



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

APRIL 2012



Milk Maids



Hartweg's Ginger



Tuolumne Fawn Lily

*April Photographer:
Bob Brown*

President's Message

Greetings to all.

I would like to remind you one last time about the **March 31 field trip to Dragoon Gulch** and the chance to experience a very accessible location that a lot of people are not aware of and probably haven't visited. With a nice weather day we should see more than 30 species of blooming wildflowers.

The training session for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 7 beginning at 10:00 AM in the UCCE conference room located at 52 N. Washington Street in downtown Sonora. Please RSVP to me (928-9281) or rbrown4674@aol.com as there is space for only a limited number of participants and if you need any additional information.

We will take a break for lunch and then head off for a field trip in the afternoon to practice what we learned.

Our program for April will feature Bob Case who will be speaking on the

threat that non-native exotics pose to our native habitats and plants.

Our Spring Plant Sale is going to be held on Saturday April 21 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Rocca Park in downtown Jamestown and will coincide with CNPS' Native Plant week events in the state, so be sure to reserve this date on your calendars.

I look forward to seeing you at our April meeting!

--Bob Brown, President



Rocca Park, Jamestown

CALENDAR

Thursday, April, 5th. 6:00 pm

Board Meeting (all members welcome)

7:00 pm General Meeting. Location:

Tuolumne County Library, 480

Greenley Road, Sonora.

Refreshments will be served.

PROGRAM: Speaker Bob Case, former California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) board member, and retired from the Contra Costa County Dept. of Agriculture. Bob will be speaking about the threat that non-native exotic plants pose to our native habitats and plants.

SPRING PLANT SALE

APRIL 21

MARK YOUR

CALENDAR!

Membership:

If you **change** your mailing or e-mail address, be sure to send a notice to these people →

This will keep your newsletter on time!

Jennie Haas

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*Dedicated to the Preservation of
California Native Flora.*

April Plant Sale

The CNPS Spring Plant Sale will be **Saturday, April 21st**, from **9am to 1pm**, at **Rocca Park in Jamestown**.

Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the Sale. As usual, an added benefit of helping is those who do get first pick of the plants before the Sale begins.

Spring is here and the excitement of planting is upon us. Call or write Barbara Strother, volunteer coordinator to help with the fun. Bjss37@msn.com, or 532-7500. Thanks ahead of time.

--Stefani Reichle, Plant Sale Chair

Plants List at the Plant Sale

Some of the plants that will be available if Mother Nature cooperates- are:

Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris (always popular)

Sticky Monkeyflower

Apricot Monkeyflower

Scarlet Monkeyflower

Also three types of *Salvias*

five types of *penstemon*, including

Foothill and Pride of the Mountain.

Blue-eyed grass

Yellow-eyed grass

All these plants will be available in liner size to tuck here and there in your garden.



Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris

Available at the Plant Sale

Flowers Blooming This Month

This month we are going to visit several different locations to view some of the early bloomers in our area. The first flower is Milk Maids (*Cardamine californica*) a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). The flower is white and is one of the earlier bloomers in a given area. The picture on page 1 was taken recently on the Westside trail. Our next flower is Hartweg's Ginger (*Asarum hartwegii*) in the Pipevine family (Aristolochiaceae). Its bloom is often overlooked unless you search under the leaves to expose the brownish colored flower. We should be able to see a few of this on the Dragoon Gulch field trip. My last picture is of the Tuolumne Fawn Lily (*Erythronium tuolumense*) a member of the Lily family (Liliaceae) and one of Tuolumne county's real treasures. The lovely yellow blooms make it easy to spot if you are in the right area. We will use this species to practice our Rare Plant Treasure Hunt techniques on Saturday, April 7th.



Tuolumne Fawn Lily
Photo: B. Breckling

Hopefully I have created enough curiosity through these pictures so that you will be motivated to get out and explore the great variety of wildflowers in our area on your own. I encourage you to join us on a field trip of your choice to explore these and other flowers in their native habitats.

--Bob Brown

SHOOTING STAR GROWING AREA

We are getting ready for the plant sale, scheduled for April 21st. This is your opportunity to get a sneak preview of the plants that are going to the sale.

We will meet on the following Tuesdays at 10 am – March 27, April 3, and April 10. We usually spend 1 to 2 hours per visit. Whatever time you have available will be greatly appreciated. Please call Stephanie Garcia at 586-3593.

--Stephanie Garcia, Growing Area Manager

FIELDTRIPS

The Field Trip Committee has once again put together an excellent selection of wildflower viewing opportunities for your enjoyment. See the colored insert in this newsletter for the field trip schedule. A huge "thank you" goes to the following 2012 committee members: Alison Colwell, Barry and Judy Breckling, Bob Brown, Peggy Moore, Steve Stocking and Pat Stone. Join us on these educational and thoroughly enjoyable wildflower excursions and bring a friend or two.

--Jennie Haas

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are still wanted to help the Forest Service conduct the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Plant Inventory. This project will result in a detailed list, available to the public, of the plants found along the river. Help is needed to collect voucher samples and identify the vascular plants. Volunteers should have the ability to identify plants using standard plant keys and the ability to hike the trails in the river corridor.

The Forest Service also needs volunteers to help pull or cut noxious weeds. One project is in isolated sites along Highway 120 between Cherry Lake Road and Evergreen Road. These sites are on the eastern "leading edge" of the distribution of yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) in the State. The Forest is doing their part to push the leading edge back to the west. The other project is pulling patches of the noxious weeds yellow star-thistle, tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*) and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) along the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River downstream of Lumsden Road. Transportation to the Tuolumne River work sites would be provided by river raft. Therefore, volunteers need to be able to swim.

Contact Jennie Haas at her work phone: 209-962-7825 ext. 540 or jhaas@fs.fed.us for more information about any of these volunteer opportunities or to volunteer.



Tuolumne Canyon (photo J. Haas)
Removing the noxious weeds will protect the natural canyon habitat.

Editor's Note

The deadline for contributions or corrections is the **10th of each month** prior to publishing. Contact : Tel. 538-0484 or E-mail: conny@simonis.org

--Conny Simonis, Editor

SOURCES TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Spring is coming soon and you may be looking for some help in the identification of wildflowers of the central Sierra. I have included most of the more recent sources. Some of these are at least in part out-of-date as they predate the new Jepson Manual and their names may have changed. There are changes in some specific names, some generic names and even the names of some families. Many common names remain the same.

These range from technical tomes (Jepson) to much simpler (and less expensive) books of photos of common wildflowers.

Jepson Manual of Higher Plants of California. Bruce Baldwin & five other editors. University of California Press. 2012. University of California Press. 2012.
(The ultimate reference for the Plants of California. Keys for identification)

Wildflowers of California's Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley. Laird D. Blackwell. Lone Pine Publishing. 1999.
(Good color photos by family, a few important families not included.)

An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park. S. J. Botti. Yosemite Association. 2001.
(Excellent color illustrations. Many of these plants are also found in S.K.C.N.P.)

CalFlora. "A searchable database of all 8375 currently recognized vascular plants in California, including 20,000 photographs! Maps of distribution of species and number of occurrences recorded by county. (Some inaccurate information has been entered but there is a mechanism for making comments and corrections.

Sierra Nevada Wildflowers. Elizabeth Horn. Mountain Press. 1998.
(Excellent color photographs and descriptions.)

The Laws Field Guide To The Sierra Nevada. John M. Laws. Hayday Books. 2007.
(Includes an excellent wildflower section arranged by color.)

A Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers. T. F. Nichaus and Charles Ripper. L. Houghton Mifflin Company. 1976.
(excellent black & white and color illustrations. Some species do not occur here.)

Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California. Redbud Chapter, C.N.P.S. C.N.P.S. Press, Sacramento 2007.
(excellent color photos. Many, but not all species also occur in this area.)

Flora of the Yosemite Sierra. Dean Taylor. Self Published 2010.
(most plants are the same in this area. No illustrations. Keys for identification)

A Sierra Nevada Flora. Norman F. Weeden. Wilderness Press 1996.
(line drawings and keys. Most species are included.)

These references are mostly in print and are generally available..

--Steve Stocking, Education Chair



Sierra Nevada Wildflowers,
Elizabeth Horn



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