CNPS NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Our Demo garden is looking great after the December rains. We have not watered since early November; thank you Mother Nature! In the first week of December, a group of us planted about a dozen more plants. With this latest planting, the area is filling in nicely. We added 3 varieties of Ceanothus, 3 more varieties of Salvia, Lupinus albifrons, more Penstemon Margaret BOP, Rhamnus (coffeeberry), Trichostema (Wooly Blue Curls) and another variety of Eriogonum (Buckwheat). And, the wild flowers are starting to push their new growth.

If you are in the area, please stop by. The garden is located at the Sonora Dog Park and is open to the public. Come by any time, there is a nice table and bench under the oak trees. I’ve stopped there on my lunch hour many times. Easy to get to: on Greenley take a right at Cabezut Road. Take 2nd left onto Covey Circle. Sonora Sunrise Rotary Dog Park is on your right just past the Quail Hollow Storage Unit.

-- Stephanie Garcia

CNPS Shooting Star Newsletter Article Submission 2015

Please consider submitting an article for the Shooting Star newsletter. It is fun to hear from the membership and to share how others enjoy native plants.

Guidelines: Material must be original (please cite sources if referencing literature). Please check that you’re using current scientific names (see USDA Plants Database to verify not using a synonym, http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch).

Topics: Anything related to native plants such as plant walks, gardens and pollinators, landscaping, ecological discussions, conservation, and species’ accounts. Original photos and sketches are encouraged. Please submit articles which are 400 words or less. Articles are accepted until the 10th of each month for publication in the following month’s newsletter (or later if we have several articles). Send questions to quinnyoung26@gmail.com

- - Quinn Young, Newsletter Editor
FIELD TRIPS

The Field Trip Committee will be meeting about the time of this newsletter to plan this year’s field trip schedule. While it’s still too soon to tell what type of spring it will be, last year had some blooming surprises as the spring rains showed up in time and in just enough quantity to produce localized patches of color. The poppies in the canyons made huge and surprising splashes of orange. Lupines and Clarkias happily provided great shows of blue and pink, respectively. Our winter has gotten off to a great start with warm fall rains that have caused seeds to germinate with anticipation of the spring to come. Parry’s green-leaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos manzanita ssp. manzanita) has already been blooming at the lower elevations. So, we wait with anticipation of what will come. The committee will ponder these things as we put together the 2015 schedule.

If you have ideas of where to go, what to see or would like to lead a field trip, let me know as soon as possible so that we can incorporate your ideas. Also, send your local wildflower sightings for our Twitter page so that others can go to see them. Send me the name of the plant and a brief description of where it is. These should be at locations that others can access from public roads.

Sign up to be on the field trip e-mail list to receive field trip reminders and information. Send me an e-mail with the subject line “Field Trip e-mail List.”

My contact info: jhaas953@gmail.com, 209-962-4759.

- - Jennie Haas, Field Trip Coordinator

Conversion to E-Shooting Star

In an effort to reduce the substantial amount of work to produce our Shooting Star newsletter, and to reduce the costs involved with its production, we will be converting all hard copy newsletter distributions to e-mail versions for members who have provided us with their e-mail addresses. We realize this might impact some of our members who have dial-up internet service. However, the size of the newsletter files are kept at or below 5MB, which is far below the typical monthly computer program update files such as Norton Internet Security (typically ranging 10 to 15MB or more) and Microsoft Internet Explorer or Office components (typically ranging 95 to 100MB, or more).

In addition to the benefits of reducing the time commitment and costs of producing a hard copy newsletter, you will realize some benefits from receiving the newsletter electronically. These include having a full color newsletter with photos that are clear and vibrant, and live links to websites, including our own, and to social media pages. The newsletter will also arrive a little sooner than the hard copy version.

The only additional software that you need to have to view the newsletter is a PDF viewer such as the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, downloadable from: http://get.adobe.com/reader/ This program works with both Windows and Apple operating systems.

We are beginning this change with the February issue. If you have not already provided us with your e-mail address or if I have not contacted you by e-mail notifying you that you are being switched, then we would be grateful if you would provide us with your current e-mail address. Please send it to jhaas953@gmail.com with the subject line “Sign up for e-Shooting Star.”

**How we will use your e-mail address:** We are very careful about the number and types of e-mails that we send out to our members. In addition to the monthly e-Shooting Star, we usually send out e-mail reminders about meetings and plant sales. We occasionally send out notices of activities of interest to our membership which may have come to our attention after our newsletter has gone out. We sometimes do volunteer appeals for the plant sales or other activities. Members and others can sign up to receive field trip notices which are not sent to all members unless requested. We do not share e-mail addresses with outside organizations or individuals.

Our members without e-mail will continue to receive the black and white hard copy version of the Shooting Star. Members can elect to opt-out of the e-mail version and return to the hard copy version by sending an e-mail to jhaas953@gmail.com with the subject line “Opt-Out of e-Shooting Star.” We hope that you’ll give the e-Shooting Star a chance though.

Thank you for your support.

- - Jennie Haas, Membership

Happy Valentine’s Day!!
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Our Sierra Foothills Chapter has recently engaged in a new partnership with Sierra Waldorf School (SWS) on Rawhide Road in Jamestown, CA. Sierra Waldorf School expressed interest in working with CNPS to learn more about native plants and to teach students at SWS the value of having a native plant garden. SWS’s garden teacher, Erin Pollen, has been a Master Gardener and currently is teaching students about native plants and their adaptations to California’s climate. Erin illuminates the role that native plants function in ecological communities and in plant medicine. Students are involved in all aspects of the Native Plant Garden including preparing the soil, learning which environmental variables are required for different native plant species, and long term care of the garden.

SWS students created a garden bed and planted over 35 native plants donated by our Chapter last fall. Take a look as you drive by on Rawhide Road! The Native Plant garden is highlighted at the front of the Sierra Waldorf School garden. On Fridays, SWS students host a produce sale which is open to the public from 12:15 to 1:15.

SWS’s Erin Pollen’s purpose is to weave the new native plant project into the garden curriculum which has different types of plots (i.e., vegetable garden, perennial cutting garden, pollinator garden, butterfly garden, herb gardens). Everything in the garden is a teaching opportunity and part of the purpose is to provide opportunities for the children to learn about different types of plants, their histories, habitat needs, niche in the cycle of nature, and usefulness to insects, birds, and native peoples.

An important aspect of native plants, of course, is pollinator relationships. Sierra Waldorf School successfully attracted a colony of monarch butterflies in their butterfly garden planted by 4th and 5th graders. Students were thrilled to find different stages of Monarch butterfly breeding cycle in the garden, including caterpillars, chrysalis and adult Monarchs. Sierra Waldorf School is now registered as Monarch Watch Waystation #9163 (www.MonarchWatch.org).

And now is the time for Monarch counts! The Xerces Society recently launched a new website designed for volunteer monarch counts in California! Please visit the website and get involved!! www.westernmonarchcount.org

Stay tuned for updates on CNPS’ partnership with Sierra Waldorf School’s garden program.

- - Quinn Young

Photos: Erin Pollen
JOIN NOW

PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!

Student/Retired/Limited income ........................................... $25
Family or Group ................................................................. $45
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.

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.

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