Redbud Chapter Election Results

Thank you to our members who voted in the 2021 Redbud elections, held during the November 17, 2021 member meeting. Members had a choice of several ways to vote: Vote in advance using an online Google poll, send an email vote, or participate in a Google poll during the meeting. All three options were used, as more than 30 current members voted (well above the required quorum of 21).

We are delighted to welcome our newly elected officers, who will each serve a two-year term from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Shane Hanofee, President
As President, Shane will chair board and member meetings; represent the Chapter and advance Redbud objectives and policies; appoint

Carol Thompson, Vice President
As Vice President, Carol will assist in guiding chapter policies, events, and projects; recruit members for leadership and activities; assist in
committee chairs; and monitor environmental group activities. Shane will also continue to serve as Web Editor, Social Media Chair, CNPS Chapter Council Representative, and Co-Chair of the Plant Sale and Nursery Committees.

outreach; and assist and represent President as delegated. Carol will continue to serve on the Plant Sale Committee and as Volunteer Coordinator.

Susan Dewar, Secretary
Susan is continuing for an additional two years as chapter secretary, recording minutes of each meeting. Susan has served in this role since 2018 in addition to working as a restoration/plant ecologist in California for almost twenty years.

Jeanne Wilson, Treasurer
Jeanne has served as Treasurer in the past. As treasurer, Jeanne will maintain chapter financial records, make deposits and disbursements consistent with Board-approved budgets and transactions, preparing and presenting financial statements to the Board, and submit financial reports to CNPS as required. Jeanne also serves as Co-Chair for Conservation Advocacy and for the Plant Sale Committee.

Native Plants and Fire, Part 2
By Chrissy Freeman

Landscaping with Native Plants After Fire
Part 1, Native Plants Live with Fire, was published in our issue of the Redbud News at the beginning of September 2021.
Observe & Wait
If an area you tend burns, observe how fire affected it. Determine the fire severity in each part of the land. Fire burns in a mosaic pattern, so different parts of that property may be affected differently. Many forest species can survive or come back from a low-intensity fire. In a moderate-intensity fire, some native hardwoods burn completely to the ground, but they may often re-sprout. More trees die in a moderate intensity fire. This makes more snags for wildlife (and sources of insects as food for birds) but also often more safety issues and motivation to harvest timber.

In a high-intensity fire, virtually all the mature and young native trees die over a large area or patch. Small patches of high-intensity fire tend to support shrubs and other low plants for many years, quite different from forest species. This supports a more diverse ecosystem than a mature forest would.

Learn About Fire Recovery
If fire has damaged or destroyed your wildland or landscaping, before you start removing burned trees, clearing the land, or planning your landscape rebirth, find out best practice for fire recovery in California. You may want to start with the CNPS Fire Recovery Guide. Among other valuable topics, it includes a post-fire checklist for property owners, a decision-flow diagram for post-fire conditions, post-fire clean-up advice, erosion control recommendations, and tips for tree care and landscaping after fire. Both Redbud's Resources on California Native Plants and Fire Safety and our Resources on California Native Plants and Fire Recovery have a wealth of material.

Even if your property hasn't burned, remember, in case it does burn in the future, that minimizing people and equipment on burned areas helps reduce soil compaction, which in turn reduces runoff on slopes and helps reduce erosion.

What & When to Plant
Prune back fire-damaged plants, and allow them time to recover; their roots are stabilizing the soil. Even if they don’t recover, leaving their roots in place until you are ready to replant helps reduce erosion. Appreciate that nature may pop up new plants or re-sprout plants by spring time. Avoid disturbing soil in fall or winter, as the effects of the fire make it very susceptible to erosion.

Unless an apparently dead tree may threaten people or buildings, wait until spring to remove burned and blackened plants. By spring, you’ll be able to see which ones re-sprout. If possible, give damaged trees up to three years to demonstrate if they’ll recover successfully. (If you’re considering harvesting dead trees, doing this within the first year avoids prolonged or recurring disturbance of regrowth of trees and other species.)
To decide whether to mulch, and whether to re-plant after fire or simply let nature take its course, consult the decision tree in the CNPS Fire Recovery Guide. It will help you evaluate erosion potential and vegetation recovery potential.

In “highly managed” areas, such as in a home landscape, CNPS advises that you may seed with annuals and short-lived perennials. Anywhere else, if you do seed, avoid seed mixes of any kind. They often include annual grasses, which are shallowed rooted and soon increase fire risk. If you do seed, use seeds of perennial grasses, sourced as locally as possible. One reason to be conservative about re-seeding is that such introduced seeds may outcompete naturally-occurring native seeds and geophytes (bulbs, corms, etc.) that spring up in the first year or two following a fire.

If you have undisturbed wildland, CNPS advises against post-fire seeding to prevent erosion, as “a growing and convincing body of scientific evidence indicates that seeding is generally ineffective in reducing erosion in such places, and is ecologically disruptive to native plant and animal communities.”¹ They note that severely disturbed areas (bulldozed areas, fire roads, etc.) may recover more quickly than undisturbed areas, so seeding there with locally native species may be helpful. Such areas are also more likely to need mulch in order to reduce erosion. Fall fires tend not to allow enough time for such seeding.

Encourage fire-followers, as nature does. These plants will help prevent erosion, help repress invasives and other weeds, and keep water on the land. Check out Calscape’s list of fire-following plants. For our counties, attractive fire-following locally native plants include: soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum), miniature lupine (Lupinus nanus), California poppies (Eschscholzia californica), Chinese houses (Collinsia heterophylla), common woolly sunflower (Eriophyllum lanatum), chaparral currant (Ribes malvaceum), Tomcat Clover (Trifolium wildenovii), and maiden clover (Trifolium microcephalum).

If the area where you are doing native landscaping is near or upstream from naturally occurring native plants, use native plants propagated from local wild material, and avoid cultivars of locally native species (unless, as CNPS advises, you are “absolutely certain they originated locally.”) Contact Redbud to see if we have appropriate plants available. Small local nurseries (such as Nevada County Native Plants) may do contract growing for revegetation. Floral Native Nursery grows plants primarily sourced from Butte County, which may be close enough. If the fire burned at high intensity and rainfall is low, trees such as oaks that would otherwise re-sprout from roots may not do so, and you will want to replant new trees from acorns.

**Keeping Soil in Place**
For slopes or waterways near your home, controlling erosion is a primary post-fire goal. As well as relevant actions already mentioned, you may want to use up to two inches of certified weed-free loose straw or low-density planting of sterile barley or wheat (which are “non-persistent plants”). Wattles are sometimes placed in strategic areas. The CNPS guide has lots of info about these options.

**Fostering a More Fire-Safe Landscape**
As you rebuild your landscape, for your own safety and to help mimic older fire regimes, you’ll want to foster a landscape that helps keep fire away from your home — and keep it at low-intensity, if or when it returns. So, check out Redbud’s online material on firewise design, plant selection, and maintenance.

(Home hardening, also critical, is beyond the scope of this material. Both the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County and the California Fire Safe Council have practical information about this.)

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**Featured Redbud: Lauren Almond**
*by Chrissy Freeman*

Lauren Almond’s story of how she discovered native plants would warm the heart of anyone involved in publicity. “One day, I saw a little flyer on a Redbud presentation on pollinators (given by Nancy Gilbert, horticulture co-chair for Redbud). I thought it would be about bees and hummingbirds. I went and was flabbergasted. I had no idea that native bees existed. I didn’t know that birds, bats, flies, and wasps were pollinators, too. Suddenly the lights went on – OMG, that’s what I want to do!”

**Starting up with the Redbuds**

Lauren wanted to fill her yard, the three commercial properties she and her husband own, and beyond, with nature. She’d always loved nature and wanted to help grow food for pollinators. She started thinking of herself as a farmer for pollinator food. Now plants took on a whole new meaning for her, and she knew she’d never go back.
Thrilled to have found a group on which she could count for support, she began attending Redbud events, volunteering, and asking lots of questions. (She even coined an appealing name for our members, which others have started to use.) “I discovered that the Redbuddies include a lot of scientists who know what they’re talking about. So I rely heavily on their experience and education to guide me with my plant choices, how to plant them, and what would work in every situation.”

Because of her deep interest and involvement, Lauren felt knowledge and understanding sink in relatively quickly. “It’s so simple; it’s just working with nature. You have to honor and understand that native plants can’t be treated like an imported nursery plant; you can’t pour fertilizer on them.”

**Landscaping Commercial Sites with Native Plants**

Lauren’s first significant native-plant project was landscaping one of their storage businesses. Needing to order hundreds of plants, she felt nervous. “I had to think: When do plants bloom, what areas have full sun, what should I do about landscaping on a slope, and more. Some of my first choices in plant species weren’t available. In a panic, I called Nancy; she gave me alternatives.”

Nancy also gave her advice about watering on slopes that Lauren regards as invaluable — to use sprinklers rather than drip to establish low-water plants. This approach spreads the application of water across the land more evenly, to keep young rootballs moist. The steeper the slope, the more compost and mulch she added.

Lauren and her husband, Loren Willman, also active in Redbud, broke new ground, so to speak, in demonstrating to the county best practices for landscaping commercial sites with native plants. They are now working with county staff with the aim of getting a few county landscape codes updated to these practices, such as allowing developers to install smaller plants, avoid underground watering systems, and plant in the fall. “We saved tens of thousands of dollars,” says Lauren. “By using smaller plants, we saved not only on the cost of the plants but also installation. Also, we didn’t have to bring in soil, fertilize, and use expensive irrigation systems.”

In fact, using smaller plants and native-appropriate irrigation systems, instead of currently required five-gallon container size and underground irrigation, also results in healthier, well-adapted, easier to establish, and faster-growing plants that can and do outperform non-native/exotic plants. For example, after just two years, one-gallon toyons are now six feet tall, and coffeeberries are large enough that browsing deer don’t harm them, about four to six feet tall.

Completing this project took several years of major planting. Lauren’s very happy with the results. Cutbanks fill with local wildflowers and grasses in spring. She remarks, “It’s so beautiful that people
stop all the time and take pictures of it.” With the addition of a small bird bath, visits from birds and bugs of all kinds have increased dramatically.

**Preserving a Local Forest**

Once Lauren became involved with Redbud, she and Loren wanted to preserve a complete, thriving natural ecosystem of both native plants and native wildlife, including mountain lions and bears. She notes, “Nothing is better than conserving nature that is already there.”

So they purchased a 110-acre forest on Banner Mountain that had been slated for dense development. Hundreds of Pacific yew trees, as well as thousands of Pacific dogwoods and big-leaf maples, fill its riparian area, which features a stream and lots of cool shade. Its mountainsides feature extensive herbaceous diversity, as well as “the largest oak and madrone I’ve ever seen,” says Lauren.

Lauren knows that tending a forest takes more than a heart attuned to nature; it requires commitment, knowledge, and resources. Since acquiring this property, Lauren and Loren have thinned the forest considerably, removing thousands of overcrowded cedars. Despite repeated efforts to remove non-native Himalayan blackberries, “The creek is still full of blackberries,” Lauren remarks. “They’re difficult and expensive to control.”

The native plants have benefitted from such actions. Since the thinning, plant diversity and health has increased. Lauren now sees more false Solomon’s seal, trillium, and lady’s slipper, and the yews have more new growth.

**Sprouting the Redbud Nursery**

Lauren quickly started giving back to Redbud. She became a member of the Redbud Board. She works on signage for the plant sales and often greets customers as they arrive at the sales. Redbud Chapter had wished over the years for a local nursery site in which to grow native plants to sell at plant sales. Lauren and Loren started talking with Nancy Gilbert, the chapter’s horticulture chair, and Jeanne Wilson, the chapter’s then-president, about developing some land at their Grass Valley storage business as the Redbud nursery. Lauren explains, “One of my hopes was to grow more of our locally native plants.”
Now both the nursery and the propagation of literally thousands of locally native plants have come to pass, thanks to much generosity and dedication from Lauren and Loren. Lauren is among the most active nursery monitors, volunteering weekly. If there’s a workday at the nursery, she puts on her boots and shows up. Her favorite nursery activity? Potting up baby sprouts into their first real soil feels to her like giving life. She excited about the nursery’s potential not only for growing native plants but for growing Redbud itself. “I think we are at the beginning of a volunteer surge, now that we have a place to meet up.”

Lauren sums up her view and vision: “When you have native plants, your garden has an entirely different impression and meaning. It has this peaceful and awe-inspiring feeling, because it’s all nature. When you put together plants that want to grow together, that are used to growing together, it’s magical. No other plants will do what these plants do. I’m growing a banquet for hungry pollinators.”

(For more on Lauren’s vision and work with native plants, read how she transformed her front lawn low-growing native grasses in the August 2018 issue of Redbud News.)

Our Native Plants in Autumn
By Chrissy Freeman

One day this past fall, while driving along Meadow Drive, I came across Ames Gilbert walking along the road. He explained that he was gathering “the most showy and colorful leaves I could find of each species.” He was also collecting attractive berries, cones, and other plant parts.

Back home, he arranged these in a handmade basket to form the splendid autumnal display pictured here.

Here’s a challenge: Name as many plants you can that Ames included in his display. As needed, zoom in on the image to take a closer look.

Ames Gilbert

2 The nursery is not a retail nursery open to the public; plants are raised for our periodic plant sales.
Then compare your responses with the answers at the end of this newsletter. No peaking until you’ve looked carefully and identified as many of these as you can!

Students from Grass Valley Charter Help Nisenan Native Plant Garden Project Move Forward
By Merry Byles-Daly

In 2021 the Redbud Board funded a grant written by member Merry Byles-Daly under the auspices of the Redbud Education Committee. The purpose of the grant was to create a Nisenan Native Plant Garden along the Wolf Creek Trail in Grass Valley.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Shelly Covert of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, Josie Crawford of the Wolf Creek Community Alliance, and the industrious students in Khara Cormia’s seventh-grade class at Grass Valley Charter School, the plans to develop the Nisenan Garden have been moving forward.

Students Hard at Work
The students from the 2020-2021 seventh grade and now this year’s 2021-2022 seventh graders have visited the site a half dozen times in the past year. They come with a “Can Do” attitude, embodying the ethics taught at Grass Valley Charter about environmental stewardship, community service, and working together as a crew.

In their earlier visits, students removed invasive blackberry and learned to recognize and target invasives, such as vinca, tree of heaven, and wild sweet peas. They’ve cleared around and protected the native roses, alders, big leaf maples, and honeysuckle they’ve discovered.

Preparing a Path
Students work in small teams, rotating through various tasks. During their most recent visit in November, they learned that Shelly Covert of the Nisenan Rancheria had expressed the desire for a
spiralizing path through the site, and that Kevin Bratton of Native Landscapes had suggested a design where to place the path.

With Josie Crawford’s guidance, the students outlined the path, using downed sticks, pinecones, and stones. They continued to clear blackberry, and really worked hard to target other invasives. The result is that the area was then ready to receive its first California natives, donated by Redbud, mostly grown at our nursery.

**Adding an Array of Native Plants**

Students planted a California ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), a big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), a giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), some redtwig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and a narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fasciculatum*). The first natives planted in the area were then welcomed by soaking rains and all that snow!

**News from the Redbud CNPS Nursery**

*By Nancy Gilbert, Redbud CNPS Horticulture Co-Chair*

So much is happening in our nursery

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3 The nursery is not a retail nursery open to the public; plants are raised for our periodic plant sales.
Success in the Snow
Our nursery plants had a rigorous test this December with the major snowstorm event. I am glad to report that they passed with flying colors! A couple of days before the storm hit, we held a workday and removed the upper/top shade fabric from our shade house. This was important for saving the fabric from snow damage.

Once the roads were safe to drive and our driveway was cleared, I checked the nursery, expecting to see quite a few damaged plants in the shade house. Instead, I found all the plants had weathered the storm quite well. Only a few perennials needed some pruning back; all others are fine, including the cuttings we made at the December 7 cuttings workshop led by Justin Maciulis.

Cuttings Workshop
The nursery team’s propagation efforts swung into full gear with our hardwood cuttings workshop on December 7. Participants had contributed an array of thin, freshly-cut branches from a variety of native plants, mostly multi-caning deciduous shrubs; these usually are the best for hardwood cuttings, though we also included a couple of evergreen species for which this technique works. (Keep cut ends immersed in water until working on a branch.)

Justin Maciulis, who owns and runs his own native plant nursery, began by demonstrating to our approximately dozen attendees the steps in how to transform sections of those little branches into cuttings in potting mix. These little sticks could become plants!

Each person then selected branch at a time and created a number of cuttings. As Justin advised us, we often planted 6 to 12 cuttings in a single 1-gallon pot. We’ll know these cuttings have rooted if, when we pull gently on the little cutting, there’s some resistance. At that point, they’ll be ready to bump up to individual pots.

We potted up over 250 cuttings. Of course we don’t expect all our cuttings to survive and mature into plants saleable at Redbud plant sales. But, thanks to Justin’s generous tutelage and the continuing watchful presence of our nursery monitors, we hope to have great success!

If you’d like to try this at home, be sure to get going right away, as Justin advised that the window on doing hardwood cuttings closes by the end of January.

Seed Party
We conducted a seed planting work party with our nursery volunteers on January 12 at the nursery. I brought the following nut-like seeds, which had been stratifying in my refrigerator for three months and were ready for potting up:
Leatherleaf oak (*Quercus durata*)
California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)
California snowdrop bush (*Stryax redivivus*)
California hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*)
California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

After setting up seeding areas and receiving instructions on the seeding requirements of each of these species, everyone enjoyed one another’s company as we planted all the seeds into pots in sizes ranging from treebands and quarts to mini-treepots, with 4-inch x 14-inch tall treepots for the acorns. The plants now reside inside our shade house, and we hope we’ll have excellent germination results.

Jeanne and Star also placed cuttings of California aster (*Symphiotrichum chilense*) into our Clone King aeroponic cloning machine, which is now located inside the office building. This method of propagation provides highly oxygenated, circulating water to the stems of the cuttings, which greatly enhances root formation on softwood cuttings.

**More Seeding Coming for Our Nursery Volunteers**
We are planning to have a second seeding work party at the nursery in March. At this event we’ll be seeding medium- to small-size seeds, such as Western redbud, coffeeberry, California false indigo, Pacific bleeding heart, and many more. We send out invitations to volunteer for these propagation work parties to our Redbud Nursery Monitors and others who have contacted us expressing an interest in volunteering to work at the nursery.

**Landscaping the Nursery with Mother Plants**
Nancy Gilbert and Lauren Almond have just planted six native plants in the landscape planter in front of our nursery. The species planted are:
- *Carpenteria californica* ‘Elizabeth’ — a more compact and floriferous cultivar of the species
- *Ceanothus maritimus* ‘Frosty Dawn’ — a very compact, garden tolerant and floriferous cultivar of the species

These plants will beautify the nursery site and, as mother plants, provide us with cuttings for future propagation.
Upcoming Events
By Carol Thompson and Chrissy Freeman

Upcoming Events from Redbud Chapter

We’re lining up a varied and fascinating array of programs for 2022. If you have program ideas, we’d love to hear them. We’re also looking for a new Programs Chair. Contact us at nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org. All programs are virtual until further notice. For more information, see our Redbud Events page. Each live session will include time for audience questions. Closer to the event date, we’ll post information on how to view each specific program.

Jan. 27, Thu. 6 p.m. Darlingtonia Conservation & Ecology
For many, hearing of carnivorous plants calls to mind distant tropical environments...jungles...swamps. These sorts of environments you might not associate with the typically drought-prone, xeric ecosystems of California. But dotted throughout montane Northern California are small, specialized habitats containing our sole native carnivorous pitcher plant, the rare and protected California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*). Join us for a presentation by Darlingtonia expert Jameison Chilton. He will share with us this unique native plant’s growth habits throughout its range, its relationships with other organisms, and its environmental and human threats, historically and now. Talk will be on Zoom and on Youtube.

Late Feb. Date TBD. Fairy Moths and Their Host Native Plants. Al Ludtke will discuss relationships between all the eight California Fairy Moth species and their host plants. These are common but little-studied day-flying moths. He and Lisa Couper, with whom he these studies these moths, believe they have discovered at least one new species. Most of the photos Al will share are by Lisa, an accomplished nature photographer. Talk will be on Zoom and on Youtube.

Mar. 31, Thu. 6 p.m. How To Find And Name New Plant Species
Pro Tip — If it doesn’t key out or match any of the descriptions, maybe it’s not in the book...yet!
The rate of new species discovery and publication in California has not declined for a very long time. There are still new plants to find in all parts of the state! Julie Kierstead will discuss how new species are discovered, giving examples from her own experiences in northern California and the recent experiences of others. She’ll discuss more promising locations for finding new species, how to determine if you’ve found a new species, the steps in naming a new species, and who decides if the new species is valid.
This process can be daunting, especially the first time, when you lack confidence at every step. Julie will present some ways to smooth the process and increase the fun, drawing on her varied experiences, from the first one — Shasta huckleberry (*Vaccinium shastense*) — which took 25 years from discovery to publication, to much more streamlined cases in recent years, ranging from a huckleberry to a maidenhair fern to geophytes. Talk will be on Zoom and on Youtube.

**Upcoming Events from Other Organizations**

**Virtual Programs From Other CNPS Chapters**

- **Feb. 2, Wed. 7:30 p.m.**  **Picking the Perfect Plants for your Garden with Calscape.** Santa Clara Valley Chapter. [Zoom registration](#). Vivian Neou, a retired software executive, will introduce you to Calscape ([www.calscape.org](http://www.calscape.org)) — including how to create a customized plant list, how to choose the right tree, shrub or perennial, and where you can purchase the plants you want. Vivian Neou also serves as the SCV Nursery Manager, SVC Technology Coordinator, and is on the Calscape advisory committee.

- **Feb. 9, Wed. 7:30 p.m.**  **Favorite Native Plant Books and Resources: Panel Presentation and Interactive Discussion.** Santa Clara Valley Chapter. [Zoom registration](#). Just getting started with native plant gardening or trying to find solutions in your existing garden? Experienced gardeners will discuss the books they find most helpful. The talk will be interactive: there will be ample time for the audience to ask questions, comment on books, and suggest other helpful books or resources. Come to learn or to share your knowledge!

- **Feb. 10, Th. 7:30 p.m.**  **Maximizing Habitat Values and Habitat Function in Urban Landscapes** Yerba Buena Chapter. [Zoom registration](#). Pat Reynolds, California Native Grassland Association, will focus on the steps that go into the design, implementation and maintenance of habitat gardens dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, including the incorporation of habitat features to maximize ecological values and habitat function.

- **Feb 15, Tue. 7:30 p.m.**  **Discovering Mono County Plants with Ann Howald.** Milo Baker Chapter. [Zoom registration](#). Ann is a retired botanist with an M.A. in Botany from U.C. Santa Barbara. Since the 1970’s she has studied the plants of Mono County in the Eastern Sierra. Her presentation will highlight many of the beautiful and rare plants known from Mono County.

**Master Gardener Zoom Workshops**

Master Gardeners of Nevada County. Check [NCG](#) website home page as the date of any later workshop approaches, to find out whether the workshop is on Zoom, at Elks Lodge (109 S. School St., Grass Valley), or at Demonstration Garden Pavilion on NID grounds (1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley).

- **Feb 19, Sat., 10 a.m.**  **Native Plants Bring Beauty and Benefits, Part 1 of 2.** On Zoom. Join from [Nevada County Master Gardeners website](#). Redbud members Chrissy Freeman and Darlene Ward share two very different native plant gardens to illustrate various approaches to
gardening with natives. As we look at plants, we’ll share tips specific to native plants on design, plant selection, and meeting the gardener’s goals.

- **Feb 26**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Native Plants Bring Beauty and Benefits, Part 2 of 2.**
  On Zoom. Join from [Nevada County Master Gardeners website](http://nevadacountymastergardener.com). Redbud members Chrissy Freeman and Darlene Ward discuss the benefits of native plants — both to the gardener and to the ecosystem. They’ll look at important questions gardeners might have about growing natives, such as the benefits of locally native plants, and will review recent thought-provoking research and concerns related to gardening with native plants.

- **Mar 26**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Gardening for Birds.**  
  [Nevada County Master Gardeners](http://nevadacountymastergardener.com)

- **May 14**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Softwood Propagation.**  
  [Nevada County Master Gardeners](http://nevadacountymastergardener.com)

- **Jul 9**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Nevada County Firewise Landscape and Maintenance.**  
  [Nevada County Master Gardeners](http://nevadacountymastergardener.com)

**Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sonoma State University**

- **Feb. 2**, Wed. 2-3 p.m.  **Deep Dive: Benefits of Cultural & Prescribed Burning.**  
  Fire is a source of rejuvenation and renewal, and many plant communities need fire to be sustained. Native Americans used fire in diverse ways to tend the land before the arrival of Europeans, and continue to use fire today amid the challenges of colonization. Learn about the benefits of cultural and prescribed burning and how they can be effective tools in protecting our community from wildfire and providing habitat and healthy ecosystems for plants, animals, and people to enjoy.

**UC Statewide IPM Program Urban and Community Webinar Series.** Free monthly webinars open to the public, providing helpful pest management information for California residents

- **Feb. 17**, Thu., 12 -1 p.m. Topic TBD.
- **Mar. 17**, Thu., 12 -1 p.m. Topic TBD.

**Summary Calendar of Events**

Details in listing for each organization. * indicates a Redbud event.

- **Jan. 27**, Thu. 6 p.m.  **Darlingtonia Conservation & Ecology**
  Dotted throughout montane Northern California are small, specialized habitats containing our sole native carnivorous pitcher plant, the rare and protected Darlingtonia californica. Join us for a presentation by Darlingtonia expert Jameison Chilton. He will share with us this unique native plant’s growth habits throughout its range, its relationships with other organisms, and its environmental and human threats, historically and now. On Zoom and on YouTube.

- **Feb. 2**, Wed. 2-3 p.m. **Deep Dive: Benefits of Cultural & Prescribed Burning.** Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sonoma State University.
- **Feb. 2**, Wed. 7:30 p.m.  **Picking the Perfect Plants for your Garden with Calscape.**  *Santa Clara Valley Chapter, CNPS.* Including how to create a customized plant list, how to choose the right plants.

- **Feb. 9**, Wed. 7:30 p.m.  **Favorite Native Plant Books and Resources: Panel Presentation and Interactive Discussion.**  *Santa Clara Valley Chapter, CNPS.* Zoom registration.

- **Feb. 10**, Th. 7:30 p.m.  **Maximizing Habitat Values and Habitat Function in Urban Landscapes.**  *Yerba Buena Chapter, CNPS.* Pat Reynolds, California Native Grassland Association, will focus on the steps in the design, implementation and maintenance of habitat gardens dominated by native herbaceous vegetation.

- **Feb 15**, Tue. 7:30 p.m.  **Discovering Mono County Plants with Ann Howald.**  *Milo Baker Chapter, CNPS.* See more info. Ann has studied the plants of Mono County since the 1970’s.

- **Feb 17**, Thu., 12 -1 p.m.  Topic TBD.  *UC Statewide IPM Program Urban and Community Webinar Series.*

- **Feb 19**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Native Plants Bring Beauty and Benefits, Part 1 of 2.** Insights specific to native plants on design, plant selection, and meeting the gardener’s goals by two Redbud members.  *Nevada County Master Gardeners.*

- **Feb 26**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Native Plants Bring Beauty and Benefits, Part 2 of 2.** Two Redbud members present the benefits of native plants to the gardener and to the ecosystem, including recent research.  *Nevada County Master Gardeners.*

- *** Late Feb.**  Date TBD.  **Fairy Moths and Their Host Native Plants.**  *Al Ludtke*

- **Mar. 17**, Thu., 12 -1 p.m.  Topic TBD.  *UC Statewide IPM Program Urban and Community Webinar Series.*

- **Mar 26**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Gardening for Birds.**  *Nevada County Master Gardeners*

- *** Mar. 31**, Thu. 6 p.m.  **How To Find And Name New Plant Species.** There are still new plants to find across the state! Julie Kierstead will discuss how new species are discovered, giving examples from her own experiences and recent experiences of others. She’ll discuss promising locations for finding new species, how to determine if you’ve found a new species, the steps in naming a new species, and who decides if the new species is valid. Julie will present some ways to ease the process and increase the fun. On Zoom and on YouTube.

- **May 14**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Softwood Propagation.**  *Nevada County Master Gardeners*

- **Jul 9**, Sat., 10 a.m.  **Nevada County Firewise Landscape and Maintenance.**  *Nevada County Master Gardeners*

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**Upcoming Redbud Field Trips**  
By Theo Fitanides, Redbud Field Trips Chair

Seasonal and viral conditions change rapidly; to keep in contact and sign up for these and other forthcoming field trips, please visit our Redbud Field Trips page or join our Facebook group. If these options don’t work for you, email me directly.
**We will be limiting attendance on outings as we all seek a balance between health/comfort and shared botanical explorations. Please follow County of Nevada and/or Placer Covid-19 health guidelines. Out of courtesy and inclusion for all, we ask that you wear a mask while close to others until they let you know otherwise. We do not coordinate carpools.**

**Feb 5. Winter Snow Trip.** Bring your cross-country skis or snowshoes for a joint Redbud/Tahoe CNPS field trip to look at the craziness of solid-state water that plants have to deal with in the high country as an “out of season” drought. This outing will probably be focused on inter-chapter camaraderie and the tops of little conifers and deciduous shrubs.

**Feb 13. Bryophyte Walk.** Celebrate Valentine’s Day early with what so many of us truly love most — bryophytes! Shane Hanofee will lead an introductory-level walk to look at mosses and the like. He will also surely allow us to become waylaid by ferns, lichens and early flowers. Location and time to be determined.

**Feb 27. Folsom Area Wildflowers.** Join local expert Susan Kotelnicki on an early-season wildflower tour. Return to a similar area in March to witness the developments! I've understood a local ecology best when I've stayed in place.

**March** date to come. **Foothill Wildflowers, Round 1.** Join botanist Shane Hanofee, our Chapter President, for the best low-elevation wildflower diversity the season has to offer.

**Mar 26. Folsom Lake, Sterling Pointe.** Join long-time Sierra College botany instructor Shawna Martinez on another trip to Folsom to catch the next wave of wildflowers. Grasses are likely to be taller this year with the early rains, and we don’t know what the future holds, but Folsom Lake usually delivers as the water level recedes.
Apr 3.  **Vernal Pools.** Join botanist and Education Committee Chair Hannah Kang on a tour of whichever vernal pools in Southwest Placer County are in best condition at the time. So far, the rainy year is pretty okay; let’s hope it continues. Even if there are no spectacular bathtub rings of flowers, vernal pools always make for great belly botany and a bit of creature seeking.

Apr 16, 17, 23, or 24.  **Shutamul Preserve.** Join land manager Christy Claes and others from the Place Land Trust in trying to catch the larval stage of the California Dogface Butterfly, our State butterfly. California false indigo (*Amorpha californica*) is their sole host plant; this butterfly lays eggs only on this plant species ... and, while larvae, eat only it. Handily, after this plant species flowers a little later in the season, it also provides nectar for adult butterflies. Opportunities are available for future restoration volunteering on this and other PLT properties; join up to learn more about the local ecology and the organization.

April/May.  **Shaded Fuel Break.** Join retired CDF Battalion Chief and native-plant expert Chris Paulus for a whirlwind talk and tour of a Colfax shaded fuel break project he led.

April/May.  **Bear River Geobotany.** Join Richard Marks and a possible special guest on a great interdisciplinary tour of the Bear River watershed. Expect conversations about biogeography, soil textures, hydrology, land history, and ... wait for it ... plants!

We’ll offer more adventures into the higher country as snow melts and magic unfolds.

Save the Date

**Jun 24-26. Sierra Nevada Field Campus.** Bill Wilson has once again garnered us a spot at SFSU’s Sierra Nevada Field Campus for a wonderful weekend glamping experience. Expect various hiking and ambling outings over the weekend. Details to come.

**Aug 12-13. Sagehen Bioblitz.** Calling all botanists, iNaturalist contributors, and enthusiasts! We have the special opportunity to glamp (tent or cabin) at the UCNRS Sagehen Creek Field Station. This is a deliciously intact meadow just over the Sierra Nevada crest. We can join up with the tail end of the California Naturalists class and participate in documenting all the organisms we can. More details to come.

**Giving to Redbud**
You can be a powerful ally in supporting California native plants. Redbud has a couple of special projects that might interest you.

**Chet Blackburn Scholarship Fund**

The Redbud Chapter has established the Chet Blackburn Scholarship Fund to honor a man critical to the establishment and growth of our chapter. Chet passed away in 2018 at 85. He served as the second president of Redbud and as project manager for both Redbud books, *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties* and *Trees and Shrubs of Nevada and Placer Counties*. He was instrumental in starting and developing our plant sales. (Read an article on Chet in the November 2018 issue of Redbud News.)

The Chet Blackburn scholarship will fund students and new/beginning professionals to do research, projects, or training focused on furthering knowledge of California native plants. A focus relevant to Placer and Nevada counties is desirable but not required. Redbud welcomes all levels of applicants (high school, college, or graduate students; researchers; and professionals. Schools and non-profit organizations (e.g., Bear Yuba Land Trust or CCH Verified Herbaria) are also encouraged to apply.

You can contribute to this fund by making a donation to Redbud, indicating this preference. For details about contributing, see later in this article. The Chapter intends to build this fund so interest earned by the principal will enable us to increase the number/amount of scholarships.

**What the Nursery Needs**

Redbud’s nursery now has a shade structure, greenhouse, and a wonderful modular building, provided and installed by Loren Wilman. We’re furnishing it as an office and a break room for volunteers. We’re still looking for a “dorm-size” fridge for stratifying seeds. If you have one you could donate (in good condition, of course), please contact nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org.

The nursery can also use financial contributions, to offset the cost of nursery supplies.

**How to Donate to Redbud**

To make a non-profit donation to Redbud, donate to CNPS; direct your gift for Redbud Chapter. If you want your donation to go for a specific purpose, such as the Chet Blackburn Scholarship Fund, or the nursery, email treasurer@redbud-cnps.org to indicate the purpose you want your gift used for.

If you prefer, you can mail a check made out to CNPS to: Redbud Chapter of CNPS, P.O. Box 2662, Nevada City, CA 95959. In the “memo” line of the check, put “for Redbud Chapter” and, if you like, the specific purpose you want it to go towards. You’ll be helping expand the reach of native plants in Nevada and Placer Counties, particularly locally native plants.

**Redbud Receives Generous Gifts**

By Jeanne Wilson, Redbud Treasurer

We would like to express our gratitude for the $500 grant recently awarded to Redbud by the BriarPatch Food Coop.
"We're thrilled to support the good work of Redbud Chapter California Native Plant Society. They are fostering a love of nature in young people and growing native plants for backyard gardeners to keep our bird populations and pollinators thriving," said Laura Petersen, Communications Specialist for BriarPatch Food Co-op.

About BriarPatch Food Co-op: Since 1976, BriarPatch has served the Sierra foothills and the people who live, work and play in the watersheds of the Yuba, Bear and American Rivers. The Co-op promotes a resilient community and sustainable local economy by supporting businesses, organizations and brands that are committed to a healthy, equitable world.

The next time you’re in BriarPatch, be sure to share your appreciation of this grant.

We would also like to thank Menig Automotive for their gift of $250 to Redbud, which will be used to help establish our new nursery. Our Redbud member Lauren Almond and her husband, Loren Wilman, are customers of Menig Automotive in Grass Valley. Inspired by Lauren’s enthusiastic and informative comments about Redbud and about native plants, the owners of Menig made this gift to Redbud. We’re so grateful to them for their gift!!

If your business or employer might be interested in donating to Redbud, such as for the Chet Blackburn Scholarship or to the Redbud Nursery, please contact nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org.

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**News to Know**

**Monarch Butterflies Are Being Wiped Out: These Combat Veterans Are Trying to Save Them**

On a Marin County farm, a small group of Iraq War veterans has established a sanctuary for western monarch butterflies. Forty years ago, monarchs used to overwinter on this land in the hundreds of thousands; now only a few are to be seen. Working with the Xerces Society, the veterans have selected and planted pollinator plants with an aim of welcoming monarchs and providing a safe, rich place for them to overwinter.
'Amazing': Monarch Butterflies Return In Huge Numbers To California After Almost Vanishing Last Year
After a terribly worrying 2020 for Monarch Butterflies, in which fewer than 2000 were counted at over 200 overwintering spots on California’s coast, this year brought heartening news. This fall, observers counted over 100,000 Monarch Butterflies. No one knows exactly why more have come this year than last year. But Xerces Society and others are working to add monarch butterflies to the endangered species list.

California Forestry Funds for Private Landowners
Private landowners wanting to manage their forest land responsibly often face significant expenses. People who hold 20 to 5000 acres of forest land can now receive cost-sharing assistance via the California Forest Improvement Program. This aid can apply toward preparation of a forest-management plan, for project supervision by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for activities including planting, pruning, site thinning, and fish and wildlife habitat improvement. More information is available.

Climate Change is Raising Wildfire Risk Across U.S.
Most of us think of wildfire risk as being significant only in California and the rest of the Western part of our country. A report by National Public Radio describes the increasing risk to areas such as Appalachia, the Northeast, and the upper Midwest. The report states, “America is a fire continent.” Because of increasing expansion of housing into new areas, 1 in 3 houses is now in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI).

Dragonflies And Damselflies Disappearing As Wetlands Are Lost
According to a recent scientific assessment, the loss of marshes, bogs and swamps is driving a rapid, global decline in dragonflies. The report notes that increasing urbanization and unsustainable agriculture are causing such habitats to disappear at three times the rate of forest losses. Between 2007 and 2015, 35 percent of the world’s wetlands have reportedly been lost. About 16 percent of dragonfly and damselfly species face the threat of extinction.

What You Need To Know About California’s New Composting Law — A Game Changer For Food Waste
Did you know that where you put your kitchen scraps can affect climate change? Such materials, if dumped into and decomposed in traditional landfills, release methane. And methane warms the atmosphere 80 times more than even carbon dioxide.

To minimize this, starting this year, California law will be requiring that waste haulers phase in mandates that all businesses and residents separate “organics” waste (food waste) from other trash.

In Nevada County, Waste Management is working to provide a service for businesses to use to accomplish this. Redbud will share more information on Waste Management’s program as it becomes
available. Plans and timing for resident recycling of food waste is underway; the new law indicates the accomplishments of such shifts by 2024.

**Congressman Garamendi Introduces Legislation to Expand Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument**

Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA03) introduced House Resolution 6366 to expand Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, a rare and rugged Northern California landscape. This legislation would add nearly 4,000 acres to the current monument’s footprint, support tribal co-management, and change the name of the additional wildlands from “Walker Ridge” to *Molok Luyuk* — Patwin for “Condor Ridge”—a name the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation provided. This area has 30 species of rare plants, ancient blue oak woodlands, rugged rock outcrops, wildflower meadows, and extensive stands of McNab cypress.

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**Make and Deepen Friendships Via Redbud – Volunteer!**

Want to connect more with people through Redbud? Take advantage of some opportunities to volunteer. For more info or to volunteer for any of these options, contact nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org.

**Program Chair**

Have ideas for Redbud’s “Passionate About (Native) Plants” presentation series? Recommend programs to the Board; recruit and schedule speakers; and reserve venues. The Program Chair serves as a voting member of the Board and is part of the Redbud leadership team.

**Join a Redbud Committee**

Don’t want to be in charge but want to get involved? All our committees have openings for folks who want to help with our mission. We have committees that organize and work on the Plant Sale, Field Trips, Programs, Horticulture, Conservation and Advocacy, Publicity, Rare Plants, Membership, Ethnobotany.

**Join the Nursery Team**

Help provide native plants to more people. Learn how to propagate, grow, and care for dozens of native plant species. Help grow native plants to make them available to more people! Get involved in propagation or in monitoring growing plants at the nursery.

**Join the Newsletter Team**

Use your talents to share news about our Redbud Chapter and about native plants. About every two months or so, we publish our newsletter, free for both members and the general public. If you have skills in writing, editing, proofreading, layout, photography, or photo editing, we’d love to have you join in this important and meaningful activity.

**Volunteer to Table**

Meet people and get the word out about Redbud and about native plants, even sell plants. Did you know that Redbud does public outreach about native plants by setting up a table at appropriate
public events? We plan to host a table at the Mother’s Day Plant Sale at the Miners Foundry. Stay alert via our Facebook page for more info about this and other Redbud tabling events.

New Greeting Cards Now Available Via Redbud CNPS

Our Redbud chapter now offers some spectacular greeting cards. They feature botanical drawings of native plants. The artist is Kristin Jakob, whose art also graces the well-known CNPS “native grasses” placemats and Sierra wildflowers poster.

Among 10 varied designs, these cards feature native orchids, mosses, fungi, ferns, and flowers. They’re so gorgeous, so precisely detailed, that you may find yourself wanting to frame them!

You’ll be able to purchase these cards whenever Redbud does sales — at plant sales and when we do tabling.

New CNPS Member Perk – Digital Flora First!

CNPS members will now receive an early access digital version of Flora magazine before the printed issues are mailed! Now you can enjoy Flora’s inspiring native plant photos and articles on your computer or phone without having to wait.

For those who are inclined, you can request to only receive the electronic version (to stop receiving the printed issues) by emailing membership@cnps.org.

To ensure the winter 2022 issue of Flora hits your email inbox, make sure we have your current email address and you are opted in to receive CNPS email communications. Not certain? Log in to the Member Center to check, or email membership@cnps.org.
Answers: Plant Species in Ames’s Autumnal Display

- Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). Leaves, sprig with attached seeds
- White leaf manzanita (*Arctstaphylos viscida*). Leaves and berries
- Black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). Leaves, acorns and cups
- Wild cherry (*Prunus*, species unknown, not native but naturalized). Leaves
- Wild grape (*Vitis californica*). Leaves
- Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Cones
- Coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis ssp. consanguinea*). Flowers, stem and leaves
- Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*). Berries and leaves
- Hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*). Leaves and berries
- Davey’s gum weed (*Grindelia hirsutula v. davyi*). Flowers, stems and seeds
- Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*). Leaves, stems and seed pods
- Fall Fremont’s cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*). Leaves
- Broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*). Seed heads (ripe unopened and open, fluff-dispersing)
- Willow, species unknown. Leaves
- Western redbud, (*Cercis occidentalis*). Seed pods