California Native Plant Society

Fieldtrips and Events

Mayacmas Mountains above Redwood Valley, Saturday, March 23 – 10am
We will hike up the hill behind my house. If you don’t stop to look at flowers it is about a 50 minute walk. There is an extension to the walk which takes an additional hour. It is oak woodland on Franciscan chert; valley oak, live oak, bay laurel and buckeye at the bottom of the hill and blue oak, madrone and manzanita added to the mix up higher. There are a lot of open slopes with grassland, and some native grasses. There is a good trail but it is a gradual climb. We will meet at my house at 10am. To get there come east on Road I and turn south on Colony Drive. Pass a vineyard on your left with a high deer fence, about 1/4 mile. There is a big mailbox on the left and then 3 in a row with newspaper boxes. That is our driveway: 9461 Colony. Come left up the dirt driveway and bear left at the fork. My house is at the end with a circle driveway. Park anywhere as long as it isn't muddy. My phone number is 485-8926. Call if you get lost. Maggie

Rare Plant Monitoring/Herbarium Collecting Pepperwood Preserve
Thursday March 28, 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Join botanist Peter Warner and members of CNPS on a working and walking fieldtrip at this stunning preserve. The group will hunt for early spring flowers and rare plants. No prior training required. Attendance is limited. For further information and to reserve a spot, please contact Wendy Smit (wendysmit@hughes.net or call 707 481-3765).

Low Gap Plant Walk, Saturday, April 6
Join the Low Gap Annual Plant Watch Botany conducted by Mark Albert. This is our annual early botanizing held the same week since 1983. Meet at 9 am at the parking lot, or catch up with us on Phacelia Hill, the trail up the hill to the left just past the entrance bridge. The free 9-page checklist Spring Botany of Low Gap Park is supplied to all who attend.

Vernal Pools, Lake Mendocino Area
Wednesday, April 10
Meet at CVS parking lot in Ukiah to carpool at 9:30 am (not much parking space at trailhead.) We will start at Deerwood entrance for hike to south side of Lake Mendocino (wilderness area) to check out what’s growing in 3 natural vernal pools. Also we’ll look at 3 man-made vernal pools that were seeded several years ago and some did grow and flower. Did they reseed and establish themselves? That is the real question. Other sites will be seen on this 4-5 hour outing. Chuck Williams: 462-8984

Cow Mountain Burn Areas, Saturday, April 13
There were two major fires on North Cow Mt. just east of Ukiah last summer. This field trip will view the areas burned in 2012 and walk through some of the terrain, mostly chaparral, to see what first season re-generation of the flora looks like. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the rear of the CVS Drugstore parking lot along Orchard Ave. in Ukiah and carpool from there. Besides the normal water, lunch and hand lens types of accoutrements, it would be wise to wear long pants and, preferably, a long-sleeved shirt that you won’t mind getting quite blackened in the - likely - event we go off trail at times and walk through the burn itself. Vishnu will be leading this trip and questions can be directed to him at 467-1341. Misty moisture probably OK; rain cancels.

Anderson Valley Wildflower Show
Friday - Saturday, April 26, 27
The location is June Hall on the Boonville fairgrounds from 10:00am to 4pm. There is a plant sale and raffle to earn money for local high school scholarships. A tea room provides food and there is a selection of books on consignment from Gallery Book Store. We hope many people will come to view the collection of wildflowers and plants.

Liberating the Wild: Exploring Botanical Niches and the Implications for Urban-Wildlands Conservation Pepperwood Preserve, May 3,4,5
California’s diverse flora is generally attributed to its complex array of climatic, topographical, and geological influences. At a finer scale, local ecological heterogeneity can provide niches and refugia for rare and endemic flora, the preservation and maintenance of which are at the heart of numerous local and regional conservation efforts throughout the world. This course will explore the Preserve’s botanical diversity, discuss monitoring and management efforts, and consider just what humans can or should do in terms of species and ecological conservation. Workshop fee ($360 for Friends of the Jepson Herbarium, $400 for the general public) includes lodging and meals from Friday evening through Sunday lunch. Participants may camp or use a
comfortable sleeping porch. To register, contact the Jepson Herbarium at (510) 643-7008 or go to: http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2013/regform_2013.html

Low Gap Park, Saturday, May 4
Join Gail Johnson on a mid-season hike along the City View trail at Low Gap Park in Ukiah. There should be a diverse suite of native plants in bloom. Meet at the parking lot across from the high school at 9am.

Walker Ridge, Eastern Lake and Western Colusa County, (Fri-Sat.) May 10-11
On Friday: meet at the Judge Davis Trail parking lot on Hwy. 20, about 14 miles east of the Hwy. 20 & 53 junction, at 10 a.m. On Saturday, meet at the Judge Davis Trail parking lot at 9 a.m. to caravan and share rides to the Barrel Springs site, about 14 miles north on Walker Ridge Rd. Rustic (unimproved) camping is available at Barrel Springs and a few other sites along the ridge, or improved camping is available at Indian Springs Reservoir and Blue Oak campgrounds, both on the Indian Valley Reservoir Rd. off Walker Ridge Rd. about 5 miles north of Hwy. 20.

This will be a vehicular caravan trip along Walker Ridge, with frequent stops at areas of botanical interest. We’ll start Friday with a visit to Wayne’s Knoll, less than a mile north of Hwy. 20, where fire consumed much of the vegetation in 2012, to look at post-fire effects on the serpentine and non-serpentine flora. Further along the ridge, we’ll make stops at several rare plant populations, including Hall’s tarplant (Harmonia hallii), Sonoma canescent manzanita (Arctostaphylos canescens ssp. sonomensis), and Jepson’s milk-vetch (Astragalus rattanii var. jepsonianus). Saturday we’ll explore the rich wetland area and adjacent chaparral and grasslands near Barrel Springs. Contact Peter Warner: phytopagan@sonic.net, (707) 666-9071

Mayacmas Mountains Sanctuary
Sunday, May 19, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
A day of discovering the splendid diversity and ecology of land plants: mosses, ferns, trees, shrubs, and those photogenic wildflowers. Your guide will be Peter Warner, botanical and ecological consultant, teacher, and plant nerd emeritus. Peter leads botanical field trips throughout California, engaging the faithful in the myriad sensual delights of our photosynthesizing phriens -- without whom we would wither away. The pace will be deliberate, with frequent dalliances. Tote field guides, hand lenses, cameras at your leisure. Children OK with supervision. A plant list for the Sanctuary and environs is available by contacting Peter at: phytopagan@sonic.net. The meeting site is typically at the very start of Pine Flat Rd., just off Red Winery Rd., perhaps half mile east of Hwy. 128 in Jimtown. Park along the right side of the road along the vineyard.

Introduction to Grasses – May 24
The grass family is among one of the largest and diverse groups of flowering plants in California with over 500 species in 103 genera. Of these, 300 are native species and 44 are endemic to the state. We’ll explore our local grasses through lecture, site visits, and hands on identification exercises using dichotomous keys. Grass identification is based largely on a good understanding of spikelet morphology, so participants will become acquainted to the terminology used to describe grasses then apply that to the identification of common native and exotic species in the field. We’ll look at how habitat, disturbance, and other environmental factors influence grass distribution; how grasses serve as indicators of site condition; and the importance of native perennial grasses in maintaining valuable forage. Instructors: Kerry Heise and Allison Rofe.
Class to be held 9am-3pm at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center. Fee: $65. To register contact Amber Shrum at (707) 744-1424, anshrum@ucanr.edu.

Rickabaugh Glade via Hopland Field Station, Saturday, May 25
Rickabaugh Glade is perched close to 3,000 ft. atop South Cow Mt. in the northern part of the Mayacmas Mountains. It encompasses a large vernal pool within a much wider meadow area and stands as an island of botanical abundance and diversity unique to our area. The group will leave from the main office building of the Hopland Research and Education Center (HREC) at 8:00 am, drive to the top of the hill and then take a moderate 45 minute uphill hike into the glade. This is a rewarding but somewhat strenuous approach to the glade through mixed chaparral and knobcone pine. Leader: Kerry Heise, 462-4533 (kheise@copper.net). Call or email ahead to confirm.

Introduction to Wetland Plants - June 7
California is rich in wetland ecosystems. They are found across all geographic regions of the state where a combination of topography and hydrology result in permanent or seasonally saturated soils capable of supporting a variety of plant species adapted to wetter conditions. The valleys and rugged terrain of eastern Mendocino County are an ideal location for the study of wetland systems commonly found across the state. These include riparian forest, wet meadow or glade, and marshes, as well as small intermittent tributary streams, vernal pools, seeps, and springs. This workshop will include site visits to observe plant communities and soil characteristics of different wetland types, and the influences of topography and hydrology. In addition to observing a broad suite of wetland species, participants will learn important morphological features that distinguish graminoid plants, members of the sedge (Carex), rush (Juncus), and grass (Poa)
families that are well-represented in these wetlands.

Instructors: Kerry Heise and Geri Hulse-Stephens

Class to be held 9am-3pm at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center. Fee: $65. To register contact Amber Shrum at (707) 744-1424, anshrum@ucanr.edu.

Plaskett Meadows and Anthony Peak area, Mendocino NF, Thursday to Sunday June 27-30

We’ll camp at the Masterson Group Campsite at Plaskett Meadows, and spend each day visiting local botanically rich habitats, including wet meadows, the rocky summit of Black Butte, gravelly mountain slopes rich in wildflowers, the serpentineite outcrops atop Anthony Peak, and post-fire recovery in recently burned vegetation near Mendocino Pass and Anthony Peak.

Our pot-luck dinners, this year on both Friday and Saturday evenings, have been trip highlights in the past – just a single yummy dish and you’re in the club! Based on experience, camping fees will likely be less than $5/person each night. Additional offerings of cookies or other delightful comestibles can be left at the botanists’ tents. The campsite has potable water and a toilet, picnic tables, and ample tent sites, as well as space for smaller campers (please, no big RVs!). Dogs and children are OK with controlled supervision (i.e., on leash, depending on the child). To reserve a spot for this botanical and epicurean feast, contact Peter Warner: phytopagan@sonic.net, (707) 666-9071

Eel River Walk, Saturday, August 10th

This trip will take place along the riparian corridor of the Eel River, up to Trout Creek. There will be many aromatic blossoms to be found and willows and grass-like plants to ID. Bring your bathing suit, we'll be sure to go for a swim. Meet at the Pioneer Bridge at 8:30.

Leader: Allison Rofo

Identification of California Oaks – October 4

*Quercus* is undeniable one of the most important woody genera in the Northern Hemisphere and forms one of California’s most widespread vegetation types – the iconic oak woodland. The focus of this course is to provide an overview of the diversity and distribution of California oaks, and to teach participants how to identify the common tree and shrub species found in the North Coast Ranges of northern California. Currently, botanists recognize at least 25 distinct species along with 7 varieties of oaks in the state. Identification is often troublesome due to high levels of morphological variability, both within tree and across populations, but with a little patience it is easy to become expert at identifying our local oaks. Instructor: Kerry Heise

Class to be held 9am-3pm at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center. Fee: $65. To register contact Amber Shrum at (707) 744-1424, anshrum@ucanr.edu.

Remembering Edith - Allison Rofo

Edith Van Allen Murphey (1879-1968) was a self taught ethnobotanist of the 20th century. Originally from New York, Edith moved to Mendocino County in 1903 which became her home for the next fifty years. The local tribes, particularly in Covelo, inspired Edith to learn about Native culture and their ways of life. In Mendocino, Edith collected seed and bulbs for Carl Purdy. Lucy Young, her Wailaki Indian friend, was a tremendous contributor on local native plant use knowledge.

At the age of 55, Edith took the opportunity to work for the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs as a range botanist. For the next ten years she traveled to eleven reservations in the Rocky Mountain region and helped Indian cattleman with reducing livestock deaths associated with poisonous plants. As a learned librarian and linguist, she recorded all she could from indigenous man, woman and child about various techniques for harvesting, preparing, and using native plants. She contributed many herbarium specimens that can still be found in college herbariums. Edith has left us two books of her diligent studies and experiences, *Indian Uses of Native Plants* and the *Stock Poisoning Plants, a Stockman’s Pocket Book*. Her efforts have preserved detailed accounts of native plant information and prevented the loss of access to these traditional ways. In addition to studying plants, Edith documented Indian culture, language, medicine, basketry making, ceremonial events and more.

Edith was ahead of her time in regards to understanding ecosystem functions, restoration and conservation techniques. She immersed herself in Native culture and dedicated the rest of her life to her work. We are lucky to have such an inspirational local legend. Edith’s *Indian Uses of Native Plants* book can be purchased through the Mendocino Historical Society, [http://www.pacifcsites.com/~mchs/](http://www.pacifcsites.com/~mchs/) or found at your local Mendocino County library.
An Interview with Bob and Marlene Werra
March 10th 2013  -  Margaret Arner

In Ukiah we have a pair of Calochortus experts, Dr. Robert and Marlene Werra, who have lived here for 50 years; they’ve been photographing and identifying wildflowers since they were first married. Many weekends with kids and a picnic lunch in the car and most of their world traveling have been on wildflower adventures. They have met some very interesting characters in their quest to learn about the calochorti.

Bob says he first heard the word Calochortus from the contractor who was building his office in 1962 when he started his practice of family medicine. Jack Hunt was the son-in-law of Carl Purdy who had died 15 years earlier. He took the Werra’s up to see the old Purdy place, and at that time there were still propagation beds of Calochortus, Brodiaea, Fritillaria and Allium. By a few years later, they had all disappeared, victims of the gophers and mice. Jack had wanted to take over the bulb business of Mr. Purdy, but Carl gave it to his son instead, and the son wasn’t a good businessman so it folded. According to Bob, Carl Purdy wrote the first treatise describing Calochortus in 1901. This was the gospel until Marion Ownbey (director of the herbarium at Washington State University in Pullman) published his monographic revision of Calochortus in 1940.

Marlene says the first Calochortus they learned about in Ukiah were the Diogenes lanterns beside the road to Vichy Springs and the pussy ears they have in their own yard. Bob remembers C. monophyllus, C. vestae, and C. venustus in Carl Purdy’s beds.

Through the Rock Garden Society, Bob and Marlene got to know a couple of Calochortus enthusiasts who started the Calochortus Society in the 1970’s. They were Stan Farwig and Vic Girard, a physical therapist and a legal secretary. They catalogued Ownbey’s work at the library in Berkeley and tried to visit all the sites on their weekends. Marlene and Bob accompanied them on many trips. Once they found a beautiful hillside near Shaver Lake, right on the road, where the C. venustus were of many different colors in the same big dense patch, pinks, yellows, and whites. The Werra’s went back a few years later and the trees had grown up and shaded it all out. Stan and Vic had a big collection of Calochortus in raised beds in their back yard as well as many South African lilies. In the big freeze of 1988, they lost most of their stock, especially the more delicate plants from South Africa. Stan was so devastated that he wouldn’t go out in the yard for years. Eventually, a friend came and took their remaining collection to the Santa Cruz Arboretum.

After Stan and Vic passed away, the torch was carried by Hugh McDonald, a graduate student in philosophy at Cal. He loved Calochortus more than philosophy and spent all his time studying Ownbey’s work and putting out a quarterly Calochortus Newsletter. The Werras went on a memorable trip with Hugh and his wife in their VW bus once and in nine days (around July 4th) they drove up to Washington State and down to San Diego trying to locate all of Ownbey’s sites. They saw 23 kinds of Calochortus, about half of the number of known species in the state. Often Hugh had to drive until midnight and he fueled himself with cold, black coffee from instant. Hugh would drop Bob and Marlene at a motel, and he and his wife would sleep in the van. Marlene says it was often difficult to locate the creeks and dirt roads in Ownbey’s descriptions (pre GPS). Hugh’s wife died, and he moved back East, completed his PhD and is now teaching philosophy.

The Calochortus torch was then passed to a couple in Santa Rosa named Robinett, who have since passed away. Bob was thrilled in 2007 when Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons came out with the first Calochortus book, from Timber Press.

The Werra’s have traveled to South Africa and Argentina in search of native lilies, similar to Calochortus, usually travelling with the Alpine Garden Society of London. In their yard on a hillside above Ukiah, they have many South African and California bulbs, mostly in plastic tubs where they are safe from gophers. When I was there to interview them on Sunday they had shooting stars, footsteps of spring, daffodils, narcissus, and an adobe lily blooming in a pot. I’m sure if we asked nicely, Bob would come give us a Calochortus slide show one of these days. I’m looking forward to that…..

Fetid Adder’s-Tongue  -  Vishnu

One of the earliest blooming flowers in our area is also one of the loveliest, one of the least seen and, I suspect, one of the least known to Sanhedrin members. When there was discussion a few years back on selecting a chapter flower this one wasn’t even mentioned even though it is quite striking and, worldwide, is endemic to only the 8 coastal counties that span from Santa Cruz to Humbold. Scoliopus bigelovii, or fetid adder’s-tongue blooms January to early March in the redwood forest. The only other species in the genus is the Oregon fetid adder’s-tongue (S. hallii), which is a smaller plant. On Feb. 3rd of this year Peter Warner led a trip into Armstrong Redwood State Park in Sonoma County where numerous plants were found, at what was described as "peak bloom". On that same day I had walked along Reeves Canyon Rd. in Mendocino County and there were no lilies to be seen. Fortuitously, though, I encountered a local resident who recalled
that the flowers bloomed there in mid-Feb. and, sure enough, on Feb.15 she spied the first ones of the year. A week later she was able to guide several of us to where this beautiful lily was appearing. And yes, *Scoliopus* is still a lily. Of the 34 CA genera that were recognized as being part of the Lily family in the first Jepson Manual (1993), *Scoliopus* is one of the 8 remaining of those genera of natives which were not moved into other plant families based on new phylogenetic parameters.

So why is this taxon so little known? Besides emerging when few people are thinking "flowers", it is also devilishly difficult to see - sometimes even when you're staring straight at it. It is generally growing in dark places and its colors blend well into the background duff. Fortunately there are 2 helpful features when searching. When the flowers are at peak its 2 oval & mottled leaves are fairly large (to 20 cm / 8" long) and stand out well. And then there is the scent. Although "fetid" certainly implies unpleasant, to many noses, it is not really an offensive smell but more a pungent and distinctive one that can waft strongly through the near-by woods. Very few flowers, even in warm weather - much less in cool damp conditions, can transmit their scent more than a few centimeters. Thus, once recognized, the scent of adder's-tongue can guide one to this forest treasure. Perhaps next find & experience this seldom seen lily. Stay tuned.

The Hopland Research and Extension Center, in conjunction with UC Cooperative Extension, is excited to announce that the California Naturalist certificate class will be offered for the first time in Mendocino County!

The California Naturalist is a new class that explores the unique ecology and natural history of California with a focus on inland Mendocino County and its mixed oak woodlands, chaparral, and grasslands.

“The California Naturalist class fosters a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. It also gives those of us who love nature the opportunity to meet and study with like-minded individuals,” says lead instructor Deborah Stanger Edelman. “It will be fun as well as challenging.”

The 10 week course utilizes a science curriculum, hands-on learning, communication training, field trips and project based learning to immerse you in the natural world of California. Participants also receive training in iNaturalist, participate in a citizen science project, complete a Capstone Project and develop a field notebook. Expert guest instructors will include Adina Merenlender, Kerry Heise, Bob Keiffer, Steve Cardimona, Chuck Vaughn and more. The primary textbook for the class is the newly published *California Naturalist Handbook*. Those who complete the course will receive a certificate indicating that they are a California Naturalist.

The class will be held on Monday evenings 6:00pm – 8:30pm from April 1 to June 3, 2013. Four 6 hour immersive field seminars with experienced local naturalists are also part of the class. The field days will be held on April 13, April 20, May 4 and May 18 from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Evening classes will be held in downtown Ukiah and field days will be held at the Hopland Research and Extension Center and surrounds.

Registration runs March 1 - March 22 for a fee of $375. CEU credits will be available for an additional fee through UC Davis Extension or Dominican University. A limited number of need-based scholarships may be available. Please contact Deborah Stanger Edelman at deborahse@att.net or 707-463-4157 if you have questions.

Come join the fun! To learn more or apply to become a California Naturalist, go to our website at http://ucanr.edu/sites/UCCNP/Take_a_class/Inland_Mendocino/
Any interest in a Mendocino County conservation project (and possibly Sonoma)?

Conservation efforts are often hampered by a lack of consolidated information and agreed-upon conservation priorities. Often regional conservation-related data exist, but planning efforts are stymied by the fact that they are difficult to access.

Recently, the East Bay Chapter of CNPS created a conservation prioritization tool, using local expertise to map “Botanical Priority Protection Areas” (BPPAs). They created a Guidebook to the BPPAs of the East Bay, mapping areas containing unprotected habitat and species in need of protection, typically contiguous with already protected areas. The guidebook was adopted by several regional planning agencies as an early decision making tool for open space conservation. For more information on the East Bay chapter’s work, see: [http://ebcnps.org/index.php/guide-to-the-botanical-priority-protection-areas-of-the-east-bay/](http://ebcnps.org/index.php/guide-to-the-botanical-priority-protection-areas-of-the-east-bay/)

Mendocino and Sonoma County land trusts, CNPS chapters, non-profit organizations and tribes have potentially overlapping conservation concerns. I’m interested in connecting the efforts with a mapping project. Folks from Legacy TLC (a north coast non-profit specializing in mapping as a conservation tool) have expressed interest in the project, and the lead on the East Bay Guidebook has said he would provide guidance. I would like to meet with anyone who is interested in the idea of developing conservation maps for Mendocino and/or Sonoma counties, as well as hear feedback on what groups and individuals should be contacted. The intent is that this would be an inclusive effort to provide local agencies with guidance on what local experts view as important conservation priority areas.

Contact Jen Riddell if you want to participate or have input at jenariddell@gmail.com, or (602) 326-3142.

***Attention Sanhedrin Chapter Members***

If you receive only a paper copy but do have an email address, please consider providing the chapter your email address so that you can receive chapter announcements and newsletter updates, occasionally sent to members between regular mailings. If you would like to be added to the e-list, send a request to this address: vishnuvishnu@sbcglobal.net