



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JULY 2016

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Evergreen Road Field Trip: Mountain lady's slipper orchids opening (*Cypripedium montanum*) Photo: Jennie Haas



West Side Field Trip: Barry and Judy Breckling admire a silver bush lupine in full bloom. Photo: Jennie Haas



Evergreen Road Field Trip: Western blue flag iris (*Iris missouriensis*) Photo: Jennie Haas

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CNPS FALL PLANT SALE

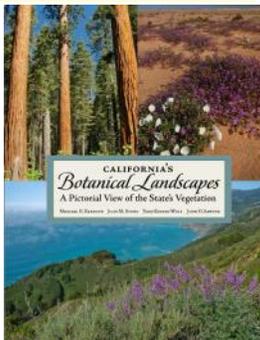
Saturday, October 22

9am to Noon

**Rocca Park
Jamestown**

California's Botanical Landscapes

Contact Diane Williams if you would like to purchase a copy!



SUMMER MEETING HIATUS

There will be no normal monthly meetings during the months of June, July, and August. The "Shooting Star" Newsletter will continue through the summer. See you at September's monthly meeting.

ALERT! FIELD TRIP DATE CHANGE:

Please note that the Mt. Dana field trip has been **moved to July 16th** (previously scheduled for July 9).

Check in often for updates to our website:

www.sierrafoothillscnps.org

Calendar

June 26 – Lake Alpine Wildflowers. Leaders: Judy and Barry Breckling. Hiking level: Moderate.

July 16 – Mt. Dana, Yosemite National Park. Leader: Tom Reyes. Hiking level: Arduous (steep rocky trail/high elevation).

July 23 – Carson Pass Area. Leader: Bob Dean. Hiking level: Arduous (high elevation).

August 7 – Kinney Lake. Leader: Rebecca Andrade. Hiking level: Moderate.

August 13 – Sonora Pass & Pacific Crest Trail. Leader: Becky Miller-Cripps. Hiking level: Arduous (> 10,000 ft. elevation).

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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Sierra Foothills Chapter
www.sierrafoothillscnps.org
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.

Field Trips

The weather in spring can be really unpredictable. By the time you saw the June Shooting Star we were into a heat wave with temperatures into the mid- to upper 90s (100s in the lowest elevations). Two weather fronts passed through but brought little or no precipitation. The combination of high temps and little or no precip started plants well on their way to finishing up at the lower and mid-elevations. Look to the upper elevations, 6,000 to 9,000 feet, for good flowers in late June and through July. Try the Herring Creek Road area (off Highway 108) above Fiddlers Green, once it's open to the public, including the Hammill Canyon loop; Highland Lakes (Highway 4); Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park and any of the mountain passes in late July.

On May 14th, David Campbell and his Foresta Fires and Flowers field trip participants had a great time botanizing areas that were burned in the Big Meadow fire of 2009 and the El Portal fire of 2014. The flowers were plentiful, with many fire-followers still thriving. Foresta was one of several areas covered during the May 22nd Yosemite Bloom Blitz, during which participants identified and entered iNaturalist observations for almost 500 plant species. Thank you David!

The May 21st Evergreen Road field trip turned out to be a good day with a lot of interesting plants to see before the rain came in at about 3:30pm. We saw an abundance of pansy monkeyflower (*Mimulus pulchellus*), a smattering of the Hetch Hetchy or slender-stemmed monkeyflower (*M. filicaulis*) which was just getting started in the Evergreen Road area, Hartweg's iris (*Iris hartwegii*), two species of wild ginger, Hartweg's and Lemon's (*Asarum hartwegii* and *A. lemmonii*), and the always lovely mountain lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripedium montanum*). The phantom orchids (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*) weren't up yet, to our disappointment.

The June 11th Trail of the Gargoyles field trip, off of Herring Creek Road turned out to be a great day. We found one peony (*Paeonia brownii*) still in flower. The rest were in fruit. We also saw the diminutive California Hesperochiron (*Hesperochiron californicus*), the brilliant shining fleabane (*Erigeron barbellulatus*) and the always attractive spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*). We were there early in the bloom and there were more species set to bloom in the coming weeks. Thank you to Barry and Judy Breckling for leading this great field trip. Thank you also to the Forest Service for granting us a permit to travel behind the locked gate to visit this botanically rich treasure.

Consider joining us on one of the following, upcoming field trips. We have a lot of fun and always learn a lot.

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.

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."

June 26 – Lake Alpine Wildflowers. Leaders: Judy and Barry Breckling. Hiking level: moderate. We'll take a four mile round trip wildflower walk on the Bee Gulch Trail. Contact Barry and Judy to sign up for this Sunday trip. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Chickaree Day Use Parking Area (Bee Gulch Trailhead across the street). For more information or to sign up for the field trip, contact Barry and Judy at breckling@garlic.com or 209-878-3041.

July 16 - Mt Dana, Yosemite National Park. Leader: Tom Reyes. Hiking level: Arduous (steep rocky trail at high elevation). Explore the diverse alpine flora at Yosemite's second highest peak, Mt Dana. We will hike through metamorphic talus slopes and pockets of lush alpine vegetation where we will encounter a diverse array of cushion plants and the alpine favorites, Sky Pilot (*Polemonium eximium*) and Alpine Gold (*Hulsea algida*). Participants are encouraged to acclimate to high elevations prior to this trip, as we will be ascending above 13,000 ft. Thunderstorms will cancel this field trip. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station, Yosemite National Park. **Group size is limited to 15 in the Yosemite Wilderness, so please contact Tom Reyes if you wish to attend.** For more information, contact Tom Reyes at 818-554-6616, tpreyes87@gmail.com.

July 23 – Carson Pass Area. Leader: Bob Dean. Hiking Level: arduous due to the very high elevation. This will be another opportunity to explore alpine flora in another beautiful setting. We'll hike north of the highway seeking out the botanical treasures. Meet at 10:00a.m. at the wide, unpaved parking area on the north side of the highway just west of the pass. For more information, contact Bob at goldrushdean@yahoo.com, or 209-754-5887.

--Jennie Haas

CNPS NATIVE PLANT DEMO GARDEN

I want to say a big THANK YOU to Doug and Eileen for all their help at the Demo Garden. Yes, that means only **three** of us showed up for the work day. It was a bit disappointing, not surprising, but disappointing none the less. While weeding in the hot morning sun is not MY favorite thing to do on a Sunday, I had a great time. It never fails. I always enjoy getting together with like minded people because we have great conversations! We talked about all aspects of gardening. – watering, soil amendments, composting, veggie gardening. Think we talked more about organic gardening than natives, but that's okay too. Couldn't believe Doug came all the way from Merced. I wish more of our members had his perspective. Doug said he enjoyed the events we've had and thought he would contribute when WE asked for help. He made my day!

Thanks to all **three** of us, in just two hours, the Demo garden looks a lot better. It will definitely need a "makeover" this fall. Hope to see you then.

-- Stephanie Garcia



Evergreen Road Field Trip: Hartweg's iris (*Iris hartwegii*). Photo: Jennie Haas



Evergreen Road Field Trip: Hooker's fairy bells (*Disporum hookeri*). Photo: Jennie Haas



West Side Field Trip: Field trip participants check out the wildflowers along the Westside Railroad Trail. Photo: Jennie Haas



Foresta Field Trip with Sierra Foothills Chapter, CNPS. Field trip leader, David Campbell (National Park Service, in uniform). Photo: Barry Breckling.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons				JOIN NOW
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.				<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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