May Meeting and Program

*Tree Ecology - The Rhizosphere – Tree Anatomy Below Ground*

**Presenter: Ted Kipping**
**Thursday, May 9, 6:00 p.m.**
**Senior Center Meeting Rooms B & C**
**540 Greenley Rd., Sonora**

CNPS and the Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County have teamed up to co-host a special presentation by Ted Kipping, a Certified and Consulting Arborist as well as a Life Member of CNPS. Ted studied Natural History at Columbia University in N.Y., worked at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park and operated an arboricultural enterprise for forty-three years. He has consulted in seven botanic gardens, lectured in thirteen and delivered twelve lectures on Modern Arboriculture in Prague including one to the Cabinet of the Czech Republic.

Ted will be traveling from San Francisco, where he resides, to deliver his presentation. He describes his talk this way: “Tree Ecology - The Rhizosphere - Tree Anatomy Below Ground shares the amazing insights and lab work of the late Dr. Alex Shigo, a giant in tree research and some of his world-wide colleagues. Hopefully his discoveries and images will blow your mind. Devotee, Ted Kipping, will be ‘channeling’ Dr. Shigo’s discoveries. It will improve your understanding and success with trees.”

**Note that our usual first Thursday meeting night has been changed to the second Thursday, May 9th and the location is moved to the Senior Center.** We hope you’ll join us for this special program!
** 2019 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE **

Our field trip schedule for the remainder of 2019 is being delivered to you as a separate pdf file (for e-Shooting Star recipients), or as a pull-out section (for those who receive hardcopy). The field trip schedule is also posted on our chapter website. (NOTE: The schedule does not include the three 2019 field trips already completed: Red Hills, Moss Creek, HVMAR.)

— Jennie Haas

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### Field Trip Report

**Doug Krajnovich reports on March 24 field trip to Moss Creek:**

“Even though this trip took place well before peak bloom, we got to see approximately thirty native wildflowers on our walk to the waterfall. Foothill and California Poppies, Blue and White Lupine, Baby Blue Eyes, Henderson’s Shooting Stars, Bolander’s Woodland Stars, and other “staples” were getting established. A special treat was Kellogg’s Monkeyflower, which used to be *Mimulus kelloggii*, but is now *Diplacus kelloggii*. We also saw *Erythranthe floribunda*, which used to be *Mimulus floribundus*. The Monkeyflower reorganization is not as bad as it sounds. For a primer, see the short explanation from Barry & Judy Breckling below.”

**Addendum:** I re-visited Moss Creek on April 17 when it was close to peak bloom, with dense fields of Lupine & Poppy. On that same day I saw thousands of *Diplacus kelloggii* and hundreds of the rare *Eriophyllum congdonii* on the rocky south-facing slope just east of the NPS Wastewater Treatment Plant on Foresta Rd.

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LEFT: Group photo on Moss Creek trail (© Barry Breckling.) RIGHT: Close-up of *Diplacus kelloggii* (© Doug K.) A long corolla tube emerges from the calyx, but there is little or no stalk beneath the calyx. Hence, this species resides in the new Diplacus genus.

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### What happened to Mimulus?

Only one monkeyflower species in California remains in the Mimulus genus, and it's known from only a single location in the Sierra Nevada foothills (*Mimulus ringens*). One species is in the Mimetanthe genus (Downy Monkeyflower, *Mimetanthe pilosa*), and all the rest are now assigned to one of two genera:

- Species with a **flower stalk that's longer than the calyx** (especially in fruit) are now in the Erythranthe genus.
- Species with **sessile flowers or flowers with a stalk that's shorter than the calyx** are now in the Diplacus genus.

— Barry & Judy Breckling
**Field Trip Report**

Lynn Robertson reports on April 16 field trip to HVMAR:

“We had a large gathering of thirteen people for the field trip to Hunter’s Valley Mountain Access Rd. We all got our shoes & pants wet as we explored the hillsides for flowers. Hundreds of fawn lilies (Erythronium multiscapideum) were found – a banner year for them. We found many Brown Bells (Fritillaria micrantha), an unusually good hillside of Wyethia bolanderi, and a single bloom of Balsamorhiza macrolepis among many mounds of its leaves. An enjoyable wildflower day emerged from the fog.”

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**What’s Blooming?**

Three readers confidently placed last month’s “mystery plant” in the Pink family (Caryophyllaceae) – which is more than your Editor could do! Kate W. guessed that the plant was a perennial Spergularia, with fruit needed to decide which species. Glenn H. & Judy B. guessed that the plant was a robust specimen of the non-native annual Spergula arvensis. Spergula and Spergularia are closely related. From the limited information that I provided, either could be correct. Thanks to all who sent replies!
Chapter Officers and Chairpersons

(All phone #’s are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.)

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