GREETINGS EVERYONE

I have some sad news to report regarding our Gardening with Natives Seminar, and that is we have had to cancel this year’s event as we were unable to secure a keynote speaker. We do hope to have one next year and we have reserved the fairground building to assure this. Remember that our next meeting is September 6th and we will be having a panel of members discussing issues related to growing native plants in your home environment.

Mark your calendars for our October 4th meeting when we will be hosting Helen Popper, a very well known speaker and author of California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide. Her presentation should be both entertaining and informative. Bring your questions on growing native plants as she will be available for a question and answer session afterwards.

Please remember that we are still in the “transition” phase for our newsletter by trying to become “greener” by having a large majority of our members receive it digitally as an email, and we need those of you interested to notify Jennie Haas that you want to change to electronic delivery and give her your current email address.

The officer nominating committee has been formed; and if you know of someone or are yourself interested in becoming an officer, you should notify me. I hope you have had a great summer and I’m looking forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

--Bob Brown, President

2012 FALL PLANT SALE
Sierra Foothills Chapter Fall Plant Sale on Saturday October 13, from 9:00am to 12:00noon.

More on this on page 4.
FLOWER BLOOMING THIS MONTH

Again this month we are going to be looking at wildflowers that are found at elevations above 8000 feet and in the vicinity of Sonora pass with all being photographed in the month of September. The first flower is called Ranger’s Button or Swamp Whiteheads (Sphenosciadium capitellatum), and is a member of the Apiaceae (Carrot) family. It has a flowering head of white balls on long stalks and likes a wet, moist area. Our second flower is Single Head Goldenbush or Heath Goldenrod (Ericameria suffruticosa,) and is a member of the Asteraceae (Sunflower) family. It is a small shrub with yellow blooms that is quite common at this elevation range. Lastly, we have the Tower or Mountain Larkspur (Delphinium glaucum) which is a member of the Buttercup (Ranunculaceae) family and is a flower that is almost impossible to miss because of its size. It frequently reaches heights of 6 to 8 feet with its blue covered blooming spires and also likes wet areas.

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 in their native habitat. Remember that one of the great things about our area is that long after the natives have quit blooming at the lower elevations you may still find quite a variety blooming at our higher elevations.

--Bob Brown

FALL PLANT SALE

Our Fall plant sale will be on Saturday, October 13 from 9 am until Noon. We will be at the same location in Jamestown, Rocca Park on Main Street. Come early for the best selection. Better yet, volunteer to help at the plant sale. Volunteers get the “early bird selection” before the sale is open to the public. As early as September 19th, volunteers are needed to help unload plants and price them at the growing area. Volunteers, with trucks, are needed to load plants the night before and deliver them the morning of the sale. We will need 12 to 14 trucks to take all the plants and supplies to the sale. On the day of the sale, volunteers are needed for cashiers, tag pullers, and help with answering plant questions. As you can see, without our volunteers, we would not have a plant sale. So please step up, volunteer and have “first dibs!” Call Stephanie Garcia 586-3593 or email at sjgarcia@mlode.com.

SHOOTING STAR IS GOING ELECTRONIC. DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

In the interest of being more “green” and in saving money and volunteer time, the Chapter Board of Directors has decided to switch to an electronic newsletter for everyone able to accept it that way. We realize that not everyone has e-mail or access to high speed or DSL. So we will honor requests to stay with the black and white hard copy version arriving via U.S. Mail.

The benefits of going electronic are having a full color format with true-to-life colors of the many flowers we feature each month. Plus, there is that much less paper coming into the house to go into recycling or the solid waste stream. If you like having a hard copy, the format will allow you to print it from your own color printer, if you so choose.

The Chapter benefits by greatly reducing the expenses of paper, printing costs and postage. The volunteers who produce the newsletter will have to commit much less time for folding, sealing and labeling the hard copies. And, the newsletter will be more timely than the current bulk mail version which can legally sit in any post office for up to 30 days and sometimes arrives shredded by the mechanical mail handling.

Please send your current e-mail address to Jennie Haas at jhaas953@gmail.com. If you want to stay on the hard copy list, contact Jennie by e-mail or phone, 209-962-4759, or by sending a note to Jennie at the return address on your Shooting Star newsletter (page 4). We would like to be completely switched over to the electronic format by the end of 2012.
Volunteers Needed for Chapter Board of Directors

We’re looking for a few volunteers to join our board of directors in running the business of the Chapter. Our elected positions are President, Vice President for each of our counties (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne), Secretary and Treasurer. We are anticipating the need to fill the President’s position as Bob Brown has told the board several times that 2012 is his last in that position. We have not been able to fill the VP Amador Co. for a number of years and would love to have an Amador County member come forward to take on that position.

If you would like to volunteer to take on any of these elected positions or want information about the duties before you throw your hat into the ring, contact Bob Brown.

We are also looking for several people to serve on the ad hoc nominating committee. Please contact Bob if you are able to help with that. Bob’s contact information is: rbrown4674@aol.com, (209) 928-9281.

CAL-IPC FALL SYMPOSIUM

Cal-IPC's 21st Annual Symposium - Rohnert Park, California. Thursday - Saturday, October 11-13, 2012

"Bay to Basin: Coordinating Response to Invasive Plants Across California"

Sessions address working across landscapes taxa, and time, managing grassland weeds, laws and regulations related to herbicide application, and engaging discussion groups.

The Symposium program is listed on our website. Full information and registration forms posted at www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/register1.php

Dudleyas. Some rockgarden club people reported that our native *Dudleya cymosa* stand any summer watering. We see it in vertical rock walls, in crevices, and with root protected by running among and under big rocks. Also, even a wild stand can mysteriously decline, and my opinion is that NO *Dudleya cymosa* should be collected to propagate except a small amount of seed (unless this is a salvage operation on a doomed site). Young plants seem to be very rare to absent around old ones in the wild, but some people (not yet me) have seed-propagated this beautiful succulent.

**High Elevation Sedum Starts.** Mid to late Spring is a poor time to try any stem cutting of these, down at low elevations. Refusing to root and take off, they then brown-out and fail with the first 2000-foot-elevation May heat.

**Opuntia fragilis: A Super-Hardy Success.** Native to Juniper woodlands of Siskiyou County, California, this also occupies Texas and other states and even comes up into Canada. I got mine over 20 years ago by trading plants with someone, and since then this small opuntia has only spread slowly, still fitting in a sauce pan-size pot. Two years back, redoing the soil with the addition of lots of old concrete dust seemed to finally make it bloom and I have the brick-red-flowered variant, really showy against the soft-blue-gray green tone of the thimble-sized segments. I scarcely do anything to it and its rained and snowed on all winter and has three-quarter sun all year.

The only bad trait to this little trough or pot cactus is its vicious one-inch porcupine quills that are not nice in your skin or your dog's fur. The Latin name “fragilis” coming not from any tenderness of the plant but from the ease with which it breaks apart when jarred, or the stickers caught in part of a moveable animal. In fact, a book I have says that a coyote was captured with its fur tangled with Cholla segments (a large Opuntia) which could then have rerooted elsewhere when the animal at last got rid of them—A propagation ploy advantageous to cacti but not mammals. Nonetheless, if anyone else is interested in this little California native cactus, I'll part with some segments.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.

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PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!

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Mariposa Lily............................. $1,500

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

Name _______________________________
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□ 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.
Temporary link to this newsletter is:
http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php#foothills