



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JUNE 2017

Page 1



Sedum spathulifolium. Hetch Hetchy field trip. April 22, 2017. Photo: Jennie Haas.



Lip fern (*Cheilanthes* sp.). Hetch Hetchy field trip. April 22, 2017. Photo: Jennie Haas.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CNPS FALL “GARDENING WITH NATIVES” SYMPOSIUM

Our chapter is offering a great opportunity to our members to attend this daylong meeting at 50% off the regular price of admission. All we need is a little help from you to make this symposium run smoothly.

Volunteers are needed on the day of the symposium, Saturday, September 9th, to help with various tasks such as registration, book sales, food service, and cleanup. We will also need people to help set up late afternoon of the day before. All will take place at the fairgrounds in Sonora. Please contact Val Myrick, vkmyrick@pacbell.net, 209 533-3193, to volunteer. You must be

SUMMER MEETING HIATUS

Reminder that there will be no monthly meetings in the summer (June-August). The Shooting Star Newsletter will still be delivered to your inbox. Keep an eye out for updates on September’s Native Plant Symposium!

confirmed as a volunteer in order to receive the nice discount. Vacation time is coming so confirmation may be delayed by a few weeks.

CALENDAR OF CNPS EVENTS

Field Trips (more information on Page 2)

May 27 – Anderson Valley and Big Grizzly Peak. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking Level: easy. **Sign up in advance.**

June 10 – Yosemite Valley Restoration Projects. Leader: Alisa Simonoff-Smith and Anna Puchkoff. Hiking Level: easy.

June 17 – Feliciano Mountain Preserve and Sierra National Forest. Leaders: Bridget Fithian, Alison Colwell, and Joanna Clines. Hiking Level: Easy.

June 24 – Bell Meadow. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate.

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

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www.sierrafoothillscnps.org

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.

Field Trips



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Hetch Hetchy Field Trip. April 22, 2017. Photo: Jennie Haas

In the April newsletter, I wrote that our motto for the year was to be flexible and realize that the best laid plans may go awry. It's not always a bad thing – when plans go sideways. Sometimes it can be a good thing. The trick is to be flexible. Our April 22nd Abernathy Lava Caps field trip was an excellent example of this. When the Brecklings reconned the roads and flowers, they found that one of the roads was in less than ideal shape and there were no flowers at the lava caps yet. Being the quick-thinking people that they are, they selected a new destination, Hetch Hetchy, which proved to be an excellent replacement.

A small group of members and guests spent the better part of the day botanizing with leaders Barry and Judy Breckling along the road and trail to Wapama Falls. We enjoyed lessons in liverwort identification offered up by Lynn Robertson. The blooming vascular plant life included a nice patch of brown bells (*Fritillaria micrantha*), waterfall buttercups (*Ranunculus hystriculus*), and mountain pink current (*Ribes nevadensis*). It was a great day. Thank you Barry, Judy and Lynn!

The destination of our May 27th field trip must be changed due to road conditions. Trumbull Peak won't be accessible in time for our trip due to numerous trees across the road and a spot along the road where road conditions challenge any vehicle without very high clearance. So we're changing our destination to Anderson Valley and Big Grizzly Peak, a little bit west of Trumbull. The access to this area has been confirmed and there should be some nice wildflowers there, including Congdon's woolly sunflower. See the details below.

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.

May 27 – Anderson Valley and Big Grizzly Peak. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking Level: easy. Positioned only a few miles north-west of the Trumbull Peak Historic and Botanic Special Interest Area, Anderson Valley offers diverse wildflowers and shrubs. Big Grizzly Peak contains the same type of bedrock as at Trumbull and a few of the same species, including the rare Congdon's woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum congdonii*). **Sign up in advance.** 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.

June 10 – Yosemite Valley Restoration Projects. Leader: Alisa Simonoff-Smith and Anna Puchkoff. Hiking Level: easy. This field trip will tour some recently implemented projects in Yosemite Valley, including pollinator habitat, wetland mitigation, and meadow hydrology restoration. We'll check out different sites on an easy walking tour, and observe some of the common plants used in these projects. **Space will be limited, please sign up in advance.** Meet at 9:00a.m. at the El Portal Market to organize car-pools. Bathrooms, gas, snacks and coffee are available here. The market is located at 10913 CA-140, El Portal, CA 95318, east of the Yosemite View Lodge and park boundary. Hopefully we'll be able to fit in vehicles with a pass to enter the park (bring yours if you have one). Otherwise, entrance into the park is \$30/vehicle. For more information, contact Anna Puchkoff, 718-619-0293, anna.puchkoff@gmail.com.

June 17 – Feliciano Mountain Preserve and Sierra National Forest. Leaders: Bridget Fithian, Alison Colwell, and Joanna Clines. Hiking Level: Easy. Explore the Sierra Foothill Conservancy's Feliciano Mtn. Preserve (<http://sierrafoothill.org/feliciano-mountain-preserve/>) with Executive Director Bridget Fithian and botanists Alison Colwell and Joanna Clines. Botanize along Feliciano Ridge on the Sierra National Forest en route. See some unusual plants on this remote ridgeline (pitcher sage, Fremont's bush-mallow, rushrose, and Parry's horkelia) and take in 360 degree views of the Merced River Canyon. Learn about the Endangered Limestone Salamander that calls the SFC preserve home and more about local conservation efforts and forest management. Meet at the Midpines Post Office at 9 am: 6629 State Highway 140, Midpines, CA 95345. For more information, contact Bridget at sfc@sierrafoothill.org, 209-742-5556. Joanna's cell: 559-760-3618.

June 24 – Bell Meadow. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate. Bell Meadow, near Dodge Ridge ski area, was set aside by the Forest Service as a Research Natural Area for the aspens that grow there. The aspen stands are protected from other uses so that they can be preserved for future study. There is a large diversity of wildflowers in and around the meadow. The geology of the area is interesting and a diversity of plant communities awaits our exploration. Meet at 9:30a.m. at the parking lot between the KFC and Kohl's in the Junction Shopping Center in east Sonora. Sign up in advance to ensure you get the latest information on the trip. To sign up or for more information, contact Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com, 209-962-4759.

-- Jennie Haas, Field Trip and Membership Coordinator

Gardening with Natives Symposium

We are happy to announce our 2017 symposium “**Gardening with Natives: Native Gardening in the Mother Lode – the New Normal.**” By “the new normal” we refer to the wide shifts in yearly weather conditions that, in recent years, resulted in gardening with a restricted ability to water, persistent drought conditions, and the large-scale loss of trees. While the winter of 2016/2017 had much above normal levels of precipitation, it takes little reflection to remember that we’ve seen this pattern before – drought years followed by a winter of above normal precipitation, followed by below normal, followed by drought years. This pattern has been repeating itself, growing in intensity with each new dry cycle, since the mid-1970s. The Gardening with Natives symposium is designed to help us build resilience and water-efficiency into our home landscapes.

Our keynote speaker will be Bart O’Brien, Director of the East Bay Regional Botanic Garden at Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills. Bart will draw upon his many years of experience with native plant gardening at the EBRBG and at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, to show us that native plant gardening is as beautiful as it is resilient.

Local landscaper George Kirk, of Solomon’s Garden, will tell us about new design strategies to use in our home gardens. Susie Kocher, Forester with the UC Cooperative Extension, will help us choose the right native trees to replace those that were lost, taking into consideration the shifting weather patterns. Meteorologist Rob Carlmark, of ABC Channel 10, will help us understand these wide shifts in weather patterns and give us a glimpse of what the future might hold. Toby O’Geen, Ph.D., a Soils Scientist with UC Davis and the UC Cooperative Extension, will help us better understand our foothills soils and give us some gardening practices to improve our soils condition. Bonnie Bladen, of Intermountain Nursery, will show us the multitude of native shrubs and perennials appropriate for our foothill gardens. John Whittlesey, founder and former owner of Canyon Creek Nursery will share his current passion of pollinators by showing us the native plants that support them, illustrated by his fabulous photography.

The symposium will be on Saturday, September 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sierra building, at the Motherlode Fairgrounds in Sonora. Registration is \$40 before September 1st, \$50 at the door. Registration includes lunch and refreshments. We’ll be offering a variety of native plant books for sale. John Whittlesey will offer his book, “The Plant Lover’s Guide to Salvias (The Plant Lover’s Guides)” for sale.

Symposium brochures with registration forms will be sent to Chapter members and others on our newsletter mailing list. Look for the brochure on our Chapter web page at www.sierrafoothillscnps.org. For more information or to request a brochure with registration form contact Nancy Piekarczyk, at nanpiekarczyk@gmail.com, 209-533-2017.

We believe that this will be our best symposium yet. We hope to see you there.

-- Jennie Haas, Symposium Planning Committee

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.

CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter
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 Groveland, CA 95321

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	PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A CNPS MEMBER!	
VP AMADOR CO.	OPEN			Student/Retired/Limited income ...\$25	
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TREASURER	Patti Hohne	352-4312	phohne@gmail.com	Patron.....\$300	
CONSERVATION CHAIR	OPEN			Benefactor \$600	
EDUCATION CHAIR	Margaret Klein		kleinpeg@gmail.com	Mariposa Lily..... \$1,500	
FIELD TRIP COORD.	Jennie Haas	962-4759	jhaas953@gmail.com	As always, donations above the membership level chosen will be greatly appreciated.	
GROWING AREA MGR.	Stephanie Garcia	586-3593	sjgarcia@mlode.com	Name _____	
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MEMBERSHIP COORD.	Jennie Haas	962-4759	jhaas953@gmail.com	(Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Quinn Young	272-4546	quinnyoung26@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> I Wish to affiliate with the Sierra Foothills Chapter.	
PLANT SALES CHAIR	Judy Dean, Stephanie Garcia	754-5887 586-3593	goldrushdean@yahoo.com sjgarcia@mlode.com	Please make your check payable to "CNPS" and send it to: 2707 "K" street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 Tel. (916) 447-2677.	
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