



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MAY-JUNE 2007

A MOST ENJOYABLE SPRING SALE!

CALENDAR

May 12 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Tilden Botanical Garden, Berkeley.
Details inside newsletter.

May 15 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
Dan Potter and changes to the Jepson Manual. Placerville Library, 7 PM
Details inside newsletter.

May 19 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Salmon Falls unit of the Pine Hill Preserve. Details inside newsletter.

June 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday)

Field trip.
Butterfly Valley (near Quincy). Details inside newsletter.

June 9 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Schenk Camp environs (off Mormon Emigrant Trail) Details inside newsletter.

June 26 (Tuesday) Special Date!

Monthly program.
Wildflowers of the Tahoe Area. Details inside newsletter.

June 23 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Frog Lake/Carson Pass. Details inside newsletter.



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

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

I was a little nervous about the upcoming plant sale, because we had left behind our old, familiar location in front of Building C to try our luck at the El Dorado County fairgrounds. Would people be able to find us? Would there be unforeseen logistical problems? I needn't have worried; it was a wonderful sale. We had lots of beautiful native plants, lots of happy customers, and a few new members for CNPS. The popular reaction to our new location was very positive. The space is welcoming and friendly, and gives us room to expand our future

offerings.

To all the volunteers who lent energy to this project- to everyone who propagated, donated, labeled and transported plants, to those who made refreshments, took money, sold books, made signs and fliers, to Joanne Geggatt for letting us use your home, to everyone who set stuff up, cleaned stuff up, publicized the event, or talked to customers- to all of you go my thanks. You made it happen!

*Shellie Perry
Plant Sale Chair*



The morning volunteer crew at the April 2007 plant sale. Photo by Annie Walker.

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@spind.com) for more information.

UPDATE ON THE CONGREGATE LAWSUIT

On March 7, 2007, Judge Proud granted our preliminary injunction but required CNPS to post a bond of \$500,000. This meant that for the preliminary injunction to be activated (that is for the Congregate project to be placed on hold), CNPS was required to post of bond of \$500,000. If we lost the lawsuit, we would then have to pay \$500,000 to the developer. We told the court that CNPS, a non-profit organization, could not afford to post such a bond. Michael Graf, one of our attorneys, asked for Judge Proud to reconsider this ruling and he did so on March 13, 2007. Judge Proud reaffirmed his previous decision.

Our attorneys appealed this decision to the 3rd District Court of Appeal on March 16, 2007 and asked for a stay of the project until

the court of appeal could consider the merits of our appeal. On April 2, 2007, the Court of Appeal denied our stay and on April 27, 2007 the Court of Appeal denied our appeal of Judge Proud's decision on the bond.

Because we have not been able to secure a stay on the project or get the bond requirement reversed, the project can move forward. Scraping of the project site took place on May 1, 2007 and the rare plants have been destroyed.

Despite the loss of the rare plants on the project site, we are proceeding with the lawsuit. Briefing between CNPS and the opposing parties is being completed and a hearing is set for June 8 at 9:30 AM at the Cameron Park Courthouse.

We and our attorneys believe that we still have a very strong case. The issues that we

are raising to El Dorado County regarding the management of the Pine Hill plants and the preserves are important ones that need to be resolved to ensure the protection of the plants. We are finding that several other projects being proposed in the county suffer from the same problems.

The Congregate lawsuit is one step in our effort to protect the Pine Hill plants. Other chapter activities to increase awareness and conservation of the plants include educational hikes that we lead to the plant preserve, the programs and talks we offer on the Pine Hill plants, and our review and comment of other development projects that affect the Pine Hill plants. It is critical that the chapter, along with your support, do all that we can to ensure the long term protection of the Pine Hill plants.

Sue Britting
Conservation Chair

SPRING PLANT WALKS

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

May 12 (Saturday)

Tilden Botanical Garden Berkeley (Alameda County)

Meeting time and location: 8:00 AM at the Placerville Raley's, by the big sign
Duration: all day

Description: Educational as well as beautiful, Tilden Botanical Gardens features nine acres of native plant gardens, representing environments from all over California. We will tour all of them on this very easy walk. I can hardly wait!

Bring: Water, bag lunch. No dogs allowed.
Contact: Shellie Perry (530-644-6335); seperry@concentric.net

May 19 (Saturday)

Salmon Falls Unit, Pine Hill Preserve El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: We will meet at a designated area at 8:30 AM and will car pool to the site. Contact Barbara Williams (916-985-4474; barbarra_williams@ca.blm.gov) at the Folsom BLM office to sign-up for this trip and learn of the meeting location.

Duration: We will be hiking around from about 9 AM to 2 PM or so.

Description: This trip will feature the rare plants of the gabbro soils area in El Dorado County. We will tour the northern most preserve site (Salmon Falls Unit) and see 4 or 5 of the rare plants. Sue Britting will be the trip leader.

Level of difficulty: Moderate (some short stretches of slight incline and it is likely to be warm).

Bring: Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy shoes, hats, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Contact: Barbara Williams (916-985-4474; barbarra_williams@ca.blm.gov)

June 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday)

Butterfly Valley Plumas County

Meeting time and location: Saturday 8 AM at the Shingle Springs park and ride.

Duration:

Description: Come and enjoy an overnight trip to explore one of the most outstanding and diverse fen areas in the northern Sierra Nevada. Located 9 miles north of Quincy at an average elevation of 3,700', Butterfly Valley is home to 5 species of insectivorous plants, including Darlingtonia, the California Pitcher Plant, 12 species of orchids, and 24 species of lilies. In all, over 500 species of vascular plants are represented here. There are several areas to explore along a 5 mile stretch of Forest Service road, so we will drive, park, explore, and move on. Options for the overnight stay on Saturday are either a motel room in nearby Quincy, or camping at a nearby Forest Service campground.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Bring: Provisions for an overnight stay and sunscreen, repellent, and appropriate foot gear for wet areas.

Contact: Joanne Geggatt (916) 939-3394 or Rich Wade (530) 644-7210

June 9 (Saturday)

Schenk Camp environs El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: 8:00, AM at Shellie's house, 6311 Sly Park Road

Duration: 3 or 4 hours

Description: The rich volcanic soil and varied topography nourishes a great variety of plant life. Attractions include alder

thickets full of lilies and orchids, open woods with an understory of wild currents, Phacelia and baneberry, a rocky hillside covered with steer's-head, Spring beauty, buckwheats, saxifrages and fivespot, and a chance to see a peculiar and unusual form of *Cardamine californica*. This is not a hike; it is a wander-around-and-look-at-all-the-flowers!

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Bring: Water, lunch, bug spray, and a hat to keep the sun off. Since volcanic sand acts like tiny ball bearings underfoot, sturdy walking shoes are a MUST. People with balance issues should bring a walking stick, cane or trekking poles if they want to see the *Cardamine*.

Contact: Shellie Perry (530-644-6335); seperry@concentric.net

June 23 (Saturday)

Frog Lake (Carson Pass) Alpine County

Meeting time and location: 8:00 AM at the Pollock Pines Safeway

Duration: Most of the day. We should be back at our cars around 3:00 PM.

Description: A short hike through upper montane forest and mountain meadows to scenic Frog Lake. The rocky ledges around this little lake are home to some beautiful alpine and subalpine plants, including *Poemonium pulcherrimum*, *Ivesia gordonii*, *Penstemon speciosa*, *Geum triflorum* and *Salix arctica*, the inch-high willow. This is a kid-friendly hike, with lots of flowers to see and rocks to climb on.

Level of Difficulty: Moderately easy.
Bring: Water, lunch, bug spray and a camera-you will want to take pictures!

Contact: Shellie Perry (530-644-6335); seperry@concentric.net

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 12 Cameron Park Unit

May 19 Salmon Falls Unit

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

MAY PROGRAM BY ANY OTHER NAME: HOW PHYLOGENIES AFFECT TAXON- OMY, WITH EXAMPLES FROM THE CALIFORNIA FLORA

Monophyly, polyphyly, what does it all mean? The California native plant enthusiasts' Bible, the *Jepson Manual*, is being revised. Find out from Dr. Daniel Potter what changes are in store for us, and why.

Dr. Potter's presentation will be based on his recent keynote address at the Northern California Botanists Symposium. From his abstract of that presentation, Dr. Potter states: "Recent advances in our understanding of organismal phylogenies have led to changes in taxonomy, sometimes with striking, even jarring, results. For example, in the forthcoming edition of *The Jepson Manual*, some botanists will be surprised to find *Mimulus* listed under Phrymaceae and *Penstemon* under Plantaginaceae, rather than the familiar, long-maintained classification of those genera in Scrophulariaceae. Most such changes result from application of the principle that only monophyletic groups should be given taxonomic recognition and the acknowledgement that traditional taxonomic systems have recognized some groups now believed to be para- or poly-phyletic. Although there is some debate among systematists over the importance and desirability of strict adherence to monophyly, the prevailing view, to which I subscribe, is that taxa should be circumscribed so as to reflect monophyletic groups based on current evidence. Monophyly provides an objective criterion for determining which groups should be named and, while the resulting changes are

inconvenient in the short term, they serve everyone's best interest in the long term by offering a more accurate and predictive tool for addressing ecological and biogeographic questions in an evolutionary context.

A separate, but related, controversy surrounds the issue of how taxa should be named based on phylogenetic evidence. Like many systematists, I am opposed to replacing the current Linnaean system with rank-free phylogenetic nomenclature. Examples of how phylogenetic evidence affects taxonomy will be drawn from a new infrafamilial classification of Rosaceae and from several changes, primarily at the family level, that are being incorporated in *The Jepson Manual*."

Dan Potter is Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences and Director of the Center for Plant Diversity at UC Davis. A native of the Hudson River valley in New York State, Dan received a bachelor's degree in Biology from Harvard in 1982 and a Ph.D. in Botany from Cornell in 1991. He worked as a conservation officer on Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean, and as a postdoctoral researcher at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Maine before coming to UC Davis in 1996. His primary research interests include angiosperm systematics and ethnobotany, which he has combined in studies of the phylogeny, evolution, and classification of cultivated plants and their wild relatives, especially members of the family Rosaceae. At UC Davis, he teaches courses in Plant Systematics and Evolution, and Ethnobotany.

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

SUPPORT CNPS!



A new feature on the CNPS website makes it easier to renew your membership or donate regularly using new options!

Go on the web to www.cnps.org and you'll find a brand new poppy icon that links you to a page where you can donate to CNPS in installments: monthly, yearly, or whatever suits your schedule and budget! This feature was developed through the Membership committee, chaired by Arvind Kumar on the State Board of Directors, at the March meeting. Several members wished it could be "as easy as public radio" for renewing memberships and making regular contributions to CNPS; now it is! Tell your friends, and check it out before your membership expires. Your donations are tax-deductible and can make a real difference for our flora.

Thank you!

CNPS Membership Committee

JUNE PROGRAM WILDFLOWERS OF TAHOE BY THE SEASONS — AND OTHER BOTANICAL EXCURSIONS OF THE MIND

Our featured speaker for the Tuesday, June 26th meeting of the El Dorado County chapter of CNPS is Dr. Laird Blackwell. He is the author of several wildflower field guides in California and the Great Basin. He will share slides from his latest book, *Wildflowers of Tahoe by the Seasons*--a month-by-month

guide to where to go in the Tahoe area (including Washoe Valley and Peavine Mt.) to find spectacular gardens and great flowers. Laird will also share with us some botany poetry, and will engage us in a discussion about flowers and how they can teach us some of life's lessons.

Dr. Blackwell received his Ph. D. from Stanford University and has taught field wildflower classes in the American West for over 25 years. He lives with his wife, Melinda, in Tahoe, where he is professor and department chairman of Humanities at Sierra Nevada College. Laird has spent more than 10 years exploring the Sierra, the Mojave and the Great Basin. He hopes that his books deepen

the reader's knowledge and love of this remarkable part of the world. He also hopes that everyone will be fortunate enough to see the high desert in a wet year, for he believes it is one of the most glorious of wildflower treats.

Join us for this special romp through the wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada. The doors open on **Tuesday, June 26th** at 7 PM at the Placerville Public Library 345 Fair Lane, Placerville, California. Please note the date!! June's meeting is the fourth Tuesday of the month, instead of the usual Third Tuesday of the month.



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

May-June 2007

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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT	Amy Hoffman	(530) 676-1916	AmyHof@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Armond Chase	(530) 620-7006	janischase@netscape.com
SECRETARY	Joanne Geggatt	(916) 939-3394	joannegeggatt@sbcglobal.net
TREASURER	Cindy Podsiadlo	(530) 642-0648	clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com
BOOKS AND POSTER SALES	Marty Oberlander	(530) 333-1536	mober44@sbcglobal.net
CONSERVATION	Sue Britting	(530) 295-8210	britting@earthlink.net
Field Trips	Shellie Perry	(530) 644-6335	seperry@concentric.net
HOSPITALITY	Karla Meadows	(916) 939-6828	kenkarla@netscape.com
INVASIVE EXOTICS	Annie Walker		botanist@d-web.com
MEMBERSHIP	Ben Parks	(530) 626-8889	baparks38@directcon.net
PLANT SALES	Shellie Perry	(530) 644-6335	seperry@concentric.net
PROGRAMS	Vivian Parker	(530) 622-8718	vivparker@starband.net
PUBLICITY	Rich Wade	(530) 644-7210	rwade@spi-ind.com
WEB MASTER	Steve Tyron	(530) 622-6567	steve@TyronGraphicDesign.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Sue Britting	(530) 295-8210	britting@earthlink.net