

California Native Plant Society

Sierra Foothills Chapter

2020 Field Trips

Since we are short-handed this year, 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 the Field Trips tab:

<http://www.sierrafoothillscnps.org>

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. You do not need to be a dues-paying member to attend.

Saturday, March 28 – Jamestown Peoria Flat

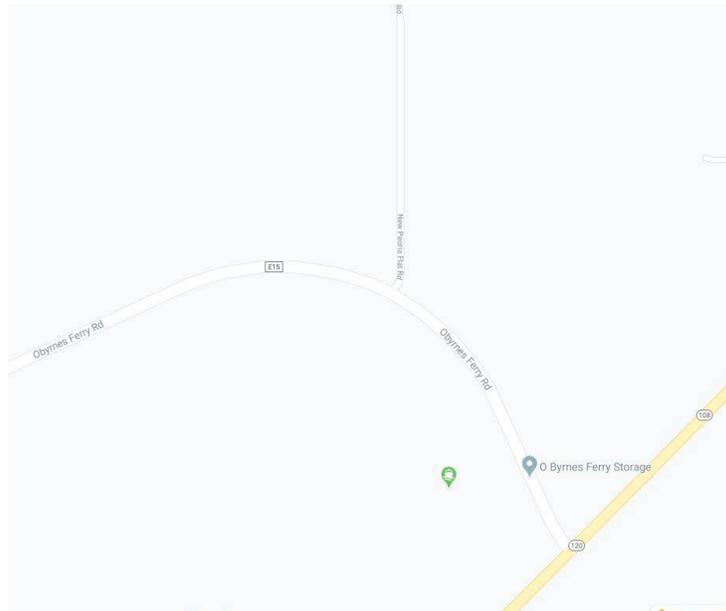
LEADER: Don Kurtz

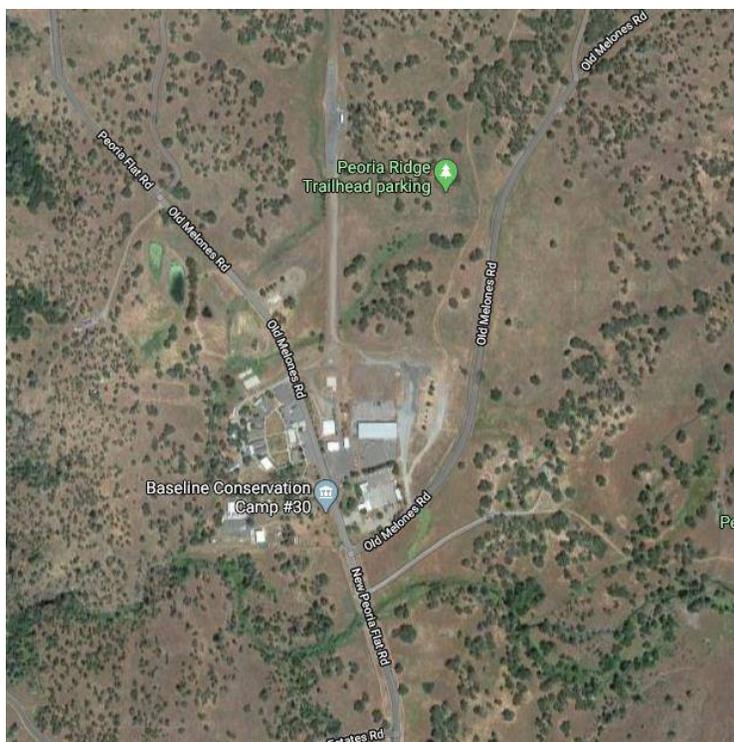
HIKING LEVEL: Easy to moderate

DESCRIPTION: 2 miles from parking lot on fire road to west face of New Melones Dam and back 2 miles. Hard to predict what will be in bloom given low rainfall in spring of 2020.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: email/text/voicemail to: apple.heads@gmail.com / 925-998-8736

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We will meet at 10 a.m. at the main Peoria Ridge Trailhead Parking (cf. maps below). From Highway 4 go south on OByrnes Ferry Rd to just before junctions with Hwy 108 Make a left on New Peoria Flat Rd. From Sonora or Modesto make your way to the intersection of Hwy 108 and OByrnes Ferry Rd. Proceed north to New Peoria Flat Rd. Make a right at the Baseline Conservation Camp intersection then a left into the equestrian parking.





Saturday, April 11 – Red Hills Don Pedro Overlook trail

LEADER: Don Kurtz

HIKING LEVEL: Easy to moderate

DESCRIPTION: 2.5 miles from parking lot on fire road to Don Pedro overlook and back 2.5 miles. Hard to predict what will be in bloom given low rainfall in spring of 2020.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: e-mail or phone to: apple.heads@gmail.com / 925-998-8736

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We will meet at 10 a.m. at the main Red Hills parking lot (cinder block toilets) on Red Hills Road then drive to trailhead. Red Hills Road connects 120 with J59. From Modesto take 108 east to J59. Make a right on J59 La Grange Rd. In a mile or so make a left on Red Hills Road to main parking lot on the right. From Sonora/Groveland take 120 to Chinese Camp then left make on Red Hills Road. Drive over 2 low water bridges to main parking lot on the left (about 3 miles from 120).

The poster features a background image of a lush, green mountain valley with a river winding through it. The title 'MERCED RIVER TRAIL' is written in large, white, bold letters across the top. Below it, 'COMMUNITY SPEAKER + ENGAGEMENT SERIES' is written in a smaller font, with the tagline '// share // learn // discover // discuss //'. The event details 'Briceburg Visitor Center' and 'April 19 // 9:00 AM' are listed. A circular logo with a tree silhouette is on the right. The text 'LOCAL BOTANY EXPERTS' is followed by a paragraph about joining local experts for a wildflower walk. 'ACTIVITY TWO // PROJECT GOALS' is followed by a paragraph about community vision for the trail. At the bottom, there is a small line of text about the event's production and several logos.

MERCED RIVER TRAIL
COMMUNITY SPEAKER + ENGAGEMENT SERIES
// share // learn // discover // discuss //

Briceburg Visitor Center
April 19 // 9:00 AM

LOCAL BOTANY EXPERTS
With so much local knowledge and expertise about the river canyon's unique botanical character, it was too hard to pick just one. Instead, join one of many local botany experts on a wildflower walk along the existing Merced River Trail to enjoy the spring blooms, and learn more about some of the plant life that helps make the canyon so special.

ACTIVITY TWO // PROJECT GOALS
How do we begin to realize the community's vision for the Merced River Trail? What benefits does a successful trail contribute to our community and our landscape? Tell the community what you think at the second installment of the community speaker and engagement series.

The Merced River Trail Community Speaker + Engagement Series is produced by the Mariposa County Planning Department, with assistance from the Upper Merced River Watershed Coalition and National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program.

Saturday, April 25 – Ratto Ranch

NOTE: This event is an open house sponsored by the Tuolumne County Land Trust. Don Kurtz will represent the CNPS Sierra Foothills chapter.

HIKING LEVEL: Easy

DESCRIPTION: Walk on fire road 1.5 miles out to table mountain area and back 1.5 miles.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Not required.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Ratto Ranch is just off Jamestown Rd between Columbia and Jamestown. The ranch will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For a map, see Ratto Ranch Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/587773638368507/>

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: Don Kurtz / apple.heads@gmail.com / 925-998-8736

Saturday, May 2 – BioBlitz at Sonora Outdoor School

NOTE: This event is sponsored by the Sonora Outdoor School. Elizabeth Bentz is leading the event. CNPS members are welcome.

HIKING LEVEL: Easy

DESCRIPTION provided by Elizabeth Bentz: "On Saturday May 2nd, 2020, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m., I will be conducting a BioBlitz around the Sierra Outdoor School campus to take a count of biodiversity in the area. This event will be important for Sierra Outdoor School and a great opportunity for the community to come together and learn about the diversity within the Sierra Nevadas. In order to conduct the BioBlitz, a lot of help and volunteers from the community are needed. It will be a fun opportunity for naturalists and volunteers around the community to find and document plants and animals together! I thought some of your members of the Native Plant Society may be interested in attending the event and would love to have as many volunteers as possible join us at on May 2nd. This is a free event and there will be free continental breakfast and coffee provided. People of any age are welcome to join and the only item any participants will need to bring is a camera or phone to take pictures."

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: 8 a.m. at Sonora Outdoor School

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: Elizabeth Bentz / ElizabethBentz@clovisusd.k12.ca.us / 717-309-1495. You can RSVP on google forms at this link: <https://forms.gle/iUxX6fiR4m314PUP7>

***** TWO ROADS TO HITE COVE *****

NOTE: SIGN-UP IS MANDATORY due to contingencies with the Sierra National Forest. If the South Fork trail has not been re-opened to the public by mid-April, I will work with the Forest Service to obtain a waiver. Hikes will take place on both days from different starting points. Choose one or the other.

Day 1: Saturday, May 9 (moderate out-and-back walk)

LEADER: Doug Krajnovich

HIKING LEVEL: Moderate, but risk is high due to steep exposure on sections of the trail.

DESCRIPTION: This moderate walk is for people who want to see Hite Cove after the Ferguson Fire, but don't want to spend all day on the long Day 2 hike. We will follow the traditional Hite Cove trail that many of you are familiar with. The trail starts at Redbud Lodge and parallels the south fork of the Merced River. While there is little net elevation gain, there is quite a bit of up-and-down as the trail follows the south fork upstream. If you have not visited Hite Cove before, you are advised that the trail has sections that run along steep slopes – never sheer cliffs, but steep enough to be fatal if you start to tumble. You can assess your comfort level in the first tenth of a mile and turn back if it is not for you. Since this is an out-and-back walk, you can choose your own turnaround point.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: **Sign-up is mandatory.** Trip will be capped at 10 people. You may need to sign a waiver. Contact Doug Krajnovich / djkran@comcast.net / 209-580-4595

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: 9 a.m. in the parking strip opposite Redbud Lodge / Savage Trading Post on Hwy 140. Redbud Lodge is ~½ mile east of the one-way bridges with stoplights.

Day 2: Sunday, May 10 (strenuous 10-mile loop)

LEADER: Doug Krajnovich

HIKING LEVEL: Strenuous.

DESCRIPTION: This strenuous walk will be an all-day affair, starting at Cedar Lodge. Plan on being out until 6 p.m. The first leg is from Cedar Lodge to Pinoche Ridge (1,600 ft. elevation gain). The second leg is from the ridge to the settlement area and the south fork (1,600 ft. descent). To get out, we will either retrace our steps – up and over the ridge a second time – or use the south fork trail to make a CW loop, exiting at Redbud Lodge, where we will leave a shuttle car to get us back to Cedar Lodge. I strongly recommend that you wear sturdy boots and carry a hiking stick since there are a

few rough spots to navigate. The most interesting wildflower activity since the Ferguson Fire has been on the south-facing side of Pinoche Ridge, so I encourage you to join this walk if you can handle the distance (~10 miles) and are prepared to stay out all day.

Note 1: There is no shade at all on the south-facing side of Pinoche Ridge, and it gets hot in May, so I encourage you to bring twice as much water as you think you will need.

Note 2: If you choose Day 2, skip Day 1. (You will see everything from Day 1, plus a lot more.)

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: **Sign-up is mandatory.** Trip will be capped at 10 people. You may need to sign a waiver. Contact Doug Krajnovich / djkran@comcast.net / 209-580-4595

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: 9 a.m. at Cedar Lodge, which is ~2 miles east of Redbud Lodge on Hwy. 140. Gather around the YARTS bus shelter at the west end of the parking lot.

Saturday, May 30 – Ackerson Meadow

LEADERS: Barry and Judy Breckling

HIKING LEVEL: Easy, though we might cover quite a bit of distance.

DESCRIPTION: We'll explore the whole area, including the margins of Evergreen Road near the meadow. We also plan to visit nearby East Ackerson Meadow, which can be fairly wet to downright soggy, so you may want to bring a spare pair of socks.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Contact Barry and Judy at 209-878-3041 or breckling@garlic.com

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Groveland library parking lot (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120. If you are coming from El Portal, you can meet us at Ackerson Meadow at 10:15 a.m. There is a large pullout for Ackerson Meadow on the right-hand side of Evergreen Road, 3 miles after you turn off from Hwy. 120.

Wednesday, June 3 – Yosemite Valley

LEADERS: Barry and Judy Breckling

HIKING LEVEL: Easy

DESCRIPTION: We'll car pool into the Valley, park at the El Capitan pull-over, and catch the shuttle. We'll explore the Happy Isles area; botanize along the Mirror Lake trail, where we'll look for Sierra Laurel (*Leucothoe davisiae*); and search for Sugar Stick (*Allotropa virgata*) along the Merced River near the stables.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: The group size for this trip is limited due to parking considerations, so **RSVP is required.** To sign up or for more information, contact Barry and Judy at 209-878-3041 or breckling@garlic.com

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the market in El Portal. Depending on how many people sign up for the trip and where they're coming from, we'll designate preliminary meeting spots, like the library in Groveland and the parking area at the Briceburg Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 6 – Sonora Area NRCS Soil Survey

LEADER: Sonora based Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Scientists

HIKING LEVEL: Easy

DESCRIPTION: The NRCS has recently completed the Tuolumne County soil survey. We will stop at several different soil types to discuss how soils form and how plants change as soils change. Sites will be compared to specifically demonstrate those changes. Topics of discussion can include plant ecology, soil profiles, soil moisture and temperatures, parent materials, soil chemistry, soil biology, and soil taxonomy.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Theresa Kunch / 209-591-5179 / theresa.kunch@usda.gov

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Meet at **8 o'clock sharp** at the Junction Shopping Center between the Starbucks and Kohls in Sonora.

Saturday, June 27 – 10 Fires, 30 Years. Merced River Canyon to Glacier Point Road

LEADER: David Campbell

HIKING LEVEL: Easy

DESCRIPTION: This year is the 30 year anniversary of the 1990 A Rock and Steamboat fires in Yosemite. Since then another 8 large fires have occurred from Briceburg, up the Merced River Canyon into Yosemite, near Foresta, and up to Glacier Point Rd. This will be a driving tour from Briceburg → El Portal → Foresta → Glacier Point Road. We will discuss the fire dynamics of different ecosystems along the elevational gradient from 1200 ft. at Briceburg to 7200 ft. on Glacier Point Rd. We'll also take a look at any flowers and plants of note related to fire, such as the knobcone pine, *Pinus attenuata*, who went from a handful of sightings to a major component of regenerating forest in burned areas around Foresta.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Space is limited, signup by contacting David at 612-867-8700 or moonwort.campbell@gmail.com

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We will meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the Briceburg Visitor Center parking lot (located below the visitor center near the river, don't cross the suspension bridge.) We'll discuss recent fires, and points of interest to note along the drive. We'll collect into carpools then travel up canyon to El Portal, then to Foresta, then up to Glacier Point Road. A map will be given to each vehicle with the stops noted before disembarking. The early start is aimed to reduce issues with traffic and parking once in Yosemite.

Saturday, July 18 – Westfall Meadow, Yosemite National Park

LEADER: David Campbell

HIKING LEVEL: Moderate

DESCRIPTION: Westfall Meadow is found south of Glacier Point Road in Yosemite National Park at just over 7000 ft. in elevation. We will hike on mostly flat ground from Glacier Point Rd. near Bridalveil Creek Campground about two miles (four miles round trip) skirting the edge of the 2017 Empire Fire. Water loving flowers persist in summer's heat along the creek and meadow, including two rare species we may see along the way.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Space is limited, signup by contacting David at 612-867-8700 or moonwort.campbell@gmail.com

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Meet at the El Portal market at **7:15 a.m.**; or at the Junction of Wawona Rd. and Glacier Point Rd. (Chinquapin Bathrooms) at **8:00 a.m.**

Sunday, July 19 – Carson Pass Meadows

LEADER: Bob Dean

HIKING LEVEL: Strenuous due to the high elevation

DESCRIPTION: The destination of this hike is a small meadow with a lot of native plants. The hike starts at about 8,000 feet elevation and rises to about 9,000 feet, with a lot to stop and see along the way including ancient junipers, beautiful scenery and plenty of wildflowers in the snowmelt-fed runnels. RSVPs are necessary in case the date needs to be changed due to a lingering snow pack and to coordinate meeting place and time. To RSVP, contact Bob by phone at 209-754-5887.

Saturday & Sunday, July 25-26 – High Sierra Double Header

MOTIVATION: High Sierra field trips sometimes get canceled because of T-storms, and even with perfect weather, attendance is often light because it is a lot of driving for a day trip. This year we invite you to make it a long Sierra weekend. Drive up on Thursday or Friday; – find a campsite (or more comfy lodging in Lee Vining or Mammoth Lakes); – get acclimated to the altitude; – then join us for one or both weekend field trips. **Meet-up time for both field trips is 8 o'clock sharp.** This will allow us to get good walks in even if there is afternoon T-storm activity.

July 25 – Warren Canyon

LEADER: Doug Krajnovich

HIKING LEVEL: Moderately strenuous

DESCRIPTION: This is the gentler of the two walks because of lower starting elevation and less climbing. The first part of the trail parallels Warren Creek, so there is a nice assortment of subalpine wildflowers even in drought years. This is an out-and-back walk with no fixed turnaround point. If you haven't visited Warren Canyon before, I predict that you will like it or love it. If you want to camp in Warren Canyon, there are a few walk-in campsites with picnic tables, about ¼ mile from the parking lot, but you need get a Wilderness Permit at the Mono Lake Visitor Center, and you need to have a bear can.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Contact Doug K. at 209-580-4595 (landline only) or djkran@comcast.net

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: **8 o'clock sharp** at the large pullout immediately opposite an unsigned gate that leads to Warren Canyon. (See map at end of Double Header section.) There is no sign, but the pullout on the south side of Tioga Road is easy to find because it is *precisely* where a road sign marks 9,000 foot elevation.

July 26 – Dana Plateau

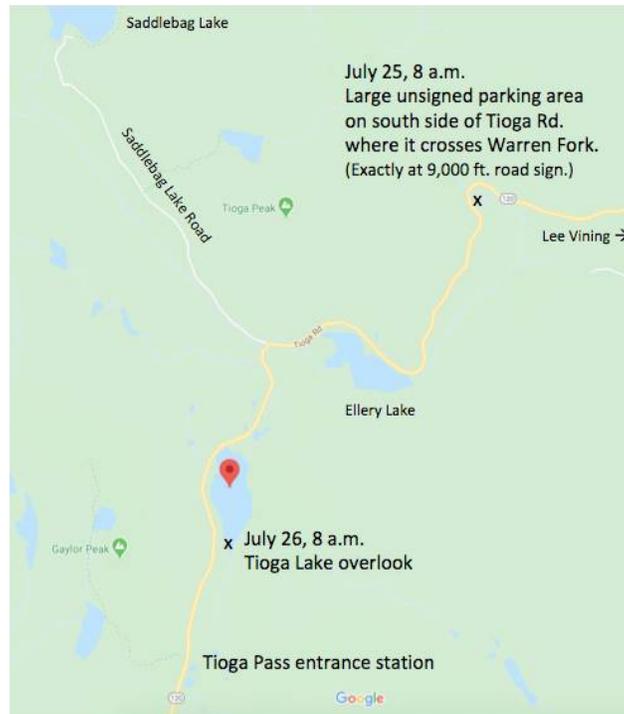
LEADER: Peggy Moore

HIKING LEVEL: Genuinely strenuous

DESCRIPTION: This is the tougher of the two walks because of higher starting elevation (10,000 feet) and more climbing (1,200 to 1,600 feet). The walk has three distinct parts. Part 1 parallels a creek that flows from Dana Lake to Tioga Lake. Part 2 continues up a rough, exposed talus slope that had huge amounts of Alpine Columbine blooming last summer. Part 3 is Dana Plateau itself – a barren-looking alpine landscape that many exquisite, diminutive plants call home. All three sections of the walk are superb. Be sure to dress in layers, including a windproof layer, as winds can be unexpectedly high on the plateau.

RESERVATION/SIGNUP: Contact Peggy M. at 209-617-7775 (mobile) or pemoore4@gmail.com

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: **8 o'clock sharp** at the Tioga Lake overlook parking lot about 0.8 mi east of Tioga Pass. (See map at end of Double Header section.)



Saturday, August 1 – Winnemucca Lake/Mokelumne Wilderness

LEADER: Bob Dean

HIKING LEVEL: Strenuous due to the very high elevation

DESCRIPTION: This trail is well known for its beautiful vistas and splendid wildflower displays. There were excellent wildflowers last year when we visited on September 8. The trip has been pulled in this year due to light snowpack. We'll meet at the Carson Pass sno-park parking lot on the north side of Hwy. 88 at 10 a.m. and hike to the visitors center and trail entrance at that time. I want to start then so we can cover some ground and begin our walk back no later than early afternoon. That time of year there's the possibility of thunderstorms building up by late afternoon and I don't want to be caught in the open. There should be plenty of leisure time to look at plants and catch an occasional bird. Carry a poncho or rain cover of some sort and something to hold body heat. Be sure to bring water and something to munch on. Despite the altitude the walk will be leisurely so I don't anticipate too much exertion. To RSVP, contact Bob by phone at 209-754-5887.

