



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JUNE 2018

June CNPS Chapter Council Meeting and Invitation to Join Them for Dinner and Program

– Planning for the state-wide CNPS organization's June 9th Chapter Council meeting is coming along. We're finalizing the plans supporting their meals and meeting space needs. We have several excellent field trips planned for them on June 8th and 10th which are also open to our chapter members and guests. While the meeting is for the Chapter Council, the pre-dinner social, dinner and program are open to our chapter members. This is a great opportunity to mingle with representatives from across the state and the organization's leaders.

– The meeting, dinner and program are currently planned to take place at the Groveland Community Hall on Main Street in Groveland. However, the Groveland Hall is undergoing repairs from the March 22 flood and the availability of the hall is currently uncertain. The meeting and dinner might be held at the Greeley Hill Community Hall instead. If you sign up for dinner, we'll let you know the final location.

5:30 p.m.: Social with appetizers and beverages served.

6:30 p.m.: Mexican Style Dinner catered by Cocina Michoacana of Groveland, Cost: \$22.

On the menu:

For the meat eaters: Carnitas (tender pieces of pork, marinated in a special aromatic sauce), Chili Relleno, rice, refried beans, tortillas and green salad. Sherbet for dessert.

For the vegetarians: Tofu à la Mexicana (tofu sautéed with tomatoes, onions, peppers in a red sauce), Chili Relleno, rice, black beans, tortillas and green salad. Sherbet for dessert.

After-dinner program: *Patrick Matthew's Redwoods*

– In 1853, in the tradition of the great plant hunters, the race to send the first *Sequoiadendron giganteum* seeds to the United Kingdom was on. The first seeds from the Calaveras Grove to arrive in Scotland were shipped to Patrick Matthew of Errol whose acquisition was eclipsed four months later by William Lobb's delivery of seeds to Exeter. 165 years later Matthew is finally receiving the credit he deserves while the original redwoods (confirmed by genetic analysis) thrive, towering above all other woodland trees on the great estates of the Victorian era.

– Please **RSVP by May 25th** with your dinner choice (Carnitas or Tofu à la Mexicana) to Pat Gogas, pfgogas@yahoo.com, 209-586-9043. Pat will provide the address to send your payment.

Volunteers Needed June 8, 9 & 10

– We need a few volunteers to take on shifts helping setup for the June 9 meeting; setup and cleanup breakfasts for June 9 & 10; lunch and refreshments June 9; and help serve June 9 dinner. We'd love to have volunteers prepare homemade appetizers for the June 9 Social, which can be sent up with other volunteers if you don't want to make the long drive to Groveland. Volunteers receive a deep discount on the June 9th dinner. For more information or to sign up, contact Val Myrick, 209-533-3193, vkmyrick@pacbell.net.

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

We have an ambitious field trip schedule for June, due largely to the state CNPS organization's Chapter Council meeting which our Chapter is hosting. While the June 8 and 10 field trips were put together with the Chapter Council in mind as a way to showcase some of the unique and interesting attractions of our chapter area, the trips are open to all on a first-come, first served basis. Please join us and meet representatives from other chapters while we visit some of the places that make our chapter special. And don't forget that we have 2 other field trips later in June.

June 8 – Rim Fire Recovery. Leaders: Jennie Haas and Kim Williams. Hiking Level: Easy. Between August 17 and September 21, 2013, the Rim Fire burned more than 257,000 acres, much of it at a moderate to high burn intensity. Tens of thousands of acres of mature forests were reduced to charred snags, and habitat for native plants was reverted from a mix of seral stages to vast acres of early seral, near monocultures of brush, grass or bear clover. Recovery of the forest is a slow process, impacted by natural return of brush species from seed banked in the soil, invasive plant species such as non-native annual grasses, and noxious weeds like yellow star-thistle. We'll tour some of the burned area viewing the various stages of recovery and the challenges of helping nature speed up the process. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot near the library and museum at Mary Lavaroni Park in Groveland, on Highway 120. We'll carpool from there and we'll be sure to guide participants to Yosemite National Park in time for the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias field trip at 1:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jennie at 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com, at least one day in advance.

June 8 – Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias. Leader: Peggy Moore. Hiking Level: Moderate. We will walk 1.5 miles on an unpaved road to get to the grove, dropping about 500 feet in elevation and returning the same way. The Merced Grove of giant sequoias is the smallest of Yosemite's three groves of giant sequoias, with about two dozen mature trees. In addition to these majestic trees and their mesic habitat, we may see two or three interesting CNPS Rank 4 (uncommon) species (e.g., short-leaved Hulsea, Coleman's rein orchid). Carpooling to Yosemite is encouraged. Regular park entrance fee of \$30 per vehicle applies. Meet Peggy at 1:00 p.m. at the parking lot just inside the park at the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station to Yosemite National Park on Hwy 120 (restrooms available). Trailhead parking is very limited so we'll carpool to the Merced Grove trailhead, 1.3 miles east of the entrance station. We'll be back at the trailhead by 5:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact Peggy Moore, 209-617-7775, pemoore4@gmail.com.

June 10 – Ackerson Meadow Area. Leaders: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking Level: Easy. Four hundred acres of Ackerson Meadow, an area of critical wetlands and meadow habitat, were recently added to Yosemite National Park. We'll wander through the meadow itself and visit nearby areas that have interesting plants. This field trip will be open for members, guests and CNPS Chapter Council members. Signups are required as participation is limited to 30 people. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the library parking lot in Groveland, just east of Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120. For more info contact Barry and Judy, 209-878-3041, breckling@garlic.com.

June 10th – The Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias, Yosemite National Park. Leader: David Campbell. Hiking Level: Moderate. Tour one of the three giant Sequoia Groves that reside within Yosemite National Park. We'll see the giants and the flowers that bloom at their feet. The trail is a gentle, 400 foot descent into the grove and is 2.5 miles roundtrip. Parking space at the trailhead is limited so **carpooling is essential**. If coming from the south, meet to carpool at the El Portal Market at 9:00 a.m. If coming from the north or the chapter council meeting in Groveland, meet to carpool at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the library/museum in Groveland, Mary Lavaroni Park, Highway 120. Carpool to the meeting place by 10:00 a.m. at the Tuolumne Grove parking lot just east of Crane Flat on Tioga Road (Highway 120), in Yosemite National Park. Park entrance fees apply. To RSVP or for more information, contact David at 612-867-8700, or moonwort.campbell@gmail.com.

June 23 - Rare plant treasure hunt for *Eriogonum luteolum* var. *saltuarium*. Leader: Frank Rauchschalbe. Hiking Level: Moderate. The search areas are short distances from Hwy 108 but will require walking around in rocky/boulder areas at several stops. Little is known about this plant. Historically, this variety is only known along Hwy 108 between Dardanelle and Kennedy Meadow. Two populations, one of them a new find, were confirmed in 2017 and will be checked prior to June 23 for trip timing. RSVP to Frank. Meet at 8:30 a.m., at the east end of the Twain Harte shopping center parking lot near CSERC. From Sonora east about 10 miles on Rt. 108, left on Twain Harte Dr. lower loop entrance for about 1 mile past T.H. Hardware and the elementary school. Take the next left for one block to the grocery store parking lot. Turn right into the parking lot past the front of the grocery store. For more info contact Frank Rauchschalbe, frauchs@gmail.com, 209-532-3562.

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Field Trips (cont'd. from previous page)

June 30 – 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.

David Campbell provides the following report on his April 28th work day and field excursion: "On April 28th, a small group worked on restoring pollinator habitat at a historically disturbed site dominated by non-native invasive plants along the Merced River in Yosemite National Park. We worked near Cascade Falls Picnic Area, which was a Civilian Conservation Corp Camp in the 1930s-40s. We learned about native species for pollinator habitat restoration, non-native plants that threaten them, techniques for restoring habitat, and weeded around young native plants to help them establish. Another trip is scheduled to work near Cook's Meadow in Yosemite on May 26 with a focus on restoring milkweed for monarch butterflies. Monarchs have experienced a 97% decline in the western population in the last 20 years, and are now under consideration for protection under the Endangered Species Act. We hope to see you there!" Thank you, David!

What's Blooming?

May 7. I saw over 100x sp. blooming near Hite Cove. Thanks to cool temperatures and late rains, many of the "early bloomers" are hanging around much longer than usual, while the "late bloomers" are showing up more-or-less on schedule. How often do you see Blue Dicks & Mariposa Lilies on the same walk? Buckbrush & Chamise blooming side-by-side? Fringepod flowers hanging around to greet the first Clarkias? Other favorites from May 7: *Clarkia heterandra*, *Mentzelia crocea*, *Allophyllum divaricatum*, *Mimulus layneae* & *bolanderi*, *Dendromecon rigida*. (My species list from this walk – probably containing errors – is available on request.) – Doug K.

May 12

On an Audubon field trip down White Rock Road in Mariposa County, we passed a hillside on the southern edge of the Detwiler burn scar that was covered with *Papaver heterophyllum* (Wind Poppy). We saw small numbers of this beautiful flower on the April 14 field trip to the North Fork – also in the burn scar. It is not a "routine" flower for Mariposa County.

– Peggy M., Sue B., Doug K.

May 14

"I was surprised to see an awesome post-fire wildflower bloom along Hunter's Valley Mountain Access Road. There was no previous hint that this was coming. The usual draws like *Wyethia*, *Erythronium*, *Balsamorhiza*, & *Fritillaria* were long gone. In their place were THOUSANDS of *Calochortus albus*, *Dichelostemma volubile* & *Emmenanthe penduliflora*; hundreds of *Allium peninsulare*; many *Ehrendorferia chrysantha*, *Triteleia bridgesii*, *Sculletaria siphocampyloides* & *Triteleia hyacinthina*." – Lynn R.

May 15

"*Iris hartwegii* is spectacular between 3500-4500 feet elevation right now."

– Jennie H.



Top to Bottom: Cascade Falls viewed from Hwy. 41 near Wawona Tunnel; *Clarkia heterandra* & *Mimulus bolanderi* at Hite Cove on May 7. (Photos courtesy Editor.)

* * * Summer Hiatus * * *

No monthly General Meetings and Programs until September. The Shooting Star will be published as usual. Have a great summer!

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