Gold Field Notes

El Dorado Chapter ❀ California Native Plant Society ❀ November-December 2026

Calendar

November 13 (Friday)
Car tour.
Join the conifer caravan and come see the variety of conifers in our area. See article inside for details.

November 14 (Saturday)
Second Saturday.
Book discussion of *The Light Eaters.* Placerville Library, 10 am to 12 pm. See page 3 for details.

November 17 (Tuesday)
Chapter program.
A Talk with M. Kat Anderson, Author, Ethnoecologist, Gatherer. Details in article to the right.

December 12 (Saturday)
Second Saturday.
Native Plant wreath making. Placerville Library, 10 am to 12 pm. See page 3 for details.

January 26 (Tuesday)
Chapter program.
Erica Orcutt, Ph.D. on Ecological Conservation, Management, and Geography in the El Dorado Foothills. This talk on ZOOM will feature her study sites in the Pine Hill Preserve. Details inside and in next newsletter.

Evening programs (with occasional exceptions) are held on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and the third Tuesday of November (to. Beginning at 7 PM, the program may be in-person or via Zoom. Check the chapter's website for specific details: https://www.eldoradocnps.org/.

November 17 Program
A Talk with M. Kat Anderson: Author, Ethnoecologist, Gatherer

Join us for a talk by Dr. M. Kat Anderson, author of *Tending the Wild* and her newest work from this year, *I Sing to the Earth, and She Sings Back*. Kat is currently focusing on restoring human relationships to the earth and its living things. This entails honoring and reviving the gathering and tending practices, ethical stances, and ways of being of pre-industrial cultures from around the world. As the author of *Tending the Wild*, she highlights indigenous stewardship practices essential for biodiversity, climate resilience, and cultural restoration. Her latest work, *I Sing to the Earth and She Sings Back*, explores how we can reimagine time, embrace reciprocity, and cultivate deep, healing relationships with the natural world through essays that examine the cyclical rhythms of life, the intelligence of other beings, and the wisdom of holistic perception.

Wetland. Photo: C. Freeman

M. Kat Anderson is an ethnoecologist, writer, gardener, and gatherer dedicated to restoring relationships between people and native ecosystems. With a Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science from UC Berkeley, she has spent over 25 years learning from Native American communities, integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with Western science. Kat lives in Redbud House, in Davis, California, where she is bringing wildness back to her garden and tending the plants native to the Central Valley and her other motherlands.

The meeting is on Tuesday, November 17 at 7 pm, at the Cameron Park Community Center (2502 Country Club Dr, Cameron Park, CA) and is free to everyone.

Taking Up the Carbon Neutral Pledge

We, members of CNPS, are champions for native plants in our community – our efforts ripple out supporting pollinators, birds, and other wild creatures who thrive here: from our pine forests, oak woodlands and chaparral to our own gardens. Even as we enjoy and conserve our home ground, our activities release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Keep on trucking El Dorado
Photo: Twizler 5th Birthday Card, available from Amazon

It is the incremental work of many people (like our chapter members) that contributes to a slowing of global temperature change. Compensating for our release of carbon by storing more carbon is one way to limit the increase in global temperature. One might think, why try when all there seems to be is bad news? We try because doing even a little thing now gives more breathing time for native plants and people, so adjustments can be made to the changing conditions or movement to new suitable locations.

We Are Having Another Birthday!

Five years ago, our chapter began collecting transportation mileage from volunteers, customers and event attendees to estimate the chapter's carbon footprint. For 5 years we have purchased carbon offsets to compensate for our carbon footprint.

CNPS also made a similar carbon neutral goal which goes into effect in 2030. Our Board voted to not wait until 2030. "I have always thought it very progressive

Photo: Tal Blackburn

that the chapter took on accounting for carbon use and then purchasing offsets. Since we report on it in the newsletter a couple of times a year, it also becomes part of our educational package on protecting plant biodiversity and increases awareness about the impact our daily lives have on biodiversity", wrote Sue Britting, Conservation Co-Chair, El Dorado Chapter.

We would love to hear what you think too. Email Tal at natalia.a.blackburn@gmail.com.

All Tied Together!

When you see a weed, do your fingers itch to pull it (even when you are dressed in your best clothes?) When you see a tangle, do you wish to clean it up (just a little bit to make things better?)

If so, then you could be a perfect fit to work with the chapter carbon pledge advocate collecting mileage information, putting the numbers into our Excel spreadsheet and providing carbon data for the annual chapter report to CNPS.

Find out more. Email Tal at natalia.a.blackburn@gmail.com. She would love to show you the ropes.

Together, we are protecting biodiversity and building climate resilience mile by mile. Take some time to savor your own personal successes of the last 5 years…

…then it'll be time to get back to work.
With joy,
Tal Blackburn

Photo: Bill Blackburn.

CNPS Second Saturdays!

Meet up with fellow native plant enthusiasts at our "CNPS Second Saturdays"! Here's the line up for the rest of this year. Sign up for these events at: https://eldoradocnps.org/events/

Upcoming Events:

November 13 (Friday) - Conifer car tour. This is an add-on event to complement the conifer workshop in September. This event is open to all. See article to right for details.

November 14 – Book discussion
The Light Eaters (https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/196774338-the-light-eaters) by Zoe Schlanger Placerville Library, 10 am to 12 pm.

December 12 – Native Plant wreath making. Placerville Library, 10 AM-12 PM.

Conifer Caravan Field Trip

Friday, November 13, 2026
9 am to approximately 5 pm

As a follow-up to our September 12, Second Saturday Conifer Workshop, we are planning a conifer exploration tour via a carpool caravan. We will meet up at 9 am to organize a carpool to minimize the number of vehicles on the tour. Then we will travel to selected spots, beginning in the Sierra Nevada foothills to find lower elevation conifer-supporting habitats, and then traveling up "the mountains" to stops at lower montane, upper montane, and subalpine habitats. Once we've come to a Sierra Nevada summit, we'll continue downslope on the eastern side to visit conifers and their quite different habitats there. Eventually, we'll head back to the summit and "down" the western slope to our meeting place, but perhaps via a different route! Our stops to observe our lovely conifers and their environs will not involve hiking, but we'll stroll from our cars a short distance to get a close look (and smell!) of our target plants.

Sierra juniper (*Juniperus grandis*). Photo: Lisa Couper.

Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*). Photo: Lisa Couper.

If you joined us on September 12 for the Conifer Workshop, make sure to bring your *Sierra Nevada Conifers* booklet. For those of you that missed the workshop, we'll bring extra copies of the booklet to use on our tour. You might also want to bring along your John Muir *Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, and/or the CNPS Redbud Chapter's *Trees and Shrubs of Placer and Nevada Counties*, and/or the Sawyer and Stuart *Trees and Shrubs of California*.

Sign up for our Conifer Caravan soon, as we will limit the number of participants to 20 folks: https://eldoradocnps.org/events/. After a scouting tour has been completed, details about our route and planned stops will be sent to you via email, along with info about expected forecast, what to wear and what to bring.

Fall is a great time to visit the mountains and their evergreen trees and shrubs!

January 26 Program

Erica Orcutt, Ph.D. on Ecological Conservation, Management, and Geography in the El Dorado Foothills. This talk on ZOOM will feature her study sites in the Pine Hill Preserve.

Check the website and then next newsletter for details on obtaining the XOOM link.

Your garden can save pollinators. Here's how.

One in five pollinator species in the U.S. faces extinction—but there's something you can actually do about it. Calscape's new Pollinator Hub turns your yard, balcony, or garden bed into a genuine pollinator habitat by connecting you to the native plants they need.

TRY OUT THE POLLINATOR HUB

https://calscape.org/pollinator-hub/

Find the right plants (and the right pollinators)

Search by your growing conditions and garden needs, then watch the Hub match you to native plants that support over 3,000 butterflies and moths, 1,500 native bee species, plus hoverflies and hummingbirds—all across California. You can even target specialist native bees that depend on specific plants to survive. The Hub shows you which plants support pollinators at each life stage, so you're building real food webs, not just pretty flowers.

Get started in minutes

Looking for quick solutions? Try the Pollinator Companion Tool (https://calscape.org/pollinator-companion/welcome. Answer a few questions and get a customized plant list tailored to your space and needs.

Calscape
California Native Plant Society

Hummingbird on *Salvia spathacea*. Photo: Tony Tubbs.

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

November-December 2026

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 journal *Artemisia*, 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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