of limestone-endemic plants in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Volunteer Greg Jirak, having done a wonderful job of setting up the forest program, is handing the reins to Jen Kalt. Greg shepherded our amicus brief to support the Department of Forestry in a suit by a timber producer (the "Weburg Case") who thought that rare plant surveys should not be required prior to a timber harvest. The Department recently prevailed.

Unfortunately, pendulums being what they are, you need the shoving power of a lawsuit or two as "a good rap upside the head" to those trashing our state's natural heritage. One never likes to spend resources that could be used for all kinds of positive things, but we must invest in holding back the bad stuff. The story on page three is an example: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed a Critical Habitat plan for vernal pool species that left out entire counties, and in doing so failed to designate a single acre of critical habitat for two rare vernal pool plants.

*—David Chipping, Conservation Director, dchippin@calpoly.edu*

# CNPS Joins Vernal Pool Lawsuit

In September 2003, the CNPS Board of Directors voted to join the Butte Environmental Council and Defenders of Wildlife in a new lawsuit against the Department of Interior challenging the final rule on critical habitat for 11 vernal pool plants and four shrimp species and requesting that a new rule be prepared.

The lawsuit is in response to the August 2003 US Fish and Wildlife Service final rule designating 740,000 acres as critical habitat for these species. This designation drops nearly 1 million acres of critical habitat that had originally been proposed for protection in 2002. The original proposal was based on the best scientific information available on the locations and habitat requirements for these species. Five entire counties (Sacramento, Madera, Merced, Butte and Solano) and large portions of several others were eliminated from the rule. Two plants originally covered by this designation will now have no protection because their home counties were dropped. Butte County meadowfoam *(Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *californica)* occurs only in Butte County and Sacramento Orcutt grass *(Orcuttia viscida)* occurs only in Sacramento County.

The rule is based on a highly flawed economic analysis that did not address any potential economic benefits of protecting these species and their habitats. This includes the fact that vernal pools and other wetlands are critical to maintaining water quality and supply and the very real importance of wildflower viewing to local economies.

Vernal pools are miraculous ecosystems. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands that fill with water each rainy season, dry in the spring and remain dry for six to eight months awaiting the next winter rains. The unique plants and animals that have adapted to these extreme annual cycles of flood and drought create a seasonally changing mosaic of life through each year.

In winter, vernal pools teem with aquatic life. Many plants and animals such as fairy shrimp survive only in vernal pools. With the coming of spring, vernal pool flowers create vibrant rings, carpets and ribbons of yellow, white, pink, and purple. The displays change from week to week as pools dry and one species gives way to the next in a floral kaleidoscope.



Photo: Carol Witham

## HISTORY OF THE LAWSUIT

Over 200 plant species grow in vernal pools. Half of these are rarely found outside this unique habitat. A given pool typically supports only 15 to 20 species, in an unpredictable array of combinations. In that way vernal pools are a lot like snowflakes—botanically speaking, no two are alike. They are also disappearing—California has already lost 90% of its vernal pools.

> *Vernal pools are a lot like snowflakes—botanically speaking, no two are alike. They are also disappearing.*

Native plant lovers have long been drawn to these unique habitats. In October 1976 and January 2000, CNPS published special issues of *Fremontia* devoted to vernal pools. In 1998 we published a volume of scientific articles resulting from a conference on the ecology, conservation and management of vernal pool ecosystems.

In 1995, the Butte Environmental Council (BEC) intervened in a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior in support of maintaining Federal Endangered Species Act protection for four shrimp species found in vernal pools. At that time, the Building Industry Association (BIA) was trying to remove protected status through the courts. After repeatedly winning the listing case in favor of the shrimp, BEC sued Interior in April 2000 over a point initially brought forward by the BIA: the need to designate the critical habitat that is legally required for all listed species. In 2001, the court ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a final critical habitat rule. BEC, with CNPS assistance, was able to get a settlement agreement that expanded the critical habitat rule to include 11 plants. A requirement for a final recovery plan for the species by 2005 and two vernal pool research projects examining Butte County Meadowfoam and grazing impacts were also added during settlement negotiations.

## WHERE CNPS STANDS

CNPS supports the designation of critical habitat when such designation provides better protection of endangered species, as is the case with vernal pool endemic species. Vernal pools are wetlands. Wetlands are regulated under the federal Clean Water Act. And the Endangered Species Act prohibits federal agencies from adversely modifying critical habitat. Adequate critical habitat designation for the vernal pools would greatly improve land use planning in the rapidly urbanizing Central Valley. Excluding the most rapidly growing areas from the designation based solely, as Department of Interior officials have frankly stated, on a (false) premise that housing and wetlands cannot coexist is illogical, contrary to the intent of the Endangered Species Act and exposes vernal pools in these areas to extreme risk.

*—Carol Witham, CNPS Board Member, cwitham@cnps.org*
*Emily Roberson, Senior Policy Analyst, emilyr@cnps.org*

# NEWS BRIEFS

## INPUT ON CNPS CONSERVATION POLICIES NEEDED

CNPS has some very strong policies that can be used when writing comment letters or speaking at meetings to encourage agencies to protect native plants and their habitats. The policies cover topics such as vernal pool mitigation, invasive species, and conducting rare plant surveys. At its September meeting, the Chapter Council agreed that many of these policies should be combined or updated.

The Conservation Program would like to know 1) which of the policies you use the most and so should be updated first; 2) policies you would like CNPS to adopt; and 3) specific comments about any of the current policies. A complete archive of the approximately 25 policies is on the CNPS State website at *http://www.cnps.org/archives/archives.htm*. If you have any comments, please forward them in writing to *policies@cnps.org*.

## SUPPORT CNPS THROUGH EARTH SHARE AT WORK!

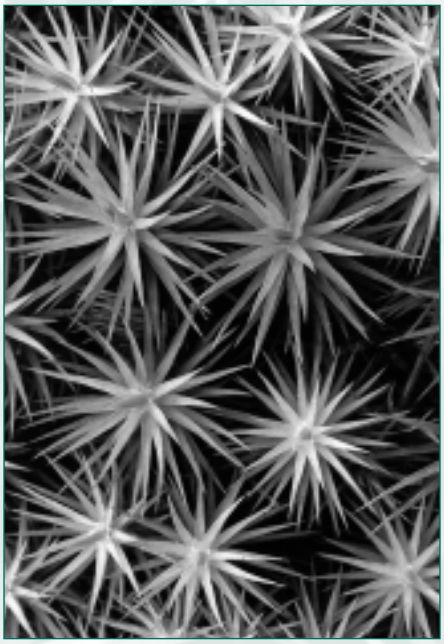
Did you know you can donate to CNPS through **Earth Share of California** if your employer has a workplace charity campaign? By setting aside a few dollars per paycheck monthly you can support CNPS and 86 California environmental and conservation charities. Visit *www.earthshareca.org* for more info or ask your campaign manager.

## SLO PLANT SALE

November 1, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. San Luis Obispo Chapter annual native plant sale. Heritage Oaks Bank, 297 Madonna Rd. Take Madonna exit from 101 north or south, head west. Only pure California native plant sale on the central coast. Also seeds, books, tee-shirts, etc. Expert advice with a friendly smile. Call John at 805-464-0717 for details. Heavy rain cancels.

## MOSSES, LIVERWORTS, AND HORNWORTS UP NEXT

We are catching up! By the January 2004 issue, dates on your *Fremontia* should match the dates you receive your copies. The production team is very thankful for your patience and hope you are enjoying your *Fremontia* reading.



*Haircap moss* (Polytrichum commune), *an image from the bryophyte issue of* Fremontia *(Volume 31 No.3).* Photo: M. & K. Hutten.

This winter, when most wildflowers lay dormant, you might be tempted to learn more about non-vascular plants after reading the the upcoming issue on bryophytes. This special issue, devoted to mosses, liverworts, and hornworts, has been edited by two of our state's best bryologists: Dan Norris and Jim Shevock, and is copiously illustrated with photographs by Mark and Karen Hutten along with those of John Game.

The number of quality manuscripts being submitted continues to increase, but if there is an article that you would like to see, or you know someone who could contribute an informative article, please contact me. Remember, it can take over a year to develop an idea into a published *Fremontia* article.

*—Linda Ann Vorobik, Fremontia Editor, vorobik@rockisland.com*

## VEGETATION DESCRIPTIONS NEEDED

We are still soliciting feedback for the second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation,* for 2004 publication. Any new descriptive or quantitative information, field forms, or reviews of the alliances (series) should be submitted ASAP to Todd Keeler-Wolf, Chair, Vegetation Committee at *tkwolf@dfg.ca.gov.*

## CNPS BECOMES AFFILIATE OF CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS

CNPS recently became an Affiliate of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI), providing chapters with an opportunity to interact with other local plant folks and cross-advertise educational and horticultural events in CGCI publications. Plant sales, outings, etc. can now be advertised in the CGCI newsletter and on the CGCI website.

CGCI is composed of individual clubs that affiliate with districts and the statewide organization. The twenty-eight CGCI Districts roughly coincide with the thirty-two CNPS chapter boundaries. CGCI clubs are active in flower shows, flower arranging, and the more decorative plants. As CNPS encourages the use of local native plants in home, school gardens, and commercial settings, we can share knowledge and resources in these areas. Local and regional habitat conservation concerns are other potential mutual interests. Both groups value native flora—especially wildflowers, conservation, and are active in education. More information: CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

*—Charles Blair, San Luis Obispo Chapter VP, blairce@sbceo.org*

# The Year at the Capitol in Review

CNPS started the legislative year with an Assembly Select Committee on Wetlands being created (at our request), introduction of a package of forestry bills supported by a good report from Senator Kuehl, and introduction of AB 406 by Hannah-Beth Jackson regarding Environmental Impact Reports. It seemed that something big might happen.

However, the Select Committee's work soon faded due to budget constraints (no money to investigate wetlands issues and no money for new protections). Forestry bills ran into a saw mill of opposition and had their provisions chopped back or they were killed outright. AB 406 survived two legislative committee hearings but hit a brick wall of developer opposition on the Assembly floor—developers apparently don't want to lose the ability to write EIRs for local governments.

Two important bills supported by CNPS will hopefully be pursued in January 2004: AB 406 and SB 711 (Kuehl) regarding establishing mitigation standards for oak woodland conversions even as a result of agriculture practices. CNPS members and I spent significant time lobbying both bills. We will continue our support and coordination with the authors and sponsors of the bills (Planning & Conservation League and California Oak Foundation, respectively).

Updates on the status of key bills followed by CNPS are on *www.cnps.org*

*—Vern Goehring, Legislative Advocate, vern@cal.net*

## Scott's Valley polygonum a Candidate for the State

The Fish and Game Commission voted on June 19, 2003 to designate Scott's Valley polygonum *(Polygonum hickmanii)* as a Candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. The polygonum is a very rare plant. It was described new to science in 1995, and is known from only two small occurrences in Scott's Valley, Santa Cruz County. Occupying less than an acre of habitat in the entire world, no more than 3,500 total individual plants have ever been located in a single year. The species is seriously threatened by urban development and associated disturbances, non-native grasses, and lack of appropriate ecological management. The small numbers of plants and limited habitat also make it vulnerable to stochastic (chance) extinction. As a Candidate species, it is protected by state law during a one-year review period, after which a final listing decision will be made. Dr. Grey Hayes of the Santa Cruz Chapter submitted the listing petition. Thanks are also due to Vince Cheap for his hard work on the petition development.

*—David Tibor, Rare Plant Botanist, dtibor@cnps.org*

## Endangered Algodones Dunes Plants continued from page 1

species; or D) All of the above? The answer is "D) all of the above" and that is where the intrigue begins.

Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the dunes are also known as the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area or Glamis. The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 established 32,000 acres (23%) in the northern area of the dunes as wilderness, theoretically eliminating the use of anything mechanical, including OHVs. At that time, 118,000 acres of the dunes (77% of the system) were still managed as open OHV recreation area.

In the mid 1990's CNPS volunteer Steve Hartman amped up our involvement in conservation issues here when he recognized that the BLM was not living up to their commitment to monitor the rare plants on the dunes. At Steve's insistence, in 1998 the BLM started monitoring plant populations of all of the sensitive dunes species (see *www.ca.blm.gov*). However, the BLM has used a

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## In Memoriam: Wayne Roderick, CNPS Stalwart

As the *Bulletin* was going to press we were saddened to learn of the passing of Wayne Roderick, CNPS founding member, CNPS Fellow, and Director Emeritus of the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden in the Bay Area. These titles only hint at how much Wayne did to increase awareness and appreciation of native plants—countless CNPS members can attest to this. It seems like everyone who met him, even once or twice, has a delightful"Wayne story" to tell. He conveyed a great sense of fun and adventure—sorely needed in today's world.



*Wayne Roderick in July 1997 standing in front of the "alpha" Bristlecone Pine tree while leading an East Bay Chapter trip to California's White Mountains.* Photo: John Game

Wayne was an internationally recognized horticulturist and bulb expert, winner of numerous awards, and a superb all-around native plantsman. For many years he was in charge of the native area at the University of California Botanical Garden. After he retired from the Tilden Park botanical garden in 1983, Wayne continued to be very busy with fieldwork, mentoring young people, enjoying every aspect of horticulture, and improving the quality of life for everyone with an interest in native plants.

## Endangered Algodones Dunes Plants

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survey methodology that was not designed to evaluate impacts to sensitive plants from OHV activities. Instead the methodology evaluates trends in populations so they can be compared to a 1977 survey. Because of this, the 1998 survey results showed little change in the numbers or distribution of the species and no additional protection measures were deemed necessary.

Conservationists recognize the logarithmic increase in OHV activity as a threat to all dune vegetation. In the past, the vastness and uniformity of the dunes, made navigation challenging, but with the advent of low-cost global positioning units, repeat travel to remote regions of the dunes is more feasible and less life-threatening...to humans at least.

### AS IF LIVING ON A SAND DUNE WASN'T HARD ENOUGH ALREADY ...

In November of 2000, some of our environmental allies successfully sued the BLM and got a settlement agreement that temporarily closed an additional 49,000 acres in the non-wilderness areas of the dunes to provide additional protection for the Peirson's milk-vetch until a full environmental review was done.

The OHV community was outraged at the additional temporary closure. One group, the American Sand Association (ASA) hired a consultant to conduct studies of the Peirson's milk-vetch. The study estimates more than 100,000 plants in the survey area—less than one plant per acre, and not evenly distributed over the dunes. Based on this data, ASA submitted the de-listing petition in 2000.

Then, in 2002, the BLM produced a required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). The EIS/RAMP proposed that the temporary closures be re-opened. A "limited area" would be set up for OHV activity around the densest Peirson's milk-vetch locations. The Fish and Wildlife Service issued a "no-jeopardy" opinion—the proposed action would not jeopardize the species—and a final decision to open the temporarily closed areas was made spring 2003. CNPS calculations suggest the "limited area" could be completely driven over on a single weekend by the proposed number of vehicles. Furthermore, enforcement is impossible and trespass into these areas has been documented every time monitoring occurred.

### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

CNPS is generating comments on the August 2003 "critical habitat" proposal, supported by the best available science and the delisting petition. Considering the current federal administration's environmental record (see *www.cnps.org*), CNPS is gravely concerned about the future of the Pierson's milk-vetch. Fish and Wildlife will have another year to review the data and make the final determination on both the delisting and the critical habitat designation. We support using the best available science to determine the impacts to native species, and we continue to watch closely that science, not politics, is the driving force in species conservation.

*—Ileene Anderson, Southern California Regional Botanist, ieanderson@earthlink.net*

## Gabi McLean's Native Garden

continued from page 1

I am bursting to stretch my legs. The air conditioner is in high gear but I step outside anyway. The hot air engulfs me and I feel my blood vessels expand and my joints loosen up. Our dog has dug a hole in the shade, between the elderberry and the holly-leaf cherry, enjoying the coolness of the soil. As I stroll over to him I discover a drop in temperature so dramatic that I startle. Are the leaves stirring in the breeze? No, it is still. The shift in temperature comes from the elderberry, cherry, and myrtle trees forming a green, thick but airy insulation from the glaring light. Now I understand why the dog hasn't begged to come in the house. I join him in a siesta on the garden bench. The buzz of busy pollinators reminds me that this is summer and I don't need to hide in the house. I've found my refuge.



*The plants in the McLean's front yard include: California sun cups, woolly bluecurls, common phacelia, black sage, white sage, purple sage, mallow, holly-leaf cherry, California poppy, California buckwheat, and California rose.*

Photo: Gabi and Cliff McLean

We sit on the porch after dinner. The last rays of sun fall on a patch of scarlet monkey flowers near our table. The blossoms are small but shine like beacons. There, our daily visitor is back; a female hummingbird visiting the bright beauties, and then settling at a safe distance in a neighbor's tree. Not for long though, as soon as we get our binoculars, she disappears. I look around hoping she'll return. No luck, but I am not alarmed. I know she'll be back. In winter and spring, the tiny but plentiful rosy flowers of our corral bells attract her, in late spring and early summer, the hummingbird sage is her favorite. Now the scarlet monkey flowers attract her attention.

Some of the shrubs have already changed from the bright green of spring to the muted colors of summer and fall. Others have shed their leaves, exposing an intricate structure of branches. It's time to prune shrubs resting in summer dormancy, just as gardeners in moderate climates prune in winter dormancy.

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## Native Garden from page 6

I wonder how these shrubs will do in the next season—if I'll do the right thing by pruning them now and by how much. I am just not sure - each plant seems to be developing differently. One black sage has grown taller than I am. Should I trim it down? Another black sage is a tender little thing, three feet around. How can I make it more robust? The barberry is growing straight up and hasn't branched out at all. Should I top it? Why isn't it blooming? I wonder and worry. A thought comes to my mind that makes me smile. My questions remind me of a mother's worries about her offspring, her search for the balance between letting them grow wild and reining them in to fit the mold of expectations.

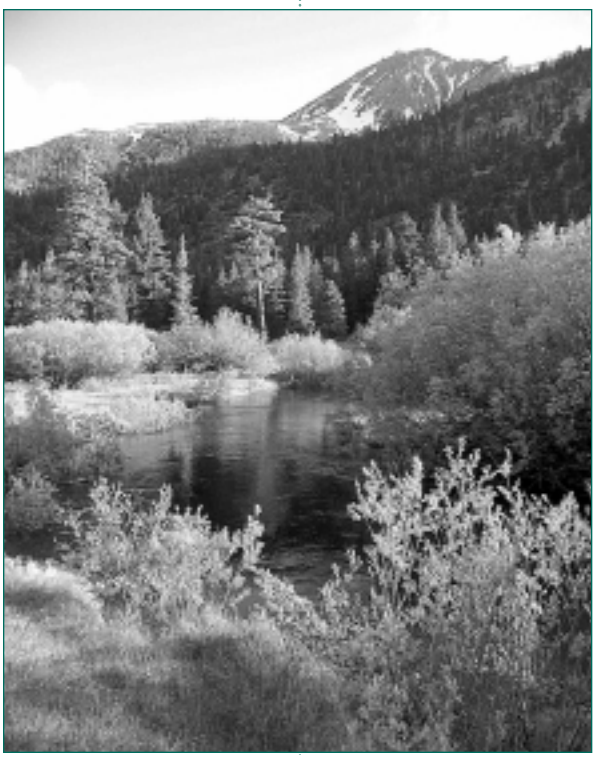
Watching the garden grow is a little like watching children grow. We learn that things don't turn out as perfectly as we'd like. I decide to let go of wanting perfect control and welcome the surprises—the oak seedling planted by a scrub jay; the elderberry that grows so fast and furiously that I can't keep up with pruning; the heartleaf penstemon that barely survived for two years and now is showering us with orange-red flowers. Each season finds a different way of pleasing the eye, providing for our feathered visitors, and making a home for our insect friends. I discover the richness of life in the perfect imperfections of nature, the surprises and disappointments that make the web of life so interesting. I deeply enjoy today and yearn for tomorrow's wonders in my native garden.

*—Gabi McLean, gabi.mclean@verizon.net*

Gabi and Cliff McLean of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter have created a program—*We Took Out the Lawn and You Can Too!* that details their suburban re-landscaping project: how they did it, how much work it took, what has been the result, how the neighbors have taken to it and what it takes to maintain it. The McLean's are also working on a field guide on CD: *Common Plants of Eaton Canyon and the San Gabriel Foothills* which will be released at the chapter's Fundraiser and Native Plant Sale event **Under The Oaks**, November 15, 2003 at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

# Comments on Sierra Nevada Framework and Old Forest Species Plans

CNPS has submitted comments on proposed revisions to two important Forest Service plans. One would dismantle the Survey and Manage Program that had been designed to study and conserve old forest associate species (more than 300 animals, plants, fungi, lichens, bryophytes) in the national forests of western northern California, Oregon and Washington. Like so many Bush Administration initiatives, this one proposes to remove the program and replace it with ... nothing! The viability of dozens of species would be at risk if the program is removed, and despite the acknowledgment that there are insufficient data to asses viability risk for several dozen others, the Administration proposed no specific protections and no monitoring to replace the Program. CNPS comments can be viewed by clicking on "Comments and Testimony" at *www.cnps.org/NPCC.*



*Meadows like this on the eastern side of the Sierra are among the ecosystems that would be affected by management changes under the Sierra Nevada Framework.* Photo: Emily Roberson

The second comments were on the never-ending Sierra Nevada Framework. The Framework is a science-based compromise management update for 11 national forests in California and Nevada. It was approved, but never implemented by the Forest Service. The Bush Administration released a proposed "revision" of the plan which purported to retain "the goals" of the original plan, but in fact focused on permitting (i) more logging, (ii) more road building, (iii) more grazing, and giving agency bureaucrats apparently unlimited discretion to assess ecosystem health and design their own rules. The proposal violates several laws and discards the 10 years of work by over 100 scientists and agency specialists (and more than $20 million in taxpayers' money) that went into the original Framework. CNPS comments will be posted on the "Eye on the Bush Administration" page of the CNPS website.

### "BUSH VS. CALIFORNIA"

CNPS is working to develop and distribute information on the Bush Administration's environmental and public health agenda, focusing on its effects on California. We have developed a web site (*www.cnps.org/federalissues*) that provides information and tools to help the public, the media, and policymakers learn and speak out about the Bush Agenda. The site includes summaries of federal policies and plans with mechanisms for commenting, policy analyses by CNPS and others, and sample letters to the editor that make it easier and faster to express your views and concerns.

*—Emily Roberson, Senior Policy Analyst, emilyr@cnps.org*

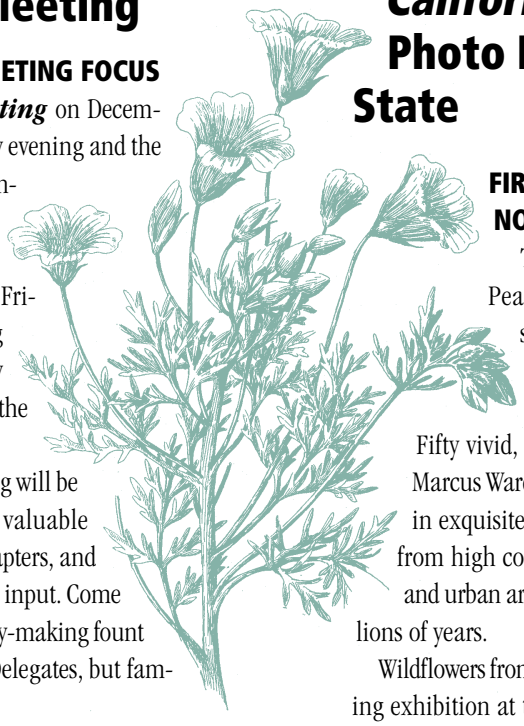
# CNPS Annual Banquet and December Chapter Council/Board Meeting

## EDUCATION AND HORTICULTURE ARE MEETING FOCUS

Please plan to attend the 2003 ***Berkeley Meeting*** on December 5 and 6. The Board of Directors will meet Friday evening and the Chapter Council will meet Saturday. Our Annual Banquet will be Saturday evening and will include dinner and an excellent presentation (final speaker selection is underway from a field of candidates). Friday evening will offer a pleasant and entertaining happening for delegates and guests that arrive early (remember last year's great Friday evening event at the Jepson Herbarium).

The main themes of this Chapter Council meeting will be Education and Horticulture. There will be much valuable information shared, good interactions between chapters, and important discussions and decisions that need your input. Come to Berkeley, the birthplace of CNPS, and also a history-making fount of scientific knowledge. All are welcome, not just Delegates, but families, friends and interested members.

Contact the state office at 916-447-2677 in the weeks to come for more details.



# *Poppy to Prickly Pear: California's Native Plants* Photo Exhibit Traveling the State

## FIRST EXHIBITION OCTOBER 9–NOVEMBER 30 IN YUBA CITY

The photography exhibition "Poppy to Prickly Pear: California's Native Plants" showcases the spectacular beauty of the Golden State's native plants. The show will travel around the state through 2006.

Fifty vivid, color images, by photographers Rosalie and Marcus Wardell, CNPS members, capture our native plants in exquisite detail. The show explores specific regions—from high country meadows through rain forests, deserts, and urban areas—where native plants have evolved for millions of years.

Wildflowers from the Sutter Buttes will be included in the opening exhibition at the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City—(530) 822-7141.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Bulletin
2707 K STREET, SUITE 1
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The California Native Plant Society is a state-wide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants. Membership is open to all.

Visit CNPS.org

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