

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER
2010 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. Check http://www.twitter.com/SIE_CNPS for updates. Our field trips are open to everyone. Bring a friend or two. It is Chapter policy, enacted March 2010, that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We would appreciate everyone's adherence to this new policy.

March 27 - Table Mountain, Tuolumne County. Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking Level: moderate. Table Mountain is well known for its often spectacular flower displays. We'll join Tom Hofstra and his wildflower class for a day of botanizing. A trail hike up the north side of the mountain through oak and chaparral communities necessitate snug shoes or boots with good treads. Meet at 8:30a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. Carpooling is highly encouraged due to limited parking at the trailhead. Contact Bob for more info at (209) 928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com.

April 4 - Quartz Mountain. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: easy. Pat's field trips are always such a treat. He mixes wildflower viewing with snippets about the geology, history and interesting plant facts. On this trip, we'll look at wildflowers in an interesting transition area at a serpentine/metavolcanic contact zone. Meet at 9:00a.m. out in front of the Tesoro station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. We'll carpool from there to Quartz Mountain. For more information, contact Pat at (209) 984-0304 or stone@mlode.com.

April 25 - Abernathy Lava Caps. Leaders: Paul Dettman and Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate - brief hikes on slight to moderate steepness, but with very rough ground on the lava caps. Join us on an exploration of interesting "lava caps" on the canyon rim above the Main Fork of the Tuolumne River. Since these sites haven't been well botanized, we might find some interesting species. We'll see near-record sized manzanita plants - including one with a crown span of about 40 feet. There will likely be good displays of goldfields and we might find some rare monkeyflower species. The geology is as interesting as the plants in these old volcanic mud flows. Sturdy boots with good treads are essential due to the very rocky, broken ground. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the library parking lot in Groveland (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street - Highway 120). For more information, contact Jennie, (209) 962-4759, jhaas@sonnet.com.

May 8 - Telegraph Fire Area. Leader: Ann Mendershausen. Hiking level: easy. Chaparral plant communities are host to a variety of fire followers. We'll visit the 2008 Telegraph Fire area to see the encore appearance of wildflowers. We should see golden ear drops (*Dicentra chrysantha*) and whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*). Meet at 9:00 a.m., at the corner of Highway 49 and Whitlock Road, north of the town of Mariposa. Contact Ann Mendershausen for more information at (209) 742-7734 or ralphr@sierratel.com.

May 22 - Hunter's Valley Mountain Access Road. Leader: Benoit Dayrat. Hiking level: easy. This chaparral area is very special in the wide diversity of plants it offers and the road makes it highly. We should see big scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis* var. *macrolepis*) and pitcher sage (*Lepechinia calycina*) in bloom. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Highway 49 and Bear Valley Road. Contact Ann Mendershausen for more information at (209) 742-7734 or ralphr@sierratel.com.

June 5 - Westside Trail and Butterflies. Leaders: Bob Brown and Jim Mori. Hiking level: easy. Timed to catch the silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) in full bloom, this field trip will be a special treat. Bob will provide the botanical expertise and Jim will provide the entomological (specifically Lepidopteron) expertise. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Sonora McDonald's gravel parking lot next to the former Gottschalk's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora or at the trailhead at 10:00a.m. For more information, contact Bob for more info at (209) 928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com.

June 12 - Monitor Pass. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: easy to moderate. Monitor Pass on Highway 89 is a high elevation, east side (of the Sierras) habitat with meadows, aspen stands and sagebrush. Pat will show us some of the special botanical features in this area including onions and penstemons. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Sonora McDonald's gravel parking lot next to the former Gottschalk's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. This is a good spot for an overnight camping opportunity if you're interested. For more information, camping info, etc., contact Pat at (209) 984-0304 or stone@mlode.com.

June 26 - Grant Grove at Kings Canyon National Park. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking level: easy. Steve will show us the highlights of the wildflowers of the Grant Grove of giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). Meet at "Wilsonia" parking area at 10:00 a.m. This is near the Visitor Center and Sunset Campground. Fee camping and lodge available. We will visit outstanding wildflower areas in the sequoia and red fir forest. Optional trip on Sunday, June 27. Steve has led wildflower seminars in Kings Canyon for over 20 years. A plant list is available for attendees. Attendance is limited to 20 participants. Contact Steve to RSVP and for more directions or information (209) 754-9029 or snlsox@earthlink.net. For information about the Park, including camping and lodging, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/index.htm>.

July 10 - Hammill Canyon. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: easy to moderate. Herring Creek Road starts just below 6,000 feet on Highway 108 and rises to 8,400 feet in about 10 miles. As one travels up in elevation, the prolific wildflowers transition accordingly. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Sonora McDonald's gravel parking lot next to the former Gottschalk's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For more information, contact Pat at (209) 984-0304 or stone@mlode.com.

July 24 - Sonora Pass. Leader: Scott Brush. Hiking level: moderate (high elevation). Sonora Pass is widely recognized its fantastic show of wildflowers. Timed to catch the flowers at peak bloom, we'll wander the area taking in the best. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Sonora McDonald's gravel parking lot next to the former Gottschalk's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For more information, contact Jennie Haas at (209) 962-4759, jhaas@sonnet.com.

August 21 - Bennettville and Fantail Lake. Leaders: Judy and Barry Breckling. Hiking level: easy (4-mile round trip with less than 250 feet of elevation gain). We're likely to find lots of high-country wildflowers on the way to Fantail Lake, which sits at almost 10,000 feet. Along the way we'll visit the historic mining community of Bennettville. We'll meet at the Forest Service pullout overlooking the west end of Tioga Lake, about three quarters of a mile east of Tioga Pass, at 10:00 a.m. From there we'll carpool to the day-use parking area just outside of Junction Campground. Travel time from Groveland is about 2 hours. If you'd like to hook up with carpoolers outside Yosemite, meet at 8:00 a.m. at the library parking lot in Groveland (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120). For more information, contact Barry/Judy at (209) 878-3041 or at barryb@coepark.org.

October 9 - Fall Colors. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: very easy. Join us on this end-of-season favorite car tour to view high country fall colors. Details on the trip will be posted in the October Shooting Star. The alternate date in case of bad weather on October 9th will be October 23.