



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ September-October 2017

SEPTEMBER 26TH PROGRAM River Friendly Landscaping

CALENDAR

September 26 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Restoring Disturbed Landscapes presented by Dr. Michelle Stevens. See details in article to the right.

October 7 (Saturday)

Twice yearly plant sale.
9 am to noon (Note new closing time!). County Building C, Placerville. See inside for details.

October 21 (Saturday)

Workshop.
Tree Identification, 9 am to 4 pm. Hosted by the Chico State. This workshop will introduce approximately 50 trees found on the campus of California State University, Chico. It will cover the key characteristics of their leaves, bark and reproductive structures (cones or flowers). Information about the tree biology, pruning and urban forest management will be provided. Herbarium. See website to register (<http://www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com>)

November 28 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Ecology and conservation of the Pine Hill Plants. Presented by Deb Ayres and Sue Britting.

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.

We have snagged Bernadette Balics of Ecological Landscape Design to be our speaker on Sept. 26 at 7pm. Her design for the spectacular Big Sky Garden in Davis was featured in Pacific Horticulture this summer: <https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/planting-new-california-garden-part-3-bernadette-balics/>

This program will be held on Tuesday, September 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.



The pollinator garden, which looks out over agricultural fields against the western horizon, features a bird shower/bath and a permeable urbanite flagstone pathway.

Photo: Jennifer Jewell

CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN “A DAY AT THE LAKE”

The El Dorado Chapter capped off its 11th consecutive summer of providing weekly Saturday morning wildflower walks at Wrights Lake by participating in “A Day at the Lake” on August 19, an event celebrating the natural history and recreational opportunities in the Wrights Lake area, sponsored by the Forest Service and the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association. The Chapter joined a plethora of National Forest user groups, the California Department of Fish And Wildlife, and Forest Service specialists in several

disciplines in providing educational displays and field trips. Many thanks to Bonnie East and Bill and Tal Blackburn for putting together and attending to a nice display, highlighting the CNPS mission and the wonderful botanical diversity found in our own Sierra backyard. Thanks too, to Mike and Dee Taylor for volunteering to lead the weekly walk earlier this summer!

*Rich Wade
Wright's Lake Coordinator*

NATIVE PLANT SALE

PLANTS ~ SEEDS ~ BOOKS & MORE
GARDENING ADVICE & LIVE DEMOS

Cash/Checks/Credit Cards Accepted

All Sales Final

Date: Saturday, October 7th

Time: 9am to 12pm

Location: 2850 Fairlane Ct, Bldg C, Placerville

www.eldoradoCNPS.org

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Sponsored and curated by the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).
CNPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

NATIVE PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
9 AM TO NOON

New Closing Time!

Do you enjoy the cool nights and warm days of autumn? Well so do native plants, and it's their favorite time to be planted! Our 2017 Fall Plant Sale will offer a great selection of California native plants, many grown locally, as well as books, posters, wildflower seed, reference materials, and educational tables. We'll have plants from various plant communities, as well as plants to deter deer, for sun or shade, and to attract pollinators. Our volunteers are experienced native plant gardeners who are excited to answer your questions and help you choose the best plants for your own space. Check out the insert for a list of plants likely to be at the sale, and plan ahead for your shopping trip.

CASH, CHECKS, AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED, and all sales are final. Arrive early for best selection.

LOCATION: COUNTY BUILDING C

The sale will be held at the El Dorado County Government Center, in front of Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.



We need help setting up in the morning and assisting throughout the day on Saturday. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tal Blackburn at nblackburn@zetabroadband.com.

HAND'S ON DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE UPCOMING PLANT SALE

In response to last year's comments about what might be useful for persons coming to the Chapter's fall plant sale, this year we will hold hands-on demonstrations to inspire native plant gardeners. Three different topics will be presented. We are also looking for volunteers to help us deliver the demos. See below for details and contact Pamela Hoover (pch113@icloud.com or (848) 761-5411), if you are interested in helping out.

9:30-10:00 am Developing way stations: What you can do to help save our pollinators and creating safe growing spaces

NEED: One volunteer needed to assist presenter with props

10:30-11:00 am Growing showy milkweed: Monarch butterflies need your help

NEED: 2-3 volunteers to assist participants

11:30-noon Bunch grasses: growing and maintaining diversity in your garden

NEED: One presenter with knowledge about growing bunch grasses, and one volunteer to assist presenter



Claire in action at the xeriscape garden. See note on next page for an update on the renovation. Photo Cin-

XERISCAPE GARDEN RENOVATION UPDATE

The El Dorado Chapter of CNPS is coordinating the renovation of the existing garden next to the Placerville Library. Many of the original plants have died, are overgrown, or no longer thriving. We submitted our proposal in May to the County of El Dorado with the help of Debra Ayres, Christie Johnson, Mahala Guggino, and Cindy Podsiadlo.

Our proposal is to renovate the existing garden by: removing decadent and ornamental plants, and pruning shrubs; creating a garden design that delimits hydro-zones; incorporating native plants where new plantings are needed; replacing signage; and eventually updating and producing an inventory of plant species. Just recently Christie Johnson creating the new landscape plan which was submitted to the county in the beginning of September.

We are looking for volunteers to help out, not only from our chapter but also from the community that will benefit from this endeavor. You do not have to be a gardener to help. If you can sweep, rake, trim, dig up weeds and move buckets of trimmings, then you are welcome. Please contact Cindy Podsiadlo, [clpodsiadlo](mailto:clpodsiadlo@yahoo.com)



Kathleen hard at work!
Photo Cindy Podsiadlo.

lo@yahoo.com or (530) 642-0648 if you are interested or Tal Blackburn, nblackburn@zetabroadband.com (530) 417-6885 to add your name to our volunteer email list. Work began in July and will continue through the year. We email the dates and times of our next work days and try to change days and times to accommodate those folks who work during the week.

NOVEMBER 28TH PROGRAM PINE HILL PLANTS: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Learn about the biology and ecology of the rare plants found on gabbro soils in El Dorado County from Deb Ayres, a research scientist who has studied these species. Deb will be joined by Sue Britting who will talk about conservation of these species and the actions that wildlife agencies, CNPS and others have taken to secure their protection.

This program will be held on Tuesday, November 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.

Thanks to Tal Blackburn for coordinating the volunteer list and emails and to the following folks who worked long and hard in the garden: Cindy Henson, Claire Van Dam, Jimmy Fox, Mary Lou Giles, Pam Hong, and Kathleen Barco.

Cindy Podsiadlo
Project Coordinator

BASSI FALLS WALK

What is all of this fuss about? It's a tiny yellow tarplant growing in the crevices of the granite slabs angling down to Bassi Falls, a *Jensia yosemitana*. It is a rare native endemic to California (rank 3.2) and is more commonly found, you guessed it, in the Yosemite area. We were awash in professional botanists on the chapter's Bassi Falls Walk the beginning of June. Several of us spent an hour kneeling over this flower examining its features in fine detail. One of our most avid was so engaged she had to rush to the falls to grab a quick look at the end of the day.

Most of us, however, lounged and lunched among the rocks taking in the misting crashing falls at our leisure. This is a popular place with the general public also. Peering for long periods of time at spots of green we surely must have looked

Subject: tiny tarweed

Hi Ron,

Editor's note: Kudos to Shellie Perry for her sharp eye in locating this little cutie and her taxonomic work and connecting with other experts to sort out this rare gem.

I dissected a flower head under the scope last night. The ray fruits are laterally compressed, bowed outward, with a little beak and a pappus that looks like a teeny tiny fringe on the beak. The ray fruit, which was still young and rather membranous looking, also had darker spots on it. The chaff ring is strongly fused. I saw three disc flowers. Two had linear, weak-turd looking ovaries, but the third had a more substantial, elliptical ovary, so I am not sure it was sterile. They all had a pappus consisting of five or six "bristle-like scales", 2 mm long. The stamens looked brown, not black or purple. It seems more like *Jensia yosemitana* than anything else, but I am going to take John's advice and ask Bruce Baldwin for an expert I.D. I will also go through the key tomorrow, as I don't have time today.

like plant-o-philes and several people who were not in our group made sure we knew about the purple milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*) growing in and around the area. The monarch butterflies have become an ambassador for conserving our environment. For them I am thankful.

And yes, Bruce Baldwin later positively confirmed the *J. yosemitana* identification.
Tal Blackburn, Trip Leader



Photo by Steve Perry



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

September-October 2017

New Closing Time

 * NATIVE PLANT SALE *
 * SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 *
 * 9 AM TO NOON *
 * COUNTY BUILDING C, PLACERVILLE *
 * SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *

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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