



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MAY-JUNE 2005

CALENDAR

May 14 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Pine Hill, El Dorado County. See details inside.

May 15 (Sunday)

Vegetation workshop.
Learn how to complete vegetation surveys in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Staff from the CNPS Vegetation Program will spend the day with us on a site near the SF American River showing us how to do vegetation surveys and discussing how they use the information to describe plant communities. See details inside.

May 17 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
Tonight will feature presentations on the projects the Chapter has supported with our Clark Youth Fund. Representatives from several schools will tell us about their projects and what they have learned.

May 21 (Saturday)

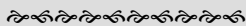
Plant walk.
Ring Mountain, Marin County. See details inside.

June 11 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Bassi Falls, El Dorado County. See details inside.

June 21 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
Chapter member Ben Parks will present a slide show of his travels to Africa and the unique plants and habitats he observed.



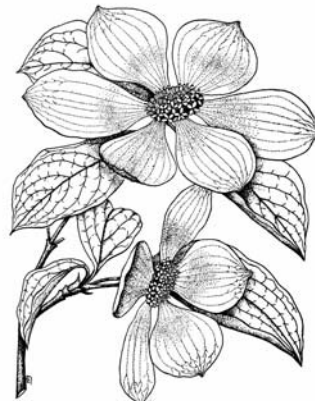
Monthly programs are held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of August and December. Programs begin at 7 PM at the Placerville Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

APRIL PLANT SALE—A SUCCESS STORY

Wonderful weather, beautiful native plants, helpful volunteers and lots of eager customers made for a great Spring plant sale. I was a little nervous going in that sales might be down because we had decided to stop allowing customers to pre-order plants, but I needn't have worried. Rosemary Carey did her usual excellent job with pre-sale publicity, and "Farmer Fred" Hoffman kindly let us plug our event on his radio shows. Joanne Geggatt designed some eye-catching fliers. The wholesale nursery Cornflower Farms even published a pamphlet stating that their plants are available retail at our Spring and Fall plant sales. The result was more than \$8,700 in gross sales. Steve Perry's idea of giving a discount on their purchases to people who joined CNPS that day yielded a fantastic result – twenty-three new members joined our chapter.

The money raised by this sale will be used to fund all kinds of worthwhile chapter activities, including field trips, the Clark Youth Fund, monetary support for botanical resources like CalFlora and the UC Davis Herbarium, and purchases such as the digital projector and laptop computer the chapter recently acquired. The people who produced this wonderful event include, in no particular order, Amy Hoffman and Greg Kiefer, Maya Sands, Sandy Folmer, Marty and Jim Oberlander, Doris and Phil Corson, Rich Wade, Judy Johnson, Jim and Mary Higbee, Ben Parks, Karen Pitts, Lisa Zaffran, Joanne Geggatt, Karla

Meadows, (thanks for all the great food, Karla!) Sarah Ramsay, Shellie and Steve Perry, Lisa Scarr, Susan Durham, Cindy Podsiadlo, Val and Steve Dowty, Marge and Wally Jungnitsch, Sue Britting, Ray Griffiths, Virginia Feagans, Rosemary Carey and Irene Martin. And no doubt a few others whose names I have misplaced. These people propagated plants, transported plants, priced and labeled plants, made food, put up fliers, added up purchases, took money, set up displays, and, perhaps most important, talked to people. We talked about which bulbs need protection from gophers and which shrubs don't require Summer water. We talked about weedy plants and fussy plants, and how to cut down on pesticide usage. We even had representatives from two local conservation groups who spent their Saturday talking to people about for-



WESTERN DOGWOOD
(*Cornus nutallii*)

ests and grasslands, and how we can help to keep them healthy and fruitful. Forming community connections and educating people are important functions of plant sales, ones which I hope we can emphasize even more in the future. The more volunteers we have at a plant sale, the more time we have to talk to customers - and the more we can all benefit from our shared experiences.

My thanks to everyone who helped to pull off this sale. We have already started thinking about ways to improve the next one. I hope to see you there.

Shellie Perry

For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org

BEAUTIFUL WILDFLOWER NOTE CARDS NOW AVAILABLE!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Placerville Museum of hundreds of boxes of wildflower slides taken by local naturalist and photographer George Green, our note card project is off to a great start. After receiving the slides from the museum, Annie Walker reviewed and identified them - yes, all of them. Several chapter members made

suggestions for which flowers they like to see on the note cards, and Annie pulled out over 250 slides. Out of those, Shellie and Steve Perry and Joanne Geggatt chose 28 outstanding candidates for the note cards. Steve transferred the slides to digital images and made a 4 by 6-inch print of each one. We chose ten of what we think were the best ones and made more prints of those photos. Joanne wrote brief descriptions for the back of the cards and did the formatting. Karla

Meadows arranged for the plastic sleeves for the cards. On April 1, after the plants for the spring sale were sorted and labeled (thanks guys!), several members stayed and helped prepare the cards for the next day. We printed 60 of our 250 cardstock to start, and we'll be printing more soon. We are selling them for \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10. What a deal! The Placerville Museum will carry the cards for sale, too. Many thanks to all who helped with the project.

CNPS VEGETATION SAMPLING WORKSHOP

The El Dorado Chapter of CNPS will host a workshop on Sunday, May 15 where participants will learn the CNPS protocols for sampling vegetation and identifying plant communities. The workshop is free to all CNPS members. Non-members may join CNPS for \$35.00 at the workshop, if they would like to participate. We will meet at the American River Conservancy (8913 Highway 49) in Coloma at 9:00 am and will return by 4:30 pm. We will be sampling vegetation out at the Greenwood property on Highway 49 near the SF American River and across from Venetio Winery.

The CNPS vegetation training will provide you with a brief description of plant communities and methods for documenting them, which can apply to a variety of purposes (e.g. scientific description, mapping, conservation). You will learn how to use the Vegetation Relevé method to document existing and new plant communities and receive a brief overview of the Rapid Assess-

ment protocol. These protocols assist in identifying and representing plant communities at a floristic, fine-scale as listed in the CNPS publication, *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995). We have been using these methods over the past 9 years to expand the scope of this publication (soon to be re-published), and to increase its applicability across the state. More practically, Chapters can use the protocol to observe and defensibly record information on vegetation for conservation and legal purposes, as Chapters focus on priorities such as locating and defining the extent of native and non-native floras, locally rare native species and communities, and prime native habitats.

The data we collect on May 15 will contribute to a broad scale Sierra Nevada foothills sampling project undertaken by CNPS, through a contract with the Department of Fish and Game. Workshop participants will leave the workshop with sufficient knowledge of the sampling protocol to continue sampling vegetation for the Sierra Nevada foothills project as volunteers, if they so choose (with some caveats about plant

identification).

For the workshop, you will need to bring:

- Clipboard and Pencil
- Hand lens and plant field guide
- Appropriate clothing/sun protection for the weather
- Sturdy boots and field clothes
- Food and water
- Compass (with clinometer)
- Binoculars
- GPS unit (if possible)

We will supply printed copies of the protocols, data forms, and assorted handouts.

Please contact Josie Crawford by phone or email for further information and to reserve your space in this workshop: (916) 327-8454 office; (530) 559-6748 cell; jcrawford@cnps.org. For information on the protocols and other CNPS workshops visit the CNPS website at www.cnps.org and look for the links under Programs to Plant Science, then vegetation, then protocol or trainings. This and other CNPS sampling protocol workshops are funded by a grant from the National Wildlife Foundation.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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* Dorothy Anderson
* Diane Beaulauner
* Kevin Brune
* Mark Buland
* Christine Crosby
* Anne Dean
*

Sharon Durst
Don & Cinda Franklin
Terry Jenkins
Linda Sue Jobe
Deanne Johnson
Tom Kimball & Bobbie Steele

Polly Magoffin
Mark Martin
Carol J. Miller
Nakai Family
Chris Parker
Jackie Pence

Jennifer & Michael Quirk
Carol Schluntz
Robin Sears
Lori Shepherd
Susan Whittington

SUMMER PLANT WALKS

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

June 11 (Saturday) Bassi Falls, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 8:30 AM Safeway parking lot, Pollock Pines

Duration: We will be back by 4 PM.

Description: A leisurely hike along a "jeep-free" trail through mixed-conifer forest and open granite outcrops will lead us to this magnificent cascade at 5,500' elevation. Expect a wide variety of flowering plants in these varied environments. Botanizers are encouraged, but we will get to the falls first before cracking the Jepsens.

Level of difficulty: Easy

Bring: Hat, sunscreen, water, lunch, hiking boots, insect repellent.

Contact: Rich Wade, 530-644-7210
rwade@spi-ind.com

July 9, 2005 (Saturday) Jake Schneider/Government Meadows

Meeting time and location: 8 AM Safeway parking lot, Pollock Pines

Duration: We will return to Pollock Pines by 4:30 PM.

Description: Starting from the trailhead at Silver Fork Campground (10 miles from Kyburz on Silver Fork road), it is approx. 3 miles to Jake Schneider Meadow and an additional 1-mile to Government Meadows. We climb from 5,600 to 6,200 ft. and hike along the Silver Fork American River and Caples Creek. Expect nice views of the streams flowing through granite bedrock and boulder, springs and small aspen stands. Habitats include open, dry granitic slopes with whiteleaf manzanita and huckleberry oak, riparian areas along stream, and dry and moist meadows. Meadow plants include tufted hairgrass, pull-up muhly, oatgrass, sedges and rushes, clover, western bistort, potentilla, alpine aster, buttercups, veronica and yampah. On the way back we can decide to return the same way or do a loop along the old Silver Fork trail which requires two stream crossings (wade or log and bridge) on Caples Creek.

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Bring: Water, lunch, hiking boots, bug repellent, hat, sunscreen.

Contacts: Cindy Podsiadlo/(530)642-0648;

clpodsiadlo.yahoo.com; Susan Durham/(530)626-6736; durham-sus@yahoo.com.

July 23 Castle Peak, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 8:00am, Raleys on Forni Road

Duration: Expect to return to Placerville around 5-6 PM.

Description: Large displays of spring flowers at 8,000 feet in volcanic soil and spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Jepson stops will be limited to 2-3 because the best displays are several miles up the hill. Avid Jepson Manual fans have the alternative of enjoying the flowering meadow about a 1/2 mile from the parking area while the others hike up the hill.
Level of difficulty: moderate to strenuous

Bring: Lunch, water, hiking boots, sun lotion, bug repellent, and a rain jacket. Possible afternoon showers.

Contact: Karen Gaia Pitts 916-599-4329

August 6 Lyons Creek Trail, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 8:30 AM Safeway parking lot, Pollock Pines.

Duration: We will return to Pollock Pines by 4:30 PM.

Description: This is the Don Smith Memorial Hike, honoring the spirit and accomplishments of the late amateur botanist and CNPS Fellow whose many contributions to the botany community in El Dorado County spanned 30 years. Beginning at the Lyons Creek trailhead at 6,750', we will hike up Lyons Creek to about 7,200', about 4 miles round trip. We'll encounter open granite, mountain meadows, and fir-lodgepole conifer forest, all under the shadow of the beautiful Crystal Range. Intriguing plants will be marked on the hike up the creek for botanizing as we return to the trailhead.

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Bring: Hat, sunscreen, lunch, water,

sturdy shoes, insect repellent.

Contact: Rich Wade (530) 644-7210; rwade@spi-ind.com

August 20 Barker Peak, Placer County

Meeting time and location: 8 AM Safeway parking lot in Pollock Pines

Duration: Allow a full day for this trip.

Description: The Barker Peak Trail is 2.5 miles with a net gain of just under 700 feet (7500' to 8166'). A scramble up rocks to the summit is optional. The nearly 8-mile drive from the Kaspian sign at Highway 89 to the trailhead passes through Blackwood Canyon with drainages hosting plants characteristic of these wet habitats and, at the top, large mountain hemlocks. The lower end of the Barker Pass Trail passes Leichtlin's mariposa lilies that grow up to 18" high and dwarf chamaesaracha. Further up the mountain, views of Desolation Wilderness and Lake Tahoe make the saddle an attractive resting place. Higher up we will find many more plants typical of high elevations in the Sierra Nevada. Highlights include Whitney's locoweed, butterballs, ballhead gilia, and hot rock penstemon, a medicinal plant traditionally used to treat VD and to heal sores. Back at the trailhead (and if time allows), nearby seeps provide more botanical opportunities with species such as western spring beauty, toad lily, and bowl clover. From the trailhead, a level 1/4-mile hike leads to the first creekside meadow. A 1/2-mile hike leads to Brewer's mitrewort with other interesting plants found further along the trail. Due to the long travel time by car and foot, this trip will provide little time for keying plants with Jepson. Trip description from: Carville, J.S. 1997. Barker Peak and Surrounding Gardens. *In*: Hiking Tahoe's Wildflower Trails. Lone Pine Publishing. pp. 219-232.

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Bring: Water, lunch, hiking boots, hat, sunblock, insect repellent, jacket or layers (can be windy at summit).

Contact: Susan Durham, durham-sus@yahoo.com, (530) 626-6736; Joanne Geggatt, joannegeggatt@sbcglobal.net, (916) 939-3394.



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

May-June 2005



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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