



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

APRIL 2019

April Program TBA

Thursday, April 4, 6:00 p.m.

Tuolumne County Library Meeting Room

480 Greenly Road, Sonora

Field Trip Report

Don Kurtz reports on our first field trip of 2019: – Red Hills Don Pedro Overlook

“A concise group of 6 CNPS members met to see what the spring rains have brought to Red Hills at 1,000' elevation. We observed about 20 species, including Homo Sapiens, Trailus Runnerus, and HS Mountain Bikerus. There was life returning to Red Hills in spite of the hailstorm of 10 days prior. Thanks to Barry Breckling for the photos below. These blooms are just the first of many waves of flowering at Red Hills. The riparian corridors should be exploding with white hyacinth this year. See you on the next CNPS hike!”



TOP: *Diplacus douglasii* (Purple Mouse Ears). (NOTE: Last year, none of the field trip participants saw even one PME bloom at Red Hills. This patch was close to the intersection of Red Hills Rd. & South Serpentine Rd.)
BOTTOM: *Eschscholzia lobbii* (Frying Pan Poppy); leaves of *Horkelia californica var. elata* (California Horkelia), which blooms in late May or early June; *Arctostaphylos viscida ssp. mariposa* (Whiteleaf Manzanita), which grows side-by-side at Red Hills with *Arctostaphylos manzanita*. Photos © Barry Breckling.



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

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Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.

* * * APRIL FIELD TRIPS * * *

The field trip committee has put together a really great field trip schedule. We're still fleshing out the details of a few trips so we'll send it out soon. In the meantime, we have some great trips coming up in April.

For all field trips: bring lunch, water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing and footwear. Hiking level varies with each trip. Check the trip description for the need to RSVP. Your trip will be enhanced by bringing field guides and magnifying lenses, although these are optional. Carpooling is encouraged. Call ahead if the weather looks iffy. Our field trips are open to everyone. Bring a friend or two. It is Chapter policy that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We appreciate everyone's adherence to this policy.

Sign up for our field trip alerts e-mails. Send an e-mail with the subject line "Field Trip e-mail List" to Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com. We'll use this mailing list and Twitter to provide timely information of field trip changes and those impromptu "unscheduled field trips."

April 6 – Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road. Leader: Lynn Robertson. Hiking Level: easy – primarily car botanizing. We will be in an area extensively burned by the Detwiler Fire. I will talk about the effect of fire on the vegetation including the "fire follower" plants (such as Golden Eardrops & Whispering Bells) we may see. Wildflowers usually seen include the Sierra Fawn Lily, stinkbells, and a rare Balsamroot. Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road is just a few miles west of Bear Valley in Mariposa Co. Meet at 10 a.m. in Bear Valley 10 minutes north of Mariposa on Hwy 49 (south end of town next to Bon Ton restaurant). For more information on the field trip, contact Lynn at billielr@sti.net, (209)966-5316.

April 27 - Hetch Hetchy Hike. Leaders: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking Level: moderate. We'll visit the dramatic, flooded sister of Yosemite Valley. Hetch Hetchy is a good area for lower elevation wildflowers, and in some years the displays can be exceptional. We'll walk about 2½ relatively flat miles to Wapama Fall and turn around and return the way we came. People who don't want to hike 5 miles can turn around earlier on. The park charges an entrance fee. We'll meet at the library parking lot in Groveland at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to Hetch Hetchy. For more information, contact Barry and Judy at (209)878-3041 or breckling@garlic.com.

April 28 – Moss Hike, Merced River Canyon. Leaders: Paul Wilson and Lynn Robertson. Hiking Level: easy (the trail is flat though occasionally rocky). Dr. Paul Wilson (Bryophyte Chapter of CNPS) and Lynn Robertson (CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter) will be exploring mosses in the Merced River Canyon below El Portal & Yosemite National Park. This area is rich in liverworts and mosses. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Merced River Recreation Area (Briceburg) parking lot adjacent to Hwy 140, about 14 miles east of Mariposa. For more details, contact Lynn Robertson at billielr@sti.net or (209)966-5316. Bring a lunch. We will be back at the parking lot by early afternoon. There is no cell phone coverage in the immediate area.

– Jennie Haas

How do I find out if a field trip has been moved or canceled?

- 1. RSVP with the trip leader. The leader will try to let you know if there are changes.**
- 2. Get on Jennie's Field Trip e-mail List (cf. blue box above). Jennie sends out updates to the entire Field Trip list – not just to people who signed up for a particular trip.**
- 3. If changes are made well in advance they *might* show up under the Field Trip tab on our chapter website, but this is less reliable than 1 and 2.**

“How Flowers Changed the World”

From the Editor: That is the name of an essay written by American paleontologist Loren Eiseley (1907–1977). Eiseley published many books during my lifetime, but I never paid any attention to him until Library of America issued a 2-volume collection of his works in 2016. (*Collected Essays on Evolution, Nature, and the Cosmos.*) If you are not familiar with Eiseley, I encourage you to give him a look. An excerpt from “Flowers” follows:

“A little while ago – about one hundred million years, as the geologist estimates time in the history of our four-billion-year-old planet – flowers were not to be found anywhere on the five continents. Wherever one might have looked, from the poles to the equator, one would have seen only the cold dark monotonous green of a world whose plant life possessed no other color.

“Somewhere, just a short time before the close of the Age of Reptiles, there occurred a soundless, violent explosion. It lasted millions of years, but it was an explosion, nevertheless. It marked the emergence of the angiosperms – the flowering plants. Even the great evolutionist, Charles Darwin, called them ‘an abominable mystery,’ because they appeared so suddenly and spread so fast.

“Flowers changed the face of the planet. Without them, the world we know – even man himself – would never have existed. Francis Thompson, the English poet, once wrote that one could not pluck a flower without troubling a star. Intuitively he had sensed like a naturalist the enormous interlinked complexity of life. Today we know that the appearance of the flowers contained also the equally mystifying emergence of man.”

What’s Blooming?

On most weekends I take a birding walk at Lake Yosemite County Park in my hometown of Merced. I do not advise anyone to visit this park for wildflowers, but there are actually quite a few species there. So far in March, I have seen at least 15 native and 20 non-native wildflowers, not counting landscaped plants. One plant has me stumped. It was growing out of the sand close to the lake shore. It has prostrate, reddish-brown, glandular-hairy stems radiating from a central hub; whorls of spiky leaves; and white flower buds that had not quite opened. If you know what this is, – or even what family it might be in, – send me an e-mail. The answer (or best guesses) will be announced in the May Newsletter. Sorry, no prizes. - Editor djkran@comcast.net



CW from TOP: Central hub of plant; one stem pinched off and held against the sky (each stem was about a foot long); zoom on glandular-hairy stem and leaves.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons (All phone #'s are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.)				JOIN NOW
PRESIDENT	OPEN			<p>PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!</p> <p>Student/Retired/Limited income ...\$25 Individual \$45 Family or Group \$75 Library..... \$75 Plant Lover \$100 Patron.....\$300 Benefactor \$600 Mariposa Lily..... \$1,500</p> <p>As always, donations above the membership level chosen will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ e-mail _____</p> <p>(Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)</p> <p>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 <i>Fremontia</i>, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter, <i>The Shooting Star</i>.</p> <p>E-mail: sierrafoothillscnps@gmail.com</p>
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