

# The Shooting Star

Publication of the

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



## Flowers Blooming in August

This month's location is Clark Fork which is another site off of SR 108 and has an elevation of about 6500 feet. The trail has a rather gentle grade of plus 200-300 feet for the first 1 ½ miles and has more than 100 species blooming at various times.

Our first flower is the Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) a member of the dogwood family (*Cornaceae*) and has a white flower that is quite different from its cousin the Mountain Dogwood. It likes an area where its roots can be kept wet. The next flower is the California Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum californicum*) a member of the waterleaf family (*Hydrophyllaceae*) and has a white flowering head and can be found by the hundreds along this trail. The Swamp Onion (*Allium validum*) which is a member of the lily family (*Liliaceae*) can be found in the meadow and along the trail with its large purplish flowering head. This plant definitely likes moist to wet areas to grow in.

Hopefully, this will be another location that you will explore at your own pace and personally find enjoyment in discovering what's blooming here when you visit!



Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Narrative and Photos: Bob Brown



California Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum californicum*)



The Swamp Onion (*Allium validum*)

## SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING

Ending the 2011 Summer meeting hiatus this month, we will announce the September meeting information in our upcoming September issue of The Shooting Star!

### 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](mailto:conny@simonis.org) or (209) 588-0484

## President's Message

Greetings to all!

A word of caution for all of you who are planning to participate in one of our field trips is that you should check with the contact person and our website or Facebook page to check on whether the date and details are still correct several days prior to the scheduled date. We have had to change a number of our field trips because of the weather conditions and the snow levels at some of the higher elevations that have all combined to make access and blooming periods later than normal.

Remember to reserve Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for this year's Growing Natives Seminar which has been expanded to an entire day with a lunch. We will have a flyer with more details regarding speakers, topics, and schedule that will be mailed during July. We are still looking for more volunteers to help the day of the event so call me if you are willing to help.

I am still looking for good meeting program ideas so please contact me with any of your thoughts for interesting programs and remember that our next meeting won't be until September.

Hopefully we'll continue to have more typical weather so that you can better enjoy your outdoor summer activities and I hope to see you on one of our field trips!

--Bob Brown, President

You may check out Bob's website ([TuolumneWildflowers.com](http://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.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sat. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, our Chapter will be hosting their 2nd Native Plant Seminar at the Sonora Fairgrounds. This all day event will feature Bart O'Brien as Keynote Speaker. We are seeking volunteers to help with registration, refreshments (breaks & lunch) and staffing the membership and book tables. As a volunteer your registration fee will be discounted to \$15.00. (Fee for members is \$30.00).

If you would like to attend the seminar as a volunteer, please contact Carolee James at 928-4886 or [cvjames@frontiernet.net](mailto:cvjames@frontiernet.net)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There are two important dates that should be on your calendars. The first is **Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. This is the date of the native plant seminar, "How to Transform Your Traditional Garden into a Beautiful Native Landscape" in the Manzanita Building at the Sonora Fairgrounds. The keynote speaker will be Bart O'Brien, Director of Special Projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA. Mr. O'Brien is co-author of two great books, "California Native Plants for the Garden", and the new "Reimagining the California Lawn". This year the seminar will be an all day affair and lunch is included in the registration fee which is \$30.00 to members and \$35.00 for non-members.

The second date is **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, the fall Native Plant Sale held at Rocca Park in Jamestown. As always we ask members to help with the sale by volunteering for the various tasks which help make this a great sale. We will be asking for sign-ups at the September and October meetings.

Volunteers are needed to: unload and price plants from growers, provide trucks to transport plants to and from the sale, unload plants the morning of the sale, cashiers, tag pullers, and staffing membership and book tables.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, but would like to volunteer, please contact Carolee James at 928-4886 or [cvjames@frontiernet.net](mailto:cvjames@frontiernet.net), or Stephanie Garcia at [sjgarcia@mlode.com](mailto:sjgarcia@mlode.com)



The group at Shuteye Peak viewing plants that Joanna Clines is showing them. Photo: Ann Mendershausen (see Fieldtrip July 9th, page 3)

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



## VOLUNTEER AT YOSEMITE THIS SUMMER

Help restore habitat in Yosemite National Park at one of the Park's volunteer drop-in days. Meet any Wednesday from 9am to Noon in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Volunteers will work on projects such as meadow restoration and invasive plant control. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. Gloves and tools will be provided. First-timers welcome!

This project is sponsored by the Resource Management and Science Department in Yosemite. For more information, contact Lindsey Prell, Volunteer Coordinator at [Lindsey\\_Prell@nps.gov](mailto:Lindsey_Prell@nps.gov) or (209) 379-1308, or Tom Reyes, Volunteer Field Leader, Yosemite National Park [Thomas\\_Reyes@nps.gov](mailto:Thomas_Reyes@nps.gov), Yosemite National Park,

## 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 our website and Facebook pages or [http://www.twitter.com/SIE\\_CNPS](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 would appreciate everyone's adherence to this policy.

The June 25<sup>th</sup> Long John Meadow field trip was an excellent day spent wandering in two mountain meadows. Eleven members and guests explored the many interesting plants with trip leader Scott Brush. Among the many plants in bloom were the lesser star tulip (*Calochortus minimus*), mountain prettyface (*Triteleia ixioides* ssp. *anilina*), and four species of monkeyflowers, including the diminutive Brewer's monkeyflower (*Mimulus breweri*). Many thanks to Scott for leading such a great day.

On July 9th, twelve folks followed Joanna Clines two miles up Shuteye Peak to view the Shuteye Peak Fawn Lily (*Erythronium pluriflorum*). Some participants traveled from as far as Los Angeles and the Bay area for this rare opportunity. The fawn lily was in full glorious bloom as were other noteworthy species Kellogg's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii*), the Sierra Onion (*Allium obtusum*) and steer's heads (*Dicentra uniflora*). The views from Shuteye were breathtaking and the melting snows and thin granitic soils provided lots of belly flowers to explore. It was a long day and the roads were rough but everyone agreed that it was a fabulous field trip. Thank you, Joanna, for leading this rare trip.

**July 23-24 - Sweetwater Mountains.** Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: moderate (high elevation). The Sweetwater Mountains offer an interesting mix of Sierra Nevada and high desert, basin and ranges habitats and plants. This botanical excursion will include an overnight, primitive camping experience with a potluck dinner Saturday night. Bring enough water for drinking, cooking, etc. Don't want to camp? Come for a long day and head home when you want to. Meet at 8:30a.m. at the back of the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohl's, on Mono Way, in

the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For more information, contact Pat at 209-984-0304, [patmstone@gmail.com](mailto:patmstone@gmail.com).

**July 30 - Saint Mary's Pass.** Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking level: strenuous (high elevation, steep trail to top of pass). This is a steady climb with a one way distance of 1-1/2 to 2 miles (for a round trip distance of up to 4 miles). We should see a nice variety of alpine and sub-alpine plants ranging from orchids to elephant heads. Meet at 8:30a.m. in Twain Harte, at the eastern side of the parking lot in the Twain Harte Market Shopping Center. For more information, contact Bob at 209-928-9281 or [rbrown4674@aol.com](mailto:rbrown4674@aol.com).

**August 13 (& 14 optional) - Dana Plateau.** Leaders: Alison Colwell and Scott Brush. Hiking level: strenuous (high elevation & steep trail). This will be a high Sierra botanical excursion off of Highway 120 just east of Yosemite National Park to see one of the more accessible alpine cushion plant communities in the Sierra Nevada. There's an overnight option to backpack in and enjoy a night under the light of the full moon. Yosemite National Park has a \$20 per vehicle entrance fee. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Forest Service pullout overlooking the west end of Tioga Lake, about three quarters of a mile east of Tioga Pass Entrance Station. From the Sonora area, meet Bob Brown at 6:00a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. For more information, contact Alison at 240-997-5153 or Scott at 209-962-7825 ext. 553 (leave message) or 209-962-5291 (evenings). RSVP to Scott for the overnight backpack (Scott will order up the group wilderness permit). Note that the overnight will be above 11,000 feet and could be very windy. Overnight temps as low as 20 degrees F are uncommon but possible. No campfires are allowed at that elevation.

**August 27 - Reynolds Creek Moonworts.** Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: easy. Moonworts are fern allies in the genus *Botrychium*. These fascinating, diminutive plants are quite elusive. We'll see a common species, two rare species and a new-to-California species discovered in 2010 - all in the same meadow. From Sonora, meet at 8:30a.m. at the back of the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohl's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. From Groveland, meet at 8:30a.m. at the Groveland Library parking lot. Both groups will meet at about 9:30 at the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Forest Road 3N01S, just east of Reed Creek. Contact Jennie for more info: 209-962-4759, [jhaas953@gmail.com](mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com).



Velvet stickseed (*Hackelia velutina*) at Long John Meadow. Photo: J. Haas



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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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