



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MARCH-APRIL 2010

NEW LOCATION!

SPRING PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, APRIL 10
9 am to 1 pm
BETWEEN COUNTY BUILDINGS A & B

CALENDAR

March 13 (Saturday)

Walk.
Folsom Area; see details inside.

March 16 (Tuesday)

Program.
Including Natives In Your Garden. See details inside.

March 24 (Wednesday)

Walk.
Gerle Loop Trail, Magnolia Ranch

April 3 (Saturday)

Walk.
Howard Ranch. See details inside.

April 10 (Saturday)

Plant sale.
See article for details.

April 17 (Saturday)

Garden tour.
Going Native Garden Tour. See details inside.

April 21 (Wednesday)

Walk.
Red Shack Trail. See details inside.

April 24 (Saturday)

Walk.
Clear Creek Trail. See details inside.

May 17 (Tuesday)

Program.
Pine Hill Preserve. See details inside.

May 29 (Saturday)

Walk.
Hope Valley and Carson River. See details inside.

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

Get out your work gloves and put on your gardening hats — Spring is nearly here and it's time for our twice yearly plant sale. Once again Cornflower Farms and Steve Dowty will be offering native and drought tolerant plants that will grow well in our area. Posters and books on gardening with native plants and natural history will also be available at the sale.

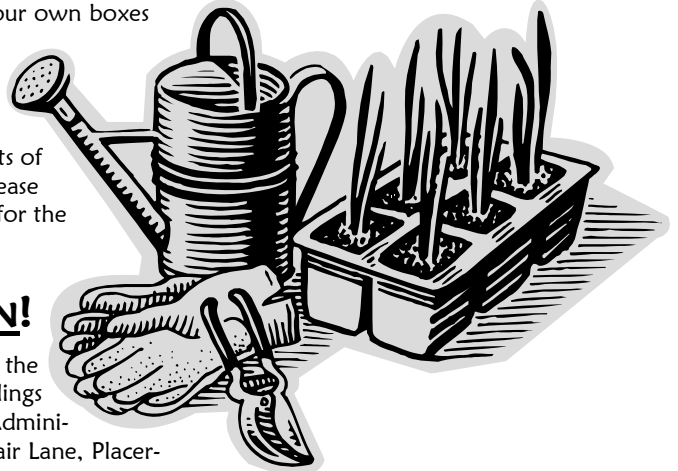
If you are new to gardening with native plants, there will be several experienced gardeners at the sale to answer your questions.

This newsletter includes a list of 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. Note that our chapter only takes checks and cash; no credit or debit cards. Also please bring your own boxes for plants that you buy.

There will be short presentations throughout the plant sale on various aspects of gardening with natives. Please check our website in April for the listings and times.

NEW LOCATION!

The sale will be held on the breezeway between Buildings A and B at the County Administration Buildings at 360 Fair Lane, Placerville.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping with the sale, we still need people to help 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.

For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org

SPRING PLANT WALKS

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

MARCH 13 (SATURDAY)

FOLSOM AREA, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Duration: Half-day, or longer if the weather is welcoming and we cannot bear to stop.

Meeting Time and Location: 9:00 at the Diamond Springs park-and-ride, located at Missouri Flat Rd and Mother Lode.

Description: Tucked in among the suburbs of Folsom is a network of trails that access a variety of wetlands, vernal pools, grasslands and Valley oak woodlands. Expect an easy, fairly flat, three to five mile walk, with lots to see, including a few early wildflowers. Exact location is To Be Announced.

Level of Difficulty: easy

Bring: sturdy walking shoes, hat, water, lunch or snack

Contact: Shellie Perry, (530) 644-6335; seperry55@comcast.net

MARCH 24 (WEDNESDAY)

GERLE LOOP TRAIL (MAGNOLIA RANCH), EL DORADO COUNTY

Duration: Half day, or lesson an easy 2.1 miles loop trail.

Meeting time and location: 8:30 AM at Magnolia Ranch Trailhead parking lot which is about 3 miles north of Coloma on SR 49 across from Venezio Winery.

Description: Discover the natives as we walk through foothill oak woodlands with views of the South Fork American River and through open grasslands that were previously grazed. We'll be able to see a variety of plants: Baby Blue Eyes, Five Spot Nemophila, Fairy Lanterns, and Clarkia as well as wild grape, and ferns as well as California poppies, Mule's ears, various brodea and Silver Bush Lupine in open areas. There is a variety of shrubs and trees in the understory and overstory.

Level of difficulty: Easy

Bring: Water and snacks, sunscreen, hat. Be aware that there is poison oak along the hillsides.

Contact: Cindy Podsiadlo (530) 642-0648; clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com

APRIL 21 (WEDNESDAY)

RED SHACK TRAIL, EL DORADO COUNTY

Duration: Half day or longer if interested

Meeting time and location: 8:30 AM,

Raley's parking lot, Placerville for carpool or 9 AM at Red Shack Trailhead. Trailhead is on Highway 49 across from the Red Shack Fruit Stand This will be a half day trip (back to trailhead by 1:30 pm) with options to walk down to the American River or to turn around before then based on participants schedules and/or enthusiasm.

Description: Discover the foothill natives as we drop down toward the American River. Fairly easy down hill but heading back up can get your heart pumping! This hike will have frequent stops since there are a variety of microhabitats along this north to east facing slope. Based on these habitats, we'll be able to see a variety of plants: in moist areas ferns like maidenhair and woodfern, shooting stars, fairy lanterns, wild grape, mock orange, and California bay, in drier areas goldenrod, larkspur, fritillaria (chocolate bells), Clarkia, hollyleaf redberry, coffeeberry, mountain mahogany and hopbush. There is quite a variety of shrubs and trees in the understory and overstory.

Level of difficulty: Easy; moderate on the uphill unless you go slowly.

Bring: Water, lunch or snacks, hat, sunscreen and the usual accoutrements.

Contact: Cindy Podsiadlo, (530) 642-0648; clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com

APRIL 24 (SATURDAY)

CLEAR CREEK AREA, EL DORADO COUNTY

Meeting Time and Location: 9:00 A.M., John Kipping residence, 5520 Five Spot Rd, Pollock Pines

Duration: A couple hours; around two miles.

Description: A fairly easy walk along beautiful Clear Creek. Participants will experience old-growth riparian forest, with a varied flora that includes big pines, Western yew, three kinds of Dogwood, and an unusual Huckleberry that may be an undescribed species.

Level of difficulty: Easy

Bring: Sturdy walking shoes, bug spray, water, lunch if desired.

Contact: John Kipping, (530) 644-5929

MAY 29 (SATURDAY)

HOPE VALLEY, WEST FORK CARSON RIVER, ALPINE COUNTY

Duration: All day; probably around three miles, depending on what the group wants to do.

Meeting Time and Location: 8:00 A.M., the Perry residence, 6311 Sly Park Rd

Description: Spring comes early to beautiful Hope Valley. We will stroll through meadows rich with wildflowers, including Brown's Peony, albino Camas lilies, tiny *Gymnosteris parvula*, wistful-looking *Geum triflorum*, and an unusual greenish-flowered form of *Calyptidium umbellatum*. We will also see *Ribes inerme*, with flowers that look like little spaceships landing! The walking is easy, but may be wet in places, so dress accordingly.

Bring: Sturdy walking shoes, bug spray, water, lunch - don't forget your camera!

Contact: Shellie Perry, (530) 644-6335; seperry55@comcast.net

APRIL 3 (SATURDAY)

HOWARD RANCH, SOUTHEASTERN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Duration: Return mid to late afternoon

Meeting time and location: 8:30 AM Raley's Parking Lot, 166 Placerville Drive, Placerville

Description: This is a pleasant walk along a generally flat trail through an open expanse of valley grassland to visit narrow riparian areas and vernal pools. Access and parking as at the SMUD facility at Rancho Seco Park. Although this is a 7 mile round trip, the intent is to go out and back the same way, covering a total distance of 3 to 4 miles.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate

Bring: Water, hat, sunblock, sturdy shoes, lunch

Contact: Rich Wade (530) 644-7210 or 635-5663, email rwade@spi-ind.com.

SPRING HIKES TO THE RARE PLANT PRESERVES

The Bureau of Land Management's Mother Lode Field Office will host naturalist-led walks on Saturdays to the Pine Hill Preserve.

April 24	Cameron Park
May 1	Salmon Falls - Birding
May 15	Pine Hill
May 22	Cameron Park
June 6	Salmon Falls

The birding trip on May 1 starts at 7 am all other field trips start at 9 a.m. Trips are limited to 25 participants. Participants must pre-register with the Pine Hill Preserve. For more information, please call (916) 941-3101 or (916) 941-3134. For reservations, contact Graciela Hinshaw at graciela_hinshaw@ca.blm.gov.

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR—APRIL 17

The first Going Native Garden Tour in western El Dorado County will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010, the Saturday following the Spring Plant Sale. This free, self-guided tour will include many different home gardens landscaped with California native plants from Latrobe to Kelsey. Gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and provide an opportunity for people to see and learn about growing and caring for native plants in yard and garden settings in the foothills, so bring notebooks and cameras. In addition, two small native plant nurseries will be on the tour and plant sales will be available at these locations.

The Going Native Garden Tour is being organized by the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Full descriptions of the eight gardens on tour as well as the two native plant nurseries and driving directions will be posted on our website www.eldoradocnps.org by April 10th, 2010. Those not having web access may call (530) 620-3631 for information about the tour.

Come see large specimens of native plants and get inspiration and ideas from experienced gardeners on how to landscape your own property with a wide array of water-thrifty and wildlife friendly California natives, as well as water-wise exotics from other Mediterranean climates. Tour happens rain or shine. Hats, sunscreen, water advised but please leave strollers, pets, food, and cigarettes at home. Parents will be asked to supervise their children at all times. Homes are not included on the tour.

*Rosemary Carey
Sierra Nevada Yard and
Garden Program*

MARCH PROGRAM INCLUDING NATIVES IN YOUR GARDEN

Do you want to incorporate native plants into your garden, but don't know where to start? Then this presentation is for you! Mahala Young and Jinnah Benn will go over the basics of which natives are best suited for different areas of your garden including what to plant under oaks; on open banks for erosion control; in riparian areas and around ponds; in rock gardens; for higher elevation gardens; and much more. They will also cover how to incorporate natives into an already existing non-native garden and how to blend your garden into the surrounding natural environment.

Mahala and Jinnah are owners of Lotus Valley Natives, a native plant nursery specializing in natives of the Sierra Nevada Foothills. They each have over 10 years of experience working in the fields of botany and biology throughout Northern California.

Both ladies are captivated by the natural beauty and diversity of plants that the Sierra Nevada Foothills have to offer. They are striving to promote the use of native plants with the hopes of minimizing the spread of invasive plants, supporting wildlife, conserving water, and blending with the natural environment.

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, March 16 at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

MAY PROGRAM PINE HILL PRESERVE

The Pine Hill Preserve (PHP) was established April 2001 to ensure that habitat for eight rare plant species growing on gabbro soils at western El Dorado County would be protected from factors threatening their survival.

The gabbro is a unique soil formation in western El Dorado County that supports chaparral, woodland, and grassland habitat types. The soil, rolling topography, and Mediterranean climate in the area combine to sustain about 10% of the total California plant diversity.

In addition to plant species richness, several rare and endemic plant species exist in the habitat types of the gabbro soil formation. Five of the eight rare plant species protected at the Preserve are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or the California Endangered Species Act. Several of the rare plants are also endemic (or nearly endemic) to gabbro soils in western El Dorado County.

Following an overview of the Pine Hill Preserve, the presentation will highlight current activities at the Preserve including the recent acquisition of 740 acres, collaborative research projects and restoration efforts.

Lauren Fety is a biological science technician with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mother Lode Field Office where she works with the PHP Manager. She first worked with the PHP as a Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) fellow in 2008 and returned a year later as a BLM employee. She has also worked with the American River Conservancy and participated in CBG's International Exchange Program in land management.

More Info? Check out the Pine Hill Preserve website www.pinehillpreserve.org, contact PHP Staff at 916/941-3133 or lauren_fety@blm.gov, and/or come to the presentation!

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, May 18 at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR EVENING PROGRAMS

The Chapter has shifted to offering six evening programs each year. The new schedule for the evening program is the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November.



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

March-April 2010

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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