



# GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ September-October 2012

**NEW DATE & LOCATION!**

## SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM: STEPS FOR CREATING A MEADOW ON A SOUTH-FACING SLOPE

### CALENDAR

#### September 15 (Saturday)

Plant sale  
Master Gardener's plant sale. See details inside.

#### September 25, (Tuesday)

Program.  
Creating a meadow. See details on this page.

#### October 6 (Saturday)

CNPS native plant sale.  
9 am to 1 pm at the El Dorado Government Center under the breezeway between Buildings A and B. 360 Fair Lane, Placerville,

#### October 13 (Saturday)

General interest workshop.  
Perfumes, Pigments, and Poisons - an Introduction to the Chemistry of Plants. Chico State Herbarium. [http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Chemistry\\_of\\_Plants\\_10-13-12.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Chemistry_of_Plants_10-13-12.pdf)

#### October 27 Or 28

Workshop  
Tending the Wild. Sponsored by the California Indian Basket Weavers Association. See inside for details.

*Evening programs are held on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, and begin at 6:30 PM in the conference room of the Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane, Placerville.*

Placerville landscape contractor Verne Pershing ([www.cowboygardener.com](http://www.cowboygardener.com); 530.644.2000) has created many California native plant gardens in recent years. Tonight he will present a case history of a meadow he made by planting one thousand plugs and liners, using primarily plants he and local grower Steve Dowty had grown. (Additional stock came from Cornflower Farms and Hedgerow Farms.) Learn what is required to create a sustainable meadow on a challenging south-facing slope with porous granitic soils.

This program is one of a series on growing native plants in the home landscape that is being featured by the chapter this year. See note inside for the programs scheduled for November and the final program of this series in January.

This program will be held in the conference room of the Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane, Placerville. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm for plant identification, business, and socializing. The program starts at about 7:10 p.m. and generally includes a slide presentation.

**FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6**  
**9 am to 1 pm**  
**EL DORADO GOVERNMENT CENTER, PLACERVILLE**

This Fall's sale will be held in the El Dorado Government Center, 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, under the breezeway between Buildings A and B. 360 Fair Lane, Placerville, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Buildings A and B are across the street from the El Dorado County Main Library.

We offer grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees suitable for the foothills of El Dorado County. There will also be an extremely diverse offering of books on native plant horticulture, the basics of botany, and field guides for all aspects of natural history. Cash and checks only: all sales final!

**For updates between newsletters**  
[www.eldoradocnps.org](http://www.eldoradocnps.org)

# Message from the President: Come Join the Fall Plant Sale Team

The sun is setting earlier each day and summer is slowly shifting to autumn. Chapter Chairs and their assistants are now preparing for our signature public outreach event, our Fall Native Plant Sale, now less than a month away. The Chapter's Fall plant sales have typically been held on the first Saturday in October, and this year will again conform to that easy to remember day. So save the date: October 6<sup>th</sup>, and please consider coming out to join the Sale team.

The Sale Team is headed by our long-time Plant Sale Chair Shellie Perry, a great person who always "gets 'er done" despite obstacles that would have left others running screaming toward the exits. (She's also one of our Chapter's most knowledgeable botanists who leads plant hikes in and around El Dorado County, definitely someone worth



knowing.) For the next month, she will need members willing to pitch in on some of the upfront tasks, such as:

- collecting boxes from grocery stores
- posting flyers around the County at public places and businesses

If you can help, please contact her at 530.644.6335 or at [SEPer-ry55@comcast.net](mailto:SEPer-ry55@comcast.net)

Sale day does require a lot of people: the more the merrier. Volunteer for as little as 2 hours, or the whole day: there are always tasty refreshments on hand to bolster the team and give a break for socializing. Most of the jobs require only a cheerful attitude:

## 7 – 9 am

- Setting up sandwich board signs at street intersections:
- Setting up tables
- carrying plants from the trucks
- putting price labels in plant containers
- putting plant labels and horticultural placards on plants

## 9 – 1 pm

- boxing and carrying plants to customers' cars
- distributing membership applications to customers
- helping customers to select the right plant for their site

## 12:45 – 1:30 pm

- carrying tables to vehicles
- sweeping up
- collecting sandwich board signs at street intersections

Once we're all set up and the early rush is over, Sale day becomes a lot of fun, a chance to meet fellow Chapter members, all of whom are great folks. Many are also very experienced native plant gardeners so you can also painlessly learn about plants appropriate for your home landscape by asking around to see who is dealing with whatever afflicts you: deer, gophers, clay soil, southern exposure, soil erosion, etc. Peer to peer learning – the kind that results from years of grappling with a problem – can really help out gardeners dealing with tough sites. Since Fall is definitely the right time to plant natives, you can buy your plants for planting at the optimum time – the beginning of the rainy season - to get them established.

Our Sale team now wears colorful vests to make us more visible to customers, so introduce yourself and we'll put you to (easy) work. We'd love to meet some new or even not-so-new members who haven't been able to make it in the past, so do come on down and get acquainted with other Chapter members.

*Rosemary Carey*

## WORKSHOP

### TENDING THE WILD

October 27 or 28, 10 am to 4 pm  
Pepperwood Preserve, Santa Rose, CA

California Indian Master Basket Weavers will lead an interactive program interpreting the book *Tending the Wild* by ethnobotanist M. Kat Anderson. At the workshop you will: learn to identify, tend, gather, and process native basketery plants; learn about Indigenous Stewardship Methods (ISM); meet some of Cali-

fornia's finest Master Basket Weavers; meet Kat Anderson at the book signing, be invited to join the "Walkabout" for an interactive experience with weavers. This workshop is sponsored by the California Indian Basket Weavers Association. Admission is \$50 general public; \$40 CIBA member; \$30 student. To register visit CIBA

([http://www.ciba.org/tending\\_wild\\_10-12\\_regform.pdf](http://www.ciba.org/tending_wild_10-12_regform.pdf)) or call 530-668-1332. Advanced registration is required to attend the workshop.



## New Day and Location for the Chapter Meeting

Due to the Placerville library's 7 p.m. closing time, we have lost our venue for the general meeting. Our new general meeting will be moved from the 3rd Tuesday to the **4th Tuesday of alternate months**, so the new date will be **September 25th, 2012**. The new meet-

ing place will be the conference room of the Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane, Placerville. The Bethell-Delfino Building is ~1 block west of the Placerville Main Library, accessed via Fairlane Court. When coming from Highway 50, make a left turn onto Fairlane Court, which is before the Placerville Library. After a couple hundred feet, turn left again into the parking lot of the Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building. The U.C. Master Gardeners office is next door to the Bethell-Delfino Ag Building.

## BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Many different kinds of insects are found in and around our homes, gardens, and yards. Most of these insects are completely harmless and may even provide valuable services for us. Usually, when we hear beneficial insects, we think of things like honey bees that produce honey and beeswax. More importantly honey bees pollinate a wide range of fruit, vegetable, and field crops plus many flowers and other ornamental plants we enjoy in our yards. People

rarely see the many other insects that help keep pest insects that feed on our gardens and ornamental plants under control. Nearly everyone recognizes lady beetles and preying mantids. We need to recognize the many others that attack pest insects. Beneficial insects fall into two general categories: parasites and predators. The article located at the web link below discusses their differences and show examples:  
<http://www.cowboygardener.com/tips/insects.pdf>

*Editor's Note: This article was prepared by Clyde S. Gorsuch, Extension Entomologist/ Professor, Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences, Clemson University. This short article and the brochure on beneficial insects are featured as a resource on Verne Pershing's website. Verne is our speaker for September. Check out his website for other useful information on gardening ([www.cowboygardener.com](http://www.cowboygardener.com)).*



## MASTER GARDENERS 4TH ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 15th, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Veterans Memorial Building Parking Lot

You'll find all kinds of plants grown by the Master Gardeners and generous local growers: Rare and Unusual Perennials; Fall and Cool Season Veggie Starts; Wide Variety of Herbs; Special Deals on Giant Sequoias; Hand tool sharpening will be available for a small fee.



They will have special displays on weeds, native plants, bee keeping, and worm

## UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

**November 27, 2012**

### The Oaks of El Dorado County

John Kipping

Certified Arborist John Kipping (530-644-5929) is considered by many to be the most knowledgeable arborist in El Dorado County. A fascinating speaker, John will share his knowledge of oak trees with us. Oaks are anchor species of the Sierra foothills, providing habitat for a wide array of wildlife, from deer to birds and salamanders. Learn the natural history of the different oak species, their uses by indigenous peoples, and best landscape practices.

**January 22, 2013**

### Gabbro and Serpentine Plants of the Pine Hill Preserve

Debra Ayres, Ph.D.

Dr. Ayres ([drayres@ucdavis.edu](mailto:drayres@ucdavis.edu); 530.752.6852) is an Associate Project Scientist in Evolution and Ecology at U.C. Davis. She will talk about the endemic plants which are found on the gabbro and serpentine soils of the Pine Hill Preserve in the west county. She will discuss which native plants can be used in home landscapes on these soils which are widespread around Cameron Park as well as a belt extending north and south. Dr. Ayres has also been a Master Gardener and landscape designer prior to her academic career, so she is well qualified to tie all of this information together.

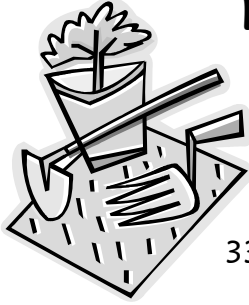
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composting. Got gardening questions? Check out their Master Gardener Information Booth. The sale is a benefit for the new demonstration garden and community outreach efforts. For more information: 530-621-5512 or [http://ucanr.org/sites/EDC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/](http://ucanr.org/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/)



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

September-October 2012



## FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 6  
 9 am to 1 pm  
 El Dorado  
 Government Center,  
 339 Fair Lane, Placerville



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](http://www.cnps.org) to join online.

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Learn more about State CNPS at: [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)