



# The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JULY 2013

Page 1



Forest Stephanomeria



Sierra Stonecrop



Whitney's Bristleweed

*Photographer for July  
Bob Brown*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHAPTER POSITIONS

Our chapter activities depend on volunteers to take on important positions within the Chapter Board of Directors. We've been experiencing natural attrition within our ranks for several years with remaining board members taking on more and more to keep things running. We've reached a critical point at which we must have an infusion of "new blood" or risk burning out the few board members who remain. The positions aren't particularly difficult or time-consuming. The board members are congenial and highly motivated. Please consider taking on one of the vacant

positions which include Newsletter Editor, Publicity Coordinator, President, V.P. Amador, and Spring Plant Sale Coordinator. Contact any board member for details or to volunteer. Our contact information is on page 4.

## REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE:

### Gardening with Natives Symposium

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Fabulous speakers:

Judith Larner Lowry of Larner Seeds and author of Landscaping Ideas of Jays and Gardening with a Wild Heart.

Helen Popper, author of California Native Gardening, A Month by Month Guide.

Mary Anderson, now retired owner of the local Lost Hills native plant nursery.

Julie Serences, from the Xerces Society with a lively discussion about the importance of native bees.

Where: Mother Lode Fairgrounds

Time: 9am to 3pm. Includes lunch!!

Watch for registration information.

**Reminder:** Our monthly meetings and programs are on summer hiatus. We will reconvene in September.

If you change your mailing or e-mail address, be sure to send a note to these people. This will keep your newsletter on time!

**Jennie Haas**  
19287 James Circle  
Groveland, CA 95321  
jhaas953@gmail.com

**California Native Plant Society**  
2707 K. St. Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
www.cnps.org

Dedicated to the Preservation  
of California Native Flora.

## FIELD TRIPS

Our May 18th Trumbull Peak field trip was a great day enjoying the wide variety of wildflowers for 12 members and guests in this very special place. The Pacific sedum (*Sedum spathulifolium*), yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *glabriuscula*), and Mountain Jewelflower (*Streptanthus tortuosus* var. *tortuosus*) among others were in full bloom.

A group of about 16 appreciated the floral abundance of several areas of Calaveras Big Trees State Park on the first day of June. In the North Grove we saw starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*), Hartweg's iris (*Iris hartwegii*), and spotted coral root (*Corallorhiza maculata*). At the "overlook" on the Parkway were many tiny "belly plants" just finishing flowering in the volcanic soil. These included mountain Navarretia (*Navarretia divaricata*), a tiny "madia", *Hemizonella minima*, Torrey's monkeyflower (*Mimulus torreyi*) and two-color monkeyflower (*Mimulus bicolor*). On the verge of the road were colorful harlequin lupine (*Lupinus stiversii*), gay Penstemon (*Penstemon laetus*), purple milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*) and others. For a more complete list of the species encountered send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Steve Stocking, P.O. Box 1259, San Andreas, CA 95249. Thank you, Steve!

The hot weather of the second weekend in June broke just in time for a noon-time tour of the plantings at the Sierra Outdoor School. Located off of Big Hill Road, the school has been installing California native plants and developing a curriculum around them. It was a great opportunity to see great native plants in a landscape setting. Thank you to Maggie Berisha and the school for allowing us to see the results of your hard work.

**For all field trips:** bring lunch, water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing and footwear. Carpooling is encouraged. Call ahead if the weather looks iffy. Check [http://www.twitter.com/SIE\\_CNPS](http://www.twitter.com/SIE_CNPS) for updates. Our field trips are open to everyone. It is Chapter policy that pets are not allowed on our field

## What's Blooming This Month?

I'm picking for this month's blooming location Bell Meadow which is located in Stanislaus National Forest and has an elevation of approximately 6500 ft. The walk for the first mile and one-half is mostly level with intermittent shade. One of Bell Meadow feature characteristics is its many Aspen groves.



Forest Stephanomeria

Our first flower is the Forest Stephanomeria, *Stephanomeria lactucina*, and is a member of the Sunflower family, Asteraceae, which has a pretty light violet colored bloom. This area is towards the southern end of its range in California. The next bloom is that of the Sierra Stonecrop, *Sedum obtusatum*, which is a member of the Stonecrop family, Crassulaceae, and has several subspecies within our area. It grows in low mat forming plant communities and has yellowish colored blooms. The last bloom is that of the Whitney's Bristleweed, *Hazardia whitneyi*, that is another member of the Sunflower family, Asteraceae, and has a typical large yellow flower.

This is definitely a location that has lots of blooming flowers as I have seen more than 100 species blooming on several occasions. Use this as an introduction to get out and explore the great variety of wildflowers in our area that bloom throughout the year in their native environment and remember to bring your camera.

-- Bob Brown

trips.

**June 29-30 – Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: the Search for *Boecheera evadens* at Ebbetts Pass.** Leaders: Jennie Haas and Quinn Young. Hiking Level: Moderate. The hidden rockcress, (*Boecheera evadens*), is a rare member of the Mustard Family which grows in alpine rock outcrops. A specimen was collected in the Ebbetts Pass area (Highway 4) in 1940 by Alice Eastwood but it hasn't been collected or documented in this area since. We'll look for the plant and enjoy the other botanical features of the area. Some of us plan to camp Saturday night and continue the search on the 30th. Camping is optional. Meet at 9:30a.m. at the US Forest Service office in Hathaway Pines on Highway 4. To **RSVP** or for more information, contact Jennie Haas at 209-962-4759, [jhaas953@gmail.com](mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com) or Quinn Young at 209-795-1381, [qyoung@fs.fed.us](mailto:qyoung@fs.fed.us).

**July 13 – Bell Meadow. CANCELLED.** The exceptionally warm and dry weather pattern this year has accelerated the growth and bloom of plants throughout our region. We believe that July 13 will be too late to catch the interesting plants at Bell Meadow.

**July 13 (NEW DATE) – Gaylor Lakes.** Leaders: Peggy Moore and Alison Colwell. Hiking Level: Arduous (steep climb starting at 10,000 feet elevation). Total distance 3-5 miles depending on our rate. Located at treeline in Yosemite. Gaylor Lakes offers alpine plants and classic alpine views. We should see desert yellow fleabane and the diminutive Yosemite bulrush. The lakes are located north of Highway 120, opposite Mount Dana. Meet at 10:30a.m. at Tioga Pass (trailhead parking on left/west side of road). **RSVP** to Peggy at 209-966-5728.

## “Snow Plants” Video Episode Released

“Snow Plants,” the latest episode of the popular *Yosemite Nature Notes* series, has been released. Each episode is about eight minutes and explores interesting and often little known stories about Yosemite National Park. This is the 21st episode of Yosemite Nature Notes.

The snow plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*) is a distinctive red plant that grows on the forest floor in late May and June, and can often be seen along park roads. The plant, which lacks the color green, sometimes grows through patches of snow. Snow plants are found throughout California, northern Baja, Mexico, and Southern Oregon.

Snow plants thrive between 4,000 and 8,000 feet in elevation. Many animals and insects feed on the pollen and nectar of the snow plant, including hummingbirds and bees.

"Yosemite Nature Notes inspires a love of the outdoors and interest in protecting park resources by connecting visitors from around the globe to Yosemite through the internet," said Mike Tollefson, president, Yosemite Conservancy. "This is a fascinating, informative and visually compelling web series that takes viewers on a unique journey through the park to learn about its iconic features, history and the surprises that nature brings."

Production of *Yosemite Nature Notes* series was funded by Yosemite Conservancy. This series is produced by Filmmaker Steven M. Bumgardner.

All *Yosemite Nature Notes* episodes can be viewed at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose), or at [www.youtube.com/yosemitenationalpark](http://www.youtube.com/yosemitenationalpark).

The “Snow Plants” episode can be viewed directly at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSBqmAdR1tg>.

## CalWeedMapper - A Great Resource to Manage Weeds

In previous articles, I have discussed the devastating impacts of invasive exotic plants on natural habitats and agricultural lands in California. This month, I will describe an important tool that scientists, resource managers, and the general public can use to learn more about California’s weeds of greatest concern, including their geographic range and appropriate strategies to manage these problem plants.

CalWeedMapper is an amazing online tool that reflects thousands of hours of effort, including field surveys, mapping, and constructing a comprehensive database integrated with a geographic information system. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) developed this program to generate maps and reports of invasive plant distribution, and to identify weed management opportunities throughout California. CalWeedMapper produces maps based on USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles, documenting where invasive weeds have been detected, and where they have the potential to expand their range based on suitable climatic conditions. Users have the opportunity to upload observations to expand the CalWeedMapper database.

CalWeedMapper provides a recommended management strategy by classifying weeds as **surveillance targets** (entails regular surveys to detect new infestations of plants occurring within 50 miles of the selected region), **eradication targets** (entails the complete removal of all infestations in the area when the existing range is small and isolated), or **containment targets** (entails limiting the spread from existing infestations). This classification is based on the weed’s existing range and the feasibility of controlling its spread in a given area.

In the Central Sierra Region, CalWeedMapper lists 34 species for surveillance, 11 species for eradication, and 115 species for containment. The top 3 species for each category are:

### Surveillance:

- *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (alligator weed)
- *Carpobrotus edulis* (hottentot-gig, iceplant)
- *Hydrilla verticillata* (hydrilla)

### Eradication:

- *Brassica tournefortii* (Saharan mustard),
- *Ludwigia peploides* (creeping water-primrose)
- *Ulex europaeus* (gorse)

### Containment:

- *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass, downy brome)
- *Centaurea solstitialis* (yellow starthistle)
- *Centaurea stoebe* (spotted knapweed)

There is much more information on the CalWeedMapper website, including links to plant profiles, weed management plans, and the ability to run specialized reports for particular regions or plant groups. Next time you are surfing the Web, you might want to check out CalWeedMapper. Their website address is: <http://calweedmapper.calflora.org>.

--Alan Leavitt, Invasive Exotics Chair



CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter  
 19287 James Circle  
 Groveland, CA 95321

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons			
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.			
PRESIDENT	<b>OPEN</b>		
VP AMADOR CO.	<b>OPEN</b>		
VP CALAVERAS CO.	Robert & Judy Dean	754-5887	<a href="mailto:goldrushdean@yahoo.com">goldrushdean@yahoo.com</a>
VP MARIPOSA CO.	Ann Mendershausen	742-7734	<a href="mailto:ralphr@sti.net">ralphr@sti.net</a>
VP TUOLUMNE CO.	Pat Gogas	586-9043	<a href="mailto:pfgogas@yahoo.com">pfgogas@yahoo.com</a>
SECRETARY	Stephanie Garcia	586-3593	<a href="mailto:sjgarcia@mlode.com">sjgarcia@mlode.com</a>
TREASURER	Patti Hohne	352-4312	<a href="mailto:phohne@gmail.com">phohne@gmail.com</a>
CONSERVATION CHAIR	Pat Stone	984-0304	<a href="mailto:patmstone@gmail.com">patmstone@gmail.com</a>
EDUCATION CHAIR	Steve Stocking	754-9029	<a href="mailto:snlsox@earthlink.net">snlsox@earthlink.net</a>
FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR	Jennie Haas	962-4759	<a href="mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com">jhaas953@gmail.com</a>
GROWING AREA MGR.	Stephanie Garcia	586-3593	<a href="mailto:sjgarcia@mlode.com">sjgarcia@mlode.com</a>
HOSPITALITY COORD.	<b>OPEN</b>		
INVASIVE EXOTICS	Alan Leavitt	795-2469	<a href="mailto:alleavitt@yahoo.com">alleavitt@yahoo.com</a>
SALES COORD.	Pat Reh	536-0871	
MEMBERSHIP COORD.	Jennie Haas	962-4759	<a href="mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com">jhaas953@gmail.com</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<b>OPEN</b>		
PLANT SALES CHAIR	Stefani Reichle	352-7961	<a href="mailto:carpecircus@gmail.com">carpecircus@gmail.com</a>
PLANT SALES Vol. Coord.	Barbara Strother	481-2326	<a href="mailto:Bjss37@msn.com">Bjss37@msn.com</a>
PROGRAM COMM. CHAIR	Bob Brown	928-9281	<a href="mailto:rbrown4674@aol.com">rbrown4674@aol.com</a>
PUBLICITY COORD.	<b>OPEN</b>		

**JOIN NOW**

**PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!**

Student/Retired/Limited income ...\$25  
 Individual ..... \$45  
 Family or Group ..... \$75  
 Library..... \$75  
 Plant Lover ..... \$100  
 Patron.....\$300  
 Benefactor ..... \$600  
 Mariposa Lily..... \$1,500

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(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.

Join or renew on-line at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org).

**Membership includes the journal Fremontia, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter The Shooting Star.**