



The CALYPSO

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DKY Annual Meeting and Potluck is virtual this year! December 20th at 1:00 p.m. - Zoom Meeting with speaker Alexis LaFever-Jackson

It won't be safe to have our annual potluck meeting in person in Elk this year so we are planning a zoom meeting on December 20th at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker is Alexis LaFever-Jackson, DKY CNPS Barbara Rice intern, and she will talk about her experience working with plant communities on the Mendocino Coast (see the Sep-Oct 2020 Calypso for an overview of her project). It has been a challenging year with so many Covid-19 ups and downs but she has been able to accomplish a lot. Her internship is funded by David Rice to continue the environmental work of his late wife Barbara who worked together with other volunteers documenting rare plants and plant communities at The Sea Ranch.



The photo below left shows a releve crew at MacKerricher State Park's Glass Beach in early March, the day before Gov. Newsom declared a Covid-19 lockdown. Renee Pasquinelli took the photo which includes from left, Terra Fuller (State Parks), Teresa Scholars & Lupine (DKY), Jennifer Buck-Diaz (CNPS), Alexis LaFever-Jackson (in red coat, DKY CNPS intern), two CNPS interns to the right of Alexis, Jim Gibson (DKY), and Daniel Harrington (USFW). Photo of *Lupinus littoralis* was taken by Alexis when sampling south coast headlands.



An invitation will be emailed to everyone in the Chapter for whom there is an email address with a link to the Zoom meeting. If you think CNPS doesn't have your email but want to attend the meeting, please send an email to that effect to Nancy Morin, president@dkycnps.org. We will have our annual election of officers virtually before the talk (Zoom lets you have a show of hands). The "slate" is incomplete: we still need a secretary and a treasurer. Katy Pye has offered to be acting Secretary, and Nancy will continue as acting Treasurer, but we would love to hear from anyone else willing to take on either of these positions. Slate for 2021 DKY officers: President—Nancy Morin, Vice President—Katy Pye, Treasurer—acting, Nancy Morin, Secretary—acting, Katy Pye. Hope to "see" you at the annual meeting! 🌱🌱🌱

DKY gift of archival print & you too can sponsor a botanical illustration for the FNA!

An international team of botanists is working to complete the *Flora of North America north of Mexico* (FNA), a 30-volume work that covers the native and naturalized vascular plants and bryophytes of that area. To date, 21 volumes have been published. In addition to nomenclature, descriptions, distributions and maps, and discussions for every species, there are illustrations of every genus and about 1/6 of the species.

The DKY Chapter sponsored the illustration of *Viola adunca*, at right, in Volume 6 and received an archival print of the drawing that has now been sent as a gift to David Rice, in gratitude for his funding the Barbara Rice Vegetation Intern this past year. Barbara and David sponsored the *Viola glabella* illustration in that same volume, so now he will have a pair.

The Chapter is also sponsoring *Eastwoodiella californica* and *Lupinus polyphyllus*. To help support production of the FNA, individuals and groups are invited to sponsor illustrations. Sponsors receive a high quality reproduction suitable for framing and permission to reuse the image and they are acknowledged in a special section of the relevant Volume. You can find more information sponsoring illustrations at http://beta.floranorthamerica.org/Art_Sponsorship and about the FNA project at www.floranorthamerica.org.



President's Message

by Nancy Morin



I hope this finds each of our chapter members and their families and friends well. We have had nine months of learning to not take that for granted. We have learned much more over the past months, to remember to keep our masks handy, remember to wash hands and carry sanitizer, organize our lives to minimize how often we have to go out to shop, pick up mail, gas up the car. Many of us have learned how to meet with others using Zoom or other similar internet programs. That is what your chapter Board members have been doing instead of meeting in person. Our conservation/rare plant/vegetation folks have managed to get out in the field occasionally, and of course the need to fight ill advised land management decisions and write letters to agencies never stops.

It looks as though the pandemic will be in full sway at least through next spring, assuming that it is possible to get a vaccination program in place that can reach beyond the most vulnerable people. The Christmas holiday season is likely to be a repeat of Thanksgiving, with presents being opened in family zoom or skype meetings.

Chapters around the state are hosting virtual meetings and lectures, many of which are relevant to our area, and some of which were recorded and are still accessible. Go to the CNPS website for a list and links to them: <https://www.cnps.org/event/virtual-native-plant-events>.

Our annual potluck is the best opportunity to thank the people who make it possible for our chapter to accomplish so much. They are listed on the back page of every issue of the Calypso, but those entries are really the tip of the iceberg in terms of how much time, expertise, and passion they all contribute to the CNPS mission and the plants of the Mendonoma coast.

Katy Pye, in her first year of being Vice President, has brought not only her interest in pollinators and skill as a communicator to the Chapter but also an ability to think strategically and keep us focused on making progress.

Peter Baye and Renee Pasquinelli (usually abetted by Teresa Sholars) are masterful at reading agency documents and identifying issues that must be addressed. They also keep statewide and long term needs and consequences in mind. They share their expertise and wisdom with CNPS state conservation staff and chapter conservation chairs, as well.

Mario Abreu has continued to carry out SOD blitz surveys as well as focusing on education outreach and keeping posters and books organized. This has not been a good year for Field Trips, but our Field Trip Chair, Rhiannon Korhummel, had the added excitement of moving into her new job as CDFW's Coastal Conservation Planning Environmental Scientist, which is fabulous. We'll hope for exciting plant forays in 2021. Doug Forsell, Invasive Plants chair, keeps an eye on what our worst invasive plants are and how we can both get rid of them and alert the public to them, using new GIS and online tools.

Teresa Sholars (with Amy Ruegg at The Sea Ranch and Jon Thompson in the south coast) represents our area on rare plant

issues—Teresa is an unparalleled source of knowledge about them. She doubles as Vegetation Chair, and with Renee Pasquinelli and many colleagues from the state CNPS Vegetation Program and colleagues in state and federal agencies, has continued to document, map, and assess the very special and poorly known plant communities in our area.

Bob Rutemoeller, our membership chair, has not only maintained records on membership and kept in touch with members, including welcoming new members, he has also had to adjust to new staff and new systems at the State level. Julia Larke, Calypso editor, manages to take disparate items and articles and weave them into an articulate and engaging whole that is appreciated statewide. Susan Wolbarst was our first ever actual publicity chair and she does a great job of both promoting our activities and helping us think about how to communicate what is important about plants.

Jim Gibson, our new Webmaster, is so much more—he has helped with the vegetation work, and has vastly improved the DKY website, adding lists of places to see plants and plant lists, virtual wildflower tours, information (and photos!) from the vegetation surveys, links to fascinating botanical stories (for instance, *The Pirate Botanist Returns*, <https://www.npr.org/sections/krulwich/2012/01/18/145402318/the-pirate-botanist-returns>). Jim has turned our website into a wealth of botanical information.

I can't thank this team enough for all that they do for the chapter, for CNPS, and for the plants and plant communities in our region.



Thank you, Nancy!

To Nancy Morin, from the Board and general membership:

Thank you to our terrific DKY President! Keeping things going through thick and thin, connecting with statewide CNPS issues, keeping in touch with local projects and plant lovers, conducting taxonomic studies in the Campanulaceae, besides helping with the publication of volumes of the *Flora of North America*; always deeply caring about the environment. Our chapter is lucky you moved to Mendocino County!

Bonnie Morgan, a plant lover and great gardener

Bonniejean Chadwell Morgan, long-time member of the DKY Chapter and supporter of Coast Community Library in Point Arena died November 10, 2019 at the age of 95. Although a year has passed, there was a recent obituary in the 12/4/20 edition of the *Independent Coast Observer*. She was a great gardener and up until just a few years ago she continued to grace the public library with lovely bouquets of flowers from her garden.



Conservation Updates by Renee Pasquinelli

City of Fort Bragg to prepare EIR for Avalon Hotel Project. Success!

After receiving comments by the DKY Chapter of CNPS and the Mendocino Coast Chapter of the Audubon Society, the City of Fort Bragg has agreed that a Draft EIR will be prepared and circulated for the proposed Avalon Hotel project. The City of Fort Bragg agreed with our comments, as explained in previous Calypso newsletters, that the proposed project would have significant and cumulative impacts on sensitive plant and bird species and sensitive natural communities on the adjacent MacKerricher State Park. The City is now seeking to hire a consultant to prepare the Draft EIR. We will continue to review and submit comments to any environmental documents pertaining to the project. See entire response at (<https://city.fortbragg.com/672/Avalon-Hotel-Application>).

Wildfire Management

Nick Jensen, CNPS Lead Conservation Scientist, continues to be a strong voice for ecologically-based responses to wildfire management in the State. On October, 20, 2020, Nick testified before California Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 on *“The relationship between California wildfire, native plants, and climate change, and how those relationships can – and should – inform the way we manage wildfire going forward”*. His speech was an informative and compelling testimony on how wildfire management must be ecologically driven, one size does not fit all, and how effective management must involve not only vegetation treatment where appropriate, but also critically needed development planning to avoid high fire risk areas. A link to materials given to the Assembly subcommittee can be found at <https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/sites/abgt.assembly.ca.gov/files/CNPS%20Asm.%20Budget%20Sub.%203%20Fire%20Presentation%20Handout.pdf>.

Highlights of his speech included:

REGIONAL VEGETATION TYPES AND THEIR ROLE WITH FIRE

- Forest types, such as those in the Sierra Nevada, which are highly fire dependent, have suffered from fire suppression and a lack of control burning. As he stated, *“We can choose to listen to scientists and Native American tribes who have millennia of land management knowledge, and implement actions that are beneficial to both habitats and protective of human communities like prescribed and managed fire and ecology-informed thinning.”*
- Habitats dominated by shrubs, especially in coastal Southern California, have experienced an overabundance of fire, which in many areas has resulted in a conversion of native shrubland to more flammable, flashy fuels of non-native grasslands. More burning and mastication are detrimental and counterproductive in these shrublands.
- Grasslands, including those within oak woodlands have also evolved with fire, which historically was characterized as low to moderate intensity. Unfortunately, these are also habitats that have often been targeted for development or conversion to agriculture. Effective management in these areas is best achieved by appropriate planning, which avoids development that places homes in harm’s way in such fire prone areas, and focuses on better protecting existing homes *“with hardening, defensible space, and robust community preparedness.”*

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON FIRE ECOLOGY

Climate change is most certainly contributing to wildfire, but it is not easy to separate the immediate effects of climate change from natural phenomena like drought, heat waves, and lightning storms that have long been part of California’s weather and climate. Nick cited several research studies throughout the State that looked at wildfire events and climate change. Some studies showed a direct

link (e.g. the Sierra Nevada), while in others (non-forested habitats in Southern California) there did not seem to be a strong link between increased temperature and increased risk of wildfire. He also highlighted a growing area of research on Vapor Pressure Deficit, which looks at the ability of the atmosphere to suck moisture out of fuel that is prone to burning, as a strong indicator of direct link between wildfire and climate change. Nick stated: *“According to John Keeley, essentially 100% all Santa Ana driven fires are caused by humans, and 99% percent of fires in Coastal areas of CA are not of natural origin. As our population increases, so will the number of fire starts, that is unless we change the way we act and the way we plan future development.”*

INTERPLAY BETWEEN FIRE RESPONSE AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

One of the most significant points that Nick emphasized: ***“First and foremost, we need to plan preemptive measures aimed at wildfire risk w/nature/biodiversity in mind. We need to tailor our wildfire solutions by region and habitat.”*** Control burns in forested habitats of the Sierra Nevada may be beneficial, while such burning in Southern California chaparral may have devastating effects on native ecosystems. A point that he made that is most concerning locally: *“Emergency fire/fuel breaks can be a conduit for invasive species so we have to be careful to not implement partial solutions that can serve to exacerbate problems.”*

RECOVERY AND PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

Nick ended his speech by emphasizing the need for more balanced funding between fire prevention and firefighting. A dollar in funds spent to reduce wildfire risk is estimated to save about six dollars in future wildfire emergency response. He also reemphasized that most wind-driven fires are caused by people, that avoiding development in fire prone areas and fire preparedness are important, and that we can invest in better fire prediction and weather forecasting to prepare firefighters and homeowners.

Post Fire Monitoring

Following the August Complex fires, Teresa Sholars, Peter Warner, and I were thrilled to be invited by Todd Keeler-Wolf to participate in a November 6th thru 8th post-fire monitoring campout trip to the Mendocino National Forest. The survey team included Brett Hall, Lucy Ferneyhough, and Alex Hubner from UC Santa Cruz. Despite the cold weather (18 degrees and snow), we surveyed and completed rapid assessment forms for two different areas, one a moderate burn, the second a high intensity burn.

The protocol used combined the CDFW-CNPS Relevé and Rapid Assessment (RA) vegetation sampling techniques with a post-fire vegetation severity assessment as recorded in the Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment/ Relevé and Post-fire Monitoring Field Form. The goal was to capture transient conditions existing immediately following a wildland fire, since the most interpretable fire severity effects diminish rapidly following precipitation, wind, and processes of biological regeneration. The plots selected were RNAs (Forest Service Research Natural Areas) that Todd had surveyed nearly 35 years earlier.

It was a rare and valuable opportunity to return to these sites and observe not only forest vegetation changes (where trees could still be identified), but to record the immediate effects of fire. An interesting ecological observation was the persistence of large old Ponderosa pines amongst heavily charred young white fir. Under a regime of fire suppression, white fir trees had become a dominant component in what was formerly a Ponderosa pine forest. At least within the areas that we observed, it appears that the August Complex Fire was of ecological benefit to the native forests. 🌲

Rogue Riparian Botany: Watershed Waifs of Gravel Gardens, Part 1: Coastal Gravel Bar Waifs from Interior Serpentine Vegetation

by Peter Baye, including all photos

[Part 2: Coast gravel bar waifs from interior foothill grasslands, vernal pools, and alkali marshes, Jan-Feb issue of the Calypso]

Botanizing in relatively natural mature vegetation is a prized experience for CNPS members. With little influence of weed invasions, plantings, or artificial disturbance, natural mature vegetation allows us to perceive natural associations among species and subtle vegetation patterns, and it often provides clues to the environmental indicators for uncommon or rare species in their typical natural habitats. But, even some of the most naturally disturbed habitats can reveal hidden botanical gems.

This “Botanical Gems” edition focuses on the surprising botany of permanently disturbed, pioneer vegetation of high gravel bars in coastal streams, and the hodgepodge of surprise species colonizing them from unrelated vegetation upstream. It’s the botanical equivalent of beachcombing for artifacts with far-away origins, in this case, for uncommon and surprisingly out-of-place native plants established as waifs on stream gravel bars.

Birders often travel vast distances to see rare vagrant species, but as far as I know, California botanists seldom if ever communicate excitement about natural vagrant native plants, even rare or uncommon ones. Geologists use the term “erratic” to refer to rocks that occur where they don’t belong, such as boulders left behind by melted glaciers, sitting on unrelated sediments or bedrock. Plant morphologists use the term “adventitious” to refer to development of organs where they don’t normally arise, such as root initials on aerial stems, or embryonic shoot buds on roots. I’m not sure that plant ecologists have a corresponding term or concept for vegetation or plant assemblages that recurrently occur out of place in depositional environments like gravel bars.

The flood-deposited seed rain in gravel bars of our coastal streams is like the heterogeneous pebbles of the bars themselves. Pebble rock and mineral types deposited together in coastal river gravel bars are derived from erosion of widely separated, complex source rocks and geologic formations in upper watersheds far from the coast. Unrelated and uncommon volcanic rocks, serpentinite, basalts, greenstones, limestones, agates, cherts, jaspers, jades, schists and, gneisses from local outcrops are deposited in the same gravel bars along with common sandstones.

Similarly, seeds derived from stands of remote and localized vegetation types are deposited among the mix of common gravel bar colonizing species internal to the local riparian vegetation. This is more than analogy: many of the uncommon gravel bar waifs are normally associated with distinct substrates or soils based on weathering of particular parent rock types.

The higher gravel and cobble point bars of our coastal streams are paved by the higher floods that scour them, or deposit sediments and seeds from upstream. The lower, moister zones of gravel bars support typical riparian and wetland vegetation. The



A cobble and gravel point bar, with a cap of sand, on the Gualala River. The sub-habitats vary between wetted low-flow channel edges, the emergent low-flow channel with dried sun-bleached algal mats (white film) and shallow flowing groundwater, to arid, rocky or sandy excessively drained substrate.

intermediate zones of sand and organic debris on gravel bars often support a weedy flora that appears discouraging for prospects of discovering uncommon natives. But native uncommon to rare plants typical of non-riparian upland and upper interior watershed vegetation make mysterious surprise visits to coastal gravel bars within DKY territory. It happens year after year, with some years following higher flood events bringing novel species and assemblages.

2020 was one of the best years for gravel bar novelty species: extreme high flood flows and landslides from 2019 were followed by a “fallow” low-flow winter that retained the flood year seed bank. These “gravel gardens” of native waifs often occur in patches in loose association with one another, contrasting with the normal moist riparian gravel bar vegetation composed of pioneer wetland and riparian woodland plants.

Most of the gravel bar waif plants reported here are from the Gualala River, which has a vast interior watershed that reaches into the edges of the fabled Cedars and other serpentine belts, and drains extensive oak savannah, chaparral, foothill grassland, and other vegetation types marginal or absent in DKY territory. The Gualala River’s estuary and lagoon reaches are very short, unlike the long river estuaries and linear lagoons of Albion, Navarro, Ten Mile, and Big River, so emergent gravel bars reach far downstream near the coast.

Coastal reaches of rivers like Ten Mile, Noyo, Albion, Navarro, have small and local gravel and sand bars that are usually moist or flooded through most of the growing season, influenced by tidal or beach-dammed lagoon backwater flooding stretching for miles inland. But the Gualala River has a lower valley filled with thousands of years of alluvium, and wide forks with high gravel bars that reach into an interior watershed draining many diverse vegetation types, and their seeds.

A sample of rogue riparian botanical gems observed in coastal gravel bars follows organized by their typical vegetation types of origin.

Cont. on p. 5

ROCKY (SERPENTINE) CHAPARRAL & GRASSLAND PLANTS

One of the most beautiful annuals of serpentine chaparral, Hoffman’s bristly jewelflower, *Streptanthus glandulosus* var. *hoffmanii*, is endemic to interior Sonoma and Mendocino County. The most coastal locality reported previously is four miles (by air) east-southeast of Elk Creek’s mouth in Mendocino County. In northern Sonoma County, it has been collected by Roger Raiche from The Cedars in Austin Creek watershed. A small unreported population occurs in chaparral above the Gualala River Wheatfield Fork near, but not in, serpentine and blueschist outcrops. This is the most likely seed source for the single flowering plant found on a large cobble-gravel bar downstream near Haupt Creek’s mouth in May 2020. The sight of a jewelflower on the river bars was a nearly literal botanical gem!



Streptanthus glandulosus var. *hoffmanii* on cobble bar of Gualala River, May 2020.



The wild wiry snap-dragon, *Antirrhinum vexillocalyculatum*, occurs inland, far from the coast, as a tiny annual in harsh, dry rocky serpentine outcrop barrens within grassland or chaparral. The nearest reported localities in Sonoma County are from upper Austin Creek watershed reaching into The Cedars serpentine belt. But in the oasis-like “sub-irrigated” gravel bars near the coast, strays from unreported Gualala River watershed serpentine (and related metamorphic rock types) chaparral grows to tall, branched brittle shrub-like forms up to nearly a meter high, with hundreds of flowers and seed-filled capsules on long, glandular racemes. They occur most years on high gravel bars of the Wheatfield Fork of Gualala River, from west of Annapolis (near intermittent gravel mining sites) upstream.



Wiry snap-dragon, *Antirrhinum vexillocalyculatum* on cobble bar of the Gualala River, September 2018



Claytonia gypsophiloides, the so-called “gypsum springbeauty” is a prostrate glaucous pinkish-gray annual with high affinity for inland serpentine rock outcrops rather than gypsum in our region, but it is largely absent near the coast (one Heller specimen from Fort Ross in 1903 is a rare exception). Unreported populations occur in serpentine grasslands and outcrops near Annapolis, which are the likely source of colonies that grow in sandy gravel bars of the Wheatfield Fork, Gualala River.



Claytonia gypsophiloides on sandy gravel bar of Gualala River, April 2020.



The few-flowered collinsia, *Collinsia sparsiflora*, typically occurs in grassland (including clayey wetland swales, chaparral, or woodlands far from the coast of Mendocino or Sonoma (again, except for on Heller collections from Fort Ross and Bodega in 1903, possibly recording port localities of dispatch rather than collection). But multiple individuals flowered on high gravel bars of the Wheatfield Fork of Gualala River the second spring after the massive floods of February 2019.



Few-flowered collinsia, *Collinsia sparsiflora*, cobble bar, Gualala River, April 2020.



The Sargent cypress, *Hesperocyparis sargentii*, is a non-coastal tree with strong affinity for inland serpentine in Northern California. A single isolated gray-green sapling tentatively identified from juvenile vegetative traits, less than a foot tall, was found on a dry gravel bar top in August, 2020, on the Wheatfield Fork. No known natural occurrences of this species are reported from the Gualala River watershed. The most likely source is The Cedars, which occurs mostly in the Austin Creek (Russian River) watershed, but overlaps slightly in the upper Wheatfield Fork tributary watershed of Pepperwood Creek GRWF 8/20. ☘



Next issue: Part 2 – Coast gravel bar waifs from interior foothill grasslands,

Caspar Gorse Abatement Update

by Helene Chalfin

The gorse abatement project's motivation and goal has been that Jug Handle Creek Farm and Nature Center work with Caspar Community as sister non-profits to accomplish an environmental restoration project that benefits all of Caspar while creating better fire safety for the entire community.

About 37 acres of gorse was cut down and masticated in the town of Caspar during September and early October, 2020. Jug Handle Creek Farm and "Gorse Out" members worked together to involve County Ag in helping to finance gorse



removal with the first \$20,000 in funding. A map of the gorse abatement project is at <https://www.jughandlecreekfarm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NOE-MAP-HELENE.jpg>

The Gorse Abatement 2020 Project Coordinator was Helene Chalfin, Jug Handle's Education/Nursery Director and Restoration Projects Coordinator Acting as a volunteer. She handled fundraising and outreach to local and out of town landowners and coordinated the work of the equipment operators.

She raised an additional \$7,150 from Caspar landowners to fight gorse on their properties and successfully approached County Ag for a \$13,000 grant augment, bringing the total grant to \$33,000. Caspar Community donated \$16,000 of Fire Safety funds towards the gorse abatement project and acted as a vendor for the County funds and some of the Community contributions.

The equipment operators: Jerry Beaty Tree Service and David Lindstrom worked tirelessly for 6 weeks on the project, spending more than 380 hours to masticate the gorse as a team during grueling 10-hour days. They were paid through the grant, the Caspar Community Firesafe funds and private landowner contributions.



The Holy Goats, a project of Pastor Matt Davis, were brought in to graze gorse at Caspar Cattle Company, and he received some grant payment for the work and also donated several days of grazing. Marie Jones, Jug handle's Executive Director, worked on the permits and exemptions needed for the project, with assistance on details from Helene. State Parks' Terra Fuller provided mapping, aerial photos and AP# details.

To learn more about the project, please call Helene Chalfin, (707) 937-3498. Information is also available at <https://www.jughandlecreekfarm.org/home/>

Mill Bend Update: Project Manager hired

by Susan Wolbarst

Dave Shpak (rhymes with clock) of Gualala has been hired as project manager for the Mill Bend Conservation Project, the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy's first paid employee. Shpak, a graduate of UC Davis and member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, has long experience as an environmental, infrastructure, and land use planner, working in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, he worked for WSP USA as the project manager for the 125-mile section of the California High-Speed Rail program between San Jose and Merced.

A PARK IS FOREVER. With your help, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy and its partners will ...

CONNECT CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAILS
Continue Gualala Mill Bend and up river past Coastal Act and the future US and California National Trails attachment over river.

SURVEY WILDLIFE & PLANTS
Subsided willow wetlands and riparian habitat for habitat restoration.

RESTORE THE ESTUARY FOR SALICORNIA
Improve critical riparian habitat for juvenile Coho salmon & steelhead.

COMPLETE UPLAND RESTORATION
Replace invasive plants with native, old growth and restored forest trails, Gualala old growth, and continue century preservation.

EXPLORE A RESEARCH CENTER
Restore current residence with the facility for environmental education, science training, and more.

IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE RIVER
Restore kayak access, improve parking & protect gravel beaches from vehicles during the summer.

MILL BEND CONSERVATION PROJECT
Protecting the land, restoring the river, sustaining our community

PARTNERS: Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, NOAA, FOGA, The Allemall Foundation, Western Rivers Council, Sonoma State University, Resources Legacy Fund, California Native Plant Society, Gualala River Watershed Council, Pruniske Charham, Inc.

You can click on image to enlarge it.

Dave began his new job with RCLC on Dec. 7, 2020. "It is an ecosystem restoration, passive recreation, and eventually a research and education program for 113 acres in the Gualala River estuary and adjacent uplands," he said, describing the Mill Bend project. "The RCLC (non-profit owners of the land) and CNPS DKY Chapter are exploring opportunities for botanical research and restoration actions. There is tremendous potential in this partnership, which is one of the exciting aspects of this new job. I look forward to working with CNPS to identify plants of interest on the property, and to understand and implement invasive species management that complements the restoration and recreation program."

"This property is the front door to Gualala and Mendocino County. While already important to both places, we have a long way ahead of us to fully realize the contributions of Mill Bend to the community and natural environment. My approach is to help RCLC do what can be done as they are ready and able, and to make steady, incremental progress to build momentum and demonstrate progress to stakeholders," he said.

"For people who are looking for opportunities to get involved, I encourage them to check out the RCLC website at www.rclc.org," Shpak said. (Full disclosure: Susan Wolbarst, author of this article and CNPS DKY publicity chair, is married to Dave Shpak.)



CALL TO ACTION! Comments Needed on Two JDSF THP plans

by Chad Swimmer, President of the Mendocino Trail Stewards (from a proposal in progress about JDSF plans)

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) has long been considered a model for sustainable timber harvesting, but Cal Fire, the agency managing Jackson, has slated over 3,000 acres of the Western section for timber harvest in the near future. This represents nearly ten percent of the entire forest, but fully one third of the most beloved and recreated portion, all in close proximity to residences, state parks, and the Mendocino Woodlands, a one of a kind WPA-era camp and events ground. Jackson's 48,652 acres are public lands. They are a unique and precious ecosystem owned by the State of California, but, really, owned by you and me.

JDSF's 2016 Management Plan has many stated objectives, but the primary objective is research and demonstration as to how silvicultural methods stand up to science. This is intended for the benefit of timber producers both small and large, and for the university forestry programs upon which the industry depends.

Many of Jackson's goals, however, are not mutually reconcilable, for instance revenue-generating timber production vs. the development of late seral (maturing and biologically diverse) forest, or demonstration of timber harvest methods vs. carbon sequestration.

The bottom line, in any case, is that the California Board of Forestry describes Jackson and three of the other Demonstration State Forests as ...“commercial timberland areas managed by professional foresters who conduct programs in timber management, recreation, demonstration, and investigation in conformance with detailed management plans,”... (Board Policy 0351.1)

Many of us believe that this overarching objective is not compatible either with the wishes of the majority of people who live near JDSF, nor with the dire climate situation we as a species and the entire natural world face in the 21st Century. The 2016 Management Plan is legally due for review by 2021. The Mendocino Trail Stewards are moving quickly to advocate for a major and substantial legislative change to JDSF's management plan and by extension to the state forest system.

There is a local organization, the Mendocino Trail Stewards, that has rounded up all the pertinent information about these THPs and provides guidance and advice for how to submit an effective comment. Please go to their website and take a look at the information under the Timber Harvest Comments menu. <https://www.mendocinotrailstewards.org>. If you'd like to stay informed about THPs and events in JDSF you can subscribe to their newsletter on the website.

Information about the THP review process is available at santarosareviewteam@fire.ca.gov. Comments may be submitted via email SantaRosaPublicComment@fire.ca.gov or at the [CALTREES](https://www.caltrees.org) website which also houses all the documents related to the THPs.

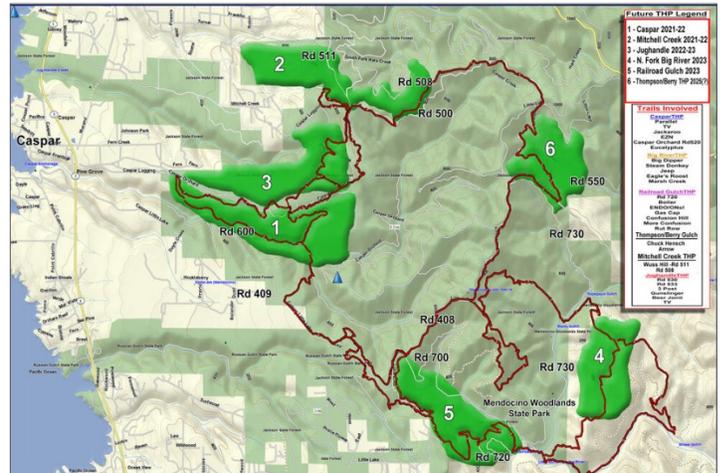
Jackson Demonstration State Forest THPs of concern:

MITCHELL CREEK THP - 1-20-00193-MEN - #2 on map below

The Public Comments period for this THP is now open and is reported to be closing in the next few days (early December), so act now. It is still worthwhile to send in comments even if the review period may have closed.

NORTH FORK BIG RIVER THP - 1-20-00173-MEN - #4 on map

The Public Comments period for this THP is now open and is reported to be closing around January 1, so act now.



Information about how to comment:

<https://www.mendocinotrailstewards.org/thpcomments>

Where to send THP comments:

A timber harvest plan (THP) is a legal document, it is both a plan and a form of environmental impact statement. Comments must be submitted within a set period of time, beginning with the date of the original filing and ending thirty days after the Pre-Harvest Inspection (PHI). For comments to be entered into the public record, they must have the **THP name and number in the subject line**, and be emailed to: SantaRosaPublicComment@fire.ca.gov or to CalTrees at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/forest-practice/caltrees/>

It is also important to cc the forester who wrote the plan, and we ask you to bcc mendocinotrailstewards.org so we can archive it.

Mark Your Calendar: Chad Swimmer, who serves as the President of Mendocino Trail Stewards, will speak about JDSF and future forest plans to the Mendocino Coast Mushroom Club on December 14 at 6:30. Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83899745101?pwd=RWZTTjhac1ppNWE0cnA2T1A1QmFUQT09> Meeting ID: 838 9974 5101 and Passcode: 174493

DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER OFFICERS 2019

PRESIDENT: Nancy Morin, 882-2528 president@dkycnps.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Katy Pye vicepresident@dkycnps.org

SECRETARY: OPEN

TREASURER: Nancy Morin (temp)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CONSERVATION co-chairs:

Peter Baye conservation@dkycnps.org

Renee Pasquinelli conservation@dkycnps.org

EDUCATION Mario Abreu 937-3155

FIELD TRIPS Rhiannon Korhummel rkbotanist@gmail.com

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HOSPITALITY OPEN

INVASIVE PLANTS Doug Forsell djforsell@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP Bob Rutemoeller 884-4426

NEWSLETTER Julia Larke editor@dkycnps.org

PLANT SALES OPEN

BOOKS & POSTERS Mario Abreu 937-3155

PUBLICITY Susan Wolbarst wolbarst@pacbell.net

PROGRAMS OPEN - Nancy Morin (temp)

RARE & ENDANGERED:

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Inland OPEN

The Sea Ranch Amy Ruegg amyerruegg@gmail.com

South Coast Jon Thompson 884-4847

VEGETATION Teresa Sholars rareplants@dkycnps.org

WEBMASTER Jim Gibson webmaster@dkycnps.org

Unless otherwise listed, area code is 707



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DOROTHY KING YOUNG CHAPTER

Membership in the California Native Plant Society is open to all. The task and mission of the Society is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of California native plants. The challenge is to preserve their natural habitat through scientific, educational, and conservation activities. Membership includes subscriptions to *Fremontia*, *Flora* and the chapter newsletter, *The Calypso*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

Please choose the chapter you wish to join; CNPS will make the assignment if none is specified by applicant.

I wish to affiliate with the DKY Chapter _____

or, other chapter _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Student/Fixed Income	\$25
Individual	\$50
Plant Lover	\$120
Supporter	\$500
Patron	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$2,500

Make check to: **California Native Plant Society**

Mail check and application to:

Bob Rutemoeller, Membership Committee

DKY Chapter, CNPS PO Box 577

Gualala, CA 95445

Next Board Meeting: The December Board meeting is part of the Annual potluck meeting for all members and friends. This year it's a zoom meeting and talk. For information, please contact Nancy Morin at president@dkycnps.org. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. **Calypso newsletter:** please send items to editor@dkycnps.org. If you wish to contribute items contact jlarkemcn.org. If you choose to receive the emailed pdf version of the newsletter, contact Bob Rutemoeller

2020 Sudden Oak Death Blitz Results

- from a message by Matteo Garbelotto, Director U.C. Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Lab

In 2020, despite the first outbreak of Covid-19 a group of 500+ volunteers led by UC staff, UC Cooperative Extension folks, Master Gardeners and local grassroot activists was able to run the annual Sudden Oak Death Blitz Survey.

The SOD Blitz this year resulted in a survey that covered over 20,000 trees across the State. A new SOD strain (named EU1) was identified in Del Norte County and for the first time in 13 years of SOD Blitz survey that infection rates increased in spite of reduced rainfall, suggesting SOD is becoming endemic at least on the Central coast of California. Not all news was bad: San Luis Obispo County is still SOD-free and SOD is not establishing itself in warmer interior woodlands! You can view a full recording of the [SOD Blitz 2020 results](http://www.sodblitz.org), <http://www.sodblitz.org>. Thank you for making this program a reality in spite of the pandemic. Matteo Garbelotto, Ph.D. www.matteolab.org

Living Safely with Fire, Zoom talk, Sat. Dec 12, 10am

"Integrating urban planning, vegetation management and fire hardening of buildings to achieve fire safety" is the title of a Zoom talk by Matteo Garbelotto, Ph.D. The presentation is two hours and people are asked to preregister: <https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/8428121212> or by going to www.ucbfire.org <http://www.ucbfire.org>

Check out the DKY website!

Jim Gibson, webmaster, naturalist, theater manager, techie and more, is keeping the chapter webpage up to date with interesting and current items. Check out the Virtual Wildflower Walks with over 20 links to local natural areas along the coast



Abronia latifolia, yellow sand verbena, Ten Mile Dunes, by Jim Gibson.