



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

AUGUST 2015 Page 1



Rosa bridgesii



Yosemite Woolly Sunflower



Washington lily blooming on the way to pilot peak

Field Trip to Pilot Peak

Photos: Jennie Haas

NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM

September 12

(9:00 am -3:30 pm)

September 12 our chapter will be holding another Native Plant Symposium. This one will focus on the drought in the foothills of the Central Sierra and planning, planting and maintaining a native plant garden..

We're fortunate to have, as our morning keynote speaker, Janet Cobb of the Ca. Oak foundation. She will talk about oaks, oak woodlands and the drought and what's being done to protect and preserve our oak resources. There will also be a discussion regarding the drought and invasive plant species and the impact the bark beetle infestation is

having in our conifers forests.

The afternoon session will feature Alrie Middlebrook, author of "Designing Ca. Native Gardens". The afternoon's efforts will focus on the individual garden, garden



Common woolly sunflower and round-toothed snakelily were in full bloom (Pilot Peak field trip).

structure, planting schemes for natives and plant selection. There will be a panel of local experts to discuss using natives in our gardens will use local gardens to illustrate their points.

We're proud to be partnering with the Tuolumne County Master Gardeners and the Tuolumne Utilities District.

The Symposium will be held at the Tuolumne County Fairgrounds. Because we could only reserve one of the smaller buildings, seating will be limited. If this is something you'd like to attend make your reservations early.

- - Bob Dean, President

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

Field Trips

(Photos: Jennie Haas)



Wild ginger. Note the blossom at the center below the leaves.

The one word that I could use to describe the June 20th Pilot Peak field trip is *fabulous*! Everything was in peak bloom. We saw the very small rare plant Yosemite woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum nubigenum*), it's close cousin common woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) which was found in large, showy patches, the cobwebby California thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *californicum*), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), the Mariposa lily (*Calochortus venustus*), and more. On the way to the peak, we stopped to look at wild ginger (*Asarum hartwegii*), Bridge's rose (*Rosa bridgesii*), broad-leaved lupine (*Lupinus latifolius* var. *columbianus*) and huge patches of round-toothed snakelily (*Dichelostemma multiflorum*). It was an excellent day of botanizing. Thank you Barry and Judy Breckling!



Members and guests check out the bush poppy.

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.



Barry and Judy Breckling discuss interesting plant facts at one of the stops on the way to Pilot Peak.

If you would like to be on our field trip alerts e-mail list, send an e-mail to Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com.

July 25 – Warren Canyon. Leader: John Little. Hiking level: arduous due to the very high elevation. It helps to spend a day or more at altitude before the event. We'll follow a trail through a series of meadows, some possibly wet, with a wide variety of alpine flowers. The first part of the trail is nearly flat; further up there is some climbing, rewarded with several mutant specimens. Warren Creek is about 1 mile east of Ellery Lake, a bit east of Tioga Pass. We will meet at 10:00a.m. at or near the event site. Since parking at the site is tricky, detailed directions will be provided later. For more information, contact John at (520) 327-8973, or (209) 742-5196 closer to the event time, jlittle@email.arizona.edu.



Mariposa lily with a pollinator surrounded by bear clover (*Chamaebatia foliolosa*).

There will be no field trips in August or September. The route for the Fall Colors field trip on October 17th is yet to be determined. Have a suggestion? Send it to me at jhaas953@gmail.com.

--Jennie Haas,
Field Trip Coordinator



Pilot Peak Lookout amid wildflowers in full bloom.

GARDENING WITH NATIVES SYMPOSIUM

Our CNPS Chapter will be hosting the Gardening with Natives: Helping Our Foothill Gardens Survive the Drought symposium on September 12 at the Tuolumne County Fairgrounds in Sonora. The event will run from 9am to 3:30pm. **Registration is \$25 per person before Sept 1st and \$30 after September 1st and at the door as space allows.** Lunch and refreshments are included in the registration cost. The symposium will look at the impact of the drought in our foothills and the oak woodland landscape. The emphasis will be on what the private property owner can do to help their landscape survive the drought. Attention will be paid to plant selection - including the withdrawal from traditional gardens to the water wise native plant garden.

The keynote speaker for the morning session will be Janet Cobb of the California Oak Foundation. She has dedicated her professional life to the preservation and the continued persistence of the Oak Woodland throughout California. Susie Kocher, M.S., Forestry/Natural Resources Advisor with the Central Sierra Cooperative Extension will discuss the impact of bark beetle infestations in our conifers and share strategies for improving the chances of preventing loss of conifers on our properties. Director and Farm Advisor Scott Oneto, M.S., with the Central Sierra Cooperative Extension will show us which widely available water-wise plants we should avoid due to their surprisingly invasive nature.

The afternoon session will focus on what homeowners can do to establish native gardens. The afternoon keynote speaker will be Alrie Middlebrook, co-author of "Designing California Native Plant Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens." She will talk about gardening for drought, climate change, biodiversity, and nutrition. She will include habitat plants and food plants local to the Sierra region (cattail, black oak, yampah, and *Calochortus* bulbs). The afternoon will be rounded out with presentations by local garden experts and practitioners Marlys Bell and Judy Dean who will share their experiences, ideas, failures and successes on native gardening in the Central Sierra foothills. This will be followed by a panel discussion by Alrie Middlebrook, Marlys Bell and Judy Dean.

Symposium brochures with registration forms will be sent to Chapter members and are available at the Tuolumne Utilities District office, or online at www.cnps.org. Look for the Sierra Foothills Chapter web page. A brochure and registration form can also be requested from us at sierrafoothillscnps@gmail.com.



YOSEMITE FORUM



August 11 - Patrick McIntyre (California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife): Climate change and water balance in California forests: Historic changes and future trends



The Yosemite Forum is a free interactive lecture series designed to bring evolving knowledge of the Sierra Nevada to the public and the park. Lectures are noon-1 pm (unless otherwise noted) on the second Tuesday of the month in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium.





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