



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2009

ANOTHER PLANT SALE SUCCESS!

CALENDAR

November 14 (Saturday)

Workshop.

Growing and propagating native plants. See inside for details.

November 17 (Tuesday)

Program.

Botanical wanderings with John Kipping. Details in November-December newsletter.

December 5 (Saturday)

Workshop.

Grass seed collection. See inside for details.

January 13 (Wednesday)

Workshop.

Introduction to the 2nd edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation*. See inside for details.

REMINDER

No monthly program in December. Monthly programs to resume January 19, 2009.



Monthly programs are held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of August and December. Programs begin at 7 PM. Check details inside for location.

What were you doing Saturday, October 3? I was at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds, participating in our chapter's 2009 Fall Plant Sale. So were lots of other people! We had a large and varied selection of California native plants, courtesy of Steve and Valerie Dowty, Brian Austin, Lotus Valley Natives, Cornflower Farms, High Ranch Nursery, and several generous CNPS members. We also had plenty of customers. Despite the recession, sales were brisk.

I was encouraged by all the interest shown in low-water and no-water plants. If drought-prone California is to have a healthy future, drought-tolerant planting must become the norm, rather than the exception. Plant sales don't just earn money to fund chapter activities and causes—they are also an excellent way to educate people about responsible gardening practices. This plant sale featured some wonderful exhibits, created by CNPS volunteers, about living with Oaks, dealing with invasive weeds, and landscaping with natives. Rosemary Carey was present to offer in-depth landscaping consultation services.

Valerie Dowty introduced some alternatives to water-thirsty lawns. Volunteers and vendors shared their personal gardening experiences with customers.

All this effort added up to something special, something that could not be stopped by minor challenges like a fairgrounds scheduling snafu, lost truck keys, or a nursery truck driver knocked out of commission by the H1N1 virus. I am convinced that, bit by bit, we are changing El Dorado County for the better. We are making a difference. Our plant sales are changing. They are becoming larger, more informative, and even more fun. I am certain this positive trend will continue, for the simple reason that we have great people. The volunteers make the magic happen. You share your time, your energy, your plants, your talents and ideas - and every time you make me glad to be the Plant Sale chairperson. I expect the Spring Plant Sale to be a great one. See you there!

Shellie Perry

Plant Sale Coordinator



The plant sale offerings before the plunder!

Photo: Annie Walker

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

NATIVE PLANT AND WATER-WISE GARDENING CONSULTATION AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY-APRIL

The Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Program on Native Plant and Water-Wise Gardening is now accepting applications from El Dorado County homeowners for February consultations.

The primary focus will be on recommending native plants and, to a lesser extent, water-wise (a.k.a. drought-adapted) introduced plants, for the various problem situations found in home landscapes. The most often asked questions this summer included what native species make dependable groundcovers? What native grasses and sedges can replace my high water consuming bluegrass/ryegrass/fine-leaved fescue/bentgrass lawn to make a turf? and What are the native vine choices? Other potential topics to be covered during the home consultation are determined by the homeowner and can include identifying native plants on site, noxious weed identification on the property, native plants and wildlife (both pest protection measures and plant species having high value for attracting birds and bees), reducing storm runoff by constructing low-tech and low cost water infiltration systems, appropriate methods of slope stabilization for moderate, steep and extremely steep slopes, oak tree care guidelines, soil characteristics,

and drip irrigation basics.

As a part of this consultation, homeowners receive three levels of written materials:

- A comprehensive booklet of El Dorado County resources, including contact information for the three small local native plant nurseries, a local discount nursery, free vegetation management services available from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, etc.
- A CD entitled Water-Wise Gardening in the Gold County Region which has photos of different landscaping and identifies the plants shown with a little box on the plant itself so this is a wonderful tool for a beginning gardener.
- The beautiful, full color book *Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Guide* produced by the Sierra Nevada Alliance. This book balances useful information with inspiring photos and stories of practices other foothill residents employ to live in harmony with nature.

Typical consultations will take from 2-4 hours; clients should be present for at least 2 hours. (The remainder of the time will be spent drawing a site map and photographing areas for site-specific recommendations.) Homeowners ultimately will receive a landscape plan with appropriate plant species recommendations for the conditions on their properties.

Current CNPS members and those willing to



join will be given preference, so tell a friend who might want to try native plants and just needs a little more information. Regular memberships are \$45; there is also a limited income membership available for \$25.

Sign up for a homeowner consultation by emailing rosemarycarey@comcast.net: the subject header should read Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden consultation. Homeowners may also call (530) 620-3631, 9 am-5 pm weekdays to enroll.

Rosemary Carey
Program Manager



Fall colors at Hope Valley—the last field trip of 2009.

Photo: Annie Walker

WORKSHOPS

November 14

Growing and Propagating Native Plants for the Garden. This workshop we will discuss native plants for home gardens, best planting methods, soil requirements, and watering with an emphasis on propagation. There will be demonstrations in the field of simple propagation techniques including seed, cuttings and division. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium. http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Growing_Native_Plants_11-14-09.pdf

December 5

Basics of Native Grass Seed Collection.

This workshop will provide an overview of

techniques and equipment associated with native grass seed collection, processing, and storage. This workshop includes hands on demonstrations of field collection techniques. For native grass seed. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium. http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Seed_Collecting_12-5-09.pdf

January 13, 2010

Introduction to the 2nd edition of A Manual of California Vegetation Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society at the Northern California Botanists Symposium, Chico. To register or for more information, contact Josie Crawford at (916) 447-2677 or jrcrawford@cnpns.org.

mosses has nearly doubled, yet the moss flora is seldom studied by botanists. Designed to encourage both amateur and professional botanists to take up an interest in California's mosses, this guide contains over 2,200 color photographs and 1,100 black and white drawings illustrating all but five of the state's 600+ moss species.

Instead of relying on traditional "dichotomous keys" for species identification, this guide is organized by leaf shape and diagnostic traits so species are identified by pictures. Nearly half of the mosses currently documented for the state are presented with a color plate incorporating each of the 176 moss genera occurring in California. Of these genera, 79 are represented in California by a single species easily identified by use of this guide. For larger genera, several additional species plates are added to provide insights into the diversity of that group. Each full colored species plate also contains a text template containing information about the form, habitat, distribution, descriptive cellular features, and comments useful about each species to confirm identification. This indispensable guide not only incorporates the common species likely to be encountered in the field but also includes Pacific Coast endemics and species of conservation concern.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM PLANTS OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

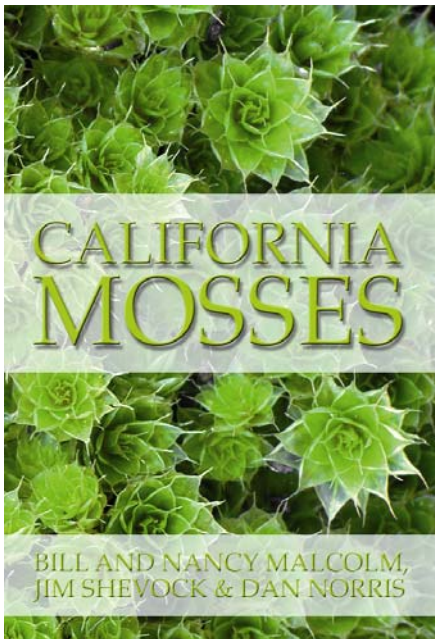
Each summer, local chapter member and naturalist John Kipping leads wild river float trips and nature tours on board MV/ Delphinus in Southeast Alaska and British Columbia. Using the Alsek and Copper Rivers as examples, he will chart the plant communities of the riparian and montane interior through the glacial mountains and out to the coastal rain forests, home of brown and spirit bears and bald eagles. Come and learn about the dominant woody plants and their ethnobotany.

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, November 17 at the Forest Supervisor's Office, large conference room, 100 Forni Road, Placerville. Enter at back of building.

NEW BOOK

CALIFORNIA MOSSES

By Bill and Nancy Malcolm, Jim Shevock, and Dan Norris



California has one of the most species rich moss floras in North America. During the last 50 years alone the checklist of California

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

December Winter Break—no monthly program
January topic TBA

NEED VOLUNTEER FOR HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE BEGINNING JANUARY 2010!

We need someone to step forward and take on hospitality for programs beginning in 2010. The commitment can be for a 3 month time period or until the end of the year. This important volunteer sets up and provides refreshments during our program meetings. The program meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, usually at the main library or the Forest Supervisor's Office (both located in Placerville). There are no meetings in August or December. We have an automatic coffee pot and reimbursement is provided for food, drink, or utensils that is purchased. Please contact Cindy Podsiadlo if you are interested or want more information.

Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists

Join thousands of others in gathering valuable environmental and climate change information from across the country. Project BudBurst engages the public in making careful observations of the phenophases such as first leafing, first flower, and first fruit ripening of

a diversity of trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses in their local area.

For more information:

http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/



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 California Native Plant Society
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November-December 2009

RECRUITING FOR TREASURER!

Help! We need to fill the position of Chapter Treasurer. Unfortunately (for us) Ernie Hartley was doing such a great job as Treasurer that he was offered the Board of Directors Chair position at a school in Ohio. Since the new position will keep him super busy, he had to resign as Treasurer. If anyone is interested or wants to have more information about the duties, please contact Cindy Podsiadlo (who is now displaying a split personality trying to juggle the duties of Chapter President and Interim Treasurer). Contact information is (530) 642-0648 and clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com. Please think about volunteering for this very important position in our chapter. We can't do it without you.

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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