



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MARCH-APRIL 2011

CALENDAR

March 15 (Tuesday)

Program.
Adaptive management in the Sierra Nevada. See inside newsletter for details.

April 2 (Saturday)

Twice-yearly plant sale.
See details inside.

April 25-27

Workshop.
Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations. Hell's Half Acre, Grass Valley. For more information <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

May 3-4

Workshop.
Introduction to Riparian/Wetland Plant Identification.
Ventura River and Casitas Springs Community Center. For more information <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

May 6-8 Workshop.

Flora of the Santa Cruz Sandhills. Santa Cruz county. For more information <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2011/index.html>

May 17 (Tuesday)

Program.
Vernal Pools. See inside newsletter for details.

Evening programs are held on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Programs begin at 6:30 PM. Check details inside for location.

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



In 2010, the State Legislature passed a bill (ACR 173) declaring Native Plant Week as the third week of April. This designation 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 ways that native plants are important to Cali-

fornia. 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.

In celebration of Native Plant Week, the El Dorado Chapter has scheduled activities during that week featuring native plants in El Dorado County. This newsletter describes these activities and features articles on native plant viewing spots in the county and top ten native plants for your garden. This newsletter also announces plant walks for the Spring and our native plant sale. We are also featuring activities from the Master Gardeners and Bureau of Land Management highlighting native plants.

For those interested in activities beyond our county, visit the CNPS website (www.cnps.org) for a listing of events being held throughout the state in recog-

NATIVE PLANT WEEK: CHAPTER EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
4/17 (Sun.)	Check out of one of the Ten Hotspots (see article inside)
4/18 (Mon.)	Walk at Kanaka Valley; 4-6 pm (details inside)
4/19 (Tues.)	Walk at Soap Plant Lane, Cameron Park: 2-4 pm (details inside)
4/20 (Wed.)	Propagation Group meeting and tour of Institute of Forest Genetics native plant garden; 1 pm. Contact Cindy Podsiadlo for more information (clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com); (530) 642-0648)
4/21 (Thurs.)	Check out new books on native plants at the library (details inside)
4/22 (Fri.)	Hike at Buck's Bar trail: 10 am to 12 pm (details inside) Cameron Park Library: Wildflowers of California (slide show at 10:30 am), and Discovering Native Plants: Activities for Kids (11 am to 3 pm); see website closer to date for specific activities
4/23 (Sat.)	Field trip to Dave Moore for Master Gardeners (see inside for details) Earth Day Celebration (Placerville Library)

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need help setting up in the morning and assisting throughout the day on Saturday. If you are interested in helping out, Please contact Shellie Perry (530) 644-6335.

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

SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

9 AM TO 1 PM

Spring is nearly here and it's time for our native plant sale. Once again we will be offering a great selection of native and drought tolerant plants that will grow well in our area. Books on gardening with native plants and natural history will also be available for sale.

If you are new to gardening with native plants, there will be many 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. We only accept cash or checks.

AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

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 fairgrounds is at 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, right next to the Raley's Supermarket.

SPRING PLANT WALKS

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

MARCH 12 (SATURDAY)

DAVE MOORE WEED-PULL AND PICNIC

Meeting Time and Location: 9:30 am at the Placerville Raleys, or 10:00 am at the Dave Moore Nature Area, off Highway 49.

Duration: Half-day.

Description: We will walk along the trails, pulling exotic weeds along the way, until we get to the river, where we will eat lunch while enjoying the river and waving at the kayakers. A limited number of weed-wrenches will be provided.

Level of Difficulty: Easy. Nice. Pretty. Hopefully, cool.

Bring: Hat, workgloves, water, lunch. Hand clippers are useful for girdling huge, old Brooms that cannot be pulled, as well as for cutting back the weedy brambles that are encroaching on the beach.

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

APRIL 5 (TUESDAY)

RED SHACK TRAIL, EL DORADO COUNTY

Meeting time and location: 10 am at the Red Shack Trailhead on Highway 49. From Placerville go north on Highway 49 about 3.5 miles. The red shack building is on the left side of the road, and the parking area is on the right side of the road. Parking is limited, so carpooling is advised.

Duration: 2-3 hours

Description: This trail starts out on a north-east-facing slope through shaded Canyon Live Oak and Douglas Fir Forest at ~1700' elevation. The trail then leads west toward the mine along the north-facing rim of the canyon of the South Fork of the American River. There are dramatic river views in the bottom

of this deep canyon. This is a teaching walk, intended for both Master Gardeners and CNPS. It is ideal for beginning plant students who want to learn family characteristics. There is a plant list which is available by emailing the leader.

Level of difficulty: Easy, with nearly level trail

Bring: Hat and sunscreen, water, lunch, sturdy shoes.

Contact: Rosemary Carey; rosemary-carey@comcast.net; (530) 620-3631

APRIL 18 (MONDAY)

KANAKA VALLEY

Meeting time and location: 4 pm at green gate on left side near end of Kanaka Valley Road. See map for location at:

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/folsom/kanaka_valley.Par.46842.File.dat/KanakaValleyMap_web.pdf

Duration: 2 hours

Description: We will wander through oak woodlands and riparian areas in this lovely valley.

Level of difficulty: Easy; flat.

Bring: Hat, sunscreen, water.

Contact: Sue Britting; britting@earthlink.net; (530) 295-8210

APRIL 19 (TUESDAY)

SOAP PLANT LANE, EL DORADO COUNTY

Meeting time and location: 2 pm, at Calderwood Road. From Highway 50, exit at North Shingle/Ponderosa Road; north over freeway and left on Wild Chaparral Drive. Turn right on Many Oaks Lane; take the first major left which is the continuation of Many Oaks Lane (Whispering Pines Lane is the wrong way.) Turn left onto Calderwood Road, go one block and park where Calderwood Road makes a turn.

Duration: 1-2 hours

Description: Walk around the Cameron Park

unit of the Pine Hills Preserve and see the chaparral at its best, in its spring glory. Expect to see western redbud, creeping sage, and 2 species of California wild lilac. This is an ideal walk for beginning plant students as we will discuss the unique soil of this area which supports chaparral and foothill woodland.

Level of difficulty: Easy, a little up and down, but mostly level

Bring: Hat and sunscreen, water, lunch, sturdy shoes.

Contact: Rosemary Carey; rosemary-carey@comcast.net; (530) 620-3631

APRIL 22 (FRIDAY)

BUCK'S BAR

Meeting time and location: 10 am at the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Bucks Bar Road, in the dirt parking area on the north side.

Duration: 2 hours

Description: Explore the flora of the unique, granite rich area near Bucks Bar. Located just 25 minutes south of Placerville in the Cosumnes River watershed, this area may make you think you've landed in Yosemite. Enjoy a leisurely short walk, with alternating areas of dense wildflowers, open forest, and woodland. Those who wish may descend further into the canyon for a peek at the North Fork Cosumnes and its rushing spring waters.

Level of difficulty: Easy to moderate; uneven ground.

Bring: Hat, sunscreen, water.

Contact: Alice Cantelow; greendowell@att.net

APRIL 23 (SATURDAY)

DAVE MOORE NATURE AREA

Meeting time and location: 9 am at the nature area. About 3 miles north of Coloma on Highway 49; nature area is on left, drive in to parking area.

Duration: Half-day

(cont. p. 5)

GARDENING IN EL DORADO COUNTY: TOP TEN NATIVE PLANTS

Listed below are eight deer resistant plants and two must-have local ornamental beauties for the Sierra foothills of El Dorado County (Sunset Zone 7). Celebrate California Native Plant Week by planting some of these fine specimens. Compiled by Rosemary Carey.

Silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) is a very drought-tolerant **small shrub**: it can be a rain-only plant, and is also extremely deer-resistant. Occasional deep summer irrigation will keep more leaves on the plant, but beware of over-watering this chaparral plant as too much water will dramatically shorten its life span. This local native is a beautiful dry bank cover in full sun, especially on nutrient-poor soil, because it has nitrogen-fixing bacteria in root nodules which allow it to pioneer road cuts, rocky soils and even subsoil. From late March to June, nearly foot-long spikes of violet-blue, sweet-pea shaped flowers cover the silver foliage. It provides seed for ground-feeding birds, especially quail, nectar for hummingbirds, and nectar and pollen for bumblebees. It should be pruned after flowering to counteract its natural legginess and encourage compactness.

Sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) is another very drought-tolerant **small shrub**: it can be a rain-only plant, and is also extremely deer resistant. Occasional deep summer irrigation will prolong the typical May flowering period, sometimes for many months, but beware of over-watering this chaparral plant as too much water will dramatically shorten its life span. This local native is beautiful as a dry bank cover in full sun, also can tolerate nutrient-poor soil. Its buff-orange, funnel-shaped flowers are visited by hummingbirds. It should be pruned after flowering to counteract its natural legginess and encourage compactness.

Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) is a very drought-tolerant **medium-sized shrub**: it can be a rain-only plant in light shade, and it is very deer resistant, as close to deer proof as one can get. Beware of over-watering this Southern California chaparral plant. This spreading shrub gets 5' tall by 6' broad, with lavender flowers in ball-like clusters. 'Whirly Blue' and 'Poza Blue' are hybrids with purple sage (*Salvia clevelandii* x *Salvia leucophylla*) with large clusters of almost-violet blossoms. It is a beautiful dry bank cover in light shade, or with occasional deep irrigation in full sun. Prune these rapid-growing, brittle shrubs fairly hard in early fall to create a more compact habit and to promote increased flowering. The leaves are very fragrant. It is an excellent hummingbird plant for its volumes of long-lasting flower displays. It also attracts bumblebees.

Holly grapes (*Berberis aquifolium* var. *dictyota*, B. 'Golden Abundance', B. *nevinii*, and B. *pinnata*) were formerly in the genus *Mahonia*, a name still used in the nursery trade and also a common name they still retain. They are **medium-sized to large shrubs**, which are rhizomatous, and will spread to form thickets. Like the sages, they are very deer resistant, as close to deer proof as one can get. There are six species and/or cultivars to choose from, all having interesting leaf color, bright yellow flowers, and berries.

Deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) is a showy and attractive **large bunchgrass** which may be 3-6' wide and 5' tall in flower. This perennial, warm-season grass has a very symmetrical growth form, radiating out from a single point, and flowing over to touch the ground, with tawny, narrow flower spikes rising straight up above the ottoman-like round mound. This local native is a full sun plant which performs unreliably in the shade. It makes a dramatic speci-

men, or it can be used in drifts where each plant is given enough room to develop. It is extremely deer-resistant.

California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum* but often still sold under its former name *Zauschneria californica*) is a summer to fall-flowering **subshrub or perennial** with bright red tubular flowers. It is very deer resistant. It is an excellent choice for the hummingbird garden, flowering much later than other hummingbird attractants. Most cultivars are sprawling or mounding. One may buy the species or a cultivar; all are rhizomatous. Many cultivars are available with variation in leaf and flower color.

Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*) is another very deer resistant **small subshrub** which has showy dense heads of lavender-pink to purple blossoms and a pungent, mint fragrance. This compact local native reaches 1-3' high in bloom in late spring and early summer. It is a butterfly plant.

Dwarf coyote brush 'Pigeon Point' (*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point') is a reliable **groundcover** which has medium green year-round, grows up to 2' tall and can get more than 6' wide. It's an ideal soil holder with deep roots. It has a lax, undulating habit. Its flowers are inconspicuous but it's a beautiful backdrop to showier plants: one designer describes it as a member of the chorus, not the star. It's also attractive just by itself. It may be sheared or even mowed as a lawn alternative. On south and west-facing exposures, it needs drip irrigation to become established. Once established, this is a carefree groundcover. It is deer resistant.

Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) is the one of the most beautiful spring-flowering large shrubs in the Sierra foothills. This local native is a **multi-trunked tall shrub** which can be pruned to be a **small tree**. It does best with occasional deep watering in summer: at most, deep irrigation every 2-4 weeks after the plants are well-established. Below 2000', it flowers in early April, with glowing rose-purple pea-shaped flowers. Shading significantly reduces flower production. The large, rounded leaves have heart-shaped bases and are notched at the tip. Initially apple green, thin and delicate, the leaves develop a leathery texture as they age to bluish green. In colder areas, the leaves may have a fall color display of red or yellow leaves before they drop in the fall. It is a beautiful dry bank cover in full sun. It should be caged until it is above browse height, as deer will browse it.

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) is also known as Christmas Berry or California Holly because of its bright red berries which ripen in late November and December. The berries contrast with the evergreen leaves which are deep green above and bright green below. A **large, multi-trunked shrub**, it can also be pruned to be a **small tree** up to 15' high. This local native is a star performer on well-drained banks and hillsides in full sun, and is tolerant of light shade. Excessive shading and retention of moisture around older leaves can lead to foliar diseases. For this reason, plants should be spaced so that they barely touch when mature, generally a minimum of 8' on center. The hedge-clipping style of pruning should be avoided. It is very drought tolerant, requiring little or no supplemental summer watering depending on exposure, depth and texture of soil; at most, deep irrigation every 2-4 weeks after the plants are well-established. Deer will eat new shoots and leaves if they are accessible, especially in the late summer and fall when green plants are limited. Young plants should be caged until above browse height. A garden must for the wildlife garden: wren-tit, northern flicker, hermit thrush, western bluebird, American robin, northern mockingbird, and cedar waxwing all eat toyon berries.



NATIVE PLANT HOT SPOTS IN EL DORADO COUNTY

We have created a list of local botanical hot spots that are easy (relatively!) to find and don't require much walking to enjoy. We have plant lists for many of these areas and plan to post them on our website in the near future (www.eldoradocnps.org). Some of these hot spots are also featured as walks this Spring. Compiled by Annie Walker and Shellie Perry.

Traverse Creek (near Garden Valley)

From Placerville, take Highway 193 towards Georgetown; before Georgetown take Meadow Brook Road to Traverse Creek area. This is a National Forest Special Interest Area for serpentine plants, serpentine minerals, and hiking or horseback riding. Two special plants can be seen, Layne's butterweed (*Packera layneae*) and tripod buckwheat (*Eriogonum tripodum*). No restrooms; easy walking with marked trails.

Ponderosa 50 Preserve (Cameron Park)

Pine Hill complex of rare plants. Take Highway 50 to Ponderosa Road. North side of the freeway, drive along the frontage road to the west, take Many Oaks to the right (north) at the Church, then a left to access Soap Plant Lane, then south on Calderwood to Sandalwood. Park near the corner and walk out into the preserve which is bounded by Calderwood Road on the east and the freeway on the south. No restrooms. Easy walking. No trail. Property is not signed so follow directions carefully.

Red Shack Mine Trail (Placerville Area)

Off Highway 49 about 3.5 miles north of Placerville. Park near monument on right side of highway. From parking area, keep left

EL DORADO COUNTY LIBRARY: BOOKS ON NATIVE PLANTS

The holdings in the county's library system include a good number of books on California's native plants. Covering the general identification of native plants, gardening, and Native American uses, the library is a great resource for getting to know the plants that live around you. You can check out the library's holdings by using the search window on their website (<http://www.eldoradolibrary.org/info.htm>).

In honor of California Native Plant Week, the El Dorado

(don't take the trail down to the river) and you will walk along an old road with lots of maidenhair fern. The trail ends at the old mine, where you can enjoy the view across the canyon. Along the way you can see liverworts, maidenhair ferns, five finger fern, (*Adiantum jordanii*). California hop tree, (*Ptelea crenulata*) is known from the area. No restrooms. Easy hike.

The Fleming Meadows and *Anemone oregana* (Pollock Pines)

Sly Park (Jenkinsen Lake) area, just past the second bridge and across from the Bumpy Meadows parking lot. Restrooms. Parking Fee. An old forest logging road which connects to the Fleming Meadows Hiking trails. Easy hike.

Mt. Murphy Road (Coloma)

For general foothill wildflowers. This is within Coloma State Park, and there is a \$8 fee to park. Mt. Murphy road is passable by high clearance vehicles, but walking gives you a chance to see many beautiful wildflowers. If interested, walk a short distance south on Bayne Road to see Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), a non-native plant brought to the area by the Chinese settlers, beside the roadside fence. Restrooms available in state park.

Dave Moore Nature Trail (near Coloma)

Easy trails and river access. *Amanita phalloides* a poisonous mushroom is found there. Restrooms. Easy hike. Parking is free.

El Dorado Trail (Placerville)

Only place to see osoberry, a foothill endemic. Free parking at the bus station on Mosquito Road. Exit on Highway 50 to Mosquito Road. Osoberry (*Oemlaria cerasiformis*) is a short distance east on the trail and prior to the tunnel at Dimity Lane. Restrooms. Easy hike. Plant list.

Drive to Fairplay: Wildflowers and Wine

See roadside Clarkias, deergrass, meadow wildflowers in several places. In the past, the wetlands along this road are just beds of beautiful spring wildflowers. At the end of your drive you can visit some of the wineries. No plant list. Most wineries have restrooms. Cautionary; this is a busy and narrow country road, utilize pull outs for safety.

Kanaka Valley (Rescue)

The newest addition to the Pine Hill plant preserve system. Foothill chaparral with blue oaks, chamise. Plant walk on April 18 (Monday), 4-6 pm (see Spring Hikes for details). No restrooms. Parking is free along Kanaka Valley Road.

Chapter will be donating five books on native plants to the El Dorado County Library system. The books were selected based on a review of the library's current holdings. The titles we will be donating are:

- California Native Plants for the Garden (Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien)
- California Plant Families West of the Sierran Crest and Deserts (Glenn Keator)
- Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Wayne Phillips)
- Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses- Gardening with California Monocots (Nora Harlow and Kristin Jakob)
- Wildflowers of Nevada & Placer Counties (Redbud Chapter, CNPS)

SPRING PLANT WALKS

(cont. from page 2)

APRIL 23 (CONT.)

Description: This easy loop trail along the South Fork of the American River meanders through foothill oak woodland before coming out to the riparian zone along the river. We'll walk through several habitats exploring wildflowers as well as a huge madrone tree and viewing artifacts leftover from the mining days.

Level of difficulty: 1.5 miles or less; easy, a little up and down, but mostly level

Bring: Hat and sunscreen, water, lunch, sturdy shoes.

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

APRIL 30 (SATURDAY)

LAKE NATOMA BLUFFS, EASTERN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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

Duration: Half-day

Description: The steep cliffs west of Lake Natoma are not natural; they were created by gold-mining activity. Nevertheless, they are beautiful and botanically interesting. Along with the usual *Brodiaea*s and *Clarkias*, we can expect to see *Lathyrus jepsonii* v. *californicus*, *Styrax officinalis*, *Lupinus benthamii*, an unusual form of *Layia fremontii*, (think of *Tidytip*s without the tidy tips) and a large, showy *Mystery Phacelia*. We may even find a Pacific Rattlesnake basking on a rock.

Level of Difficulty: 2 miles; easy. Mostly flat, with a couple of quite short, steep bits.

Bring: Sturdy walking shoes, hat water, lunch or snack.

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

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 30	Cameron Park
May 7	Pine Hill
May 21	Pine Hill
June 4	Salmon Falls

Trips start at 9 a.m. and are limited to 25 participants. Participants must pre-register with the Pine Hill Preserve. For more information or to sign up for a tour, contact Graciela Hinchshaw, preserve manager, at (916) 941-3134 (ghinchshaw@blm.gov) or Wynia at (916) 941-3135 (JWynia@blm.gov).

MAY 7 (SATURDAY)

DUTCH CREEK, COLOMA

Meeting Time and Location: 9:30 a.m. at the north end of the Mt. Murphy Road bridge off of Highway 49 in Coloma State Park. There is limited parking on park property at the bridge and more on the south side of the river (in town); the park charges \$8 for parking payable at the museum.

Duration: Half-day

Description: We will hike about 1/4 mile on the road to the trailhead and about 1 mile up Dutch Creek to view its waterfalls. The creek is on recently acquired and totally unimproved land in the State Park at Coloma. We will walk beside a steep drop along the creek for a while, navigating some wet spots and downed trees. This is an exploratory hike; be prepared to avoid poison oak and maybe rattlesnakes (though I never meet them).

Level of Difficulty: 3 miles; moderate; much of the way is level but there is some climbing near the end.

Bring: Sturdy walking shoes, hat water, lunch or snack.

Contact: Doni Mae; (530) 672-2493; donimae2001@yahoo.com

MAY 21 (SATURDAY)

OLMSTEAD LOOP, COOL

Meeting time and location: 10 am at the Olmstead Loop parking lot picnic table by the big bare cottonwood tree. From Cool (junction of Highways 49 and 193), go north on Highway 49 one block and turn left on Saint Florian Court. Parking is \$10. **Alternative** free parking may be available at the strip mall located on the west side of Hwy. 49 between the highway intersection and Saint Florian Court. Park near the Cool Animal Clinic and the Cool Fitness Gym. Look for the fenced alley for walkers to the Olmstead Loop parking lot.

Duration: 3-5 hours

Description: This will be our first trip on the Auburn State Recreation Area's Olmstead Loop, where we will do a loop of 5 or 6 miles through open and closed foothill oak woodland with a wide variety of spring wildflowers. This trail also crosses seasonal streams with riparian vegetation and skirts some ponds, so binoculars may come in handy for birding. Additional attractions are Native American grinding rocks and historic homestead remnants.

Level of difficulty: Moderate, because of eroded trails, primitive water crossings, and other users (equestrians, mountain bikers, and runners.)

Bring: Hat and sunscreen, water, lunch, sturdy shoes.

Contact: Rosemary Carey; rosemary-carey@comcast.net; (530) 620-3631

MARCH PROGRAM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IN THE SIERRA NEVADA

Kim Ingram, northern site representative (Foresthill/Auburn) for the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP), will talk generally about the SNAMP project and will focus in on the forest health team and fuels treatments that are beneficial to the study area.

SNAMP is a joint effort between local, state and federal government agencies and the University of California to develop best forest management practices. UC researchers are studying the effects of forest thinning treatments conducted by the US Forest Service to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Their study topics include forest health, water quality and quantity, wildlife and public participation. The northern site study area is located in the Tahoe National Forest and includes two headwater sites that lead into the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River.

This event will be held at 6:30 pm, March 15 at the Eldorado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road (south of Highway 50), Placerville.

MAY PROGRAM VERNAL POOLS—MAGNIFICENT MUD PUDDLES!

Come explore the amazing world of Vernal Pools! These seasonal wetlands found throughout the Central Valley are composed of a unique and diverse assemblage of plants and invertebrates that are adapted to start life in water yet survive the dry, arid summers of California. With over 90% of California's vernal pools already lost to farming and development, it is extremely important to protect what is left. Jinnah Benn has a B.S. in Biology from Humboldt State University. She grew up in the Lotus Valley but did not know what a vernal pool was until she returned to the Sacramento area after college. She has since fallen in love with vernal pools and has spent eight years working with vernal pool systems. She now works for the Army Corps of Engineers in the Regulatory Division and is dedicated to honoring the Corp's goal of "no net loss" of wetlands.

This event will be held at 6:30 pm, May 17 at the Eldorado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road (south of Highway 50), Placerville.



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

March-April 2011

SPRING PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
9 am to 1 pm
EL DORADO COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
 SEE DETAILS INSIDE



**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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Learn more about State CNPS at: www.cnps.org