

California Native Plant Society
Sierra Foothills Chapter
2009 Field Trips

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. Call ahead if the weather looks iffy. Our field trips are open to everyone. Bring a friend or two.

APRIL 4 - Red Hills, Tuolumne County - Leader: Kathy Burnett. Hiking level: easy. Come join us as we wind our way through the Red Hills back roads in search of early spring wildflowers. Be prepared to drive on dirt roads for part of the time. We'll also get out of the vehicles for an easy hike in search of the Red Hills rare plants in bloom. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sonora McDonalds gravel parking lot next to Gottschalks, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. Contact Kathy at (209) 928-4263 or kburnett@frontiernet.net for more information or an alternate meeting location in Jamestown.

APRIL 26 - Confidence Trail. Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking level: easy. The trail starts at 4,200 feet and there is less than 100 feet in elevation change for the entire walk. Depending on the desires of the group we can make this from 2 to 4 miles roundtrip. We will be following the old Sugar Pine railroad right of way from near Twain Harte toward Lyons Dam. We should see lots of spring wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Sonora McDonalds gravel parking lot next to Gottschalks, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. Contact Bob at (209) 928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com for more information.

MAY 2 - Bagby Serpentine. Leader: Benoit Dayrat. Hiking level: easy. Benoit is a taxonomist at UC Merced. Join us as we explore the botanical wonders of the serpentine outcrops along the Highway 49 corridor. We may also take a gander along Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. along Highway 49 in the community of Bear Valley in the parking lot of the former Bon Ton Restaurant. Contact Ann Mendershausen for more information at (209) 742-7734 or ralphr@sierratel.com.

MAY 23 - Calaveras Big Trees. Leaders: Steve Stocking &/or Pat Stone. Hiking level: easy. Calaveras Big Trees State Park is well known for its botanical features, most notably the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). Join these two botanical experts for an educational day among the giants. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the park, in the North Grove Parking Lot, just inside the park entrance. The park is located east of Arnold on Highway 4. The entrance fee to the park is \$7.00 per vehicle. Arrive by 10:00 a.m. and sit in on a Calaveras Big Trees Association program "Spring Flowers of Big Trees and Vicinity" by Pat Stone. Contact Steve at (209) 754-9029 or snlsox@earthlink.net for more information.

JUNE 6 - Feliciano Mountain. Leaders: Alison Colwell & Joanna Clines. Hiking level: easy (little elevation gain, with some uneven footing). Botanize the south rim of the Merced River Canyon with botanists from the Park Service and Sierra National Forest. Make the acquaintance of plants such as the broom rush rose (*Helianthemum scoparium*), Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*), and Fremont's bushmallow (*Malacothamnus fremontii*) that specialize on the clays and limestone outcrops of this area; and enjoy one of the best views in Mariposa County. RSVP to Joanna at (559) 760-3618 or jclines@sti.net for details of the meeting place (group will be limited to 20 people). The field trip will start in Midpines at 9 a.m. and finish there around 3 or 4 p.m. Alternate contact: Alison at (240) 997-5153 or aelcolwell@msn.com.

JUNE 20 - Payton Saddle. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: Moderate. Located between Highways 108 and 4, this is one of the less visited spots in our area. Payton Saddle is at the crest of the ridge between the North and Middle Forks of the Stanislaus River. At approx 7,500 ft, it includes the Merten mudflows and lava caps as well as granite floras. Beautiful flowers and great vistas. We'll go in through Beardsley Reservoir and exit to Sourgrass and Highway 4. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sonora McDonalds gravel parking lot next to Gottschalks, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. Contact Pat for more information: (209) 984-0304, stone@mlode.com.

JULY 18-19 - Highland Lakes. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: moderate. The Highland Lakes area is a popular high elevation recreational area with terrific wildflowers. It is an overnighter and potluck dinner for any who wish to stay. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sonora McDonalds gravel parking lot next to Gottschalks, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For residents of Calaveras or Amador County, contact Pat for a meeting place and time along Highway 4. Contact Pat for more information: (209) 984-0304, stone@mlode.com.

AUGUST 15 - Winnemucca Lake. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking Level: Moderate (high elevation, uneven ground with fairly short up- or down-hill stretches. Attendance is by RSVP only. This highly popular area has an abundance of high elevation wildflowers including one area appropriately named “the garden.” Steve will guide us expertly through the floriferous display. Our group size will be limited by the Carson Pass Management Area rules to 12 attendees. Parking is limited and subject to a \$3 charge per vehicle so car pooling is encouraged. Contact Steve to RSVP or for more information at (209) 754-9029.

AUGUST 22-23 - Sweetwater Mountains. Leader: Pat Stone. The Sweetwater Mountains offer an interesting mix of Sierra Nevada and high desert, basin and ranges habitats and plants. This will be another fun camp-out and wildflower foray. Camping will be rustic - we will not be in a campground. There will be no facilities. You will need to bring all the water you’ll need for the trip. Saturday night dinner will be a group effort: bring your own main entrée (chicken, steak, tofu, etc.) to barbeque if fires are allowed (pan-cooked if not), and something to share (salad, side, desert, etc.). Contact Pat to sign up and to get details and directions to the meeting place: (209) 984-0304 or stone@mlode.com.

OCTOBER 3 - Fall colors. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking Level: Very Easy (very little walking). This is our annual car tour of the high country fall colors. Mother Nature has snowed us out for the last two years. Third time will be the charm. Join Pat for this wonderful, all day fall outing. Car pooling is encouraged. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sonora McDonalds gravel parking lot next to Gottschalks, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For residents of Calaveras or Amador County, contact Pat for a meeting place and time along Highway 4. We’ll stop in Markleeville at the deli-cafe for lunch. Contact Pat for more information: (209) 984-0304, stone@mlode.com.



Bagby Serpentine
Field Trip, 2007.
Photo: Jennie
Haas