



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ March-April 2019

MARCH 26 PROGRAM

Native Plants in a Water-Wise Home Landscape

Pam Bone will give a slide presentation on the seven landscape principles that are the foundation to having a landscape that uses water efficiently. She will demonstrate how native plants are an ideal fit for this kind of landscape. Pam will discuss design to maintenance, including efficient irrigation, soil management and selecting appropriate plants that include natives. You will see how easily natives can be incorporated with other similar Mediterranean climate plants to help have a landscape that not only uses less water, but results in a healthier and more environmentally sound landscape. Examples of native plants used in home landscapes will be shown.



Pam is a Landscape Horticulturist and Lifetime Master Gardener with the University California Cooperative Extension in Sacramento County. Her BS in Plant Science from UC Davis led her to her former position as the urban horticulture advisor with the Sacramento County Cooperative Extension where part of her responsibilities included developing and managing the first master gardener program in northern California. She also worked to solve horticulture problems for landscape and nursery professionals, as well as the public. Pam is a frequent guest on KFBK and KSTE Sunday radio gardening programs, and was co-host and co-producer of the popular and award-winning KVIE monthly television program Grassroots Guide to Yard Care which aired for 14 years. Pam has been a member of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS for many years; she is an active Master Gardener volunteer.

This program will be held on Tuesday, March 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.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 9 AM TO NOON
COUNTY BUILDING C, PLACERVILLE**

As this wonderful wet and snowy winter winds down, it's time to get outside and grow something. Native plants! Our spring native plant sale will occur on Saturday, April 6th from 9 AM 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. Choice books, posters, and other resources on native plants will be available for purchase. Ask questions of the many volunteers who are experienced native plant gardeners and love to help. See the insert 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.

The sale will be held at the El Dorado County Government Center, middle parking lot 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.



CALENDAR

March 19

Volunteer day
Oak Seedling Care at Acorn Creek Trailhead. Contact Dillon at ARC for details (530) 621-1224.

March 26 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Northern California's Secret Garden. See article to right for details.

March 30

Volunteer nursery work
Help in ARC's native plant nursery. Also 4/2 and 4/24. Contact Dillon at ARC for details (530) 621-1224.

April 6 (Saturday)

Twice yearly plant sale.
See article to right for details.

April 7-10 (Sun. to Wed.)

Treasure Hunt
Rare plant treasure hunt at Pine Hill. See details page 3.

April 8 (Monday)

Volunteer day
Non-lethal control of beavers in El Dorado Hills. Contact Dillon at ARC for details (530) 621-1224.

April 27 (Saturday)

Citizen science
Bioblitz at Wakamatsu Farm. Contact Dillon at ARC for details (530) 621-1224.

May 28 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Vernal Pools of California. See 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 Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

CLARK YOUTH FUND SPOTLIGHT: GEORGETOWN SCHOOL

Georgetown School has been teaching 6th graders about forest management for several years. This winter our chapter joined in, with Chelsea Morgan giving a presentation on fire ecology and native flora to a group of very informed 6th graders. She was impressed with how much the students already knew about prescribed burning, common native species of trees, and forest management.

This same middle school class also enjoyed a January afternoon in the school nature area with Chelsea and Taylor Blevins learning about invasive plants and sowing native plant seed where Scotch broom was removed. Ten CNPS volunteers had pulled Scotch broom that morning to prep a site to restore with native seed. It turns out that many

of these 6th grade boys were more interested in pulling Scotch broom than spreading seed, so even more broom was pulled in the afternoon. "I want to stay and pull more broom with this weed wrench!" a student shouted when it was time to head back to the classroom. "If you work for the Forest Service like Taylor and I someday, then you can get paid to pull broom" Chelsea told him.

Chelsea, Taylor, and the other 10 CNPS volunteers' work shows that our chapter can support education efforts with volunteer help as well as funds. A big thank you to all involved!!

The El Dorado Chapter looks forward to working with more local schools in the future to bring native plant and ecology curriculum to the classroom and students into the outdoors. Please contact Chelsea Morgan (Clark Youth Fund Chair) if you would like to see CNPS in your classroom.

Calling all volunteers!

Plant Sale - April 6

Kid's Play & Info Table

April 27, Placerville
Library Earth Day Fair

Native plant TLC

April 27, Gold Bug Park
Placerville Rise 'n Shine

Garden Tour Info Table

May 4-5, El Dorado Hills

Pine Hill Citizen Science

April-June, Rescue

Hike Help

April thru summer

Native plant TLC

on-going, Placerville
Library Garden

If any of these catch your interest or even if you would just like a few more details, please contact Tal Blackburn at 530-417-6885 or nblackburn@zetabroadband.com.

SUCCESS WITH BEAVER DAM ANALOGS

Nineteen CNPS volunteers braved the cold last December to help American River Conservancy (ARC) create beaver dam analogs (BDA) by collecting and weaving willow branches across a stream channel at Wakamatsu Farm. We're happy to report they're working! Not bringing beavers (yet) but spreading out the water and setting the stage for better stream habitat.

"The BDAs have been working beautifully...holding back water, causing sediment

deposition and causing the stream to start to meander...It has been a really exciting project to watch evolve over a short amount of time," Dillon Brook, ARC stewardship manager. Thank you to all who helped with this tribute project to Pat Barron.

Want to help beavers again? ARC needs volunteers **April 8, 9 am - 1 pm** to help paint trees and/or install plant protection cages in El Dorado Hills, across from Target shopping

center. The Community Services District there (EDHCSD) is working with ARC to try and control recent beaver damage to trees with non-lethal methods- in other words, NOT by trapping and killing them. This is great news! Beavers are amazing furry engineers that provide many important ecosystem services. It is heartening to see their value being recognized. Contact Dillon Brook to join, (530) 621- 1224

Dillon@arconservancy.org.



December 2018



January 2019



February 2019

RESEARCH AT PINE HILL 2019

As any local botanist can attest, the most exciting time to botanize in the chaparral is in the first few years after fire. Seeds that have lain dormant in the soil for decades germinate when stimulated by the heat or chemicals of fire. Annuals and perennial species not seen in recent memory abound, flourishing in the sun and with the nutrients released by fire. The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt project this year offers the opportunity for plant enthusiasts to partake in these discoveries and to experience plant ecological research first hand – both of which will require some kneeling!

The Pine Hill Preserve system was formed to safeguard five federal and state listed plant species in western El Dorado County on gabbro soils; however, the Preserves pose a high fire risk to surrounding residential communities and neighboring wildlands due to flammable chaparral vegetation. To mitigate this risk fuel breaks have been created, but what are the effects of fuel break creation on the listed plant species, weed invasion, and plant community recovery?

To answer these questions, El Dorado Chapter members and professional plant ecologists, Drs. Debra Ayres and Ginna Meyer, will lead a research study during the next two years along the perimeter of the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve. Since 2017, this perimeter has been subject to hand clearing and brush pile burning by Cal Fire in order to create a 70' fire-safe perimeter around the base of the hill

where the Reserve adjoins private property. Our Chapter has been actively involved in this work since 2016 when teams of Chapter botanists spent 280 hours surveying the perimeter to white flag burn pile locations (where endangered species were absent), and red flag two endangered species for Cal Fire crews to avoid, *Fremontodendron decumbens* and *Galium californicum* ssp. *sierrae*. Other rare species grew in abundance and were not routinely red flagged (see the report [posted on our website](#)).

Our focus this spring will be to identify plots burned last year that contain seedlings of listed species and pair those with plots that were cleared but not burned; in this way we can look at the effects of clearing with and without fire. The effect of fire on seedling emergence and survival of the rare species will be assessed, along with regrowth and germination of native species, and colonization by exotic plants. Some information exists for a few of the rare species, but there is an almost complete lack of data for *Fremontodendron decumbens* and *Galium californicum* ssp. *sierrae* – the two most endangered species – so we will be searching for these seedlings in particular.

We will begin the study in early April (starting April 7 through 10) and continue through May surveying, establishing plots and taking data, and then revisit the plots again in the fall. If you would like to participate in this research, sign up with Tal (nblackburn@zetabroadband.com), or contact Debra (drayres@ucdavis.edu) or Ginna Meyer (vcmeier@me.com).

Springs Park and Ride, at Hwy 50/Ponderosa Rd Return by 3 pm.

May 4, Pine Hill Preserve, Cameron Park through hike (PHP/CNPS) To shuttle meet at 8:45 am, Auburn Hills Blvd, Cameron Park. Return by 1 pm.

May 11, Pine Hill Preserve, Pine Hill Unit (PHP/CNPS). To carpool meet at 8:45 am, Rescue Elementary School, Rescue. Return 1 pm.

May 18, Old Flume Trail, Highway 49. To carpool: Meet at 9:45 am, Placerville Library, Fair Lane, Placerville. Return by 3 pm.

May 26, Lava Bluffs Trail, Calaveras Big Trees State Park. To carpool: Meet at 8:45 am, Placerville Library, Fair Lane, Placerville. Return by 6 pm.

SPRING PLANT WALKS

To join a walk, contact Ginna Meyer, vcmeier@mac.com

April 1, North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve (requires CDFW Lands Pass: wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lands-Pass). To carpool meet at 9 am, Shingle Springs Park and Ride, at Hwy 50/Ponderosa Rd. Return by 6 pm.

April 7, Pine Hill Preserve, Kanaka Valley, Birds with Chris Conard, 7 am to noon (PHP)

April 20, Pine Hill Preserve, Kanaka Valley, Plants, 9 am to 1 pm (PHP/CNPS)

April 27, Vernal Pools - Nimbus Overlook, Phoenix Park, and Mather Regional Park. To carpool meet at 10 am, Shingle

MAY 28 PROGRAM

VERNAL POOLS OF CALIFORNIA

Join us for a talk by Ginna Meyer. This program will be held on Tuesday, May 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.

NEW CLARK YOUTH FUND COORDINATOR

We are happy to announce that Chelsea Morgan, seasonal botanist with Tahoe National Forest, has agreed to chair our Clark Youth Fund. This fund is our chapter's way of encouraging native plant education of County youth. The fund is named in memory of George Clark, a self-taught botanist and past president of CNPS. We have given over \$11,000 to teachers over the last 25 years.

Three schools have received our help for the 2018-2019 school year, and Chelsea has already been working with two of them. We are very fortunate to have Chelsea join the Fund's effort as chair! Watch next Fall for calls to teachers in the new school year.

TAKE ACTION FOR NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION

Are you interested in being informed or becoming involved in native plant conservation activities with our Chapter? Would you like to provide public comments in support of our native plants or attend public meetings for projects that might impact oak woodlands, damage rare native plant habitat, or improve native plant habitat through restoration?

We are creating an email list for people who'd like to be informed of upcoming projects, proposals, activities and opportunities for native plant advocacy. If you are interested in being notified about these types of activities, please send your email address to Lester Lubetkin, Co-Chair of the Chapter's Conservation Committee; lesterlubetkin@gmail.com. We anticipate sending out no more than 3 or 4 notices a year, so you will not be inundated with emails, but you will hear about some of the major issues in our community.



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

March-April 2019

SPRING PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, APRIL 6
9 AM TO 12 PM

COUNTY BUILDING C
 (DETAILS INSIDE NEWSLETTER)

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 quarterly journal, *Flora*, 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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Contact Chapter Leadership at web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com

PRESIDENT	Alice Cantelow
VICE PRESIDENT	Debra Ayres
SECRETARY	Kathleen Barco
TREASURER	Cindy Podsiadlo
BOOKS & POSTERS	Bonnie East
COMMUNICATIONS	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
WEB MASTER	Deborah Nicolls
NEWSLETTER	Sue Britting