



# The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2018

## September Meeting and Program

### *Soil microbial ecology of the Sierra Nevada: predictions for a fiery future*

**Presenter: Nicholas C. Dove**

**Thursday, September 6, 6:00 p.m.**

**Tuolumne County Library Meeting Room**

**480 Greenley Rd., Sonora**

– Wildfires in the Sierra Nevada are predicted to increase in size and severity throughout this century. While the drastic effects are immediately seen above ground, less is known about the effect of these megafires within the soil, particularly on soil microorganisms. Soil microbial communities underpin the cycling of important soil resources such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus, so wildfire impacts on soil microbes could affect ecosystem functioning and recovery after these severe disturbances. This talk will focus on the long-term effect of high-severity wildfire on microbial community size, structure (composition), and function (elemental cycling) in the Sierra Nevada and what this means for the sustainability of these ecosystems.

– Nicholas Dove is a PhD candidate at the University of California, Merced. He is broadly interested in the effects of global change (particularly changes in climate and fire regimes) on soil microbial communities and the biogeochemical processes that they control.

## CNPS NATIVE PLANT SALE

### OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>

– **MARK THE DATE...** Our sale is on Saturday, October 20, from 9 a.m. until Noon. We will be at the same location: Rocca Park, Main Street, Jamestown. We will have many different species of shrubs and perennials that need minimal water, once established, during our hot summer months. At the sale, there are always many knowledgeable people to answer your questions and help you choose the appropriate plant for your location.

– **Remember to come early for the best selection. Better yet, volunteer to help at the plant sale. Volunteers get to select plants before the sale is open to the public. We need volunteers with trucks or a SUV to load plants the night before and deliver them the morning of the sale. We also need cashiers and tag pullers. E-mail Stephanie at [sjgarcia@mlode.com](mailto:sjgarcia@mlode.com) to volunteer.**

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.*

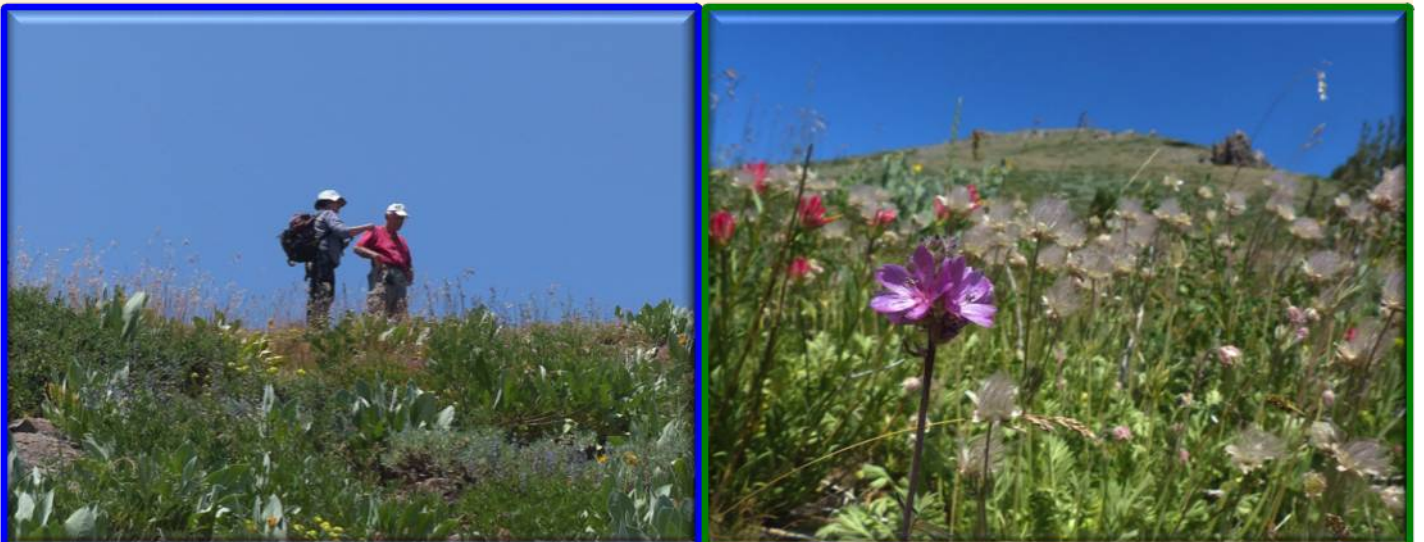
## FIELD TRIP REPORT

The editor reports on the July 19 field trip to **Carson Pass**:

“Trip leader **Bob Dean** led a small group to a secluded spot on the north side of Hwy. 88, just outside our chapter area in Alpine County. Even though the Pacific Crest Trail runs closeby, we had this flowery meadow and hillside all to ourselves. Our timing was good. Even though all of the snow was gone and the ground was starting to dry out, we saw 49x species in bloom. Some highlights are shared below. If you haven't joined this field trip before, I encourage you to check it out next year!”



CCW from upper left: Scarlet Gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*); Crypstantha Owl's Clover (*Orthocarpus cuspidatus* ssp. *cryptanthus*); Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor* ssp. *discolor*); Brewer's Navarretia (*N. breweri*); Monument Plant (*Frasera speciosa*); Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus leichtlinii*); Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum* ssp. *integrifolium*); Oregon Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea oregana* ssp. *spicata*); Spurred Lupine (*L. arbustus*). Below left: Bob and Kim taking stock. Below right: Oregon Checkerbloom & Prairie Smoke. (Photos © Editor)



## Donated Plants for School Pollinator Gardens

Last spring MG received a request from Soulsbyville High School for information about planting a Monarch Butterfly Garden. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science teachers and other teachers were constructing a large school garden. They built a fence, raised vegetable beds, and installed irrigation. Pat Gogas and I met with the Science teachers to discuss expanding the Monarch Garden to include native pollinators. We gave them reference books for native plants and attracting native pollinators. I later took several native plants from my yard, including native clematis starts for their fence. At the time, the CNPS board made the decision to donate plants left from the October sale to school gardens. Fall is the best time to plant, but the board decided it would be better for the plants to be in the ground than spending a hot summer in black pots in the native plant garden area. So I took a number of these plants to the Soulsbyville school garden. Among the plants donated were: several Salvias (Bee's bliss, Hummingbird sage); Ceanothus (Anchor Bay, Winnefred Gilman); native Iris; Epilobium (Zauschneria); coffeeberry; buckwheat, dogwood, etc. This provided the school with California native plants for a great pollinator garden, and basis for the students to experience the benefit of native pollinators and plants.

Don Pedro High School was also interested in adding native plants and a native pollinator garden. The students are enthusiastic school gardeners and planned to use the native plants to landscape the school grounds. Pat Gogas and I took 2 loads of CNPS donated native plants for their pollinator garden /landscaping project. The students had prepared areas for planting. While the students watched, Pat demonstrated how to remove the plants from pots, how to loosen pot bound roots, and how to plant. We also gave the students handouts explaining where to plant (sun/shade), drainage needed by specific plants, and how to care for them. It was very near the end of the school year and they were eager to complete their landscaping project. They had arranged for the plants to be watered over the summer break.

Several of the CNPS plants were also donated to the Gold Rush Charter School to compliment their school garden and give students experience with native plants and native pollinators.

About 3 years ago, CNPS donated native plants to the Chinese Camp School. Teachers, students, parents and volunteers worked together to plant a large native plant garden around 2 sides of the school. That project was very successful and the school has a great native plant garden. The spring blooms are beautiful.

– Margaret Klein

## What's Blooming?

**August 10.** Red Hills gets bloody hot in August, but if you brave the heat, you will find wildflowers *thriving* along the seep-fed creek that parallels North Serpentine Rd. When I was there on August 10, I saw thousands of blooms of *Verbena californica* (1B.1); *Trichostema rubisepalum* (4.3); *Helianthus bolanderi*; and *Mimulus floribundus* (see photos). Roughly twenty other species were blooming in smaller numbers. The rare Verbena was so abundant that you could almost touch it without getting out of your car. Whenever I feel sorry for myself on a hot summer day, I think of the amazing Red Hills wildflowers. – Doug K.



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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 <b>Sierra Foothills</b> 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 <a href="http://www.cnps.org">www.cnps.org</a>.            Membership includes the journal <i>Fremontia</i>, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter, <i>The Shooting Star</i>.</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:sierrafoothillscnps@gmail.com">sierrafoothillscnps@gmail.com</a></p>
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