



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ November-December 2018

NOVEMBER 27 PROGRAM TREASURE IN THE FOOTHILLS: LAVA CAPS

Lava caps provide a special botanical heaven in the Sierra Nevada foothills, where rare shrubs and patches of brilliant wildflowers bloom in the spring and linger into the summer. Come learn more about these ancient volcanic mud-flows and the unique plant communities they support.

Jennifer Buck-Diaz is an ecologist in the Vegetation Program of the California Native Plant Society where she surveys, classifies, and maps vegetation across the state. For a recent paper Jennifer co-authored, see: <https://cnga.org/resources/Documents/Visit%20a%20Grassland/Hells%20Half%20Acre%202016%20Winter.pdf>



Eriogonum prattenianum var. *prattenianum* (grey-green shrub) and *Jensia rammii* (yellow flower). Photo: Annie Walker.

This program will be held on Tuesday, November 27, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

CALLING FOR HELP— CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS 2019

During the 2018 “field season” we took plant hikes to the various units of the Pine Hill Preserve, along the railroad tracks from Latrobe in the western El Dorado County, to the Lava Cap at Sly Park/Jenkinson Lake, and several other wonderful trails in the foothills and high country of the Sierra Nevada.

This next year, we have plans to schedule



plant hikes to vernal pools in eastern Sacramento County, on the Old Flume Trail off Highway 49 north of Placerville, to Lava Cap areas, as well as to revisit trails from previous seasons. However, as the field trip planner, I'd like to know which additional trails and great plant places that YOU would like to walk for our plant hikes during the 2019 season.

Also, we have terrific plant hike leaders that have already volunteered for some of our trips in 2019, yet if you have interest in leading one or more hikes, or would like to help out with the hikes in other ways - such as recording participant contact info, keeping the group together and accounted for, etc. - we can always use more help!

With ideas for plant hike locations/trails, or with offers for help with the field trips, please contact me at vcmeier@mac.com. Thank you!

*Ginna Meyer
Field Trip Chair*

CALENDAR

November 27 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.

Treasure in the Foothills: Lava Caps presented by Jennifer Buck. The election of chapter officers will also take place at this meeting. See inside and back page for details.

December 1 (Saturday)

Workshop.

Wreaths of the Season: handcrafted with native plants. Hosted by Friends of the Chico Herbarium from 1-3:30 pm at Chico State University. For details and registration :

<http://www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/native-wreaths>

January 14-15 (Monday-Tuesday)

Plant Symposium.

Northern California Botanists' two-day symposium “*Research and Conservation of Northern California's Vegetation Communities*” at California State University, Chico, plus a third day of workshops. Also included: a poster session, reception, banquet, keynote speaker. Student stipends available. For details, see: www.norcalbotanists.org.

January 22 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.

Northern California's Secret Garden. See inside for details.

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.

BIODIVERSITY FOR THE BIRDS

To have a yard filled with birds, we must promote the food that makes baby birds; for insect eating birds that would be native insects that feed on native plants. So called “pest-free” non-native plants, like the Chinese Ginkgo tree, are ecological dead zones, supporting neither insects nor baby birds. In a current paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, authors Desirée L. Narango, Douglas W. Tallamy, and Peter P. Marra report on a scientific study of the effects of non-native plants on the success of Carolina chickadees.

They write: “Nonnative plants lack an evolutionary history with native fauna and support insect communities that are less abundant and diverse, and this may change food availability for vertebrate consumers. Most insectivorous birds are absent or declining in urban areas, yet no study has tested whether nonnative plants impact bird populations via food limitation. We monitored reproduction and survival of Carolina chickadees within residential yards and found that when nonnative plants increased, both insect availability and chickadee population growth declined. We also found that populations could only be sustained if nonnative plants constituted <30% of plant biomass. Our results demonstrate that nonnative plants reduce habitat quality for insectivorous birds and restoration of human-

dominated areas should prioritize native plants to support local food webs.”

“These observations of the chickadee are a loud, conservation alarm for other birds like the warblers, vireos and thrushes,” said Marra. “These are all examples of species that have disappeared from human-dominated habitats. If we make a concerted effort to re-plant with native species, this might be an opportunity to bring back the birds, right in our own backyards.”

What should you plant to support a rich food web? “Instead of a Ginkgo, plant an oak. Ginkgos support no caterpillar species — important bird food — while oaks support 557 species of caterpillars,” Tallamy said. “Instead of Zelkova, which supports zero caterpillars, plant a native cherry, which supports 456 species. Instead of Pieris Japonica, which also supports zero caterpillars, plant a native viburnum that supports 105 caterpillar species.” The message is clear: plant our beautiful native species!

Deb Ayres

Vice President and Program Chair

For more information see: <https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2018/october/non-native-plants-birds-insects-washington-chickadee-desiree-narango-doug-tallamy/>

To learn about bird-friendly landscapes for the foothills, see: https://www.eldoradocnps.org/images/presentations/Gilbert_Bird-Friendly-Landscapes-v.2.3.pdf

FALL PLANT SALE – ANOTHER SUCCESS!

A cool morning that warmed up nicely under fall sunshine, happy people, and native plants galore! That was the setting for the Fall Native Plant Sale held on October 6th. Many thanks to our members and the community for coming out for this major chapter event. Your support provides important funding so that we can continue to educate, conserve, and inspire sustainable and beautiful gardens throughout the County. Plants were provided by Cornflower Farms, Devil Mountain Nursery, Flourish, Gold Country Flora, and Steve Dowty Nursery. Native wildflower seed balls, crafted by Wild Jules, and a presentation on native bees by Kit Veerkamp, complemented the plants perfectly.

We are extremely grateful for the volunteers who come out to



Photo: Annie Walker



Photo: Annie Walker

help each plant sale, and for those who helped out for the first time. Thank you to the following volunteers who made the day a success: Kathleen Barco, Bill and Tal Blackburn, Sue Britting, Alice Cantelow, Valerie Dowty, Bonnie East, Ola Jane Gow, Mahala Guggino, Pamela Hoover, Lester Lubetkin, Ginna Meyer, Shellie Perry, Cindy Podsiadlo, Linda Raymond, Jane Reed, John Schmidt, Gwen Starrett, Mike Taylor, Kit Veerkamp, Rich Wade, Annie Walker, and Trevor and Judith Whiffin. A special thank you to our Volunteer Coordinator and aide extraordinaire, Tal Blackburn.

The new parking lot location in front of County Building C gave vendors room to spread out and customers room to shop and seemed to flow well. If you have suggestions or comments, please email me at mwdesigns@suttercreek.com.

Christie Johnson
Plant Sale Chair

CELEBRATING SILVER IN GOLD COUNTRY – ACHIEVING 25 YEAR MILESTONE IN CONSERVING NATIVE PLANTS

The El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has been actively working to conserve California's native plants since 1993. Chapter members typically work within El Dorado County - an area which includes the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, stretching from the foothills bordering Sacramento Valley to the mountains at Echo Summit. Over this 25 year period, the Chapter has partnered with governmental agencies, business owners, public service organizations, schools, and residents to accomplish several note-worthy achievements.

Our chapter celebrated its Silver Anniversary on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at the Shingle Springs Community Center. The event was held to honor members and conservation partners for their service and support. Guests viewed exhibits highlighting chapter projects and achievements throughout its 25 year history; including past and present members, volunteers, and community partners who have provided countless hours, materials, services, and financial assistance toward native plants conservation.



Photo: Pamela Hoover

Entertainment featuring live music throughout the evening was provided by the Sandi McCrossin Duo and the Whiskey Beggars.

Special thanks to all the persons who provided supplies and decorated the community center, prepared exhibits for viewing, donated raffle gifts, worked in the kitchen preparing and serving the food, checked in guests, staffed the wine bar, and cleaned up the space after the event had ended.

Come join us as we step into the future continuing El Dorado Chapter's native plant conservation efforts.

*Pamela Hoover
Communications & Public Relations*



Photo: Pamela Hoover



Photo: Pamela Hoover

JANUARY 22 PROGRAM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECRET GARDEN

Join Ed Smith with The Nature Conservancy, for a talk about TNC's recent acquisition of Carpenter Valley in Placer County and highlights of other conservation projects in the Sierra Nevada.

This program will be held on Tuesday, January 22, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

WORKSHOP ADVANCED FIELD BOTANY

An exciting opportunity to take a field class and learn more about plants! This course is designed to follow the first Field Botany course (Bio 320) at Sacramento City College (SCC), but others with some experience in plant identification (through such courses as Plant Taxonomy at Sac State or Wildflowers of California and Shrubs and Trees of California at ARC) may find this valuable and fun!

We meet for three hours (8:30-11:45) on Fridays from Jan 25 through March 15 SCC, and go on field trips on Fridays, from March 22 through May 10, when we leave SCC at 8 am and return by approximately 4:30 pm. The final exam is on May 17.

We will emphasize difficult groups such as grasses, sedges, rushes and Asteraceae; learn new groups including ferns and their relatives, and additional flowering plant families; and will practice using the Jepson Manual for identification of plant taxa.

Possible trip locations include: Table Mountain by Oroville, Marin Headlands, vernal pools at Jepson Prairie or other location, serpentine plants at Traverse Creek, Rush Ranch for saline wetland vegetation, and one low to middle elevation Sierra trip possibly the Middle Fork of the American River.

For more information contact: Dr. Virginia Meyer, meyerv@scs.losrios.edu, or Lisa Serafini, serafil@scs.losrios.edu, Professors, Biology Dept., SCC



El Dorado Chapter
 California Native Plant Society
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November-December 2018

CHAPTER ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

Every two years the chapter membership elects new officers to help oversee and guide the chapter. The Nominating Committee identified the following as the slate of officers:

President	Alice Cantelow
Vice President	Debra Ayres
Treasurer	Cindy Podsiadlo
Secretary	Kathleen Barco

Voting will take place during the chapter meeting on November 27.

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 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

PRESIDENT (ACTING)	Bonnie East	(530) 417-1086	redshldr.1002@yahoo.com
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