



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☉ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☉ May-June 2017

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.

Calendar

May 23 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Restoring Disturbed Landscapes presented by Dr. Michelle Stevens. See details in article to the right.

May 13 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Robie Trail near Sliger Mine to Canyon Creek between Cool and Greenwood Diane Cornwall at dancingwildflowers@me.com, 530-888-1404 and Cell 805-279-2906 for details.

May 27 (Saturday)

Plant walk.
Kanaka Valley tour of Pine hill plants. Hosted by Bureau of Land Management. Contact Graciela Hinshaw, preserve manager, at ghinshaw@blm.gov or call (916) 941-3134 to reserve your place.

June 8 (Thursday)

Workshop
Butte County Butterflies and their Host Plant Affinities. Learn about the butterflies of Butte County and their host plant affinities. Hosted by Friends of the Chico Herbarium; contact (530) 898-5381 for details.

July 25 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Learn about the native moths. Presented by Laurence Crabtree.

July 28-30 (Friday-Sunday)

Plant seminar and field trip.
High Country Plants & Habitats: How are they coping with climate change? Led by Ann Howald in the Tioga Pass region of the Sierra Nevada. Organized by the Mono Lake Committee. See website for details: <http://www.monolake.org/visit/seminars>

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.

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE A SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS

We wanted to send a big heart-felt thank you to our members and the community for supporting the Spring Native Plant Sale on April 1st. The sun was shining and birds were singing, and the sale was buzzing. This is a major event for our chapter that seeks to bring together the community, promote education, encourage membership, inspire sustainable and fire-smart landscaping, and beautify gardens around the County. So many volunteers came out to make the event a success, and your patronage not only helps support local native plant nurseries, but also provides important funding for the chapter. Plants were provided by Floral Native Nursery, Steve Dowty Nursery, Flourish, and Gold Country Flora and were complemented by wildflower seed balls crafted by Wild Jules. Engaging displays were staffed by our new Education Chair, Pamela Hoover, along with several volunteers to highlight the importance of different native plant communities, how to garden within them, invasive plants to watch out for, and how to support pollinators and other wildlife

through native plants.

Our gratitude goes out to the following faithful volunteers who happily set up, distributed boxes, assisted customers, tallied plants, cashiered, staffed membership and education tables, cleaned up, and anything else that needed doing: Kathleen Barco, Bill and Tal Blackburn, Sue Britting, Alice Cantelow, Valerie Dowty, Gail Cosmo, Bonnie East, Susan Freidrick, Mary Lou Giles, Ernie Hartley, Amy Hoffman, Ric Hornor, Pamela Hoover, Callen and Kyle Keller, Susan Levitsky, Lester Lubetkin, Doni Mae, Shellie Perry, Cindy Podsiadlo, Marcia Scott, Eliza Anker, and Annie Walker. A special thank you to Tal Blackburn not only for organizing all of the volunteers, but also for streamlining the entire process for this and other events. Thank you all!

We are always looking to improve the sale events, which typically occur the first Saturday of April and October of each year; if you have suggestions, please email the plant sale co-chairs: Mahala Guggino (mahala@flourishontheweb.com) and Christie Johnson (mwdesigns@suttercreek.com).

EL DORADO CHAPTER RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT AT PINE HILL AND CDFW FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

This year and last our Chapter worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on a fuels reduction project around the perimeter of the State owned lands of the Pine Hill Preserve in Rescue. The Chapter tasks for this project were to survey the perimeter of Pine Hill to locate and flag rare Pine Hill plants and to delimit burn areas where these plants were absent. After we did our part, chain-saw wielding crews from Calfire cut down the chaparral shrubs (“fuels”) and placed them on the burn sites to eventually reduce the shrubs to ash. As the perimeter of Pine Hill is land-locked by private property, this was a unique opportunity for our Chapter to conduct a Rare Plant

Treasure Hunt (RPTH) on 8.5 acres of incompletely or never surveyed areas on the lower slopes of Pine Hill. In 2017, we spend 200 person-hours creeping along narrow paths carved by Calfire crews through the thick brush, and 80 hours compiling and mapping data, and writing-up our findings. Chapter botanists located about 70 unreported and 20 reported occurrences of *Ceanothus roderickii* (Pine Hill Ceanothus), *Fremontodendron decumbens* (Pine Hill Flannel Bush), *Galium californicum* ssp. *Sierra* (El Dorado Bedstraw), and *Packera layneae* (Pine Hill ragwort); these species are federally listed as threatened or endangered. Another federally listed species, *Calystegia stebbinsii*, not known to occur on Pine Hill was NOT found. We also designated 100s of burn sites where the federally listed species were absent. After the shrub thickets have been removed the Chapter anticipates future RPTHs along the Pine Hill perimeter to completely map these



The tiny-statured El Dorado bedstraw showing characteristic whorl of four hairy leaves (note pine needles for scale) April 11, 2017, photo by T. Mikich.



We found an extensive population of Galium californicum ssp. Sierra (green dots), and previously unknown populations of Fremontodendron decumbens (orange dots) and Ceanothus roderickii (red dots) along the east and north perimeter. The black dots are the tracks the GPS recorded as we walked along the perimeter. The clearing in the lower right is the top of Pine Hill.

species along with other rare plants of Pine Hill; i.e. *Wyethia reticulata* (El Dorado Mule’s Ears), *Chlorogalum grandiflora* (Red Hill Soap Plant), and *Crocantemum suffrutescens* (formerly *Helianthemum suffrutescens*, Bisbee Peak Rush Rose).

Pine Hill is located in the center of a 30,000 acre gabbro soil island in western El Dorado County. For a combination of reasons this gabbro island is home to almost 750 plant species making it one of the most botanically diverse areas on Earth. Among the botanical riches are 8 rare species, a few of which are found nowhere else in the world; five are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act, the only federally protected plant species in El Dorado County. This area and its plants have been of interest to our Chapter since its inception in the 1980s. Our web site contains web pages detailing the preserves, the plants, and our Chapter’s work in conserving these plants. For an overview of the area and its preservation see

<http://www.eldoradocnps.org/plant-places/plant-hotspots/pine-hill>; clicking on a species' names brings up the Calflora link for that species. To see the research that has been conducted in this area and on the plants see <http://www.eldoradocnps.org/education-and-outreach/science-in-the-county/pine-hill-research> - clicking on a plant name brings up the basic biology of the species based on research and a summary of the research that has been done on the species. The bibliography link lists the full citations. This link provides a summary of our Chapter's efforts (legal and advisory) to conserve Pine Hill and other natural resources in the county: <http://www.eldoradocnps.org/conservation/conservation-history>

The Pine Hill Preserve, composed of 4 main preserves and managed by the Bureau of Land Management, conducts tours every spring. For this year’s schedule see <http://www.pinehillpreserve.org/tours/index.htm>

Debra Ayres, Alice Cantelow- Lisa Couper, Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, Lester Lubekin, Sarah Powell, and Annie Walker

Image to the right: Fremontodendron decumbens, May 2016, D. Ayres

MEET OUR NEW EDUCATION COORDINATOR

We are very fortunate to have Pamela Hoover join us as our Education Coordinator. She has wonderful enthusiasm and ideas to improve our outreach efforts, in order to spread the love and knowledge of native plants to as many children, teens, and adults as possible!

Pamela permanently relocated to the Placerville area last year, where her family has lived for almost 50 years. She is currently working to restore her oak woodland property to a more natural state, taking a principally organic approach and focusing on returning native vegetation. A self-published author with a degree in Biology/Zoology, Pamela was raised on a small farm and has a deep appreciation of nature, both its plants and its animals.

ALICE SAYS TA-TA (FOR A YEAR!)

I wish you all the best as Lester and I head for a year in Alaska and Northern Canada - something we've always wanted to do and suddenly have the opportunity! The chapter is in very strong hands, with Bonnie East (book lady) stepping in graciously as President. She will receive strong support and help from Annie Walker, Debra Ayres, and the rest of our Board.

It has been wonderful watching the continued development of our plant sale, our

growing pool of active volunteers, our successful conservation efforts such as the recent Pine Hill plant surveys, our continually improving website, our new energy towards native plant education (see Education Coordinator article), etc.! I look forward to seeing the chapter in an even stronger position when I return than it is right now. Take care- and thank you for all you do to help keep the love, joy, and conservation of native plants alive! I will be joining that effort again when we return.

Alice Cantelow
Chapter President



Want to help her get the word out about native plants and join the education committee she is re-establishing? Maybe you have an interest in visiting schools? Or providing native plant materials to assist new home owners? Or providing information to realtors, churches, and other organizations? Or developing written materials and photos? Or working with other nonprofits? Or writing material for local newspapers and other media?

If any or all of this interests you, please contact Pamela at pch113@icloud.com Let her know soon, as she is preparing to hold her first meeting in early May. Let her know which weekdays/times are best for you. She'd love to have your help and energy with this important renewed educational effort!

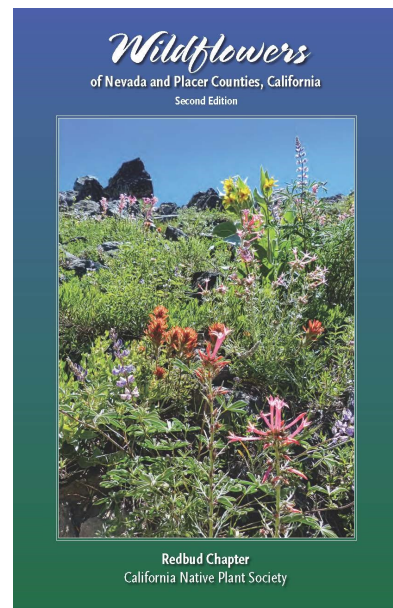
JULY 25TH PROGRAM NATIVE MOTHS

Presented by Lawrence Crabtree.

This program will be held on Tuesday, July 25, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

GUIDE TO LOCAL WILDFLOWERS

Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California (second edition)
Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society



From valley grasslands through foothills, meadows and up to mountain peaks, Sierra Nevada wildflowers enchant all who stop to enjoy their beauty and wonder. The second edition of this versatile guide describes over 500 species of wildflowers found in Nevada and Placer Counties, a richly diverse region home to 38 percent of all plants known to grow wild in California—rendering the book useful well beyond county lines. The new edition includes an easy-to-use plant identification key, along with drawings of plant anatomy and icons for each plant family. Illustrated with over 600 color photographs, close-ups and landscapes, the book features habitat descriptions and tips on places to see bountiful wildflower displays. Useful to casual hikers and avid botanists alike.

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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, *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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