



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ JULY-AUGUST 2010

BUTTERFLY GARDENING IN THE FOOTHILLS

Thinking about your garden plans for the fall? Consider adding plants that attract butterflies to your garden. The following article summarized from an article by Arthur M. Shapiro, Center for Population Biology, UC Davis, offers some suggestions on how to approach the task. The full article (<http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/doc/garden/foothills>) identifies specific native plants and their associated butterflies. Check it out for ideas of what to plant this fall.

Butterfly gardening in the foothills is different from butterfly gardening in California's Central Valley. In the Valley, most of the butterfly species are weedy, highly dispersive, multiple-brooded, reach highest densities in the autumn, and depend on a combination of introduced plants (weeds and cultivated species) and irrigation for their continued presence. In the foothills, though some of these weedy species still occur, most of the butterflies are native, adapted to the foothill climate, and thus restricted to one or two broods a year in spring, and less likely to feel at home in a garden. You have many more species nearby in the foothills, but may have a lot less action to see in your garden!

Your strategy and success gardening for butterflies in the foothills will depend heavily on your landscape surroundings.

Urban/Suburban is similar to butterfly gardening in the Valley, since most of the vegetation is "artificial." Because winters are colder (and summers may be warmer, without the maritime influence below 1200 ft. near the San Francisco Delta), some of the weedy butterflies may be excluded, or may show up only late in the year and erratically (as overflow from the Valley). The farther you are from natural vegetation, the harder your job of attracting native species to the garden.

Ranchettes, isolated homes on large lots, often have quite a bit of grassland, with scattered native trees (mainly oaks; maybe Buckeye). The trees may sustain some butterfly populations, but much of the annual grassland is dominated by weeds not useful to butterflies; its fauna is likely to be poor.

Rocky areas have richer native floras and more butterfly species; so do creek bottoms. Hog wallows (ephemeral ponds in low areas between hills) may have good plants but do not support special butterflies in our area. If your lot is dominated by Yellow Star Thistle (condolences!), it is a superb nectar source and will intercept virtually everything before it reaches your garden.

In **Semi-Natural areas**, where homes are interdigitated into more-or-less-intact landscapes, gardeners can tap into the resident fauna, whatever it is. There are few resident butterflies in closed-canopy forests. Most occur in clearings, along roads, and by streams. The highest diversity in our area always occurs on rocky canyon walls with a high diversity of flowering plants. Typically, streams that flow east-west have richer butterfly faunas than those that flow north-south because there is a greater climatic and vegetational difference between north- and south-facing slopes and each plant community brings its own fauna. If you live in or near such a canyon you may see from 40 to 70 species close to home! If you live on a special soil (serpentine, gabbro, limestone) you may have lower overall diversity but get special species not found anywhere else – butterflies like John Muir's Hairstreak, *Mitoura muiri*, that feeds on MacNab and Sargent Cypress, or the Sleepy Duskywing (*Erynnis brizo lacustra*) that feeds on Leather



Oak.
Chalcidon Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas chalcidona*) on sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*). Image from

CALENDAR

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 22 (Thursday) Workshop.

Introduction to Native Bees. Chico State Herbarium presents a workshop on native bees from 9 am to 5 pm. Program will showcase native bees for people who like nature, and for those involved in land management and conservation. The workshop will promote inviting these pollinating insects to "work" and live in your garden. See website for details http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Bee_workshop_7-22-10.pdf.

July 31 (Saturday)

Walk.
Schneider Cow Camp. See details inside.

August 21 (Saturday)

Walk.
China Flat. See details inside.

September 21 (Tuesday)

Program.
To be determined. Check website for update.

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.

For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org

BUTTERFLY (cont. from page 1)

With so many different local situations to take into account, gardening hints for the foothills can only scratch the surface. Keep the following in mind:

- Few butterfly species can maintain an ongoing population within the confines of a residential lot – even a big one. If you get breeding, it will be as part of a larger “metapopulation” whose borders are constantly changing. Remember that an ongoing population requires larval host plants, pupation sites, adult food supply, and mating sites (which often means territories for males). Or just plain good juju.
- The principal function of a butterfly garden is to intercept individual butterflies as they move through an area and detain them where they can be observed and enjoyed. Occasionally, one can actually boost numbers by planting nectar sources or larval hosts, but only if these are otherwise in short supply. More often, one is just moving individuals around from one place to

another.

- Valuable natural history data can be obtained from a butterfly garden.
- Skillful planting will enable you to maximize both the number of individuals and the number of species you see, but be realistic in your expectations: don't expect endangered species to breed in your back yard.

Here are just a few examples taken from the website of plants that provide for specific butterflies.

Larval Host Plants for Native Butterflies

Bush Monkey Flower (*Mimulus* or *Diplacus aurantiacus*); shrubby and perennial Penstemon and Keckiella; Bee Plant (*Scrophularia*): hosts of the Chalcidon or Variable Checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona*). All of these plus Lippia, Plantains (*Plantago*), and garden Snapdragon are also hosts of the Buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*).

Wild Lilacs (*Ceanothus*, all species): California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*), Echo Blue (*Celastrina ladon echo*), Sepia Hairstreak (*Satyrium saepium*), Grinnell's Duskywing (*Erynnis pacuvius*), Pale Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*) (*Papilio eurymedon* – also eats Coffeeberry, *Rhamnus*).

Pearly and other Everlastings (*Gnaphalium*, *Antennaria*, *Anaphalis*): West Virginia Lady (*Vanessa virginien-sis*).

Native Nectar Plants

Yerba Santa, *Eriodictyon* (spring-early summer)

Coffeeberry, *Rhamnus* species (late spring-early summer)

Buckeye, *Aesculus californica* (late spring-early summer)

Brodiaeas in the broad sense, including *Triteleia* (spring)

Native Umbels, e.g. *Tauschia*, *Angelica* (spring-early summer)

Wild Buckwheats, *Eriogonum* species (spring-fall)

Coyotemint or Western Pennyroyal, *Monardella* species (summer)

SUMMER PLANT WALKS

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

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, seperry55@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

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

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. Please consider making a donation to this extraordinary service.



INTERNET RESOURCES

Small-Parcel Landowner's Guide to Woodland Management

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8263.pdf>

You've just moved from the city or suburbs to your dream home in the California foothills. You may have a lot of questions about rural living and your new environment. This publication will help you better understand the natural environment you now call home and how to keep your oak woodlands alive and healthy.

Native Plant Sample Garden Plans

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/garden_plans.php

CNPS is building a collection of native garden plans. If you don't find what you are looking for now, check the website again on a regular basis to see what new plans have been added. Available now:

Full Sun

- Flowering Groundcover
- Perennial Meadow

• Habitat Meadow

Habitat Garden Plans

- Smart Garden
- Habitat Meadow

The Basics of Butterfly Gardening

http://www.nababutterfly.com/How_to_Start_a_Butterfly_Garden.htm

Beginning a butterfly gardening can be as simple as choosing flowering plants that will invite adult butterflies to your garden to feed. But if you want to create a butterfly garden that will act as a sanctuary, attracting a wide variety of butterflies while also providing a place where butterflies can grow and multiply, you will first need some simple planning. By considering which plants to grow and evaluating your garden site, you can plant a butterfly garden that will help with the creation of more butterflies.

Plants for a California or Western Butterfly Garden

<http://www.laspilitas.com/butterfl.htm>

This webpage shows which California butterflies use which California native plants. This page is linked to additional information about living requirements for many of the butterfly and plant species listed.

California Native Plants and Wildlife

<http://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/wildlife-articles>

This page, hosted by Las Pilitas Nursery, has links to a number of pages describing the native plants to use to attract bees, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. As you follow the links you will find a vast amount of information on growing native plants.

Growing CA Native Plants

<http://www.laspilitas.com/>

As a general site for information on growing native plants, the Las Pilitas Nursery seems to have it all.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: RECRUITING FOR CHAPTER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

We are recruiting officers to serve on the Board of Directors for the El Dorado Chapter. All the officer positions are open and the term of office is two years. The term of office for the President and Vice President is 2011-2012. We are filling vacancies in the terms for the Secretary and Treasurer positions; their term of office is 2010-2011. Elections will be held at the November program meeting.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact Sue Britting (britting@earthlink.net; 530-295-8210).

JULY PROGRAM

SIERRA NEVADA

ENLICHENMENT:

COOPERATION AND
SHARING IN A NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT

Changed Date
Third Wednesday

Join Cheryl Beyer for an introduction to lichens with emphasis on those in the Sierra Nevada. Cheryl has been a member of the California Lichen Society (CALs) since 1995. She currently is on the CALs Board and the Conservation Committee.

"Lichens are [often] overlooked and misunderstood. When they do get noticed, they are often mistaken for a pretty moss or a nasty parasite." So wrote Laura Christman recently in *The Record Searchlight*, a Redding-based newspaper. And getting noticed is the beginning of the appreciation for these organisms – a hybrid (or symbiosis) of potentially three different kingdoms – Kingdom fungi (fungi), Kingdom protocista (algae), and Kingdom bacteria (cyanobacteria). "You have to make an effort to see them," said Ken DeCamp, a nature photographer that had a display earlier this year at Whiskeytown Recreation Area of his close-up lichen photography. "You have to get right down at eyeball level to discover the beauty of them. They are absolutely fascinating."

Over 1,600 species of lichens are reported for California. Hundreds of species adorn the Sierra Nevada. They can be found in almost any habitat, from trees, shrubs, and soil at the lowest elevation, to the exposed rock over 13,000 feet high.

Come and find out about this intriguing world!

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, July 21 (**Wednesday**) at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

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.



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

July-August 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