



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ JULY-AUGUST 2009

GREAT NEWS: WATER-WISE GARDENING CONSULTATION SERVICE BEGINS AGAIN

CALENDAR

July 17-19 (Friday-Sunday)

Field trip.
Summer Sojourn, White Mountains. Details inside and at www.bristleconecnps.org

July 18 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Highway 88. Details inside.

July 21 (Tuesday)

Program.
Placerville Paths and Georgetown Trails. Details inside.

July 31-August 1 (Friday-Saturday)

Field trip.
Picayune Valley. Details inside.

August 15 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Fens in the forest. Details inside.

August 29 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Echo Summit area. Details inside.

September 15 (Tuesday)

Program.
Recipients of Clark Youth Fund grant—two projects. Details in September newsletter.



Monthly programs are held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of August and December. Programs begin at 7 PM. Check details inside for location.

**For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org**

As reported in the November Gold Field Notes, the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) was awarded a grant to begin a Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Program for El Dorado County homeowners. This grant was one of only four grants awarded in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Region, an area which stretches from Kern to Modoc Counties and includes the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade Ranges in California. Then the state budget crisis hit in late December and this program was frozen.

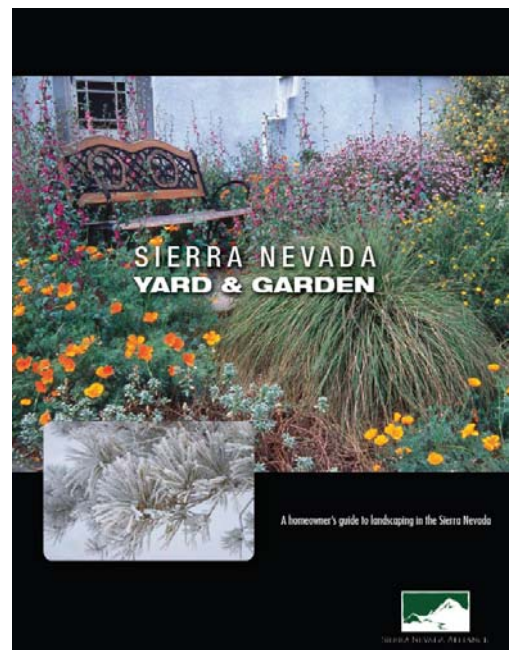
In June, a portion of the original grant was reinstated, so the Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Program on Native Plant and Water-Wise Gardening has now started homeowner consultations. The primary focus will be on recommending native plants and, to a lesser extent, water-wise (a.k.a. drought-adapted) introduced plants, for the various problem situations found in home landscapes. Other potential topics to be covered during the home consultation will include noxious weed identification on the property, native plants and wildlife (both pest protection measures and plant species having high value for attracting wildlife), reducing storm runoff by constructing low-tech and low cost water infiltration systems, and appropriate methods of slope stabilization for moderate, steep and extremely steep slopes. Additional topics such as oak tree care guidelines, soil characteristics, drip irrigation basics, and vegetation management services available from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council are covered in accompanying literature. Homeowner consultation enrollment is now open. You may apply by contacting: rosemarycarey@comcast.net; the subject header should read "Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden consultation." Homeowners may also call (530) 620-

3631 between 9 am—5 pm weekdays to enroll.

Typical consultations will take from 2-4 hours; clients should be present for at least 2 hours. The remainder of the time will be spent drawing a site map and photographing areas for site specific recommendations.

Because our current funding level is only 1/5 of our original grant award, current CNPS members and those willing to join CNPS will be given preference. Regular memberships are \$45; there is a limited income membership available for \$25. Homeowners will receive a site plan with appropriate plant species recommendations shown which they will be able to plant in fall or winter 2009, the beautiful full color book *Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Guide* produced by the Sierra Nevada Alliance, and an information booklet of El Dorado County will also be provided to homeowners.

*Rosemary Carey
Program Manager*



CNPS AND HOW IT STARTED

Excerpted from Fremontia, Vol. 18, No. 4, October 1990: "The California Native Plant Society, Then and Now" by G. Ledyard Stebbins.

The founders of our Society are not professional botanists. They are lovers of wild plants, growing either in natural settings or in their gardens where they and their friends can admire them continuously. The "hard core" founders were brought together by a mission of conservation. In 1965, the East Bay Division of Parks in Oakland was threatening to discontinue the Arboretum of Native Plants in Tilden Park and to dismiss its Supervisor, James Roof. This brought forth a series of protests and organized protest meetings on the part of citizens who loved the Arboretum and felt that it served a valuable purpose in the cultural life of the area. After a vigorous campaign, they succeeded in blocking the proposed dismantling, and the victors realized that much more could be done to save from destruction the rare native plants of California. The need was great, and no other organization was meeting the challenge. Both the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy were sympathetic, but their energies were and are directed toward larger goals. The professional botanical societies were making

gestures, but not undertaking vigorous, concerned action.

This prompted a small but highly dedicated group of plant lovers to organize our Society: Joyce and the late Dr. Horace Burr, Jenny and Scott Fleming, Susan and August Fruge, Inya and Walter Knight, James Roof, Leonora and Dr. Erwin Strohmaier, plus University of California chemist Leo Brewer and botanist W.M. Laetsch. As soon as I heard about it, I organized a Sacramento Chapter and attended meetings of the main group in Berkeley (elected president in 1967).

Initially, the Society's plan of action was to interest other plant lovers in every way possible, to monitor the activities of private and public agencies whose plans would in any way destroy rare species or disrupt natural plant communities, to prepare whatever countermeasures might be necessary to stop them, and to seek donations from organizations and private citizens. As I became more active, I realized that, as the Sierra Club had long known, people become much more interested in conserving natural features with which they have become intimately acquainted, so that field trips should be an essential part of our Society's activities. The first of these, taken by the Sacramento Valley Chapter, was to photograph rare native plants. After a few unfortunate experiences with non-member student visitors, we actively enforced the "no collecting" rule on our trips. The

epithet "posy pickers," sometimes applied to our members, was never justified.

Another of our activities that became widely adopted, native plant sales, grew out of a crisis from which we rose, like Phoenix, from near oblivion. In the autumn of 1966, the core group met in a rented office for which we were in debt, in a session that at first was full of gloom and doom. All our efforts at obtaining funds had failed, and we were not attracting many new members. Then one of our more stalwart optimists made the suggestion that from our various native gardens, plus seedlings grown from seeds that Jim Root and others had collected in the wild, we had enough stock of native plants to put on a sale. The suggestion was enthusiastically received, and for several weeks all our energies were devoted to "pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps" in this fashion. The sale was so well publicized that when we opened the gates of the sales lot in Tilden Park, people were waiting to enter and buy. The only thing that went wrong was our underestimation of the interest that we had aroused. Although the sale was publicized as an all-day Saturday affair, we were almost completely sold out by noon time. Not only had we covered our debts, but also we had acquired many new members. All thoughts of disbanding were forgotten: we were definitely on the way to success.

GRANTS TO SUPPORT NATIVE PLANT RESEARCH

Each year the State CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifi-

cally for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2009.

*Joan Stewart, Chair
CNPS Educational Grants Committee*

BE A DOCENT AT WRIGHT'S LAKE A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Once again Rich Wade is organizing wildflower walks at the Wright's Lake Campground on Saturday mornings in July through mid-August. These hikes held at 10 AM for 1-2 hours are intended as an introduction to the plants of the Wright's Lake area for those who are camping or traveling in the area. Rich is looking for CNPS volunteers to lead the hikes. Contact Rich Wade (530-644-7210; rwade@spi-ind.com) for more information.

SUMMER PLANT WALKS

Please contact the trip leaders by the Wednesday prior to the hike to let them know you will be attending.

July 18 (Saturday)

Highway 88 Plants Near Parking Lots, Carson Pass area

Duration: full day

Meeting time and place: 9:00 A.M., at the Perry residence, 6311 Sly Park Road

Description: We will drive up Mormon Emigrant Trail to Highway 88, and then over Carson Pass, stopping along the way at several of my favorite roadside botany spots. Expect to see everything from Allium to Zigadenus, with plants like *Paeonia brownii*, (Brown's Peony) *Collomia linearis*, *Pedicularis groenlandica* (Elephant heads) and more in between. This is a great trip for people who want more flowers and less walking. Kids and well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Level of Difficulty: very easy

Bring: water, lunch, bug repellent and weather-appropriate clothing

Contact: Shellie Perry, 530-644-6335, sepperry@concentric.net

July 31(Friday)-Aug. 1(Saturday)

Picayune Valley, Granite Chief Wilderness, Placer County

Duration: all day plus night before at campground

Meeting place and time: Trip starts from the trailhead at Talbot Campground (past French Meadows Reservoir) at 9am on Saturday Aug. 1. Since it takes about 3 hours to get there from Placerville, I propose to camp out on Friday at Talbot Campground (5 sites, no fee, no water except from the nearby creek-need to boil). I will be leaving Placerville on Friday from Placerville Raley's under the big sign around 11 am or 12 pm in order to get a campsite by midafternoon. Folks can carpool with me, follow me, or I can provide directions and other carpools may leave later (or from Georgetown area) or the next day (if you are an early riser). Thought it would be fun just to hang out by the campfire at night and chat with the natives. Picayune Valley is in a mature Red Fir Forest but we'll experience some meadow and riparian habitats, and rocky outcrops. This is a trip of exploration. Not sure what we will see.

Level of Difficulty: This is a moderate hike (approximately 6 miles round trip) and the elevation will be around 6,300-7,000 ft. It winds along an old road until the wilder-

ness boundary and follows a creek for most of the way with some neat views.

Bring: Camping gear and food for two days, water, bug repellent and weather-appropriate clothing

Contact: Cindy Podsiadlo, clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com, (530) 642-0648.

August 15 (Saturday)

Fens of the Pacific Ranger District (El Dorado County)

NOTE: This trip is limited to ten (10) people. Please sign up in plenty of time.

Duration: a long full day. Distance can be decided by the majority of the party.

Meeting time and location: Pollock Pines Safeway at 9 AM.

Description: We will be driving up Ice House road and taking a few native surface roads. Highlights: *Sorbus californica* (mountain ash); *Drosera rotundifolia* (sundew); *Phalacroseris bolanderi*; *Meesia triquetra* (moss); and a wide variety of other fen species. A plant list will be available.

Level of Difficulty: Easy. We can drive fairly close to all of these. However, we will be walking into the fens which are usually very wet. Please bring footwear that you don't mind getting wet.

Bring: water, lunch, sunhat, bug spray, sturdy walking shoes, light rain jacket.

Contact: Annie Walker, 626-3678 or agastache@att.net. Due to the limit of ten, please RSVP a few days prior to the hike. Rain date available.

August 29 (Saturday)

Echo Summit area (El Dorado County)

Duration: You can come for a half day or a full day

Meeting Time and location: 9 A.M., Pollock Pines Safeway

Description: We will spend a couple of hours at a roadside wet area near Echo Summit. We will see some nice wildflowers, and also spend some time becoming friends with the grasses, sedges and rushes that grow in the Red Fir belt. After lunch we will take a short walk up to some more wet meadows, where we can find beauties like Leather Grape Fern, (*Botrichium multifidum*) Alpine Lily, (*Lilium parvum*) Seepspring Madia, (*Madia bolanderi*) and an unusual, upright form of *Nama lobbii*.

Level of Difficulty: very easy/moderately easy

Bring: water, lunch, bug spray, hat

Contact: Shellie Perry, 530-644-6335, sepperry@concentric.net

JULY PROGRAM

PLACERVILLE PATHS AND GEORGETOWN TRAILS

Local author and trails expert, Tom Petersen, will talk about Getting Lost off the Georgetown Divide and will introduce his new book, Placerville Paths. Placerville Paths describes trails in the South Fork American River drainage, from Echo Lakes to Folsom. Join us to learn areas to explore in the American River watershed.

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, July 21 at the Eldorado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road (actually turn onto Briw Road at Midas), Large Conference Room in back of building.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

August	Summer break! No program
September	Todd Gillihan & Ryan Wimmer, recipients of Clark Youth Fund grants
October	Potluck
November	John Kipping, topic TBA

SUMMER SOJOURN WITH THE BRISTLECONE CHAPTER

Join the Bristlecone Chapter and other folks for a flower filled weekend of field trips, evening programs and conversation in the White Mountains of eastern California. This year you will have the opportunity to stay one night (Saturday) or two nights (Friday and Saturday) at the University of California White Mountain Research Station's Crooked Creek facility which is located in the ancient bristlecone pine forest at 10,200 feet elevation.

For details on the weekend's event and registration, check out: www.bristleconecnps.org



El Dorado Chapter
California Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1948
Placerville, CA 95667

July-August 2009

SUMMER-FALL 2009 HIKES

All are welcomed! Save the dates!

July 17-19	Summer Sojourn, White Mountains
July 18	Highway 88 Plants Near Parking Lots
July 31-Aug1	Picayune Valley
August 15	Ring Two Fen and Four Corners Fen
August 29	Echo Summit area
Sept., TBA	Hope Valley Fall Colors

Details on Summer Hikes inside newsletter

Learn more about State CNPS at: www.cnps.org



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CALIFORNIA'S NATIVE FLORA

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal, *Fremontia*, the quarterly *Bulletin*, which gives statewide news and announcements of Society activities and conservation issues, and the chapter newsletter *Gold Field Notes*. To join, call our main office in Sacramento, (916) 447-2677, or visit www.cnps.org to join online.

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