



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

SEPTEMBER 22 PROGRAM

CNPS'S VEGETATION PROGRAM AND CALIFORNIA'S BOTANICAL LANDSCAPES

The El Dorado Chapter is pleased to host Julie Evens, the Vegetation Program Director of CNPS, at 7pm Tuesday evening on Sept. 22. She will give an overview of the signature book published by CNPS in 2016 about our state's incredible vegetation diversity. Julie helps maintain standard methods for surveying, classifying, and mapping vegetation in California and works collaboratively with agencies and CNPS chapters on vegetation assessment projects, including current projects in the Greater Bay Area, Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, Sierra Nevada foothills, North Coast, among other regions. She is



California foothills. Photo: Julie Evens

a co-author with John Sawyer and Todd Keeler-Wolf of *A Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd edition (<http://vegetation.cnps.org/>), and she is a co-editor with Michael Barbour et al. of *California's Botanical Landscapes: A Pictorial View of the State's Vegetation*. She also helped compile the CNPS Fire Recovery Guide, 1st edition

(available for download here: <https://www.cnps.org/give/priority-initiatives/fire-recovery>). Julie has a M.A. degree from Humboldt State University, and she has two B.A. degrees from the University of California–Santa Cruz.

New Format! Online Zoom Presentation

While this presentation is open to the public and free of charge it will only be available via a Zoom link sent to your email a few days before the talk. If you wish to join our email list to receive meeting notices and newsletters, use the form link shown below. You do not need to download the free Zoom software app (you can connect using your browser via the Zoom website) but we recommend you do install it for the best result. **And, because Julie's talk will contain many beautiful photos, we suggest you watch on a computer, but you can also join on a phone or tablet.** Use the link to join the meeting at 7pm on Sept. 22. Out of respect for the speaker, during the talk please keep your microphone muted, video off, and avoid using the chat feature. We will invite questions at the end. Unfortunately, we will likely not be able to address individual technical difficulties during the talk, but please email web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com if you experience difficulties so that we can address them for next time.

This is the link to use for the sign-up form: http://cnps.convio.net/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=2224

CALENDAR

September 22 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
California's botanical landscapes. Details to the right..

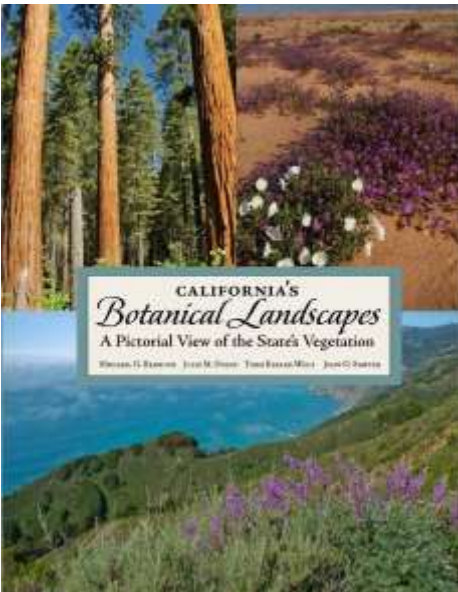
October 1-7 (ordering online)

Online native plant sale.
Order online and pick-up on October 17 in Placerville. Details inside.

November 17 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Homegrown Habitat: Connecting and Enhancing Habitat One Yard at a Time with Kit Veerkamp. Check for details on topic in next newsletter.

Due to the requirements of social distancing, many of our events are on hold.



Julie Evens, our September speaker, co-authored this pictorial view of the State's vegetation. Read more about it and order it at: <https://store.cnps.org/products/californias-botanical->

EL DORADO CHAPTER CNPS FALL 2020 PLANT SALE – ONLINE! OCTOBER 1 TO 7

This has been a challenging year for all! Besides Covid-19, we had another water-challenged year in California. Many California native plants are suited to the cool, wet winters and dry, hot summers of El Dorado County and require little in the way of water, fertilizer or maintenance once established. Native plants are especially important to support pollinators and wildlife.

The fall sale will be online only, starting October 1 and run through October 7. Shoppers can choose from a special selection of plants procured from the best native plant growers in northern California, including El Dorado County. Perennial grasses, shrubs, trees and groundcovers will be available in 4-inch pots, and 1-gallon sizes. Pick up of orders will be on Saturday, October 17th in the parking lot in front of the El Dorado County Government Center, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court in Placerville.

We recommend shopping early for the best selection. Purchases must be made at the time of purchase online with credit cards. All sales are final. Choice books will also be available for purchase.

Membership has its perks! Native Plant Society members receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases made during the sale.

You may opt to become a member at the time of the sale at checkout. Members receive notices about opportunities to learn more about native plants, chapter hikes and volunteering events.

Ordering is easy. Beginning on October 1, go to this website: <https://www.cnps.org/event/plant-sales>. it will take you to the online store page. Click on El Dorado Chapter

1. Click on the plant you want, select an option of size (if there is one), making sure to select an option that also says "-ELD" (if stated in the options).
2. Choose the quantity you would like.
3. Click 'Add to Cart'.
4. When you are done shopping, click 'Checkout'.
5. Fill in your details, providing your email and phone number in case there is a question about your order, then click 'Next'.
6. In the pickup window, make sure you click the boxes for:
 - a. 'Schedule for later', then select **Sat. Oct 17 and the time** you would like to pick it up (between 9am and noon).
 - b. 'Request curbside pickup' and enter details about your car and/or order if there is something unusual that we need to know.
7. Fill in your payment information and click 'Apply'.
8. Review and 'Submit' your order.

TRADITIONAL USES OF REDBUD

Redbud, or *Cercis occidentalis*, is one of my favorite harbingers of Spring here in the foothills. It's bright pink/ magenta color amongst the brilliant green of new growth never fails to give me a thrill. Cercis is a shrub that grows below 5000 feet, from 6 to 20 feet, in full sun or partial shade. It grows in canyons, foothill woodlands, on steep slopes and gravelly stream-

banks. It can grow in nitrogen poor soils because, as with many legumes, it has nitrogen fixing nodules on it's roots that can convert nitrogen from air pockets in the soil for it's use.

The shiny gray branches bear heart shaped leaves that alternate on the stem. They turn from bright green to dark blue green to yellow in the Fall. The pea-shaped flowers are bright pink to magenta, and are pollinated by bumblebees and orchard mason bees. The fruit is a three inch legume pod that turns from a dark purple to reddish-brown.



Redbud © Steve Perry 2011

The bark and root were used to treat diarrhea and dysentery, as well as chills and fever. Navajo were known to roast the seeds in ashes and eat them. Some people eat the flowers in salads.

Mule deer browse on Cercis. Mono, Yukt, and Miwok natives used the long, straight, slender, and pliable shoots for basketry. Both the red wine color of the bark and the white inner material were prized for their color and ease of weaving. The natives would heavily prune the shrubs to create more shoots for the next sea-

son. So when you drive or walk by Redbud in the Spring know that it is more than just a pretty face.

Stefani Reichle

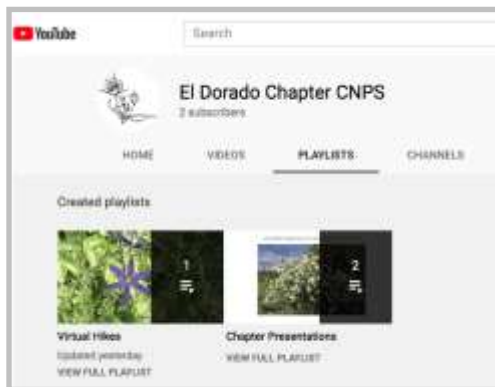
Editor's Note: Reprinted from the newsletter of the Sierra Foothills Chapter CNPS (May 2016). Sources: Encyclopedia of Life, A. Gray; Discover California Shrubs, M. Casebeer.



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EL DORADO CHAPTER'S YOU TUBE CHANNEL

There is a new way to connect with our chapter. A YouTube channel has been established to house videos pertaining to chapter activities such as expert presentations at general meeting and virtual hikes. If you were unable to attend the two most recent presentations, *Ceanothus* and *Arctostaphylos* of the Sierra Nevada by Jeff Bisbee and Ecological Forestry, Fire and Conservation by Chris Paulus, you can now view them at your leisure. Recorded hikes of Camas Meadow, Pipi Accessible Trail, and the Pipi Campground Trail, are also there with information about locations and plants you will see on that particular hike.



To find the channel, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

NOVEMBER 17 PROGRAM HOMEGROWN HABITAT: CONNECTING AND ENHANCING HABITAT ONE YARD AT A TIME

Local landscape designer and chapter member Kit Veerkamp will talk about native pollinators and birds. We are anticipating another Zoom program meeting. We will have more details about that in the next newsletter. **This program is also on the THIRD Tuesday in order to avoid conflicting with Thanksgiving week.**

FAVORITE PLANTS FOR EL DORADO COUNTY

Native plant expert Chapter members compiled a list last fall to aid in selecting native plants suitable for landscape use. The list is included as the last two pages of this newsletter and always available on our website: https://www.eldoradocnps.org/images/gardening/CNPS_Top_Natives_Plant_List_El_Dorado_Chapter.pdf. You can see many of these plants growing at The Nature Nook garden at the Placerville library (open 24/7) and many will be available for our fall plant sale (for sale online only this year with scheduled appointments for pick up). For additional information on native plant gardening, see: <https://www.eldoradocnps.org/gardening/gardening-with-natives/choosing-native-plants>. Keep in mind fire-safe landscaping as you create your garden (<https://www.cnps.org/give/priority-initiatives/fire-recovery>).

To use the list, first determine what kind of plants you need for your specific landscaping needs; e.g. from trees to spreading

groundcovers. Each plant selection lists height and width to ensure you give enough space for each plant. Second, ideal sun exposure and water needs are also included along with flower color, if they flower. Plants with similar requirements should be grouped together; i.e. shade requiring and sun-requiring plants should NOT be planted together. Third, should you wish to create a landscape that reflects our native plant communities or have a special need, like landscaping with oaks, the local plant community where they grow (chaparral, yellow pine forest, or oak woodland) and plants native to our county are identified. Creating a patch of locally native vegetation provides habitat for animals displaced by non-native landscaping and stopovers for animals to move through the larger landscape. Lastly, should you wish to create a wildlife-friendly garden, plants that support native insects and birds are listed. Note that the **El Dorado Chapter's November 17th talk, presented by local landscape designer Kit Veerkamp, will deal with native pollinators and birds.**



Deer grass before planting by the El Dorado Chapter at The Nature Nook garden, December 2018. Photo: Deb Ayres.

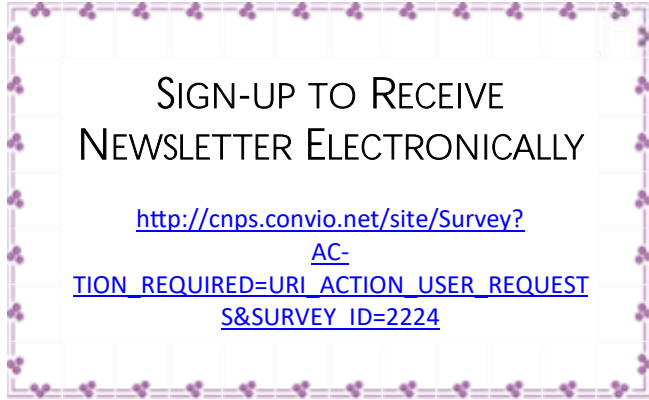


Deer grass at The Nature Nook garden, August 2020 Photo: Deb Ayres.



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

September-October 2020



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 *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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
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EL DORADO CHAPTER CNPS RECOMMENDED PLANTS LIST Oct. 2019

Common Name	Botanical Name	Evergreen or Deciduous	Locally Native Yes or No / Plant Community	Exposure SH = Shade PS = Part Shade S = Full Sun	Water VL = Very Low L = Low M = Moderate	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Flower Color	Birds Yes or No	Bees Yes or No	Butterflies Yes or No
TREES: Under 30' tall and wide, defined tree form											
California Laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	Evergreen	Y/F	S, PS	L	6 - 80'	3 - 30'	Yellow, Cream	Y	Y	Y
Oregon Ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Deciduous	Y/F,O	S, PS	M	35 - 82'	30'	Green	Y	N	Y
Blue Oak	<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Deciduous	Y/O	S, PS	L	16 - 82'	30'	Yellow, Green	Y	N	Y
Black Oak	<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	Deciduous	Y/F, O	S, PS, SH	L	20 - 120'	35'	Yellow, Green	Y	N	Y
LARGE SHRUBS: 6' - 12' tall and wide											
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Evergreen	N/C,O	S, PS	L, M	6-10'	10'	White	N	Y	Y
Coffee Berry	<i>Frangula californica</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,O,F	S,PS	L,VL	6 - 15'	5 - 15'	Cream, Green	Y	Y	Y
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,O	S,PS	L	6 - 30'	10 - 15'	White	Y	Y	Y
Spice Bush	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Deciduous	Y/O	S, PS	M	6-8'	4-6'	Red	Y	N	N
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Deciduous	Y/C,O	PS,S	L	10 - 20'	10 - 15'	Pink, Red	Y	Y	Y
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Deciduous	Y/O,F	S, PS	VL	4.9 - 12'	6'	White, Yellow	Y	N	Y
Snowdrop Bush	<i>Styrax redivivus</i>	Deciduous	Y/C,O	S,PS	L	8-10'	6-8'	White	Y	Y	Y
MEDIUM SHRUBS: 4' - 6' tall and wide											
Oregon Grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Evergreen	Y/O,F	SH, PS	L	3.5 - 7'	6'	Yellow	Y	Y	Y
Concha Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus 'Concha'</i>	Evergreen	N/	SH,PS	VL	4-6'	4-6'	Blue	N	N	Y
Cleveland Sage	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Evergreen	N/C	PS,S	VL	3 - 4.5'	8'	Blue, Purple, Lavender	Y	Y	Y
Chaparral Currant	<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Deciduous	Y/C,O	PS, S	VL	5 - 8'	5'	Pink, Purple	Y	Y	Y
Common Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Deciduous	Y/F,O	SH,PS	L,M	3 - 6'	6'	White, Pink	Y	Y	Y
SMALL SHRUBS: 2' - 4' tall and wide											
Pacific Mist Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Pacific Mist'</i>	Evergreen	N/	S, PS	L	2-3'	4-8'	White, pink	Y	Y	Y
Dwarf Mahonia	<i>Berberis aquifolium var. repens</i>	Evergreen	Y/O,F	SH,PS	VL	2 - 3'	5'	Yellow, Purple	Y	Y	Y
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Evergreen	N/C	S	VL	2 - 6.6'	3'	Yellow, Cream	N	Y	Y
Silver Lupine	<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	S	VL	3.2 - 5'	5'	Blue, Purple	Y	Y	Y
Foothill Penstemon	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	S, PS	VL	3.3 - 5'	5'	Blue, Purple	Y	Y	Y
White Sage	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	Evergreen	N/C	S	VL	3 - 5'	3 - 8'	White	Y	Y	Y
SMALL PERENNIALS: <1' - 2' tall and wide											
Sulphur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Evergreen	Y/O,F	S	VL	0.33 - 7'	5'	Yellow	Y	Y	Y
Common Woolly Sunflower	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	PS,S	VL	1 - 3.3'	2'	Yellow	N	Y	Y
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Evergreen	Y/O	S	VL,L	0.16 - 2'	1 - 2'	Orange, Yellow	Y	Y	Y
Alum Root	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	PS, SH	M	1-2'	1-2'	White	Y	N	N
Coyote Mint	<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	S, PS	VL	2'	3'	Pink, Lavender	Y	Y	Y
Blue Eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Evergreen	Y/O	S,PS	L	1 - 2'	0.25'	Blue, Purple	N	N	Y

Common Name	Botanical Name	Evergreen or Deciduous	Locally Native Yes or No / Plant Community	Exposure SH = Shade PS = Part Shade S = Full Sun	Water VL = Very Low L = Low M = Moderate	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Flower Color	Birds Yes or No	Bees Yes or No	Butterflies Yes or No
Western Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Deciduous	Y/C,F,O	PS, SH	M	1.5 - 3'	1'	Red, Yellow	Y	N	N
Narrow Leaf Milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Deciduous	Y/O,F	S	L,M	1.7 - 3.3'	1'	White, Lavender	Y	N	Y
Showy Milkweed	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Deciduous	Y/O	S	L	2-3'	3'	White, Pink	Y	N	Y
California Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus californicus</i>	Deciduous	Y/O	PS,S	M	0.6 - 2.3'	0.5'	Yellow	N	Y	N
California Aster	<i>Symphotrichum chilense</i>	Deciduous	Y/O	S, PS	VL, L	1-3'	3'	Blue Purple	Y	Y	Y
SPREADING GROUNDCOVER: <1' - 2' tall and 2'+ wide											
Carmel Sur Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos 'Carmel Sur'</i>	Evergreen	N/C	S, PS	L	1'	6'	White, Pink	Y	Y	Y
Coyote Bush dwarf	<i>Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point'</i>	Evergreen	Y/C	S, PS	VL,L	1'	12'	Yellow, Cream	Y	Y	Y
Anchor Bay Mountain Lilac	<i>Ceanothus 'Anchor Bay'</i>	Evergreen	N/C	S, PS	L	3	4-6'	Blue	N	Y	Y
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum 'W. Lytle'</i>	Evergreen	N/C,O	S	L	1-2'	4-5'	White	N	Y	Y
Sonoma Sage	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Evergreen	Y/C	S, PS	VL	1.3'	5 - 15'	Blue, Purple	Y	Y	Y
Bee's Bliss Sage	<i>Salvia x 'Bee's Bliss'</i>	Evergreen	N/C	S,PS	VL	2'	6 - 8'	Lavender	Y	Y	Y
California Fuchsia	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	Deciduous	Y/C,F,O	S	VL,L	0.25 - 1.5'	2-3'	Red	Y	N	Y
GRASSES: Various sizes											
California Fescue	<i>Festuca californica</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,O	S, PS	VL	1.3 - 4'	3'	Yellow	N	N	Y
Common Rush	<i>Juncus patens</i>	Evergreen	Y/O	S	M	1-3'	3'	Brown	N	N	Y
California Melicgrass	<i>Melica californica</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	S, PS	VL	1 - 4.3'	1'	Green, Purple	N	N	Y
Deergrass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	S	L	4 - 5'	4'	Yellow, Cream	Y	N	N
Purple Needlegrass	<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	Evergreen	Y/C,F,O	S	L,VL	3.3'	1.5'	Cream	N	N	Y
VINES: Various sizes											
Chaparral Clematis	<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	Deciduous	Y/C,O	PS, SH	VL	15'	10-15'	Cream, White	N	Y	Y
Dutchmans Pipevine	<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	Deciduous	Y/O	PS	M	1 - 20'	10-15'	Cream, Purple	N	N	Y
California Grape	<i>Vitis californica</i>	Deciduous	Y/O,F	PS,S	L,M	10 - 40'	20-40'	Cream, Green	Y	Y	Y

PLANT COMMUNITY
C Chaparral
F Mixed-evergreen Forest
O Oak Woodland