

Our Projects

The Chapter's projects are designed to increase awareness, appreciation, and understanding about the conservation of native plants, and their horticultural use.

Pine Hill Preserve

The Pine Hill preserves are located on the gabbro soil lands surrounding Pine Hill in western El Dorado County and are home to 5 federally listed rare plant species. Since 2011, several governmental agencies and representatives from our Chapter have regularly met to develop conservation strategies to identify remaining habitat sites and develop a conservation plan.

The Chapter has been working with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Cal Fire to survey and map

rare plants on the perimeter of Pine Hill before and after clearing to create a fire break between Pine Hill and surrounding homes. A re-



Pine Hill Flannel bush, *Fremontodendron decumbens*, D. Ayres

search project by the Chapter looking at native and exotic species colonization, and survival and growth of Pine Hill Ceanothus is ongoing there until 2022. The preliminary study will be published in the CDFW journal in 2020.

Invasive Weeds

The Chapter identifies new weed species invading the County, such as Stinkwort, or problematic known weeds, such as barb goatgrass along Traverse Creek, and organizes weed pulls that focus on hand removal. Volunteers usually work for about two hours during the cooler parts of the day.

Restoration and Conservation Activities

The chapter actively leads a variety of hands on projects ranging from blocking illegal OHV trails and associated damage, replanting impacted areas, stream restoration, fixing fences and collecting trash, and helping to prepare forest areas for prescribed fires. We work to protect the natural beauty and native plants of the County.

The Nature Nook Garden at the Placerville Library



The Nature Nook is a new public garden at the Placerville Library. This lovely haven is designed for pollinators, birds, and people and is open to visitors every day of the year. Starting in spring 2017 the Chapter began to revitalize the former Xeriscape Demonstration Garden to showcase the beauty and benefits of gardening with natives. Volunteers from the Chapter and the community spent many months preparing the site by pruning and removing declining plants, weeding, and digging in 40 yards of soil amendment. To demonstrate the possibilities and utility of using California native plants a landscape plan was created featuring an entryway shrub garden, a pollinator garden outside the windows of the children's library, a meadow garden, and a shade garden using the existing oak canopy for native plants needing shade. The garden was planted in December 2018. Look for new signage and an information brochure.



CNPS
California Native Plant Society

El Dorado Chapter



El Dorado Chapter Flower

Pleasant Valley mariposa lily *Calochortus clavatus* var. *avius*
Photo: S. Perry

Dedicated
to Conserving
California's
Native Plants



The El Dorado Chapter California Native Plant Society

Our Purpose

As a member of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the El Dorado Chapter (the Chapter) is committed to protecting our county's diverse native plants and conserving their natural habitats. We also strive to increase the public's appreciation for, and knowledge of, native plants. Our organization envisions a future in which Californians actively experience and enjoy native plants in their natural habitats and human-made landscapes.

Our History

The Chapter has been educating County residents and visitors about native plants and natural history since 1993. A newsletter was published and field trips began at the Chapter's inception. Native plant sales, free educational presentations, and native garden tours have taken place over many years. During this time Chapter members have conducted invasive plant and weed pulls, acted as watchdogs within the County to ensure legislative protections are followed, and assisted in native plant restoration projects. Early supporters included community leaders George Duffy, Don Smith, and current Board members Annie Walker and



Western Redbud
Cercis occidentalis
D. Ayres



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Our Members

CNPS is a statewide non-profit organization where amateur and professional botanists and people interested in gardening and conservation share a common interest in California's native plants. As a member of CNPS, the Chapter maintains a contact list of enthusiastic members and community volunteers who are notified about upcoming events.

Chapter Meetings

General meetings take place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meetings are free and open to the public. Topics range from moths in the forest to replacing a lawn. In addition to the featured speaker presentation, these meetings include a show-and-tell about one or more seasonal plants and a brief chapter meeting.

Field Trips

Field trips are scheduled during the spring and summer and offer the opportunity to explore various habitats and our rich native flora. Many trips are strolls rather than strenuous hikes. Check our newsletter or website for specific information.

Native Plant Sales

Typically held on the first Saturday of April and October in Placerville, a variety of native and drought tolerant plants suited to local growing conditions may be purchased. Experienced gardeners are on site to provide information about plant selection, care, and maintenance.



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Education Outreach

Community events are a great way to provide information about the beauty and benefits of native plants. Volunteers set up displays, hand out materials, and invite visitors to participate in an activity to increase awareness. Earth Day and the Chapter's spring and fall plant sales are typical events where educational information and activities take place.

Clark Youth Fund

This fund was established to honor George Clark, past president of CNPS and a self-taught botanist. The Chapter has provided funding to encourage native plant gardening and education. Educating young people about the importance of maintaining ecological diversity through preserving native plants is the goal of grants provided to schools and other youth organizations.

For more information:



www.eldoradocnps.org



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