



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

WRIGHT'S LAKE WILDFLOWER WALKS COMPLETES 5TH SEASON

CALENDAR

September 18 (Saturday)

Master Gardener's Plant sale.
Second annual fall plant sale. Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Dr, Placerville.

September 22 (Wednesday)

Program.

Member pot-luck and slide show. See inside for details.

Changed Date
Third Wednesday

October 1 (Friday)

Workshop.
"Using Native Grasses in the Water-Conserving" hosted by California Native Grassland Association. See CNGA website for details (http://www.cnga.org/workshop_signup.html)

October 9 (Saturday)

CNPS Biannual plant sale.
See inside for details.

October 28 (Thursday)

Workshop.
"Grassland restoration" hosted by California Native Grassland Association. See CNGA website for details (http://www.cnga.org/workshop_signup.html)

November 16 (Tuesday)

Program.
Proposed fuel reduction project at Pine Hill. Tim Nosal, Department of Fish and Game. See next newsletter for details.

Evening programs are held on the third Tuesday (exceptions noted) of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Programs begin at 7 PM. Check details inside for location.

The El Dorado Chapter has just completed its fifth year of hosting seasonal wildflower walks at Wright's Lake. Since 2006, informal walks designed to introduce our native flora to campers, cabin owners, and other visitors to the lake have been conducted every Saturday morning throughout the flowering season. In spite of a curtailed season this year due to the heavy snowpack,

Chapter members led 6 walks from July 24 through August 28, hosting over 50 attendees in all. Because of the variety of environments encountered around

the lake, dozens of species of flowering plants may be examined during this short walk within the allotted time of one hour. The combination of beautiful and varied flowers, the gorgeous environs, and the friendly and interested folks who attend the walks continues to make this endeavor fun and gratifying for leaders and attendees alike. Many thanks to this year's volunteer walk leaders: Cindy Podsiadlo, Susan Durham, Shellie Perry, and Mike and Dee Taylor.

*Rich Wade
Wright's Lake Coordinator*



Photo: Dee Taylor.

Mike Taylor leads the plant walk on an overcast August morning at Wright's Lake.

NEWS FLASH: STATE LEADERS RECOGNIZE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

The State Legislature just passed a bill (ACR 173) declaring Native Plant Week as the third week of April that is intended to "encourage community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities

to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants."

The text of the bill states the many and various ways that native plants are important to California. The bill can be viewed at: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0151-0200/acr_173_bill_20100802_amended_asm_v97.pdf

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

CITIZEN SCIENCE: RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT

The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt is a new statewide effort, initiated by the Rare Plant and Education Programs of the California Native Plant Society, to update data on rare plants and their associated habitats.

The Treasure Hunt teams botanists with amateurs to search for new and historic populations of rare plants across the state. Participants can survey for rare plants in areas with little history of botanical exploration, relocate historic (not documented in over 20 years) rare plant occurrences, and/or update known occurrences of high-priority rare plants. Up-to-date information on rare plants and their habitats are needed to inform conservation actions and to aid planning efforts. The current status of many rare plant occurrences is unknown, and thousands have not been documented for decades.

The preliminary results for first season of the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt are in and they are stupendous! Results include:

- Volunteers and partner organizations updated approximately 600 rare plant occurrences (populations) across the state.
- Of these, approximately 70% were new occurrences (previously unreported populations)
- Approximately 70% were List 1B (Rare, threatened and endangered in California and elsewhere).
- An estimated 245 volunteers and partners contributed
- These volunteers gave over 2500 hours of time to the project!
- Over 20 chapters had participating volunteers.

FUN FOR KIDS

The Treasure Hunt has been successful bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together to enjoy nature and learn about plants. The activity energizes children and teenagers, as well as adults. Young people enjoy the hunt — looking for the plants and finding them once they have the search image in mind. Hiking on the way to locations, leaders offered many other plant tidbits to discover.

Some highlights of this year include:

- An Eagle Scout who did a Treasure Hunt project in the Mojave,
- Two teenage girls who had never been camping before, attended a training and will focus a CNPS internship on getting other teenagers out to look for plants (with an experienced trip-leader/botanist),
- A homeschool network hooked up with a team leader to go out on trips,
- A 20 year old woman, who had never been on a hike before, participated.
- The San Gabriel Mountains and San Diego chapters contributing tremendous numbers of volunteer hours (429 hrs and 420 hrs respectively) and occurrence updates (27 and 24 respectively).
- The BLM, DFG, RSABG, National Parks and Parks Conservancy, East Bay Regional Parks, and Santa Clara County Parks are participating and contributing funds, staff time, office space, volunteer coordinators, volunteers, and enthusiasm.

Planning and fundraising are underway for a second season and beyond. Check out the website for more details on the program (<http://cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasurehunt/index.php>).

XERISCAPE GARDEN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Xeriscaping is a water-efficient landscaping that is appropriate to the naturally arid environment of El Dorado County. While the goal of xeriscaping is to create a visually attractive landscape that uses water efficiently, the practice also can conserve tremendous amounts of water, reduce or eliminate soil amendments and chemicals, provide a more attractive environment for wildlife, and restore natural drainage patterns. The Xeriscape Program in El Dorado County consists of three xeriscape demonstration gardens available to the public which illustrate the benefits and advantages of xeriscaping. These Gardens are located at the Placerville Branch Library, Cameron Park Branch Library, and the County Fairgrounds. The Xeriscape Program in the Georgetown Divide consists of one xeriscape demonstration garden located at the Georgetown Public Utility District. Located in high-traffic areas, the gardens are equipped with signage and xeriscape source information for landowners interested in obtaining additional assistance.

The El Dorado County and Georgetown divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD seek to update each of the xeriscape demonstration gardens and provide an educational experience for the public during the renovation process. This will be accomplished through the following tasks:

- Task 1:** Acquire new plants and replace dead or dying and cover exposed areas with non toxic mulch cover.
- Task 2:** Replace old signage. These signs identify the plant species.
- Task 3:** Update the Self Guided Tour Manual. These manuals provide a plant pallet, design map, and information on Xeriscape and water conservation measures. These books are available at each location for free to the public.
- Task 4:** Create a volunteer program to perform monthly garden maintenance such as mulch replacement, plant trimming, weed removal, etc.

The management of the program will be the responsibility of the RCD. The RCD will collaborate with the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (El Do-

rado CNPS) and volunteer community members to accomplish some of these tasks.

The RCD will work in partnership with the El Dorado CNPS to (1) Inventory the existing vegetation and provide expert advice on new plant selection and design; (2) Update the text and garden maps in the Xeriscape Handbook; and (3) Ask chapter members, through newsletter and email, to volunteer for monthly garden maintenance.

Our chapter tried to use the xeriscape garden at the Placerville Library during Earth Day as an educational experience for kids. We had trouble finding the plants as well as having to put up temporary signs to identify the plants! I have a list of a few people that were interested in helping out. Please let Cindy know if you are interested (clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com or 642-0648). Our first task will be to inventory the existing vegetation (both native and non-native) and compare the locations to what is listed on the maps at the Placerville library. I will set up a garden meeting in September based on who is available and when.

CNPS FALL PLANT SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 9 AM to 1 PM

The cooler mornings and evenings are upon us, and it is time to start thinking about the fall planting season. With the wet weather of winter just around the corner, fall is the best time to plant most native plants — especially here in the foothills where the spring and summer tend to be hot and dry.

Our fall sale will include native and drought tolerant plants that grow well in our area. Trees, shrubs, and perennials as



MASTER GARDENER'S FALL PLANT SALE

The Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are putting on their second annual fall plant sale. The sale will be held on September 18, 2010, in the parking lot of the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 130 Placerville Dr, Placerville.

Featured will be plants, primarily perennials, propagated by Master Gardeners, as well as plants donated by the following nurseries numerous nurseries in our county. In addition, there will be garden art and other garden related treasures donated by local artisans.

Representatives of the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and of the El Dorado Chapter of the Herb Society will have booths at the sale. These organizations are natural partners of the Master Gardener

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

well as grasses and seeds will be available. Books on gardening with native plants and natural history will also be available at the sale. If you are new to gardening with native plants, there will be several experienced gardeners at the sale to answer your questions.

The newsletter includes a list of potted plants that are likely to be at the sale so that you can plan ahead for your shopping trip. As in recent sales, 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. We accept checks or cash only.

The sale will be held at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. You will find us located in the Corker Building; signs will be posted to help you find us. The fairground is at 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, right next to the Raley's Supermarket.

organization in their love of flora and their dedication to getting the message out about the benefits of gardening to the general public.

The Master Gardeners are an all volunteer organization under the auspices of the University of California Cooperative Extensions. Proceeds of the sale will be used to help build the Demonstration Garden as well as other outreach activities.

RENEW YOUR CNPS MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

CNPS now offers online renewal. This handy service allows you to manage your membership information and renew or donate donation using a credit card. Just go to the CNPS website (www.cnps.org) and click on the "Join/Renew" or "Donate

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

FRIENDS, FOOD,
FOTOS, AND FUN!

Changed Date
Third Wednesday

This is our annual member potluck and photo event. It's a relaxed evening of sharing stories and places where we have explored this year, or any special plants that you saw for the first time, or those fabulous wildflower displays. You can just hang out and enjoy.

Please bring a dish to share; beverages, utensils, cups and plates will be provided. If your garden is overflowing, this is a great time to try out new recipes. Bring pictures/slides/short presentations to share. This is also a good opportunity to share any ideas that you have about the chapter and new things that you would like to see us do.

This event will be held on **WEDNESDAY** September 22 at 7pm at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville. Please note the date change (the library was already booked for Tuesday). Please let Cindy know if you are attending and if you need a slide projector and/or laptop plus projector. Contact Cindy at clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com or 642-0648.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM FUEL REDUCTION AT PINE HILL

Tim Nosal, Botanist with California Department of Fish and Game, will discuss a fuel reduction project being proposed at Pine Hill.

This event will be held at 7:00 p.m., November 16 (Tuesday) at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane Placerville, California.

Now" buttons in the upper left corner of the page.

ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

The "Join/Renew" or "Donate Now" pages noted above also let you update your contact information. You can also add your email address if you have not already done so.



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

September-October 2010

FALL PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9
9 AM to 1 PM
Corker Building
at the Fairgrounds

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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