

Redbud Review

Newsletter of the Redbud Chapter-Nevada and Placer Counties
California Native Plant Society
Fall 2009

Fall Field Trips

Enjoy Fall Colors

October 10 (Saturday)

8:00 AM at the Rood Center for carpooling, or
9:45 AM at the junction of Highway 20 and
Washington Road for carpool parking, or
9:30 AM at Spooner Lake Parking & Picnic Area

The Spooner Lake Picnic Area in Lake Tahoe/
Nevada State Park is a great place to find fall
color—both from the aspens, and from a variety
of shrubs and herbs. The days are usually crisp
and clear at this time of the year, although
Pacific storms are not unheard of... There is a
\$6 charge per car to enter the State Park. The
Spooner Lake Parking & Picnic Area is located
on State Route 28 near the corner of State Route
28 and U.S. Highway 50. We will be hiking for
about 4 hours. Lunch and water are essential.

It's Mushroom Season

November 22 (Sunday)

1:00 PM at the Rood Center

April showers may bring May flowers,
but October showers will bring November
mushrooms! Although mushrooms are not plants,
they are beautiful and mysterious. We will meet
at the Rood Center, drive to the best mushroom
site(s) that can be found, and return to the Rood
Center before dark.

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Evening Programs

California Native Plants in your Garden

August 26 (Wednesday) at 7:00 PM

Nancy and Ames Gilbert have been our
Education Co-Chairs for several years. They
have put together an impressive and educational
slide presentation about developing a native plant
garden, or enhancing your present garden with
native plants. Bring your gardening questions. This
program will be presented in the Nevada County
Library Community Room at Rood Center.

High Country Botany

September 23 (Wednesday) at 7:00 PM

Arctic and alpine ecosystems exist around
the world—from sea level near the
poles to mountain tops in the tropics. Sierra
College Emeritus Professor Joe Medeiros will
describe the similarities and differences of
these two botanically rich ecosystems from
various locations around the world. Survival
strategies and evolutionary similarities will
be illustrated with photographs taken by Joe
during his expeditions. A fan of the high-
Sierra, he will utilize lots of examples from
California's alpine regions. Joe taught botany,
ecology, and environmental science for 33
years in the California Community College
system until retiring in 2008. This program
will be presented in the Auburn Civic Center,
Rose Room.

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Field trips (continued)

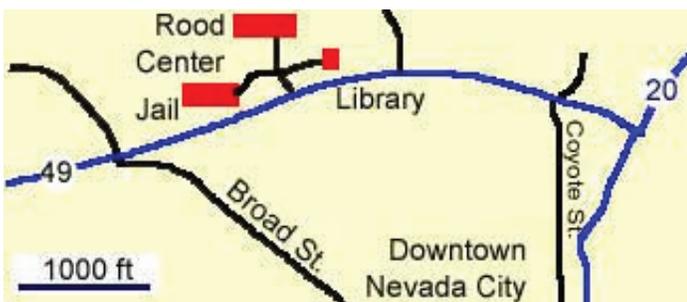
More Field Trip Information . . .

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 trailheads 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 trailhead. In many cases you can meet us at the trailhead if this is more convenient for you.

Our newly published 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.”



Evening programs (continued)

Show Your Images!

November 30 (Monday) at 7:00 PM

This is YOUR chance to give a short program (5-10 minutes). It can be of flowers that you have photographed or photographs of wild and beautiful places that you have visited in search of wildflowers. Please contact Roger McGehee (rogm@SBCglobal.net) or Bill Wilson (wilsonb@mjc.edu) stating the length of time and the equipment that you need. This program will be presented in the Nevada County Library Community Room at the Rood Center.

Participate in the Fall Plant Sale

Volunteer opportunities:

- Place Board-approved articles in local publications
- Contact other groups about our plant sale (Audubon, Sierra Club, etc.)
- Put up plant sale posters in both Nevada and Placer counties
- Work at the plant sale during the morning shift
- Bring carts and wagons to the sale

Not only will you support our local chapter of CNPS, but you will receive a complimentary 1-gallon plant for volunteering!

If you can help, please contact: Roger (265-4173, rogm@SBCglobal.net) or Bill (265-8040, wilsonb@mjc.edu).

Plant Sale
Volunteers get a free plant!

Sierra All-Stars: Garden-Tested Native Plants for Fall Planting

by Brad Carter

Fall is the best time to plant natives. By the second half of September, the hot temperatures of summer have cooled, but the soil is still warm, creating ideal conditions for root growth.

Following is a list of easy-to-grow native plants that have been garden-tested by me and other conservation gardeners in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area. We call them Sierra All-Stars. I have grouped these as wet growers and dry growers. One good strategy for fire safety is to plant the wet growers within 30 feet of your house. Plant the dry growers farther away from your house.

All these plants will be available at the Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Grass Valley campus of Sierra College, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **For more information on the Fall Plant Sale see www.redbud-CNPS.org.**

WET GROWERS FOR FILTERED LIGHT

Pink-flowering current (*Ribes sanguineum*)

Blooms in early spring. Pink pendulous flower clusters. Good nectar source for hummingbirds. Berries attract cedar waxwings and other birds. Best in filtered light. Vase shaped shrub, 6-10 ft. tall.

Chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*)

Sturdy evergreen fern 4-6 ft. tall and wide. Best in filtered light. Remove old fronds when new fronds begin to unfurl in spring.

Leopard lily (*Lilium pardalinum*)

Large orange and red flowers on 2-6 ft. tall stalks attract swallowtail butterflies. Best in filtered light. Can form large clumps over time.

Coral bells (*Heuchera elegans*)

Many garden hybrids available. Clumping perennial up to 1 ft. wide and 3 in. tall with many 1 ft. tall flower stalks. Use in front of beds and along path edges. Best in filtered light.

Western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)

Nodding red flowers attract hummingbirds. Seed-pods attract goldfinches and other seed-eating birds. Short-lived perennial (2-3 years) re-seeds easily.

DRY GROWERS

Iris ‘Canyon Snow’ (*Iris douglasiana*)

Clumping perennial 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. tall. Large white flowers. Best in filtered light. Clumps can be divided every 3-4 years. Very dependable. Attracts, but tolerates whitefly. Good under oaks.

Bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*)

Evergreen upright shrub 10 ft. tall and 6 ft. wide with big white flowers in May. Best in filtered light, but tolerates full sun. Remove persistent brown leaves in summer by rubbing them off stems.

Sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

Long-lived, mound-shaped subshrub, 2 ft tall and 3-4 ft. wide with yellow flowers. Drought tolerant. Blooms in mid-summer. Leave the persistent dried flowers as a food source for seed-eating birds. Best in full sun. The selection ‘Shasta Sulfur’ is compact and blooms early.

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

Evergreen, drought-tolerant shrub 8-15 ft. tall and wide. Ornamental red berries in fall and winter attract cedar waxwing and other berry-eating birds. Part shade to full sun.

Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*)

Evergreen, drought-tolerant shrub 3-7 ft. tall. Bright yellow flowers in early spring, followed by ornamental purple berries in summer that attract berry-eating birds. Part shade to full sun.

Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*)

Evergreen, drought-tolerant, mound-shaped shrub 3-5 ft. tall and wide. Clusters of blue blossoms on long flower stalks. Leave dry flower heads for seed-eating birds. Best in full sun.

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.

Sierra Smart Gardening

Workshops and Garden Tours

In Spring 2010 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 stormwater 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 at (530) 271-5790 or visit www.wildflowersforever.org

Welcome New 2009 CNPS Members

Lynn Amara	Victor Maillo
Bear River Garden Club	John & Sarah Nitta
Nancy Bowman	John Nuffer
Mary Cleary	Kerry O'Regan
Elizabeth Dunn	Nancy Powers
Jan Fleming	Barbara Raymond
Christine Freeman	Bruce Reinhardt
Sunshine Kahl	Janice Rosner
Karin Kaufman	Mary Tendall
Esther Kim-Ambuehl	Kris Vasser
Ronald Kowalka	

Friends of Trees Nevada County

Fall Color Guided Tree Tour

Friends of Trees Nevada County (FTNC), is a group formed in 2007 to increase public awareness of trees. In 2008, FTNC completed its first project, the Walking Tree Tour Guide for Nevada City. This beautiful poster provides a walking, educational guide for trees throughout Nevada City's downtown area and was created with support from California ReLeaf, Nevada City Chamber of Commerce, Nevada County Land Trust, California Native Plant Society, and the Downtown Business Association of Nevada City.

FTNC is now fundraising to produce a printed self-guided Walking Tree Tour Guide for Grass Valley. Funds generated from Spring and Fall Walking Tours will provide the foundation for this important project. In Spring this year FTNC initiated the Spring Tour in Grass Valley. It was enthusiastically received; the informed guides shed light on the identity and characteristics of the cities' memorable trees.

In October, FTNC is offering Fall Color Guided Tree Tours in both Nevada City and Grass Valley. The tours will be lead by certified arborists Ellen Solomon and Zeno Acton, and Naturalist Roger McGehee. Both tours start at 10:00 AM and end about 11:30 AM. A donation of \$10 for each tour is suggested.

The first tour is on October 17, 2009, in Nevada City, and meets in front of the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce, 132 Main St., Nevada City.

The second tour is on October 31, 2009 in Grass Valley, and meets at the Booktown Books parking lot, behind 107 Bank St., Grass Valley.

FTNC considers itself part of the movement toward sustainability. Come learn how trees reduce global warming, enhance our environment, and add to the beauty of our communities. Get suggestions for successful tree planting and care.

Join Friends of Trees Nevada County or contact for more information: Friends of Trees Nevada County, 228 Commercial Street, Box #441, Nevada City, CA 95959. Media Contact: Ellen Solomon, 530-273-1363, ellensol@succeed.net.

Wanted: Natural Places to Guide Restoration

Beginning in 1849, we non-indigenous people began to “develop” Nevada and Placer Counties. We dug, eroded, logged, burned, grazed and otherwise ripped apart the landscape, as humans had previously done for thousands of years. Except that earlier developers did not possess steam and diesel engines, dynamite, bulldozers and the industrial-capitalist ethic. We were and are better equipped.

Are we rich now, or living in a crazy consumer fantasy in a partially wrecked world? Maybe, but we do have the opportunity to practice environmental protection, conservation, restoration, and more thoughtful living. What do you think?

Restoration sounds simple, but isn't.

Why not just spray the shrubs with herbicides and plant pine trees?

Why not masticate the small trees and “restore fire to the landscape?”

These over-generalized, simplistic projects are not place or time specific and do not restore the natural processes: rates of change, regeneration, mortality, succession, etc. Attempting to work against natural processes is very, very difficult and expensive (pushing the rock uphill). A changing climate also means the hill slope is shifting as we try to push. Any restoration—beyond a zoo cage or flower pot - requires learning about and working with complex systems. This requires that we observe and learn from relatively intact reference areas that are similar in weather, soils, topography, biota, etc. to the area that is to be restored.

Many Redbud Chapter people have likely seen places that need restoration - areas that look “trashed” or barren, clogged with blackberries, or eroding dirt into a stream. We have all done some landscape C.S.I. work. We have also noticed areas, large or small, that appear relatively intact, that would function to guide restoration planning and action. Let us start looking for—and making a list of both problem areas or situations and relatively intact reference sites—clear streams, old growth forests, verdant meadows, complex habitats. This can be interesting and fun for you, your friends, and your kids. We should hike, observe, and record—read about and discuss our ideas.

Please phone or e-mail me with your ideas.

Don Harkin
Restoration co-chair
email: harkindon@yahoo.com
530-265-4048

Redbud Board Meetings

October 28, 7PM in Auburn. Call Joan Jernegan (916) 874-5619 for directions.

January 27, 7:30 PM at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room in Nevada City.

All members of the Redbud Chapter are welcome!

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	OPEN
Treasurer	Alicia Funk (alicia@fireflystrategy.com) 530-478-9798
Secretary	Sandy Kewman (skewman@theunion.net) 530-272-3736
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	OPEN
-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	Brad Carter (bradcarter@aol.com) 530-271-5790
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	Brad Carter (bradcarter@aol.com) 530-271-5790
Wildflower Book Project	
-Editorial Committee	Chet Blackburn (chetblackburn@yahoo.com) 530-885-0201
-Marketing Committee	Julie Becker (jbecker@infostations.com) 530-265-8197
Hospitality Chair	OPEN

Open Positions

- **Vice-President** to complete our Executive Committee.
- **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.

To keep our organization alive and well, please consider filling one of these positions!

Your Co-Presidents,
Bill Wilson and Roger McGehee

A Thousand Leaves For Many Uses

Of interest in the BriarPatch Native Plant Garden this summer, is *Achillea millefolium* or Yarrow. The genus name *Achillea* is derived from the mythical Greek character, Achilles, who reportedly carried it with his army to treat battle wounds. This medicinal action is also reflected in some of the common names, such as Stauchweed, Soldier's Woundwort and Thousand-leaf (as its binomial name affirms). Best grown in full or nearly full sun, moderate summer water and dead heading will keep this plant blooming; otherwise, it is drought

tolerant. White to pink flowers on stalks extend out from soft, finely divided fernlike aromatic leaves. Its flat-topped clustered flowers make great landing pads for beneficial insects. Yarrow is native to the western U.S. It has good soil stabilizing qualities as it spreads by runners and seeds, but it can become invasive. You can use Yarrow as an alternative lawn! Wikipedia reports a plethora of uses; as food, medicine; in divination; as a useful companion plant, in rituals, and in social life. Visit these plants and many others in the garden.

Next
BriarPatch Native
Garden Tour
Wednesday, September 2
6:00–7:30 pm
Meet in the BriarPatch side parking lot.
Leaders: Cindy Rubin and other
garden friends.

Don't have a yard of your own to weed?
Interested in native plants? Garden volunteers are needed to help maintain the garden. While weeding you will learn about native plants, including grasses, and non-native invasives. Call Cyndi Brinkhurst at 530-274-1924 if you are available during the week (for a couple hours) twice a month.