



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MAY-JUNE 2009

SPRING PLANT SALE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CALENDAR

May 19 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
California poppies. Details inside
newsletter.

May 31 (Sunday)

Field trip.
Hunter's Trail. Details inside newslet-
ter.

June 13 (Saturday)

Field trip.
Traverse Creek "Weed and Feed."
Details inside newsletter.

June 16 (Tuesday)

Monthly program.
California grasslands. Details inside
newsletter.

July 7 (Tuesday)

Field trip.
Rubicon Trail. Details inside newslet-
ter.

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 in next newslet-
ter.

July 31-August 1 (Friday-Sunday)

Field trip.
Picayune Valley. Details in next
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 de-
tails inside for location.*

The 2009 CNPS Spring Native Plant Sale has come and gone. What do I remember from the sale? I remember all the beautiful plants provided by Cornflower Farms, Steve and Val Dowty, Brian Austin, High Ranch Nursery, Ryun Wimmer and several generous chapter members. I remember putting plant sale fliers on lots of rural mailboxes- a great excuse to drive around foothill roads and soak up the beauty of our fantastic Spring wildflowers. So much color, it actually made me feel giddy. I remember the new offerings, like the "Gardening with Natives" talks given by members Joanne Geggatt, Steve Dowty and Tillie Holtrop. I remember the funky,

folksy atmosphere of the Horticulture Building where we held the sale, and the gorgeous interpretive displays created by some talented volunteers. I remember all the money we raised, which will fund this year's Clark Youth Fund, and other chapter activities. I remember the fun of all the bustle, the enjoyment of swapping stories with old and new friends, and the thrill of pleasure that comes with discovering a new book about California plants. And I remember all the work done by all the cheerful volunteers. Our wonderful volunteers made the Spring Native Plant Sale successful, easy- and fun. I can't wait until October.



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

OAK COMMUNITIES ARE ALIVE! with plants, animals, and people

Check out our display at the Cameron Park Library for the month of May. It was set up to show the interactions and dependence on oaks by a variety of plants, birds, insects, lichens, reptiles, animals, and people. Whew! There are hand outs that provide a wealth of information including Disturbance around oaks, Oaks in the landscape, as well as instructions for planting acorns, and a simple identification guide to the Oaks in El Dorado County and oak branches to check your knowledge. How many animals can you see in the display? (Hint, check under the leaf litter). Thanks to Sue Britting, Susan Durham, Randy Meyer, and Amy Hoffman for providing educational material and resources,

American River Conservancy for loan of their critters, and to Alice Cantelow and Cindy Podsiadlo for working on and setting up the display (but mostly to Alice for her vision and amazing ability to make it fun and interactive). The Cameron Park Library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday, 1 pm to 8pm.



Acorn Woodpecker
(*Melanerpes Formicivorus*)

HOW TO BE IN 2 PLACES AT ONCE

Through volunteers of course. On Saturday April 25th, Marty Oberlander represented the El Dorado Chapter at the Georgetown Nature Fest while Cindy Podsiadlo set up a table at the Earth Day event on the lawn at the Placer-ville Main Library (with lots of help of course). Both were fun events with many opportunities to interact and talk with new folks, meet friends and neighbors, listen to music, and have a Green day. The El Dorado Chapter sold books and plants, gave away free posters and plants, and provided information. At the library, we shared the space with Trails Now which provided information about the El Dorado Trail and the organization. Thanks to a number of folks that helped out including Virginia Feagans for providing California poppies for sale and helping at the event, Susan Durham for help in setting up, Judy Johnson for help in the beginning, middle and end, Steve Dowty for providing plants, Becky Long (Trails Now) and Gary-Bileu for loan and transportation of tables and chairs, and Mahala Young for her informative displays on Native Plant Benefits and Lawn Alternatives. It was an interesting contrast: our Lose the Lawn poster was displayed on the wet lawn which was adjacent to the "water wise" garden that surrounds the library. A fact that was noted by a few folks.

CHAPTER APPLAUDS AMAZING AMY!

Amy Hoffman stepped down as President of the El Dorado Chapter in 2008 after serving 8 incredible years (2001-08) in that position! She previously served as chapter secretary for a couple of years and vice-president for 1 year. She took on that position because she cared about the chapter and native plants, plus she said that it gave her the opportunity to work with a lot of neat people. Her greatest challenge was the Congregate lawsuit. This was totally new territory for her and the chapter due to lack of experience in litigation as well as this being a highly political issue in the county. She strongly believed in educating people about the importance of the rare and endangered plants of the gabbro community. To that end, she wrote "Why did CNPS File a Lawsuit to Protect the Endangered Pine Hill Ceanothus in El Dorado County?" in order to ex-

plain the chapter's position that it was not just an issue of plants versus people. She took on the challenge with determination, hard work, and still remained in good humor. Her most exciting and inspiring time was arranging a series of "Landscaping with native plants" classes held at Building C with a variety of speakers. These were well attended and folks provided positive comments about the sessions. She had the most fun during our plant sales and meetings. She's thrilled to see and meet so many people from the community coming to buy and learn about native plants. She also enjoyed the times when the audience "heckled and teased" her as she attempted to go through the announcements at our regular meetings (really?). All teasing aside, we thank you for your commitment to the El Dorado chapter and native plants in both tough and fun times.

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

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 16 Pine Hill Unit
May 30 Cameron Park Unit
June 6 Salmon Falls Unit

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

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

July 21 Georgetown Trails
Tom Petersen

August Summer break! No program

SPRING PLANT WALKS

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

MAY 9 (SATURDAY)

IOWA HILL ROAD, PLACER COUNTY

Duration: full day

Meeting time and location: Placerville Raleys, under the big sign, 8 am

Description: This little stretch of Iowa Hill Road offers a wonderful display of easily accessible wildflowers, including Lotus argophyllus v. fremontii and the rare Clarkia biloba v. brandegeae. Lots of pretty flowers!! After lunch we will walk uphill into a serpentine area, and see what's blooming there. Plant lists will be provided.

Level of Difficulty: very easy before lunch, moderately easy after lunch

Bring: water, lunch, sunhat, bug spray, sturdy walking shoes

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

MAY 31 (SUNDAY)

HUNTER'S TRAIL, EL DORADO COUNTY

Duration: until 3 pm

Meeting time and location: Main Street Café, Georgetown, 9 am

Description: The Hunter's Trail follows along the scenic Rubicon River. This is a lovely trip for flowers and water fall and will be led by Tom Peterson. Tom is a backcountry hiker, naturalist, environmentalist, and author of several books, including "Trespasser's Paradise" and "Georgetown Hiking Trails".

Level of Difficulty: 4-8 miles of moderate up and downs

Bring: water, lunch, bug spray, sturdy walking shoes.

Contact: Tom Peterson, (530) 333-4911, twcoyote532@hotmail.com

JUNE 13 (SATURDAY)

TRAVERSE CREEK SIA – "WEED AND FEED"

Duration: Half day – maybe slightly more

Meeting time and location: June 13, 9am at Traverse Creek Special Interest Area

Description: The yellow starthistle infestation at the Botanical Special Interest Area is on its way to being controlled but a few stragglers occur along Traverse Creek and require hand pulling due to their proximity to the creek itself. I think a half dozen motivated folks will make short work of this pesky invasive. We'll have a little pot-luck lunch after the work is done. This makes it a Weed and Feed.

Level of Difficulty: pretty easy walking/picking along the creek. The yellow starthistle will be bolting and should be easy to spot and uproot with little effort. It's growing in a few locations so we will get a little hike and do some wild flower viewing too. There could be some interesting plants blooming in mid June.

MAY PROGRAM ESCHOLSCHOLTZ, CHAMISSO AND THE CALIFORNIA POPPY

Speaking at the end of "California Poppy Week," plant ecologist Dr. Ernest Hartley will discuss interesting details surrounding the first sighting and collection of the California poppy. The Russian brig *Rurik* sailed down the California coast from Fort Ross and into the San Francisco harbor in October, 1816. On board were four scientists, two of whom are frequently memorialized in the California floras of Munz and Jepson. Adelbert

The rare tripod buckwheat (*Eriogonum tripodum*) will be in flower and perhaps Layne's ragwort (*Senecio layneae*) - a federally listed species, will be blooming too. Other species we may find in flower are *Centaureum venustum*, *Calochortus superbus*, *Rhododendron occidentale*, *Stephanthus polygaloides*, *Triteleia bridgesii*, *Brodiaea purdyi*, *Dudleya cymosa*, *Monardella* and *Zigadenus*.

Bring: water, sunhat, gloves, sturdy walking shoes or boots, and a lunch item to share.

Contact: Mike Taylor, (530) 626-1196, or m.taylor@live.com.

JULY 7 (TUESDAY)

RUBICON JEEP TRAIL, EL DORADO COUNTY & PLACER COUNTY

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

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

Description: This is an informative hike for people to see what the Rubicon Trail problems are all about. There have long been severe erosion problems due to the use of the trail. Recently an Abatement Order was issued to the County and Forest Service by the Central Valley Water Board. We will be driving to Loon Lake, park and enter the trail at the Ellis Tie Road. Wildflowers may or may not be present within the trail corridor, but we can get off trail during the day. There are some terrific views over the granite, and we can have lunch at Spider Lake if we make it that far. High clearance vehicles are not necessary. Carpooling is advised.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate. We will be walking on a 'road' at an elevation of 7000 feet.

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

Contact: Annie Walker, 626-3678 or agastache@att.net. You can RSVP right up until the night before the hike. If we don't get enough people, it will be cancelled. If there is rainy or snowy weather we will re-schedule.

Chamisso, well known poet and naturalist as well as the principle scientist of the expedition, and Johann Friedrich Eschscholtz, also a naturalist and the ship's surgeon, collected 82 species of plants in the Bay area, of which 40 were new to science.

Dr. Hartley will discuss the botanical contributions of these early Russian botanists. He will also explain taxonomic, historical, and medicinal details of the California poppy, how Native Americans used the plant, how it got its name, and how *Eschscholzia californica* became the California State Flower.

This program will be held at 7:00 pm, May 19, at the Placerville County Public Library at 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

JUNE PROGRAM DISCOVER CALIFORNIA GRASSLANDS

California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) President-Elect Wade Belew will present a PowerPoint entitled "Discover California Grasslands". This informative presentation will cover five topics including: Native grasses and grassland diversity, what are grasses?, ecosystem values and services, restoration and landscaping with native grasses, and an overview of CNGA programs.

In a state with towering redwoods, majestic oaks and other more "charismatic" plant communities, grasslands are often overlooked as being somehow less significant. This presentation will demonstrate the significant values of wildlife habitat and ecosystem services that benefit humans as much as any other plant community in California.

Wade Belew is Stewardship Coordinator of the Cotati Creek Critters, managing volunteers restoring the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Sonoma County. Several years ago he joined the California Native Grasslands Association to expand his knowledge of botany to implement an understory planting project. He was elected President-elect for 2009, and will serve as President in 2010. Wade is focused on collaborating with other environmental organizations to educate people about the benefits of grassland ecosystems. For more information: www.cotatiCreek.info and www.cnga.org

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, June 16 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.



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

May-June 2009

SUMMER-FALL 2009 HIKES

All are welcomed! Save the dates!

May 31	Hunter's Trail
June 13	Traverse Creek Extravaganza
July 7 (Tues.)	Rubicon Trail
July 17-19	Summer Sojourn, White Mountains
July 18	Highway 88 Plants Near Parking Lots
July 31-Aug1	Picayune Valley
August 15	Echo Summit area
August 29	Ring Two Fen and Four Corners Fen
Sept., TBA	Hope Valley Fall Colors

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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