



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ JULY-AUGUST 2011

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT CAMPING TRIP

AUGUST 6-7, 2011, EL DORADO NATIONAL FOREST

CALENDAR

July 19 (Tuesday)

Program.
Moth and butterflies of El Dorado County. See inside for details.

July 28 (Thursday)

Workshop.
Introduction to Native Bees as Pollinators. Chico State Herbarium.
<http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/>

September 20 (Tuesday)

Program.
Native Ground covers for El Dorado County. See inside for details.

Sept. 22-24 (Thursday-Saturday)

Workshop.
Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert. Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Station Check <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/> for details on registration.

October 4 (Tuesday)

Workshop.
Field Techniques for Recording and Reporting Invasive Plants. Location: Tahoe City. Hosted by Cal-IPC. See website for details: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/>

September 18 (Sunday)

Workshop.
Insect-induced Plant Galls of California. Location: Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley. See website for details: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2011/index.html#Sep18>

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

Join the California Native Plant Society and the U.S. Forest Service on the first weekend in August for a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt in the El Dorado National Forest in a search for rare moonworts!

We will look for these tiny ferns in creeks, seeps, and wet meadows. These ferns have been found on nearby private lands, and good potential habitat exists on the USFS lands.

Trip Details... Meet at the Loon Lake Boat Ramp Parking Lot at 10:30AM on Saturday, August 6th. Directions are available at http://www.deercrossingcamp.com/acrodocs/loon_lake_map3.pdf. Be prepared to hike through some wet areas, and search for some very low-growing plants (1-20cm tall!). We have some campsites reserved at Loon Lake Campground for those staying the whole weekend, but you may join us for a single day as well. We also have a campsite available on Friday night for those who would like to come early. RSVP or send questions to

Danny Slakey (dslakey@cnps.org). Due to limited parking at the campsite, car-pooling is suggested, and can be arranged by the trip organizer, Danny Slakey.

Some of the moonworts we might encounter are shown here.



Botrychium lunaria
Photo: Dr. Amadej Trnkoczy



Botrychium ascendens
Photo: Steve Matson



Botrychium pumicola
Photo: Keir Morse

For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org

LEAD A WRIGHT'S LAKE WILDFLOWER WALK IN LATE JULY OR AUGUST

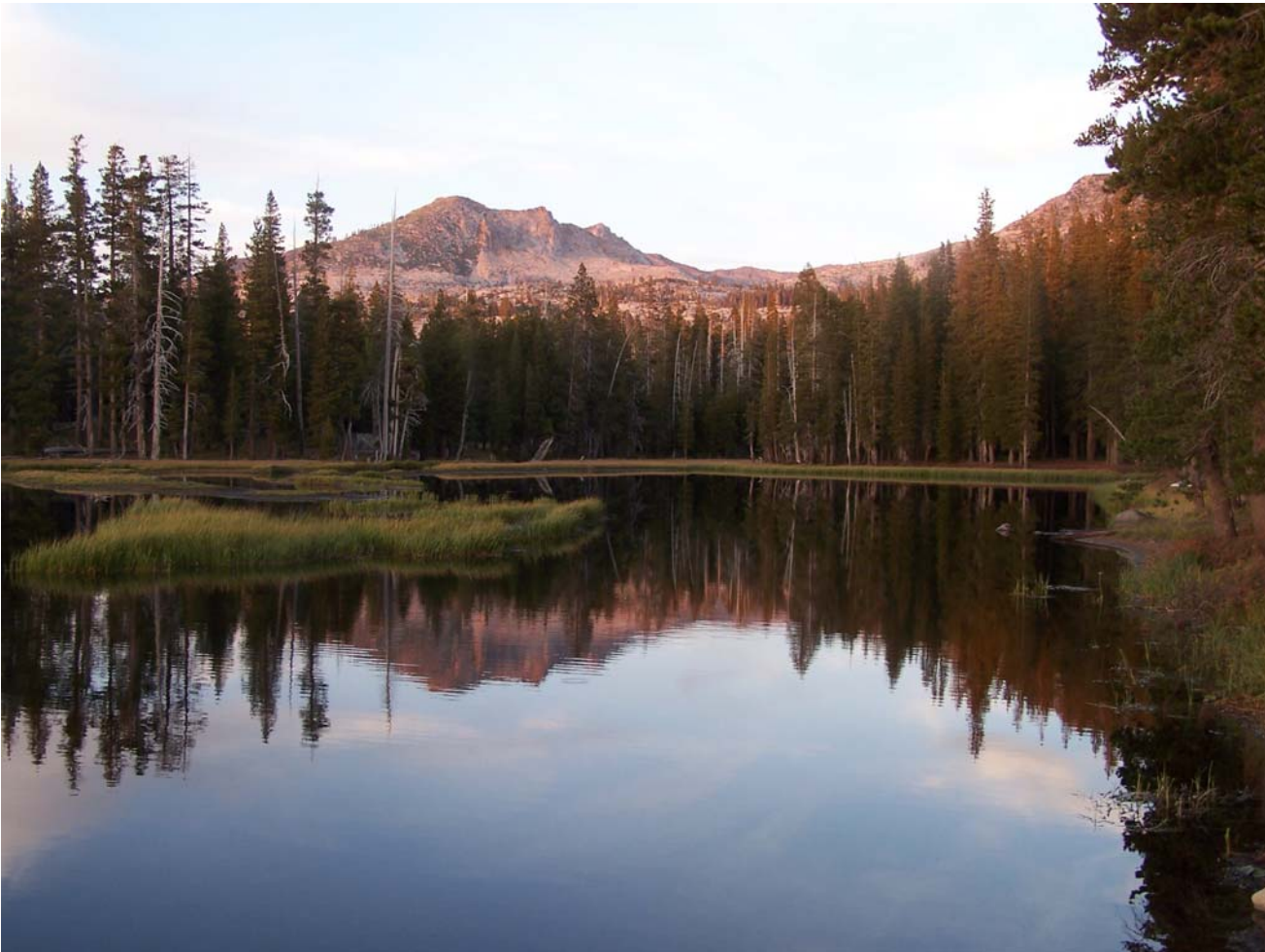
In the summer of 2006, Board Member Rich Wade started an innovative partnership between the Chapter and the Eldorado National Forest: wildflower walks at Wright's Lake. As he wrote in the CNPS Bulletin, "Wright's Lake offered the perfect combination of nature-loving campers and a diverse, showy flora. Nestled in a red fir-lodgepole forest at 7,000 feet, the lake features a variety of plant habitats, a complex of hiking trails, and a tranquil setting." For those who haven't yet visited Wright's Lake, it's one of the most easily accessible gems of the Forest. In addition to the lovely high mountain lake, it is a trailhead for entry into the Desolation Wilderness Area, and thus popular with hikers as well as family camping parties, especially from Sacramento and the Bay Area. Our Chapter website:

<http://www.eldoradocnps.org/places.php> has information and driving directions for Wright's Lake.

Over the five year period that wildflower walks have been held, resources for walk leaders have been developed. There is good introductory information on the spectacular geology and physical habitat features around the lake, such as moraines and gravelly glacial deposits, rock barrens, and streams. There is a comprehensive plant list. A very user-friendly list of the most frequently seen flowers and shrubs for each habitat type will also be available this summer. For those who don't feel ready to lead a walk, accompany a leader for training so that you can see just how fun wildflower walks here are. Contact coordinator Rich Wade at rwade@spi-ind.com or at 530.644.7210 to lead a walk, or to be paired up as a docent trainee. Help others discover and value the natural history and beautiful wildflowers and flowering shrubs of the Sierra Nevada as you do.

While past years' wildflower walks have begun in June or early July, this year's walks have been pushed back due to the heavy snow pack. Wright's Lake campground will open this year on July 21. Walk leaders are being sought from July 23rd through the end of August. Wildflower walks are held on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. They start off from the Twin Lakes trailhead on the east side of the lake, reached by taking the road past the campgrounds to the large parking lot at the road's end. The trailhead meeting point is on the north (downhill) end of the parking lot. Walk leaders should arrive early for the 10 a.m. walk as this parking lot quickly fills up. The walk route is short, flattish, and easy, suitable for all but the very youngest and oldest. Walks are generally about 1 hour long, although this may be extended if there's interest. Common plant names are preferred in order to reach the largest number of people.

Rosemary Carey



Wright's Lake
Photo: Rich Wade

INTRODUCING THE EL DORADO CHAPTER WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY

Our Chapter website www.eldoradocnps.org was recently remodeled by webmaster Steve Tyron, who greatly expanded the content. Energized by this great-looking and informative upgrade, we have decided to add a new feature: a website photo gallery. This is intended as a place where members can show their native plant and associated wildlife (pollinators and those who eat, nest in, or otherwise make use of native plants) photos. While identified subjects are ideal, unidentified subjects are also welcome – someone may be able to identify your mystery plant or animal for you.

How to Submit a Photo:

- Make sure you own the photograph or have permission to use it.
- Crop, brighten, sharpen, and otherwise enhance it so that the picture best conveys your subject.
- DO NOT EXCEED 500 pixels tall by 800 pixels wide.
- Include the photographer's name, the date the picture was taken, and the place it was taken.
- Include the common name and the scientific name (Genus and species) if possible.
- Include a caption if you would like one.
- Email the photo to Steve Tyron (artdoc@calweb.com).

Check out the chapter photo page for details on free software that can be used to make photo corrections and file reductions for those who don't own this type of software.

Rosemary Carey

SUMMER PLANT WALKS

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

**ALL TRIP DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
CALL TO CONFIRM**

JULY 23 (SATURDAY; DATE MAY CHANGE) CARSON PASS TO FROG LAKE (ALPINE COUNTY)

Meeting time and location: 9:00 A.M., at the Perry household.

Duration: All day

Description: From the Carson Pass Red Lake overlook, we will walk a short way down a dirt road, then follow a little snow-melt creek that takes us up to the "back" side of

UPGRADES TO THE STATE WEBSITE www.CNPS.org

CNPS has recently upgraded our Web interface, the technology that provides visitors to our main website the ability to join CNPS, make a donation, or get information about our planned giving program online. This upgrade will provide new and existing CNPS members with additional options to view their gift records, register for statewide events such as the 2012 Conservation Conference, and sign up for professional workshops, all through a secure member login and password. Eventually we hope to send special messages, newsletters, and alerts tailored to our members' interests through this new interface.

Existing members can register online by going to www.cnps.org and clicking on the Join/Renew or Support CNPS buttons. Existing and new members will navigate to a new page to register a user name and password. Immediately upon registering, members or visitors can make a donation, view an event calendar, sign up for a new membership, or register for statewide events. After 24 to 48 hours of completing the registration process, new or existing members will receive a confirmation email and can log back into the site to view their giving history, renew an existing membership, and receive special messages.

If you have any questions or feedback about the new site, please email cnps@cnps.org.

Frog Lake, from fertile Red-fir forest to rocky, alpine ridge top. It is beautiful, and relatively isolated. There may be a charge to park.

Level of Difficulty: Moderately easy. Around 500 feet elevation gain, and a bit of a scramble at the top.

Bring: Lunch, water, hat, bug juice, something warm. Sturdy walking shoes REQUIRED.

Contact: Shellie Perry; 530-644-6335; seper-ry55@comcast.net

DATE TO BE DECIDED LATER

Benwood Meadows, El Dorado County

Meeting Time and Location: 8:00 A.M., Pollock Pines Safeway

Duration: full day

Description: We will start at the Adventure Mountain trail head, and follow the Pacific Crest Trail up to Lower and Upper Benwood

JULY PROGRAM BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS OF WESTERN EL DORADO COUNTY

Get to know the butterflies and moths of El Dorado County at this informative presentation by Al Ludtke. Al Ludtke was formerly the entomologist at the Live Butterfly Exhibit at Six Flags Marine World, Vallejo. He has a Bachelor's of Science in entomology from U.C. Davis and has a butterfly and moth collection of 30,000 - 40,000 specimens from California, Nevada, Arizona, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Peru. He has collected for the CA Dept of Food and Agriculture and has a moth species named after him.

This event will be held at 6:30 pm, July 19 at the Eldorado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road (south of Highway 50), Placerville.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM NATIVE GROUND COVERS FOR EL DORADO COUNTY

Join Rosemary Carey for an informative presentation on ground covers (less than 2 feet tall) to use in landscaping in our county.

This event will be held at 6:30 pm, September 20 at the Eldorado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Road (south of Highway 50), Placerville.

Meadows. We will see upper montane forest, some rocky, open habitat, and lots of wet-meadow favorites, including *Spiranthes* orchids, *Gentians* and *Leather Gape Fern* (*Botrichium multifidum*).

Level of Difficulty: Moderately easy. About 3.5 to 4 miles.

Bring: Water, lunch, hat, sturdy walking shoes, skeeter spray.

Contact: Shellie Perry, 530-644-6335; seper-ry55@comcast.net

TRIP DATES TO BE DECIDED LATER

Monitor Pass

Red Lake Peak

Due to the high snow pack the trips above had to be delayed. If you are interested in a trip to either of these locations, call Shellie Perry, 530-644-6335; seper-ry55@comcast.net.



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

July-August 2011



CALIFORNIA
 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**DEDICATED TO THE
 PRESERVATION OF
 CALIFORNIA'S NATIVE FLORA**

The California Native Plant Society is a state-wide 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