



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

JANUARY 28 PROGRAM GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: MAGICAL CRADLE OF EVOLUTION

Changed Location!!

CALENDAR

JANUARY 4 (SATURDAY)

Garden tour and solar viewing. Visit the Sherwood Demonstration/Garden and Community Observatory located in Placerville for tours and solar viewing. For details: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education_Classes/?calitem=470247

JANUARY 28 (TUESDAY)

Chapter program. See details to right. **Note changed location.**

FEBRUARY 1 (SATURDAY)

Plant walk. Quarry Trail, Middle Fork of the American River. Meet to carpool at the parking lot just behind (west) of the Cool, CA, Fire Station off Highway 49 at 10:00 AM. We should return to the Cool Fire Station parking lot by mid- to late afternoon. Bring lunch, snacks, water, suitable hiking shoes. This will be a fairly flat, easy walk. Group size is limited to 25 people. Ginna Meyer via email: vmeyer@mac.com.

FEBRUARY 1 (SATURDAY)

Workshop. Fire Wise Landscaping. For details: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education_Classes/?calitem=473042&g=56698

FEBRUARY 22 (SATURDAY)

Workshop. Planting for Pollinators. For details: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education_Classes/?calitem=473045

The El Dorado Chapter of the CNPS is pleased to present local naturalist John Kipping to talk about his many adventures as a tour guide of Las Islas Encantadas or the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos archipelago was, and is being formed by active volcanoes and comprises over 3,000 square miles of islands spread over 23,000 square miles of ocean. Animals and plants had to float, swim, or fly to reach these islands 600 miles from the coast of Ecuador. Once there, natural selection and vast stretches of time resulted in the origin of new species, inspiring Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. John will be covering the natural and human history of the Galapagos from the discovery of these remote oceanic tropical isles to their significance to science and conservation. In addition to the many endemic plants, a great variety of unique reptiles and birds will be addressed.

The presentation will be Tuesday, January 28th at 7 pm at the **Shingle Springs Community Center** (note different location!) located at 4440 South Shingle Rd, Shingle Springs, about 1 mile south of Highway 50.



Galapagos penguin - only tropical species and only species to occur north of equator
Photo: John Kipping



Endemic lava cactus, Fernandina Island. Photo: John Kipping



Sally Lightfoot Crab. Photo: John Kipping

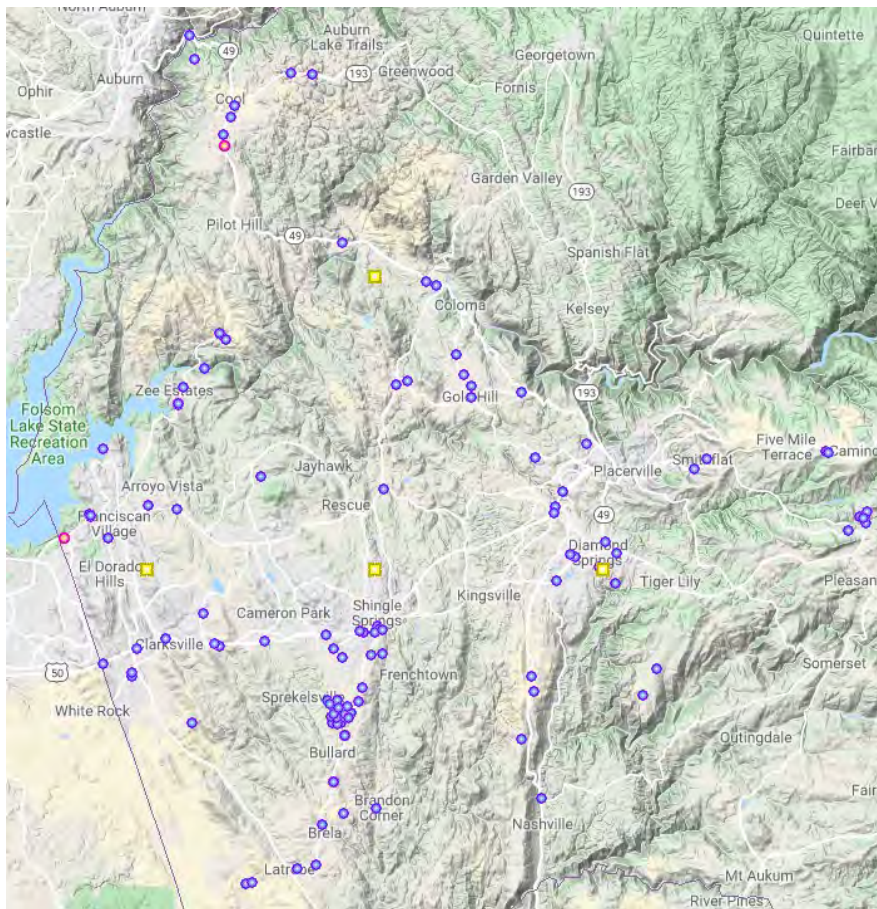


Green sea turtle. Photo: John Kipping

A WEED TO WATCH OUT FOR – STINKWORT IN EL DORADO COUNTY

Chapter members are working seriously to pinpoint (for later eradication) new locations of stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) in El Dorado County. Yesterday we did 90 miles of road surveys. Fortunately, long stretches of roadside along 193, Green Valley, and upper Salmon Falls Road are free of this weed, but we also found large infestations on lower Salmon Falls Road in addition to most freeway interchanges and Highway 50 median strips in the County. Please note the currently known locations in the County (see map to right) and check your own access roads and nearby streets to see if you are able to find this noxious weed. Please let us know if you do find it.

Annie Walker



Locations of stinkwort in El Dorado County. Map from Calflora (<https://www.calflora.org/entry/observ.html?track=m#srch=t&taxon=Dittrichia+graveolens&cols=0,3,61,35,37,13,54,32,41&lpcli=t&cc=ELD&crnx=null&chk=t&cch=t&inat=r>)



Stinkwort —mature plant. Photo: Joe DiTomasso.



Large area of stinkwort (some dried and dead) along Salmon Falls Road. Photo: Annie Walker.



Stinkwort seed head. Photo: Annie Walker.

NEIGHBORHOOD WEED WARRIORS – JOIN IN FOR 2020!

Invasive weeds are one of the two main threats to our beloved native plants- right up there with habitat loss. These weeds often come in from other continents, thrive here with the lack of their natural control agents, and can spread rampantly, pushing out natives.

Road equipment brings weed seeds. Parcel development brings weed seeds. When PGE installs a new power pole, they often inadvertently bring weeds. And we ourselves can bring them to our property, stuck to our socks, shoes, and even tires.

The moral is, be vigilant! Annie Walker suggests that after a disturbance in an area near your home, keep track of what's coming up in the bare earth they leave. Biggies in our county are:

- ◆ Italian thistle - in many roadside ditches and pastures
- ◆ Star thistle - old news but devastating
- ◆ Tocolote - mixed in with much of our annual grass fields
- ◆ Stinkwort- can take over areas rapidly
- ◆ Rush skeletonweed - in most of our driveways, up Hwy 50, out Hwy 49, etc.
- ◆ Hedge parsley (beggar lice, torilis) - that weed whose seeds stick to fur and socks

(cont. on page 3)

TAKING UP A CARBON NEUTRAL PLEDGE

By being members of CNPS, we are champions for native plants in our community – not just plants, but pollinators, birds, and other wild creatures that thrive among the plants in the forests, woodlands, chaparral, and in our own backyards. Even as we enjoy and conserve nature, our activities release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The CNPS Chapter Council is now discussing whether they will make a “carbon neutral” pledge*. This is a state level discussion just starting. We as a local chapter are also exploring how we might make our own pledge, no matter what is decided at the state level.

I have been asked by the Board to coordinate our “carbon activities”. Let me

introduce myself: You may know me as a member of a decade or so. I coordinate the volunteers for our plant sales or other larger projects. I like a good BLT sandwich with thick smoky bacon and homegrown tomatoes. I have been caught red-handed taking a gas-guzzling SUV into the forest to camp. I strive to be thoughtful, pragmatic and effective. In January I will be emailing all members a survey about what we as an organization could be doing. Please take the time to let the Board know what your thoughts are.

*Respectfully, Tal Blackburn
Life is beauty, admire it.*

* Draft Pledge Under Discussion by the CNPS Chapter Council:

CNPS pledges to decarbonize its activities by 2029, meaning that our activities will, in net, add no greenhouse gases to the atmosphere every year. This pledge encompasses work done by staff and volunteers, in activities, meetings, and events. Methods for reaching this goal remain to be determined as of the adoption of this pledge in 20__, so successful methods, techniques, innovations, and programs will be freely shared within CNPS as a normal function of the society.

WEED WARRIORS *(continued)*

Learn these bad actors and watch for them. Calflora.org can be a place to start, with photos, descriptions, and maps of where specific weeds are found. The Cal-ipc.org website is also very valuable – it has great species ID cards you can download. You can also try iNaturalist.org for photos of what weeds might grow in your area.

Our chapter has periodic weed pulls, but meanwhile you can do a lot in your own area. Consider what vice president Debra Ayres did. She recognized stinkwort in her neighborhood and advised her neighbors. Then she personally acted on getting rid of it thru mowing, weed eating, hand-pulling, and when really needed, herbicides.

Member Lisa Couper and our volunteer coordinator Tal Blackburn did something similar in their neighborhood, making informative stinkwort “wanted” posters and hanging them along the street. Neighbors actually pitched in and started pulling the weed up too.

Member Mike Taylor has adopted the Traverse Creek area on the Divide, regularly pulling goat grass (another aggressive

weed) from this sensitive plant area every Spring. He has also organized weed pulls there for our chapter.

President Alice Cantelow takes on hand removal of at least one weed species a year at her property. Two year’s ago it was a small population of Italian thistle, which is now eradicated. This past summer she gave herself a quota of a minimum of 100 torilis a day, catching them before seeding. It will be interesting to see how much that reduces the population next year. She was able to remove at least 95% by just being persistent.

Member Steve Dowty has found that by removing weeds and invasives on his property, the natives do indeed come back. By simply improving habitat this way, his land has slowly restored itself. With the large areas he faces, he finds that weed-whipping the non-native grasses before they seed in the spring is very effective at letting the native grasses come slowly back..

These are just some examples of approaches to take. What might you be doing at your house?

Annie Walker, our current weed chair, encourages us all to get involved, even if

MARCH 24 PROGRAM LANDSCAPE DESIGN PRIMER

This program led by Deb Ayres will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 PM. We are in the process of securing a regular location for our meetings in 2020. At this writing, we are not certain if the March meeting will be at the Planning Commission meeting room (location for past programs) of the Shingle Springs Community Center (location for January). Check the website and next newsletter for updates. The program is free to both members and the public.

WEED EXPERT AVAILABLE TO VISIT YOUR PROPERTY

Annie Walker, the chapter’s Invasive Plant Chair, is offering an incredibly valuable service to chapter members in the county. She is willing to visit a property and help people identify both their weeds and their natives. April and May are usually the best times for this, but if you have a plant you’re concerned or curious about now, let her know. She likes to use pin flags to help protect the natives, so that the owner can then work on their weeds. Contact us at the chapter website (eldoradocnps.org) or email to web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com, and we will put her in touch with you.

it’s just recording locations of weeds on Calflora. She has been doing this for years, and it really helps fill out the database for all to use.

Let’s all get out there and take those weeds OUT! Here’s to a New Year with less invasives impinging on our natives!

Editor’s Note: More detail about specific invasive plants can be found here: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/>



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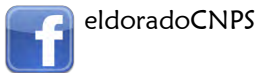
January-February 2020

FIRST PLANT WALK OF 2020!

February 1 (Saturday) - Quarry Trail

Running along the Middle Fork American River, this trail features seven different species of oaks, including the shrubby form of *Quercus garryana*, Oregon white oak. There are wonderful banks with many species of plants including ferns, and many shrubs, like snowdrop bush, *Styrax redivivus*, and skunk bush, *Rhus aromatica*. We will concentrate on ferns, shrubs, and trees, including the oaks and conifers. Meet Ginna Meyer to carpool at 10 AM at the parking lot just behind (west) of the Cool, CA, Fire Station off Highway 49. See additional details in Calendar section.

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 journal *Fremontia*, quarterly magazine, *Flora*, 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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Contact Chapter Leadership at web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com

PRESIDENT	Alice Cantelow
VICE PRESIDENT	Debra Ayres
SECRETARY	Kathleen Barco
TREASURER	Ola Jane Gow
BOOKS & POSTERS	Vacant
CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRS	Lester Lubetkin Sue Britting
CLARK YOUTH FUND	Chelsea Morgan
FIELD TRIPS	Ginna Meyer
INVASIVE EXOTICS	Annie Walker, temporary
LIBRARY DEMO GARDEN CO-CHAIRS	Cindy Podsiadlo Madeline Franke
MEMBERSHIP	Vacant
PLANT SALE CHAIR	Christie Johnson
PROGRAMS	Debra Ayres
RARE PLANTS	Annie Walker
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Tal Blackburn
Facebook	Annie Walker
Instagram	Kathleen Barco
WEBMASTER	Deborah Nicolls
NEWSLETTER	Sue Britting