



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2011

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENT

CALENDAR

January 18 (Tuesday)

Program.
Robert Mackler and Mushrooms
101. See inside newsletter for details.

February 26 (Saturday)

Workshop.
Plants that Hunt: Carnivorous
Plants and the Deeds They Do!
Hosted by the Jepson Herbarium,
UC Berkeley. See website for
details: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2011/index.html>

March 3-6 (Thurs.-Sun.)

Workshop.
Lichens and Soil Crusts of the Eastern Mojave. Hosted by the Jepson Herbarium at the Desert Studies Center, Mojave National Preserve. See website for details: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2011/index.html>

March 15 (Tuesday)

Program.
Adaptive management in the Sierra Nevada. See inside newsletter for details.

April 2 (Saturday)

Twice yearly plant sale.
Native plants and books will be on sale from 9 AM to 1 PM at the El Dorado Fairgrounds, Corker Building, 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville. Details to follow in March-April newsletter.

Evening programs are held on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Programs begin at 7 PM.

Cindy Podsiadlo served two years as Chapter President following several years as Chapter Treasurer. She brought a lot of energy, commitment and old-fashioned hard work to both of these responsible positions. As Chapter President especially, she was the person who made the organization tick and we have all benefited from her efforts in remodeling the Chapter into a more sustainable community organization. Please, the next time you see Cindy, give her your thanks for a job very well done.

I'm Rosemary Carey, the new Chapter President, and would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I grew up in San Francisco in a home on a large lot near the ocean. My mother was an urban gardener who liked spring bulbs and color: cosmos, Cineraria, marigolds and pot marigolds, pansies and Johnny jump-ups, Sweet Williams, Sweet peas, Forget-me-nots, and Nasturtiums, for starters. Iceland poppies were 3 season-long bloomers from winter through the end of summer, and monarch and swallowtail butterflies lingered on the vining evergreen lantana which covered the fence. As gardener's assistant, I was pulling out Algerian ivy and English holly at a young age: it was my first experience with the relentlessness of noxious weeds. When I went off to U.C. Berkeley I chose botany and learned how to key plants, so that was passing through a second doorway where I could figure out the name of mystery plants that I was seeing. A summer-long field botany course at Sagehen Creek Field Station north of Truckee and subsequent field trips to the Mo-have, Colorado, Sonoran, and Great Basin deserts, the redwood forests of the northwest coast, and the lava fields of the southern Cascades clinched the deal for me: seeing native plants in their habitats was fun, beautiful and always

raised more questions, so I went for a Master's of Science in soil as a medium of plant growth. Many years later, most spent in the Sierra, my interest in seeing and conserving our unique California native plants in their native habitats is stronger than ever as a result of the many wonderful experiences I've had getting out hiking on the forests and chaparral lands of El Dorado and adjacent counties. I've been a member of the El Dorado Chapter for 16 years, and in that time, have been on a lot of field trips to interesting areas, been the Publicity Chair for over 5 years, the Clark Youth Fund Chair for 3 years, and written a successful grant to fund the Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Program and the 2010 El Dorado Going Native Garden Tour.

I've also come full circle to my upbringing: I now have an equal interest in growing native plants for use in water-wise gardens. My husband is a fisheries biologist who works on the northern tributaries to the San Joaquin River where the Chinook salmon runs have dwindled to perilously low numbers. I was his field assistant on the Stanislaus River for several years where we monitored the fall salmon run. The experience of that phenomenon of seeing the salmon come upriver, build their redds, mate, and die was something that I will never forget, and ultimately influenced my thinking on water use. Appropriate home landscaping for our summer-dry Mediterranean climate is a part of the solution to conserving Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Central Valley Rivers. Just as in the arid Southwest, where the cities of Phoenix, Las Vegas and Albuquerque have embraced xeriscaping as a way to live within their municipal water budgets, Californians must accept

**For updates between newsletters
www.eldoradocnps.org**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(from page 1)

that this is a semi-arid state with many competing uses for water. In contrast to the limited numbers of plants used in xeriscaping, there are more than 500 native plants suitable for every conceivable microhabitat found in Central California's semi-arid landscape, and increasing numbers of boutique native plant nurseries, so this is the right

time to promote this regionally appropriate style of home landscaping. Since this is my passion, I hope over the next year to expand the Gardening with Natives section of our Chapter website found under "About Plants" (www.eldoradocnps.org) to include the best plants for our local conditions.

Whether your passion is hiking, introducing others to wildflowers through leading hikes such as at Wrights Lake, designing library displays, nature photography, noxious

weed bashing, growing natives, or learning about land use issues, there is a place for you in the Chapter with friendly people who love to share their knowledge about our wonderful local nature. The Chapter has a proud 20 year history of protecting and promoting native plants in the Sierra foothills of El Dorado County which I look forward to continuing with your participation.

Rosemary Carey
Incoming President

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL: MAP THE SPREAD TO STOP THE SPREAD

In 2006-2008 Cal-IPC mapped the existing distribution of all species in the Cal-IPC Inventory by county and Jepson floristic region. In 2010-2011 we're continuing to map at a finer resolution (7.5 minute USGS quadrangles).

The keystone of this effort is to gather a group of local botanists and land managers and map their expert knowledge. We're

seeking input from CNPS volunteers with strong botanical skills and a regional knowledge of invasive plant distribution. Come participate in our data gathering meetings!

Our meetings have been informative and collaborative, with palpable excitement about the final mapping products. The outcomes of this project will enable users

to answer questions like:

What's here?

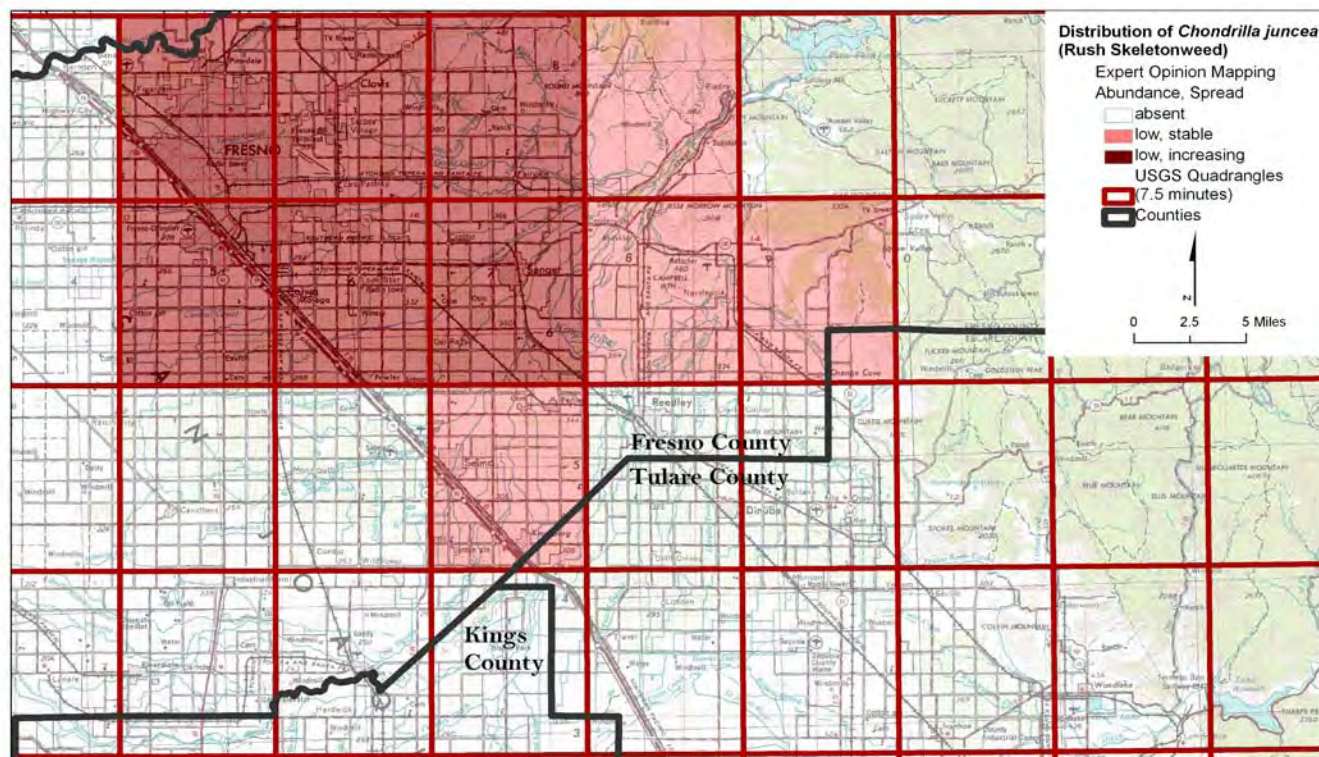
What's on the move?

What's on the way?

What's ripe for eradication?

What's ripe for containment?

To participate, contact mapping@cal-ipc.org or visit www.calweedmapper.org for more information.



Cal-IPC is partnering with Calflora, the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), Sonoma Ecology Center, and others to Map the Spread. Through their cooperative effort, they are creating maps like the one above to use in managing invasive plants.

ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2011

Many thanks to those who sent in their ballots. Rosemary Carey (President), Alice Cantelow (Treasurer), and Doni Mae (Secretary) were elected to office. We thank them for stepping forward to help guide our chapter.

Our thanks also go to Cindy Podsiadlo (outgoing President) and Armond Chase (outgoing Vice President). Cindy and Armond helped us complete many successful events. We appreciate the time and energy they devoted to leading our chapter and look forward to working with them on more CNPS projects in the future.

THE MUSHROOMS ARE HERE! TWO GREAT EVENTS FOR HAND ON LEARNING

This month you have two terrific opportunities to learn about mushrooms. Robert Mackler will be offering an evening program to your chapter on January 18 (described in the article to the right) and on January 15 he will be leading a workshop hosted by the American River Conservancy.

Robert Mackler, an ARC volunteer naturalist, will take you through a discussion on mushrooms as food from prehistory to present, including cultural differences between people concerning mushrooms. The various types of mushroom poisoning will

be explained. There will be a show-and-tell for participants who are asked to bring in whole mushroom specimens in good condition or good photos and, weather permitting, a walk in the park to see living examples of fungi. Responsible teens and older welcome. \$5/members, \$10/non-members. Please call for meeting location (Coloma area) and to sign up.

Space is limited for many of the programs, so please sign up for events as soon as possible. To register: call the American River Nature Center at 530.621.1224 or email julie@arconservancy.org.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR OUTGOING CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Being chapter president for two years allowed me to try out new ideas and look at different ways to do things. It also gave me the opportunity to reach out and maintain contact with other organizations that were interested in native plants in some way. Many thanks to members who came forward to volunteer for work groups and at various events throughout the year; it would not have happened without you! Our chapter is shaped by the people participating in it and I hope that we will always maintain an open, friendly, and helpful attitude toward all.

I know that it's scary to step out beyond our comfort zones and volunteer. Although our chapter is small, it offers many activities such as hikes, wildflower walks, programs, plant surveys, attendance at other groups' events, presentations and educational displays. Just remember: *the more, the merrier*. Please consider stepping in to an open position or to help out in a work group or lead a walk. With the third week in April being designated as native plant week, we need to identify opportunities to spread the word about native plants and provide some activities to attract folks. This is your time to shape the chapter: Step out! Step up! Step in! Looking forward to hearing from you.

Cindy Podsiadlo
Outgoing President

LOOKING FOR A VICE PRESIDENT

The El Dorado Chapter is looking to fill the position of Chapter Vice President. The focus of the Vice President is to oversee communication/outreach and support the President. Duties and responsibilities include:

- Review and comment on board meeting minutes prior to distribution.
- Review and comment on draft newsletter.

- Prepare annual report for state office
- Arrange for meeting room for board meeting
- Provide updated information for all board members for the CNPS directory
- Perform the duties of President in their absence or at their request.

Please contact Rosemary Carey ((530) 620-3631; rosemarycarey@comcast.net) if you are interested in this position.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 17 topic TBA

JANUARY PROGRAM MUSHROOMS 101

Mushrooms 101 is an hour long introduction to the fungi you are most likely to encounter in California. Topics to be covered include the "life styles" and reproduction of fungi, the diverse forms of mushrooms, mushroom poisoning and edibility. You will have ample opportunity to ask questions about mushrooms. Bring in specimens in good condition (in paper or wax paper bags) for a "show and tell" ID session.

Robert Mackler is a past president of the Mycological Society of San Francisco, consultant to the Poison Control Center of Contra Costa County, docent at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, natural sciences docent at the Oakland Museum and volunteer naturalist for the American River Conservancy. He has taught beginning mushroom classes and conducted forays for the past forty years. He now resides in Placerville.

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, January 18 at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

MARCH PROGRAM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IN THE SIERRA NEVADA

Kim Ingram, northern site representative (Foresthill/Auburn) for the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP), will talk generally about the SNAMP project and will focus in on the forest health team and fuels treatments that are beneficial to the study area.

SNAMP is a joint effort between local, state and federal government agencies and the University of California to develop best forest management practices. UC researchers are studying the effects of forest thinning treatments conducted by the US Forest Service to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Their study topics include forest health, water quality and quantity, wildlife and public participation. The northern site study area is located in the Tahoe National Forest and includes two headwater sites that lead into the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River.

This event will be held at 7:00 pm, March 15 at the El Dorado County Public Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.



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

January-February 2011



**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 increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. 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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Learn more about State CNPS at: www.cnps.org