2014: HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Warm, sunny days and low soil moisture have persisted this winter. Where the winter will take us is still yet to be seen. My family recently hiked through Red Hills Interpretative Trail and my daughter loved learning about the native plants which had been labeled as part of a collaborative effort including our local CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter. Please feel welcome this year to enjoy native plants with your local chapter—there are many ways: working in the growing area, leading native plant walks and field trips, attending a plant sale, visiting with your local chapter Board—first Thursday each month! Working with our local chapter has been rewarding for me in finding others with the same passion for native plants. I look forward to meeting more native plant enthusiasts this year—if even for just a hike! Another way to get involved is to submit a newsletter article. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month.

-- Quinn Young, Newsletter Editor

JOIN US! OUR SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Our speaker on February 6th, at 7:00 pm, will be Nancy E. Muleady-Mechan, Ph.D., a retired US National Park Ranger. She will be giving a talk entitled, Our Past Through the Trees, An Introduction to Dendrochronology. Dr. Muleady-Mechan completed a Fellowship at the laboratory for Tree Ring Research in Tucson, AZ and this talk will focus on what makes a tree a tree; what are tree rings; and how dendrochronology is used in science and history. Be sure to mark your calendars and come prepared to learn something about trees that you didn’t know.

-- Bob Brown, Field Trip Coordinator

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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Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.
Field Trips

It's time to plan our field trips for 2014 and we'll be meeting at the Brecklings house in Greeley Hill on **Saturday, Feb 8th.** If you have any ideas for locations and/or would be willing to lead any trips, please give me a call/email for more details. Anyone with an interest in our field trips is welcome to attend. Contact: **rbrown4674@aol.com**, 209-928-9281.

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What’s Blooming This Month?

Continuing the theme from last month I'm going to show some more seed/fruit structures that are quite different. The pictures will be from three different locations but these plants can be found in multiple locations in our local area. I've also included photos of the same plant in bloom to see if you can identify which blooms go with the appropriate seed/fruit.

My first example is the fruit of a California Buckeye tree, (*Aesculus californica*), and it is a member of the Soapberry family, Sapindaceae. It's hard to imagine that this is the fruit when you look at the large white flower plume. This photo was taken in December along the old railroad right-of-way that is the Westside trail. The next seed structure is one of the more unusual ones in our area and is that of a Spicebush or Sweet Shrub, (*Calycanthus occidentalis*), a member of the Sweet Shrub family, Calycanthaceae. This was observed and photographed along Red Hills road. The last photo shows the seed structure of the Foothill Jepsonia, (*Jepsonia heterandra*), which is a member of the Saxifrage family, Saxifragaceae and is rated 4.3 (limited distribution) on the CNPS Inventory or Rare and Endangered Plants. The flower blooms late in September into October with several locations known in Tuolumne county. There are a number of these along the Natural Bridges trail where this was photographed.

Make a New Year's resolution to get out and observe more wildflowers and plants in our local great outdoors. Hopefully these pictures will encourage you at least a little to get out and explore the many native wildflowers in our area that bloom throughout the year in their many and varied habitats.

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FREE DIVISIONS OF MATILJJA POPPIES!

One of our members has a nice patch of Matilija Poppies, (*Romneya coulteri*). As is the nature of Matilijas, the patch is spreading. She is willing to share them with us. So, we have an opportunity to dig some up and transplant them into our gardens! The date is flexible, but I am currently looking at February 10th or 11th. The location is in the Phoenix Lake area. Anyone interested in going to her garden and taking divisions of the Matilijas, please contact Stephanie Garcia @ **sjgarcia@mlode.com**
CALL FOR ARTICLES ON MEMBER’S NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

The CNPS Horticulture Program has begun running a series of articles in the CNPS Bulletin on native plant gardens of CNPS members. The first one appeared in the Oct.–Dec. 2013 issue on page 7. Depending on the response, this series could become a regular feature in the state newsletter. The purpose of the series is to inspire others to create their own native plant gardens, or to add natives to an already existing garden.

If you have a native plant garden you feel is special and beautiful, and if you would like to share it with others in CNPS, send us an inspiring article draft of 575–600 words. We hope you’ll include your experiences with the garden, as well as just describing what’s there. Also include two high-quality photos (in jpg format, not close-ups) that show off your garden, and one-sentence captions for each. Send your submission to Susan Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, at skrzywicki@cnps.org. If we feel your article can be published, we will work with you through the editing process until it’s in a final form. We look forward to hearing from a number of CNPS members!

—Susan Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director

NEW LOCATION FOR APRIL PLANT SALE

We have exciting news about our Spring Native Plant Sale. This April, we will be having our sale in Calaveras County. The site of our sale will be at the newly landscaped Calaveras County Water District building in San Andreas. Our very own CNPS Board Member, Judy Dean, has designed the landscape with a combination of native and non-native plants.

At our plant sales, we always have knowledgeable people to help you with any questions you may have. With this new location, we will also be able to provide on site examples of landscaping with natives. As an added bonus to our plant sale, we will be offering tours of the newly landscaped garden during the plant sale. How great is that!

As with all our plant sales, we are volunteer driven. No volunteers, no plant sale. There are many different ways you can help. We need help setting up before the sale. During the sale, we need cashiers, tag pullers and knowledgeable people to answer questions. And, we reward our volunteers; you get to select plants BEFORE the sale is open to the public.

Our sale is on Saturday, April 26th from 10 am to 1 pm. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Garcia at sjgarcia@mlode.com or Judy Dean at goldrushdean@yahoo.com

With this new location, we are hoping to reach out to more of our members in Calaveras and Amador Counties. We realize this may present a hardship for our loyal Tuolumne and Mariposa County members. We hope you continue to support us at our new location. Remember, you will get an opportunity to visit a newly landscaped area that has incorporated natives with non-natives and talk with the landscape designer.

See you there!

-- Stephanie Garcia, Plant Sale Co-Chair

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
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.

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.