March 25th Program

Wandering in El Dorado County (mostly)

Looking for a wildflower adventure close to home? Chapter member Sue Britting will lead us on a tour of wildflower hikes in El Dorado County. Beginning in the foothills and ending at the crest of the Sierra Nevada, this talk will highlight some of the unique plant communities and spectacular landscapes in El Dorado County. Starting early in the spring and heading up in elevation through to the fall, Sue will give a slide tour of hikes that you can take throughout the year. A handout describing the trips will also be available. Sue Britting is a former president of the CNPS board of directors, and is passionate about the Sierra Nevada and the natural environment in which she lives. We hope this presentation inspires you to attend one of our chapter’s upcoming plant walks that are described in this newsletter.

This program will be held on March 25 and begins at 6:30 PM in the meeting room at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville.

Volunteers Needed for Plant Sale April 5!

If you are interested in helping with the sale, we still need people to help prepare the plants on Friday and to assist with various tasks on Saturday. Please contact Shellie Perry (530) 644-6335 if you can lend a hand.
Spring is nearly here and it’s time for our twice yearly plant sale. Once again we will be offering a great selection of native and drought tolerant plants that will 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.

Located between County Buildings A and B

The sale will be held at the El Dorado County Government Center between buildings A and B at 330 Fair Lane, Placerville (across the street from the library).

Spring Plant Walks

Please contact the trip leaders by the Wednesday prior to the hike to let them know you will be attending.

March 29 (Sunday)
Cothrin Ranch to Wetsel-Oviatt Mill (Placerville Branch of the Southern Pacific)
Meeting Time and Meeting Place: Meet at 10 AM along the tracks just south of Deer Creek on Latrobe Road. From El Dorado Hills, drive south on Latrobe Road until you cross the Deer Creek Bridge. Go a little bit farther and you will see a dirt parking area on the right (west side) of the road. There is room for at least 6 vehicles.

Duration: We will probably be back to our cars by 3 PM.
Description: We will walk a mile on the railroad tracks to see a probable vernal pool. Along the way we will be walking close to Deer Creek which is quite beautiful this time of year. The scenery is quite spectacular this time of year. We can also see plenty of open green pasture, and some spring wildflowers. If the vernal pool is ready, we can see Toothed Calico-flower (Downingia cuspidata), and an unknown species of Button- Celery (Eryngium). There is a partial plant list. If you would like a copy please let me know.

The railroad was built sometime in the 1860’s. At that time it was the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad. The second railroad west of the Mississippi. A Cothrin daughter used to catch the train and ride it to school in Folsom. (Personal communication, Doug Walker).

Level of Difficulty: Easy. Except—there are two trestle bridges to cross, they are quite sturdy, but have wide openings between the ties and you can look down at the water below. Some people might not like that.

Contact: Annie at agastache@att.net (preferred) or phone, 530 626-3678.

April 13 (Sunday)
No Hands Bridge, North Fork American River, El Dorado County
Meeting time and location: 10 am at the beginning of the trail (green gate #150) to No hands Bridge on Hwy 49, south of the bridge over the North Fork of the American River. Parking is free on Hwy 49 and parking in the Quarry Parking Lot across the highway is $10.

Duration: 2 hours
Description: We will walk to the other side of No hands Bridge and down to the river on a steep little trail to see the spring flowers on the cobbles including Sicklepod rockcress (Boechera sparsiflora), then we will continue on the Western States Trail, which goes to Auburn, to a locality of the Silverback fern (Pentagramma pallida) and on to see some of the other spring flowers. We will come back the same way and will have walked about two miles.

Level of difficulty: Easy except for the little trail to the river cobbles which is short but difficult.

Bring: Hat and sunscreen, water, lunch and sturdy shoes and hand lens (optional)

Contact: Diane Cornwall, dancingwildflowers@me.com, (530)888-1404

May (to be determined)
Lava Caps, Eldorado National Forest
Contact: Annie at agastache@att.net (preferred) or phone, 530 626-3678.

May 4 (Sunday)
Traverse Creek Botanical Interest Area, El Dorado County
Meeting time and location: 9:00 am at the main parking lot. From Placerville take Hwy 49 north about one mile to Hwy 193 towards Georgetown, after several miles turn right on Meadowbrook Road to the intersection with Bear Creek Road go across the road and park. From Georgetown take 193 towards Garden
**Recent Book on Sierra Nevada Native Plants**

**LIVING WILD** is the essential modern day guidebook to native plants in the Sierra Nevada. It offers gardening advice for over 90 plant species, 70 gourmet food recipes which use local leaves, nuts, and berries, as well as plant medicine remedies for common health conditions. Filled with beautiful illustrations and color photographs, this book invites one in, offering a true sense of place and deepening one's connection to the outdoors.

100% of **LIVING WILD** book profits support environmental and cultural conservation in the Sierra Nevada. [www.flickerpress.com](http://www.flickerpress.com)

**SPRING WALKS** (cont.)

Valley and make a left on Bear creek Road to the intersection with Meadow Brook Road and you will see the parking lot on the left.

**Duration:** 2 to 3 hours

**Description:** This is an incredibly rich serpentine area with a variety of habitats. Plant list is available. Check out our website for a full description: [http://eldoradocnps.org/about-places/traverse-creek](http://eldoradocnps.org/about-places/traverse-creek)

**Level of difficulty:** Easy, about 2 miles, rocky in places.

**Bring:** water, snack, sturdy shoes, bug repellent, sunscreen and hat

**Contact:** Diane Cornwall, (530) 888-1404, dancingwildflowers@me.com

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**June 7 (Saturday)**

**Lake Clementine Area, Placer County**

**Meeting time and location:** We will carpool from the Raley’s parking lot in Auburn at 8:30am and from the Holiday market in Cool at 8:15am. The starting point for the walk near Lake Clementine will be determined a couple of weeks before the walk.

**Duration:** 1 to 2 hours

**Description:** This rare shrub, Oval-Leaved Viburnum (Viburnum ellipticum) blooms a couple of weeks in June. There are several locations near Lake Clementine to spot this shrub. We will see this in bloom and any other late bloomers.

**Level of Difficulty:** This will depend on chosen walk. These vary from easy to moderate.

**Bring:** Water, snack, bug spray, hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes.

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**Volunteers Needed: BE A DOCENT AT WRIGHT’S LAKE**

Once again Rich Wade is organizing wildflower walks at the Wright’s Lake Campground on Saturday mornings late June through mid-August. These hikes held at 10 AM for 1-2 hours are intended as an introduction to the plants of the Wright’s Lake area for those who are camping or traveling in the area. Rich is looking for CNPS volunteers to lead the hikes. Contact Rich Wade (530-635-5663; rwaed@spi-ind.com) for more information.

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Stepping stones and plantings in garden designed by Karen Kaufman.

(Photo: karinkaufman.net)
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.

For Updates Visit Us on the Web
www.eldoradoCNPS.org and
eldonadoCNPS

Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, April 5
9 am to 1 pm
Between County Buildings A & B
See details inside

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Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

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