

Redbud Review

Newsletter of the Redbud Chapter-Nevada and Placer Counties
California Native Plant Society
Winter 2010

Fall Field Trips

Getting to Know the Mosses and Liverworts

February 6 (Saturday), 9:00 AM
Leader: Carl Wishner

Meet in Nevada City at the Rood Center, on Highway 49, in front of the main building, then carpool to the field site.

Trip leader Carl Wishner will present an introduction to the life history, morphology, and classification of bryophytes, and field identification of local genera and species. His experience spans 35 years as a professional consultant, broadly trained as a field biologist, including botany, mycology, bryology, zoology and ecology. Recently, Carl has been studying bryophytes of fens in the northern Sierra Nevada, and is preparing a guide to those species for the Forest Service in this area.

Rain will not cancel this field trip, but snow will direct us to a lower elevation. (Bryophytes LOVE rain but become quickly buried in snow...) Persons at all ages and levels of botanical experience are invited to attend. We plan to return to the Rood Center by 3:00 PM. Bring lunch and water, and don't forget your hand lens!

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Evening Programs

Protect Your Watershed With Conservation Gardening

February 12 (Friday), 7-9 PM

In this special 2-hour presentation by **Wildflowers Forever** you will learn about two new programs—a low cost workshop series and a free home consultation program—designed to help you make decisions about how to use California native plants to create a home landscape that is drought-tolerant, fire-safe and wildlife-friendly. This program will be presented at the Nevada County Library Community Room at Rood Center by all of the instructors of the **Sierra Smart Gardening** program.

Winter in Yosemite High Country

February 24 (Wednesday), 7:00 PM
Auburn Civic Center, Rose Room

In his “younger years” Roger McGehee worked as a naturalist in Yosemite National Park, spending many winters at the Yosemite Institute at Crane Flat. In addition, he took several cross-country ski trips to Tuolumne Meadows and its surrounding peaks. During those trips he faithfully carried his 35mm SLR camera and took many pictures of Yosemite in winter. This slide program will give you an understanding of what it is like for plants and animals to spend the winter in the high country.

Field trips (continued)

Independence Trail

Sunday, March 21, 1:00 PM

Leader: Roger McGehee

Meet in Nevada City at the Rood Center, on Highway 49, in front of the main building. This area usually has wonderful floral displays in March. With luck, it will have them again this year! I listed myself as leader, but other botanists will be present to help us identify the plants. Persons at all ages and levels of botanical experience are invited to attend. A prediction of heavy rain will not cancel this trip, but will turn it into a “rain walk” to view the water cascading down the streams and off the hillsides! We plan to return to the Rood Center by 4:30 PM.

Wildflowers at U.C. Foothill Research and Extension Center

Tuesday, April 6, 9:00 AM

Leader: Karen Callahan,
Rare Plants Specialist

Meet at Safeway in downtown Grass Valley (105 Neal Street) in order to carpool to the field site. The University of California Foothill Research and Extension Center is located near Brownsville in Yuba County about 6 miles from Hwy 20 on a paved road. The UC Center consists of 6,000 acres of beautiful rolling grassland and Blue Oak woodland, mostly reserved for agricultural research. We'll visit the Porter Creek nature trail, an easy mile-long loop near the Research Station's offices with bedrock mortars and a mix of native and invasive plants. Then we'll have lunch while enjoying the view of the South Yuba River's Timbuctoo Bend, elevation 300 feet, and look for interesting plants along the river. The Research Station is developing this historic area into a nature education center, open by reservation only. If you wish to meet us there, visit their website for

directions: <http://groups.ucanr.org/sierrafoothill/>. We will arrive at the Research Station about 9:45 AM. A prediction of heavy rain will cancel this field trip. Persons at all ages and levels of botanical experience are invited to attend. We plan to return to Safeway by 3:30 PM. Bring lunch and water.

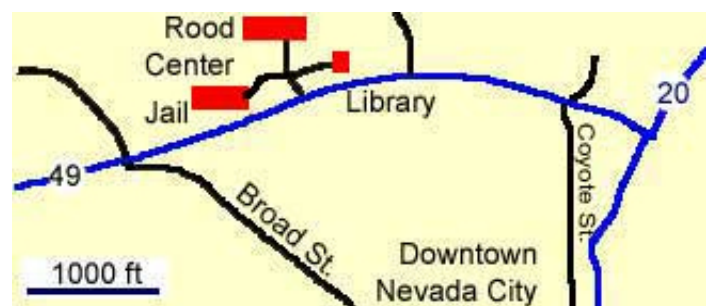
More Field Trip Information . . .

All of our field trips are open to the public and are free of charge. Bring water, lunch/snack, hand lens, wildflower book, and sun protection and/or rain gear, as needed. Children are warmly welcomed, but please arm them with a whistle! No pets are allowed on any of our field trips. We suggest ride sharing, as parking space at most trail heads is limited. We also suggest that you contribute some money to the driver for gas—perhaps \$5 for less than 40 miles round-trip, and \$10 for more than 40 miles round-trip. Unless stated otherwise, our trips are easy. We travel slowly and stop to view, identify, talk about, and enjoy each plant species. Our trips are often led by more than one botanist.

For most of our trips we will meet at the Rood Center on Highway 49 in Nevada City, in front of the main building—NOT at the library. See map below. We will then form car pools and drive to the trail head. In many cases you can meet us at the trail head if this is more convenient for you.

Our book *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California* will be available for purchase at the meeting place before each field trip. Retail price is \$29.95 plus tax; Redbud Chapter members (including brand new ones) are entitled to a 15% discount. We can accept cash and checks. This book is very helpful on all of our field trips!

For more information call Roger at 530-265-4173 or email him at rogm@SBCglobal.net. At 7:00 AM in the morning of the trip, you can call his answering machine for updates — especially if the weather looks “iffy.”



Welcome New Members

We extend a warm winter welcome to the following new members:

Laurie Alire
Matt Berry
Charlene Carveth
Diane Cross
Sandy Davison
Danuta Dias
Linda Ewing
Donald Franklin
Christine Freeman
Ruth Heyser
Therese Iknoian
Lisa Lackey
Barbara Lawrence
Margaret Martin
Chris Olander
Susan Sanford
Daria Snider, ECORP Consulting, Inc
Kris Vasser
Luci Wilson

And thank you to all of our loyal renewing members.

Renew your CNPS membership online. It's quick and easy and reduces renewal mailing costs. Go to www.cnps.org and click on the JOIN button.

Fall Native Plant Sale

Thanks to the hard work of many of you, our Fall Native Plant Sale was a success! Not only did we earn money for our Chapter, but we increased the amount of native plants growing in local gardens, supported vendors who grow native plants, and also provided a venue for lovers of native plants to meet each other and share their experiences with native plants. Thanks also to Sierra College for their continued support.

Board Volunteers Needed

We have several Board positions open. Currently, Bill and Roger are trying to cover the following positions as best they can: President, Treasurer, Program Chair, Field Trip Chair, Fall Plant Sale Coordinators, and Web Master. But they cannot give each position the attention that it deserves, and they do not have the time nor energy to continue to fill all these positions. In addition, the following Board positions are open: Publicity Chair, Hospitality Chair, Book Marketing Chair, Horticulture Chair.

If you do not want to take on a full Board position, you may co-chair the position with someone else, or you may take on the responsibility of part of the position. For example, you may wish to take care of the finances for a plant sale, and let someone else be the official Treasurer, or vice-versa. If you can fill any of the above positions, please let Bill or Roger know ASAP! The most urgent position to fill is Treasurer.

Botanists Love Spring!

In California, spring begins after the fall rains start. Even before the Winter Solstice, annual grasses and herbs were coming up and the hillsides were turning green. As you read this, the very first wildflowers will be blooming at the lower altitudes. And since "spring" is altitude dependent, it will continue to march up to the summits until August. Having a Mediterranean climate, California is blessed with several months of spring and wildflowers. Enjoy!

Community Giving

In 2009 Redbud Chapter budgeted these donations:

- \$3000 for a botanical survey of Hell's Half Acre
- \$300 to CalFlora database
- Native plants to Bridgeport State Park
- Renewed Sierra Nevada Alliance membership
- \$192 for plant signs and lamination pouches at the BriarPatch Native Plant Garden.

BriarPatch Community Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Update and 2009 Review by Cyndi Brinkhurst

The Redbud Chapter adopted the retention basin of the BriarPatch Co-op in Grass Valley at the start of 2007 to create a place for the community to come and relax, take a stroll and learn about native plants. Cyndi Brinkhurst, Nancy Gilbert and Cindy Rubin are the Steering Committee.

In 2009, thirteen volunteers devoted 345 hours. We meet, planned, repaired trail, weeded, planted, watered, pruned, collected, propagated and salvaged plants, created and installed signs and coordinated volunteers and donations.

The Steering Committee created a garden brochure and a separate plant list to be distributed in the

garden during tours and it is available to all, in the store. We wrote four articles for the BriarPatch and Redbud Chapter newsletters, highlighting garden plants and activities throughout the year. We continue to document the garden activities, new plants and keep a weed list. The committee led eight tours from February to September, which 60 people attended. In addition, we assisted BriarPatch staff and volunteers to get native plants (e.g., Creeping Sage, native grasses and wildflowers) established on the cut slope of the side parking lot opposite the garden.

Work is ongoing as we add to the display of native plants suitable for gardens and landscapes for this area. We are collecting seed, salvaging and propagating local native plants, as these will have the best genes and likely be more successful. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you have 2-3 hours once per month (weekdays and occasional weekends) to help garden or culture natives, call Cyndi at 530-274-1924 or email jbcrink@earthlink.net to be added to the volunteer list.

Plans include creating a picnic site on the top triangular area. This site will eventually have a picnic table, a couple of side benches, a shade structure and vine arbor. Needed are an experienced log, post-and-beam and/or mortise-and-tenon builder to volunteer with the design and construction. Please contact: Cindy Rubin, crubin@nccn.net, 273-1816. Of course funding is needed to make these improvements. If you know of any grants or funding sources please send them our way!



Volunteer Al Beeson helps out with weeding the BP garden

Sierra Smart Gardening

Workshops and Garden Tours

This spring **Wildflowers Forever** will again offer a series of workshops that help residents learn how to create landscapes that are water-efficient, fire-safe and wildlife-friendly.

Five full-day workshops will teach a step-by-step process of conservation gardening. The following workshops begin with a morning of indoor learning followed by an afternoon tour of a local conservation garden or other field exercise:

- **March 13**—Observation and Analysis of your Site
- **April 3**—Low Impact Development: How to keep storm water runoff on your property and out of your watershed
- **April 24**—Design your Conservation Landscape
- **May 15**—Native Plants for your Garden
- **June 5**—Installation and Maintenance of your Sierra-Friendly Garden

For more information call Brad Carter at (530) 271-5790 or visit www.wildflowersforever.org

If you would like to learn more about the Sierra Smart Gardening Workshops and Garden Tours and the Home Consultation Program, don't miss the slide show, *Protect Your Watershed With Conservation Gardening*, on February 12 (Friday), 7-9 PM at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City. See story on Page 1 for more details.

New Program to Assist Local Homeowners With Eco-Friendly Landscaping Choices

Local nonprofit receives \$20,000 grant for home consultation program

Beginning in February, a new program, called **Sierra Smart Gardening Home Consultations** will offer free on-site landscape consultations to homeowners in the greater Grass Valley/Nevada City area. Each consultation will include an assessment of the property and recommendations for conservation practices in the garden. The goal is to promote beautiful and comfortable landscapes that protect the Yuba watershed and its wildlife.

Funding for fifty consultations was awarded to **Wildflowers Forever**, a local nonprofit conservation group, by the Sierra Nevada Alliance, a network of Sierra conservation groups. The consultations will help homeowners understand how to conserve water, how to prevent pollution of local streams, and how to use California native plants in home landscapes that are drought-tolerant, fire-safe and wildlife-friendly.

“This home consultation program is an extension of our Sierra Smart Gardening Workshops and Conservation Garden Tours,” says Wildflowers Forever board member Brad Carter. “Our workshops and garden tours teach homeowners how to analyze the health of the soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation on their residential site and then to create preliminary landscape plans. The home consultation program is another way to help people create conservation gardens.”

The Home Consultation program is completely voluntary,” says program manager and landscape architect Karin Kaufman. “After you register, we will visit your site and help you make decisions about how to reduce the amount of water you

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Home consultations (continued)

use for outdoor irrigation and how to reduce storm water runoff from your property. We will also show you how to use California native plants to create a beautiful and functional landscape that meets your personal needs and is environmentally-friendly and fire-safe.”

During the site visit the consultant will talk with you about your needs and goals and observe your property, taking into account any particular challenges you have with water conservation, wildlife and fire-safety. You will receive a copy of the book, *Sierra Nevada Yard & Garden, a homeowner's guide to landscaping in the Sierra Nevada*, published by the Sierra Nevada Alliance. The consultant will photograph and sketch your property. The on-site visit can take up to three hours. After the site visit is completed, the consultant will develop a site diagram and action plan that will help you get started on making eco-friendly improvements to your home landscape.

If you would like more information about the **Sierra Smart Gardening Home Consultation program**, call Karin Kaufman at 530-680-2701. To learn more about the **Sierra Smart Gardening Workshops and Conservation Garden Tours**, call Brad Carter at 530-271-5790 or visit www.wildflowersforever.org.

Funding for the Sierra Smart Gardening Home Consultation program has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Yard & Garden Program and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California. For more information on the Sierra Nevada Alliance, visit www.sierranevadaalliance.org.

Conservation Committee News

The Redbud Chapter Conservation Committee has re-formed and is seeking input from chapter members. “We'd like to know if you have a particular issue of conservation concern,” says committee leader David Magney. If you'd like to get involved you can contact David at david@magney.org.

Local Nonprofit Groups Working Together to Protect Hells Half Acre

by Brad Carter

This spring several groups will be working together on projects to protect and highlight the wildflower meadows at Hells Half Acre on the Kenny Ranch property. This distinctive landscape of barren rocky ground and twisted manzanita is dominated by annual wildflowers that burst into bloom in April.

For many years, the Redbud Chapter of CNPS has led wildflower walks and helped to pick up illegally dumped trash in the area. And now, other groups are working to protect the area as well.

Last spring and again this spring on April 10, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County will sponsor a Scotch Broom Pull. “Last year we removed a large area of Broom along Rough & Ready Highway, directly across from Twin Cities Church,” says Council Director Joanne Drummond. “That was one of our most successful projects to date.” For more information call Bill Wilson at 530-265-8040.

Another exciting event takes place the following Saturday, April 17, when US Forest Service Botanists Linnea Hanson and Jenny Marr lead a full-day wildflower workshop at Hell's Half Acre. Twin Cities Church is co-sponsoring this event. In the morning we will learn about the botanical families of plants that dominate Hell's Half Acre. After lunch, we head out into the wildflower meadows to identify individual species and their families. The cost of this event is \$25 for Chapter members and \$35 for non-members and is limited to 25 people. To reserve a spot or get more information call Karen Callahan at 530-272-5532.

On Mother's Day, May 9, Nevada County Land Trust is sponsoring a morning wildflower walk to be led by Redbud Chapter Rare Plant Specialist Karen Callahan. For more information call Karen at 530-272-5532.

Last but not least, Wildflowers Forever has been working for two years to preserve 220 acres of open space on the Kenny Ranch property, including Hells Half Acre. Call Brad Carter at 530-271-5790 for more information about this ongoing project.

Redbud Board Meetings

Our next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 24, at 7:30 PM at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room in Nevada City. All Redbud members are invited to attend. Be a part of the planning process!

Join the Redbud Chapter Board

*A strong chapter needs
a complete board!*

The following positions that are vacant on our Board. If you would like to help us achieve the CNPS mission of protecting California's native plants and one of these jobs appeals to you, please contact Roger McGehee at 530-265-4173 or Bill Wilson at 530-265-8040.

Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society Board of Directors

Officers

Co-President	Bill Wilson (wilsonb@mjc.edu) 530-265-8040
Co-President	Roger McGehee (rogm@sbcglobal.net) 530-265-4173
Vice President	Julie Carville (mtngypsy1@SBCglobal.net) 530-265-4741
Treasurer	OPEN
Secretary	Luci Wilson (Luciw@earthlink.net) 530-574-2046
Newsletter Editor	Brad Carter (bradcarter@aol.com) 530-271-5790

Committee Chairs

Membership Chair	Joan Jernegan (jernegj@saccourt.com) 916-874-5619 (W)
Program Chair	OPEN
Field Trips Chair	Roger McGehee (rogm@sbcglobal.net) 530-265-4173
Plant Sale/Events Co-Chairs	
-Spring	Chet Blackburn (chetblackburn@yahoo.com) 530-885-0201
-Fall	OPEN
Publicity Chair	OPEN
Education Chair	Nancy Gilbert (nancyames@accessbee.com) 530-272-4775
Plant Science Co-Chairs	
-Rare Plants	Karen Callahan (penstemon@nccn.net) 530-272-5532
-Invasive Plants	Dan Lubin (dlubin@parks.ca.gov) 530-272-0298
Horticulture Chair	OPEN
Conservation Chair	OPEN
Restoration Co-Chairs	
	Don Harkin (harkindon@yahoo.com) 530-265-4048
	Karen Wiese (kwildoak@aol.com) 530-346-7131
Publications Chair	Connie Cornell (conniesturm@wildblue.net) 530-292-3039
Webmaster	Bill Wilson (wilsonb@mjc.edu) 530-265-8040
Chapter Council Delegate	Joan Jernegan (jernegj@saccourt.com) 916-874-5619 (W)
Wildflower Book Project	
-Editorial Committee	Chet Blackburn (chetblackburn@yahoo.com) 530-885-0201
-Marketing Committee	OPEN
Hospitality Chair	OPEN

Open Positions

- **Treasurer** manage chapter finances and oversee cashiers and accounting for plant sale events
- **Program Chair or Co-Chairs** to arrange for 4-6 evening programs throughout the year.
- **Plant Sale/Events Chair or Co-Chairs** to plan and carry-out our plants sales and other fund-raising events.
- **Publicity Chair or Co-Chairs** to publicize all of our events.
- **Conservation Chair or Co-Chairs** to work on conservation issues.
- **Wildflower Book-Marketing** to help us sell our remaining books.

Please consider filling one of these positions!

Sierra Nevada License Plate Campaign

A state-wide campaign is underway to create a new California license plate that will establish ongoing funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

You can make a tangible commitment to the protect one of the State's most precious resources, the Sierra Nevada, by purchasing a new "Sierra Nevada License Plate." Your plate will help fund projects that restore and protect the watersheds, landscapes, and communities of the Sierra Nevada.

For more information about purchasing this special plate, see the enclosed flier and visit www.sierralicenseplate.org.



www.redbud-cnps.org

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