



# GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

## NOVEMBER 19 PROGRAM

### LIVING WITH EXTREMES:

### A YEAR'S ADVENTURE IN ALASKA AND THE YUKON

Alice Cantelow, chapter president, will talk about her and Lester's year long sojourn in the far north, which introduced them to a great variety of plants, habitats and wilderness, as well as to a wonderful variety of people working to preserve them. Climate change in this part of the world is happening at twice or more the speed that it is here in California, causing a new set of challenges, and a particular urgency to reverse.



This program will be held on Tuesday, November 19, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.



## BOOKS:

### OLDIES BUT GOODIES

Our chapter has a few boxes of used (and some new) books that are spilling out of Cindy's closet. We will be offering them at our next program meeting on November 19 at Building C. They cover a range of topics from trees, and shrubs to wildflowers, mushrooms, tropical plants of Costa Rica, desert and Rocky Mountain wildflowers, landscaping and gardening. Bring a bag and load up. A small donation would be greatly appreciated (cash or checks only please).

## COMING IN 2020! JANUARY 28 PROGRAM: THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

John Kipping will give a presentation on the human history, island ecologies, and animal and plant communities of this extraordinary place. This program will be held on Tuesday, January 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.

## GOOD NEWS AT CAPLES CREEK FIRE

As you likely know, the much anticipated “prescribed” burn at Caples Creek turned into a “wildfire” in the heavy winds of October 10. But, as reported by Eldorado Forest staff, “(d)espite periods of intense burning ..., the planned desired effects of the fire were achieved over most of the burned area ... including a mosaic of high and low severity burn areas. The small pockets of high intensity burn are part of the desired conditions on the ground.” The wildfire continues to smolder, but has stayed pretty much within the footprint of the planned burn. It was declared 100% contained as of Nov. 1. Although the intensity of the wildfire did kill more trees than were intended in the prescribed fire, having pockets of severely burned areas within the forest will have some ecological benefits and will help to create a healthy, sustainable forest.

And what about the magnificent legacy trees we worked on, removing ladder fuels and duff? According to a recent Eldorado Forest press release, most of the large trees in the lower part of the watershed that we all helped prepare for fire did survive, although some large trees were killed in other parts of the burned area.

El Dorado Chapter, CNPS  
PO Box 1948  
Placerville, CA 95667

## PINE HILL RESEARCH: FALL UPDATE

A team of students and CNPS members returned to the experimental plots we established spring 2019 to count and measure seedlings of rare *Ceanothus roderickii* that appear after fire. We found that many additional seedlings appeared in the burned plots (but not the unburned plots) after our April survey and that seedlings appeared to survive and grow better when under the shelter of the 3-4' tall Yerba Santa re-sprouts. Yerba Santa acted as a “nurse plant” by providing shade and possibly protection from herbivory for the young seedlings, a phenomenon that has never been observed for these species.

We will expand this study next spring to encompass southern and eastern exposures. Would you like to join this project? Contact our volunteer coordinator, Tal Blackburn ([nblackburn@zetabroadband.com](mailto:nblackburn@zetabroadband.com)) and either Deb Ayres ([drayres@ucdavis.edu](mailto:drayres@ucdavis.edu)) or Ginna Meyer ([vcmeyer@mac.com](mailto:vcmeyer@mac.com)).