



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

WINTER BLOOMS IN DEATH VALLEY

CALENDAR

January 13 (Wednesday)

Workshop.

Introduction to the 2nd edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation*. See www.cnps.org for registration and details.

January 19 (Tuesday)

Program.

Fungi of the Sierra Nevada. See inside for details.

January 23 (Saturday)

Workshop.

Starthistle and invasive plant identification and control. See inside for details.

February 16 (Tuesday)

Planning meeting.

Help us plan field trips for the 2010 season. See inside for details.

March 16 (Tuesday)

Program.

To be announced. Check website for details.



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.

For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org

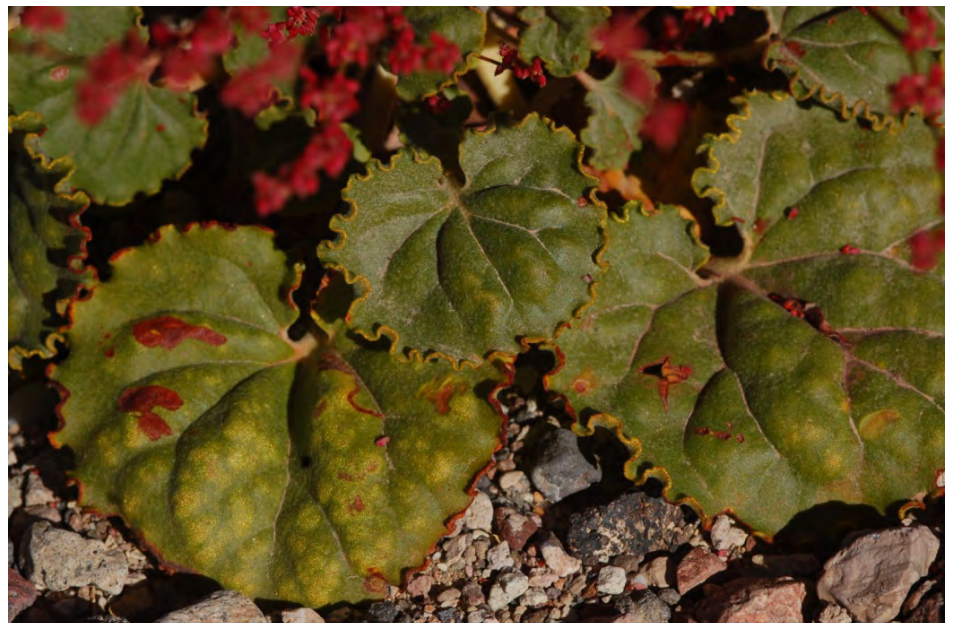
This year at Thanksgiving we skipped the dinner and took the trip. We camped in Death Valley on some outlying primitive roads. One of our first camps was along Greenwater Road. Despite that it is winter, while driving toward Dante's Point Road, and along Ryan Wash we noticed brilliant red flowers on the roadside. It turned out to be a red flowered *Eriogonum*. Knowing there was something rare from the Ryan area, I spent the very long dark evening studying by headlamp.

Eriogonum hoffmannii v. *robustius* is a List 1B.3 endemic to Death Valley National Park in California. There are nine known locations recorded in Rarefind. The first report of this plant was in 1891 by F. Coville and Funston (COV9150009. COVILLE, F. & F. FUNSTON, COVILLE #1786 US #18291. 1891-01-27). Then Coville and A. Gilman visited again in 1931 (COV3150004. COVILLE, F. & A. GILMAN, COVILLE & GILMAN #148 USNH #1566046 (CITED IN HOL79R0002, SCH82R0001). 1931-09-28). Other botanists who visited this *Eriogonum* over the years were Schramm, Holland, Annable, Rose, Truman, Gilman (alone), Boyd, Taylor and Niles.

The next day we decided to see if we could see the extent of the occurrence. I walked in Ryan Wash until I saw the probable southernmost plants and then followed them up a rocky boulder-filled dry streambed. They seemed to enter the wash at this area. There was a 'no trespassing' sign for the private in-holding of the Ryan and Widow Mines, so I went no further. Returning to the wash I walked on down to the truck and we drove slowly along observing these beautiful plants.

They seemed to have had a burst of productivity this year, and were abundant in Ryan Wash, even colonizing the roadside in many places. After we reached the junction with highway 190, we could still follow them. They entered the Furnace Creek Wash eventually, but seemed to diminish in the wash and retire to the roadsides. We saw our last ones just prior to the Furnace Creek Inn on highway 190. This large occurrence is recorded as numbers 3, 4, 5 and 8. So I think the different records have all become one large population. I believe the Colville location of 1891 was number 3.

Annie Walker
Roaming Botanist



Eriogonum hoffmannii var. *robustius* leaves showing the distinctive curly edges which are mentioned in the key. Photo: Annie Walker

VOLUNTEER YOUR GARDEN FOR OUR FIRST NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

In late 2002, a few members of the Santa Clara Valley CNPS Chapter began work on the Bay Area's first native garden tour. Their successful effort inspired other tours, and in 2009, the San Francisco Bay Area saw three different native garden tours, with a combined total of 140 gardens in five counties, attracting over 11,000 registrants. Numbers like these clearly demonstrate a significant, pent-up interest in native gardening. People are eager to see real examples of home gardens landscaped with California native plants. They want to know how to grow and care for native plants, and where to buy them. They want to take pictures and ideas back with them.

The Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Program on Native Plant and Water-Wise Gardening, funded by a state grant to the El Dorado Chapter, is now organizing a native plant garden tour for April 17th. Garden hosts are being sought to share their unique gardens and their accumulated gardening knowledge with the community for just one Saturday. Gardens need not be exclusively native plants and they need not be polished because the purpose of this tour is to educate people about native plants, not to be a fundraiser. I am looking for gardens with mature examples of at least a few native species in order to show people the potential of a



Bring Back the Natives Garden Tour 2009 (East Bay)
Garden of Ann Keri and Richard Leaf

grown-out 1 gallon plant. So if you have a couple really lovely specimens of wild lilac, globe mallow, holly grape, currant, gooseberry, manzanita, hollyleaf cherry, sugar bush, etc., that would be great.

Perhaps you've landscaped under a heritage oak with dry, shade tolerant native species, or maybe you have some interesting native bunch grasses. Other interesting examples would be a riparian area that you've weeded out, an eroding hill slope that has been stabilized with snowberry or dwarf coyote-brush, a habitat garden designed for birds, butterflies, dragonflies and native bees. I am looking for all of these situations and more. I can be reached at 620.3631 or at rosemary-carey@comcast.net.

Guidelines for public participation have been developed. The self-guided tour will open at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. No strollers, pets, food or litter will be permitted. Children must be supervised at all times. Smoking is strictly forbidden. Houses are not included on the tours.

Finally, publicity for this tour is going to be targeted to Master Gardeners, gardening clubs, and nursery patrons to make certain that those with an interest in gardening with native plants have a chance to attend.

*Rosemary Carey
Sierra Nevada Yard and
Garden Program*

2010 CLARK YOUTH FUND GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

The El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is now accepting applications for funds to support the education of El Dorado County youth about preservation, conservation, or scientific exploration of native plants. Schools, clubs, non-profits, and any other interested may apply for these grants. The application deadline is February 15, 2010.

To be considered for funding, grants must demonstrate that money received will be used for activities of school-aged children and will be focused on native plants of California. For example, funds may be used for the purchase of books, wildflower posters, signage, gardening supplies, tree protectors, or native plants. They may also be used to establish or improve native plant gardens, habitats, or trails.

For more information on requirements, the application process, or project suggestions please contact Leigh Nedlo by email (leogonedlo@yahoo.com) or phone (530-622-8344) or visit our website at www.eldoradocnps.org.

MANZANITA BELIEVED EXTINCT FOUND NEAR GOLDEN GATE

A manzanita previously thought to be extinct was found near the Golden Gate Bridge in November, 2009 during the construction of a road. As construction crews cleared eucalyptus trees for the road, the lone specimen of Franciscan manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*) was exposed. Botanist Daniel Gluesenkamp spotted the manzanita shrub as he drove over the Golden Gate Bridge.

Construction has been halted and the Presidio Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and CalTrans are developing a conservation plan which will restore habitat to save the manzanita and related species. The Wild Equity Institute has filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the plant under the Endangered Species Act.

RECRUITING FOR CHAPTER SECRETARY AND TREASURER!

Help! We need to fill two positions for the chapter board: secretary and treasurer. Unfortunately Joanne Geggatt who has been doing an absolutely wonderful job as secretary had to resign recently due to family commitments. Our president, Cindy is still attempting to do dual duty as president and treasurer since September but is getting more stressed out as reports and statements are due to the state office. This is a short time

commitment: both of these positions will be for 1 year (2010) only since we will be holding elections again at the end of the year. Our board meetings have been reduced from 10 times per year to 6 and if you can't make the board meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, we can change the dates if necessary and make other accommodations.

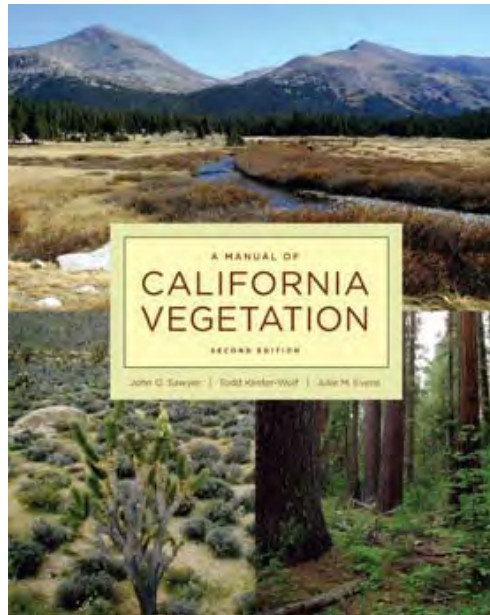
What are the duties? Contact Cindy at (530) 642-0648 or e-mail: clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com. Please think about volunteering for these very important positions in our chapter. We can't do it without YOU!

NEW BOOK A MANUAL OF CALIFORNIA VEGETATION (SECOND EDITION)

By John O. Sawyer, Todd Keeler-Wolf, and Julie M. Evens

CNPS is pleased to announce the release of the Second Edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation*. Greatly expanded from the previous edition, this revision comprises a collection of biological and ecological information on all of the known vegetation types in the state focusing on both the individual species and surrounding habitats. This completely updated edition features more than twice the number of vegetation descriptions as the original MCV. Since first published by CNPS in 1995, the MCV has become widely accepted as the standard for classifying the state's vegetation.

This comprehensive guide has wide applicability to biologists, botanists, ecologists, environmental scientists, land-use managers, conservation planners, natural history enthusiasts, teachers, and students. The MCV provides a systematic approach to classifying and describing vegetation in California,



providing definitions, descriptions, and maps that enable more definitive assessments of extent, location, rarity, and threats to these natural communities.

The MCV is available directly from the CNPS Sales Department at (916)-447-2677 x. 204 or on the web from www.cnps.org.

JANUARY PROGRAM FUNGI OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

Daniel Nicholson will introduce mushrooms and other fungi of the Sierra Nevada in this fun and informative presentation.

Daniel is a member of the Board of Directors of the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) and has served as director of the YWI Fungus Foray for twelve years. He also is active with the Mycological Society of San Francisco and was a contributor to the fungi chapters of the revised edition of *Sierra Nevada Natural History and Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*.

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, January 19 at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM TRIP PLANNING AND PIZZA PARTY

Our trip planning meeting will be held on Tuesday February 16th at 7pm at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville. It is a "Planning and Pizza Party". Come with your ideas, suggestions, photographs, and any maps or books of the particular area that you are interested in. This should be a fun and laid back event as we examine possible trails and areas that will provide some unique opportunities to explore native plants and habitats. If there are any places that you would like to revisit or visit more often (to see the variations in the seasons), let us know. Pizza and drinks provided! If you can't make it but have an idea, please contact our trip planning chair, Shellie Perry at (530) 644-6335 or e-mail: seperry@concentric.net.

WORKSHOP INVASIVE WEED CONTROL IN EL DORADO COUNTY

Saturday, January 23, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Planning Commission Room – Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

Registration for this workshop is recommended but not required. Register online at http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/Natural_Resources/ or call (530) 621-5503.

INFORMATION SOURCE FOR WILD PLANTS (www.calflora.org)

Our chapter made a recent contribution of \$500 to provide financial support to Calflora. Calflora at its core is a database of over 800,000 records of where native and weedy plants have been observed to grow wild in California. They have spent ten years building tools that make it easier to add your own plant information and to map, analyze and share that data with our chapter and others. All amateurs can use Calflora for free, as can any volunteer. This is a valuable wonderful site for information on native plant identification as well as incredible photographs of plant species.





El Dorado Chapter
 California Native Plant Society
 P.O. Box 1948
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January-February 2010

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR?!

Well, the print version of this newsletter is obviously in black and white, but you can get a color version of this and other newsletters by going to the chapter website (<http://www.eldoradocnps.org>). Head to the newsletter section and download the electronic versions. Check out the beautiful red buckwheat that Annie Walker mentions in the cover story of this issue or get a peek at the lovely blooms in the native plant garden shown on page 2.

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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