CNPS OCTOBER NATIVE PLANT SALE

COMING SOON...Join us at one of our favorite events of the year, our fall plant sale.

It's on Saturday, October 11 from 9 am until Noon. We will be at the same location: Rocca Park, Main Street, Jamestown. We will have many different species of shrubs and perennials that need minimal water, once established, during our hot summer months. At the sale, there are always many knowledgeable people to answer your questions and help you choose the appropriate plant for your location.

Remember to come early for the best selection. Better yet, volunteer to help at the plant sale. Volunteers get to select plants before the sale is open to the public. Bring your current CNPS membership card and receive 10% discount off your total sale!

- - Stephanie Garcia, Plant Sales Chair

Mark Your Calendar!!

SEPT. 28 Garden Tour
OCT. 2 “Gardening with Natives” Panel discussion @ 7 pm Sonora Library
OCT. 11 Fall Plant Sale
OCT. 18 Fall Color Field Trip

CNPS GARDEN TOUR

September 28, 1 pm to 3 pm
Before our October plant sale, we have an opportunity to tour a local garden that has incorporated natives with non-natives. Deana Corsa is graciously opening up her beautiful Phoenix Lake garden for a guided tour. Her garden has been on the Master Gardener’s Annual Tour twice over the past ten years. This is a great opportunity to get ideas for planting natives in your own garden. During our tour, we will talk about the natives growing through out her expansive garden. Don’t miss this opportunity to see, in person, natives growing amongst oaks in a garden setting. If you have any questions email Stephanie at sigarcia@mlode.com

Address: 15575 Buena Vista Avenida, Sonora
Directions: From Sonora, take Hwy 108, take Hess Ave, LEFT on Hess; RIGHT onto Phoenix Lake Road, Turn LEFT on De Los Portales, at the main, Phoenix Lake entrance, RIGHT onto Paseo De Los Robles; RIGHT onto Buena Vista Avenida. Park in turn about beyond driveway.

- - Stephanie Garcia, Plant Sales Chair

If you change your mailing or email address, be sure to send a note to Jennie Haas. This will keep your newsletter on time!

Jennie Haas
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Groveland, CA 95321
jhaas953@gmail.com

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Sacramento, CA 95816
www.cnps.org

Sierra Foothills Chapter
www.sierrafoothillscnps.org

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.
It’s Time to Select Your Chapter Board

We would like to announce to members that this is the time of year to select our Board. Any one out there interested in serving on the Board?

Every year at this time, we hold elections for some of the positions on the Chapter Board of Directors. The elected positions are President, Vice Presidents from each of our four chapter counties, Treasurer and Secretary. There are a number of non-elected Board members which head up the various committees and important chapter functions. The timing of our elections and the duties of the positions are spelled out in our by-laws.

We are in the process of finding members to take on the vacant Board positions:

- Vice President for Amador County
- Program Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator
- Invasives Exotics

Nominees for the elected positions are:
President: Bob Dean
V.P., Amador Co.: [vacant]
V.P., Calaveras Co.: Judy Dean
V.P., Mariposa Co.: Ann Mendershausen
V.P., Tuolumne Co.: Pat Gogas
Secretary: Stephanie Garcia
Treasurer: Patti Hohne

Please consider taking on one of the vacant positions. New-comers are encouraged to become involved. Contact any of the current Board members for more information. For a copy of the by-laws, information, or to volunteer for a position, contact Jennie Haas: jhaas953@gmail.com, 209-962-4759.

-- Jennie Haas

What’s Blooming This Month?

The wildflowers were fairly plentiful this year despite the drought. We followed spring from the foothills in late winter to alpine areas in late summer. But, now, even the alpine plants are closing up shop in anticipation of cold temperatures, harsh winds, and the blankets of snow that will soon descend upon them. Time for a long winter’s nap. Many low-elevation plants are annuals and will wait out the winter as seeds, safe in the ground. They can start to grow as soon as the ground is wet and warm enough. Their relatively shallow roots will absorb water and nutrients, and they’ll have plenty of time to grow, flower, and produce fruit.

At high elevations most of the plants are perennials. The seedlings that survive the harsh alpine environment will need years of slow growth before they produce their first flowers. The mature perennials have a head start over annuals since they won’t have to use energy to grow anew from seeds. They will, however, have to flower and produce fruit quickly due to the short growing season. These perennials often have large, deep roots that can gather and store water, a definite advantage in their relatively dry environment. During the winter, water is locked up in snow, and in summer, water quickly drains away in the rocky soil.

We, just like the lowland seeds and high-elevation plants, must now patiently wait out winter in hopeful anticipation of a great blooming season next year.

So, is anything blooming this month? Not much. Rather than give you a short list and a few photos of a fall plant or two, I decided to try and persuade you to be on the look-out for rare plants next year.

As the season gets going in spring, keep your eyes peeled for these extremely rare plants.

-- Barry Breckling

LAST FIELD TRIP OF SEASON

October 18 – Fall Colors: Leader – Jennie Haas. Hiking Level: Very Easy. Our annual fall colors field trip will take us along Highway 120 through Yosemite National Park over Tioga Pass then south through the June Lake Loop where there are a number of lakes and beautiful views of the Sierran East Side. We’ll stop to look at the dogwoods in Yosemite and take a couple of easy strolls through aspens including a really nice spot at Silver Lake where there are other plants to look at including Mojave rose (Rosa woodsii ssp. gratissima) and snowberry (Symphoricarpos sp.). Lunch will be at the Whoa Nellie Deli in Lee Vining. The menu is good but is a little expensive. You are welcome to bring a lunch and we can eat together. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Groveland Library and Museum parking lot next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Highway 120 in Groveland. Plan on a long, satisfying day. For more info, contact Jennie at 209-962-4759 or jhaas953@gmail.com.

-- Jennie Haas
Message from the Prez:

As you all know we’re coming out of the “Dog Days of Summer” and entering the early fall phase of seasonal change. The one thing these have in common is it’s dry. Everything is suffering. As you have all seen, plants are just giving up and going dormant, Oaks are shedding their leaves, the Buckeye went dormant a long time ago and there was a phenomenon I saw that I had never seen before- the Buckeye’s leaves were drying up as the trees were still blooming. There’s a tremendous amount of animal migration taking place. The coons and skunks are much more aggressive this year and have become a nuisance around our place. Turkeys have become a real pain. While they have never respected gardens, this year they are even more problematic since their normal foraging areas aren’t as productive as they had been in past years. And, especially be aware of bears and especially snakes. They’re drawn to any area that could provide food and water. We can only hope that we’ll receive some relief in the form of precipitation soon. One of the greatest worries is the extremely low soil moisture content and the general drawdown of the water table. While the immediate concern I have is wildfire, without the replacement, soon, of the soil moisture and increased water table we may see some substantial plant die off. We’re not likely to see evidence of this until next year but we’ll only be able to gauge the impact even further down the road.

On a brighter note winter is coming and it will bring relief. We can begin to celebrate this change by participating in our Fall Plant Sale. Now more than ever is there a justification for planting with natives. We’ll have a good selection of plant material as well as the usual expertise available to discuss the plant selection. Audubon will partner with us as usual. Prior to the sale we’ll be having a special meeting “Garden Tour” to look at native plants growing in the garden. At the general meeting in Oct. we’ll have a panel discussion about Gardening with Natives. The panel will be made up of local experts who will answer any question you might have regarding natives. Come with your questions. Maybe we’ll even have a “stump the chumps” contest.

As we enter the new season of meetings I’d like to ask the membership what type of programs they’d like to see. We have the world open to us; it’s just a matter of what’s of interest.

One further note. The Board has been wrestling with the idea of changing the monthly meeting day. I’d love to get some feedback. I know that many of you are “meetinged out”. There is some concern that there’s too much going on the first week of each month and it’s impossible to participate in all the different activities. Please help us out so we can select the best time for as many of you as possible.

-- Bob Dean, Chapter President

WHAT IS A MOONWORT?

Moonworts (Botrychium spp.) are a part of an ancient group of ferns that emerged during the Tertiary period (Age of Mammals), which occurred between 66 million years ago (mya) and 2.58 mya. The genus Botrychium is included in the Ophioglossaceae family, which is most closely related to Whisk Ferns. Moonworts consist of a short, subterranean stem that produces one leaf per year that is divided into a photosynthetic trophophore and a spore producing sporophore. Moonworts have important relationships with mycorrhizal fungi which assist with nutrient and water uptake, and therefore, production of a trophophore every year is not required. This propensity to not emerge every year (i.e., not produce a tropophore) makes it challenging to locate botrychiums. Further, their identification is further tricky because of moonworts’ similar morphologies, small sizes, and cryptic habitats.

On the Stanislaus National Forest, several rare moonwort species have been reported in habitats such as seeps and springs: Botrychium ascendans, B. crenulatum, B. lineare (pending confirmation from Botrychium expert, Dr. Don Farrar), B. minganense, B. montanum, B. pedunculosum, and B. simplex (including both varieties of simplex and compositum).

There is much more to learn about the relationships between Botrychium spp. and other plant taxa, ecosystem requirements, and their moonworts’ dependence on mycorrhizal partners.

-- Justin Lampley, Belinda Lo, Autumn Olsen, Daniel Palmer, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest
JOIN NOW

PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!

Student/Retired/Limited income ........... $25
Individual ................................ $45
Family or Group ........................ $75
Library..................................... $75
Plant Lover ............................... $100
Patron..................................... $300
Benefactor ............................... $600
Mariposa Lily............................. $1,500

As always, donations above the membership level chosen will be greatly appreciated.

Name _______________________________
Address______________________________
City ___________ State _____Zip_________
Telephone__________ E-mail_____________

□ I Wish to affiliate with the Sierra Foothills Chapter.

Please make your check payable to “CNPS” and send it to: 2707 “K” street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 Tel. (916) 447-2677.

Join or renew on-line at www.cnps.org.

Membership includes the journal Fremontia, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter, The Shooting Star.

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.

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