Greetings to all!

First of all I want to thank all of you who through your assistance and help made our second annual Gardening with Natives Seminar a great success. It is only with dedicated volunteers like you that we as an organization are able to sponsor and host this type of event. I think that all who attended had a good time and came away with a lot of useful information to apply in their individual landscaping situation.

Carolee James is actively recruiting volunteers to help with all of the necessary work for our Fall Plant Sale, 9:00 to 1:00 on Saturday Oct. 15 at Rocca Park, Jamestown. Please give Carolee a call (928-4886) if you’re interested in helping and she will find a job for you.

The speaker for our October meeting will be Pat Reh who will be continuing our theme of growing natives by talking about various techniques for starting and growing native plants based on her extensive personal experiences over the years. Pat will discuss many different types of propagation and germination procedures to help assure a healthy start for your native plants. She will be glad to answer your individual questions and offer suggestions for your particular problem plants and growing methods.

**Slate of Officers for 2012**
The following are the committee’s candidates: President: Bob Brown, Vice President Tuolumne Co.: Pat Gogas, Vice President Mariposa Co.: Anne Menderhausen, Vice President Calaveras Co.: Bob and Judy Dean Secretary: Stephanie Garcia, Treasurer: Pati Hohne. We still have not been able find a candidate for the VP Amador Co. so if anybody knows of an person that would be interested please let me know.

There will be an opportunity for members to make a nomination from the floor at our October meeting with the voting taking place at our November meeting. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and plant sale.

—Bob Brown, President

---

**Membership:**
If you change your mailing or e-mail address, be sure to send a notice to these people —
This will keep your newsletter on time!

**Jennie Haas**
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jhaas953@gmail.com

**California Native Plants Society**
2702 K. St, Ste 1
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.
Flowers Blooming This Month

For this month we are going to look at some very late blooming plants that you all have an opportunity to see. All of these will be blooming at elevations below 3000 feet.

The first flower is the Golden Fleece (Ericameria aborescens) which is a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae) and has heads of yellow flowers. This as well as the others that we will be describing can quite commonly be found in disturbed areas along side roadways. Our next flower is quite frequently seen in masses along roads and presents a colorful swath of light purple or lavender and is Slenderstem Lessingia (Lessingia nemaclada) and is also a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae). The final flower is a Great Valley Gumweed (Grindelia camporum) and continuing on a theme it is also a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae). It has a distinctive yellow flowering head and a stickiness to the touch and by now it is beginning to fade in most of its locations. It provides a large splotch of yellow coloring in late summer and early fall in many roadside areas.

I hope these blooms will tempt you to get out and explore your local neighborhood and find out what is still blooming there at this time as we transition into fall.

--Bob Brown

Field Trips

For all field trips: bring lunch, water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing and footwear. Hiking level varies with each trip. Your trip will be enhanced by bringing field guides and magnifying lenses, although these are optional. Carpooling is encouraged. Call ahead if the weather looks iffy. Check our website and Facebook pages or http://www.twitter.com/SIE_CNPS for updates. Our field trips are open to everyone. Bring a friend or two. It is Chapter policy that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We would appreciate everyone’s adherence to this policy.

The August 13 & 14 Dana Plateau field trip was well attended with a maximum occupancy (8) on the wilderness permit for the overnight portion. Scott Brush reported that a good time was had by all with plenty of wildflowers to view. Thank you to Scott Brush and Alison Colwell for leading this field trip.

The August 27 Reynolds Creek Moonworts field trip was also well attended by about 16 members and guests. The moonworts were in fine form and provided many photographic opportunities.

October 22 – Fall Colors. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: very easy. Join us on this end-of-season favorite to view high country fall colors. We’ll again try the Highway 120 to 395 to Sonora or Carson Pass route with lunch at the Whoa Nellie Deli in Lee Vining. This is a car tour with very little hiking – perfect for all. From Sonora, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the back of the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohl’s, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. From Groveland, meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Groveland Library parking lot. For information, contact Pat at 209-984-0304, patnstone@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are getting ready for the October 15th plant sale. This is your opportunity to get a sneak preview of the plants that are going to the sale. We will meet on the following Mondays at 10 am – September 26th, October 3rd, October 10th. We usually spend 1 to 2 hours per visit. Whatever time you have available will be greatly appreciated. Please call Stephanie Garcia at 586-3593.

THANK YOU SEMINAR VOLUNTEERS

The “Gardening with Natives” seminar held on Saturday, September 10th was quite a hit with the attendees based on the written critiques we received. Everyone enjoyed all the speakers, especially our keynote speaker, Bart O’Brien.

One comment that stood out was how well organized the day was. To that end the seminar committee would like to express our sincere thank you to the following people: Debbie Clinite, Stephanie Garcia, Lorraine Garnin, Pat Gogas, Shirley Ingalls, Pat Reh, Conny Simonis, Beckwith Spierling, Fran Steen, Steve Stocking, and Ellen Strumpfler. These volunteers [note that several are Master Gardeners] did a bang-up job with registration, book sales and staffing the membership table. Becky Miller-Cripps and her Master Gardener crew [Cathy Calef, Sherrin Grout, Toots Van Ruiten, and Margaret Klein] kept the coffee hot, the snacks plentiful, served a delicious lunch and did it efficiently and seemingly effortlessly!

We could not have had such a great day without these wonderful volunteers. So we, Bob Brown, Jennie Haas, Patti Hohne, Carolee James and Becky Miller-Cripps, the committee would like to say, “Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!”

<-----Participants of the Reynolds Creek Moonwort field trip looking at the new to California moonwort (Botrychium pedunculosum). Photo J. Haas
October 15th is just around the corner and we still have many jobs that must be filled if we are to have a successful sale. Cashiers and tag pullers are where we have the biggest need. Also, due to the large number of plants we will have at the growing area, we need more trucks and drivers. Help will be needed to load trucks on Friday the 14th beginning at 5:00pm at the growing area. And, most definitely, we will need extra folks to help unload and set-up plants beginning at 7:00am Saturday morning at Rocca Park in Jamestown.

There were some sign-ups at the September meeting, and also at the Native Plant Seminar on Sept.10th, but not enough to staff all the slots.

Sadly, this will be my last sale as Plant Sales Chair. New adventures await me in the Bay area beginning in November. I hope to see some familiar volunteer faces at this, my last sale, so I can say goodbye to the many hard workers that have helped make our past sales so successful.

If you are able to attend the October meeting, you can call me at 928-4886 or email at: cvjames@frontiernet.net or Stephanie Garcia 586-3593 sigarcia@mlode.com to volunteer. Looking forward to seeing all our wonderful volunteers one last time.

Carolee James
Plant Sales Chair

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR OCTOBER PLANT SALE!

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Carolee James
Plant Sales Chair

FALL PLANT SALE
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 15, 9:00am - 1:00pm
Rocca Park on Mainstreet in Jamestown.
Early Birds get the best plants as always!
Refreshments will be served.
SEE YOU THERE!

NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE SIERRA
2,000-5,000 FEET ELEVATION
"Gardening With Natives"

was the title of our Sierra Foothills
Chapter Symposium on September 10th. The keynote speaker was Bart O’Brien who is a co-author of the popular “California Native Plants For the Garden” and more recently "Reimagining the California Lawn”. Bart has worked for many years at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont so he knows first hand about the plants of which he writes and speaks.

The entire symposium was worthy of attendance by native plant gardeners from this area of California. I will restrict my comments to Bart’s presentation on “High Country Gardening With Natives” in which he discussed native plants both available and useful from about 2,000 (1,000?) to 5,000 (6,000) feet elevation in this area. Microhabitat differences make elevational boundaries a bit "fuzzy".

Trees that he recommended included Fremont cottonwood, (Populus fremontii), buckeye (Aesculus californica), box elder (Acer negundo), giant sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) incense cedar, (Calocedrus decurrens) and bay (Umbellularia californica). He cautioned that big leaf maple, Giant sequoia and the bay do best with adequate water when grown at mid and higher elevations. I witnessed this at Murphys when the T.B. sanatorium was closed. Many of the giant sequoias died and others had their tops die back. Quaking aspen is another tree which grows best with lots of water and at higher elevations.

Good, and often available, shrubs include mahonias (Berberis spp.) which like partial shade and flower early in the season. Berberis nervosa B. repens, and B. aquifolium are some of the best species for our area. There are also many native Ribes which are the gooseberries and currants. He particularly recommended the golden currant and Ribes speciosum which both can take the cold weather at least to 5,000 feet. Matilija poppy (Romneya coulteri) will grow up to 4,000 feet but needs to be cut back to about 3 to 4 inches in December. Another good shrub to 2,000 to 4,000 feet in wet areas is spicebush, (Calycanthus occidentalis) various hybrids of Sonoma sage (Salvia sonomensis) and sulfur buckwheat (Eriogonum umbellatum) all do well in our area. California fuschia (Epilobium canum,ssp. canum fmr. Zauschneria californica) is a beautiful Perennial which blooms in the late summer and fall attracting hummingbirds. I have seen it thriving in a rock garden in Twain Harte.

Ferns such as giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata), polypodiums and sword ferns do well and are deer resistant. Other low growing plants are wild ginger (Asarum caudatum), bleeding heart (Dicentra formosa), western columbine (Aquilegia formosa) various monardellas, coral bells (Heuchera spp) milkweeds (Asclepias spp) and California goldenrod (Solidago californica). Of the wild irises Iris douglasiana is from the coast while Iris missouriensis is from the Sierra.

When at all possible it is best to use the species of plants which are native to nearby areas and which live at similar elevations. If your nursery does not have the plant that you are looking for they can often order them. My local nursery never had the California fuschia but was able to order the plants. Other sources are sales held by the California Native Plant Society and some speciality nurseries.

For more information and photos of the native plants mentioned in this article check in books such as the two previously mentioned books coauthored by Bart O’Brien. Other good references include "Designing Native Gardens” by Keator and Middlebrook (2007) and " Native Treasurers”: Gardening With the Native Plants of California (2006) by M. Nevin Smith.

--Steve Stocking: Education Chair

Editor’s Note

The deadline for contributions or corrections is the 10th of each month prior to publishing. Contact conny@simonis.org or (209) 588-0484

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