



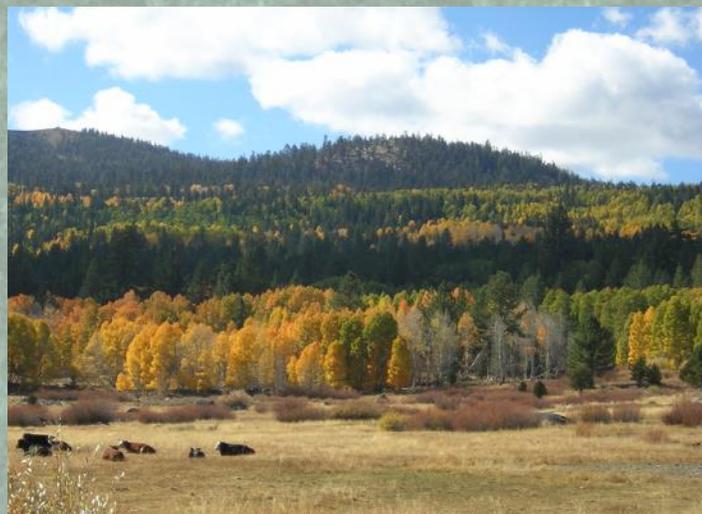
The Shooting Star

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2016

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Hope Valley, 2010. Photo: Jennie Haas



Hope Valley, 2010 Photo: Jennie Haas

CNPS NATIVE PLANT SALE OCTOBER 22th Rocca Park, Jamestown 9-12

We are in special need of volunteers with trucks or SUVs to load plants the night before and deliver them the morning of the sale. Reminder that volunteers get to select plants before the sale is open to the public. We also need cashiers and tag pullers. So email Stephanie at sjgarcia@mlode.com to volunteer.

Our sale is on Saturday, October 22, from 9 am until Noon. We will be at the same location: Rocca Park, Main Street, Jamestown. We will have many different species of shrubs and perennials that need minimal water, once established, during our hot summer months. At the sale, there are

always many knowledgeable people to answer your questions and help you choose the appropriate plant for your location.



Check in often for updates to our website:
www.sierrafoothillscnps.org

CALENDAR

October 6 — Special Program: Eleftherios Dariotis, The botanical Paradises of Greece.

Location: Tuolumne County Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora.

**Time: 6:00 pm SOCIAL WITH REFRESHMENTS
7:00 pm PRESENTATION**

October 15 — Fall Colors Field Trip (final field trip for 2016). Please RSVP.

October 22 — CNPS Fall Plant Sale, Jamestown, 9-12

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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jhaas953@gmail.com

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Sacramento, CA 95816
www.cnps.org

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

Field Trips



Lee Vining Road, 2013. Photo: Jennie Haas

As of the writing of this report, in early September, the fall colors had just started to develop in aspens, willows and other species in the high country. There weren't very many postings yet at the web site California Fall Color, <http://www.californiafallcolor.com/>, but as colors progress, the postings will increase. Be sure you check out the website. The photos can be spectacular.

As mentioned in the September Shooting Star, there were a couple of freezing nights in the high Sierra in early August and another one or two in late August and early September. These freezing temperatures help the brilliant colors develop in the aspen. There should be some great colors this fall.

October 15– Fall Colors. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: very easy (car tour with limited, flat ground walking). We'll search out the good colors along Highway 4, traveling over Ebbetts Pass, taking lunch at the deli in Markleeville then progressing north through Hope Valley where the colors tend to be really outstanding. The trip home will be over

Carson Pass along Highway 88 to Jackson then south along Highway 49. Meet in Sonora at the Junction Shopping Center, in the parking lot to the left of Kohl's (near the site of the old McDonalds). Carpooling will be encouraged. **Please RSVP by October 12.** For information or to sign up, contact Jennie at (209) 962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

-- Jennie Haas

MANY MAY CALL THEM "WEEDS" (Reprint)

What is a weed? Some would say they are plants which are not native to the area. Others define a weed as a plant which is interfering with gardening or farming activities. Or are they any plant which arrived in the area uninvited, "a plant out of place". The two volume guide from the U.C. Press, "Weeds of California and other Western States", covers the biology and identification of over 700 terrestrial weeds without attempting an identification of "weed". Jepson includes many "naturalized plants", aliens that occur in approximately wild conditions. They are considered "waifs" if they are not reproducing. Most such plants prefer disturbed areas and so are "ruderal".

I will briefly discuss some of the more interesting "weeds" which are blooming in August in our areas of the foothills and low mountains.

One of the most interesting and widespread of these is turkey mullein, (*Croton setigerus*), of roadsides and disturbed areas. Doves, other birds and small mammals eat its seeds but the rest of the plant is avoided by animals including insects. Why? it is covered with star-shaped hairs (trichomes) which are so numerous it has been called "grayweed". If eaten by livestock it can block digestion but because of the hairs and chemicals it is generally avoided. One chemical deters the insects and another is toxic to fish.

One of the most beautiful of our "weeds" is the everlasting (or perennial) pea, (*Lathyrus latifolia*). Because of its showy flowers it has been widely cultivated and has also escaped captivity. Stands are seen along the highways in the vicinity of Arnold and Groveland and at similar elevations. This peavine can grow so densely as to choke out the native vegetation but they usually stay near developed areas. "The fruits, and to a lesser degree, the foliage of this and other *Lathyrus* species contain unusual amino acids that are toxic to livestock and humans when ingested in quantity over time, resulting in a degenerative motor neuron disorder known as neurolathyrism". Horses, with the single stomach like humans, are more susceptible than are cattle and sheep. This is not the common garden sweet pea.

The daturas, *Datura* spp., also called Jimsonweed or thornapple are nonnatives which have been used as ornamentals because of their large white flowers. Classification of the several species is unclear. All plant parts, but particularly the seeds contain various alkaloids which are toxic to humans and livestock when eaten. Horses are most susceptible. Like many other toxic plants the fresh seeds and leaves are rarely eaten by livestock if other feed is available. Humans have a small margin of safety and small amounts have killed children. Children have been poisoned by sucking nectar from the base of the flower or by eating the seeds or spiny fruit which contain the poisons.

Telegraphplant or telegraph weed, (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), is not really a weed except by the widest definition. It is a native here and is common on roadsides. The name comes either from its habit of growing along railroad rights-of-way or its tall, branched shape. I recently checked, it is found along the Santa Fe Grade road and railroad in Stanislaus and Merced counties. It probably has spread due to the increase in such disturbed areas. Although named a "weed" it is not toxic and has few, if any, bad habits.

Arguably, the most beautiful "weed" of our area is the nonnative foxglove, (*Digitalis purpurea*), which was originally introduced as an ornamental and for medicinal purposes. It grows in damp areas along our streams and roadsides as well as all over the Pacific Northwest. The problem is that it is "extremely toxic" to humans and livestock when eaten. A few hundredths of one percent of an animal's weight can be fatal. Flowers, fruits and young leaves contain several cardiac glycosides. "Dried, or boiled plant material does not lose its toxicity, and pets or children that drink water from a container that held cut foxglove stems can become intoxicated." But, like many poisonous plants these taste bad and are rarely eaten. But do you want to take the chance with your children or grandchildren? Yearly manual removal or removal of the flowering stems before seed is produced can reduce the seeds in the soil which are produced in great quantity and last a few years.

These are a few of my favorite "weeds". Others include Himalayan blackberry, (*Rubus armeniacus*), St. Johnswort, (*Hypericum perforatum*), nightshade, (*Solanum xanti*), puncturevine, (*Tribulus terrestris*), cocklebur, (*Xanthium strumarium*), poison hemlock, (*Conium maculatum*), Mexican milkweed, (*Asclepias fascicularis*), and others. Some are native, some not. Some are poisonous, some not. But they are all interesting plants.

Deadly Harvest, J. M. Kingsbury 1965

Weeds of California Western Society of Weed Science 2002

Weeds of California & Other Western States. U.C. Press 2007

-- Steve Stocking

ELEFThERIOS DARIOTIS OF ATHENS, GREECE TO SPEAK OCTOBER 6 *THE BOTANICAL PARADISES OF GREECE*

The Sierra Rock Garden Society, in conjunction with the California Native Plant Society and the Tuolumne Master Gardeners, is bringing botanist Eleftherios Dariotis (Better known as Liberto Dario on Facebook) to speak in Sonora at a *free* joint meeting on Thursday evening, October 6 at 7:00 P.M. at the Tuolumne County Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road. Complimentary refreshments will be served starting at 6:00 P.M.

The Botanical Paradises of Greece highlights the country's diverse habitats and their flora. Because we share Greece's Mediterranean climate, we will be exposed to new ideas and plants that we can incorporate into our own landscapes.

Eleftherios Dariotis is a horticulturalist and botanist from Athens, Greece. He has studied plant production in Greece and completed a M.Sc. in Plant Biology from the University of California, Davis and another one in Horticulture from the University of Reading in England.



SALVIA SUMMIT III
Environmental Education Center
Tilden Regional Park
Berkeley, CA
October 7-9, 2016

Liberto will be joining other speakers of salvia renown on the day following his appearance in Sonora. Check out the link: www.seedhunt.com for more information.

Eleftherios has created two private gardens in Paiania, Greece which hold a large variety of Lamiaceae and other plants. He has traveled extensively around the world and especially in Greece's diverse habitats to see and photograph the native plants. Additionally, he has worked in the agricultural and environmental public sectors in Greece. Eleftherios is currently leading plant tours in Greece and maintains a small bulb and seed nursery business.

His plant interests include everything in the family Lamiaceae, with a special attraction to Salvias, along with a love for South African Bulbs and Mediterranean climate shrubs and perennials that he is continuously introducing and promoting in Athens' tough local gardening conditions. Thus, if anyone can give us good ideas about coping with our harsh climate, Eleftherios can! For more info: Val Myrick, 533-3193

It's Time to Select Your Chapter Board

It's getting to be the time of year where we start looking for new volunteers to come forward to help with the management of our chapter activities. Every year at this time, we hold elections for some of the positions on the Chapter Board of Directors.

The elected positions are President, Vice Presidents from each of our four chapter counties, Treasurer and Secretary. There are a number of non-elected Board members which head up the various committees and important chapter functions. The timing of our elections and the duties of the positions are spelled out in our by-laws.

We are in the process of finding members to take on the vacant Board positions:

Vice President for Amador County

Conservation Chair

Hospitality Coordinator

Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator

Program Coordinator

Publicity Coordinator

Nominees for the elected positions are:

President: Bob Dean, V.P., Amador Co.: [vacant], V.P., Calaveras Co.: Judy Dean, V.P., Mariposa Co.: David Campbell/Thomas Reyes, V.P., Tuolumne Co.: Pat Gogas, Secretary: Stephanie Garcia, Treasurer: Patti Hohne

Please consider taking on one of the vacant positions. New-comers are encouraged to become involved. Contact any of the current Board members for more information. For a copy of the by-laws, information, or to volunteer for a position, contact Jennie Haas: jhaas953@gmail.com, 209-962-4759. *Photos: Pacific coast hybrid iris (Jennie Haas)*

CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter
 19287 James Circle
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons				JOIN NOW
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.				
PRESIDENT	Robert Dean	754-5887	goldrushdean@yahoo.com	<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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PROGRAM COMM. CHAIR	OPEN			
PUBLICITY COORD.	OPEN			