



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JUNE 2019

* * * *Summer Hiatus* * * *

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

June Field Trips

Some of us had hoped for localized chapter-area “super blooms” as a result of the prolific winter precipitation. However, the below average levels of April showers tempered those expectations as the warm, dry weather allowed a flush of grass and interrupted the progression of May flowers. Even so, there have been nice, localized profusions of blooms in areas where the moisture lingers. The gold nuggets (*Calochortus luteus*) in Chinese Camp made a spectacular showing during the Mother’s Day weekend. Silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) made a fantastic splash of purple on the slopes above Early Intake and at the switchback on Cherry Lake Road, throwing their sweet, grape cool-aid fragrance into the air. Our field trips are geared to find those special blooms in special places and this month’s field trips are no exception. They are novice-friendly, informative and a lot of fun.

June 8 – Red Hills. Leader Name: Doug Krajnovich. Hiking Level: Easy except for the heat. (Bring twice as much water as you think you need). Red Hills has numerous plants with CNPS Rare Plant Ranking, but most of them bloom late. June is the best time to see them – if you can take the heat. To reduce the chance of heat stroke, we will start in late afternoon and spend two hours walking along the creek that runs parallel to N. Serpentine Rd. Target plants include: California Verbena (1B.1); Red Hills Ragwort (1B.2); Tripod Buckwheat (4.2); Hernandez Bluecurls (4.3); Red Hills Soaproot (1B.2); Chinese Camp Brodiaea (1B.1). If anyone is willing to stay until sunset, we will hold a vigil around a Soaproot plant, waiting for flowers to open right before our eyes. Unlikely to get rained out, but best to sign up in case there are changes. Meet at 4:00 p.m. at the small parking lot at the intersection of Red Hills Rd. and North Serpentine Rd. If you are coming from Chinese Camp direction, the parking lot is close to the large Red Hills ACEC entrance sign. If you are coming from the west, follow Red Hills Rd. ~2 miles past the main parking lot that has picnic tables and outhouse. For more info contact Doug K., djkran@comcast.net, no cell, landline: 209-580-4595 (e-mail preferred).

June 23 – Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Leader: Bob Dean. Hiking Level: easy. Bob will gear this trip toward the botanical novice who wants to learn about the plants without having to know Latin to understand what they’re looking at. Calaveras Big Trees is a favorite destination with a lot of plant diversity. Contact Bob to RSVP and for meeting time and place at goldrushdean@yahoo.com, or 209-754-5887. – Jennie Haas

For all field trips: bring lunch, water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing and footwear. Hiking level varies with each trip. Check the trip description for the need to RSVP. 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. 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 “unscheduled field trips.

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 Trip Report (1 of 3)

Your editor reports on the April 27 field trip to **Hetch Hetchy**:

“Trip leaders Barry & Judy Breckling led a small group down a road that starts at the top of O’Shaughnessy Dam and ends at the banks of the raging Tuolumne River. We arrived at just the right hour to see a spectacular rainbow painted in the spillway mist! More than 50x wildflower species were blooming between Hetch Hetchy and Camp Mather. Some examples are given below.”



CENTER: Rainbow over O’Shaughnessy Dam (© Barry Breckling.) CCW from Upper-left: flowers and leaf of Three-toothed Horkelia (*H. tridentata*); Sierra Mock Stonecrop (*Sedella pumila*); flower and leaf of Cutleaf Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe laciniata*); Narrow-leaved Onion (*Allium amplexans*); Sierra Plum (*Prunus subcordata*). (Plant photos © Doug K.)

Field Trip Report (2 of 3)

Lynn Robertson reports on April 28 Bryophyte Hike:

“Nine people explored wet & dry areas of the canyon walls around Briceburg in the Merced River Canyon. Dr. Paul Wilson of the Bryophyte Chapter showed us mosses & liverworts on rocks, soils & trees. We learned how bryophytes fit into the ‘tree of life’ and some unusual anatomical facts. The special highlight of the day was finding two genera of hornworts (Anthoceros & Phaeoceros) next to each other in a rivulet. Mosses found included Didymodon, Syntrichia, Antitrichia, Homalothecium, Grimmia, Amphidium, and Anacolia.”

RIGHT: Specimen of Bryaceae moss. The slender orange stalks and nodding green capsules comprise the sporophyte generation of the moss. The more conspicuous green, leafy plant is the gametophyte generation of the moss.



Want to learn more about bryophytes?

Check out the CNPS Bryophyte Chapter website: <https://bryophyte.cnps.org>

Many of the species that were seen on the April 28 field trip are included in a photo brochure which can be downloaded for free from the above website:

Click on **Resources > Beginner > Trail Guilds (sic) > Hite's Cove.**

– Lynn Robertson

Field Trip Report (3 of 3)

Lynn Robertson reports on May 11 field trip to Foresta:

“It was a beautiful day for a hike to Foresta Falls. The falls were roaring & the creeks were raging. The views were awesome. Six hikers enjoyed a long day finding a grand total of 82 flowering plants! In addition to the plants pictured below, we saw Wild Ginger (*Asarum hartwegii*), Elegant Rock Cress (*Boechera arcuata*), Sierra Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus minimus*), Indian Rhubarb (*Darmera peltata*), Evening Snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*), and Wood Violet (*Viola lobata*). The blooming season was still early. Get out & enjoy this area. There is still time to see some great wildflowers.”



CENTER: Foresta Falls. CCW from Upper-left: Pansy Monkeyflower (*Diplacus pulchellus*); Sierra Nevada Lotus (*Acmispon nevadensis*); American Vetch (*Vicia americana* ssp. *americana*); Pinemat (*Ceanothus diversifolius*); Snow Plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*); Brown Bells (*Fritillaria micrantha*); Harlequin Lupine (*L. stiversii*). (Photos © Doug K.)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons (All phone #'s are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.)				JOIN NOW
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