



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ MAY-JUNE 2022

MAY 24 PROGRAM GINNA MEYER'S FAVORITE HIKES

In-Person Meeting!

CALENDAR

May 15 (Sunday)

Plant walk.
Old Flume Trail (Red Shack). See inside for details.

May 20 (Friday)

Plant walk.
Lava Caps near Caldor Fire. See inside for details.

May 24 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Ginna Meyer on her favorite CNPS hikes. This is our first in person meeting in nearly two years! See to right for details.

July 26 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
To be determined. Check our website for updates.

Ginna will present photos, descriptions, and visiting information for a few of her favorite nearby (or thereabouts!) hiking places to see, appreciate, photograph, and learn about, our beautiful native plants. In addition to discussing and revealing these favorite spots, Ginna will also give you visiting information for a number of other places to explore native plant diversity, and resources for discovering even more! We hope to see you at the **meeting and that you'll join one or more of our chapter plant walks** (see our website eldoradocnps.org).

The presentation begins at 7 pm and will be **HELD IN-PERSON (!!)** at the **Veteran's Memorial Hall** adjacent to the El Dorado County fairgrounds (**130 Placerville Drive, Placerville**).



Diplacus tricolor - Tricolor monkeyflower. Photo: Ginna Meyer.

GENERAL MEETINGS- IN PERSON FOR THE SUMMER AT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HALL

Its time to reconnect in person! Zoom was a great alternative during Covid, but it's time to be together again now that the risk in the County has greatly subsided. May, July, and September general meetings will all be held at the Placerville **Veteran's Memorial Hall, a large room with ample space. Meetings will still be on the 4th Tuesday of every other month, 7-8:30.** But now there will be snacks and a chance to chat before hand, plant show-and-tells, and info on upcoming events, in addition to a speaker. Join us!

Hybrid meetings, while desired by some, will not be possible, given our lack of appropriate equipment. Instead, our whole approach will be hybrid: our November, January, and March meetings- the winter season, when staying home is particularly cozy- **will be back to Zoom. We'll try this approach for a year, and see how it goes!**

At Vet's Hall, near fairgrounds:

May 24, 2022

July 26, 2022

Sept 27, 2022

Zoom meetings:

Nov 22, 2022

Jan 24, 2023

Mar 28, 2023

SPRING PLANT WALKS

May 15, Sunday, 9 am to 3 pm-ish
Old Flume Trail, Highway 49

WHERE: Old Flume Trail, Highway 49 north of Placerville, across from the “Red Shack”.

WHEN: To carpool: Meet at 9:45 am, Placerville Library parking lot, Fair Lane, Placerville Return: approximately 3 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; binoculars and field guides; camera.

WHAT TO SEE: This is a steep trail of about 2 miles down to the south fork of the American River that traverses through forest and passes by an old flume that once carried water from Chili Bar downstream to Lotus. We should see spring wildflowers, as well as the lovely ferns, trees, and shrubs of the foothill forest. Please contact Ginna Meyer (vcmeyer@me.com) for more information and to let her know you will be joining.



Something to see along the Old Flume Trail—
Leptosiphon montanus - mustang clover.
Photo: Ginna Meyer.

May 20, Friday, time TBA
Lava Cap in Eldorado National Forest

WHERE: Exact locations are to be determined, but we will be visiting lava cap habitats within **or near the footprint of last year’s Caldor Fire**

WHEN: Details of when and where to meet TBA. Contact Ginna Meyer (vcmeyer@me.com)

BRING: A knapsack with your lunch or snack, water bottle; wear suitable hiking boots or shoes; sunscreen and insect repellent; binoculars and field guides; camera.

WHAT TO SEE: According to our chapter lava cap enthusiasts and experts, **Steve and Shellie Perry, lava caps are “spots with good mineral content** for plant growth, but soil that is stony, shallow, primitive, and, according to soil scientists, **‘excessively well-drained’, which makes their blooming** season rather short and spectacular. They are generally more spectacular after a recent wildfire, because the lava cap plants get more sun and water, and some fertilizer from the ashes. There will be stark contrasts between the many dead, black trees and the colorful, vibrant lava caps, buzzing and humming with life. Very worthwhile to see!" Lava cap habitat,



Lava cap habitat, 2019. Photo: Ginna Meyer.



Clarkia rhomboidea on lava cap, 2019. Photo: Ginna Meyer.

JUMP IN FOR NATIVE PLANTS!

Do you recognize the need to protect native plants, and are you willing to lend your time? Our active group of board members and chairs needs help in a few key areas:

Rare Plant Chair

We have many rare plants in the county- rare plant treasure hunts can be organized (our local experts can help), and known **populations monitored**. **We'd love to have someone lead the effort!** Our previous chair has had to step down due to other obligations. Monitoring rare plants in the Caldor Fire footprint is one particular activity that many members are interested in volunteering for.

Volunteer Coordinator

Our many volunteer activities- from plant sales, to restoration events, to weed pulls etc.- could really use someone dedicated to the volunteers themselves- coordinating activities and snacks,

etc. Are you a people person who is happy emailing folks and could help with this? Let us know! It can be a board position or not. (Being on the board though is a great way to connect with other active volunteers in the chapter, and stay up on all our goings-on!)

Program Chair

Debra Ayres has been doing a great job organizing our speakers for many years now, and would love to pass the job on to **someone new**. **Have ideas for speakers you'd like to hear? Willing to reach out to them?** This too can be a board position or not.

Elections this Fall

And stay tuned for upcoming November elections- the 2 year terms for all four elected positions- president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer - are coming to an end this December. Reach out if you have questions, interest, or skills! We are in the process of forming a nominating committee.

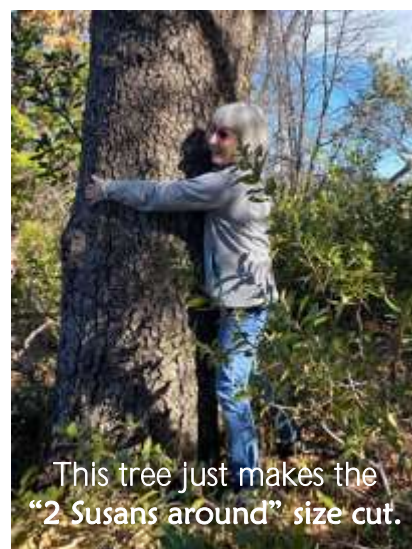
HERITAGE OAK PROJECT

Two of our newer chapter members, Lolly Jones and Karen Mulligan, recognized that there were many old, large oaks in the county, and developed the idea of starting a new **"Heritage Oak" Project**. **Residents of Eskaton in Placerville**, these active ladies worked with younger CNPS member Kaitlin Lubetkin to start a county iNaturalist project- cataloguing all huge oaks, of all oak species. This is open now to everyone!

See a really outstanding big oak? Take its photo (with a person for scale if you can)

and add it to the "Heritage Oaks of El Dorado County" project on iNaturalist.

Because some of the trees are on private property and inaccessible up close, we are not measuring them- just subjectively recognizing the big ones. One visual to use is that **they are "two Susans" (another Eskaton resident) in circumference**. **If you aren't sure what species it is, just record it as "oak" and others will try to narrow it down**. **Let's record as many of these beauties as we can!** Need help with iNaturalist? Contact Kaitlin and she will walk you through the process!



This tree just makes the "2 Susans" around" size cut.

APRIL PLANT SALE RECAP

A huge thanks to Kit Veerkamp for organizing another great online plant sale, with many, many native plants now out to local homes! We also owe a big thanks to Christie Johnson for organizing the concurrent book sales- as wonderful as online **websites are, there's nothing like the depth and breadth that a good native plant book can bring!**

Many buyers also took advantage of the small but active onsite area of native plants for sale, offered by local grower Gail Fulbeck. Artist Vaneeta Hand rounded out the offerings with her lovely native plant themed mosaics.

We'd like to give a big thank you also to our many volunteers who helped the day of the sale:

Bob and Kit Veerkamp
Kaitlin Lubetkin
Lester Lubetkin
Joseph Sloan
Christie Johnson
Gosia Porwit
Gail Fulbeck
Cindy Podsiadlo.
Madeline Franke
Shellie Perry
Alice Cantelow
Deborah Nicolls

Not only do we connect county residents with native plants, we also support local pollinators and other wildlife with those plants, and provide funds to the chapter for our many activities.



Volunteers helping at the plant sale.
Photo: Alice Cantelow.

CNPS OCTOBER 20-22, 2022 CONFERENCE - STIPENDS AVAILABLE TO CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS!

CNPS is presenting a California Native Plant conference this Fall, near the San Jose airport. Talks are Oct 20-22, with field trips and workshops offered October 18-20. Attendance is highly recommended. Previous attendees have found these conferences to be wonderful, being full of great information as well as inspi-

ration. This conference is focused on ways to “celebrate, protect, and restore California’s plants, and everything connected to them”.

Some chapter members will be camping within 30 miles. If you are interested in camping too, let us know! It can be a

great way to save expenses, and get to know each other better. Held every three years, the conferences switch between Southern and Northern California—so the next Northern California one will not be for 6 years.

The member registration fee (approximately \$400) will be paid by the chapter for 7 volunteers- If you have volunteered at least 10 hours for the El Dorado chapter over the last 2 years, plan to volunteer again in the future, and have never attended a CNPS conference before, you may qualify! Applications are due June 15, and can be found on our website www.eldoradocnps.org. Don't be shy- take advantage of this great opportunity to increase your knowledge and enthusiasm!



THE NATURE NOOK HOSTED APRIL OPEN HOUSE

Seizing the opportunity to join a library reading event, and with flowers in full bloom, The Nature Nook committee (Christie Johnson, Cindy Podsiadlo, and Madeline Franke) hosted an open house for the chapter’s native plant demonstration garden at the Placerville library. Refreshments were provided, along with a “Treasure Hunt” to highlight the garden. It was fun chatting and connecting to visitors, and watching them connect to the native plant garden!



Cindy and guests at information table. Photo: Madeline Franke.

Guests exploring the new garden signs and plants. Photo: Madeline Franke.



Kids in the garden on a treasure hunt. Photo: Madeline Franke.



Madeline Franke and the fabulous bee costume!



Chapter volunteers from left: Cindy Podsiadlo, Madeline Franke, and Christie Johnson. Photo: Madeline Franke.

WEED-EATING TO IMPROVE DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Don't forget to survey your area first and then weed-eat around wildflowers! That way, seed will set and you'll get wildflowers next year too. Wildflowers are often great for defensible space = they generally dry out and return to the soil before fire season gets going.



And don't forget that limbing up mature trees and keeping the first 5 ft next to your house clear of anything flammable (including plants and wooden furniture) can be the most effective defense of all!

VOLUNTEERS HELP TO RESTORE THE FOREST LOST IN THE 2014 KING FIRE

JULY 26 PROGRAM

To be determined. This will be an in-person meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Hall near the fairgrounds in Placerville. Details in the next newsletter or on the website closer to the event.

A motivated cadre of volunteers were out on Sunday, May 1, to help in reforesting a portion of the 2014 King Fire scar. In partnership with Eldorado National Forest, American Forests and the Sugar Pine Foundation, volunteers from the El Dorado Chapter CNPS and American River Conservancy, planted about 700 seedlings in an area east of Stumpy Meadows Reservoir along Wentworth Springs Rd, devastated by the King Fire. We planted Sugar pine, Douglas fir and Incense cedar in an area that had been previously planted back in 2018. The Ponderosa pines from the previous planting had a pretty high survival rate, but the other tree species did not fair as well, so we were helping to fill in some of the gaps and add to the diversity of conifer species out in the area. It was a cool, beautiful day and the recent snow had improved the soil moisture immensely.

The scene in the area still shows the impacts from a high-intensity fire. The skeletons of Black oak tree trunks are pretty much all that is standing - the dead conifers were cut and removed shortly after the fire. Now, nearly eight years after the fire, many of the Black oaks have stump-sprouted, sending up shoots about 10 feet tall. Mountain whitethorn ceanothus, manzanita and other brush species have returned, but there was very little natural regeneration of the conifers that had originally populated the area.

The King Fire started in the Fall of 2014, and by the time it was stopped, it had burned nearly 98,000 acres. And of that acreage, about 50% was high severity, where 90% or more of the trees are killed. Following the fire, Eldorado National Forest staff completed a restoration and recovery plan that called for reforesting over 10,000 acres on National Forest System lands primarily in severely burned areas. This reforestation is a multiyear effort to replant portions of the fire footprint. In 2022, contract crews have planted over 300,000 trees - a mix of Ponderosa pine, Sugar pine, Douglas fir, Incense cedar and even some Giant sequoia. This effort will continue still into the future.

A recent publication from the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station, titled "Postfire Restoration Framework for National Forests in California" (General Technical Report 270,

2/2021) highlights the concern that as wildfires become larger, more frequent, and create larger areas with nearly complete tree mortality, the need for careful planning for recovery and restoration is ever-more critical. As high-intensity burn areas become larger, it is more difficult for forests to regenerate and there is a tendency for these areas to return as brushfields. But equally, the landscape should be a mosaic of



Area of high intensity burn within the King Fire. Young Ponderosa pines in the foreground were planted in 2018. Skeletons of black oak and conifer trunks visible in the background. Looking closely you can see several volunteers planting seedlings. Photo: Lester Lubetkin.

varying vegetation from forest to brush to meadow and riparian habitat. Through careful planning and consideration of ecological processes, forest managers can develop appropriate postfire management plans, monitoring needs and maintain our diverse ecosystems.

If you are interested in volunteering for future tree plantings or other restoration projects, let us know at web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com.

*Lester Lubetkin
Conservation Co-Chair*



El Dorado Chapter
 California Native Plant Society
 P.O. Box 1948
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May-June 2022

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 *Artemisia*, 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	Christie Johnson
CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRS	Lester Lubetkin
	Sue Britting
CLARK YOUTH FUND	Chelsea Morgan
FIELD TRIPS	GINNA MEYER
INVASIVE EXOTICS CO-CHAIRS	Debra Ayres
	Virginia Meyer
	Cindy Podsiadlo
	Madeline Franke
	Cindy Podsiadlo
	Kit Veerkamp
	Vacant
	Vacant
	Vacant
	Annie Walker
	Kathleen Barco
	Deborah Nicolls
	Sue Britting
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MEMBERSHIP	
PLANT SALE CHAIR	
PROGRAMS	
RARE PLANTS	
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	
FACEBOOK	
COMMUNICATIONS	
WEBMASTER	
NEWSLETTER	