

GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ MARCH-APRIL 2005



SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

9 am to 1 pm

CALENDAR

March 15 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
Learn about weeds and landscaping alternatives to invasive plants from Wendy West, Coordinator of the El Dorado County Noxious Weed Group. See inside for details.

March 10 (Thursday); 7-9 PM.

Lecture.

Learn about mountain lions. Sponsored by the El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide RCDs and the South Fork American River Watershed Group. USFS large conference room, 100 Forni Road, Placerville. For more information call Jill (530) 295-5636.

March 19 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Codfish Falls, Placer County.

APRIL 2 (Saturday)

Twice yearly plant sale.
Native plants, seeds and books will be on sale from 9 am to 1 pm at Building "C" of the El Dorado County Government Center in Placerville.

April 9 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Table Mountain, Butte County

April 19 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
To be arranged. Check the chapter website for an update.

April 23 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Auburn lime quarry, El Dorado County



Monthly programs are held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of August and December. Programs begin at 7 PM at the Placerville Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

Check for details on plant walks inside this newsletter.

Get out your work gloves and put on your gardening hats — Spring is nearly upon us and it's time for our twice yearly plant sale. Once again Cornflower Farms and Steve Dowty will be offering native and drought tolerant plants that grow well in our area. Books on gardening with native plants and natural history will also be available at the sale. This year we will be featuring a new poster on grasses that grow in California. These are a new addition to the CNPS poster series and a must have for folks who want to learn how to identify native grasses.

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

Inside this newsletter is a list of plants that are likely to be at the sale so that you can plan ahead for your shopping trip. This year 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.

The sale will be held in the entry way to El Dorado County Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville (down the hill from the Main El Dorado County Library).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping with the sale, we still need people to help prepare the plants on Friday and to assist with various tasks on Saturday. Contact Steve or Shellie Perry (530) 644-6335 if you can lend a hand.



For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org

SPRING PLANT WALKS

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

March 19 (Saturday) Codfish Falls, Placer County

Meeting time and location: 9:00 AM at the Raley's on Placerville Drive, near the big sign.

Duration: Plan to spend all day, because it's so pretty you won't want to go home!

Description: A beautiful Spring walk through the foothills above Auburn. We will start where the Ponderosa bridge crosses the North fork American River. We will see wildflowers in a variety of environments, from open hill-sides to riverside to riparian woodland. Codfish Falls, conveniently located along Codfish Creek, makes a pleasant luncheon spot.

Level of difficulty: Moderately easy, approximately 2 miles each way. This easy-to-follow trail is suitable for children as well as adults.

Bring: Water, lunch and bug repellent

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

April 9 (Saturday) Table Mountain, Butte County

Meeting time and location: 8 AM Shingle Springs park and ride, near the northwest entrance to Highway 50.

Duration: All day. Back at park and ride by 5:30 PM.

Description: A riot of spring color is anticipated for this visit to the "basalt grasslands" of Oroville's picturesque Table Mountain, overlooking the Sacramento Valley at 1,200' elevation. This leisurely walk over a gently sloping basalt flow combines the floristic elements of vernal pools, valley grassland, and oak woodland. Jepson-toters are encouraged.

Level of difficulty: Easy

Bring: Hat and sunscreen, water, lunch, sturdy shoes.

Contact: Rich Wade (530) 644-7210;



rwade@spi-ind.com

April 23 (Saturday) Auburn lime quarry, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 9:00 AM at the Raley's on Placerville Drive, near the big sign.

Duration: We will be back at the car between 2 and 3 PM.

Description: We will start behind the Cool firestation, and walk to, and part-way around, the old Spreckles (now Teichert) rock quarry. Along the way we will see Frying Pan Poppies, Lupines, Mule Ears, Fawn Lilies, Honeysuckle, and lots more. We will walk through green, grassy fields, mixed open woodland, and riparian woodland. This area is gorgeous in April.

Level of difficulty: Moderately easy, approximately 2 miles each way.

Bring: Water, lunch, bug repellent, and sturdy walking shoes - the trail may be muddy in spots.

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

May 14 (Saturday) Pine Hill, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 9:00 AM at Rescue School on Green Valley

Road.

Duration: Back at cars between 1 and 2 PM

Description: Pine Hill is a special place. Due to unusual soil conditions it hosts a suite of rare plants, several of which we will see as we walk up the road. Our walk starts in Oak woodland, where we will find wildflowers such as Chinese Houses, Mule Ears, Baby Blue Eyes and Redbud. As we wind our way up the hill the soil thins, and the serpentine-loving plants begin to appear. We expect to see Layne's Butterweed blooming, a tiny rare Bedstraw, and, most likely the spectacular Prostrate Flannelbush, (*Fremontodendron californicum* ssp. *decumbens*) will be booming. The 25-foot-wide specimen growing atop Pine Hill, covered with golden-orange flowers, is not to be missed! There will be lots of other flowers, too- Paintbrush, Pitcher Sage, Virgin's Bower, Fairy Lanterns- join us!

Level of difficulty: Moderately easy. This is a kid-friendly hike.

Bring: Water, and lunch if you intend to linger (I always do). Plant lists will be provided.

Contact: Please R.S.V.P. Shellie Perry, 530-644-6335, seperry@concentric.net

SPRING PLANT WALKS (CONTINUED)

May 21 (Saturday)
Ring Mountain, Marin County

Meeting time and location: 7:30 AM at the Shingle Springs park-n-ride, near the northwest entrance to Highway 50.

Duration: This will definitely be an all-day trip.

Description: Ring Mountain, near Corte Madera, is a little like Pine Hill. It has ultramafic soils, rare plants and animals, and faces severe threats from developers. Luckily, local environmentalists have worked to permanently protect several hundred acres of this special place, and have built trails to help the public enjoy it. This trip fea-

tures petroglyphs, wonderful views of San Francisco Bay, and several rare plants, including Marin Dwarf Flax, Tiburon Paintbrush, Serpentine Reedgrass, and the weird and wonderful Tiburon Mariposa Lily, which only grows on Ring Mountain. (And yes, late May is prime time to see the T.M.L. blooming.) We will also see plenty of other wildflowers, native bunchgrasses, and shrubs, such as Wax Myrtle. **NO DOGS ALLOWED.** Parking is limited, so plan on car-pooling. **R . S . V . P . r e q u i r e d .** Level of difficulty: Moderately easy, about 3 miles with 700 feet elevation gain.

Bring: Sturdy walking shoes, water and lunch. Plant lists will be provided.

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



PLANT WORKSHOP

April 2 (Saturday), 9 AM to 4 PM. Introduction to Flowering Plant Identification, Terminology, and Techniques for Beginners by John Dittes

California supports over 5,800 species of flowering plants, roughly 30% of all North American plant species (north of Mexico). How do you accurately identify a plant without thumbing through incomplete picture books? How do botanists go to a new area and make an accurate and complete plant list? This workshop will answer those questions and get you started identifying plants by yourself.

The workshop will meet in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$40.00 personal (\$30.00 for students, and for members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact John Dittes at jodittes@aol.com or (530) 384-

1774. For more information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

WORK DAYS AT COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE

March 12 & 19	Habitat Restoration
April 9	General Work Projects
April 23	Monitoring and Weed Removal

Work days last from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Work with the Cosumnes River Preserve Habitat Restoration Team. Meet at the TNC Barn, 6500 Desmond Road. Schedule subject to change, so please call prior to workday. Bring a lunch, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, long pants and closed toe shoes. During rainy season, bring rain clothes and rubber boots!

Contact Barbara Williams
bfwillia@ca.blm.gov or (916) 985-4474 to reserve your place.

MARCH PROGRAM LANDSCAPING ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVE WEEDS

Presented by Wendy West

Wendy West, the Natural Resource Program Representative with the University of California Cooperative Extension in Placerville and Coordinator of the El Dorado County Noxious Weed Group, will speak about noxious weeds in El Dorado County and update us on the upcoming Landscaping Alternatives pamphlet. This pamphlet is designed to present alternative species to some common landscaping plants (e.g., greater periwinkle) that happen to be invasive. Landscaping Alternatives will identify alternative plants that are non-invasive and that provide similar qualities such as ground cover. (Once this pamphlet is printed, we hope to make it available at our plant sales.) Come and hear Wendy West and learn about our options in stemming the spread of invasive plant species and, thereby, helping to protect our native species.

This program will be at the Placerville Public Library on March 15, 2005 at 7

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.

April 16	Cameron Park Unit
April 23	Pine Hill Unit
April 30	Salmon Falls Unit
May 7	Cameron Park Unit
May 14	Salmon Falls Unit

For more information call Barb Williams (916) 985-4474 or check out the web at: <http://co.el-dorado.ca.us/>



El Dorado Chapter
California Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1948
Placerville, CA 95613

March-April 2005

See inside for our Spring Plant Walks

Summer Plant Walks—Save the Dates!

June 11	Bassi Falls
July 9	Jake Schneider/ Government Meadows
July 23	Castle Peak
August 6	Lyons Creek Trail
August 20	Barker Peak

Look for details on our Summer plant walks in the June-July 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.

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