



# GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ November-December 2013

## CALENDAR

### November 26 (Tuesday)

Program.  
Making a Landscaping Plan. See article to right for details.

### December 7 (Saturday)

Workshop.  
Wreath Making with Native Plants. Hosted by Chico State Herbarium. Check website for details: [http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Wreath\\_Workshop\\_12-7-13.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Wreath_Workshop_12-7-13.pdf)

### December 11 (Wednesday)

Film.  
Winged Migration. Cozmic Café, Placerville, Doors open at 6 pm, film at 6:30 pm; admission \$3. Hosted by the Maidu Group Sierra Club and Coalition for Change. For more information contact John Le Pouvoir, (530) 644-7295.

### January 11 (Saturday)

Workshop.  
Lichens for Beginners. To be held at UC Davis. See inside for details.

### January 28 (Tuesday)

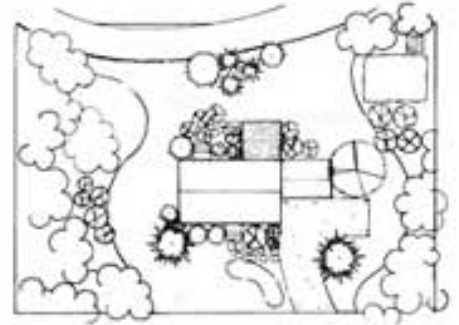
Program.  
Sierra Nevada fungi. Look for details in the near future on [eldorado-cnps.org](http://eldorado-cnps.org).

*Evening programs are held on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, and begin at 6:30 PM at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.*

## NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM

### ANALYZING YOUR SITE TO MAKE A LANDSCAPING PLAN

Successful landscaping requires an analysis of the site's physical, biological, and climatic constraints. Questionnaires can identify limiting factors and ways to either accept or mitigate those limitations. Dr. Debra Ayres will explain how to analyze all of the many factors one encounters in the foothills when planning a garden. She started her career as a landscape designer and Master Gardener in El Dorado County before she returned to graduate school to become a plant ecologist.



This program will be held on November 26 and begins at 6:30 PM in the meeting room at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

## CLARK YOUTH FUND AWARDS FOR 2013

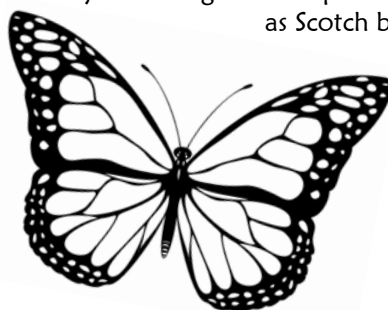
Our Chapter is very pleased to announce a Clark Youth Fund award to Edwin Markham Middle School in Placerville. Daniel O'Connor, a sixth grade science teacher, was granted \$150 to purchase native plants from our Fall Plant Sale on October 5th, 2013.

The Clark Youth Fund was established for the purpose of educating El Dorado County children about native plants. It is funded by our bi-annual plant sales. Since its inception fourteen years ago, funds have been granted for various purposes including establishing native plant gardens; purchasing educational books; and restoring natural sites by removing invasive plants such as Scotch broom.

Using the plants purchased last month, Mr. O'Connor intends to create butterfly habitat along a seasonal spring/stream that flows through the school grounds. The garden will be used as an outdoor classroom to teach principles such as the difference between native plants and invasive species; how native plants are important for establishing butterfly habitat; and the importance of monitoring and maintaining that habitat. Mr. O'Connor has applied for an additional \$100 for purchasing shovels and trowels so that more children can participate in planting.

The Sutter's Mill Primary School in the Lotus area has also applied for a Clark Youth Fund Grant in the amount of \$278 for the purpose of creating a 5,000 square foot educational native plant garden in a highly visible location in front of the school. The Chapter Board will be evaluating these last two applications at its next meeting.

*Jinnah Benn  
Clark Youth Fund Chair*





## OUR FALL PLANT SALE TEAM

Successful plant sales are the result of many helping hands. As always, I am grateful for the able leadership of our Plant Sale Chair, Shellie Perry, who, weeks before the event, arranges for our vendors to come and what plants they should supply. Then, she's the first one there on sale day who conducts the orchestra: deciding where to set up our very important street signs, as well as tables and displays, and how to price the plants. Rich Wade, Marty Oberlander, Annie Walker, Janet Cicero, Lester and Kaitlin Lubetkin, Susan Fredericks, Diane

Cornwall, and Joanne Geggatt were the essential early volunteers who transported plants in and labelled and priced them.

Another pillar of our sales are our fantastic trio of experienced cashiers who can handle any situation: Alice Cantelow, Amy Hoffman, and Cindy Podsiadlo. Downstream of our cashiers are our tallyers: Judy Johnson and Kaitlin Lubetkin kept the line moving by adding up customers' purchases in advance of the cashier table. These are all vital jobs whose smooth execution is critical for keeping our customers happy. We improve at every sale, whittling down

our in-line customer wait time.

Marcia Scott, Janet Cicero, and Gail Cosmo did a good job of helping customers find the right plant for their conditions. Our intern Laura Sheffield helped customers with wildflower seed selection. There were half a dozen species available, individually packaged by Sue Britting and Dan Silverberg. These seed packets are always a popular fall offering, an inexpensive introduction to California's marvelous native wildflowers. Chapter members Steve Dowty and Mahala Guggino were also

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## UPDATE: ALDER CREEK RESTORATION

Seventeen volunteers from El Dorado CNPS, Trout Unlimited, and Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation joined staff with the US Forest Service on November 7 for a day of planting and restoration at Alder Creek. This is an ongoing restoration of an over-used and heavily damaged area along Alder Creek in the Eldorado National Forest. During the past year and a half, Chapter volunteers worked closely with partners to gather and propagate native plant seeds at the US Forest Service's nursery in Camino. As you can see by the photos, this was an enormously successful day. Many thanks to all who were able to attend. *(Photos by E. Holst)*





## OUR TEAM *(cont. from page 2)*

vendors selling local natives.

Tripp Mikich talked to customers, doing a consumer survey to get information on which of our outreach methods are most cost-effective. One customer, who had attended several CNPS chapter sales throughout the region, said that our public education displays on noxious weeds, and gardening with natives, are some of the best he has seen. Thank you to Annie Walker for her technical input to the nox-

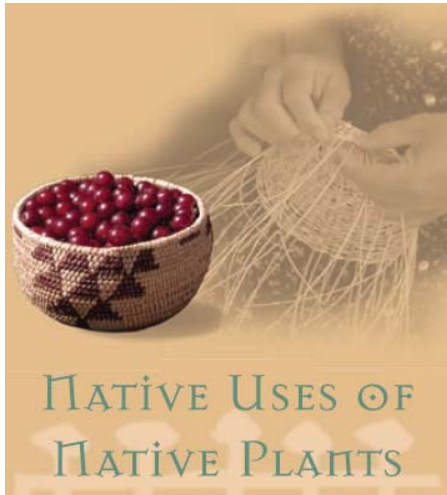
ious weed display panels, as well as her display table of fresh weed material; and to Tripp Mikich for having made these crowd-pleasing and informative panels. Finally, I would like to thank Marty Oberlander for the comprehensive offerings on the book table. All of these displays and sale products serve to better educate the public about native plants in the environment and for use in landscaping. You all did a fantastic job, so many thanks.

*Rosemary Carey  
Chapter President*

## RESOURCES FOR NATIVE PLANT GARDENING

Looking for ways to connect with our local ecology and culture through your garden? The web resources below offer ideas about native plants you can use in your garden to provide food for native pollinators or learn more about the plants that Native Californians cultivated and used. Also included below is a link to a general guide for landscaping in the Sierra Nevada.

**Native Uses of Native Plants** (<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CA/news/Publications/general/NativePlants04.pdf>) was published



by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in California and Nevada with information from the National Plant Data Center and the PLANTS database. The culturally significant plants featured in this booklet help us understand how some tribes utilized their natural resources and preserve their history. For detailed information please visit <http://plants.usda.gov>

and select the link for culturally significant plants.

**Habitat Gardening**, also known as Backyard Restoration, refers to the process of converting traditional landscape plans in privately owned yards or public spaces to those that attract and support native birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. Habitat gardening greatly benefits wildlife by providing food, shelter, water and nesting places and is typically characterized by a more natural, less formal feel, with more variety in plant choices and naturalistic placement and pruning of plants. Read more on this topic at this CNPS website: <http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative/habitat/>

**Native Bees** are the most important group of pollinators. Like all wildlife they are affected by changes in our landscapes. The good news is that there are straightforward things you can do to help: providing patches of flowers is something that we can all do to improve our environment for these important insects. Read more about California Plants for Native Bees in the factsheet prepared by the Xerces Society: [http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/california\\_plants\\_for\\_native\\_bees\\_xerces\\_society\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/california_plants_for_native_bees_xerces_society_factsheet.pdf)

**Hummingbirds**, referred to by John James Audubon as “glittering garments of the rainbow,” depend on plants that provide nectar. The guide *California Native Plants that Attract Hummingbirds* developed by the Redbud Chapter CNPS can help you find just the right plants to feed your backyard hummers (<http://www.redbud-cnps.org/Hummingbird%20Plants%20short.pdf>). Although this guide was

## JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM: FUNGI OF THE SIERRA

Join Daniel Nicholson for a tour of mushroom rooms and other fungi found in the Sierra Nevada. This program will be held on January 28 and begins at 6:30 PM in the meeting room at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

## WORKSHOP LICHENS FOR BEGINNERS JANUARY 11 (SATURDAY)

Lichens are special elements of our environment, both interesting and beautiful. Here is your chance to learn more about them. Taught by Pam Kirkbride, this all-day class for beginners will cover lichen morphology, terminology and identification. We will look closely at 24 species of common lichens using dissecting scopes, perform color tests, use keys and take an afternoon field trip to view two different lichen habitats. This class is hosted by the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity and CNPS Sacramento Chapter and will be held at 3075 Sciences Lab Bldg., UC Davis Campus from 9 am to 4 pm. Contact Pam Kirkbride ([pamk7@frontier.com](mailto:pamk7@frontier.com); (916) 687-8134) for more information and to register.

developed for Nevada and Placer counties, it is equally useful in El Dorado County.

**Sierra Nevada Yard & Garden**  
(<http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/publications/SNLG/>)

This first of its kind guide helps homeowners create wildfire defensible space and a beautiful Sierra friendly yard and garden. The guide was developed for yards and gardens throughout the 400 mile long Sierra and Northern Cascade mountain ranges, the guide offers specific, local information for Sierra residents from the foothills to the high country. It includes specifics for Sierra vegetation zones which include the foothills, mixed conifers, montane, upper montane and alpine environment, eastern Sierra communities and Modoc Plateau. Get real-life examples from featured Sierra homeowners living at 900 feet to 6,200 feet in elevation.



El Dorado Chapter  
 California Native Plant Society  
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November-December 2013

For Updates Visit Us on the Web  
[www.eldoradoCNPS.org](http://www.eldoradoCNPS.org) and



eldoradoCNPS



CALIFORNIA  
 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**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 conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. 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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