



Redbud Review

Newsletter of the Redbud Chapter—Nevada and Placer Counties
California Native Plant Society
Winter 2012

Field Trips

Redbud Field Trips

All of our field trips are open to the public and are free of charge. Children are warmly welcomed, but please arm them with a whistle! Pets are not allowed on any of our field trips. If you car-pool with someone, please 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 frequently to view, identify, tell stories about, and thoroughly enjoy each plant species. Hand lenses are highly recommended on all our trips. Our book *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California* will be available for purchase at the meeting place before each wildflower 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 will be very helpful on all of our wildflower trips! For every trip please check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. For more information, call Roger at 530-264-8555 or email him at rogm@SBCglobal.net. After 7:00 AM in the morning of the trip, you can call his answering machine for updates -- if the weather looks "iffy".

Since it is hard to predict when and where wildflowers will be in bloom, and since it is hard to schedule field trip leaders months in advance, our field trips will not be advertised in this newsletter. Instead, we will post them on-line, on our web page

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Evening Programs

The CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: promoting rare plant conservation through citizen science

February 22 (Wednesday), 7-9 PM
Madelyn Helling Library
Community Meeting Room

California is a botanically rich state, and its rare plant flora is no exception: CNPS has designated over 2,200 plants as rare. Maintaining records of these plants in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) is a difficult task, as almost half of the state's 32,000+ rare plant occurrences were documented 20 or more years ago. Climate change, development, groundwater depletion and invasive exotics threaten many of these known populations, so more current data is important for their conservation. Also, many remote portions of California have seen little botanical exploration. For example, about 6-10% of Mojave Desert flora remains undescribed.

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Save the Date
Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, May 5
Sierra College, Rocklin

Field trips (continued)

(<http://www.redbud-cnps.org/>) and on our Yahoo listserv. (Go to our web page to sign up for our Yahoo listserv. Once you have signed up, you will be notified via email of each field trip.)

If you wish to lead a field trip, please send Roger your write-up at least two weeks prior to the date of the walk and he will see that it gets posted. If you know of a good area for a field trip, please volunteer to lead it, even if you don't know any or all of the plants. Usually the members of the group can collaboratively identify most of them.

To learn more about California's rare plants go to www.cnps.org. This web site has extensive resources and an Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants.

Evening Programs (continued)

To address these issues CNPS formed the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, a citizen-science program that enlists volunteers to gather data on California's rare plants, while instilling an appreciation for rare plant conservation. In this program, CNPS staff, Chapters, and other volunteer groups organize and lead rare plants surveys, with the goal of re-locating historical rare plant occurrences and exploring new areas. This talk will focus on the results of the first two years of this program, highlighting projects undertaken by groups around the state and locally. Local rare plant survey priorities and opportunities for participation in the program will also be discussed. Come to this talk and learn about this fun way that you can get involved in conserving rare plants locally and in your travels throughout the state.

Fellow Plant Photographers

As you might know the Redbud Chapter is working on its second book. It will be covering the Woody Plants of Nevada and Placer Counties. We are starting our second season of photography in the next few months.

You are invited to participate in this process by reviewing the "Wish List" on our web page and looking in your library of photos and seeing if you have some of the shots needed. You are also invited to use us as an excuse to take every opportunity to get out in the field and shoot to your hearts content. We are glad to be your accomplice. The materials you need are listed below. The links to their locations are listed.

We recommend you download the Authors Style Manual.pdf and look at SECTION 7 - PHOTOGRAPHY CONSIDERATIONS. This section contains the guidelines for submittal of your photographs. The heart of the process is in the naming of the file so it makes it to the proper group file for consideration. Submit the files in folders for the families then name the file using the Genus and species convention outlined in the instructions in SECTION 7.

You will also need to download Bk2 Photo Wishes.xls. Explanations of what the column headings, color codes and letter codes mean are found at the bottom of the document. It is designed to print each page with the same column heading for ease of use.

Details in the Minutes

If you want more details, refer to the right hand column to obtain the number of the editing session which discussed that species. Refer to Book2, Round 1 Minutes folder which contains the text of each editorial session of this last year to obtain the detailed discussion of what is needed. If there is just a minus(-) in the red cell what is needed is just a good photo of that part indicated by the column heading. However, if there is a text abbreviation in the cell, you can go to the minutes session indicated in the right hand column and get further clarification under the specific species notes.

If you have further questions feel free to contact Bill Wilson the photo manager, wilsonb@yosemite.edu or Chet Blackburn the Book Project director, chetblackburn@yahoo.com or any other member of the Editorial Board. Thanks.

Native Wildflower Garden: Phase Two Progress in 2011

by Cindy Rubin

Several major steps forward in phase two development of the BriarPatch California Native Plant Demonstration Garden project were accomplished in 2011:

- Shade pavilion
- Rock edge for native lawn
- Back entrance bed
- Scale drawing

Shade Pavilion

The “shade raising” on September 25th was the culmination of a year and a half of planning, many hours of plant moving prep work in the picnic area, preparing for and pouring the concrete foundation piers, and a month of intense activity in Tim Brennan’s shop, Ridgebeam Building Co. to cut and prepare all the pieces. Special thanks go to Julie Herlinger, Debbie Totoonchie, Richard Drace, Dave Chamberlin, Ryosei Kaneko, and Tim Brennan for their work of preparing all the pieces and for the raising of the pavilion. Thanks also go to Marilyn Harton, Cindy Rubin, and other Demo Garden volunteers for the prep work and for photographing the whole process.

Elegant as it is, the pavilion that now graces the corner of the Demonstration Garden by the BriarPatch parking lot was not built just for looks. It’s part of the development of the picnic and rest area. The shade pavilion structure provides about 25 percent shade. For denser summer shade, the plan is to plant a couple California Wild Grapes (*Vitis californica*) at opposite corners of the pavilion and to train them over the top of the structure. If interim shade is needed, a roller shade will be installed overhead.

Finishing touches for the shade pavilion will include a sign in the sign space on the front of the pavilion and a screen panel made of natural manzanita limbs installed in the side of the pavilion facing the store.

Rock Edge for Native Lawn

On May 6th, a collection of larger rocks, donated by Wild Woman Farms, were set along the outer boundary of the native lawn with a mini excavator, courtesy of Evan Rehkop of Evan’s Excavations, Sunny Rehkop of Earthly Wisdom Landscaping, and other Demo Garden volunteers. The remainder of the donated rocks—sitting in various places in and around the picnic area—will be placed between the larger rocks to complete the rock edge. The primary purpose of these rocks is to define the perimeter of the native lawn and to discourage people from tramping through the garden on the plants.

Picnic Area Development: What’s Next

- Fine gravel under the shade pavilion.
- Headers—ideally of reclaimed granite curbing—to contain the gravel.
- Local slate pavers set into the gravel under the pavilion (if we can find a source).
- More yarrow transplanted into bare spots in the native lawn to fill in the lawn more quickly.
- Completion of the rock edge defining the native lawn area.
- Permanent, in-ground irrigation system: While the native yarrow lawn will require much less irrigation than a conventional grass lawn, it will require some irrigation during the dry season to keep it green; otherwise it would go dormant.
- Several inches of rescued forest mulch over the entire lawn area to improve the soil and the lawn surface. In the spring, the yarrow will grow up through the cushion of mulch.
- A large, hand-crafted picnic table with benches under the shade pavilion.
- One or two additional benches elsewhere in the picnic area.
- A debris station: trash, recycling, compost, and doggie clean-up bags.

Back Entrance Bed

During the winter a new perennials bed was created at the back entrance to the Demo Garden to show off our locally native, forest floor, semi-woody

BriarPatch Native Plant Demonstration Garden: 2011 Highlights



Four rescued *Clarkia rhomboidea*, Tongue Clarkia, planted into the Demo Garden in summer 2010 reseeded themselves well, giving us a nice stand of them in 2011.



Back entrance bed with winter snow.



First installment of rocks for the native lawn outer edge, as seen from trail below.

Shade Pavilion



The final details for the shade pavilion include a carved wooden sign on the front, a screen panel of natural manzanita limbs on the right side, a handcrafted picnic table underneath, and California Wild Grape growing over the top.

Under the Rainbow



All photos on this page © 2011, 2012 Harmony Works, Cindy Rubin

groundcover plant community. The area was cleared of weeds—primarily perennial Canadian Bluegrass (*Poa compressa*) and annual Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*). A rock retaining edge and some stepping rocks (for maintenance) were put into place, then the entire bed was planted with rescued plants.

Scale Drawing

A scale drawing of the Demo Garden area, complete with elevation contours at one-foot intervals, trails, trees, shrubs, and shade pavilion, has been drawn up. Services were donated by J. E. Braley of Metron Surveys (Colfax), Karin Kaufman Landscape Design (plus 16 hours of discounted hired time), Elizabeth Dunn of Rebecca Coffman Landscape Architects, Debora Totoonchie of Owl Creek Design, and other Demo Garden volunteers.

New Species in the Demonstration Garden

The following annual and biennial species were seen in the Demo Garden in this last year as the result of seeding in winter 2011:

Calycadenia spicata (Spiked Rosinweed)
Cirsium occidentale var. *californicum* (California Thistle)
Clarkia purpurea ssp. *quadrivulnera* (Winecup Clarkia)
Clarkia williamsonii (Williamson's Clarkia)
Erysimum capitatum (Western Wallflower)
Eschscholzia caespitosa (Tufted Poppy)
Gilia sinistra (Clockwise Gilia)
Mimulus layneae (Layne's Monkeyflower)
Minuartia douglasii (Douglas' Sandwort)
Monardella lanceolata (Mustang Mint)
Phacelia quickii (Quick's Phacelia)
Sidalcea hartwegii (Hartweg's Sidalcea)

The following annual and biennial species were planted as “bedding plants” with the intention that they will reseed themselves and establish an ongoing presence in the Demo Garden:

Allophyllum gilioides ssp. *gilioides* (Purple Allophyllum)
Calycadenia spicata (Spiked Rosinweed)
Castilleja lacera (Cutleaf Owl's Clover)
Cirsium occidentale var. *californicum* (California Thistle)

Claytonia parviflora ssp. *parviflora* (Indian or Miner's Lettuce)

Claytonia rubra ssp. *rubra* (Redstem Miner's Lettuce)

Collomia heterophylla (Vari-leaf Collomia)

Linanthus liniflorus (Narrowleaf Flaxflower)

Madia rammii (Ramm's Madia)

Navarretia tagetina (Marigold Navarretia) (species ID uncertain)

Sidalcea hartwegii (Hartweg's Sidalcea)

Uropappus lindleyi (Silver Puffs)

The four rescued Tongue Clarkia (*Clarkia rhomboidea*) that were planted in the garden in 2010 reseeded themselves well, giving us a nice stand of the species in 2011.

The following perennial species and bulbs were planted in the Demo Garden:

Allium amplexans (Paper Onion, Narrowleaf Onion)

Calochortus monophyllus (Yellow Cat's Ear)

Erythronium multiscapoideum (Sierra Fawn Lily, Adder's Tongue)

Fritillaria recurva (Scarlet Fritillary)

Lomatium macrocarpum (Sheep Parsnip)

Luzula comosa (Hairy Woodrush)

Pentagramma triangularis (Goldback Fern)

Piperia elongata (Denseflower Rein Orchid)

Scutellaria siphocampyloides (Grayleaf Skullcap, Narrowleaf Skullcap)

Sisyrinchium bellum (Blue-eyed Grass)

Triteleia bridgesii (Bridges' Brodiaea)

Triteleia hyacinthina (White Brodiaea, White Wild Hyacinth)

Triteleia ixioides var. *unifolia* (Dark-stained Prettyface)

Viola sheltonii (Shelton's Violet, Fan Violet)

The following donated and rescued shrub species were planted in the Demo Garden:

Ericameria arborescens (Golden Fleece)

Rhamnus rubra (Sierra Coffeeberry)

Ribes roezlii var. *roezlii* (Sierra Gooseberry)

All of the above-listed plants were from the following sources: (1) donations from Linda Nowak-Carlson, (2) donations from a private

property in the Newtown Road area prior to construction of a modest-size house and septic system, (3) donations from a private property in the Airport Road area, (4) rescues (by permission) from road construction, and (5) from Far West Bulb Farm in trade (of rescued plants) for the Scarlet Fritillary.

Ongoing Projects

More rocks have been placed to define trail edges and for use as stepping rocks while weeding and planting within the garden areas, as well as to enhance the habitat, provide visual interest, and to show off some of our highly variable local geology. Many more hours have been devoted to weeding out the non-natives.

As with all of the Demonstration Garden, work is done by volunteers and most of the materials are donated. Volunteers who are BriarPatch owners can earn a 10% discount at the register (in addition to their annual dividend) by joining the BriarPatch volunteer program and offering their services in the garden. Ownership and volunteer applications and information are available at the BriarPatch Customer Service window.

Wish List

- **Granite curbing:** 25–40' of reclaimed (or new) granite curbing or other hand-hewn granite block for gravel headers in the native lawn area.
- **Jack hammer service:** To break up approximately 100' of nonfunctional concrete ditch.
- **Experienced rock setter:** To assist with rock placement and possibly some dry stacking.
- **Sign maker:** We would love a carved wooden sign for the new shade pavilion.
- **Slate:** Local slate for pavers (needs to be at least 1-1/2" thick), that is not wanted where it is.
- **Large rocks:** Again, rocks that are not wanted where they are. We will find a way to get them moved.
- **Geologist or geology student:** To help identify rocks.
- **Excess native plants:** In sizes that are transplantable: shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs.

For more information, to volunteer, or to donate:
Cindy, crubin@nccn.net, 273-1816.

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm winter welcome to the following new members:

Peter Beesley
Monique Bluvas
Caroline Burnside
Allan Duncan
Ingrid Elsel
Christopher Gee
Marjorie Gessner
Jane Godfrey
William Godfrey
Liese Greensfelder
Jane Hundertmark
Susan Infalt
Grace McNerney
Mark Michalski
Judy Nichols
Michelle Noe
J. Scott Peterson
Czyrna Williams
Kathleen Willis
Jeanne Wilson
Denise Zitnik

And thank you to all of our loyal renewing members.

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.

Redbud Chapter Board of Directors

January, 2012

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