



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MAY-JUNE 2010

CLARK YOUTH FUNDS AWARDED FOR 2010

This was a great year for the Clark Youth Fund. For 2010 we distributed \$1575 of monetary awards, \$700 worth of 2 for 1 Fall Plant Sale coupons, and some free books and pots. Seven deserving schools and organizations that work with school-aged children in El Dorado County will be using these funds over the next year to beautify and educate.

Sly Park Environmental Education Center has received \$400 and some free pots for continued slope restoration and seedling regeneration. **Indian Creek Elementary School** will use \$300 and a 2 for 1 coupon to connect an access ramp to the school garden and plant butterfly attracting natives. **Bijou Community School** has received \$200 and a 2 for 1 coupon to cover a wet bare area with suitable natives. **American River Conservancy** will use its \$250 and 2 for 1 coupon to purchase supplies used to help area schools implement ecological service projects. **Green**

Valley Elementary School will use the \$150 they received to purchase native gardening books. CNPS has also offered to donate \$75 worth of our books to the school's library. **Sierra School** got a \$175 grant and a 2 for 1 coupon to purchase irrigation equipment and native butterfly attractants for a brand new outdoor classroom. Finally, **Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe** is building a native plant demonstration garden, using a \$100 grant and a 2 for 1 coupon.

If you find yourself at one of these locations over the next year, congratulate them and ask to see their projects. Several of these recipients will directly involve the students in the planning, establishment and care of the project areas. Maybe even a student you know will get to participate in a Clark Youth funded project next year!

*Leigh Nedlo
Program Coordinator*

CALENDAR

May 17 (Tuesday)

Program.
Pine Hill Preserve. See details inside.

May 29 (Saturday)

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

June 12 (Saturday)

Walk.
Bassi Falls. See details inside.

June 26 (Saturday)

Walk.
Schenk Camp. See details inside.

July 17 (Saturday)

Walk.
Pickett's Junction to Grass Lake. See details inside.

July 21 (Wednesday)

Program.
California lichens. See details inside.

Changed Date
Third Wednesday

July 31 (Saturday)

Walk.
Schneider Cow Camp. See details inside.

August 21 (Saturday)

Walk.
China Flat. 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.

APRIL'S GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

I would like to thank the hosts who shared their gardens and their experience with native plants on the first El Dorado Going Native Garden Tour and made it a success. Having ten gardens on the tour at different elevations and with a variety of exposures, soils, lot sizes and styles was key to showing visitors the wide range of applications that native plants have in home landscapes. Seven of the gardens on tour were "designed" by the homeowners themselves: either in the normal way that the word designed is usually used when starting a new garden, or in the sense that the property owners weeded out non-natives and opened up habitat for natives to colonize. They also did their own work as a labor of love. I would like to specifically thank Tilly Holtrop in Mosquito, Alice Cantelow and Lester Lubetkin in southwest Placerville, Brian Austin and Katherine Hayes in downtown Placerville, Harry Mercado in Lotus, Susan Levitsky in Cameron Park, Amy Hoffman and Greg Kiefer along Big Canyon Creek in south Shingle Springs, and Jinnah Benn and Mahala Young of Lotus Valley Natives. I was also pleased to have Verne Pershing of The Art of Gardening show one of his projects: a hillside planting at a subdivision entrance along Mother Lode Drive in El Dorado.

Hosts were ably and enthusiastically assisted on the tour by Chapter volunteers. Thank you to Pat Guge, Barbara Smith, Patty Hunsinger, Doni Mae, Geyne Crispi, Marty Oberlander, Janet Cicero, Ben Parks, Virginia Feagans, Carl Mesick and particularly Cindy Podsiadlo, who also did a couple of days of yard work to help a host get ready for the tour.

The Going Native Garden Tour was one of the Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Program's outreach efforts in El Dorado County to acquaint residents with native plants. Our other initiative is the free homeowner consultation program which lasts through the end of August and still has a few openings available. Further details are on the Chapter website www.eldoradocnps.org or email me directly: rosemarycarey@comcast.net and put homeowner consultation program in the subject header. I can also be reached at 530.620.3631 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Both the Going Native Garden Tour and the homeowner consultation program are made possible by a grant from the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

*Rosemary Carey
Program Coordinator*

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

SPRING-SUMMER PLANT WALKS

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

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 *Calyptridium 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; se-perry55@comcast.net

JUNE 12 (SATURDAY)

BASSI FALLS, EL DORADO NATIONAL FOREST

Meeting time and location: 8:00 AM, Raley's parking lot, Placerville (if requested in advance, a 2nd stop, 8:25 AM, Safeway parking lot, Pollock Pines)

Duration: Back to Placerville by 4 PM

Description: Bassi Falls is located west of Ice House Road and Union Valley Reservoir. A leisurely hike through mixed-conifer forest and open granite outcrops will lead us to a magnificent cascade at 5,500 feet. Along the way we will explore the newly revamped trail system. Expect a wide variety of flowering plants in varied dry, moist and wet environments. We will visit the falls first and leave serious botanizing and the Jepson Manual to the return. Carpooling can be organized accordingly.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Bring: Water, lunch, snacks, hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent

Contact: Susan Durham, (530) 626-6736, durhamsus@yahoo.com

JUNE 26 (SATURDAY)

SCHENK CAMP, EL DORADO COUNTY

Duration: Full day. (Folks who are in a hurry can leave early.)

Meeting Time and Location: 9:00 A.M., the Perry household, 6311 Sly Park Rd.

Description: This trip is back by popular demand! Schenk camp could be a tutorial for the botany of volcanic soil. We will see early-

drying, rocky hillsides with little or no soil, spring-fed seeps, mesic areas, climax Red Fir forest, and riparian zones, each with its own distinctive flora. Botanical highlights include diminutive Steer's Head, (*Dicentra uniflora*) Alpine gooseberry, (*Ribes lasianthum*) and a unique, succulent form of *Cardamine californica*. Also, we will probably make a few "roadside botany" stops on the way to the camp.

Level of Difficulty: Easy, maybe a one-mile walk, BUT: Decomposing volcanic rock is very slippery when dry. For this walk, safety demands shoes with good traction.

Bring: Water, lunch, hat, sturdy walking shoes. (See above!)

Contact: Shellie Perry, (530) 644-6335, se-perry55@comcast.net

JULY 17 (SATURDAY)

PICKETT'S JUNCTION TO GRASS LAKE, ALPINE AND EL DORADO COUNTIES

Duration: Full day

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

Description: We will start at Hope Valley, near the junction of Highways 88 and 89, and walk the remnants of the old road up to the east end of Grass Lake. We will see open meadows, upper montane and Red Fir forests, some historic trail markers, and a lot of nice scenery. Botanical highlights include *Lonicera cauriana*, *Allium bisceptrum* and *Muilla transmontana*.

Level of difficulty: Moderately easy. 700 feet elevation gain/loss, approximately 3 miles total walk. The old road makes for easy walking.

Bring: Water, lunch, bug spray

Contact: Shellie Perry, (530) 644-6335, se-perry55@comcast.net

JULY 31 (SATURDAY)

SCHNEIDER COW CAMP WITH OPTION TO CONTINUE TO LITTLE ROUND TOP, ALPINE COUNTY

Meeting time and location: 8:00 AM, Raley's parking lot, Placerville (if requested in advance, a 2nd stop, 8:25 AM, Safeway parking lot, Pollock Pines)

Duration: Back to Placerville by 2:30 PM (Cow Camp only), 6:00 PM for those who continue to Little Round Top

Description: Schneider Cow Camp is located just north of Caples Lake on Highway 88 and west of Carson Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail. We will explore the meadow at Schneider Cow Camp and may stop to see subalpine fireweed along the way. Expect a colorful outing with elephant's head, swamp onion, mule's ear, lupine, sulfur buckwheat, paintbrush, meadow penstemon, and many more Sierran jewels. There will be time to

meander and photograph the flowers and landscape. For those who are interested, we will hike up to the ridge and Pacific Crest Trail to find different plants (e.g., whitebark pine) and great views. Carpooling will be organized accordingly.

Level of Difficulty: Easy (Cow Camp); Moderate to Difficult (Little Round Top)

Bring: Water, lunch, snacks, hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent

Contact: Susan Durham, (530) 626-6736, durhamsus@yahoo.com

August 21 (Saturday)

China Flat, El Dorado County

Meeting time and location: : 8:00 AM, Raley's parking lot, Placerville (if requested in advance, a 2nd stop, 8:25 AM, Safeway parking lot, Pollock Pines)

Duration: Back to Placerville by 2:30

Description: China Flat is located along the Silver Fork American River south of Kyburz and has a developed picnic area and campground. We'll wander around an historic mill site, walk along old roads with easy grade, and visit the river. Expect a variety of habitats - mixed conifer forest, meadow (i.e., drying pond), sandy stream bank - and a variety of plants (some in bloom) from the different habitats. At about 4,800 feet in elevation, China Flat may offer relief from foothill summer temperatures but will still be quite warm.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Bring: Water, lunch, snacks, hiking boots (shoes that can get wet preferred), hat, sunscreen, insect repellent

Contact: Susan Durham, (530) 626-6736, durhamsus@yahoo.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.

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|--------|--------------|
| 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.

NEW! DRIVING TRIPS FOR VIEWING WILDFLOWERS

Our chapter vice-president, Armond Chase came up with the idea of viewing wildflowers by taking driving trips along scenic routes in El Dorado County. If you have seen Armond's wildflower photos, you know that he finds some great spots. This is a good opportunity for those folks who want to get a rough idea of places to explore and to see wildflowers, but avoids the miles of walking to get there. Some ideas would be to explore North-South Road (from Omo Ranch Rd to Mormon Emigrant Trail) on the Eldorado National Forest, Mormon Emigrant Trail (from Sly Park Reservoir to Highway 88), portions of Highway 88, and maybe some other local roads. These trips would offer stops along the way to see displays of wildflowers or unique areas. If you are interested in participating, please call Cindy Podsiadlo (530) 642-0648, clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com or Armond Chase at (530) 620-7006 and let us know if you can go mid-week or on weekends, and whether you prefer a half day or longer. With the cool weather and lateness of some roads being free from snow, we're still trying to determine when the first trip would be. Probably late May or early June but these would continue through summer with a trip to view the fall colors.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This spring has been a busy time for our chapter with an incredible number of activities from our spring plant sale (April 10), our first ever native garden tour (April 17), plant walk along Clear Creek with John Kipping and the Georgetown Nature Fest (April 24), and Earth Day event at the Placerville Library (May 1). To do all of this takes **VOLUNTEERS**. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed so much to bring about these chapter events. I appreciate your hard work and dedication, as well as your passion for native plants. **You are all incredible!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: BE A DOCENT AT WRIGHT'S LAKE

Once again Rich Wade is organizing wildflower walks at the Wright's Lake Campground on Saturday mornings in July through mid-August. These hikes held at 10 AM for 1-2 hours are intended as an introduction to the plants of the Wright's Lake area for those who are camping or traveling in the area. Rich is looking for CNPS volunteers to lead the hikes. Contact Rich Wade (530-644-7210; rwade@spi-ind.com) for more information.

ORDERING CNPS NAME BADGES

With our chapter membership growing, it becomes difficult to remember names. We are now taking orders for CNPS El Dorado Chapter name badges. You probably have seen some of us wearing them during meetings or events: the badges are green, 3.5 inches by 1.5 inches, the chapter name and logo (*Calochortus clavatus*) engraved in white as well as your name. So if you have forgotten what you did with yours or are new to the chapter, this is the time to place an order. Our chapter pays for half of the cost of the badge and the member for the other half, and more orders result in less cost overall (usually ranges from \$2.50 to \$3.50). Please contact Cindy Podsiadlo (530) 642-0648 or clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com with your order and how you would like your name to be spelled.

SPRING SALE UPDATE

Spring has sprung, and another Native Plant Sale has come and gone. For one day, the space between County Admin Buildings A and B was transformed into a center of education, commerce and beauty. The education came in many forms. There were beautiful books and informative brochures. There were pictorial displays, including a new invasive weeds exhibit. (Bad plants! Boo! Hiss!) Volunteers gave talks about low-maintenance landscaping with native plants, and people came all the way from Sacramento to learn their wisdom. We sold a lot of plants, the proceeds from which will pay for our normal CNPS chapter expenses, the Clark Youth Fund, and other worthy causes. The plants were varied and beautiful, courtesy of Steve and Valle Dowty, Brian Austin, Verne Pershing, Lotus Valley Natives, Cornflower Farms, High Ranch Nursery, and a few donations by chapter members. (Thank you!) As with our last few sales, drought-tolerant plants sold quite well - proof that attitudes about water use are changing for the better. Our sales really are teaching people about healthier, more sustainable ways to garden. And that's a beautiful thing.

I want to thank everyone involved in the sale - the county, who generously allowed us to use their building, the El Dorado Weed Abatement Group, who lent us materials for the invasive weeds exhibit, the nurseries who took part, and, last and best, all of our sweet, hard-working, wonderful volunteers. You make our plant sales possible- and fun!

Shellie Perry
Plant Sale Coordinator

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, come to the presentation, or join one of the hikes hosted by BLM (see p. 2 of this newsletter).

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

JULY PROGRAM LICHENS

Speaker Cheryl Beyer is a member of the California Lichen Society and the Forest Botanist on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This event will be held at 7:00 pm, July 21, Wednesday, at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

Changed Date
Third Wednesday



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

May-June 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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Cindy Podsiadlo | (530) 642-0648 | clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Armond Chase | (530) 620-7006 | chasemtkm@aol.com |
| SECRETARY | Doni Mae | (530)672-2493 | donimae2001@yahoo.com |
| TREASURER | Alice Cantelow | (530)622-5306 | greendowell@att.net |
| BOOKS AND POSTER SALES | Marty Oberlander | (530) 333-1536 | mober44@gmail.com |
| CLARK YOUTH FUND PROGRAM | Leigh Nedlo | (530) 622-8344 | leogonedlo@yahoo.com |
| CONSERVATION | Sue Britting | (530) 295-8210 | britting@earthlink.net |
| Field Trips | Shellie Perry | (530) 644-6335 | seperry55@comcast.net |
| HOSPITALITY | Marty Oberlander (Jan-Jun) | (530) 333-1536 | mober44@gmail.com |
| INVASIVE EXOTICS | Annie Walker | (530) 626-3678 | agastache@att.net |
| MEMBERSHIP | Ben Parks | (530) 626-8889 | baparks38@directcon.net |
| PLANT SALES | Shellie Perry | (530) 644-6335 | seperry55@comcast.net |
| PROGRAMS | Susan Durham | (530) 626-6736 | durhamsus@yahoo.com |
| SIERRA NEVADA YARD AND GARDEN PROGRAM | ROSEMARY CAREY | (530) 620-3631 | rosemarycarey@comcast.net |
| PUBLICITY | Rich Wade | (530) 644-7210 | rwade@spi-ind.com |
| WEB MASTER | Steve Tyron | (530) 622-6567 | steve@TyronGraphicDesign.com |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR | Sue Britting | (530) 295-8210 | britting@earthlink.net |