



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

APRIL 2018

April Meeting and Program

Medicinal Native Plants

Laureen Campana & Dodie Harte

Thursday, April 5, 6:00 p.m.

Rescheduled from our rained-out March meeting.

Please note location change:

Senior Center Meeting Room C

540 Greenley Rd., Sonora

- Local herbalists Laureen Campana and Dodie Harte talk about medicinal native plants of our region. Included will be plant identification, responsible wild crafting and preparation methods for using the plants as medicine.
- Dodie Harte is a long time educator and herbalist. She is the past owner of Havasu Hills Herb Farm and Sierra Institute of Herbal Studies.
- Laureen Campana is a Nurse Practitioner, herbalist, graduate of the Sierra Institute of Herbal Studies Basic and Advanced Intensives. She also recently completed the two year Fellowship of Integrative Medicine from the University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine.

Looking Ahead

Our May Program will be presented by Peggy Edwards (you might remember her as Peg Carkeet) on Thursday, May 3, 6 p.m., Tuolumne County Library meeting room in Sonora. Peggy will talk about the giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and the historical race of the first seeds to travel from Calaveras Big Trees to Scotland and England in 1853, as well as the controversy among botanists to name the species. More info in the May Shooting Star.

* * * RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER * * *

Bagby Serpentine Field Trip

Sunday, March 25

Leaders: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking Level: Easy. The belt of serpentine that snakes along Highway 49 from Coulterville south to Bagby can have spectacular flower displays in early spring. Last year's Detwiler Fire burned almost 83,000 acres in the area. Spring blooms following fires can also be spectacular and can include interesting fire-following plants that do not typically grow in an area. Signups aren't required but notification that you plan to attend would be appreciated. **We'll meet at 9:30 a.m.** in Coulterville along Highway 49 in front of the park on the north side of the Jefferson Hotel. For more info contact Barry and Judy, 209-878-3041 or breckling@garlic.com.

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 long dry spell in January and February had us concerned that the wildflower season might be shortened and maybe even absent in many areas. Having rain and snow make a showing in early March encourages us that there might be a decent bloom this spring and summer after all. We hope that you won't be disappointed if there aren't huge flushes of flowers. Sometimes the most satisfying experiences are the small surprises tucked away in isolated places.

– Our first field trip of the year was a nice welcome to the 2018 season. Trip leader Doug Krajnovich reports, “An enthusiastic group turned out on February 24 to hunt for the earliest Red Hills wildflowers (you know you are early when you can count the goldfields and tickseed on your fingers and toes). Despite six consecutive nights of frost, we found eighteen species blooming. We ate lunch at Currant Hollow, where *Ribes malvaceum ssp. malvaceum* [chaparral currant] and *Arctostaphylos manzanita* [common manzanita] were already making fruit. The other wildflowers were just getting started.” Thank you Doug, for being first out of the gate and leading this trip to one of our favorite field trip destinations!

– We release our 2018 field trip schedule with this issue of The Shooting Star. You'll notice that some of the trips are not fully developed at this time. With the uncertainty of how colors will develop with the abnormal weather patterns this year, some of the trips will be better refined as the dates approach. Be sure to check the monthly issues of the Shooting Star for updates and sign up for the field trip e-mail list if you want updates delivered to your inbox. Be sure to sign up directly with the trip leader a few days in advance if requested. Last minute cancellations or changes will be made by trip leaders by e-mail or phone.

– 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 appreciate everyone's adherence to this policy.

– To sign up for our field trip alerts e-mails, send an e-mail with the subject line “Field Trip e-mail List” to Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com. We'll use this mailing list and Twitter to provide timely information of field trip changes and those impromptu “emergency field trips.”

– Jennie Haas



Red Hills field trip participants with three highlight species:
Top middle: *Ribes malvaceum ssp. malvaceum*
Top right: *Lomatium congdonii* (CNPS 1B.2)
Bottom left: *Meconella californica* (member of Poppy family)
Bottom right: Wasp gall on
last year's *Brodiaea*



No Spring Plant Sale this Year

Unfortunately no one came forward to take on the planning and carrying out of the spring plant sale this year. Bob and Judy Dean had to back out in order to take care of personal matters. We'll forward out information about other chapters' spring plant sales if we receive it. You can also check on-line at www.cnps.org for plant sales hosted by other chapters.

June Chapter Council Meeting Update

We're working on the planning for this meeting of the state CNPS Chapter Council which we are hosting in Groveland, June 8-10. We will be having field trips for the council and our Chapter members and guests on the 8th and 10th. See the field trip schedule for details. Be sure to sign up well in advance to ensure there is space for you. The numbers of participants for trips on the 10th will be limited to reduce any impacts to these beautiful areas. The Saturday night dinner and program are also open to chapter members. If you are curious about the workings of the state organization, plan to sit in on the Saturday meeting. More details to come, including how to sign up for the Saturday dinner or to volunteer. For more info or to help with the planning, contact Jennie Haas, jhaas953@gmail.com or 209-962-4759.

What's Blooming?

If you see a native plant blooming in our chapter area that is unusual or special to you, please share it. If there is enough space, I will include your observation in the next newsletter. Just a sentence or two (and an optional photo) will do. We have nothing against your tulips and daffodils, but submissions to *What's Blooming?* should be limited to native plants appearing in Calflora. - Ed. djkran@comcast.net



I visited Yosemite Valley on March 4 after the big snow and did not expect to see any flowers. I was startled to come upon a Fremont's Silk Tassel bush (*Garrya fremontii*), right in front of the Valley Visitor Center bathroom building. Most likely this shrub was landscaped in, but it is native to Yosemite and appears in Botti. I have seen this plant on field trips, but always late w/ faded flowers or fruit. This is the first time that I got to see this spectacular plant in full bloom! - Doug K.

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

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