

The Shooting Star

Publication of the

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY- SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER
INCLUDING AMADOR, CALAVERAS, TUOLUMNE AND MARIPOSA COUNTIES



Prairie Smoke, (*Geum triflorum*)

Photos: Bob Brown

Flowers Bloom in September

This month's location is another high altitude one, Sonora Pass. We are going to be looking at several flowers that can be found within one quarter mile or less from the parking area of the scenic pullout from SR 108. Our first flower is called Prairie Smoke, (*Geum triflorum*), which seems like a strange name until you see the flower's seed head. This distinctive seed form makes this an easily identified plant. The next flower is a cousin of the much more widely occurring Scarlet Gilia or Skyrocket, (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), and is commonly named Salmon Skyrocket or Slender Tube Skyrocket, (*Ipomopsis tenuituba*). I prefer the Salmon Skyrocket name because of its salmon pink coloration. Our last flower is Baby Elephant's Head, (*Pedicularis attollens*), which is one of my favorites because of its unusual shape that reminds most people of an elephant's head. For those of you who didn't make our Sonora Pass field trip, you missed a chance to see all of these blooms. I do encourage all of you to get out whenever you can and see what's blooming in our area.



Salmon Skyrocket, (*Ipomopsis tenuituba*)

You can check out Bob's website (TuolumneWildflowers.com) and the Locations/Blooms tab with maps, location descriptions and lists of what plants you may find at what times of the year.

Editor's Note

The deadline for newsletter contributions or corrections is the 10th of each month prior to publishing.
Contact Conny Simonis at conny@simonis.org or (209) 588-0484



Baby Elephant's Head, (*Pedicularis attollens*)

CALENDAR

• **Thursday, September 2** at 6:00 pm
Board Meeting (all members welcome)
7 pm General Meeting.
Location: Tuolumne County Library
Refreshments will be served.
PROGRAM: "Successes and Failures" in
growing native plants in our locale.

• **Saturday, September 11**, Gardening with
Natives Seminar 1-5pm. Mother Lode
Fairgrounds, Sonora. (see page 3)

President's Message

If you haven't had a chance to get out and observe this year's wildflower blooms yet, I would definitely encourage you to do so before it comes to an end. The alpine and sub-alpine locations, especially the accessible meadows along SR 108, have just been spectacular so far and should continue for another couple of weeks before tapering off.

Our big September event will be our first Gardening with Natives Seminar to be held on Saturday, September 11 from 1:00 - 5:00pm at the SIERRA BUILDING, MOTHERLODE FAIRGROUNDS, Stockton Street, Sonora. (see page 3).

This is a new activity for our chapter and I encourage everyone to actively support it and come out and learn the nuts and bolts of growing natives in our area. Space is limited so register early to assure your participation! If you haven't received a brochure and would like one, please give me a call and I'll have one mailed to you.

Our regular meetings will resume September 2 at 7:00 PM in the Tuolumne County library community room off of Greenly Road in Sonora. The September meeting's program will begin the theme of growing natives with Carolee James and Stephanie Garcia presenting a program about their "Successes and Failures" in growing native plants in our locale.

Looking ahead, our meeting on October 7th will feature a program by Peter Korn, an internationally known speaker on growing plants, and a joint meeting with the Sierra Rock Garden Society. (see more in the October newsletter).

Elections for officers and positions of responsibility are coming up in October and we need to get a list of candidates for our elected positions. If you wish to run for a position, let me know and I will pass along your name to the nominating committee. We haven't had a VP for Amador County in a while and it would be nice to have that position filled.

Finally, thanks to a lot of hard work and time donated by Jeff Harmon, our chapter website is up and running (sierrafoothillscnps.org). We will continue to update the site's content and add features over the next several weeks. Thanks again to Jeff and his efforts in creating our latest chapter communication link.

--Bob Brown, President

FLOWER LITERATURE FOR SUMMER READING

Most California Native Plant Society members are interested in general information about plants, not only in California native plants. There have been lots of good books and programs about plants that have come out in the past few years. Here I will mention a few of the better of these in case you missed any. For more information on these you can "Google" the title or check availability on Amazon.

The most comprehensive is the 1995 BBC production narrated by David Attenborough entitled "The Private Lives of Plants". This is a classic book with excellent photography including time lapse and microphotography, all backed by the "music of the spheres" David hangs from the tree tops of the tropical rainforest to illustrate mimicry, the life of carnivorous plants and how a tree works. He describes succession after a storm in a British hardwood forest showing foxglove, willow herb, and young birches as early stages in succession. They all do best when they have full sun. It is all quite dramatic and sometimes a bit anthropomorphic but if this doesn't get the beginner interested in plants, nothing will.

In 2001, Michael Pollan who has recently become our leading good food guru. Wrote the "Botany of Desire" which has since been on PBS stations. He is an excellent researcher and writer so even if you saw the show on PBS you would enjoy the book. Did you know that considering where the garden of Eden was, the apple was probably a pomegranate? We have domesticated and transported the plants we like all over the world and have developed many new varieties to slake our desires. He uses tulips, apples, potatoes and cannabis as examples of plants which we have influenced and which have influenced us. We are a part of nature and have worked on the behalf of these other species in what we have thought was our interest. "But nature bats last".

More recently, in 2007, Amy Stewart wrote "Flower Confidential". Amy tells us about how the varieties were developed and how the flowers which we so enjoy from the florist are grown and sold. Many of the flowers once grown in the United States are now grown Overseas because of the cost of labor. California grows 68% of the cut flowers in the United States and more of these are now sold in supermarkets than by florists. The extensive use of pesticides and herbicides in production is scary particularly since so many flowers are grown in countries where controls are lax. Viola odorata, sweet violets are grown along the coast of California where they can grow well outside.



Elderberry (*Sambucca Mexicana*)

In 2009 Amy Stewart added a second plant book, "Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities." This little book of poisonous plant vignettes includes the elderberry pointing out that most parts of the plant including the uncooked fruit contain dangerous levels of cyanide. There are other "popular" plant books but these are a good start for summer reading. You could call your local book dealer for further suggestions.

--Steve Stocking, Education Chair

Membership: If you change your mailing or e-mail address, be sure to send a notice to: Jennie Haas, 19287 James Circle, Groveland, 95321 jhaas@sonnet.com. (209-962-4759); and California Native Plant Society, 2702 K. St., Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816. This will keep your Newsletter on time and save postage. Non-member subscription: \$6.50/year.

Dedicated to the Preservation of California native flora

GARDENING WITH NATIVES SEMINAR

We're hosting a seminar on how to grow California native plants on September 11, 2010 at the Tuolumne County fairgrounds on Stockton Street, Sonora. The seminar starts at 1:00pm with a lecture by Glenn Keator, PhD, author of several books including *Designing Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens* and *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California*. There will be a forum with short presentations and panel discussion by three experts who will answer your questions on how to grow native plants. Our final hour will have four "Conversation Corners," each with an expert on topics including growing natives around oaks, planting on hillsides and slopes, growing native grasses and native color plants. You can bring your questions about these topics and visit one or all corners. The seminar will end at 5:00pm. Registration is \$20. For more information or a brochure and registration form, contact Bob Brown (209) 928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com, or go to our new chapter website: <http://www.sierrafoothillscnps.org>.

VOLUNTEERS FOR GARDENING NATIVES SEMINAR

There will be free admission to the September 11 Gardening with Natives Seminar for those who sign up to volunteer to help us with various tasks at the Seminar. There are many areas where we need help- i.e. set up, check-in, refreshments, books, membership. Please call Stephanie at 586-3593. Remember, free entry to the Seminar for those who sign up with Stephanie and perform the task assigned.

FALL PLANT SALE ALMOST HERE!

It's that time of year again....Stephanie and I are going crazy trying to decide what plants to have at the fall plant sale. So many wonderful choices that we want them all!!

Flyers for the October 16th fall sale will be available at the September 2nd meeting. Also, at the meeting we will have volunteer sign-up sheets available. Remember, if you volunteer to work as a truck driver, plant loader, cashier, tag puller, book seller or other designated job on sale date you will be able to shop before the sale is open to the public. However, you must be signed up as a worker on our sign-up sheets to have this privilege.

This year we are asking for volunteers with trucks to help load and offload plants. Suncrest Nursery delivers our plants at Andy's in the parking lot. We need 3 trucks to load plants into and take to the growing area where they will be offloaded. The delivery is usually during the week before the sale. The date will be determined sometime in September. If you are available during the weekday and think you can help with this task, please let Stephanie or Carolee know.

Plants will be loaded on trucks on Friday, the 15th at 5:00pm. Trucks will start arriving at Rocca Park in Jamestown by 7:00am to be unloaded and placed in position. The sale opens at 9:00am and will end at 1:00pm

Sign-up sheets will be at both the September and October meetings, but if you can't attend either meeting, please contact Carolee James at 928-4886 or Stephanie Garcia at 586-3593, to sign-up.

We hope to see and meet you at the monthly meetings.

--Carolee James, Plant Sales Chair, cvjames@frontiernet.net

FIELD TRIPS

2010 has proven to be a first rate wildflower year here in the central Sierra Nevada. And our field trips have been timed very well this year to catch the wildflowers at or near peak bloom. While we try to plan that when we set up our schedule every January or February, we are always thrilled when we get it right. Case in point, the July 24th Sonora Pass field trip was near peak bloom and we didn't have to venture more than 100 feet in any direction to see a wonderful array of wildflowers. The trip was expertly led by Scott Brush who spent time with the ten attendees keying plants to ensure the identification was satisfactory. We saw old man's whiskers (*Geum triflorum*), alpine shooting star (*Dodecatheon alpinum*), little elephant's head (*Pedicularis attollens*), elk thistle (*Cirsium scariosum*) and the very diminutive Suksdorf's monkeyflower (*Mimulus suksdorfii*) among the many species in full bloom. Thank you, Scott for leading such a great field trip.

There are no field trips in **September**. The Bennettville and Fantail Lake field trip with Judy and Barry Breckling is still planned for August 21st. See the August newsletter for details.



(from left) Bob Brown, Judy Breckling and Scott Brush discuss the characteristics of one of the many plants on the Sonora Pass field trip.



Elk thistle (*Cirsium scariosum*).



CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter
 19287 James Circle
 Groveland, CA 95321

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 83
 Sonora CA 95370

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| PRESIDENT | Bob Brown | 928-9281 | rbrown4674@aol.com |
| VP AMADOR CO. | OPEN | | |
| VP CALAVERAS CO. | Robert & Judy Dean | 754-5887 | dean@goldrush.com |
| VP MARIPOSA CO. | Ann Mendershausen | 742-7734 | ralphr@sierratel.com |
| VP TUOLUMNE CO. | Tom Hofstra | 586-7440 | hofstra@biology.ucsc.edu |
| SECRETARY | Stephanie Garcia | 586-3593 | sgarcia@mlode.com |
| TREASURER | Suzanne Harmon | 728-8472 | soozanne_h@yahoo.com |
| CONSERVATION CO-CHAIR | Pat Stone | 984-0304 | patmstone@gmail.com > |
| CONSERVATION CO-CHAIR | Tom Hofstra | 586-7440 | hofstra@biology.ucsc.edu |
| EDUCATION CHAIR | Steve Stocking | 754-9020 | snlsox@earthlink.net |
| FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE | Jennie Haas | 962-4759 | jhaas@sonnet.com |
| GROWING AREA MGR. | Stephanie Garcia | 586-3593 | sgarcia@mlode.com |
| HOSPITALITY COORD. | Winifred Stone | 984-3638 | |
| INVASIVE EXOTICS | Veda Scherer | 728-8921 | scherwoodforest@sbcglobal.net |
| SALES COORD. | Pat Reh | 536-0871 | |
| MEMBERSHIP COORD. | Jennie Haas | 962-4759 | jhaas@sonnet.com |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR | Conny Simonis | 588-0484 | conny@simonis.org |
| PLANT SALES CHAIR | Carolee James | 928-4886 | cvjames@frontiernet.net |
| SPRING PLANT SALES COORD. | Stefani Reichle | 533-3181 | carpeircircus@gmail.com |
| PROGRAM CHAIR | Bob Brown | 928-9281 | rbrown4674@aol.com |
| PUBLICITY COORD. | Conny Simonis | 588-0484 | conny@simonis.org |

JOIN NOW!

Please include me as a CNPS member.
 Student/Retired/Limited income .. \$25
 Individual or Library \$45
 Family or Group \$75
 Supporting..... \$75
 Plant Lover \$100
 Patron..... \$250
 Benefactor \$500
 Bristlecone \$1000
 As always, donations above the membership level chosen will be greatly appreciated.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zipcode _____
 Telephone _____

(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 - Fax (916) 447-2727 Membership includes the quarterly Fremontia magazine, CNPS Bulletin and the monthly Shooting Star newsletter.

www.cnps.org

<http://www.sierrafoothillscnps.org>

[www.Twitter.com/SIE_CNPS](https://twitter.com/SIE_CNPS)