



The Shooting Star

Publication of the

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

What's Blooming in March

This month's location is the Red Hills area which is another low elevation place. It is also easily accessible and has more than 250 species present with some of them on the CNPS rare and endangered lists. All of these plants can be found within the BLM area designated area of critical environmental concern. The predominant feature of this area is that the soils are known as serpentine in makeup and as such present a more hostile than normal foothill environment for plants in general. You can make this a car outing with numerous short stops or you can turn it into hikes/walks of varying distances from ½ to 3 miles or more roundtrip. The peak blooming time for this area's plants when they are expected best display is the month of April with the vagaries of rainfall and weather playing decisive roles at to the exact timing.

Our first flower is the Bitterroot, (*Lewisia rediviva*), named after Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This is one of my favorites that begins blooming towards the end of March and has really pretty pink flowers. Our second flower is the Pink Woodland Star, (*Lithophragma parviflora*), which is a pink flowered variety that is seen here in numbers and that is not nearly as common as its related white species. The last bloomer is Purple Mouse Ears, (*Mimulus douglasii*), an unusual shaped member of the Scrophulariaceae (Figwort) family that has a very distinctive reddish purplish coloration. These are just a sampling of the flowers that can be found in our Red Hills. Hopefully, this will be a location that you will explore on your own and find your own personal enjoyment in discovering what's blooming here when you visit!



Bitterroot, (*Lewisia rediviva*)

Photos: Bob Brown



Pink Woodland Star, (*Lithophragma parviflora*)

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.

SPRING PLANT SALE
APRIL 9th, Jamestown (page 3)

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



Purple Mouse Ears, (*Mimulus douglasii*)

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 3, Board Meeting, at 6:00 pm,
(all members welcome)

7:00 pm General Meeting. Location: Tuolumne County Library on 480 Greenley Road, Sonora.
Refreshments will be served.

PROGRAM: Carol Witham. The subject is Vernal Pools. Carol W. Witham is a recognized expert in vernal pools. Her personal studies began with a general curiosity about the plants found in vernal pools.

Call 209-928-9281 for more info.

President's Message

Dr. Tom Hofstra's presentation about our local fungi, mushrooms and their cousins was thoroughly enjoyed by the more than 40 people who attended our meeting. As I joked to Tom, I no longer can say that I'm totally ignorant when it comes to fungi although I've barely scratched the surface on what should be known. Thanks Tom for sharing your wealth of information.

As a reminder to all of you, the March general meeting program, which will be at our regular meeting time of 7:00 PM, will feature Carol Witham. She is one of the true experts on vernal pools and was recently honored as a CNPS Fellow for her varied lifetime contributions to the organization and especially her tireless campaign to preserve vernal pools. We look forward to her sharing some of her experience and knowledge of the unique plants and environments of our region's vernal pools.

I want to again encourage all of you to actively participate in our chapter events in 2011 and particularly try to assist with our April 9th Spring Plant Sale. Use this as an opportunity to get out and enjoy the weather and meet some of your fellow members who help make our sale such a successful event each year. It doesn't have to be the whole day and won't take your entire Saturday. Call Stefani Reichle, 533-3181, if you would like to volunteer and she can tell you what positions she still needs filled.

With the great weather of the last few weeks, it has made me more ready than ever for the arrival of spring and another season of fabulous wildflowers and their blooms. I'm sure some of you at our lower elevations have already started to see buds and a few early bloomers in the areas around your houses. Our fieldtrip committee has put together a wonderful variety of trips, hikes and walks that should be enough to motivate all of you to come out and sample the natural wildflower gardens throughout our area.

--Bob Brown, President

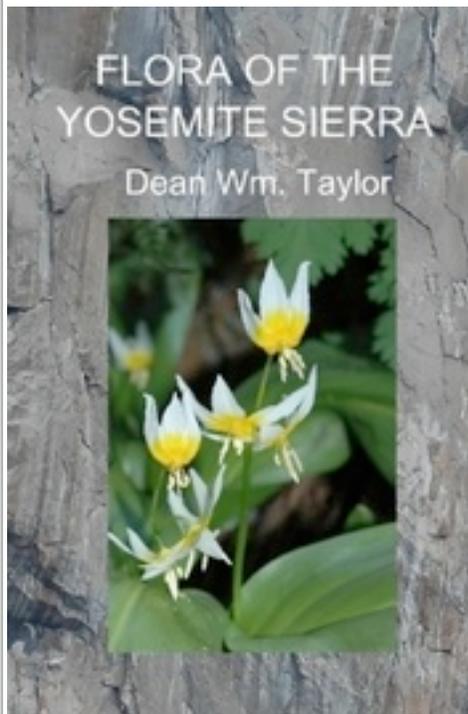
Book Review:

FLORA OF THE YOSEMITE SIERRA By Dean Wm. Taylor

Those who have had the pleasure of botanizing the central Sierra Nevada with Dr. Dean Taylor know he is in possession of an encyclopedic knowledge of both the flora and of the history of its discovery. For those who have not had such singular pleasure, there is a solution for this experiential gap now at hand in the form of *Flora of the Yosemite Sierra*. This book is essentially a download of Dr. Taylor's vast knowledge, shoehorned via fine print into the pages of a field-size volume. Those of us fortunate to have field-tested draft versions of this book know that when packing for a backcountry foray, this is the one tome to remain in the critical gear pile if one is about to venture into Yosemite and surrounding counties. It is a sound companion - with habitat descriptions, exemplar collector and locality information, number of county records, rarity information and exhortations to investigate further peppered throughout in classic Dean Taylor style. One could do far worse for reading material if tent-bound by inclement weather. Although Dr. Taylor includes juicy details omitted by most technical field keys, he necessarily balances the use of space by omitting descriptions at the species level and keeping the couplet characters minimal. As a result, this is not a beginner-friendly reference tool. A beginner would find it more helpful as a

backup reference for a favored wildflower guide. This is a self-published work, it does have typographical errors, and, with due diligence, we can make a portion of the county record data obsolete on an annual basis (Dr. Taylor would be delighted if we did), but the beauty of this form of publishing is that it is eminently updatable and can track the growth of the knowledge closely, so best that it is issued now both in print and as PDF file rather than waiting for "perfection."

Devotees of the central Sierra Nevada flora are hereby put on alert: your marching orders are now issued by Dr. Taylor: myriad mysteries (unconfirmed historic specimens, oddly disjunct species ranges, suspected undescribed taxa) are presented and placed at your fingertips. Go forth and discover!



Available from Lulu Press (www.lulu.com) for \$21 paperback or free PDF download

--Alison Colwell

Membership: If you change your mailing or e-mail address, be sure to send a notice to: Jennie Haas, <jhaas953@gmail.com> 19287 James Circle, Groveland, 95321, (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

SHOOTING STAR GROWING AREA

Time to get ready for the upcoming April plant sale. We are the first ones to see the plants that will be going on sale. We will be meeting March 21, 28 and April 4. If you would like to help us in the growing area, please contact Stephanie Garcia at 586-3593.

SPRING PLANT SALE

Well, it's that time again. Our Spring Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 9th, from 9am to 1pm. It will again be in beautiful downtown Jamestown in Rocca Park. This location seems to be proving popular, both for us as well as adding a biannual tourist attraction to Jamestown.

Volunteers are needed for various roles. On Monday, April 4th, we will need help unloading and pricing plants at Shooting Star nursery (our nursery off Tuolumne Road). Also on Tuesday, April 5th, we will need help unloading and pricing plants from another nursery. On Friday evening the 8th, we need people with vehicles that can hold a good sized group of plants to come to Shooting Star Nursery, take a load home overnight and deliver it to the Sale early the next morning. At the Sale we need cashiers and tag pullers, as well as plant experts to help people make their selections. Finally, we need a few trucks to come after the sale to bring the hopefully small load of plants back to Nursery. Please call me if you can help with any of this.

If anyone has a particular plant they would like me to try and get, give me a call, 533-3181. The usual benefit of having first pick of the plants applies. Volunteers can select up to the 8am. Thanks!

--Stefani Reichle

WEMO/OHV CASE

A press release highlighting the results of the recent remedy order issued in the WEMO / OHV case. This release will also be posted on the State website under Latest News and Activities.

Tara Hansen
Executive Director
California Native Plant Society
(916) 447-2677 x201
www.cnps.org

WORKSHOP: Defenders of Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a one or optional two-day workshop.

March 22 &/or 23, 2011

**California Rangeland Monitoring Workshop
Bakersfield & Tejon Ranch**

For registration and full details, please go to <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>
Or email or phone Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

FIELD TRIPS

The field trip committee met in January and worked out an outstanding schedule for this year. We're trying something new this year: three of our spring field trips are scheduled specifically to focus on plants in the genus *Erythronium*, the fawn lilies. We'll visit three species in and near our chapter area and take in their associated species and diverse habitats. The locations are Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road (below), Deer Creek for Tuolumne fawn lily (April), and Shuteye Peak for the Shuteye Peak fawn lily (June). It should be an interesting and fun way to gain more knowledge of these exceptionally beautiful plants.



Dean Taylor showing his discovery.
See Book review on page 2

Other field trips will include foothill wildflowers at Hogan Dam with Steve Stocking, mountain meadow plants at Long John's Meadow near Cherry Lake with Scott Brush, subalpine and alpine wildflowers at Saint Mary's Pass with Bob Brown and the ever popular Sweetwater Mountains with Pat Stone. But that's not all. The Merced Canyon, Trumbull Peak, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Dana Plateau and our annual Fall Colors Field Trip are also on the schedule. See the entire field trip schedule in the April Shooting Star.

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, enacted March 2010, that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We would appreciate everyone's adherence to this policy.

March 26 - Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road.

Leader: Jennie Haas and Ann Mendershausen. Hiking Level: easy. The main attraction of this trip will be the Sierra fawn lily (*E. multiscapideum*), but there will be other great plants to see along the way, including stinkbells (*Fritillaria agrestis*) and shooting stars (*Dodecatheon* sp.). Meet at 9:30a.m. at the small community of Bear Valley, Mariposa Co., on the corner of Highway 49 and Bear Valley Road. For travelers from the north, meet Pat Stone at 8:30a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. For more info, contact Jennie (209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com), Ann (209-742-7734, ralphr@sierratel.com), or Pat (209-984-0304, patmstone@gmail.com).

--Jennie Haas



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 (Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)
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 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 Fremontia magazine (three times a year), CNPS Bulletin and the monthly Shooting Star newsletter.

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