



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MARCH-APRIL 2020

MARCH 24 PROGRAM LANDSCAPE DESIGN PRIMER

How do you begin to tackle creating your garden? For many, it begins with the purchase of numerous ill-chosen plants that are haphazardly planted and later overgrow the space, die, or result in hodgepodge. The creation of a pleasing, useful landscape begins with careful analysis aimed at identifying problems, coming up with solutions, and incorporating the features you want in your landscape. The very last step in this process is selecting the plants to bring your garden to life.

In this program Dr. Debra Ayres will introduce you to the nuts and bolts of landscape design. Beginning with the mid-century foundations of the California landscape, she will then guide you through landscape analysis with the help of her Questionnaire (available to print out on the El Dorado CNPS website: <https://www.eldoradocnps.org/images/news-and-events/meetings/LANDSCAPEQUESTIONAIRE1.pdf>), giving specific examples of how the process works (see below Before and After pictures). Finally, she will discuss plant selection featuring native California plants.



A lifelong plant enthusiast, Debra has degrees in botany and plant ecology. She has been designing gardens since 1983 and was in the second class of Master Gardeners in El Dorado County in 1982. She was a project scientist at UC Davis for many years studying the genetics of invasive plants before retiring to El Dorado County where she is vice president of the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

The meeting is open and free to public, Tuesday, March 24 at 7 pm at the Placerville Veterans' Hall, 130 Placerville Drive.

NEW LOCATION FOR OUR BI-MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Due to policy changes made by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisor's in December 2019, we are no longer able to meet at the Planning Commission room. The folks at the Placerville Veterans' Hall kindly worked with us to create space at the Hall for our regularly schedule third-Tuesday programs. We thank them very much for helping us out!



CALENDAR

March 24 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Landscape design primer. See article to right for details.

March 31 (Tuesday)

Workshop.
Blue oak ecology & restoration with Point Blue Conservation Science at Wakamatsu Farm, 981 Cold Springs Rd. in Placerville from 10 am to 2 pm. Learn about blue oak ecology, dependent wildlife, impacts from the historic California drought and how we can prepare blue oak woodlands for future drought and climate change in this hands-on workshop. To reserve your space, contact American River Conservancy (530-621-1224)..

April 1 (Wednesday)

Plant walk.
North Table Mountain with Ginna Meyer. See inside for details.

April 25 (Saturday)

Workshop.
Introduction to Keying Manzanitas. Join manzanita experts Tom Parker and Mike Vasey to learn about this iconic group of Western North American plants. Contact Friends of the Chico Herbarium to register (530) 898-5356.

May 26 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Ceanothus and manzanita with Jeff Bisbee. Details inside.

Evening programs are held on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The program begins at 7 PM at the Placerville Veterans' Hall, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville.

Native Plant Sale

Plants - Books - Seeds - Garden Art

Sponsored & curated by the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.



DATE: Saturday, April 4, 2020

TIME: 9AM to Noon

LOCATION: 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA

(middle parking lot in front of County Building C)

A WAY TO HELP MONARCHS

You may have heard the dismaying news of the precipitous decline in our beautiful monarch butterflies- a decline by as much as 99% since the 1980's. Now's your chance to help!



The Xerces Society is looking for knowledgeable CNPS volunteers to help with a new monarch butterfly conservation project. Volunteers are needed to help identify locations and potential seed

NATIVE PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 9 AM TO 12 PM

An early spring means an opportunity to add native plants to your gardens sooner! Come out to the spring native plant sale on Saturday, April 4th from 9:00AM to Noon. Choose from a special selection of plants procured from the best native plant growers in northern California, some of them local to El Dorado County. Shop not only plants but books, posters, t-shirts, seed balls and garden art. Ask questions of the many volunteers who are experienced and helpful native plant gardeners. See 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's
MIDDLE PARKING LOT**

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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.

gathering sites for six particular monarch host plants (listed below), as well as information about the best time frames for collection of seed. Seed will be grown out at Hedgerow Farms, working carefully to keep genetic sourcing intact.. The project aims to increase the commercial availability of a wider range of species and ecotypes that are important to monarchs than are currently available.

The project will be focused on the following plants (note- NOT the more common fascicularis or speciosa milkweeds, which they already have good sources for apparently- those are the most common milkweeds in our county)

Milkweeds: *Asclepias cordifolia*, *A. eriocarpa*

Blue dicks: *Dichelostemma capitatum*

Common verbena: *Verbena lasiostachys*

This sounds like a great project with a valuable organization. If you are interested in learning more or helping, please contact Stephanie McKnight directly at stephanie.mcknight@xerces.org.

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.

I have been asked by the Board to coordinate our “carbon activities”. In January we emailed all members* a link to a survey about what we as an organization could be doing. Thank you to the 39 members who responded.

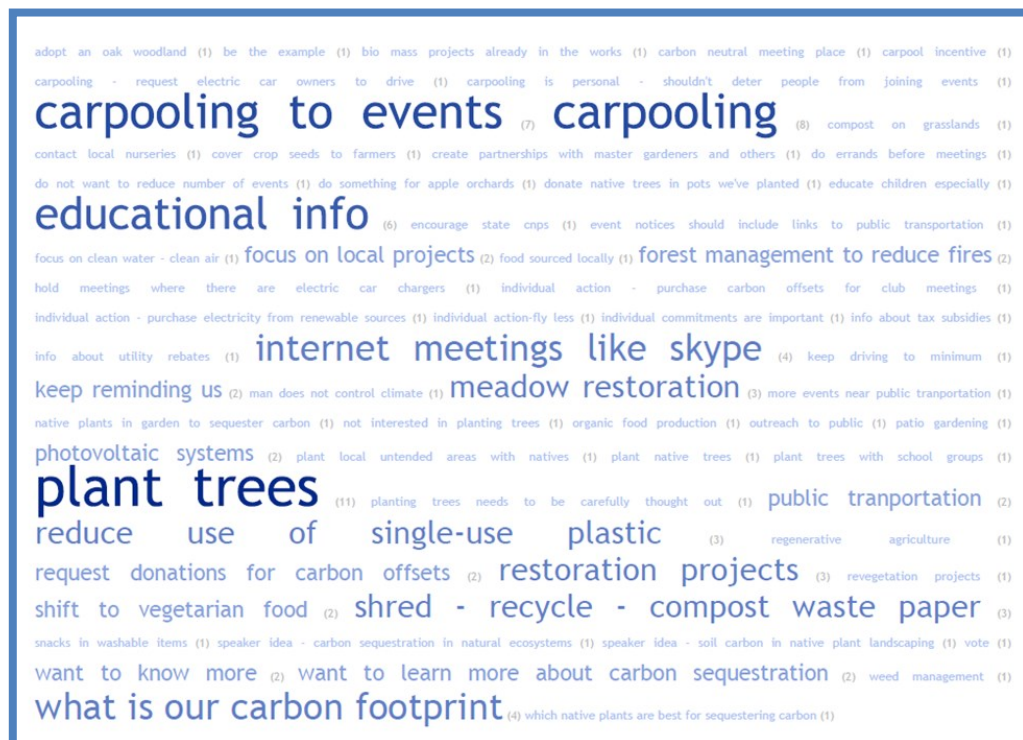
In answer to the questions, “What are your ideas for activities our chapter should be doing to reduce carbon dioxide emis-

sions into the atmosphere? Or to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere?” we received the following suggestions shown in the “word cloud” graphic below this article. The small numbers in parentheses show the number of people who suggested an idea; likewise, the larger font size indicates more people suggesting an idea.

Respectfully,
Tal Blackburn

Life is beauty, admire it.

*If you are a member who has “opted-out” from receiving emails, you would not have received the link. If you would like to receive future “carbon” emails, we can opt you into just this particular list by contacting me here: <https://eldoradocnps.org/component/contact/contact/19-board-and-committee-members/10?Itemid=101>



PLANT WALK—APRIL 1 (WEDNESDAY)

NORTH TABLE MOUNTAIN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, NORTH OF OROVILLE

Meet at 9 am, Shingle Springs Park and Ride, at Hwy 50/Ponderosa Rd. Return: approximately 6 pm. If you need to return early, please let the leaders know. Bring a knapsack with your lunch or snack, water bottle; wear suitable hiking boots or shoes; sunscreen and insect repellent. When the year's rainfall and our timing are just right, one of the best wildflower shows you'll ever see! This is a basaltic tableland with a huge variety of habitat types, and there are acres of goldfields, yellow carpet, Johnny tuck, purple owl's clover, tufted poppy, frying pan poppy, bird's eye gilia, and many, many other wildflowers and other types of plants. Contact Virginia (vcmeyer@mac.com) if you plan to join.

MAY 26 PROGRAM

CEANOTHUS AND ARCTOSTAPHYLOS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

This program will be given by Jeff Bisbee is a botanist and botanical photographer. He has provided photos for a number of books, including *Conifers around the World*, and he has traveled throughout Mexico and the United States, photographing and collecting specimens of conifers, *Arctostaphylos*, *Ceanothus*, and other plants. He also cultivates many species of plants from seed collected throughout these regions.

This program will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 7 PM at the Veterans' Hall, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

PINE HILL PRESERVE TOURS

Join us for a guided bird tour and three guided plant tours in different areas of the Preserve. The tours are free and open to the public. There is a limit of 20 participants per tour. Led by volunteer naturalists, each plant tour will focus primarily on the plants and ecology of the Pine Hill Preserve.

Plant tours begin at 9 am and conclude by 1 pm, and the bird tour will begin at 7 am and concludes at noon.

- April 12 (Sun.) Kanaka Valley (Birds)
- April 18 (Sat.) Kanaka Valley (plants)
- May 2 (Sat.) Cameron Park Unit through hike
- May 9 (Sat.) Pine Hill Ecological Reserve

Field trip participants will meet at designated areas and carpool to the site. Register with Ginna Meyer (vcmeyer@mac.com), and she will notify you one week in advance regarding the meeting location for the tours. Bring sturdy shoes, hat, water, a lunch or snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent.



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

March-April 2020

The Nature Nook

A special garden
at the Placerville library.



Visit the Garden!

This is a new partnership between our Chapter and El Dorado County. Stop by anytime. We can usually be found watering, weeding, pruning and planting at the library on Thursdays, from 10:00-12:00 in Fall/Winter.

For Updates Visit Us on the Web
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 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
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