



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ March-April 2017

MARCH 28 PROGRAM SUSTAINABLE GARDENING WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Calendar

March 18 (Saturday) Workshop.

Identifying Lichens to Genus. This one-day workshop will focus on identifying the lichens of the lower Sierra Nevada foothills to genus. Held at the Chico State Herbarium and hosted by Friends of the Chico Herbarium; contact (530) 898-5381 for details.

March 28 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Sustainable Gardening with California Natives presented by Mahala Guggino. See details inside this newsletter.

April 1 (Saturday)

Plant sale.
9 am to 1 pm, County Building C, Placerville. See details inside.

April 4 to 6 (Tuesday-Thursday)

Workshop
Introduction to Plant identification. CNPS workshop held at Placer County Land Trust in Auburn, CA. See www.cnps.org/workshops for more details and to sign up.

June 8 (Thursday)

Workshop
Butte County Butterflies and their Host Plant Affinities. Learn about the butterflies of Butte County and their host plant affinities. Optional fieldtrip on Friday, June 9. Held at the Chico State Herbarium and hosted by Friends of the Chico Herbarium; contact (530) 898-5381 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.

California native plants are a wonderful complement to many landscapes and provide a wide range of benefits. The recent drought is a reminder that resources are precious. Incorporating the right California native plants can help significantly reduce water use while providing food and cover for many species of birds and pollinators. The evening's talk by Mahala Guggino, owner of the native plant nursery Flourish, will go over a few basics to keep your California native plantings flourishing and highlight some of her favorite native plants for two sustainable gardening applications, hedgerows and permaculture.

Hedgerows, aka living fences, have a long tradition in agricultural settings. Beyond acting as physical boundaries, the hedgerow was used to maintain biodiversity and help with the support and dispersal of beneficial insects. Modern native hedgerows blend function and aesthetics, creat-

ing an attractive garden amenity that provides habitat for birds, pollinators, and insects that prey on pests. Applications range from prominent screening between properties to mini rows delineating different garden spaces.

Permaculture is a sustainable-living practice that focuses on the integration of natural ecosystems with systems for growing food. Natural systems work together - bees helping to pollinate, birds providing natural pest control, plants fixing nitrogen in the soil for other plants to share, etc. Native plants are well suited to any permaculture design and can be added to build soil, create shade, and provide food and medicine.

This program will be held on Tuesday, March 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.

BOOK MAGIC: MAINTAINING YOUR NATIVE GARDEN

An often overlooked part of the Native Garden story is maintenance. You've designed your garden, planted your natives, nursed them through their first two summers and watched them become established. Bravo! Now what?

Fortunately native gardens don't take a lot of work. But which plants might actually benefit from pruning? What is the best mulch, if any, to use? Should you pinch some shrubs after flowering?

These and many more questions are answered for the first time in a wonderful book, California Native Gardening, by Helen Popper, 2012 (UC Press). Orga-

nized by month, the book is a wealth of information with a no-nonsense-get-the-information-across style. I find it so valuable to finally have such a book to consult! Google may be good for quick answers, but for more meaningful information, there is often nothing that matches a well-researched and peer-reviewed book, such as this.

California Native Gardening and other informative gardening, wildflower, and natural history books are available for you at all our plant sales for browsing and convenient purchase. We even offer a 10% discount for members.. Our book-woman extraordinaire Bonnie East also brings a sampling to most of our general meetings.

Enhance your gardening and life experience with these wonderful books!

NATIVE PLANT SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 1 9 AM TO 1 PM

Spring is around the corner and a perfect time to join us at our twice yearly native plant sale. Come by and check out our incredible selection of native plants, including a wide variety of drought tolerant and deer resistant species that grow well in our area. Books on gardening with native plants and natural history will also be available for sale. If you are new to gardening with native plants, there will be plenty of experienced gardeners at the sale to answer your questions.

This newsletter includes a list of plants that are likely to be at the sale so that you can plan ahead for your shopping trip. As in recent sales, we will not be taking orders for plants prior to the sale, so make certain you come down when we first open at 9 AM for the best selection. Cash or checks only; all sales are final.

The sale will be held at El Dorado County Government Building C (below the library) at 2850 Fairlane Ct, Placerville.

Native Plant Sale



FUNDRAISER

Incredible selection of California natives for your gardens, plus books, seeds, info and more!

DATE: Saturday, April 1, 2017

WHERE: 2850 Fairlane Ct. Placerville
(County Bldg C)

TIME: 9am to 1pm

Cash & Checks Only Please All Sales Final

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



www.eldoradoCNPS.org

Stay in touch!  @eldoradoCNPS

Presented by the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).
CNPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

YOUR HELP NEEDED AT PLANT SALE ON APRIL 1

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, nblackburn@zetabroadband.com or (530) 417-6885.



CALeDNA

Revolutionize Conservation in California

CITIZEN SCIENCE

COLLECTING DNA TO MONITOR BIODIVERSITY

One of the main challenges facing Conservation Biologists is effectively monitoring species distribution and establishing reliable baselines of a region's biodiversity. This is key for early detection of species declines. The CALeDNA project, developed by the University of California, aims to address these problems by sending citizen scientists into all corners and habitats of the state of California to collect soil and sediment samples, take basic measurements, snap photos, and record observations.

The Chapter is considering participating in this citizen science project by documenting the biological diversity in our region through the collection and assessment of environmental DNA (eDNA) contained in soils and sediments. More information will be forthcoming as this project unfolds. To learn more about CALeDNA see <http://www.ucedna.com/implications-for-conservation/>

EL DORADO CNPS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! HUNTING FOR PINE HILL PLANTS

Our Chapter is again working with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and CalFire to create a fire-safe buffer around Pine Hill in Rescue. Pine Hill is the crown jewel of the Pine Hill Preserve system, home to eight rare plants including four that are federally listed as threatened or endangered. See <http://eldoradocnps.org/education-and-outreach/science-in-the-county/pine-hill-research> for more information on this botanical treasure. Before the buffer can be made it must be surveyed for the rare species, especially Pine Hill Flannel Bush; that's where we come in. People-trails have been blazed through the chaparral to allow us access for the surveying without brush-busting although the trails may be sloping and rocky. This is an unparalleled opportunity to see these rare plants in an area never before surveyed as it is land-locked by private property.



Pine Hill Flannel Bush (Fremontodendron decumbens) Photo: Mark Skinner, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

We expect the surveys to begin April 1 and continue for 2-3 weeks. The job requirements are ability to walk over uneven terrain for 4-6 hours and interest in learning to identify these rare plants. See <http://eldoradocnps.org/articles-plants/article-call-for-work-party-volunteers-at-pine-hill-preserve-2016> for more details on the job and page 2 of the newsletter that describes this work last spring <http://eldoradocnps.org/images/newsletters/2016-0711-gold-field-notes.pdf> If you are interested please contact volunteer coordinator Tal Blackburn nblackburn@zetabroadband.com or sign up at the general meeting on March 28.



Stewardship Opportunity: Weed Pulling Event

This spring the El Dorado CNPS Chapter will continue with efforts to eliminate the invasive goat grass (an invasive annual grass from southern Europe) from the Traverse Creek Special Interest Area (Eldorado National Forest). Hopefully we'll notice a reduction of this invasive species due to last year's CNPS efforts. Pulling will begin around the middle of the April (dates to be announced in early April when we have a better idea of its development).

If you are interested in assisting in this effort get in touch with me (Mike Taylor at m.taylor@live.com) or our chapter's volunteer coordinator Tal Blackburn at nblackburn@zetabroadband.com.

The picture to the right shows young goat grass plants sprouting from the prior year's seed head.

MAY 23RD PROGRAM RESTORING DISTURBED LANDSCAPES

Bushy Lake is a small man-made lake between the American River Trail and Cal Expo in Sacramento. The surrounding flood plain is prone to frequent human-caused fires that spread rapidly due to flammable weeds. After the last fire in 2014, CSUS professor Michelle Stevens and her students began collaborating with Sacramento County Parks Department to create a fire-resilient understory combining modern restoration techniques with the traditional ecological knowledge of local Native American tribes. White root and creeping wild rye are being tested in the restoration effort as these plant species are fire resilient, drought tolerant, and valued by Native tribes. It is hoped that an understory of these species will promote accelerated succession of habitat for native plants and animals. For more information go to: <http://bushylake.com/about/>.

In this talk, Dr. Stevens will use her restoration experiment at Bushy Lake to discuss the use of traditional knowledge combined with western scientific knowledge to restore disturbed landscapes.

This program will be held on Tuesday, May 23, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

Photo: Mike Taylor



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

March-April 2017

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, *Fremontia*, 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.

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