

California Native Plant Society
Sierra Foothills Chapter
2012 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 that pets are not allowed on our field trips. We would appreciate everyone's adherence to this policy.

If you would like to be on our field trip alerts e-mail list, send an e-mail with the subject line "Field Trip e-mail List" to Jennie at jhaas953@gmail.com. We'll use this mailing list, plus Twitter and, when time allows, Facebook and our webpage to provide timely information of field trip changes and those impromptu "emergency field trips."

March 24 - Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road. Leader: Peggy Moore. Hiking Level: easy. Join us for a wide variety of wildflowers and flowering shrubs from a ridgetop view along Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road just a few miles west of Bear Valley, Mariposa Co. We will make periodic car stops along the road and seek out the rare California balsamroot along the way. Meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot of the 49er Center in Mariposa (intersection of Hwy 140 and Hwy 49 North). Or meet at Bear Valley 10 minutes north of Mariposa on Hwy 49 (south end of town next to closed restaurant) at 10:00 am. For travelers from the Sonora area, contact Jennie Haas to find out if there will be a meeting place in Jamestown: 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com. For more information on the field trip, contact Peggy: 209-966-5728, peggles@yosemite.net.

March 31 - Dragoon Gulch, Sonora. Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking level: easy. This will be a loop walk of about 2 miles and we should see more than 30 species of early, low elevation flowers. Meet at 1:00 pm off of Stockton road by turning onto Woods Creek Drive (just opposite the turnoff into the fairgrounds) to the Woods Creek Park and then to the parking lot behind the ball field. For more information, contact Bob at 209-928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com.

April 14 - Highway 49 Bagby Serpentine. Leaders: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking level: easy. We'll visit the belt of serpentine that snakes along Highway 49 from Coulterville south to Bagby. The early spring wildflower displays can be spectacular. We'll meet in Coulterville on Highway 49 in front of the park just north of the Jefferson Hotel at 9:30 am. For travelers from the Sonora area, contact Jennie Haas to find out if there will be a meeting place in Jamestown: 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com. For more information about the trip, contact Barry and Judy at 209-878-3041 or barryb@coepark.org.

April 15 - Calaveras County Wildflowers. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking Level: easy. See the common, and some not so common foothill wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot along the Calaveras River below Hogan Dam. Call or e-mail Steve for details: 209-754-9029, snlsox@earthlink.net.

April 28 - Preston Falls Trail, Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate. The Preston Falls Trail offers a pleasant hike through mid-elevation yellow pine and riparian forests. Timed to catch the spring wildflowers, we expect to see *Brodiaea* species, Mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* species) and more. Meet at 9:30 am at the library parking lot in Groveland (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120). Contact Jennie for more info: 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

May 12 - Confidence Trail. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: easy. This is an old railroad grade with a variety of vegetative communities and over 200 identified species. The trail is a gated forest road that leads east all the way to Lyons Dam. We'll be walking 1.5 to 2 miles and then turning around. Meet at 9:00 am at the back of the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohl's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For more information, contact Pat at 209-984-0304, patmstone@gmail.com.

May 26 - Westside Trails. Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking level: easy. This is part of the old Westside Railroad grade just outside of Tuolumne. We'll walk on a gentle grade for two miles before turning around. With luck the bush lupines will be in bloom with their delightful fragrance. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of Tuolumne market just off of Tuolumne road about 7 miles from the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For more information contact Bob at 209-928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com.

June 3 - Calaveras Big Trees. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking level: easy. This is a favorite destination where we'll see harlequin lupine (*Lupinus stiversii*), a leafless form of white-veined wintergreen (*Pyrola picta*), Washington lily (*Lilium washingtonianum*), phantom orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*), and Stebbins' lomatium (*Lomatium stebbinsi*).

Meet at 9:30 am in the park, at the picnic area on the creek behind Jack Knight Hall. There is an entrance fee to enter the park. For more info, contact Steve: 209-7054-9029, snlsox@earthlink.net.

June 9 - Evergreen Road. Leader: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking level: easy. We'll explore Evergreen Road, which is just west of the Highway 120 entrance to Yosemite. Flowers in June along Evergreen Road are usually quite good. We should see ladyslipper orchid (*Cypripedium montanum*) and phantom orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*). Lunch will be al fresco at the Evergreen Lodge, or if you prefer, bring your own lunch and picnic along the Middle Fork of the Tuolumne River, where the group will convene after lunch to search for more wildflowers. Meet at 9:00 am at the library parking lot in Groveland (next to Mary Lavaroni Park on Main Street, Highway 120). For more information, contact Barry and Judy at 209-878-3041 or barryb@coepark.org.

June 23 - Trail of the Gargoyles. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate. This area is situated on a volcanic flow that is rich in wildflowers such as Sierra onion (*Allium campanulatum*), Leichtlin's mariposa lily (*Calochortus leichtlinii*) and sulphur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*). Meet at 9:00 am at the back of the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohl's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. For more information, Contact Jennie at 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

July 7 - Clarks Fork Trail. Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking Level: moderate (elevation). We'll start at 6,400 ft in Iceberg Meadow and will hike about 2 miles before turning around. We should find more than 60 blooming mid elevation species. Meet at 9:00 am in Twain Harte, at the side of Twain Harte Market Shopping Center's parking lot closest to Highway 108. For more information, contact Bob at 209-928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com.

July 21 - Saint Mary's Pass. Leader: Bob Brown. Hiking level: strenuous (high elevation, steep trail to top of pass). This is a steady climb with a one way distance of 1-1/2 to 2 miles (for a round trip distance of up to 4 miles). Timed to catch plants on the edge of melting snow patches, we should see a nice variety of alpine and sub-alpine plants ranging from orchids to elephant heads. Meet at 8:30 am in Twain Harte, at the eastern side of the parking lot in the Twain Harte Market Shopping Center. For more information, contact Bob at 209-928-9281 or rbrown4674@aol.com.

July 22 - Tuolumne Meadows. Leader: Alison Colwell. Hiking level: easy. Alison invites you to join her on a Yosemite National Park interpretive program and hike called Tiny Botanical Treasures of Tuolumne Meadows. A good number of our unique Sierran plant species are just knee-high to a grasshopper. Bring a hand lens and something to kneel on to enjoy these 'belly plants'. The afternoon will begin at Parsons Memorial Lodge at 2:00 pm with a 30-minute presentation on the tiny (and some rare) plants found in and around Tuolumne. This will be followed by a ramble to nearby moist sites where everyone can get down on the ground and experience a safari in miniature. Allow 30 minutes walking time to the lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. For more information, contact Alison at 240-997-5153.

October 20- Fall Colors. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: very easy. Join us on this end-of-season favorite to view high country fall colors. We'll drive the Highway 120 to 395 to Sonora Pass route with lunch at the Whoa Nellie Deli in Lee Vining again. From Sonora, meet at 8:30 am at the back of the parking lot between the Sonora McDonalds and the new Kohl's, on Mono Way, in the Junction Shopping Center, in East Sonora. From Groveland, meet at 9:15 am at the Groveland Library parking lot. Check the October Shooting Star for changes. For information, contact Pat at 209-984-0304, patmstone@gmail.com.