March 22 Program
Gardens Gone Native Preview

What does a garden of native plants look like? Tara Collins from the Sacramento Valley chapter CNPS will present on previous and upcoming Sacramento CNPS-sponsored Gardens Gone Native tour. The tour features approximately 20 home gardens in and around Sacramento, comprised of at least 50% California native plants. The self-guided tour is on Saturday April 9th.

This program will be held on March 22. The program begins at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The talk is free and open to the public.

Native Plant Sale
Saturday, April 2
9 AM to 1 PM

Join us at our twice yearly native plant sale. 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.

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).
**Rare Plant Treasure Hunt – First of the Season**

Eight people attended the first Rare Plant Treasure Hunt of the season on February 22. Led by Annie Walker and Debra Ayres, Natalia Blackburn, Steve Dowty, Ola Jane Gow, Shellie Perry, Tripp Mikich and Mike Taylor, all of the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, hunted for the primary target species a certain dry land sedge peculiar to gabbro and serpentine soils. This sedge, Carex xerophila, was recently (2014) described formally by three west coast botanists including Lawrence Janeway of the CSU Chico Herbarium. Associated with the sedge, we noted many of the other rare species of the Pine Hill rare plant complex. We saw Ceanothus roderickii (in bud); Calystegia stebbinsii, Wyethia reticulata, Chlorogalum grandiflorum, Helianthemum sp., and Packera layneae.

We assembled at the corner of Sandalwood Lane and Calderwood Road at the north side of a small Preserve known as 50 at 50. After introductions and the preliminary paperwork, we walked Calderwood road south to the dirt frontage road at highway 50. There we found the type locality of our target species (the type locality is the place in which a type specimen was found and formally described). The whole group then surveyed west on the frontage (or power line) dirt road and found several more dense groupings of our sedge. At a point where the power line road continued west, and another road headed north, we split into two groups and surveyed along additional dirt roads. We also made short forays into the thick chaparral to ascertain whether the sedge was hiding in the shrubs. For the most part, it was not. Our group circled back along an east west trending fire line which was likely constructed during the 2007 fire on this property. We found more locations, though they were smaller populations with less individual plant clumps. A small party moved north of this fire line into the old burned and searched for C. xerophila. None were found.

The sedge seems to crave sunshine and human-caused disturbance, like road building and blading, on gabbro soils. It seemingly does not occur within mature chaparral, likely due to shading. Its absence on the burned site may be due to its absence there before the fire under the dense shrub canopy, or inability to survive fire (via deep rhizomes or buried seed).

At the end of our day, the BLM Manager of the Pine Hill Preserve, Graciela Hinshaw and her intern, Mia Dawson drove up and we talked of the problems we had seen with off-roaders and with weed colonies being introduced by vehicle disturbance.

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**Two New Board Members**

A hearty welcome to our newest board members, Karen Buckland (webmaster) and Christie Johnson (secretary)! Here’s a little background on each—be sure and say “hi” at our next general meeting.

Karen is a lifelong learner, and has jumped feet first into learning joomla and tackling our CNPS website redesign (watch for the April 1 unveiling!). In early retirement after 20 years operating a farming business with her husband, she loves the natural world, and is anxious to help with its conservation. Karen has been a member of the Traverse Creek Stewardship group here in our county, and the Dry Creek Watershed Stewardship Group in Napa County. She is currently a Master Gardener, hiker, fisherwoman, camper, and photographer. Karen is also well-versed in computereze, having been involved with computers since the 1980s.

Christie has lived and gardened in the Sierra Foothills (Amador County) for 30 years, with a special interest in native plants, sustainable practices, and waterwise gardening over the past 16 years. Having earned Certificates in both Landscape Design and Landscape Maintenance, she runs her own landscape design and pruning business (Milkweed Garden Designs). Christie has been a docent for 10 years at Indian Grinding Rock State Park, where she also served as secretary for their board. She loves to hike, snowshoe, mountain bike, travel, and visit botanical gardens and arboretums.

We’re so fortunate to have these two dedicated women on our board!

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Annie Walker
Rare Plant Chair

Alice Cantelow
Chapter President
**Upcoming Field Trips**

**May 7 (Saturday)**
**Kanaka Valley, Pine Hill Preserve**
Led by BLM volunteer naturalists, to register contact: Graciela Hinshaw, Pine Hill Preserve Manager, either by email, pinehillpreserve@gmail.com, or by phone, (916) 941-3134.

**May 21 (Saturday)**
**Lava Caps – Eldorado National Forest**
One or two lava caps on the Eldorado National Forest (southern El Dorado County). Exact destination and length of walk still to be determined. Contact Shellie Perry (seperry55@comcast.net) for details.

**June 18 (Saturday)**
**King Fire – Recovering Forest**
Recently burned forest that are in the Rubicon River drainage, in northern El Dorado County. We will be visiting newly discovered lava caps and areas of recovering forest. Contact Shellie Perry (seperry55@comcast.net) for details.

**Mid- to late June (date to be determined)**
**Meadows and Post-fire Recovery**
Heenan Lake, near Monitor Pass, in Alpine County. Some of the mountain meadows and open forest around Heenan Lake burned last year in the Washington fire. Some did not. Let’s go see the effects of the fire! Contact Shellie Perry (seperry55@comcast.net) for details.

**July or August (date to be determined)**
**Iron Mountain Meadows**
We will see rugged volcanic terrain, red fir forest, and wet meadows chock-full of flowers. Contact Shellie Perry (seperry55@comcast.net) for details.

**Calling All Photographers**

Help us promote native plants with your beautiful photos! The El Dorado Chapter of CNPS is undertaking a number of projects that require photographs of plants and habitats around the area. These projects include:

1. New notecards, to be sold to members and also to be used for chapter correspondence; approximately 12 to 15 high quality photographs are needed.
2. Posters for educational use, including meetings, library displays, and plant sales; again, approximately 12 to 15 high quality photographs are needed.
3. Incorporation on the new website, which will feature the plants, vegetation and specific wildflower localities of El Dorado County; photographs of as many species, vegetation types and localities as possible are needed.

This is a call for photographs that fit any of all of the above planned uses. We ask that you have taken the photograph yourself, and have ownership of the rights to the photograph. We also ask that you be willing to allow the El Dorado Chapter of CNPS to use the photograph for educational and promotional purposes of the chapter. Your name will appear with the photograph, in whatever form it is used. If you wish, you may be more specific as to what the photograph may be used for, and what form the acknowledgement should take. The chapter will re-size or re-format the photograph if this is necessary for any particular purpose.

If possible, the photograph should have been taken in El Dorado County, but it may have been taken elsewhere if the species or the vegetation type occurs within the county. Please include as much of the following information as possible, where it is known to you: species, locality, habitat, date, and any other useful information. Please also indicate if you believe that the photograph is particularly suitable for one of the planned uses, and also if you would like your name to appear in a specific form in acknowledgement.

The photographs for the notecards and for the posters are needed as soon as possible, while photographs for the website relating to species, habitats and localities may be added at any time over the next months or even years. So keep an eye open for new possibilities all the time.

One or a few photographs may be sent as email attachments to the membership secretaries at eldoradoc.nps@gmail.com. Larger numbers may be supplied on CD, memory stick (flash drive) or any other convenient means. Please contact the membership secretary on the above email for further details. Thank you!!

**May 24 Program**

**Plant Walks Around Here**

Join us for a virtual tour of wildflower adventures close to home. Chapter member Sue Britting will take us from the foothills to the crest of the Sierra Nevada while highlighting unique plant communities and spectacular landscapes in El Dorado County. This will be 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 bioregion. We hope this presentation inspires you to attend one of our chapter’s upcoming plant walks that are described in our newsletters and on our website.

This program will be held on Tuesday, May 24, at 7 PM at the Planning Commission Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. The program is free to both members and the public.

**Book Corner**

We have many new and restocked book titles available from the Chapter Book ‘Lair’. Whether you want to learn from the experiences of native plant enthusiasts, obtain a new gardening with native plants book (there are too many titles to list) or need a new field guide, we have the right book for you. Some of our new titles include: Lester Rowntree’s Hardy Californians, Native Plants for High Elevation Western Gardens, California Native Gardening A Month to Month Guide, Natural Enemies Handbook Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control, Reimagining the California Lawn, California Foraging, Jepson Prairie Preserve Handbook and Hiking the Oregon and California Wild Rivers Country, just to name a few. Come by for a look at the book table at our next chapter meeting in March and don’t forget the book tables at our plant sale in April. Happy Gardening!

*Bonnie East*  
Book and Poster Chair
El Dorado Chapter
California Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1948
Placerville, CA 95667

March-April 2016

YOUR HELP NEEDED AT PLANT SALE ON APRIL 2

We need help setting up in the morning and assisting throughout the day on Saturday. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Shellie Perry (530) 644-6335.

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

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.

chapter officers and committee chairs

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