REDBUD’S 2018 FALL PLANT SALE COMING UP FAST

By Jeanne Wilson
Redbud Chapter President

This year’s theme for our plant sale, “Native Plants for healing the land,” reflects the CNPS goals of “conserving and increasing understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of California native plants.” We know from experience, natural history, and scientific research that native plants play critical roles in our ecosystems. Indeed, they can help us meet some of our greatest challenges.

Native Plants Heal the Land in Many Ways

The native plants featured at our plant sale are not only beautiful and resilient, they are essential to the health of our ecologies, plant communities, and soils. They heal the land by saving water and decreasing the need for irrigation (source 1); by removing carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering it in the ground where it improves soil health (source 2); by anchoring the soil and preventing erosion (source 3); by reducing use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides (source 4); and by sustaining native wildlife (source 5).

Because they have evolved and adapted to their specific environments, partnering with native mycorrhizae and other micro-organisms, native plants enrich the soil and can resist many diseases and pests.

Nancy Gilbert’s articles in this newsletter and coming in the
By focusing on California native plants, including cultivars chosen for their adaptation to garden conditions, Redbud’s plant sale helps local native-plant enthusiasts restore nature, one garden at a time.

Preserving Local Botanical Heritage

As a CNPS chapter, Redbud’s goals, projects and activities — our annual plant sale, our books, speakers, field trips, and more — are “diverse by design,” as CNPS describes such efforts, “blending science and conservation with gardening and education.”

With over 290 members, Redbud includes naturalists, gardeners, explorers, advocates, and researchers who volunteer to preserve the amazing and diverse botanical heritage of Nevada and Placer Counties.

September newsletter provide more detail and highlight specific native plants that heal the land, such as deep-rooted native perennial grasses that improve water penetration, retain soil moisture, and aerate and condition the soil (source 6).

Come to the Sale!

We invite you to come find native plant treasures at our Fall Sale on October 13th at the North Star House, 12075 Auburn Road, Grass Valley. Join us in conserving California native plants and their natural habitats!

10:30 to 1:30 is open to all. From 9:30 to 10:30 is CNPS member appreciation sale. Join at the door!

If you want to buy specific natives at the sale, please email nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org with the details, and we’ll do our best.

List of Plants at Sale

About a week before the sale, we’ll post on our Redbud website the list of plants we expect to have at the sale.

Sources/references available on our website. The sources used for this article are listed on our website. They are fascinating and informative reading about specific ways native plants benefit their environment.

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California Native Plants for Healing the Land: Part 1

by Nancy Gilbert
Redbud Horticultural Chair
Of all the many reasons to plant California natives in our gardens — for creating a sense of place, for their beauty and adaptability, for their drought tolerant qualities, and certainly for increasing biodiversity — their ability to help save our ecosystems and the bird and insect species that depend on them is, for me, the single most important reason to grow native plants.”  

~Nancy Bauer, The California Wildlife Habitat Garden

California is the most bio-diverse state in the United States and boasts the largest number of plant species (nearly 7000). Because California has such a wide variety of ecosystems, habitats and plants, it also hosts an impressive diversity and multitude of wildlife. Our unique Mediterranean climate and vast natural treasures have also made the Golden State a magnet for attracting people, and thus it is the most populous state in the nation, with 39 million of us sharing its bounty.

The history of the settlement of California by European immigrants has often been brutal, to both the land and its native peoples. We now face a California with a multitude of ecological problems due primarily to human ignorance, greed, and disregard for Mother Earth.

Native Plants Match Our Climate, Soils, and Wildlife

We can passively hope government will solve these problems, or we can begin making restorative changes ourselves. For me, the most rewarding and transformative way to heal the land has been to garden with native plants. Native plants evolved here, are well-adapted to our climate, soils and wildlife, and will restore balance and health to degraded ecosystems.

They have diverse strategies for surviving our Sierra foothills' long summer drought period, wildfires, heavy winter rainstorms, low fertility, often heavy clay soils. They also support our wildlife far better than non-native plants.

With climate change and global warming becoming a reality, water conservation is more critical than ever. One excellent way to reduce water use is to replace water-guzzling lawns, borders and hedges with drought-tolerant native plant species. This switch also increases bird, insect and other wildlife populations and decreases or eliminates any need for fertilizers, soil amendments, pesticides and herbicides.

Native plants also do triple duty by being some of the most effective plants for stabilizing soils, preventing erosion and sinking water on your site, as many have deep roots for mining soil moisture.

Another advantage of native plants is that most have evolved means to recover quickly from low to moderate wildfires, which are becoming more frequent and severe with climate change.
change. To top it off, not only our legumes (pea family members), but pioneer plants such as Ceanothus, Mountain Mahogany, Mountain Misery and Alders fix nitrogen in the soil, thus building soil fertility on disturbed and degraded sites.

Join the Redbud Leadership Team!

Over the past 27 years, Redbud Chapter has been fortunate that many knowledgeable and talented native plant lovers have dedicated their time and skills to our mission of conserving, exploring, and educating about native plants.

These leaders have made it possible for Redbud to write and publish guides to over 700 local species, *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties*, and *Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer Counties*; offer our annual *Passionate about (Native) Plants* speaker series; hold annual native plant sales drawing hundreds of customers; and advocate for rare plants and endangered plant communities such as vernal pools.

For example, former officers who have held multiple leadership roles include founding president Shawna Martinez, then a student, now a professor, at Sierra College; Julie Carville, author of *Spectacular Wildflower Trails of the Tahoe Basin*; and botanist and rare-plant expert Karen Callahan. All three are also co-authors of Redbud’s guidebooks. In upcoming newsletters, you’ll find profiles of some of our Redbud “stars.”

We invite you to join our Redbud leadership team in any of these key positions:

- **Program Chair** — Identify and engage speakers; develop schedule of programs; provide speaker names and bios, program descriptions, and photos for publicity; arrange venues.
- **President Elect** — Serve in training to become president. Assist with management and oversight of all chapter activities; in president’s absence, chair board and member meetings.

- **Co-Editor for Newsletter** — With editor, prepare and publish 2 to 4 newsletters per year. Ideally, has excellent and writing and editing skills, and experience using desktop publishing software to lay out both electronic and print versions of publications.
- **Co-chair of Outreach, Orientation, and Membership** — With chair, develop publications, social media,
• Co-editor for Website — With editor, update and maintain Redbud website. Participate in moving website to new content management system. Experience using WordPress highly desirable.

Volunteer for the Redbud Plant Sale
MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Saturday, October 13

Become part of the plant sale volunteer team! Each volunteer who completes a three-hour shift receives a coupon good for a free one-gallon plant.

Here are some great volunteer opportunities:

• Distribute plant-sale flyers at nurseries, businesses, etc. in Grass Valley the week of September 10.
• Plan to help during the week prior to the sale. We have a busy week getting ready.
• We need muscle for setting up Friday and early Saturday morning and for taking it all down.
• We need people to move plants from trucks to the sale tables Friday and early Saturday morning.
• We need the detail-oriented skills of cashiers and tallyers.
• We need the native plant knowledge of volunteers who can interact well with shoppers.

SignUp.com will arrive in your inbox soon. But no need to wait! Contact Diane now at Volunteer4Redbud@gmail.com and let her know how you want to help make the plant sale a success.

Add your enthusiasm during the plant sale by signing up for one of 85 shifts that make the sale possible!

Membership Celebration
Save the Date — Saturday, October 27, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The Horseman's Club, Grass Valley

All Redbud members are invited to a celebration to express appreciation for your participation and enthusiasm. Together, we make Redbud’s activities and achievements possible, including our plant sale, speaker series, activism, and field trips. Meet and get to know fellow Redbud wildflower-lovers, gardeners, volunteers, authors, naturalists, and activists. Connect with old friends and make new ones!

We’ll have food, displays, and activities for all ages — bring your children and grandchildren. After a
brief member meeting, we’ll have a conversation with Dr. M. Kat Anderson, speaker at Redbud’s well-attended program in October 2017, and author of *Tending the Wild*. You’ll also have an opportunity to buy books — and native plants remaining from the October 13th sale — at a discount.

Not a member right now? Join at the door or contact treasurer@redbud-cnps.org. Your invitation to the Member Celebration will arrive in early September.

**Why a Member Celebration?**

- To showcase options to participate, learn and discover, such as native plant propagation, field trips, education, speakers, and advocacy.
- To introduce local Redbud authors. Meet authors and have your books signed!
- To illustrate how Redbud activities support the California Native Plant Society’s mission: conserving California native plants through “education, plant science, advocacy, land stewardship and native plant gardening.”
- To enjoy one another’s company and foster friendship!

Get involved at whatever level you choose, whether nominating and voting for officers at the member meeting, volunteering for the plant sale, or taking a leadership role as a board or committee member. Volunteers are needed for Program Chair, Publicity Co-chair, and Volunteer Recruiter; for more information, email nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org. And it’s all-hands-on-deck to get ready for our annual native plant sale — contact Diane at Volunteer4Redbud@gmail.com. More details coming soon!

**Grants for Future Botanists**

Grant/scholarship opportunity for botany students, instructors, and researchers!

The CNPS state organization awards grants from seven funds to upper-division undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers to encourage study and research in native-plant botany. For students planning studies of the varied Placer or Nevada County habitats, our rare plants, or native-plant restoration, CNPS offers the Karen Callahan Scholarship Award.

Long-time Redbud members, John Krogsrud and Deborah Domitrovich, and their friends, established this scholarship to advance the scientific study of plants and plant communities local to these two counties. In other words, this scholarship is about all those fantastic wildflower fields and forests we love to explore!

Descriptions and online proposal forms are at https://www.cnps.org/education/students/grants. All CNPS scholarship and grant applications
How I Used Native Grass Seeds for Lawn Replacement

By Lauren Almond

By mid September 2017 my 1,000-sq. ft. front lawn was finally past the point of no return. It had large patches of bare dirt, clumps of crab grass, areas of moss marooned under the trees, and many and various weeds. Very little real lawn remained. I had poured “Weed and Feed” on it for a few years, to no avail.

I needed to rethink the concept of having a lawn in the forest at 3,300 feet. I wanted an organic yard that supported wildlife, so I decided native grasses would be best for this. CNPS educated me about allowing my grasses to grow long and go to seed so birds would eat the seeds as a food source. I thought about “sheet mulching” my lawn by laying cardboard on the ground and topping it with compost and mulch. But this just seemed like a lot of work and expense. So, instead, I had my soil tilled so I could pick most of the weeds and crabgrass out. I raked in two bags of organic fertilizer pellets and made sure my sprinklers were adjusted. I was ready to buy seeds.

Peaceful Valley had a “low growing, slow growing, native lawn seed mix” which seemed perfect for my application:

Native Low Growing Lawn Mix - Peaceful Valley

- Mokelumne Fescue
- Idaho Fescue
- Slender Hairgrass
- Native Bentgrass
- Molate Fescue

I waited until late October to spread my seeds on the ground, topped with a thin layer of rice straw to protect them from birds and the elements. Through the winter I started to see a little greening. By March and April 2018 it really started to fill in. I wanted to prevent the crabgrass from spouting back, so I needed to use a pre-emergent at just the right time. I let my grass get going first, then after Forsythia bloomed in April but before the Lilacs bloomed in May, I used a seed spreader to corn gluten meal (an organic pre-emergent) on my grass. I applied the corn gluten meal three times that month, with great success. Very little crabgrass.

During the summer months, the show really began. The grass grew two feet tall and then fell over to create a beautiful wavy, bouncy, green carpet. Under the carpet, it stayed evenly moist and cool because it shaded itself, which meant I could cut back on water. Few weeds grew, because weed seeds were blocked out by the thickness of these long stems.

I notice an abundance of strange bugs and insects thriving in my new ecosystem. Birds attack the lawn, eating something there. I've seen small garden snakes and frogs living in the protected underworld. I hear a buzzing sound in my grass now, and it smells rich with moisture and life. The whole feeling of my yard has changed to a cooler, wilder atmosphere. I love to roll on the softness with my dogs and cats. My neighbors are very curious and, of course, I can't wait to tell them about my Redbud chapter of the California Native Plant Society and how they.
too, can have a native, organic, no-mow, self-mulching, self-seeding wildlife-beneficial lawn.

Now in late August, the grass mix is browning a little to get ready for fall. These dry goodies will cuddle the soil this winter, a perfect built-in incubator for next Spring’s babies.

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**2018 Passionate about (Native) Plants...Upcoming Presentations**

Just a little reminder about upcoming 2018 presentations! Put them on your calendar now, so you can attend them! Hope to see you there!

- **Fri., September 21, Nevada City.** Nancy Gilbert: California’s Garden Gems: Native Perennials, Vines and Shrubs for Sierra Foothill Gardens

Programs are 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the weeks prior to each event, you’ll find more information about each event on our Facebook page and our website. All lectures are free and open to the public.

**Locations**

*Auburn Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA  
**Madelyn Helling Library, 980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA*

Your membership in the California Native Plant Society helps ensure that our vital work in conservation, education, horticulture, advocacy, and plant science continues to grow and flourish!

*We know you care about nature and native plants!*

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