



The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MARCH 2016 Page 1



Chaparral current (*Ribes malvaceum* var. *malvaceum*)



Purple mouse ears (*Mimulus douglasii*)

Photos by Douglas Krajnovich

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE IN SAN ANDREAS Saturday, April 16 10am to 1pm

This year's Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 16, from 10 am to 1 pm. It will be held on the grounds of the Calaveras County Water District located off of Pool Station Road in the Reed Business Park, in San Andreas.

We will have the same selection of rare high quality plants for sale as well as a fine selection of books and material that every gardener and native plant lover should have in their personal library.

Directions to the Calaveras County Water District Building at 120 Toma Court, San Andreas: Take HWY 49 to San Andreas. Turn left onto Pool Station Road, and go 2 miles; turn left on George Reed Road. Turn left on Toma Court. CCWD is on the corner of George Reed and Toma Court.

ALERT!!!

Change of date for the March General Meeting!

Date: Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm

Location: Sonora Library

Program Speaker:
Jaime Ratchford of the
CNPS Vegetation Program
(see page 2 for details)

If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Garcia at sjgarcia@mlode.com or Judy Dean at goldrushdean@yahoo.com

March Calendar

March 2 (this is a Wednesday):

- ◆ 6:00 pm—Board Meeting at Sonora Library (all members welcome to join discussion with your Chapter Board)
- ◆ 7:00 pm—General meeting with Presentation by Jaime Ratchford

March 13:

- ◆ Field trip to UC Merced Vernal Pools

March 26:

- ◆ Field trip to Hite's Cove

Check in often for updates to our website:

www.sierrafoothillscnps.org

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 precipitation so far this winter has been positive. We're optimistic that the rains will continue into the spring, giving us some nice wildflowers. The field trip committee convened on February 6th and put together a schedule of awesome trips. You'll see some new destinations and some old favorites. In addition to the two March offerings, look for trips to the West Side Railroad Trail, the Red Hills, a destination to be determined in a Yosemite burned area, the Flume Trail along the Middle Fork of the Mokelumne River, Trail of the Gargoyles, Lake Alpine, a Yosemite high country trip, Kinney Lakes off of Highway 4, Sonora Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail and the annual fall colors field trip. We might even throw in one or two impromptu field trips announced by e-mail to our field trip mail list.

The full schedule will be available as a pull out section in the April Shooting Star newsletter. Thank you to committee members Barry and Judy Breckling, Jeri Zemon, Bob Dean, Lynn Robertson, Becky Miller-Cripps, Sara Cabrol, Rebecca Andrade, Peggy Moore, Ann Mendershausen, Tom Reyes and David Campbell for helping bring together all of these great ideas.

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.

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

March 13 – UC Merced Vernal Pools. Leader: Daniel Toews. Hiking level: easy. Dan is a plant ecology graduate student at UC Merced and student naturalist on the Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve. We will car-pool from the UC Merced campus for a tour of the vernal pools and what we hope is a showy bloom after several years of drought. It promises to be an exciting spring with vernal pools filling, fairy shrimp swimming around, and migratory birds coming in for a stop-over! Group size is limited to 20 participants. Contact Peggy Moore to sign up and let her know if you can bring a 4 wheel drive vehicle for anticipated muddy spots (we don't believe that high clearance is needed). Meet at 9:30 a.m. on the UC Merced Campus, at the Le Grand lot. More directions will be shared at sign-up. For more information and to sign up, contact Peggy Moore, 209-966-5728, pemoore4@gmail.com.

March 26 – Hite's Cove. Leader: Lynn Robertson. Hiking Level: Moderate, lots of ups and downs. This is one of the best wildflower hikes in Mariposa County with 50 species of wildflowers possible. Access is along a mostly single file trail on the side of a steep river gorge, hiking through fields of flowers. Group size is limited to 12 people. E-mail Lynn to sign up. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Trailhead along Hwy 140, about 22 miles east of Mariposa. There is a small motel called Red Bud Lodge at the trailhead. Trailhead parking is on the Merced River side of the highway. For more information and to sign up, contact Lynn Robertson, billielr@sti.net, (209) 966-5316.

--Jennie Haas

March Meeting Program: Mapping Plant Communities of California

Jaime Ratchford of the CNPS Vegetation Program will give a presentation about the work the Vegetation Program does to classify and describe plant communities throughout California and the collaborative work that is being done to map the vegetation of the state. She will discuss the process of vegetation classification and mapping and how to access the maps online. Vegetation maps provide conservationists and land managers with tools to inform decision making and planning processes, whether to identify what types of vegetation faces encroaching development, requires mitigation, provides habitat for threatened wildlife, or are in need of restoration. Maps also can be used to locate high quality habitats and areas with sensitive plant communities, assess wildfire risks and plan post-fire actions, model and predict wildlife and plant distributions, evaluate potential effects of climate change, and identify appropriate wildlife corridors.

Jaime Ratchford, Associate Vegetation Ecologist, has worked for CNPS for more than 3 years. She earned a M.A. degree from Humboldt State University in Biology (Community Ecology emphasis). Before joining CNPS, Jaime worked as a Faculty Research Assistant for Oregon State University managing research on the restoration of western juniper woodlands in the Great Basin for the SageSTEP project.

Volunteer Botanist Opportunity in Yosemite National Park

Do you want to contribute to the appreciation and protection of Yosemite's diverse flora? Yosemite National Park is looking for volunteer botanists to adopt a location in our weekly wildflower survey. It can be an individual or team that would like to do a weekly identification of what is in bloom in Yosemite at Hetch Hetchy in April-July, and at White Wolf (off Tioga Pass Road) June - September. While volunteering, the park entrance fee is waived, and a campsite is provided.

Contact: Lisa Murphy

(831) 227-8923

lisa_murphy@nps.gov

Page 2



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Mariposa Lily..... \$1,500

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 (Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)

I Wish to affiliate with the **Sierra Foothills** Chapter.

Please make your check payable to "CNPS" and send it to: 2707 "K" street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 Tel. (916) 447-2677.

Join or renew on-line at www.cnps.org.

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