President’s Message

GREETINGS EVERYONE

I want to remind everyone that we are now in our summer “hiatus” and will not be having another regular membership meeting until September. I wish to extend my special thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped with our Spring Plant Sale. The weather was delightful and we had a successful sale with a large crowd waiting for us to open. Our two plant sales provide the bulk of our funds that enable us to fund all of our chapter’s events and activities. Because of this, it is very important that these annual sales have the continued support of all our great volunteers.

Our training session for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt was a success and all enjoyed the follow up field training. As a result, the participants decided on two further outings to document plants in the Red Hills and near Sonora Pass. If you are interested in these events, contact me for further information and details.

Although we’ve experienced a few weather problems with some of our earlier field trips, hopefully we’ll be able to have the balance of our field trip schedule proceed without any further cancellations. I would encourage all of you to actively participate in one or more of our field trips for a great experience in the outdoors and perhaps discover an area or some plants that you previously didn’t know about. Remember, check with the field trip leader for any last minute changes or information.

I haven’t had the opportunity so far to get out and explore as many blooming locations as I would have liked, but the ones that I have visited seem to be blooming a little later than in an average year. I encourage all of you to get out and explore the “blooming treasures” of our local area and remember that as the summer progresses you can still find blooming plants at our higher elevations. Remember that we have scheduled a chapter planning meeting for Thursday, July 5, starting at 6:00 PM at the Tuolumne County Library meeting room to layout events, programs, and other items for a twelve month period. I would encourage anyone wishing to participate in this session to mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Have a great summer filled with lots of outdoor activities!

—Bob Brown, President

SUMMER 2012 MEETING HIATUS
There will be no normal monthly meetings during the months of June, July and August. The “Shooting Star” Newsletter will be mailed as usual. See you at September’s monthly meeting.

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California Native Plant Society
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Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.
FIELDTRIPS

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 that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We would appreciate everyone’s adherence to this policy.

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.

Our April 14 Highway 49 Bagby Serpentine field trip was cancelled due to muddy roads and cold, damp weather. In dramatic contrast, the April 28th Preston Falls Trail field trip was enjoyed by six members and guests on a beautiful, warm day. We caught the brown bells (Fritillaria micrantha) at the tail end of their bloom but caught three species of lupine in full, glorious bloom. These were the clown, or harlequin lupine (Lupinus stiversii), spider lupine (Lupinus benthamii) and the very fragrant silver bush lupine (Lupinus albifrons).

May 26 - Westside Trails. Leader: to be announced. Hiking level: easy. This is part of the old Westside Railroad grade just outside of Tuolumne. We’ll walk on a gentle grade for two miles before turning around. With luck the bush lupines will be in bloom with their delightful fragrance. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of Tuolumne market just off of Tuolumne road about 7 miles from the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora.

June 3 - Calaveras Big Trees. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking level: easy. This is a favorite destination where we’ll see harlequin lupine (Lupinus stiversii), a leafless form of white-veined wintergreen (Pyrola picta), Washington lily (Lilium washingtonianum), phantom orchid (Cephalanthera austiniae), and Stebbins’ lomatium (Lomatium stebbinsii). Meet at 9:30 am in the park, at the picnic area on the creek behind Jack Knight Hall. There is an entrance fee to enter the park. For more info, contact Steve: 209-7054-9029, snlsox@earthlink.net.

June 9 - Evergreen Road. Leader: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking level: easy. We’ll explore Evergreen Road, which is just west of the Highway 120 entrance to Yosemite. Flowers in June along Evergreen Road are usually quite good. We should see ladyslipper orchid (Cypripedium montanum) and phantom orchid (Cephalanthera austiniae). Lunch will be al fresco at the Evergreen Lodge, or if you prefer, bring your own lunch and picnic along the Middle Fork of the Tuolumne River, where the group will convene after lunch to search for more wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 am at the library parking lot in Groveland (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120). For more information, contact Barry and Judy at 209-878-3041 or barryb@coepark.org.

June 23 - Trail of the Gargoyles. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate. This area is situated on a volcanic flow that is rich in wildflowers such as Sierra onion (Allium campanulatum), Leichtlin’s mariposa lily (Calochortus leichtlinii) and sulphur buckwheat (Eriogonum umbellatum). Meet at 9:00 am 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 Jennie at 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

A temporary link to this newsletter is: http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php#foothills

Flowers Blooming This Month

This month I’m going to feature flowers that I’ve seen blooming during the past week, and all of them were at elevations below 4000 ft. My first bloom is the Globe Lily or Fairy Lantern (Lilium umbellatum) which is a member of the Lily family (Liliaceae). It has white blossoms that are somewhat bell shaped and there were literally hundreds of them on the Dragoon Gulch trails. The second bloom is actually a tree and is the Mountain Dogwood (Cornus nuttallii) which is a member of the dogwood family (Cornaceae) and has large 4-5 in diameter white blooms. This picture was taken on the Confidence trail and was one of several dozen blooming trees that I saw. With sunlight filtering through the overstory and reflecting on the white blossoms, it was a truly beautiful scene. Our last bloom is a Striped Coral Root (Corallorhiza striata); and believe it or not, it is a member of the orchid family (Orchidaceae). This particular specimen was photographed along the Confidence trail and appeared to be a very “fresh” blossom.

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 or to join us on a field trip of your choice to explore these and other flowers in their native habitats.

--Bob Brown
SPRING PLANT SALE REPORT
The Spring Plant Sale unfolded into what became a beautiful day of sunshine and a light breeze, drawing out many eager gardeners. People once again lined up well before 9am. Plants went quickly and by noon, we were down to about 50 of the 950 items we started with.

The most important thing is, with the plant sales, we sent more native plants out into the community and offered information about natives to curious ears. Hopefully these ideas spread like seeds on the wind to foster drought tolerant natives, especially in these water scarce times.

I would like to once again thank all who helped pull this off. Barbara Strother was invaluable at coordinating the volunteers. Volunteers who showed up on short notice to unload the delivery trucks and price plants were amazing in their flexibility, including people who took plants home for the night and unloaded and arranged them in the morning, as well as cashiers and tag pullers, book sellers, the ones who offered expert advice, and of course, Beckwith, who graciously offers us refreshments year after year. A reminder was made to make sure volunteers tell buyers NOT to pull the price tags so that only tag pullers do this and we can more accurately keep track of the plant count.

Now with the dedicated work of Stephanie Garcia and the growing area volunteers, the unsold plants will be nurtured and thrive to be ready for the Fall Sale on Saturday, October 13th. Our new hours for the sale are 9:00am - 12:00pm. See you then. Mark your calendar!

--Stefani Reichle, Plant Sale Chair

WE PROVIDE BOOKS FOR AREA LIBRARIES
Our Sierra Foothills Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has recently completed a project of donation of books to libraries in our Chapter counties. These are all books which encourage use of native plants in our gardens.

The books which we have donated are as follow;
- Designing California Gardens by Keator and Middlebrook
- California Native Plants For the Garden by Bornstein, Frass and O'Brien
- Reimagining the California Lawn by Bronstein, Frass and O'Brien

These are now available in the following libraries.
- Amador County Public Library in Jackson
- Calaveras County Library in San Andreas
- Verna Johnston Natural History Library in Arnold (In the Arnold Branch of the Calaveras Co. Library)
- The Library of Calaveras Big Trees State Park (for use by docents and staff)
- The Tuolumne County Public Library in Sonora (2 copies of each)
- Mariposa County Public Library in Mariposa

When I was making arrangements for the libraries to get the books I did find that a few had some of the books already and that they were being used. All the books are well illustrated and so persons not familiar with the plants can see what they look like in gardens. For this reason I have already recommended them to friends who are redoing a garden of an older home in Murphys. They are already making use of some of these books. This makes it possible to know what the plants that I have recommended will look like in their new garden.

Steve Stocking, Education Chair

A VERY Successful Spring Plant Sale!
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.

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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 _______________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip___________
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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 journal Fremontia, 
CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter The Shooting Star. 
Temporary link to this newsletter is: 
http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php#foothills