Time to Elect Chapter Board Officers

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: President; Vice President, Amador County; Plant Sales Chair; Program Coordinator and Publicity Coordinator.

Nominees for the elected positions are:
President: [vacant]
V.P., Amador Co.: [vacant]
V.P., Calaveras Co.: Bob and 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. We are in need of “new blood” and fresh ideas. So, 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

NATIVES

“HOMEWARD BOUND”

Over 1000 plants found a home in local foothill gardens, making our fall plant sale a resounding success. Here are a few of the winners: California fuchsia, 6 varieties, sold over 80 plants; 3 varieties of Penstemon, 60 plants; Salvia, 6 varieties, 80 plants; Matilija Poppy, 25; Lupine 30; Manzanita, 6 varieties, 60 + plants; Ceanothus, 7 varieties, 70 + plants. WOW! Imagine all those native plants equates to less water usage for our garden foothills, and more nectar for our native pollinators. How exciting!! See Page 3...

If you change your mailing or e-mail address, be sure to send a note to these people. This will keep your newsletter on time!

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

California Native Plant Society
2707 K. St. Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
www.cnps.org

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.
Field Trips

Our last field trip for 2013 was the October 19 Fall Colors field trip. Since it occurred after the newsletter deadline, we’ll report on it in the December newsletter.

Our September 21st Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: Yosemite’s Lost Pacific Yews with leader Alison Colwell was attended by seven members and guests. Alison reported the following: “We had a nice day. ... We targeted the spot opposite the junction of [Highways]120 and 140 as there is *Lithocarpus densiflorus* [tanoak] there and also gabbro up above. We hopped across the river, zigged up the slope, hiked up to the base of cliffs, followed them along and zagged back down to the river. There was a lot of *Torreya* [California nutmeg], a little bit of *Mahonia repens* [creeping barberry, syn. *Berberis aquifolium* var. *repens*] and there is quite a bit of *Lithocarpus* to map in there (the southernmost stand), but no *Taxus*. We only scouted maybe 10% of the area that we think might be good for *Taxus*. Everyone was tired of steep slopes and poison oak, so we drove up to Pohono Bridge and walked downstream from there. It started to spit rain when we left the cars and before we got back we were entirely drenched! Everyone was excited to be out in the woods during the change of season. We checked on the only remaining patch of mountain lady’s slipper remaining in Yosemite Valley and the plants were setting seed, so that is good. I think everyone who came will be on the prowl for this tree from now on!”

If you would like to be on our field trip alerts e-mail list, send an e-mail with the subject line “Field Trip e-mail List” to Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com.

-- Jennie Haas, Field Trip Coordinator

What’s Blooming This Month?

What’s Blooming?

This month’s location is what I call the Confidence trail which is really old railroad right of way that connects Confidence road with Lyons Dam. It has only a minimal grade for its entire route and is a delightful walk for anyone any time of the year with the total distance to the dam of five miles. It is heavily used by hikers, joggers, bikers and equestrians and runs through private land owned by SPI which doesn’t permit public motorized vehicles on the roadway. As an indicator of the plant diversity of the area, I’ve observed more than two hundred blooming plants along the trail’s length.

All of these late blooming flowers were observed on my walk a few days ago with the first flower being Golden Fleece or Golden Bush, (*Ericameria aborescens*), a member of the Sunflower family, Asteraceae. It is actually a small shrub and has tall stalks of yellow blooms. The next bloom is that of the Sierra Milkwort, (*Polygala cornuta*), that is a member of the Milkwort family, Polygalaceae. It has a pinkish purple bloom that has a somewhat unusual shape. This is the latest that I’ve seen this particular species blooming and I was surprised to see it in bloom. I saw many others that had long ago set their seeds. My last flower is Western Verbena or Vervain, (*Verbena lasiostachys*), which is a member of the Vervain family, Verbenaceae. It has plumed flower spikes of light blue to purplish color with flowers of five petals. At first glance you might think that it was a member of the Mint family, Lamiaceae, without the characteristic “minty” fragrance.

Remember that you never really know what you’ll encounter in the way of blooming plants when you are out for a walk in our wonderful hills and mountains. I do hope that these pictures will encourage you to get out and explore the many native wildflowers in our area that bloom throughout the year in their many and varied habitats.

-- Bob Brown, Program Coordinator

E-Shooting Star Addresses Needed

Please send your e-mail address to Jennie Haas: jhaas953@gmail.com for the e-Shooting Star mail list.

-- Jennie Haas, Field Trip Coordinator
NATIVES
“HOMEWARD BOUND”

Continued from Page 1...

Very special thanks to over 40 volunteers that helped. Without all of you, our plant sale would not have happened. Starting with the deliveries, thank you to Margaret, Debbie, Carolee, Lori, Barbara, Dolores, Pat Gogas, and Pat Reh, who helped unload the trucks and price the plants. Next, the stalwarts that provide the vehicles and help load and unload the plants. Think about it, no vehicles, no plants, NO sale. It took 12 trucks, and 1 SUV to haul plants, tables, wagons, and signs to the sale. Thanks to Dan, Vera, Deana, Don, Janet, Val, David, Tom, Pat Stone, Alan, Martha, Todd, Chase, Larry, Marsha, Heather, and Carol. And, after the sale, thanks to Katy, Paolo, Dan, Bob, and Jennie for hauling plants, tables, signs and unloading all our “stuff” back at the growing area.

A special shout out to the cashiers, tag pullers, knowledgeable people and book sellers Stefani, Sheila, Pat Gogas, Korena, Francesca, Bob Brown, Jennie, Pat Reh, Vera, Val, Patti, Nancy, Caroline, Bob and Judy Dean. And a big THANK YOU to our hospitality leader Margaret Klein who provided the hot drinks and treats to get us through the chilly morning.

Yes, it takes a village to pull off a successful plant sale. If we have forgotten anyone, please know that your help was really appreciated. Thanks again and hope to see you all at the next plant sale, April 26th 2014.

-- Stephanie Garcia and Pat Gogas, Plant Sale Chairpersons

Tribulus terrestris - Watch your step!

A native to southern Europe, this weed occurs throughout California and much of the United States. It has many common names, including puncture weed, goat head, devil’s thorn, and caltrop (a weapon covered with spikes). Tribulus is a summer annual that thrives in hot dry conditions and poor soils. It produces a deep taproot, and low-growing mats up to 3 feet in diameter. Like many weeds, it colonizes disturbed areas and out-competes native plants by growing rapidly and producing thousands of seeds that can remain viable for several years or more.

Besides its negative impacts on natural habitats, Tribulus produces sharp-pointed nutlets that can readily puncture bicycle tires and thin-soled shoes, causing painful injuries. I first discovered Tribulus while bike-riding down a country road in Oklahoma. The pointy seeds flattened both of my tires. In southern Africa, the nutlets have reportedly been used as deadly weapons by coating them with the juice of Acokanthera spp., a plant that contains toxic cardiac glycosides. Besides the sharp-spined nutlets, the leaves of Tribulus contain a class of chemicals called saponins, which can be toxic to livestock.

On a more peaceful note, Tribulus is used in traditional Chinese and Indian medicine as a tonifier, and occasionally as a diet supplement by body-builders and others in the United States. Extracts of the plant reportedly increase testosterone concentrations, helping to build muscles and enhance sexual behavior.

The best way to eradicate Tribulus is by manual removal. The plant can be pulled up to remove the taproot and the associated mat of stems and leaves. Mowing or weed-wacking will simply scatter the seeds, leading to a bumper crop in successive years. For widespread infestations, herbicides may be necessary to control Tribulus. Remember to watch your step around this invasive exotic plant!

-- Alan Leavitt, Invasive Exotics Chair

NOVEMBER SPEAKER & ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Our November 7th meeting (7:00 p.m.) will feature Shelly Davis-King, a local professional archaeologist and specialist in Native American cultures who has an avid interest in native plants of our area. Her topic will be centered about the “Ethnobiological Considerations of Some Central Sierra Native Plants.” She will share with us some insights as to the use and cultivation of a number of plants within our area by the local Native Americans. I think that you will come away from her talk with a new understanding of the importance that a number of plants have to our local Native American culture.

The December 5th meeting is our annual potluck dinner at 6:00 PM in the Senior Center that is adjacent to the County Library. -- Bob Brown, Program Coordinator
JOIN NOW

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.

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.