



# GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ May-June 2015

## MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM RARE PLANT HUNTING IN EL DORADO COUNTY

### COMING ACTIVITIES

#### **Mary 26 (Tuesday)**

Chapter Program.  
Rare Plant Treasure Hunt. See article to right for details.

#### **June 6 (Saturday)**

Plant Walk.  
Proposed Caples Wilderness Area. See note inside for details.

#### **June 27 (Saturday)**

Plant Walk.  
Carson Pass area. See note inside for details.

#### **June 13 (Saturday)**

Workshop.  
Riparian Vegetation - Adaptations to River Processes hosted by the Friends of Chico Herbarium. See website for details and to reserve your space:  
<https://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html>

#### **July 16 (Thursday)**

Workshop.  
Introduction to Native Bees as Pollinators hosted by the Friends of Chico Herbarium. An optional Friday field trip also available. See website for details and to reserve your space:  
<https://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html>

#### **July 28 (Tuesday)**

Chapter Program.  
Wildflowers and colors. See note inside for details.

*Evening programs are held on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The program begins at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.*

With over 2,300 rare plants in California, it's all too easy to lose track of the most vulnerable ones. Enter CNPS botanists Danny Slakey and Aaron Sims. Since 2011 they have been in charge of the fledgling Rare Plant Treasure Hunt with the goal of seeking out critically rare species, determining whether and where they still exist, and ranking the most imperiled for conservation intervention. Join Danny Slakey on May 26<sup>th</sup> as he showcases El Dorado County's most rare plants, and learn how to become a treasure hunter.



This program will be held on May 26. The program begins at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

## SPRING PLANT SALE BENEFITS MANY—THANK YOU!

Each Spring and Fall, the El Dorado chapter of CNPS hosts a native plant sale. The four-hour-long event requires a lot of work from dozens of volunteers. So, why do we do it? Well, the sales are definitely fun. And they are the major fundraiser for all of our chapter activities. The sales also provide El Dorado County residents with a source for hard-to-find plants that are native to this area. Perhaps most importantly, the plant sales are a very effective public outreach. We gain new members at every sale, and we get to share knowledge with our neighbors. It's not just about which evergreen shrubs are deer-resistant, or whether or not Foothill Penstemon can thrive in heavy clay; it is about a holistic approach to landscaping. California's plants and animals evolved together, and our personal spaces should help both plants and animals thrive. Teaching people to garden in a sustainable, natural way is necessary to the long-term health of our planet, and an important part of the CNPS mission.

To that end, our plant sales always include an amazing selection of books, and lots of free reference materials. People who come to the sales can learn about flowers, but also about birds, bees, butterflies, and all the other animals that are affected by what we plant. We have a popular exhibit dedicated to identifying and dealing with invasive weeds. And this Spring's sale featured a "Garden Environments" exhibit, where our customers learned about appropriate plantings for everything from foothill Oak woodlands to shady riparian areas. What a great idea!

So, here is what I want to say to everyone who gives time, expertise, elbow grease and material support to our native plant sales: Thank you. Your work is nourishing and protecting our natural heritage. Thank you all.

*Shellie Perry  
Plant Sale Coordinator*

P.S. *Mimulus aurantiacus*, *Carpenteria californica*, and all the native *Salvias* are deer resistant, and Foothill Penstemon can thrive in heavy clay if you plant it in the Fall, and let it go dormant during the Summer months.

## SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS

For Native Plant Week, Alice brought an idea that was used by other chapters to bring native plant bouquets to the County Board of Supervisors to show the beauty and variety of native plants in their area. We used cards from the George Green collection with the following message:

*Five years ago, the California State Assembly and Senate approved Resolution ACR 173, establishing California Native Plant Week as the third week of April. To celebrate Native Plant Week, we're presenting you with a bouquet of native plants from El Dorado County. You'll find a sampling of species from oak woodland, chaparral, and forest habitats. These plants create the open spaces and quiet places cherished by residents and sought*

*out by visitors. We hope you enjoy your close encounter with these El Dorado County natives. We also hope you'll visit them where they live, in the beautiful landscapes of our county.*

Mary Lou and Cindy worked on bouquets with plant materials comprised of grasses (including our state grass), sedges, flowers, a variety of oaks and pines, red bud, toyon, and manzanita gathered from their gardens and presented the bouquets on Monday morning to our supervisors. We managed to deliver them personally into the hands of Michael Ranalli and Ron Mikulaco and the staff brought the rest to their offices. The chapter received a nice thank-you letter from Brian Veerkamp.

Supervisor Ranalli receiving flowers from CNPS member Mary Lou Giles.  
Photo: C. Podsiadlo



## UPCOMING PLANT WALKS

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

**June 6 (Saturday)**

**Proposed Caples Creek Wilderness, Alpine County**

Meeting Time and Location: This is a shuttle hike. Meet at Silver Fork at 0800/0815 to leave cars. Best if shuttles can be arranged by participants prior to the day. The first meet is at Fitch Rantz Bridge on Silver Fork. Then after settling transportation arrangements we drive to Martin Meadows (and a little further) where we begin hiking. If you have 4WD, you can drive about a half mile out to the trail. If not, then it's a hike to the trailhead. I usually drive out there.

Duration: All day (possibly until dusk)

Description: There is a lovely trail from Martin Meadows all the way down the hill, into Caples Canyon and continuing to the Fitch Rantz Bridge on Silver Fork Road. It's about 7 miles, the best part is, it's all downhill. There are wonderful views of Caples Canyon and the surrounding granite. You can also get a view of the columnar rhyolite on the north side of Jake Schneider Meadow. Then we have two trail choices out there. One choice has a good footbridge, and the other is just a log (or a swimming opportuni-

## ORDERING A NAME TAG

Are you a member of the El Dorado Chapter? Have you gone nameless too long? Do you have to play the name game (I remember the face, but the name escapes me) too often during meetings and events? We are trying to solve this problem by putting in an order for chapter name tags: green, with

ty). But they both get you to the same place. This begins in the red fir forest, and descends through the canyon into the mixed conifer at Silver Fork. There is a seasonal pond, and a spring to explore. We will see a lot of the creeks, both Tragedy Creek and Caples Creek. There is a partial plant list. Waypoints and maps can be provided. We can put people in touch with each other to arrange shuttles. Camping overnight prior to the hike might be easier for some. There is a Forest Service Campground on Silver Fork. Martin Meadows (on 88) is a free campground. No water, but pit toilets are available. This hike is not suitable for small children.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate.

Bring: This is a very scenic hike so don't forget your camera. Lunch, water (and filter). Otherwise you need good hiking

our *Calochortus clavatus* var. *avius*. If you would like to order one, the chapter will pay the cost. Cindy Podsiadlo will be taking orders. Send your **name as you want it to appear** to Cindy at [clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com](mailto:clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com) or phone (530) 642-0648 or provide the info during our next meeting. If you have a family membership, please provide both names.

shoes or boots, and a walking stick, as there is some rocky rubbly trail. Hat, sunscreen, warm jacket, poncho?, binoculars, **bring a small flashlight**, as last time we didn't get back to the car until almost dark.

Contact: Annie Walker, [agastache@att.net](mailto:agastache@att.net)

**June 27 (Saturday)**

**Near Carson Pass, Alpine County**

Stay tuned for details. Location will be whichever spot has the most incredible flowers at that time! Contact: Shellie Perry, [seperry55@comcast.net](mailto:seperry55@comcast.net)

**August 22 (or 29) (Saturday)**

**Lake Margaret, Alpine County**

We will look for the rare aquatic plant *Potamogeton praelongus* while we are there. Contact: Shellie Perry, [seperry55@comcast.net](mailto:seperry55@comcast.net)

## THE BOOK CORNER

I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped out at the Spring Plant Sale. Your help is invaluable to our success and the help I received at the book tables, the unpacking and packing of the books and tables made the day run so much smoother.

There are many new books available, some of the new titles are: Growing California Native Plants (the second edition of Marjorie G. Schmidt's original publication loved by so many native plant gardeners - myself included), Field Guide to Manzanitas (a brand new release - look

for a review in our next newsletter or before that on our Facebook page), California Native Gardening: A Month by Month Guide, The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic, Field Guide to the Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and The Sacramento Valley, and Field Guide to the Common Bees of California. More copies of Living Wild and Reimagining the California Lawn along with many more titles are available as well.

Books enhance our lives - read on and enjoy!

*Bonnie East  
Books and Poster Chair*

## PLACERVILLE LIBRARY DISPLAYS

For the month of May El Dorado Chapter has filled the 4 display cases at the library. Members from the Education committee (Mahala, Alice, Tal and Cindy) worked on developing the concepts around 4 topics. As you walk in, there is a case with a collage of photos provided by Tripp Mikich that highlights the variety of chapter activities: plant walks, programs, plant sales, rare plant or special area surveys, restoration and gardening. As you walk around the next case, there is information on landscaping with native plants. This includes photos highlighting specific plants in gardens including drought tolerant natives, the use of grasses in landscaping, books to use as a resource, as well as a variety of seeds seed collection (how to), as well as ....

The tall case against the wall features photos of native plants and their habitats at three elevation areas: lower foothills (oak woodlands, grasslands, and chaparral), mid-elevation with mixed conifer forested areas, and high elevation with red fir forest, lodgepoles, hemlock, meadows, fens, and rocky exposed areas. The photos are from the chapter collection provided by members.



The long case (inside the library) features colorful books and photos on plants and various pollinators as well as information on which plants attract them. There is equipment that you can build (bug barn) to use in identifying bugs, and butterflies up close.

## JULY 28<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM THE SPLENDOR OF OUR FOOTHILL WILDFLOWERS

Evan Jones will discuss the simple processes by which flowers use sunlight to produce a bewildering variety of colors and patterns. Evan taught physics at Sierra College in Rocklin. His Interests include applications of physics to bird flight and to the colors Of flowers. He is co-author of the trail guide "Take a Hike" and has written for the California Explorer and the Physics Teacher Magazine.

This program will be held on Tuesday, July 28, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

## ARMCHAIR TOUR OF PINE HILL AND RARE PLANTS

In this video talk (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObKUJKvqy3s>) Debra Ayres presents the newest discoveries on the diverse and unique plants of Pine Hill and explains how these new findings have provided insights to conservation and management of this botanical hotspot.

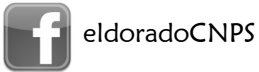
The program above is a part of the Conservation Lecture Series organized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Conservation Planning Branch. The lecture series is designed to deliver the most current scientific information about species that are of conservation concern. Their website (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/lectures>) provides notice of upcoming lectures and links to past lectures. The topics are wide ranging covering plants, animals and a variety of ecosystems unique to California.



El Dorado Chapter  
 California Native Plant Society  
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May-June 2015

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



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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