



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ July-August 2016

JULY 26 PROGRAM THE BLODGETT EXPERIMENT

July 26 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
The Blodgett Experiment. See article to right for details.

July 30 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Join the Sac Valley Chapter on a walk to Lake Winnemucca. Check out their website for details (www.sacvalleycnps.org)

August 13 (Saturday)

Workday.
Ecological Restoration Day with CSNC. See note inside for details.

August 14 (Sunday)

Plant walk.
Join the Sac Valley Chapter on a walk around Grass Lake, a unique floating sphagnum bog, one of only two in California. Check out their website for details (www.sacvalleycnps.org)

August 28 (Sunday)

Workshop.
Introduction to the Serpentine Ecosystem. 8 am to 5 pm. Learn about the geology and ecology of serpentine areas in the northern Sierra Nevada. Check Friends of the Chico Herbarium website for details. (www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/)

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.

Blodgett Forest, 12 miles east of Georgetown, has been the main research property of the UC Center for Forestry for 50 years. It has the unique challenge of being managed for a multitude of research and management goals on its 2,900 acres. In order to achieve these goals a forest-wide experiment was initiated to examine the impacts of forest management alternatives, such as what is the effect of frequent ground fires? Which tree species grow best at each elevation? What happens when the biggest trees are harvested? As well, it demonstrates sustained and sustainable forest management. Ariel Thomson will examine what the results of this experiment have been on everything from species diversity to timber production and how they are helping shape our management efforts moving into an uncertain future. Thomson is a Registered Professional Forester who received her forestry degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 2012 and is an Assistant Forest Resources Manager at the UC Center for Forestry.

This program will be held on Tuesday, July 26, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.



Park-like forest on right has had two controlled ground fires in the past 15 years; forest with heavy understory on left did not. (Photo: Debra Ayres)

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT — PINE HILL

This spring the El Dorado Chapter Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) collaborated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) at the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve. The goal of CDFW was to orchestrate our and CalFire crews' efforts to hand clear shrubs into burn piles to reduce fire danger into and out of the preserve while protecting the rare plants. Our goal was to survey the perimeter of the Ecological Reserve to locate and flag rare plant populations and individual flannelbush plants and flag sites without rare plants that would be suitable for burn piles. The search for Pine Hill flannelbush was especially intense, as it is federally and state listed as endangered, and generally only occurs on the slopes of Pine Hill. Luckily it was in flower and we found 3 plants during 3 days of searching. This was a great opportunity for the RPTHunter's as the perimeter, land-locked by private property, has been little surveyed.

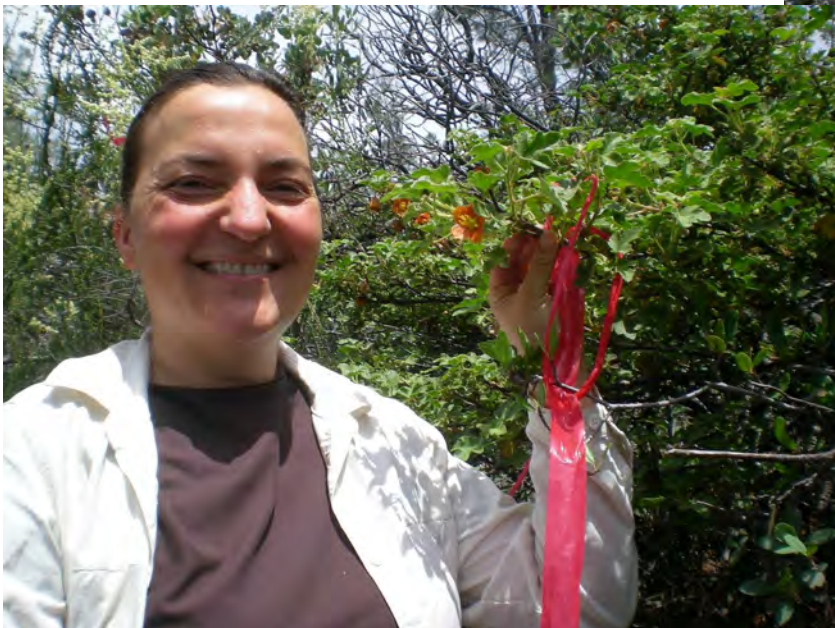
The survey was more challenging than CDFW planned on although WE knew how difficult it was going to be crawling through dense chaparral. And an early start to fire season in Southern California put an end to CalFire's involvement as the fire crews headed south. We hope that the lessons we all learned this year will enable the work to go forward after the fire season has passed.



*Pine Hill flannelbush (*Fremontodendron decumbens*) flowers (Photo: Deb Ayres)*



Crawling through the chaparral to flag a flannelbush (Photo: Deb Ayres)



Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, and the flannelbush she found and flagged (Photo: Deb Ayres)

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION EVENT AUGUST 13 (SATURDAY)

The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation, CSNC, has been conducting valuable restoration workdays in areas of habitat destruction on the Eldorado National Forest. We encourage CNPS members to join them and help out! Tools and instructions for work like moving woody debris, scattering duff, are provided. All you need to bring is yourself, and food and water.

The most recent ecological restoration day was July 9 near Camp Creek. At this location, there is a hill climb and vehicles

were driving into a riparian corridor. Work was done to project bare soil and reduce runoff, reduce sedimentation, and prevent vehicles from entering the sensitive riparian habitat.

Another ecological restoration day is scheduled for August 13, 2016, with location and details to come. Watch us on Facebook, our website www.eldoradocnps.org, or call the CSNC office in August at 530-206-7061. This is your chance to directly help native plants on the Forest!



CNPSers helping out with ecological restoration. (Photo: CSNC)

A LOVELY TREE FOR YOUR GARDEN: MADRONE

Here's what Merritt B. Pratt, California's State Forester in the 1920s, had to say about madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) in the



Madrone flowers

(Photo© 1995 Saint Mary's College of California)

book *Shade and Ornamental Trees of California*:

That madrone has thus far no place in California gardens is partly to be explained by the unhappy preference for exotics and because the tree as it grows in its native woods is little known to the people. For beyond any peradventure of doubt it the most handsome tree in California and enlivens the forest and groves with its unrivaled woodland colors. Of slight economic importance as a timber species, it is in every other way a notable tree. Its crown of flowers and masses of crimson berries, its burnished foliage and terra-cotta bark, its manner of branching and habits of growth are alike full of interest on of charm.

And here's a garden tip from chapter member Mike Taylor, who sent along Pratt's: "I have found madrones difficult

SEPTEMBER 27 PROGRAM FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPES IN A NEW ERA: WILDLIFE AND NATIVE PLANTS STILL WELCOME!

Landscapes that help protect your home from fire do not need to look like moonscapes. Much can be done with careful placement of plants and hardscape, as well as careful choosing of native plants. It can be confusing though. Some plants show up on both fire resilient and fire prone lists, and much misinformation is given about how to create your required defensive space. Master Gardener and chapter president Alice Cantelow will address these issues and provide valuable resources for creating a sustainable, low water use, wildlife friendly yard that is still resistant to fire.

Check website for updates. This program will be held on Tuesday, September 27, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

NOVEMBER 15 PROGRAM CNPS AND PLANT CONSERVATION

Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director will talk about plant conservation issues.

This program will be held on Tuesday, November 15, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. **Note that this meeting is on the THIRD Tuesday not our usual fourth Tuesday of the month.** The program is free to both members and the public.

to transplant at any stage beyond very young seedlings and more importantly established specimens are not tolerant of garden practices such as pruning and irrigation." So take care not to disturb established trees and try planting from seed to bring this fine species to your home garden.



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

July-August 2016

For Updates Visit Us on the Web
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 to join online.

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