



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MAY 2017

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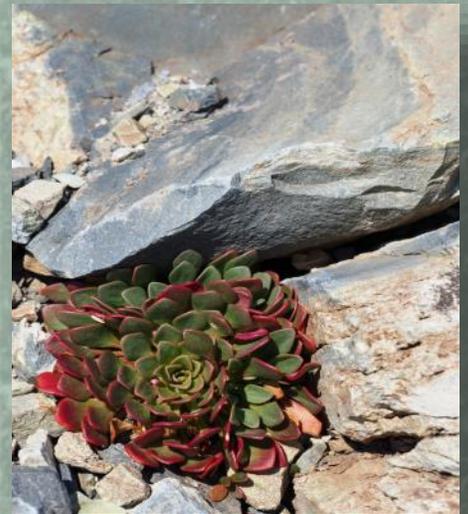


Yosemite region. Photo: Michael Uhler

Join us Thursday,
May 4th at 6:00 pm,
Sonora, CA:

In search of rare plants in
the northern
Yosemite region.

Michael Uhler, Horticulturalist
Regional Parks Botanic Garden



Fell-fields claytonia (*Claytonia megarhiza*),
Yosemite region. Photo: Michael Uhler



How Many Species
of Plants & Animals
Live Here?

BioBlitz 2017

Join Us as We Locate and Photograph
as Many Species as Possible!



8am-Noon Saturday May 6

Sierra Outdoor School,
15700 Old Oak Ranch Rd., Sonora, CA

SIGN UP at Eventbrite.com: Search for SOS BioBlitz 2017

- This free event is a great opportunity for volunteers to work in teams with naturalists in collecting scientific data. The findings will help Sierra Outdoor School understand how California's drought & Ponderosa Pine Tree die-off is changing the ecology of the Sierra Nevada.
- Continental breakfast & coffee provided.
- No experience necessary. Just wear sturdy shoes and bring a smartphone or camera with cord.



SAVE THE DATE!!

FALL NATIVE PLANT
SALE

JAMESTOWN, CA

OCTOBER 21, 2017

CRITICAL NEED FOR A NEW TREASURER

We have a critical need for a volunteer to step forward and take on the role of Treasurer. This member of the Chapter Board of Directors manages the budget, pays the bills and reports on the account balances to the board once per month. Contact Bob Dean, (209) 754-5887, goldrushdean@yahoo.com if you are interested.

CALENDAR OF CNPS EVENTS

Thursday, May 4

CNPS Sierra Foothills General Meeting at 6:00 pm. Program: **In search of rare plants in the northern Yosemite region.**

Michael Uhler, Horticulturalist

Location: Tuolumne County Library, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370

Saturday, May 20

Field Trip: Evergreen Road to Mather Road, In Search Of Monkeyflowers. Meet at Groveland library next to Mary Lavaroni Park (Hwy 120) at 9:30 am. Hiking level: Easy. Leader: Lynn Robertson. Phone: 209-966-5316

Saturday, May 27

Field Trip: Trumbell Peak (destination tentative). Meet at Groveland library next to Mary Lavaroni Park (Hwy 120) at 9:30 am. Hiking level: Easy. Leader: Jennie Haas. Phone: 209-962-4759

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

Jennie Haas
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Sierra Foothills Chapter
www.sierrafoothillscnps.org

Dedicated to the Preservation of California
Native Flora.

Field Trips

The field trip season has gotten off to a terrific start. We've had two excellent field trips so far. The March 26th Red Hills field trip with Barry and Judy Breckling gave us our first taste of spring with copious amounts of gold fields (*Lasthenia gracilis*) and seep spring monkey flowers (*Mimulus guttatus*), the very cute purple mouse ears (*Mimulus douglasii*) and the always lovely bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva* var. *rediviva*), among the numerous wildflowers observed. Thank you to Barry and Judy for your expert leadership on this very fun day.

The April 2nd Orvis Ranch field trip was a real treat. Property owner and guide Susan Harper showed us a vernal pool, petroglyphs, and the site of an oak restoration project to be implemented soon in partner-



Bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*). Red Hills Field Trip, March 25, 2017 Photo: Jeri Zemon

ship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service. We saw meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*), larkspur (*Delphinium* sp.), Johnny tucks, a.k.a. butter and eggs (*Triphysaria eriantha* ssp. *eriantha*), and others. We had the added bonus of being able to watch Manteca School District 4th graders launch model rockets at the ranch's launch pad while we wandered through the open fields of the ranch. It was a beautiful day and we appreciate the Harper's hospitality and willingness to let us check out the many plants on their ranch. Thanks also go to Don Kurtz for reaching out to the Harpers and organizing the trip.

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.



Group photo, Orvis Ranch Field Trip, April 2, 2017 Photo: Jeri Zemon

As of press time, roads at the mid-elevations in the Stanislaus National Forest were still being assessed for damage and access challenges. The next three field trips require access along Forest roads in the elevation zone affected by the damaging storms over the winter. Be sure to contact the trip leaders before the trips to receive updates.

May 20 – Evergreen Road to Mather Road, In Search of Monkeyflowers. Leader: Lynn Robertson. Hiking Level: easy - this will be "car botanizing." We will look for nine species of monkeyflowers known from this area while enjoying the incredible wildflower display in Ackerson Meadow & along the roadside. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the library parking lot next to Mary Lavaroni Park in Groveland (Highway 120). For more information, contact Lynn at billielr@sti.net or 209-966-5316.



Group photo, Red Hills Field Trip, March 25, 2017 Photo: Jeri Zemon

May 27 – Trumbull Peak (destination tentative). Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking Level: easy. We last visited this favorite destination in 2013, a spring following a very dry winter. There are over 100 plant species in this very diverse and scenic locale perched at about 5,000 feet elevation. It is a Historic and Botanic Special Interest Area sitting on the Rim of the Merced River Canyon, in the Stanislaus National Forest. Road conditions might prevent access to the area in which case an alternative destination will be offered (TBD). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Groveland library next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Highway 120 in Groveland. For more information contact Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com, 209-962-4759.

-- Jennie Haas, Field Trip and Membership Coordinator

Gardening with Natives Symposium Update

We are happy to announce that we have a full lineup of speakers for our September 9th Gardening with Natives symposium. We'll have all of the details in the June newsletter. If you would like to volunteer to help either the afternoon before with setting up the room, or on the day of the symposium, please contact Val Myrick at vkmyrick@pacbell.net, 209-533-3193.

--Jennie Haas, *Field Trip and Membership Coordinator*

May 4th at 6:00 pm:

In search of rare plants in the northern Yosemite region.

Michael Uhler

Yosemite National park is one of the most iconic parks in the world as well as one of the most visited parks in the United States. Last year alone, over 4 million guests entered the park. Most of the people visiting the park spend their time in the great Yosemite Valley ensconced by its granite walls and domes. Indeed, these granite cathedrals are amongst the most dramatic monuments of nature but the sheer number of visitors make the experience anything but wild. Lately, I have re-connected with Yosemite's wild and less visited regions in the northern section of the park. Here, one may find very intriguing and relatively pristine alpine habitats.

In August of 2016 I, along with three other botanist cohorts, took a nine day backpacking trip into this enchanting part of Yosemite National Park. A large part of the trip was devoted to participating in citizen science as we volunteered to search for and document plants rare to the state of California. Many of the plants found are at the southern and/or western limit of their global distribution and only persist on the highest peaks in this part of the Sierra Nevada. Alas, these wonderful plant taxa are particularly vulnerable to local extirpation in our changing climate. Consequently, I have the compelling desire to document these populations before any changes to their distribution occur. It was fortunate that our efforts were rewarded not only with exceptional beauty and solitude, but by the discovery of new rare plant occurrences. This presentation is a photographic journey through the northern region of Yosemite National Park and the search for rare and beautiful alpine plants.

Michael Uhler "Tilden Botanic Garden"

For the past twelve years I have worked as a horticulturalist in the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in the hills above Berkeley California. During this time, I have been solely responsible for the curation, development and maintenance of the floral collections in the Sierra Nevada as well as the Seabluff sections at our 10 acre provincial public garden. Our mission is to grow and display as many of California's plant taxa as possible, in a naturalistic setting using plants propagated from wild collected propagules. During my work week, I propagate, grow, maintain and build the sections which I am responsible to curate. On my time off, I explore incredible wild gardens in California, both Alta and Baja California. The Sierra Nevada has always been my favorite wild place in our state and the alpine zone is my beloved sanctuary. I have recently been volunteering with the California Native Plant Society and various National Forest Service botanists to help monitor and document the Sierra flora by collecting relevant data, photographs, and physical vouchers for herbaria. I have been fortunate to locate many historic rare plant populations, as well as some previously undocumented occurrences, during my wanderings through the rarified alpine region in the "Range of Light". I have accumulated thousands of photos during these trips and have enjoy sharing these images and the stories to various chapters of the California Native Plant Society, our gardens' winter lecture series, as well as botanical symposia.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons				JOIN NOW
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.				
PRESIDENT	Robert Dean	754-5887	goldrushdean@yahoo.com	<p>PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!</p> <p>Student/Retired/Limited income ...\$25 Individual \$45 Family or Group \$75 Library..... \$75 Plant Lover \$100 Patron.....\$300 Benefactor \$600 Mariposa Lily..... \$1,500</p> <p>As always, donations above the membership level chosen will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____ (Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I Wish to affiliate with the Sierra Foothills Chapter.</p> <p>Please make your check payable to "CNPS" and send it to: 2707 "K" street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 Tel. (916) 447-2677.</p> <p>Join or renew on-line at www.cnps.org.</p> <p>Membership includes the journal Fremontia, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter, The Shooting Star.</p>
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