

California Native Plant Society
Sierra Foothills Chapter
2016 Field Trips

For all field trips: bring lunch, water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing and footwear. Hiking level varies with each trip. 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. Check http://www.twitter.com/SIE_CNPS for updates. 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 "emergency field trips."

March 26 – Hite's Cove. Leader: Lynn Robertson. Hiking Level: Moderate, lots of ups and downs. This is one of the best wildflower hikes in Mariposa County with 50 species of wildflowers possible. Access is along a mostly single file trail on the side of a steep river gorge, hiking through fields of flowers. Group size is limited to 12 people. E-mail Lynn to sign up. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Trailhead along Hwy 140, about 22 miles east of Mariposa. There is a small motel called Red Bud Lodge at the trailhead. Trailhead parking is on the Merced River side of the highway. For more information and to sign up, contact Lynn Robertson, billielr@sti.net, 209-966-5316.

April 2 – West Side Railroad Grade Trail. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: easy (mostly flat, unpaved surface). This will be an easy stroll along this historic railroad grade overlooking the North Fork Tuolumne River. This is a popular and reliable wildflower viewing area where we are sure to find nice things to look at. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the trailhead at the Miramonte subdivision on Cottonwood Road, one mile east of Tuolumne City. For more information, contact Jennie Haas, 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

April 10 – Red Hills. Leader: Rebecca Andrade. Hiking level: Easy. This will be a one mile wildflower walk, on the Interpretative Nature Trail, at the Red Hills Area of Critical Concern. Explore with us the unique vegetation and enjoy the colorful blooms with a California Naturalist. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Red Hills Interpretative Nature Trailhead Parking area. Access requires high clearance vehicles from Highway 120 or Red Hills Rd. to Serpentine Loop Road North, to trailhead parking area. The road from HWY 120 is the easier road to use for this trailhead. To sign up for this trip or for more information, contact Rebecca Andrade, r.andrade218@gmail.com.

May 14 – El Portal Fire Wildflowers, Foresta. Leader: David Campbell. Hiking Level: Moderate. We will see many blooming wildflowers, potentially including several park special status and CNPS rare species, near Foresta in the footprint of the 2014 El Portal Fire in Yosemite National Park. We will be passing through the 2009 Big Meadow Fire and participants will have the opportunity to observe the juxtaposition of regeneration two years and seven years post-fire. If you joined us last year, you know that we saw many blooming species, many of which are fire associates, in the Rim Fire near Hetch Hetchy. This year we'll be a bit lower in elevation and see a different suite of species. Space is limited to 15 participants. Please RSVP with David. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the junction of Foresta Rd. and Big Oak Flat Rd. overlooking Big Meadow in Yosemite National Park. The admission fee to enter Yosemite National Park is \$30 per vehicle. To sign up or for more information, contact David at moonwort.campbell@gmail.com, or 612-867-8700.

May 21 – Evergreen Road, 3 Years After the Rim Fire. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking Level: easy. We last visited this area in 2012, a little more than one year before the 2013 Rim Fire. Highlights will include the uncommon phantom orchids (*Cephalanthera austini*) and the rare mountain lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripedium montanum*), slender-

stemmed monkeyflower (*Mimulus filicaulis*) and aquatic lichen, Goward's waterfan (*Peltigera gowardii*). We'll check out the progress of post-fire restoration efforts in the area. Meet at 9:30a.m. at the library parking lot in Groveland (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120). For more information, contact Jennie Haas, 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

June 11 – Trail of the Gargoyles. Leader: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking Level: easy (about 1½ miles of relatively level trail). The Gargoyles are impressive geological formations, and the area has a fine variety of wildflowers. The size of the group will be limited, so please sign up by contacting Barry and Judy at breckling@garlic.com or 209-878-3041. Feel free to contact them if you'd like more information. We'll meet in Sonora at 9:00a.m. in the parking lot between the KFC restaurant and Kohl's, in the Junction Shopping Center off of Mono Way. We'll carpool and will need high-clearance vehicles for the trip.

June 25-26 – Lake Alpine Celebrating Wildflowers with the USFS. Leader: Rebecca Andrade. Hiking level: moderate. June 22nd to June 25th is Celebrating Wildflowers Week with the US Forest Service, at Lake Alpine. Activities will be for all ages during the week. Sunday, June 26th CNPS will take a four mile round trip Wildflower walk on the Bee Gulch Trail. Contact Rebecca to sign up for the Sunday trip and for additional information about Wildflower Week Activities at Lake Alpine. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Chickaree Day Use Parking Area (Bee Gulch Trailhead across the street). For more information, contact Rebecca at r.andrade218@gmail.com.

July 9 - Mt Dana, Yosemite National Park. Leader: Tom Reyes. Hiking level: Arduous (steep rocky trail at high elevation). Explore the diverse alpine flora at Yosemite's second highest peak, Mt Dana. We will hike through metamorphic talus slopes and pockets of lush alpine vegetation where we will encounter a diverse array of cushion plants and the alpine favorites, Sky Pilot (*Polemonium eximium*) and Alpine Gold (*Hulsea algida*). Participants are encouraged to acclimate to high elevations prior to this trip, as we will be ascending above 13,000 ft. Thunderstorms will cancel this field trip. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station, Yosemite National Park. Sign-ups are not necessary, but Tom would like to know that you are planning to attend. For more information, contact Tom Reyes at 818-554-6616, tpreyes87@gmail.com.

July 23 – Carson Pass Area. Leader: Bob Dean. Hiking Level: arduous due to the very high elevation. This will be another opportunity to explore alpine flora in another beautiful setting. We'll hike north of the highway seeking out the botanical treasures. Meet at 10:00a.m. at the wide, unpaved parking area on the north side of the highway just west of the pass. For more information, contact Bob at goldrushdean@yahoo.com, or 209-754-5887.

August 7 – Kinney Lake. Leader: Rebecca Andrade. Hiking level: Moderate. Wildflower hike to Kinney Lake, 3.2 Miles round trip. The trail is relatively flat with gentle slopes, and elevations above 8,000 ft. The trail meanders through a wide variety of colorful wildflowers, with spectacular mountainous views at every turn. Lunch will be at Kinney Lake where participants will be free to take their time to explore the area. Parking is limited so contact Rebecca to sign up for this trip. She'll provide details on the meeting place. Meet at 9:00a.m. at a parking area at Ebbetts Pass along Highway 4. For more information, contact Rebecca at r.andrade218@gmail.com.

August 13 – Sonora Pass & Pacific Crest Trail. Leader: Becky Miller-Cripps. Hiking Level: Arduous, due to elevation above 10,000 ft. Hike up to three miles out and back along the Pacific Crest Trail from Sonora Pass northward. High elevation wildflowers include dwarf versions of lower elevation plants. Sign-up with Becky by August 6th. Meet at 10:00a.m. at Baker Station along Highway 108 near Kennedy Meadows. For more information or to sign up, contact Becky at miller-cripps@att.net.

October 15– Fall Colors. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: very easy (car tour with limited, flat ground walking). Details of our destination will be in the October Shooting Star. For information, contact Jennie at (209) 962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.