

SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY,

APRIL 5

9 AM to 2 PM

Spring is nearly here and it's time for our twice yearly plant sale. Once again will be offering a great selection of native and drought tolerant plants that will grow well in our area. Books on gardening with native plants and natural history will also be available for sale.

If you are new to gardening with native plants, there will be plenty experienced gardeners at the sale to answer your questions.

This newsletter includes a list of plants that are likely to be at the sale so that



you can plan ahead for your shopping trip. As in recent sales, we will not be taking orders for plants prior to the sale, so make certain you come down when we first open at 9 AM for the best selection.

CNPS

SPRING WORKSHOPS

April 14-16, 2008

Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy

Primary Instructors: Carol Witham, Ellen Dean, Jennifer Buck, Rob Preston. Location: UC Davis and several Central Valley vernal Pools

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Participants will acquire a higher level of knowledge and confidence in identifying vernal pool plants both in the laboratory and in the field. They will learn characters used to distinguish species beyond those used in the typical dichotomous plant key and gain field identification skills to make participants

SPRING HIKES TO THE RARE PLANT PRESERVE

This year the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will host naturalist-led walks on Saturdays to the Pine Hill Preserve.

May 3 Cameron Park Unit
May 10 Pine Hill Unit
May 17 Cameron Park Unit
May 31 Pine Hill Unit
June 7 Salmon Falls Unit

For more information call Barb Williams (916) 985-4474 or check out the web at: <http://www.pinehillpreserve.org/tours/index.htm>

more efficient and effective at vernal pool vegetation assessments, floristic surveys and rare plant surveys. Cost: Members \$525; Non-members \$550; Fees include lunches (3) and transportation (2 days)

April 22-23, 2008

Vernal Pool Plant Communities

Primary Instructors: Michael Barbour, Ayzik Solomesheh, Stephen Rae, Carol Witham, Jennifer Buck

Location: UC Davis and Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley vernal pools

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an intensive and pragmatic 2-day course on plant community identification, sampling design, and ecology. The course also reviews general plant community attributes and the relationship between vernal pool community classification and rare species occurrence, conservation, restoration, and vegetation mapping. The course is designed to accommodate consultants or agency staff individuals with diverse backgrounds who want or need to improve their knowledge of, and skills with, vernal pool vegetation and habitats. The class is being designed to specifically accommodate the needs of the California Department of Fish and Game and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.

To register or for more information, contact Josie Crawford at (916) 447-2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org. Additional workshops listed at: www.cnps.org/cnps/education/

AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

The sale will be held at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. You will find us located in the Corker Building; signs will be posted to help you find us.

The fairgrounds is at 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, right next to the Raley's Supermarket.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need help setting up in the morning and assisting throughout the day on Saturday. If you are interested in helping out, Please contact Shellie Perry (530) 644-6335.

MANY THANKS TO VIVIAN PARKER, PROGRAM CHAIR EXTRAORDINAIRE

For the past couple of years, Vivian Parker has arranged for speakers for our monthly programs. From bees, to hummingbirds, to wildflowers of Lake Tahoe, and highlights about gardening, Vivian help to expand our thinking about natives plants. Please give Vivian a warm thank you then next time you see her.

Susan Durham has generously offered to step into the position of program chair. Susan is a botanist with the Eldorado National Forest and brings much local and Sierra Nevada-wide knowledge to the position.



Giant larkspur
Delphinium glaucum

SPRING PLANT WALKS

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

APRIL 12 (SATURDAY)

MATHER VERNAL POOLS, SACRAMENTO Co.

Duration: 1/2 day

Meeting Time and Location: 8:30 AM at the Shingle Springs Park and Ride (on the north-west corner of the interchange at Highway 50).

Description: We will explore the vernal pool plant community at Mather County Park east of Sacramento. We intend to break into two groups – one for beginners and the other for a more detailed examination of the flora.

Level of Difficulty: Easy.

Bring: Water, wettable shoes, sun protection, \$3 for parking. Plant list will be provided. Contact: Rich Wade (530) 644-7210

April 26 (Saturday)

Cronan Ranch, El Dorado County

Time/Duration: Until mid-afternoon

Meeting Time and Location: 9:00 AM at the Raley's on Placerville Drive, near the big sign, or at 9:30 am at the entrance to Cronan Ranch at Pedro Hill Road just off of Highway 49. A map of the ranch is at: <http://www.coloma.com/recreation/cronan-ranch-map.gif>

Description: This 6-mile loop trail will take us through grassland-oak woodland, down to the South Fork American River, and back up through a perennial wetland-stream. The foothill flowers should be in full force.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate.

Bring: Water, sturdy shoes, sun protection. We will be making a plant list for the area. Contact: Sue Britting (530) 295-8210

May 3 (Saturday)

Howard Ranch, Sacramento County

Meeting time and location: 8:00 AM at the Raley's on Placerville Drive, near the big sign.

Duration: All day.

Description: This flat, easy, seven mile trail winds around one end of Rancho Seco Lake, then through grasslands festooned with vernal pools, surprisingly beautiful views, and some happy cows.

Level of difficulty: Easy

Bring: Water, lunch and bug repellent, and be sure to bring a loupe so you can enjoy the "belly" flowers! No dogs are allowed and bring \$5 per car for parking.

Contact: Shellie Perry at 530-644-6335, or e-mail to sepperry@concentric.net

APRIL PROGRAM BOOK EXCHANGE!

The April chapter meeting will be a book exchange and social gathering. Do you have old gardening books, magazines, floras, Fremontia volumes that you no longer use? Now's the time to clean out your bookshelves, sort through the stacks of books on your desk, and bring those items to trade. If you think your book or journal may be interesting to someone else, bring it along.

It's a social meeting, too. If you would like to bring a snack or treat, please contact Karla Meadows (916) 939-6828 or kenkarla@netscape.com.



This event will be held at 7:00 pm, April 15, at the Placerville County Public Library at 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

May 17 (Saturday)

North Fork One-Eye Creek, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 10:00 am at the Mosquito Fire Station (Rock Creek Road in Swansboro). Directions to fire station from Placerville, take Spring St. (Hwy 49) north to Highway 193; turn north and drive four miles (or so) to Rock Creek Road (about a mile north of the Chili Bar Bridge at the South Fork American). Turn east onto Rock Creek Rd and drive about 11 miles to the Mosquito Fire Station (across from the airport).

Duration: Most of the day; 5 miles downhill
Description: This is a 5 mile hike that begins at the Slate Mountain lookout site (actually fire tower is gone/dismantled) and heads west along the chaparral ridge about 1-2 miles. The views in the first half of the hike are mostly to the south - the view is quite nice if the air is clean. It begins in hard schist/slate that keeps most trees in a struggling, bonsai state. The pure white leaf manzanita hillside are stunted (due to the hard substrate they are growing in) so they resemble the rare El Dorado or Nissenan manzanita in stature, of which there is a beautiful stand less than a mile away. We leave the shrubland in a saddle and walk down a rarely used, but eroded motorcycle trail till we hit a FS road that takes us to the north fork of One-Eye Creek (we have a plant list for this section) which we walk above for the last 2 miles (in the shade). We will end up at the FS road and Rock Creek road where we will have vehicles to ferry us back to the vehicles left at Slate Mountain. There is only enough room at Slate Mtn for about 3 vehicles. So this may be the limiting

factor as far as participants.

Difficulty: Moderate

Bring: Water, lunch, bug repellent, sunscreen.

Post hike activity: BBQ at Mike Taylor's house (both trailheads and about 2-3 miles from Mike's house)

Contact: Mike Taylor, 530-626-1196

June 8 (Saturday)

Traverse Creek, El Dorado County

Time/Duration: half to all day

Meeting Time and Location: 9:00 AM at the Raley's on Placerville Drive, near the big sign. This trip is being held the day after the Chapter Council meeting to be held in Coloma, and there may be members from other chapters joining us on this trip.

Description: This large serpentine area at 2,400' elevation is located about 4 miles south of Georgetown. On this trip to Traverse Creek we can expect to see plenty of later-blooming favorites, such as Leopard Lily (*Lillium pardilinum*), Mariposa Tulip (*Calochortus superbus*), and the rare Sanborn's Onion (*Allium sanbornii*). A wide variety of microhabitats - rocky outcrops, chaparral, and streamside - will be visited. This also is an area of geological interest.

Level of Difficulty: Easy 2 mile walk. For those who are less physically ambitious, there are lots of beautiful and interesting plants within 200 yards of the parking area. There is also a nice, shady picnic area.

Bring: Food, water, and binoculars if you like to bird-watch. Plant list will be provided.

Contact: Amy Hoffman at 530-644-6335, sepperry@concentric.net



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

March-April 2008

SUMMER-FALL 2008 HIKES

All are welcomed! Save the dates!

- June 21 Schenk Camp
- July 12 Shealor Lake
- July 26 Lyons Creek
- August 2 Sierra-At-Tahoe
- August 23 Forestdale Divide
- October 18 Ellicott Bridge

Details on Spring 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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