

**California Native Plant Society
Sierra Foothills Chapter
2011 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.

Three of our spring field trips are scheduled specifically to focus on plants in the genus *Erythronium*, the fawn lilies. We'll visit three species in and near our chapter area and take in their associated species and diverse habitats. It should be an interesting and fun way to gain more knowledge of these exceptionally beautiful plants.

March 26 - Hunter Valley Mountain Access Road. Leader: Jennie Haas and Ann Mendershausen. Hiking Level: easy. The main attraction of this trip will be the Sierra fawn lily (*E. multiscapideum*), but there will be other great plants to see along the way, including stinkbells (*Fritillaria agrestis*) and shooting stars (*Dodecatheon* sp.). Meet at 9:30a.m. at the small community of Bear Valley, Mariposa Co., on the corner of Highway 49 and Bear Valley Road. For travelers from the north, meet Pat Stone at 8:30a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. For more info, contact Jennie: 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com, Ann: 209-742-7734, ralphr@sierratel.com, or Pat: 209-984-0304, patmstone@gmail.com.

April 10 -Wildflowers of the Hogan Dam Area. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking Level: easy. Meet at the "Trail of Skulls" below the dam at 9:30a.m. We'll view classic foothill wildflowers such as the tufted poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), frying pans (*E. lobbii*), the spider lupine (*Lupinus benthamii*), the Douglas violet (*Viola douglasii*), shooting stars (*Dodecatheon clevelandii* and *D. hendersonii*), bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) and the appendaged Brodiaea (*Brodiaea appendiculata*). Call or e-mail Steve for details: 209-754-9029, snlsox@earthlink.net.

April 23 - Merced Canyon/Pigeon Gulch/Moss Creek Confluence. Leaders: Barry and Judy Breckling. Hiking level: moderate. Merced Canyon is full of botanical delights. We'll search for naked broomrape (*Orobanche uniflora*) parasitizing Pacific stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*), paper-flowered onion (*Allium hyalinum*), Sierra bladdernut (*Staphylea bolanderi*), Layne's monkeyflower (*Mimulus layneae*), and two rare plants, Congdon's woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum congdonii*) and Congdon's lewisia (*Lewisia congdonii*). We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Forty-Niner Market parking lot in Mariposa. The parking lot sits back off of Hwy 49 just northwest of the intersection with Hwy 140. We'll car pool from there. The group size for this trip is limited due to parking considerations, so **RSVP is required**. To sign up or for more information, contact Barry and Judy at 209-878-3041 or barryb@coepark.org.

April 30 - Deer Creek Fawn Lilies. Leader: Margaret Willits. Hiking level: moderate (uneven, sometimes steep walking). The Tuolumne fawn lily has been one of our favorites over the years. The Deer Creek area is an interesting area to botanize and we'll see other wildflowers in addition to the fawn lily. High clearance vehicles will be needed for part of the trip. Car pooling is advised. Meet at 9:00a.m. 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 info, contact Margaret: 209-928-5999, mlwillits@gmail.com.

May 14- Trumbull Peak. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: moderate. Trumbull Peak is the center piece of an historic and botanic Special Interest Area in the Stanislaus National Forest. It sits on the rim of the Merced River Canyon and is home to over 100 species of wildflowers, shrubs and trees. The trip is timed to catch peak bloom of the wildflowers and 3 state-listed rare plants. Sturdy, non-slip shoes are essential. Plan on a long day. Meet Bob Brown at 8:30a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown or the rest of the group at 9:15 a.m. 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.

June 5 - 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 stebbinsii*). Meet at 9:30a.m. 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 11 - Shuteye Peak, Sierra National Forest. Leader: Joanna Clines, Forest Botanist. Hiking level: moderate to strenuous depending on how much snow remains on the access route. In the spotlight for this trip is the Shuteye Peak fawn lily (*E. pluriflorum*). This rare species was discovered by Joanna in 1988. It is endemic to the Chiquito Ridge area of Madera County, and grows in a stunning subalpine setting with 360 degree views of the High Sierra and the coast ranges on a clear day. If we're lucky the rare Kellogg's lewisia (*Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *kelloggii*) may be in bloom

as well. **Space is limited to 25, please RSVP** to Joanna at jclines@sti.net or 559-760-3618 (cell) or 559-877-2218, ext. 3150 (office). We'll need to car pool in high clearance 4WD vehicles. From the Sonora area, meet Pat Stone at 7:30a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. Meet Joanna in Oakhurst at 9:30a.m. Specific location information and other details provided when you RSVP. Prepare for a long day, as it takes an hour or more to get to Shuteye Peak from Oakhurst, and once you're there you'll want to spend some time.

June 25 - Long John Meadow. Leader: Scott Brush. Hiking level: moderate. This meadow near Cherry Lake, Stanislaus National Forest, underwent a gully rehab project two years ago. The meadow has been fenced to allow time to heal with amazing results. If time allows, we'll also visit nearby John's Meadow and Boggy Meadow for more botanical highlights. From Sonora, meet at 8:30a.m. 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 8:30a.m. at the Groveland Library parking lot. Both groups will meet at about 9:30 at the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Forest Road 3N01S, just east of Reed Creek. For more information contact Scott at 209-962-7825 ext. 553 (leave message) or 209-962-5291 (evenings).

July 1 - "Dicentra Day" at Sequoia National Forest & Kings Canyon National Park. Leader: Steve Stocking. Hiking Level: Easy. There are six native species in the Genus *Dicentra* in California. Join Steve on this visit of four species of these interesting members of the poppy family, including steer's head (*D. uniflora*), bleeding heart (*D. formosa*), the uncommon Tulare County bleeding heart (*D. nevadensis*), and possibly golden ear-drops (*D. chrysantha*). There is a possibility of seeing the rare purple mountain-parsley (*Oreonana purpurascens*) as well. Contact Steve for directions and to RSVP, before June 29th: 209-754-9029 or snlsox@earthlink.net; after June 29th: 559-335-2464.

July 9 - 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 8:30a.m. 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 23-24 - Sweetwater Mountains. Leader: Pat Stone. Hiking level: moderate (high elevation). The Sweetwater Mountains offer an interesting mix of Sierra Nevada and high desert, basin and ranges habitats and plants. This botanical excursion will include an overnight, primitive camping experience with a potluck dinner Saturday night. Bring enough water for drinking, cooking, etc. Don't want to camp? Come for a long day and head back when you want to. Meet at 8:30a.m. 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.

August 13 (& 14 optional) - Dana Plateau. Leaders: Alison Colwell and Scott Brush. Hiking level: strenuous (high elevation & steep trail). This will be a high Sierra botanical excursion off of Highway 120 just east of Yosemite National Park to see one of the more accessible alpine cushion plant communities in the Sierra Nevada. There's an overnight option to backpack in and enjoy a night under the light of the full moon. Yosemite National Park has a \$20 per vehicle entrance fee. Meet at 9:00a.m. at the Forest Service pullout overlooking the west end of Tioga Lake, about three quarters of a mile east of Tioga Pass Entrance Station. From the Sonora area, meet Bob Brown at 6:00a.m. in front of the Tesoro Gas Station on Highway 108 in Jamestown. For more information, contact Alison at 240-997-5153 or Scott at 209-962-7825 ext. 553 (leave message) or 209-962-5291 (evenings). RSVP to Scott for the overnight backpack (Scott will order up the group wilderness permit). Note that the overnight will be above 11,000 feet and could be very windy. Overnight temps as low as 20 degrees F are uncommon but possible. No campfires are allowed at that elevation.

August 27 - Reynolds Creek Moonworts. Leader: Jennie Haas. Hiking level: easy. Moonworts are fern allies in the genus *Botrychium*. These fascinating, diminutive plants are quite elusive. We'll see a common species, two rare species and a new-to-California species discovered in 2010 - all in the same meadow. From Sonora, meet at 8:30a.m. 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 8:30a.m. at the Groveland Library parking lot. Both groups will meet at about 9:30 at the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Forest Road 3N01S, just east of Reed Creek. Contact Jennie for more info: 209-962-4759, jhaas953@gmail.com.

October 22 - 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 again try the Highway 120 to 395 to Sonora or Carson Pass route with lunch at the Whoa Nellie Deli in Lee Vining. From Sonora, meet at 8:30a.m. 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 9:15a.m. at the Groveland Library parking lot. Check the October Shooting Star for changes. For information, contact Pat at 209-984-0304, patmstone@gmail.com.