NATIVE PLANT SALE
Our Fall plant sale will be on Saturday, October 12 from 9 am until Noon. We will be at the same location in Jamestown, Rocca Park on Main Street. Come early for the best selection. Better yet, volunteer to help at the plant sale. Volunteers get the “early bird selection” before the sale is open to the public. Volunteers, with trucks, are needed to load plants the night before and deliver them the morning of the sale. We will need 12 to 14 trucks to take all the plants and supplies to the sale. On the day of the sale, volunteers are needed for cashiers, tag pullers, and help with answering plant questions. As you can see, without our volunteers, we would not have a plant sale. So please step up, volunteer and have “first dibs!” Call Stephanie Garcia 586-3593 or email at sjgarcia@mlode.com.

Have You Registered Yet?
If you register for the Gardening with Natives symposium before September 1st, you will save $10 on the member registration cost ($5 on the non-member cost). This year’s theme is Creating Native Landscapes. See Page 3 for more details!

Announcing: The California Native Plant Society Educational Grant
The application period has opened. Proposals are due on Sept 30. Please see details on our webpage, http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/grants.php. There is a new online application system.
Field Trips

Our September field trip is a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt rather than one of our typical field trips. However, the usual advise still applies: 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 for updates. Our field trips are open to everyone. It is Chapter policy that pets are not allowed on our field trips.

**September 21 – Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: Yosemite’s Lost Pacific Yews.** Leader: Alison Colwell.  
Hiking Level: moderate (fairly level terrain, but off-trail). Katherine Brandegee wrote in her 1891 article “The Flora of Yosemite” about the Pacific yew (Taxus brevifolia) trees found in the Merced River Canyon (Zoe 2:155-167). In recent decades there have been several fruitless attempts by various botanists to find these trees in or near Yosemite Valley, leading some to conclude that the trees are likely extirpated. We’re not convinced. Ms. Brandegee’s brief description gives us a clue which we’ll follow in our attempt to relocate this southernmost outpost of this species in the Sierra Nevada. Meet at 10:00a.m. at Arch Rock Entrance Station parking lot on Highway 140. RSVP to Alison at aelcolwell@msn.com or 240-997-5153.

If you would like to be on our field trip alerts e-mail list, send an e-mail with the subject line “Field Trip e-mail List” to Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com.

What’s Blooming This Month?

**What’s Blooming?**

Our blooming location for this month is Gaylor Lakes near the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park on the north side of SR 120. This was a new location for me and most of the others that went on our CNPS field trip. We all enjoyed a beautiful day and a chance to observe more than 40 different blooming plants.

Lemmon’s Draba, (Draba lemmonii), is our first flower and is a member of the Mustard family, Brassicaceae. Most of the plants we saw were covered with fresh yellow blooms. This plant tends to grow in “roundish” clumps/masses and presents quite striking yellow color spots. The next flower is Narrow Leaved Fleabane, (Erigeron linearis), and was one that I hadn’t seen blooming before. It is a member of the Sunflower family, Asteraceae, and has lovely yellow blooms about the size of a quarter. The last flower that we are featuring this month is Bridge’s Campion or Catchfly, (Silene bridgesii), which is a member of the Pink family, Caryophyllaceae, and has elongated white flowers. There was an area just above the old mine site where dozens of these plants were in full bloom.

The hike to the lakes is a strenuous climb at significant elevation and should only be tried by those in good health and good “hiking shape.” Remember that this location has a starting elevation of nearly 10000 feet which must be taken into consideration by those visiting here. Hopefully these pictures will tempt you to get out and explore the many native wildflowers in our area that bloom throughout the year in their many and varied habitats.

**-- Bob Brown, Program Coordinator**

E-Shooting Star Addresses Needed

Please send your e-mail address to Jennie Haas at jhaas953@gmail.com for the e-Shooting Star mail list.

**-- Jennie Haas, Field Trip Coordinator**
Have You Registered Yet?

If you register for the Gardening with Natives symposium before September 1st, you will save $10 on the member registration cost ($5 on the non-member cost). Registering early helps us with planning the number of handouts needed, lunches to order, and chairs to place. This year’s theme is Creating Native Landscapes.

It is going to be an excellent day of informative discussion about drawing from nature, in planning and growing your native landscape. Keynote speaker is author Judith Lowry who has many years of experience experimenting with native plant placement in her garden and owns a thriving native seed business. Julie Serences will share her knowledge of the importance of native bees and the native plants which benefit them and other pollinators. Mary Anderson will explain how to move those new plants from the nursery pot to the thriving garden specimen. Helen Popper will share what she has learned about the natural changes in the native garden from month to month which will help us in planning our own landscapes.

Before September 1, the member cost is $30; the non-member cost is $35. After September 1, the cost is $40 for both members and non-members. Lunch and refreshments are included in the registration cost. The registration form was included with your August Shooting Star.

The flyer and brochure are posted in tweets at www.twitter.com/SIE_CNPS. You don’t need a Twitter account to access it. Just click on the “pic.twitter.com...” photo links in the tweets. Be sure to tell your friends and co-workers about the symposium. Feel free to retweet the info or download and post a flyer at work or your local community bulletin board to help us get the word out. To download the documents, right click on each and select “save picture as.” Use your browser to print the documents.

For more information or to have a brochure mailed to you, contact Patti Hohne: phohne@gmail.com, 209-753-4313.

-- Jennie Haas, Field Trip Coordinator

Ailanthus Altissima - The Tree of Heaven (or Hell?)

Ailanthus is one tenacious weed! It is commonly found in the Sierra foothills and along the coast, but can be found in most parts of California. Last year, I found the Tree of Heaven growing quite happily in a seep area in the Mojave Desert. It grows rapidly in sun or shade, wet or dry conditions, and in extreme soil types ranging from acid mine drainage to concrete rubble. It tolerates pH extremes, salt, air pollution, and lawn mowers.

Ailanthus produces thousands of seeds that are wind-dispersed, it spreads via suckers, and it secretes its own herbicide to inhibit the growth of neighboring plants (allelopathy). This plant is a survivor! Being so adaptable allows Ailanthus to rapidly colonize disturbed areas. Once it gains a foothold, it then spreads to other areas and outcompetes native plants. And to top that off, it has a foul smell and tastes bad to many herbivores.

However, to be fair, Ailanthus does have redeeming qualities. Chinese immigrants brought Ailanthus to California in the 1800s as a highly valued tree. It has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for over a thousand years, and is widely used today for herbal remedies. Virtually all parts of the plant have been used therapeutically for conditions including mental illness, dysentery, hemorrhage, asthma, cardiac palpitation, and baldness. The foliage has been used in the silk industry as a food source for silk moths, the wood is used to make vegetable steamers, and some people value the tree as an attractive landscape ornamental.

And as with other invasive exotics, Ailanthus is a good plant turned bad. I encourage you to garden responsibly by limiting the spread of this plant. It can be mechanically removed. Treating the stump with herbicide will prevent re-sprouting. Once you’ve removed the Tree of Heaven, you can plant an oak or other native tree in your garden. Good luck!

-- Alan Leavitt, Invasive Exotics Chair
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.

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

CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter
19287 James Circle
Groveland, CA 95321

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Officers and Chairpersons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VP AMADOR CO.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VP CALAVERAS CO.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VP MARIPOSA CO.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VP TUOLUMNE CO.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECRETARY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TREASURER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONSERVATION CHAIR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION CHAIR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GROWING AREA MGR.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOSPITALITY MGR.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INVASIVE EXOTICS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SALES COORD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBERSHIP COORD.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLANT SALES CHAIR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLANT SALES Vol. Coord.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM COMM. CHAIR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLICITY COORD.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>