



# The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MAY 2015

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SPRING PLANT SALE, 2015

Photos: Quinn Young



## SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE A SUCCESS

Our Sierra Foothill Chapter's second Calaveras County native plant sale was a success! The sale attracted many people and all seemed enthusiastic about the plants and opportunities to get native plants in the ground. We shared the sale space with our local chapter of the Audubon Society. They sold bird houses, birding books and dispensed expert birding suggestions. This year, we were fortunate to share the sale space with other inspiring groups as well: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from New Hogan, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided an update on current the soil survey in our counties, Rebecca Andrade provided information on invasive plant species, the local Bonsai club had beautiful specimens to admire and purchase, Master Gardener's spoke about irrigation and water wise gardening, CCWD distributed conservation material, and finally, the

**Sierra Foothills Chapter is seeking someone to get involved with our local schools to start native plant gardens. Please let us know if you are interested!**



Photo: Quinn Young

Sierra Rock Garden joined us as well.

We extend our thanks to CCWD for hosting our sale at its beautiful site among the blue oaks of the Sierra foothill woodlands and a special thank you to all

the groups that joined us this year to make this a successful day for our community members. We truly appreciate the participation of our dedicated volunteers who stepped up to unload nursery delivery trucks, price plants, water them, transport the delivered plants from storage to the sale site, advise and help customers and visitors to make informed plant and book choices, prepare and serve refreshments, collect boxes, set up tables, chairs and canopies and finally collect the money for the sales. And then, after 3 hours, take it all down again.

We hope you can join us as members of our local Sierra Foothill chapter. As anyone knows, who volunteers for any worthwhile cause, the enthusiasm is "catchy" and the feelings of cooperation and friendship are very rewarding. Equally rewarding is the satisfaction of making more people aware of our wonderful native plants.

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

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*Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.*

## FIELD TRIPS

The March 28th Highway 49 Bagby Serpentine field trip with leader Ann Mendershausen kicked off our field trip season. Ann reported that “ten people enjoyed the unique serpentine flora between Coulterville and Bagby. There were not the usual floral masses but all the species were in bloom.....*Lupinus spectabilis*, *Lewisia rediviva*, *Githopsis pulchella*, *Allium cratericola* and *Odontostomum hartwegii* to name a few.” Thank you, Ann!



The March 29th Corsa Garden Tour was a great success. Stephanie Garcia reported that “we had a great turnout ... for our garden tour. A total of 45 + people showed up. 30 + there at the beginning as I led a guided tour for most of the group - others walked at their leisure. With at least 15 + people walking in during the next couple of hours, we were quite busy. The garden was absolutely stunning with Iris, Lupine, Ceanothus, Redbud, Manzanitas in full bloom. Others like Penstemon, Buckeye, Salvias, Dogwoods just getting ready to blossom. Many other drought tolerant, non-natives in bloom to complete the visual delight !!” Many thanks to Stephanie and also to Deana and Don Corsa.



A very small group of five people participated in the April 4th Moss Creek Field trip with leader Michael Ross. They changed the itinerary and went into the El Portal burn scar from 2014 and followed Foresta Road. Barry Breckling reported that there were “lots of fire followers” including *Emmenanthe penduliflora* var. *penduliflora*, *Malacothrix clevelandii*, *Camissoniopsis hirtella* and *Mentzelia dispersa*. They also visited occurrences of the very rare *Eriophyllum congdonii* and *Lewisia congdonii*, plus *Ranunculus hystricula*. Barry said that the “trip was rewarding.” Thank you Michael!

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](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 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 to Jennie at [jhaas953@gmail.com](mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com).

**April 25 – Abernathy Lava Caps.** Leader: Alison Colwell. Hiking level: moderate (short hikes on slight to moderate steepness, but with very rough ground on the lava caps). Access via graded Forest Service Roads. We last visited these interesting “lava caps,” actually remnants of Miocene andesitic lahars, in 2010. This will be

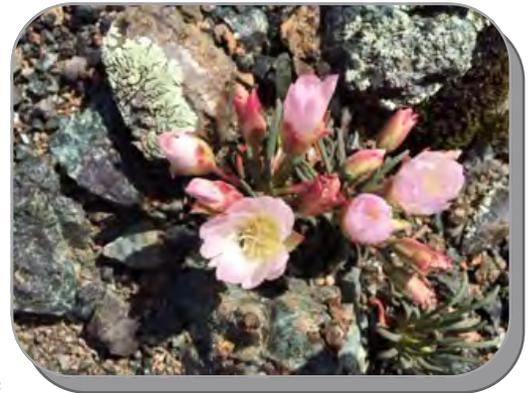
our first visit since the Rim Fire. Goldfields, monkeyflowers and volcanic specialist species will grace these peculiar rocky fields. Meet at 10:00a.m. at the Camp Mather General Store, Mather. Take Highway 120, then Evergreen Road to Camp Mather. At stop sign, turn right onto Mather Road, then left into the parking lot. The General Store is just north of the parking lot. For more information, contact Alison at (240) 997-5153, [aecolwell@msn.com](mailto:aecolwell@msn.com).

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**May 9 – Calaveras Big Trees.** Leaders: Alan Leavitt and John Sutake. Hiking Level: easy. We'll visit one or more locations, and may find phantom orchids, western azaleas, monkey flowers, lilies, and other wildflowers, depending on what is blooming. Meet at 10:00a.m. inside the park at the picnic area adjacent to the meadow behind Jack Knight Hall. The admission fee to enter the park is \$10 per vehicle. Bring lunch/snacks and water. For more info, contact Alan at 209-795-2469 or [alanleeleavitt@gmail.com](mailto:alanleeleavitt@gmail.com).

**May 16 – Rim Fire Wildflowers, Hetch Hetchy.** Leader: David Campbell. Hiking Level: moderate to arduous. We will see many wildflowers in the post-Rim Fire burned rocky terraces above Hetch Hetchy Road. This trip will be combined with a rare plant treasure hunt to document specific off-trail locations of the rare endemics, *Mimulus filicaulis* and *M. pulchellus*. Meet at the parking spots just past the Hetch Hetchy entrance station on Hetch Hetchy Road in Yosemite National Park at 9:30a.m. For more information, contact David at (612) 867-8700, [DCampbell.CNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DCampbell.CNPS@gmail.com).

**May 30 – Hammill Canyon/Herring Creek Road.** Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate (some rough ground and a small amount of cross-country hiking). This area contains diverse habitats and a 2,400 feet elevation gain along the road from Highway 108 to the top of the loop in Hammill Canyon. There is a great diversity of plants. We're hoping to see the Peony in bloom at this early date. Meet at 9:00a.m. in the parking lot between the Sonora KFC restaurant and Kohl's, on Mono Way. For more information, contact Jennie at (209) 962-4759, [jhaas953@gmail.com](mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com).



## REVISED EDITION OF WILDFLOWERS OF CALIFORNIA'S NORTH COAST RANGE

This popular photographic guide has been revised to identify wildflowers of California's beautiful North Coast Range, from the Golden Gate to Oregon State. The new edition has been expanded to include Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, common naturalized plants, 35 new species, leaf images for all plants, and 230 new photos. Desired by hikers, students, naturalists, botanists, gardeners, casual observers, and visitors seeking to more fully enjoy our beautiful environment.

- Discover 393 species of wildflowers, previously 358.
- Easy to use: grouped by color, beautiful close up photos for easy identification, a total of 772 color photos, previously 542.
- Learn bloom times, habitats, garden tips, native uses, natural history, 42 wildflower hot spots, previously 34.

The first edition of **Wildflowers** received a Silver Medal from the *Independent Publishers* and from *Writer's Digest* a First Place in the non-fiction category.

To view the cover, contents, sample pages, and to purchase see [RenysWildflowers.com/guide](http://RenysWildflowers.com/guide)



**Spring Native Plant Sale in San Andreas, CA**

**Photos: Quinn Young**

For immediate release

### Yosemite National Park 3/27/15 **Wildflowers going wild in Yosemite**

Interested in wildflowers that grow in Yosemite National Park? Now is the time to get the Yosemite Wildflower App.



Despite this year's drought, wildflowers are doing well in Yosemite. You can find good displays at lower elevations now, but as time passes and temperatures warm up, spring will climb the mountains. At the highest elevations, great flowers will still be blooming in August.

The Yosemite Wildflower app, first released last April, has just been revised and updated. It now contains 584 plants, and a new feature lets you keep a list of favorites that you can share with Mail, Facebook, Pinterest, Google+, etc. Once downloaded, the app does not require an internet connection.

The app works well for both wildflower novices and those who have more botanical experience.

One wildflower enthusiast reports: "Best wildflower app! I have six other wildflower apps, so I've seen a lot of the good and the bad, and this Yosemite wildflower app just blows the rest of them away completely."

Sierra National Forest botanist Joanna Clines said "There is a new iPhone [and Android] app called Yosemite Wildflowers and it's awesome!!! I just downloaded it and I think it's great!"

The app's most popular feature is its Search by Characteristics capability, which most people use to identify mystery flowers. You can choose characteristics from various categories, such as petal color, number of petals, leaf shape, leaf arrangement, plant size, and blooming month. You'll notice that the number of plants "Found" (starting at 584) will get smaller and smaller with each choice. At any point you can select "Show" and you'll see the photos and names of plants that match your choices. Each plant entry in the app gives you access to photos, descriptions, and interesting information about the plant.

The Yosemite Wildflower App, which works both on iPhones and iPads, as well as Androids, is available for \$7.99 at Amazon, Apple, and Google app stores.

For more information go to [www.wildflowersofyosemite.com](http://www.wildflowersofyosemite.com)

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