



# The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MARCH 2020

## 2020 FIELD TRIPS

We are happy to announce the 2020 Field Trip Schedule of the Sierra Foothills Chapter of CNPS. If you are on the Shooting Star e-mail list, you should have received the schedule as a PDF attachment with the March Newsletter. You can also find the PDF on our chapter website under the Field Trips tab: [www.sierrafoothillscnps.org](http://www.sierrafoothillscnps.org)

This year we'll be offering a mix of new trips, perennial favorites, and some exciting collaborations. We are partnering with Mariposa County, The Tuolumne County Land Trust, Sonora Outdoor School, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to explore new trails, the flora of new areas, to document biodiversity, and to learn more about the interaction between soils and our flora. Our chapter covers a large geographic area, elevational gradient, and amazing biodiversity. This year's schedule offers a great opportunity to experience this diversity. We will be botanizing starting this month, below 1,500' near Jamestown. We'll follow the blooms up the mountains to over 11,150' on the Dana Plateau. Our last trip of the year is on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Winnemucca Lake and the Mokelumne Wilderness.

As was noted in our last newsletter, Jennie Haas, one of our chapter's co-founders, most active member, and Field Trip and Membership Coordinator, has resigned from her positions on the chapter's board. Jennie will be dearly missed. As we seek to keep the chapter growing, some changes may be in the works. One thing we all agree on, is the value of our field trips to engage with members, nonmembers, and our flora. Our field trips offer opportunities to learn, share, meet each other, and bring new members into the organization as we all connect with the land and the biodiversity there within. As the new Field Trip Coordinator, I'm honored to fill a role that helps build these connections. Thank you to everyone who is leading a trip this year, who has led them in years past, to all the folks who join us in the field, and for helping keep this vital aspect of our chapter alive and strong.

For anyone reading this, when you find yourself among a beautiful display of wildflowers, a unique or interesting location, or are reminiscing about a trail you hiked years ago and are looking for an excuse to go back; consider leading a field trip there next year. You don't have to know every plant to lead a trip, you just need to get us there. Other members can help you ID a bunch of those plants you've been wondering about. If you have the slightest interest in leading a trip, send me an email at [moonwort.campbell@gmail.com](mailto:moonwort.campbell@gmail.com). We won't finalize a schedule for 2021 until next February, but putting together an idea and choosing a good date range is a lot easier during the season than it is to try and remember details in the middle of winter.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail!

– David Campbell, Field Trip Coordinator & Mariposa County VP

The Sierra Foothills Membership Coordinator position is currently vacant. If you change your mailing or e-mail address, please inform the CNPS state organization in Sacramento so that the change(s) are recorded.

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*Dedicated to the Preservation of  
California Native Flora.*

Here is the Field Trip schedule in a nutshell. Our first field trip, led by Don Kurtz, is right around the corner – March 28. Mark your calendars now for trips that interest you. Consult the PDF file for complete details on each trip and how to sign up.

Location	Date	Leader	Difficulty
Jamestown Peoria Flat	March 28, 2020	Don Kurtz	Easy
Red Hills - Don Pedro Overlook Trail	April 11, 2020	Don Kurtz	Easy
Merced River Trail	April 19, 2020	David Campbell et al.	Easy
Ratto Ranch - Tuolumne County Land Trust	April 25, 2020	Don Kurtz	Easy
BioBlitz - Sonora Outdoor School	May 2, 2020	Elizabeth Bentz	Easy
Hite Cove via South Fork Trail	May 9, 2020	Doug Krajnovich	Moderate
Hite Cove via Pinoche Ridge	May 10, 2020	Doug Krajnovich	Strenuous
Ackerson Meadow	May 30, 2020	Barry & Judy Breckling	Easy
Yosemite Valley	June 3, 2020	Barry & Judy Breckling	Easy
Soils of Sonora - NRCS	June 6, 2020	Theresa Kunch	Easy
Fires of the Merced River Canyon and Yosemite	June 27, 2020	David Campbell	Easy
Westfall Meadow - Yosemite	July 18, 2020	David Campbell	Moderate
Carson Pass Meadow	July 19, 2020	Bob Dean	Strenuous
High Sierra Double Header - Warren Canyon	July 25, 2020	Doug Krajnovich	Strenuous
High Sierra Double Header - Dana Plateau	July 26, 2020	Peggy Moore	Strenuous
Winnemucca Lake	August 1, 2020	Bob Dean	Strenuous

– We **strongly** encourage you to establish **two-way contact** with the leader(s) of any field trips that you plan to attend. If you send an e-mail or leave a phone message, don't assume that you are on the list unless you get a reply. Trip leaders are responsible for keeping track of prospective attendees and informing them of any changes, up to and including cancellations. If changes are announced far enough in advance, they will be announced in the Shooting Star Newsletter and posted on our chapter website under Field Trips section.

– 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. It is Chapter policy that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We appreciate everyone's adherence to this policy.

– Our field trips are open to everyone. We hope you join CNPS, but you do not need to be a dues-paying member to attend.



## Which picture contains more wildflowers?

This, of course, is a trick question. The top picture contains vastly more *individual wildflowers*; but the bottom picture contains many more *wildflower species*. In three days of fairly intense botanizing at Carrizo, from the lowest to highest elevations, I was able to identify 58x species in bloom. In the Hite Cove zone, I identified 100x species in one day. There is no “right way” to appreciate wildflowers. Some people delight in dense displays, even if few species are represented. Others (like me) prefer the smorgasbord – many choices & small portions. The second Hite Cove field trip, scheduled for May 10, will let you sample one of the best smorgasbords in our chapter area. – Editor



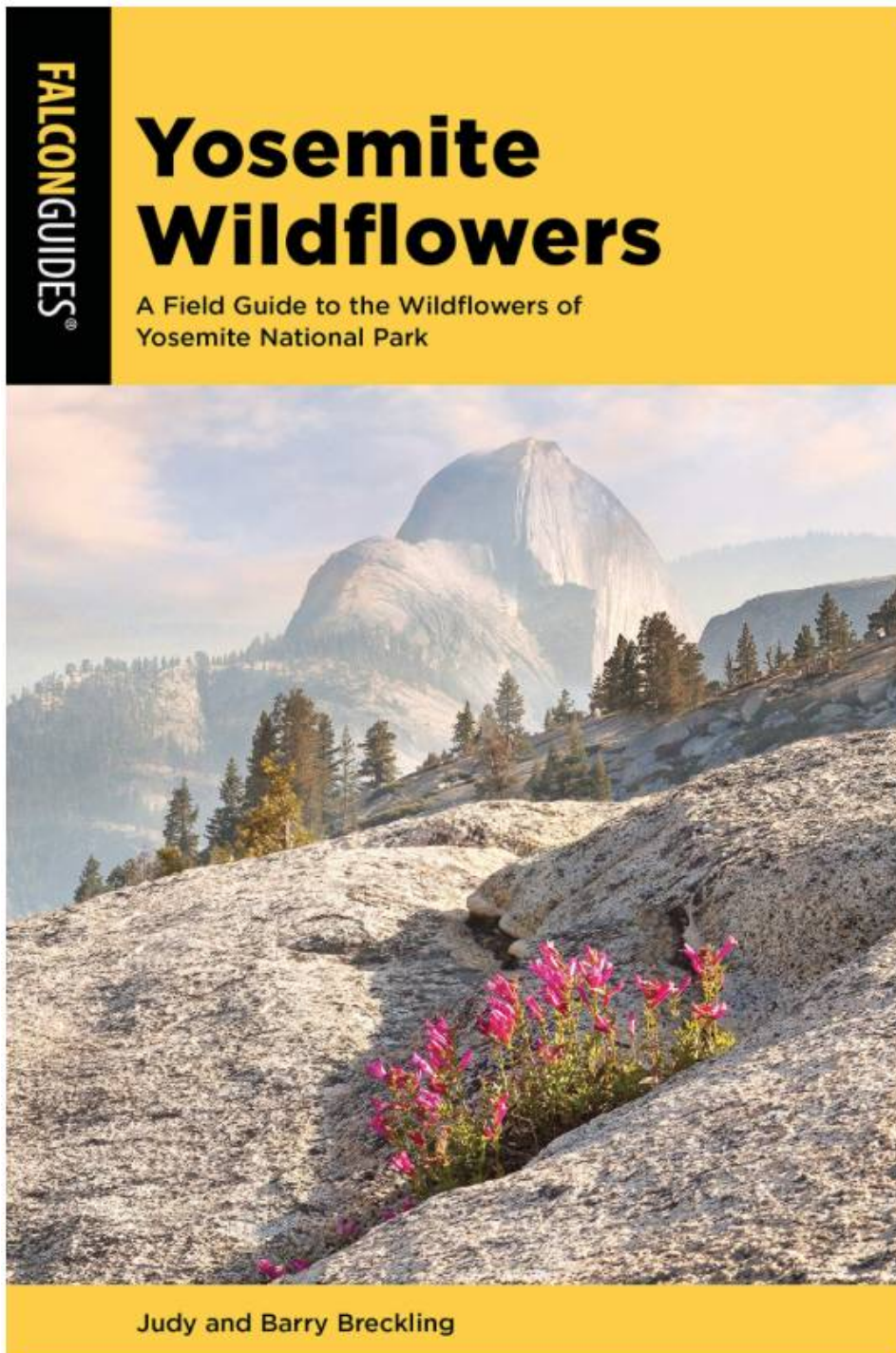
Carrizo Plain on April 3, 2019



Hite Cove on May 23, 2019



Barry & Judy Breckling have volunteered to lead two field trips into Yosemite this year: one in Ackerson Meadow, which was recently acquired by the park; another in Yosemite Valley. David Campbell will lead two more field trips in Yosemite over the summer. Wouldn't it be great if there was an up-to-date field guide – describing all of the wildflowers that grow in Yosemite National Park – with the latest scientific names – but also including the “old” scientific names that many of us remember, as well as common names – lots of great photographs – no dichotomous keys – and not too heavy on botanical jargon? Judy and Barry thought so. And instead of just talking, they did something about it. Their “project” hatched this month. Available on Amazon and wherever books are sold.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons (All phone #'s are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.)				JOIN NOW
PRESIDENT	OPEN			<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_____</p> <p>Address_____</p> <p>City_____ State_____ Zip_____</p> <p>Telephone_____</p> <p>e-mail_____</p> <p>(Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible)</p> <p>I Wish to affiliate with the <b>Sierra Foothills</b> 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 <a href="http://www.cnps.org">www.cnps.org</a>.                      Membership includes the journal <i>Fremontia</i>, CNPS Bulletin and the Sierra Foothills monthly newsletter, <i>The Shooting Star</i>.</p>
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