Greetings to all.

I would like to remind you one last time about the March 31 field trip to Dragoon Gulch and the chance to experience a very accessible location that a lot of people are not aware of and probably haven’t visited. With a nice weather day we should see more than 30 species of blooming wildflowers.

The training session for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 7 beginning at 10:00 AM in the UCCE conference room located at 52 N. Washington Street in downtown Sonora. Please RSVP to me (928-9281) or rbrown4674@aol.com as there is space for only a limited number of participants and if you need any additional information.

We will take a break for lunch and then head off for a field trip in the afternoon to practice what we learned.

Our program for April will feature Bob Case who will be speaking on the threat that non-native exotics pose to our native habitats and plants.

Our Spring Plant Sale is going to be held on Saturday April 21 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Rocca Park in downtown Jamestown and will coincide with CNPS’ Native Plant week events in the state, so be sure to reserve this date on your calendars.

I look forward to seeing you at our April meeting!

--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
  19287 James Circle
  Groveland, CA 95321
  jhaas953@gmail.com

- California Native Plant Society
  2707 K. St, Ste 1
  Sacramento, CA 95816

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

This month we are going to visit several different locations to view some of the early bloomers in our area. The first flower is Milk Maids (*Cardamine californica*) a member of the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*). The flower is white and is one of the earlier bloomers in a given area. The picture on page 1 was taken recently on the Westside trail. Our next flower is Hartweg’s Ginger (*Asarum hartwegii*) in the Pipevine family (*Aristolochiaceae*). Its bloom is often overlooked unless you search under the leaves to expose the brownish colored flower. We should be able to see a few of this on the Dragoon Gulch field trip. My last picture is of the Tuolumne Fawn Lily (*Erythronium tuolumense*) a member of the Lily family (*Liliaceae*) and one of Tuolumne county’s real treasures. The lovely yellow blooms make it easy to spot if you are in the right area. We will use this species to practice our Rare Plant Treasure Hunt techniques on Saturday, April 7th.

Hopefully I have created enough curiosity through these pictures so that you will be motivated to get out and explore the great variety of wildflowers in our area on your own. I encourage you to join us on a field trip of your choice to explore these and other flowers in their native habitats.

--Bob Brown

SHOOTING STAR GROWING AREA

We are getting ready for the plant sale, scheduled for April 21st. This is your opportunity to get a sneak preview of the plants that are going to the sale.

We will meet on the following Tuesdays at 10 am – March 27, April 3, and April 10. 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.

--Stephanie Garcia, Growing Area Manager

FIELDTRIPS

The Field Trip Committee has once again put together an excellent selection of wildflower viewing opportunities for your enjoyment. See the colored insert in this newsletter for the field trip schedule. A huge “thank you” goes to the following 2012 committee members: Alison Colwell, Barry and Judy Breckling, Bob Brown, Peggy Moore, Steve Stocking and Pat Stone. Join us on these educational and thoroughly enjoyable wildflower excursions and bring a friend or two.

--Jennie Haas
Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are still wanted to help the Forest Service conduct the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Plant Inventory. This project will result in a detailed list, available to the public, of the plants found along the river. Help is needed to collect voucher samples and identify the vascular plants. Volunteers should have the ability to identify plants using standard plant keys and the ability to hike the trails in the river corridor.

The Forest Service also needs volunteers to help pull or cut noxious weeds. One project is in isolated sites along Highway 120 between Cherry Lake Road and Evergreen Road. These sites are on the eastern “leading edge” of the distribution of yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) in the State. The Forest is doing their part to push the leading edge back to the west. The other project is pulling patches of the noxious weeds yellow star-thistle, tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*) and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) along the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River downstream of Lumsden Road. Transportation to the Tuolumne River work sites would be provided by river raft. Therefore, volunteers need to be able to swim.

Contact Jennie Haas at her work phone: 209-962-7825 ext. 540 or jhaas@fs.fed.us for more information about any of these volunteer opportunities or to volunteer.

Sources To Help You Identify Spring Wildflowers

Spring is coming soon and you may be looking for some help in the identification of wildflowers of the central Sierra. I have included most of the more recent sources. Some of these are at least in part out-of-date as they predate the new Jepson Manual and their names may have changed. There are changes in some specific names, some generic names and even the names of some families. Many common names remain the same.

These range from technical tomes (Jepson) to much simpler (and less expensive) books of photos of common wildflowers.


(The ultimate reference for the Plants of California. Keys for identification)

**Wildflowers of California’s Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley.** Laird D. Blackwell. Lone Pine Publishing. 1999.

(Good color photos by family, a few important families not included.)


(Excellent color illustrations. Many of these plants are also found in S.K.C.N.P)

**CalFlora.** “A searchable database of all 8375 currently recognized vascular plants in California, including 20,000 photographs! Maps of distribution of species and number of occurrences recorded by county. (Some inaccurate information has been entered but there is a mechanism for making comments and corrections.

**Sierra Nevada Wildflowers.** Elizabeth Horn. Mountain Press. 1998.

(Excellent color photographs and descriptions.)


(Includes an excellent wildflower section arranged by color.)


(excellent black & white and color illustrations. Some species do not occur here.)


(excellent color photos. Many, but not all species also occur in this area.)

**Flora of the Yosemite Sierra.** Dean Taylor. Self Published 2010.

(most plants are the same in this area. No illustrations. Keys for identification)


(line drawings and keys. Most species are included.)

These references are mostly in print and are generally available.

--Steve Stocking, Education Chair
Chapter Officers and Chairpersons
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.

PRESIDENT          Bob Brown         928-9281     rbrown4674@aol.com

VP AMADOR CO.      OPEN

VP CALAVERAS CO.   Robert & Judy Dean 754-5887  goldrushdean@yahoo.com

VP MARIPOSA CO.    Ann Mendershausen  742-7734  ralph@sierratel.com

VP TUOLUMNE CO.    Pat Gogas          586-9043  pfiegas@yahoo.com

SECRETARY          Stephanie Garcia    586-3593  sigarcia@mlode.com

TREASURER          Patt Hohne         352-4312  phohne@gmail.com

CONSERVATION CHAIR Pat Stone         984-0304  patmstone@gmail.com

EDUCATION CHAIR    Steve Stocking     754-9029  smlow@earthlink.net

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR  Jennie Haas  962-4759  jhaas953@gmail.com

GROWING AREA MGR.  Stephanie Garcia  586-3593  sigarcia@mlode.com

HOSPITALITY COORD. Winifred Stone

INVASIVE EXOTICS   OPEN

SALES COORD.       Pat Reh           536-0871

MEMBERSHIP COORD.  Jennie Haas       962-4759  jhaas953@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  Conny Simonis    588-0484  conny@simonis.org

PLANT SALES CHAIR  Stefani Reichle  533-3181  carpecircus@gmail.com

PLANT SALES Vol.COORD. Barbara Strother  552-7500  Bjas37@msn.com

PROGRAM COMM. CHAIR Bob Brown        928-9281  rbrown4674@aol.com

PUBLICITY COORD.   Conny Simonis    588-0484  conny@simonis.org

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____________________
(Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)
☐ 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 – Fax (916) 447-2727.
Membership includes the journal Fremontia, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter The Shooting Star.

www.sierrafoothillscnps.org  www.cnps.org  Twitter: SIE_CNPS  Facebook: sierrafoothillscnps