

The Shooting Star

Publication of the



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

Flowers Bloom in October



Oregon Aster, (*Sericocarpus oregonensis*)

Photos: Bob Brown

This month our location is going to be the Westside trail near Tuolumne to illustrate that even though it is very late in the blooming cycle for this location you can still find blooming wildflowers there. Our first selection is Oregon Aster, (*Sericocarpus oregonensis*), a member of the Asteraceae (Sunflower) family that has white composite flowers on stalks of about 2 feet and likes to be near a wet area or a water source. Great Valley Gumweed, (*Grindelia camporum*), is another late bloomer that has yellow flowers and also likes dry disturbed areas. It is also member of the Asteraceae family with both yellow ray and disk flowers and may be frequently found along roadsides. The last flower is Slender Stemmed Lessingia, (*Lessingia nemaclada*), another member of the Asteraceae family that has light purple or lavender blooms. This plant also likes dry disturbed areas and is frequently found along roadsides in late summer and early fall.



Great Valley Gumweed (*Grindelia Camporum*)

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.



Slender Stemmed Lessingia, (*Lessingia nemaclada*)

Calendar

Thursday, October 7 at 6:00 pm
Board Meeting (all members welcome)
7 pm General Meeting. Location: Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Road, Sonora. Refreshments will be served.
PROGRAM: Peter Korn, an internationally known speaker on growing plants, and a joint meeting with the Sierra Rock Garden Society. Peter's presentation is entitled "Building for Growing".
Saturday, October 16, Fall plant sale!
Saturday, October 23, Fall Color field trip.

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

President's Message

By the time that you read this our Growing with Natives Seminar will have concluded, but I wish to thank all of you who volunteered your time and efforts to assure that this was a successful event.

Our October chapter meeting is going to be special not only because it will be a joint meeting with the Sierra Rock Garden Society, but also because we will have an opportunity to hear an international speaker. Peter Korn from Gothenburg, Sweden will give a presentation about growing natives in Western Europe and Scandinavia. Remember to tell all of your friends about this as it promises to be a very entertaining and informative evening.

Our Fall Plant Sale is also coming up in October on Saturday the 16th from 9:00 to 1:00. Mark this date on your calendars and remember that our location is now in Rocca Park in downtown Jamestown. As always, we need you to volunteer to assist in the movement of the plants and the setup for the event. If you would like to help, please contact either Carolee James or Stephanie Garcia if you have not already done so.

The state CNPS organization was recently instrumental in having a legislative bill passed declaring that the third week of April should be designated California Native Plant Week. Hopefully this can be used to draw media attention to the need to further actively work to conserve the varied native plant habitats throughout the state that are in need of protection.

--Bob Brown, President



Our First Seminar "Gardening with Natives" speaker Glenn Keator.

Photo: Jennie Haas

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FLOWER LITERATURE FOR LIGHT SUMMER/FALL READING: #2

To finish what I started in the last Shooting Star I will discuss a few more books which loosely fit the "popular plant" book genre. If you know of others please let me know about them as I am running low on ideas for good reading.

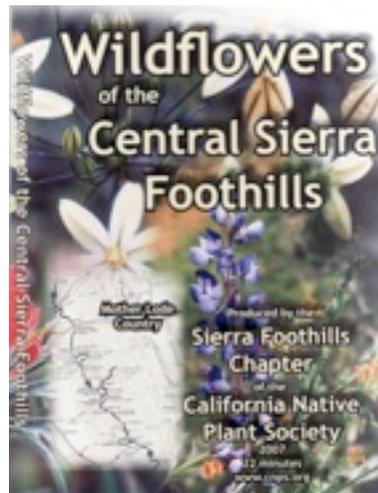
It is not often that we find a mystery novel written by an amateur botanist who was the newsletter editor for a CNPS Chapter. Rebecca Rothenberg was editor for the San Gabriel Mountain Chapter of CNPS. She had a good grounding in science as she was a data analysis consultant in epidemiology. Try her "The Dandelion Murders" (1995) which involves both "Alpine hulsea" from the southern high Sierra and agricultural pesticide use in the San Joaquin Valley. If you like that then you should also try to find her "Bulrush Murders" which also showcases her solid botanical knowledge and writing ability. It is a shame that she did not survive long enough to write more botanical based mysteries.

If you enjoy puns, the titles of some of Susan Alberts mysteries may be enjoyable. The hero of some of her light novels is a lawyer turned herbalist. These books include "An Unthymely Death", and "Rueful Death". Others are "Mistletoe Man", "Hangman's Root", "Witches Bane" and "Nightshade". These all are extremely light reading, maybe best compared to that long series of "cat mystery" books none of which I can recall in detail.

Finally, you may have heard of the actual case of the removal of orchids from public lands, including National Parks in Florida by those involved in trafficking these rare plants. Audubon Magazine had a good article about this problem some time ago. Collectors and growers were paying high prices for these native rarities. At least two books resulted; "The Orchid Thief" by Susan Orlean (2000) and "Orchid Fever" by Eric Hanson (2001). I would tell you more about them but I loaned them and they have not returned. All that I can say 10 years later is that I did enjoy them.

--Steve Stocking, Education Chair

"WILDFLOWERS OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA FOOTHILLS".



Our Chapter has produced a DVD entitled "Wildflowers of the Central Sierra Foothills". This 20 minute DVD discusses about 50 wildflowers common to our foothill area. It is intended to help those who are just getting interested in our beautiful spring wildflowers and want to identify and learn more about them. If you would like to have a copy of the DVD we have decided to sell these for \$10 to our members and \$12 to non-members at our monthly meetings and at our plant sales. The public will be able to purchase the DVD at the visitor center at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The cost will be somewhat greater at this venue.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL PLANT SALE

As October 16th approaches there are many jobs that need to be filled by volunteers. Due to the very poor showing of members at the meeting on the 2nd, we do not have enough volunteers to staff the sale or to help with unloading and pricing plants. If you are not planning to be at the meeting on October 7th, (just one week before the sale) then you need to call Carolee James (928-4886) as soon as possible to sign-up to volunteer.

Here are the dates when we need volunteers:
TUESDAY, Sept. 21st Andy's Parking Lot...Time to be determined... Offload plants from Suncrest Nursery. We need 2 trucks to load plants into and take to the growing area where they will be offloaded.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 13th From 10:00am to ? Growing Area. Unload plants from Cornflower and Intermountain Nurseries and price plants. Lunch will be provided.

FRIDAY, Oct. 15th 5:00pm Growing Area. Load plants into trucks.

SATURDAY, Oct. 16th 7:00am to 8:30am Rocca Park, Jamestown. Unload plants.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the October meeting for all of the above jobs. Remember, if you volunteer to work as a truck driver, plant loader, cashier, tag puller, book cashier/seller or any 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.**

The sale opens at 9:00am and will end at 1:00pm. Please contact Carolee James at 928-4886, cvjames@frontiernet.net or Stephanie Garcia, 586-3593, sjgarcia@mlode.com to sign-up.

Carolee James, Plant Sales Chair

FIRST GARDENING WITH NATIVES SEMINAR A SUCCESS!

If attendance numbers alone are the measure of success, we did very well. We had 84 paying registrants plus 18 volunteers. The keynote speaker, Glenn Keator showed slides and talked about many of the native plants which can be grown in our chapter area. Forum panelists Val Myrick, Carolee James and Regina Hirsch discussed the many considerations for placement and planting natives in our yards. Our four conversation corner experts, Mary Anderson, Judy Dean, Suzanne Harmon and Rebecca Miller-Cripps fielded questions about specific topics of interest. Many positive comments from attendees were heard throughout

and after the seminar. The seminar was planned by Bob Brown, Carolee James, Stephanie Garcia and Jennie Haas. Many thanks to the volunteers, experts and participants who helped make this first seminar a success. We hope to make this an annual event.



Photo: Jennie Haas

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CNPS GROWING AREA

We need volunteers for our Growing Area. The October Plant Sale is coming soon and we need help getting the plants ready.

Get familiar with the plants by helping to receive deliveries, pricing and organizing the plants for the upcoming sale.

Work days are Monday mornings 10 am until Noon; Sept 27; Oct 4 and 11. If there is enough interest, we could schedule a Sunday workday.

Call Stephanie Garcia at 586-3593 if you are interested.

FIELD TRIPS

Our last wildflower field trip of the year was August 21st to Bennettville and Fantail Lake with leaders Judy and Barry Breckling. Judy reports: "Despite a forecast of 35 mph winds with gusts up to 55 mph in the Tioga Pass area, Barry and Judy Breckling and Ann Mendershausen set off for Fantail Lake and enjoyed subalpine delights along the way. They noted lots of plants in the short four-mile hike, maybe the favorite being the bright tangerine-colored flowers of Alpine Groundsel (*Senecio pauciflorus*). It turned out to be a fine day with cool breezes and picturesque

clouds framing lofty mountain peaks. It was an enjoyable trip." Thank you, Judy and Barry for your expert leadership on this trip.



Fantail Lake, Photo: Barry Breckling

October 23 - Fall Colors. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: very easy. Join us on this end-of-season favorite car tour to view high country fall colors. We'll try something new this year: Sonora Pass on Highway 108, Conway Summit on Highway 395 and Tioga Pass on Highway 120. We'll have lunch at the famous Lee Vining Mobil Station's Whoa Nellie Deli where gourmet offerings are served as well as standard deli sandwiches (<http://www.whoanelliedeli.com/>). Meet at 8:15am at the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohls, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. Come prepared with clothes for cool or inclement weather conditions. For more information or if the weather looks iffy, contact Pat at (209) 984-0304 or patmstone@gmail.com.



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 As always, donations above the membership level chosen will be greatly appreciated.

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(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.

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