Thirty Years Later - Ed Dearing

*Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus* is the name of this moss David Toren told me as I examined this bright shiny yellow-green yarn-like plant that he had brought back from a field trip to Coos Bay, Oregon. “Well, when will we find it in Lake County?” I asked him. “Never”, he replied. Although *R. triquetrus* is a common circumboreal moss it is not often found south of central Oregon with only a few records for California. Well that was about three years ago…

Last July David called me and announced that he had found *R. triquetrus* in Lake County within about thirty yards of the Glenn County line. Never say never… Well, I had said never, or at least given up hope of finding my personal grail plant, Mountain Lady's-Slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*). I had been looking for it more than thirty years starting on Cobb Mountain and concluding with searches on the slopes of Mount Sanhedrin this year.

After telling me about his find, David suggested that we make a search for *C. montanum* a few miles east of the locality where he found the moss, based on the fact that it had been found about five miles north of there on a ridge in Glenn County. We began our expedition early in August hiking from the forest road into a canyon of virgin timber at a little over 5,000 feet in elevation. At the head of the canyon the largest group of Mountain Alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuiifolia*) I have ever seen in Lake County covered the springy ground. Under the alders we found Enchanter’s Nightshade (*Cicaea alpinum* ssp. *pacificina*), Monk's Hood (*Aconitum columbiae*), in a white to light lavender form I had not seen before, and Rocky Mountain Chickweed (*Stellaria obtusa*), which is listed by the CNPS as rare. Descending into the open forest of Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, White Fir, and Douglas Fir we separated for a time until I heard the shrill tones of David’s whistle, which announced his find of the Fringed Pinesap (*Pleuricospora fimbriata*) a first for the inner North Coast Range.

We stopped to have lunch by the small brook that the canyon supported. As David pondered as to which species of *Racomitrium* (a moss) was located on a rock we had sat next to, I looked up at the steep west-facing slope topped with Mountain Dogwood and realized what I had assumed was False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina*) had a different look about it. I scrambled about fifteen feet up the incline to get a closer view and there it was, past bloom but with the unmistakable wavy sepals still clinging to the drying inflorescence. David nearly fell into the stream as I yelled "*Cypripedium montanum*" at the top of my lungs. I had at last found the Mountain Lady’s Slipper.

Later, nearby during our trip we found the seldom-collected Wax-Leafed Raspberry (*Rubus glaucifolius*). I plan to go back next year in July to see *C. montanum* in bloom. By then I will probably have new grails to quest for.
The Sanhedrin Chapter of CNPS is renowned statewide for its field trips. This is apparently because it is one of the only activities that the chapter regularly performs. The 2001 season included at least 6 trips led by different members. Chuck Williams, Milane Corr, Marisela de Santa Anna, Geri Hulse-Stephens and Kerry Heise all led very interesting outings. Of particular interest to me were the 2 trips into the Mendocino National Forest. The first, which Geri Hulse-Stephens very capably led was an overnighter in early summer in which a group of 13 circumnavigated the quickly drying out but still floristically rewarding, Hull Mt. Probably the choicest stop was at Cushman "Lake", among whose botanical treasures the most visible was the meadow filled with *Penstemon* *rydbergii* var. *oreocharis*.

The trip which made its deepest impression upon me however was a mid July excursion to the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area led by Kerry Heise. My only regret is that I didn't visit years ago and I heartily recommend it as a summertime destination for botanizing. Hopefully the Sanhedrin Chapter can organize an outing next summer. Snow Mountain is in the southeast portion of Mendocino National Forest and is accessed most easily from Upper Lake in the south or Stonyford in the east.

On July 17 Jack and Mimi Booth, Kerry and myself departed from Ukiah for the 2 1/4 hour drive to the Summit Springs trailhead. The last hour on Forest Service roads is fairly strenuous but can be navigated even by sedans if Bear Creek is low enough which is usually the case by mid July. From the trailhead the well-marked trail climbs about 1,500 ft. over 4 1/2 miles to either of the two summits (7,061 ft.). According to Heckard & Hickman (1984, 1985) there are 517 (primarily) native species of vascular plants known to grow above 5,000 ft. on the mountain, 128 of which are thought to be at the limit of their range on Snow Mountain. As I am not a botanist I will limit myself to only more general observations.

Usually under a snowpack for 6 months of the year this area, like most of the Forest, is quite dry by summer and we encountered only one trickle of a stream all day and that was just below the summits. The first couple of trail miles are reminiscent of many other Coast Range locales. The last 2 miles to the top however seemed unique to me for the Mendocino Forest, more southern high desert-like with the aforementioned dryness being reinforced by the landscape and geology-bare rock and sky. There are serpentine sections to be sure but the barreness of the summit area is more like a basaltic scree and extremely pristine. This section seems amazingly untouched by human intrusion, just what one hopes to find in a wilderness area. The wildflowers of this area were also the most memorable to me partly no doubt because of their jewel-like setting against the dark scree. Here we found numerous wild buckwheats in the genus *Eriogonum* (Polygonaceae) such as *E. compositum* var. *compositum*, with their pinkish-white flower heads on erect stems; *E. lobbii* var. *lobbii* in beautiful pink-red rosettes; and the hairy, succulent-leafed *E. nervulosum* or Snow Mountain Buckwheat, which is a rare endemic of the southern North Coast Ranges.

Another favorite of mine was a lone specimen in the Dogbane Family (Apocynaceae) of *Cycladenia humilis* with its large magenta flowers. All in all an area well worth the time and effort to visit.

**Further Reading:**


Goat Mountain: A Sunny Slope of Summer Flowers - Geri Hulse-Stephens

Eight miles south of the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area on the Mendocino National Forest lies Goat Mountain. Its peak is 6,121 feet and its southern slope is blessed with a fascinating array of wetlands including riparian areas, marshes, and vernal pools. This summer I made several trips to survey the seasonal progression of these wetlands on a 700 acre private inholding owned by CIMIN, California Institute for Man in Nature directed by longtime conservationist, John Olmstead. The goal of CIMIN on Goat Mountain is to preserve and promote the biodiversity of this land.

Five years ago in 1996 the area was heavily burned in the Forks Fire, the largest fire in California that year. As naturalists in California we know that fire is an important part of the ecology. The first shock of blackened snags rising from the landscape soon gives way to interest in the fire islands, unburned groves of Black Oak and Ponderosa Pine and fire species that arise like old friends we haven't seen in ages. One of these is Golden Eardrops (Dicentra chrysantha), a butter-yellow Bleeding Heart that grows amidst the emerging Knobcones, a California fire pine, and resprouting Hoary Manzanita.

Lower on the property is what John Olmstead calls the Ecological Staircase, a glade climbing almost 1,000 feet in elevation. When I visited in late April the cascade of spring color was dominated by Birds-Eye Gilia (Gilia tricolor), White Owls Clover (Castilleja attenuata), Tomcat clover (Trifolium wildenovii), Popcorn Flower (Plagiobothrys nothofulvus), and Miniature Lupine (Lupinus bicolor). A sweet spring perfume drew a hum of insect life.

The marshes ignited with color in June with crowds of bright orange Leopard Lily (Lilium pardalinum var. pardalinum), yellow Agrimony (Agrimonia gryposepala), pink Showy Milkweed (Asclepias speciosa), Blue Camus (Camassia quamash), and stately white-flowered Hedge Nettle (Stachys albens). Two other favorites, for their form rather than for their color are the elegant grey-tomentose Swamp Thistle (Cirsium douglasii), and the Western Cone-Flower (Rudbeckia occidentalis spp. occidentalis), the latter notable for its cone-shaped heads of deep purple-black disk flowers and an absence of ray flowers.

The understory of these grand perennials was crowded with tiny orange Tinkers Penny (Hypericum anagaloides) and its larger bright yellow-flowered relative, Hypericum formosum var. scouleri, along with purple-flowered Western Dog Violet (Viola adunca), and white-flowered Watercress (Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum). One vernal pool receded throughout the summer making ever decreasing concentric lavender rings of Elegant Downingia (Downingia elegans) as the water evaporated. Another pool hosted Hornwort (Ceratophyllum demersum), a many-branched aquatic plant.

On the higher slopes at about 4500 feet a pond is set amongst Ponderosa Pine, Canyon Liveoak, and Madrone and was fringed with white-flowering Aquatic Buttercup (Ranunculus aquatilis var. hispidulus) and later in the season small yellow monkeyflowers (Mimulus floribundus) rimmed one side.

Among my favorite areas is Addington Camp at about 5,000 feet. The stream flowing beside it is the headwaters of Cache Creek and in the deep shade grow tall spikes of White-Flowered Bog Orchids (Platanthera leucostachys) and bright masses of Scarlet Monkey-Flower (Mimulus cardinalis). Away from the stream in the sunny open forest amongst surviving pines, carpets of Cobb Mountain Lupine (Lupinus sericatus) grow large and showy in dense perennial mats. Nearby old relics like "Big Bertha", a huge Sugar Pine 15 feet around remind us of a great forest that once was and with the conscientious efforts like those which CIMIN applies, may be again. Meanwhile beauty carries on.
Calendar of Events

January 12 (Saturday) - Fieldtrip to the Hopland Field Station
Join members from the Milo Baker Chapter for a walk through a portion of the 5,300 acre field station. A good number of native hardwoods, shrubs, ferns, mosses, and lichens will be seen. Meet at 10:00am at the headquarters office. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for the weather. Call Kerry at 744-1270 (w) or 744-1620 (h) for more information.

February 6-8 (Wed-Fri) - CNPS North Coast Chapter Rare Plant Symposium
The North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) presents a symposium on The Ecology and Management of Rare Plants in Northwestern California on February 6-8, 2002 at the North Coast Inn in Arcata, California. The conference will provide an opportunity for biologists, natural resource professionals, policy-makers, and other interested individuals to share their knowledge and concerns about rare plant issues. The North Coast Chapter welcomes interested participants of all disciplines to attend. For more information, please visit the North Coast Chapter's website at: http://www.northcoast.com/~cnps/symposiu.htm.

February 16 (Saturday) - Chapter Meeting, Potluck and Slide Presentation
It's time to elect new officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer). If the challenge of inspiring a fun and informal group of native plant enthusiasts to work cohesively appeals to you, please consider taking a leadership role in the running of our Chapter. Interested candidates are encouraged to attend this meeting. Potluck will begin at 12:30 followed by meeting and member slideshow at 1:30. Please bring 10 or so of your favorite slides to share. Place: The UC Hopland Research and Extension Center, aka The Hopland Field Station. Call Kerry at 744-1270 for more information.

New Lichen Book

This is truly a magnificent book, bringing to life more than 800 species of North American lichens, with notes on another 700 species.

Note: Amazon.com is offering a special price for this book of $48.96.

CNPS Plant Photography Program
At the September Board meeting in Palo Alto, the CNPS board informally approved a proposal to create a CNPS Plant Photography Program. The Program has been designed to engage our membership in the development of a comprehensive photographic flora of California's native species and habitats. A brief description of the program was published in the current (October-November) issue of The Bulletin, so please refer to that article for some of the details. If you are photographer, botanist, or interested layperson who might be interested in participating, or if you want further information, please contact Duane Haselfeld at djh@abac.com for details. This is an exciting program with a world of opportunities, and we look forward to hearing from you soon!
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO FREMONTIA - Linda Ann Vorobik

Members of the California Native Plant Society and others are welcome to submit articles, book reviews, botanical artwork, poetry, cartoons, and photographs for publication in FREMONTIA. All materials submitted should relate to the study of California's native vegetation and flora. Acceptance will be based on suitability. Articles dealing with formal nomenclatural proposals or of a highly technical nature are not suitable for publication in FREMONTIA.

Contributors of articles should submit one copy of a double-spaced manuscript accompanied by an electronic copy of the file (PC or MAC; Word, Word-Perfect, or similar Text Editor file in Text or Rich Text Format; MAKE SURE TO INDICATE NAME OF PROGRAM AND VERSION IN THE ACCOMPANYING COVER LETTER). All materials must be carefully edited and spell-checked BEFORE submission. Note that typed manuscripts without electronic file will NOT be accepted. Please submit electronic file in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with 24 pt leading (double-spaced text). Length of submission should not be less than 4 (double-spaced, 12 pt, TNR) pages (~1,000 words) nor exceed 32 (double-spaced, 12 pt, TNR) pages (~8,000 words). Contact the editor via email (vorobik@rockisland.com) for permission to submit all materials electronically.

Contributions of works of art, cartoons, or photos that may stand alone are also encouraged. Figures that accompany manuscripts should be sent at the time of submission; make sure all are packed and labeled carefully. All images should be sent with accompanying labeled photocopies indicating Figure Number for each image. A list of captions must accompany all figures submitted. Please note that although great care will be taken with any artwork, photographs etc., neither the EDITOR nor CNPS is liable for their loss or damage.

Finally, please submit a brief statement (see past issues of FREMONTIA) about the contributor(s). Please feel free to contact FREMONTIA EDITOR for further information, or to inquire if an article is suitable for publication in this journal. Thank you!

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO:
Dr. Linda Ann Vorobik, FREMONTIA EDITOR
UC and Jepson Herbaria
1001 Valley Life Sciences Building #2465
Berkeley, CA 94720-2465
e-mail FREMONTIA ED. (vorobik@rockisland.com) to request electronic submission.

Wilderness Update - Linda Gray

Through strong public support (evident by the large volume of letters) Sanhedrin Mountain will be included in the campaign to expand our National Wilderness Area system. The next phase in getting the Wilderness bill through Congress is for people in each county to write their Board of Supervisors requesting them to support wilderness expansion in their respective counties. Mendocino County is about 2 million acres in size and there are currently only 7,000 acres of wilderness here (part of the Yolla Bolly in the very top North East corner of the county). We have the opportunity to expand that by adding another 150,000+ acres (which includes the 12,000 Sanhedrin area). It is public land and it would be protected in perpetuity for people who prefer the beauty of undisturbed nature for backpacking, horseback riding, camping, etc. and for species of wildlife that cannot tolerate intensive human activities.

Please write letters to the 5 Mendocino County Supervisors asking them to support Boxer and Thompson’s Wilderness bill, including all the Potential Wilderness Areas in Mendocino County. If you don't live in Mendocino County, but want to support expanded wilderness here, let them know you’d come here more often and spend your money here, (that’s really what interests some of them the most) if there were wilderness for you to camp in.

You can send your letters to each of the following Supervisors:

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<tr>
<td>Patty Campbell</td>
<td>790 So. Franklin St. Ft Bragg, CA 95437</td>
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<td>David Colfax</td>
<td>501 Low Gap Road Ukiah, CA 95482</td>
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<td>Tom Lucier</td>
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<td>Richard Shoemaker</td>
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<td>Mike Delbar</td>
<td>501 Low Gap Road Ukiah, CA 95482</td>
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Also mail a copy to Ryan Henson, campaign coordinator:

Ryan Henson
California Wilderness Coalition
P.O. Box 293
Shingletown, CA 96088
The California Native Plant Society is an organization of lay persons and professionals united by an interest in the plants of California. It is open to all. The society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase the understanding of California’s native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Varied interests are represented. Dues are tax deductible. You will receive this newsletter, the informative quarterly journal *Fremontia*, and a statewide news bulletin.

**Membership Information**

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Make your check out to “CNPS” noting your affiliation to the **Sanhedrin Chapter**, and mail to:

**California Native Plant Society**
**1722 J Street, Suite 17**
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Send newsletter materials to:**

Kerry Heise
Editor – CNPS Sanhedrin Chapter
4040 University Rd.
Hopland CA. 95449

Or email to:

kheise@nature.berkeley.edu