REDBUD'S NATIVE PLANT SALE COMING RIGHT UP - And We Need Volunteers!

By Jeanne Wilson
Redbud Chapter President

Redbud Native Plant Sale
Native Plants for Healing the Land
October 13, 2018
North Star House
12075 Auburn Street, Grass Valley
10:30 - 1:30 General Public
9:30 - 10:30 CNPS Member Appreciation
Join at the door!

We hope you are looking forward to our Plant Sale, less than two weeks away!

We’re going all-out to bring you upwards of 1,500 individual California plants from 150 native species and cultivars adapted to our local conditions. Dozens of volunteers have spent hundreds of hours over the past year preparing for this sale, but we still need volunteers for set up (Oct 12th) and sale day (Oct.13th). Use this link to see unfilled Redbud Plant Sale volunteer positions and sign up: https://signup.com/group/2470330225242880108

At the sale, you’ll meet many Redbud members dedicated to preserving California native plants and their habitats, and find opportunities to become involved as an advocate, plant-propagator, or leader — we have openings in several key positions: http://www.redbud-cnps.org/chapter/redbud-leadership-positions.pdf.
Best of all, you’ll have the chance to discover the amazing diversity of beautiful, colorful, resilient, low-maintenance, and water-thrifty California native plants that restore the soil, prevent erosion, reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers, and provide food and habitat for wildlife. Our Native Plant “Sages” will be at the sale to answer questions and provide advice on best choices for your location and landscaping needs. See Redbud Horticulture Chair Nancy Gilbert’s article for profiles of outstanding plants.

Both Versatile & Unusual Plants

This year, Redbud members are growing local native plants to give you more choices. The Redbud Plant Propagation Group started this process almost a year ago with a native plant seed exchange, following up with a seed planting clinic in November. Because many native plant seeds require special conditions to break dormancy and sprout, we used cold stratification, scarification, and other treatments as necessary; some of these treatments take months to complete. For more information about our efforts and results, see Karen Loro’s article in this Redbud News.

We have been growing versatile native plants suited to a wide range of garden conditions. We’ve also been propagating some unusual species suitable for special conditions such as rain gardens, pond edges, and dry slopes. Now that October 13th is almost here, we are getting these plants ready for the sale. Many of these are in 4-inch or quart pots, great sizes for transplanting (and less expensive, too). I’ll share several examples.

Red Buckwheat *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*

This Red Buckwheat is an attractive pollinator plant, with bright pink flowers that can grow to 2 feet high or more. This perennial requires minimal watering and works well with
shrubs and trees such as Flannel Bush and Oak species that do not like summer water. As a plus, when happy, it will re-seed, and you will have volunteers that you can leave in place or transplant.

Idaho Fescue *Festuca idahoensis*

The Idaho Fescue is a long-rooted perennial bunch grass that helps prevent erosion and retain soil moisture. It is native to California and most of Western North America, growing in forests as well as open grasslands. In the garden, you can use it as a ground cover (and can mow it), and it is attractive to butterflies. It is deer-resistant.

*Left: Idaho Fescue*

**Streambank Lotus *Hosakia oblongifolia***

The Streambank Lotus is native to California and the West from Oregon to Mexico. It grows in moist to wet areas in several types of habitat; it would do best in part shade in a rain or bog garden or along a pond or creek. It may be spreading or upright up to 2 feet tall. The flowers are white and yellow, sometimes with bright red buds and red tinges on the petals. As a legume, it is a nitrogen-fixer that enriches the soil. It is never or almost never available in nurseries.

*Right: Streambank Lotus in flower*

These are just a few of the many native plants we will have available at our sale. If you are looking for particular species, let us know as soon as possible at nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org, and we will do our best to have them available.

See you at the sale!

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**Plant List for Plant Sale Online Soon!!**

We all look forward with anticipation to the posting of the plant list for the plant sale. It should be up on our website at least a week before the plant sale. Look for it at: http://www.redbud-cnps.org/pdf/2018-redbud-plant-list.pdf. Until then, you'll see the list from our 2017 plant sale, which provides a reasonable guide for what we'll have.

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**California Native Plants for Healing the Land: Part 2**
by Nancy Gilbert
Redbud Horticultural Chair

In last month’s edition of Redbud News, I discussed the general advantages of planting native flora “for healing the land.” In this article, I will cover some of the most attractive, dependable, and ecologically restorative trees and shrubs that are available in nurseries and at our Redbud fall plant sale.

Keep in mind that late fall and early winter are the best times to plant natives, as most of them grow during the cool, rainy winter months. You’ll also find working the soil much easier in October through December after there has been some rainfall to soften up those hard, dry summer soils.

Native Trees Anchor Your Landscape

Trees form the canopy and establish the character of a landscape. They give us welcome shade, stabilize and build the soil’s organic matter, and create multiple habitats. Healthy woodlands and forest trees sequester carbon and help slow global warming.

If you already have plenty of trees, your job will be to protect and manage them wisely. To do this, you need to identify them and learn about the conditions they need in order to remain in good health. If your landscape would benefit from adding trees, consider how large the tree species you select will be in 30 to 50 years, and give them plenty of space. Of the many choices of wonderful native trees, I will mention two species that are especially useful and beautiful.

The most iconic and wildlife-supportive trees of California are our native oaks (Quercus spp.). Black Oak, Blue Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Interior Live Oak, and Valley Oak are locally native and provide food (leaves and acorns), shelter, and nesting sites for a diversity of wildlife, including insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals of all sizes. Be aware that established native oaks prefer no to very little summer water and require good drainage, so don’t plant them in or near water-guzzling lawns.

Our native Big Leaf Maple, Acer macrophyllum, is a large, deciduous, shade tree for areas that receive occasional to moderate summer watering. With its big leaves that turn a vibrant golden-yellow in autumn, it makes a lovely shade tree. It prefers some protection from hot summer sun, so it is best planted on a north-or east-facing site or where tall conifers cast afternoon shade. This maple has two special bonuses: It is fast-growing and has showy
Native Shrubs: The Hardy Californians

California is home to over 900 shrubs of all types and sizes that grow in nearly every type of soil and habitat. Shrubs create vertical layering in the landscape, which attracts many forms of wildlife and adds year-around interest. Planting a variety of native shrubs can transform a barren bank or degraded woodland into a mosaic of textures and colors, while preventing erosion and run-off. Following is a small sampling of multi-purpose, deep-rooted and water-wise native shrubs:

- **Ceanothus, *Ceanothus species*** - Numerous species ranging from tree-like to low groundcovers; a pioneer plant that fixes nitrogen in the soil. Most are evergreen and have showy, bright-blue flower clusters that attract pollinators; some heavily browsed by deer, but small, spiny-leaved varieties not generally bothered

- **Coffeeberry, *Frangula species*** - There are several varieties and many eco-types of coffeeberry. Most are evergreen, and all are easy and dependable; nectar-rich flowers and showy berries make it an outstanding wildlife plant; sometimes browsed by deer but recovers well; resprouts after wildfires or coppicing. *(Plant to left, though not coffeeberry, is an example of re-sprouting after wildfire.)*

- **Creambush, *Holodiscus discolor*** - A gorgeous deciduous shrub to 6 ft high by 6 ft wide; pioneer plant that is best with occasional summer water in part shade, such as in understory of oaks. Spirea-like, fragrant clusters of creamy-white flowers lure many insects and are edible. Good fall
• Manzanita, *Arctostaphylos species* - Large broadleaf evergreen genus ranging from tree-like shrubs to low, spreading groundcovers; all need good drainage and most prefer little to no summer water and sunny sites; white to pink, bell-like flowers attract insects and hummingbirds; small, apple-like berries relished by birds and mammals (and some humans); deer resistant.

• Toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* - Large evergreen with deep green, leathery leaves, insect-attracting, white flower panicles and showy clusters of bright red berries favored by birds. Prefers sunny slopes but OK in part shade; sometimes browsed by deer but recovers well; re-sprouts after wildfires or coppicing. *(Right: Hermit thrush in Toyon)*

• Western Redbud, *Cercis occidentalis* - A large, deciduous shrub preferring full sun to partial shade and good drainage; pea family member that fixes nitrogen in the soil. The showy magenta flowers attract many pollinators and are edible; fall color is outstanding; decorative seed pods hang on through winter; re-sprouts after wildfires or coppicing; deer resistant.

**Sign Up to Volunteer For Our Oct 13 Redbud Native Plant Sale!**

by Diane Wetzel, Redbud Volunteer Chair
With only a few days remaining, we still have many open volunteer positions -- We need your help!! We're using SignUp.com to make it easier for you to volunteer. Use this link to see open volunteer positions and sign up: https://signup.com/group/2470330225242880108
If you prefer, contact Diane directly at Volunteer4Redbud@gmail.com.

Visualize a crisp fall morning with the sounds of vendors unpacking produce up above at the North Star House. Imagine your friends, both old and new, setting up the Redbud Plant Sale. Let your mind enjoy the camaraderie that comes with executing the finishing touches, ready to welcome member shoppers at 9:30, the general public at 10:30. Imagine the chatter of those shoppers about native plants — where they grow, what they need, what they contribute to balancing ecosystems.

Which volunteer roles have you filled in the past? What might you want to try? Have you signed up yet? You can be a cashier, a tallier, a plant monitor, a greeter, a parking director, or any of many other tasks.

Are you ready to be a “Native Sage,” one of those quite knowledgeable native-plant lovers who answer shoppers’ questions about plant selection.

Maybe you’d rather volunteer to work the day before the sale, Friday, October 12. This is when we set up the site, raise the tent, pound fencing into the ground, haul plants off delivery trucks, label and price them, water them, and set them in place.

Do you have a truck or trailer that is covered, so you could protect wholesale nursery plants while transporting them to Grass Valley?

Be a member of the crew that makes this sale so successful!
Why do we need more volunteers? To ensure all plants are labeled and organized, to avoid traffic jams in the parking lot, to keep lines short at the plant tallying and cashier stations, to hold your chosen plants for you while you shop, and to answer your questions - Please help!

Membership Celebration with Special Guests!
Prizes and Surprises!
Q and A with Kat Anderson,
Author of Tending the Wild

Saturday, October 27, 2:30 - 5:30
Horseman’s Club, 10600 Bubbling Wells Rd, Grass Valley
(Off Brunswick)

Join us to celebrate the many ways in which Redbud members make a difference in our community and to one another. This will be a fun multifaceted event, with light refreshment, prizes and interactive activities. Bring the family!

New members are accepted at the door, or online in advance at https://www.cnps.org/membership. Please print and bring your receipt.

2:30 to 3:45, Open Activities

In addition to being able to buy plants remaining from our Oct 13 Plant Sale, you will learn about many activities available to you through the Redbud Chapter.

Some of the authors of our Placer and Nevada County Trees and Shrubs and Wildflowers books will be on hand to answer questions and chats about plant walks and gardening with natives. Local authors Karen Weise, a long-time Redbud member, and Julie Carville, co-founder of the Redbud Chapter, are invited guests. Bring your books to be signed! (Right: Vernal pool in Placer County.)

Our Education Chair, Josie Crawford, will have an array of plants, pods and cones, so you can investigate and learn about their special features. Bring your hand lens! Karen Callahan, Rare Plant Chair, will share promising results from a grant-sponsored research project to restore the rare, local Stebbins’ Morning Glory. (Right: Calystegia stebbinsii, Stebbins’ Morning Glory at local study site, photo by Karen Callahan)

You’ll have opportunities to sign up for “hands-on Redbud workgroups, including the Propagation group headed by Horticultural Chair Nancy Gilbert, the Advocacy group headed by
Leslie Warren, and the Ethnobotany group headed by Diane Cornwall. Learn about volunteering to lead a hike, taking action to protect local plan communities and wildlands, or participating in a community event or workshop.

Activities for Kids
Several activities are specifically for children and families. For instance, Grass Valley Charter School “Restoration Rangers,” organized by Merry Byles-Daly, will host a creative activity for children and adults. Learn about the success of the school’s garden that they’ve done with the help of a grant from Redbud. Learn also about other grants that may be available.

3:45-4:15, Membership Meeting
We’ll have a short member meeting, including a call for member feedback on Redbud projects and priorities — We want to hear from you! We’ll also nominate and elect officers for 2019-20. Any member can run for office, and all members can vote!

4:15-5:30, Kat Anderson Q and A
Enjoy an opportunity to chat with Kat Anderson, author of *Tending the Wild* and native-plant ecology champion. Think of the questions you want to discuss!

(Right: Mt. Howell, after prescribed burn)

Have fun, find out more about Redbud, and get to know fellow native-plant enthusiasts. We look forward to seeing you!

To help with this membership celebration, contact Diane Wetzel at Volunteer4Redbud@gmail.com. For more info, contact nativeplanthelp@redbud-cnps.org.

Please Bring Your CNPS Card to the Plant Sale
An important benefit of CNPS membership is our “Member Appreciation Sale,” 9:30 to 10:30 am on Oct. 13th, which is open only to members -- non-members can join at the door. If you’re a member, you can simplify and speed up the process of checking memberships by bringing your CNPS membership card.

If you can't find your membership card, or you're unsure of your membership status, email treasurer@redbud-cnps by noon on Friday, October 12th. We'll check and send you an email confirmation if you are a current member. If you belong to a different CNPS chapter, or you are a new or recently renewed/rejoined member, you'll need your card, confirmation, or receipt to enter the Member Appreciation sale and receive discounts on books or posters.

Propagation Group Update
By Karen Loro
Redbud Horticulture Co-Chair

In 2015, the Redbud Horticultural Chair, Nancy Gilbert, started a propagation group for Redbud CNPS chapter members. The group now has 31 members, of whom six or seven are active in leadership and native-plant propagation for our plant sale. We’re always very happy to have a few more active members join our group. We have hosted several events and have had many “teachable moments” from which we all learn.

Seed Swap

Each Fall, in November, we have a “Seed Swap” among members of our propagation group. In late summer and fall, we make lists of desirable species we want for propagation and then collect those seeds and cuttings in places that’s legally feasible. Fall is also when we host our Native Plant Sale; this year, it’s Saturday, October 13th at the North Star House in Grass Valley...more information is within this newsletter.

(Right: Nancy explains how to separate seeds from chaff.)

Propagation Workshops

Our propagation group has hosted both ‘Propagation from Seed’ and ‘Propagation from Cuttings’ workshops for Redbud members. We endeavor to learn about propagating native plants and share our knowledge to empower Redbud and community members in our efforts to be successful gardeners and stewards of our land. Participants are asked to keep accurate records of successes and failures to contribute toward our group knowledge.

(Workshop participants learning how to plant seeds in flat of soil mix.)

In a recent survey, workshop attendees were asked to report their results and contribute any insights. It has become clear that plants raised from seed or cuttings are subject to a wide range of variables due to geographic location, elevation, exposure to a variety of light, temperature, moisture and water quality, among many factors, all of which influence outcomes.

Aspiring to a Greenhouse for Propagation

To date, Redbud members are “home propagators.” An overarching strategy to which the Chapter aspires is having a greenhouse and a shade structure with raised growing benches for
our plants, a large endeavor that requires a lot of resources but would afford a controlled environment for raising and tending plants.

All the members who responded to our survey cited weather as a chief reason for plant mortality. Our topsy-turvy weather patterns, with a multi-day cold snap after a relatively mild December, was a major cause of losses. Housing plants in a sheltered environment that moderates temperature is a huge contributor to success. Other major challenges mentioned include difficulties with watering frequency, scorching August days, and drying wind.

In addition to mitigating for the variability in our environments, we are observing “Best Management Practices” (BMP’s) to prevent the spread of disease. Find more information at: [http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/PUBS/greenbulletin.2016.dec.pdf](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/PUBS/greenbulletin.2016.dec.pdf).

**Growing Plants for the Plant Sale**

In spite of obvious and not-so-obvious obstacles, our group is experiencing success! Among ourselves we have cultivated several hundred healthy, desirable plants, some of which will be available at our sale. (The others need to attain greater maturity and will be available later.) The list includes: milkweeds, salvias, buckwheats, Redbud, Toyon, Creambush, Douglas’s Spirea, grasses, including Purple Needlegrass (California State Grass), California Fescue, Idaho Fescue and June Grass, False Indigo (host plant for the California State Butterfly, the Dogface Butterfly), California Pipevine (host plant for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly, seen in profusion at South Yuba River State Park in May), dogwoods, Hazelnut, Mock Orange, Western Azalea, succulents, Wild Ginger and more!

If you have a genuine interest in learning about native plants and propagation, and want to share the fun among other native plant lovers, please join our group. Learn about upcoming opportunities to join in. Volunteer at our October plant sale.

The Plants will teach you!

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

Do you have our final upcoming 2018 presentation on your calendar? If so, great! If not, add it now, to make it easy to plan to come! Hope to see you there!

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn. You’ll find more information about the event on our Facebook page and our website. All lectures are free and open to the public.

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

We know you care about nature and native plants!

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