

Redbud Review

Newsletter of the Redbud Chapter—Nevada and Placer Counties
California Native Plant Society
Fall 2013

Field Trips

Fall Field Trips

To allow for more flexibility and spontaneity, all our field trips will be advertised on our Web Page (www.redbud-cnps.org/) and our Yahoo Listserv. To join our listserv, please go to our Web Page and click on “YAHOO! Groups Join Now!” on the left side of the page. You will then receive an email one or two weeks prior to each trip.

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! 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, as we usually travel very slowly and stop to view, identify, talk about, and enjoy each plant or fungus species. Most of our trips are 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. 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.

Evening Programs

California Native Plants for Your Garden

Presented by Nancy Gilbert

September 8 (Sunday), 7:00 PM
Madelyn Helling Library
Community Room, Nevada City

This slide show presentation highlights some of the best native plants for local area gardeners to use in varying water use zones, soil types, sun/shade exposures, and elevations/hardiness zones. The slide show will be followed by a short question/answer period and there will be a handout list of all plants discussed in the slideshow.

Nancy Gilbert has over forty years of experience working as a landscape designer/consultant, horticulturalist and naturalist. Her specialties include gardening with California native plants, wildscaping and habitat gardening, permaculture and edible landscaping for Mediterranean climates.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept 21

Northstar House, Grass Valley

See enclosed flier and visit

www.redbud-cnps.org for

details on plant sale

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Field trips (continued)

Our 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; but you may purchase the book for \$25.00 total if you are going on the field trip. We can accept cash and checks. This book will be very helpful on all of our field trips! The field trip will be canceled if heavy rain (or snow) is predicted. Field trips this fall and winter will include a tree walk, fall color walk, mushroom walk, and lichen walk.

If you wish to lead a field trip, please send Roger (rogm@sbcglobal.net) 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 all of the plants. Usually the members of the group can collaboratively identify most of them. The write-up should include the date, location, and time of the meeting place, things that the participants should bring, the length of time that we will be out, and the distance that we will travel. You might also mention what makes the area special to you, and what people might expect to experience.

From the President

Upon completion of my first 6 months in the role of Redbud Chapter president, I am only beginning to explore the whorls of leaves and flowers in this community; comprised of both talented and dedicated people, and incredibly diverse and vital native plants.

I am starting to learn the nuts and bolts of holding plant sales and public programs, as well as acquainting myself with the roles and activities of the Board. As the Chapter Council Delegate, I am excited to work with CNPS Staff and Chapter delegates, and botanize, throughout California. I am learning the current status of native plants in the state and the need for CNPS and public involvement in large projects which have not fully considered impacts to rare plants. Current concerns include impacts from large desert solar and vegetation treatment/fuels reduction projects, which Greg Suba – CNPS Conservation Director will discuss at the Public Program and General Election, November 6th, at the Placer Nature Center. I spent two days assisting in monitoring the rare plant 'hotspot' at Hell's Half Acre, which Redbud is continuing to work on permanently protecting. I assisted Karen Callahan, Redbud's Rare Plant Chair, in monitoring impacted populations of the State and Federal Endangered Stebbins morning glory, and what is thought to be the rare Pine Hill Flannelbush. This Endemic Chaparral/Gabbro Soil Ecosystem, located on and surrounding Nevada County property on McCourtney and Wolf Road, is a fire adapted vegetation community, which is also habitat for the

Coast horned lizard, a California Species of Special Concern, and possibly a new sedge (*Carex*) species. We are in the process of defining mitigation needs and assisting with a management plan to protect and expand existing occurrences of this rare plant "hotspot".

I envision the path ahead including ways to define and focus the Chapter's goals and strategies to more effectively and widely protect native plant communities and support educational opportunities throughout Western Nevada and Placer County. I would like to see increased member engagement in native plant conservation issues to include assisting with review and comment submittal for projects and policies with potential to affect local rare plants communities. Recently Redbud submitted comments on a proposed exploratory mine project in the American River watershed, which is a known location for Stebbins morning glory and possibly a new species of morning glory, as well as many other sensitive plants. There is always work like this needing to be completed. My goal is to more widely broadcast these needs and provide resources to facilitate increased member knowledge and involvement. I urge members who are available to please give the Redbud Chapter a hand in protecting our local native plant communities and promoting their appreciation and use. Current needs include filling Committee Chairs for Publicity and Events and Treasurer. Help with anything, on either a short or long-term basis, is extremely appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all on the path ahead!

Denise R. Della Santina, (Acting) President

Public Program and Chapter General Election

Preserving Native Plant Species and their Habitats – At Home and Beyond

Presented by Greg Suba, Conservation Program Director; Staff – CNPS State Office

Wednesday, November 6th, 7pm
Placer County Nature Center, Auburn

Greg Suba will provide information on how concerned citizens, like yourself, can best advocate for maximum protection of native plants and promote science-based and ecologically-sound land management practices both at home and throughout California. He will share some of the conservation

priorities occurring throughout California, and will also share his involvement advocating for the protection of vernal pools, and unique and often rare plant species, during the drafting of Placer County's Habitat Conservation Plan.

General Election – Officers nominated by the Board of Directors are waiting to be elected by YOU! Please help us meet our membership quorum requirement by voting during the November 6th Election held in conjunction with a Public Program on Native Plant Conservation.

Running for President, Denise R. Della Santina, has planned and led habitat restoration projects in Yosemite, Lassen and Golden Gate National Parks and Audubon Canyon Ranch. She brings a passion for protecting and restoring native plant communities, as well as propagating local genotype plants for watershed and backyard restoration.

Running for Secretary, Terry Gonzalez, has studied art and design, and after working with a lot of natural materials, and being inspired by local plants, she is compelled to study and care for what she loves, and to support Redbud however she can.

Come check out Placer Nature Center (this is a fun place!), learn how you can help protect native plants, cast your vote for new Redbud Officers and spend time with friends!

Driving Directions to Placer Nature Center

Placer Nature Center is located at the very end of Christian Valley Road, behind the California Conservation Corps campus; the address is:

For more specific directions and a map visit the www.placernaturecenter.org

Placer Nature Center
3700 Christian Valley Road
Auburn CA 95602*



How to Plant California Native Trees, Shrubs and Groundcovers

by Nancy Gilbert

Fall is usually considered the best time of year for planting out most California native plants in our local area. My personal experience is that it is better and easier to wait until very late autumn into early winter to plant them, after we have received a couple of good rainstorms which have hydrated the soil, and it has cooled off, which reduces moisture loss due to evapo–transpiration. This is usually in mid to late November, but every year is a bit different, especially with the effects of climate changes. If you purchase your plants in September at our Redbud CNPS plant sale, you can choose to plant them out immediately, or hold them in their containers and keep them watered until the weather has cooled down and we have received some decent rainfall. Either way, you should have success with your plantings so long as you follow some commonsense practices, which I will go through step-by-step.

1. Before you begin digging plant holes, be sure to remove all weeds growing in the areas where you will be planting. Weeds are the enemy of native plants and must be controlled to get good results. You can hand pull the weeds or scrape them away with the side of a shovel or hoe. Disturb the soil as little and as shallowly as possible while weeding, as lots of digging and cultivating will bring up fresh weed seeds to the surface to germinate with the winter rains.

2. If you are planting in early autumn before we have had any substantial rainfall, I strongly recommend that you deeply water the areas to be planted several days before you plant to make digging easier and to hydrate the very dry soil.

3. Now begin digging your planting hole using a good, stout shovel. Dig the hole the same depth and about twice as wide as the root ball of the plant. If you encounter rocks (and you will in our area) you do not need to remove smaller rocks. If you encounter large rocks or boulders, it is probably best to relocate your planting hole. Roughen the sides of the planting hole, which will

allow the plant roots to more easily penetrate into the native soil.

4. Carefully remove the plant from its container and inspect the roots. Run your finger along the outside edges of the root ball and gently tease out any circling roots. Set the plant in the bottom of the planting hole and look to be sure it will not end up being planted deeper than it was in the container. If need be, add some backfill soil to the bottom of the hole and tamp it down firmly to raise the level of the plant.

5. Begin backfilling around the root ball with the native dirt and rocks that you have dug out. Do NOT add amendments or fertilizers to the backfill soil. Almost all drought tolerant native plants grow in fairly lean, infertile soils, the exceptions being plants from riparian and other moist areas. Amendments and fertilizers will do far more harm than good. For plants that require very good drainage, such as chaparral plants, you can add sharp rocks and gravel to the backfill mix (but not sand). Tamp the soil down with your hands as you add it to the hole; after all the soil has been returned, use your feet to tamp the soil around the sides of root ball so that the root ball is making good soil contact.

6. Water in your new plants ‘deeply’, especially if you are planting before we have had substantial rainfall. This may require providing up to 30 gallons of water for a 5gallon size plant, as the surrounding soil is totally parched and will suck the water from your planting hole if you do not water sufficiently. If you plant later in the season when the surrounding soils are moist from rainfall, you will not have to water your plants in as much. If you are planting on a slope, it is useful to construct a temporary earthen water basin around the plant to help retain the water. During their first winter in the ground, you will need to water your new plantings during prolonged dry spells, as we had during January and February of 2013.

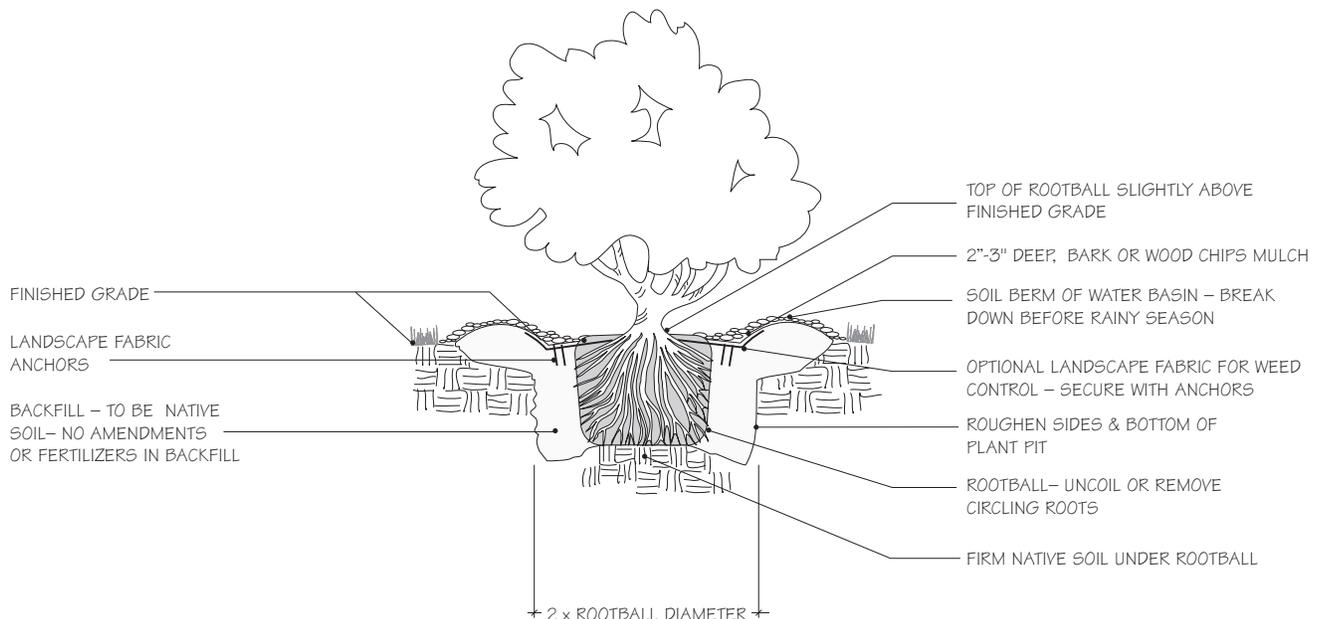
7. Mulch your new plantings 3”- 4” deep. Tree bark is best, but wood chips, leaves and pine needles are also fine. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces erosion and irrigation requirements. Rock and gravel may also be used as mulches and are best for plants that need very good drainage such as chaparral or desert plants, and it also reduces the fire hazard in areas adjacent to your house.

8. Almost all new plantings should be protected from deer and rabbit browsing for at least the first year. Even deer resistant plants will often be munched or pulled out of the ground when first planted out, as they are lush from having been grown with lots of fertilizer and water, plus deer are curious about anything new in their territory and will try it out. You can make cages and hoops from metal welded wire or plastic mesh deer fencing. They can be removed once the plants are well established. We have fenced about an acre

immediately around our house with deer fencing, which has proved to be one of the best investments we have made.

9. Most CA native drought tolerant plants will need to be watered for the first one to three years, until they are fully established. After that, most can survive with no summer water but many will look better and be more fire resistant with occasional summer water (water deeply about once every two weeks). There are some natives that do not want any summer water and they should either not be irrigated at all, or the bare minimum to keep them alive through their first summer. Most CA native bulbs, for instance, will rot out if you water them during the hot months.

CALIF. NATIVE SHRUB PLANTING DETAIL



Placer Nature Center and CNPS Team Up to Grow Environmentalists

CNPS members are cordially invited to “Music in the Meadow,” Placer Nature Center’s 22nd birthday party and community-gathering in Auburn on Saturday October 5th from 1-4 pm. Come to dance, dine and show your devotion to environmental education in a beautiful meadow – naturally designed for fun.

Music in the Meadow is a fundraiser for Placer Nature Center, Placer County’s only volunteer supported, home-grown environmental education center. By attending you become one of the 100,000 “kids” who have learned environmental concepts and to love the natural world since Placer Nature Center’s inception in 1991. The price of admission entitles you to a great food, great music and entertainment, and meadow exploration with CNPS volunteers, area birders, botanists and conservationists. You will see extensive stands of native grasses.

A well-known foothill band, Proxy Moon and special guest musicians will deliver a lyrical blend of jazz, folk, and blues in a pristine and private Sierra foothill meadow. We will have a no host bar sponsored by Sierra Nevada Brewery. Best of all, you’ll be outside with friends and contributing to a healthy environmental future!

Tickets are only \$25. at the door, on line or available at locations throughout Placer County. Great auction items – like a two week stay in an historic colonial home in Nicaragua, personalized nature excursions, art, personal services and other great packages will be up for bid. Your generosity and support translates to

operational funds for Placer Nature Center, so come planning to give generously; because our common future depends on connecting kids with nature and at Placer Nature Center kids find that connection.

Music in the Meadow brings music, food, nature adventures and people together to raise money for environmental education programs delivered by Placer Nature Center. All funds raised are dedicated to teaching science and environmental concepts to children. There is nothing more important than that!

Bring your friends, bring picnic blankets or camp chairs and come for the music but stay for the love of the environment and the programming Placer Nature Center delivers every day. The location is just 2.8 miles from I-80 in Auburn. Parking is at the very end of Christian Valley Road in Auburn, where you will hop on a shuttle bus for a 3 minute ride to Music in the Meadow.

Placer Nature Center is growing the environmental activists of tomorrow. CNPS is proud to partner with Placer Nature Center in this important work. See you at Music in the Meadow and let’s have fun!

For tickets, to make donations and for event details call 530-878-6053 or email events@placernaturecenter.org.

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm winter welcome to the following

Ian Baker	Steve Grundmeier
Rita Birdsong	Nicki Hansen-Dix
Ann Buckingham	Joyce James
Carl Cathey	Barbara MacDonald
Ori Chafe	Norine Mora
Susan Ellenbogen	Lisa Russell
Claire Ellwanger	Dana Snider
Sam Gitchel	Sage Zimmerman
Terry Gonzales	

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, 2013

Officers

Interim President:	Denise Della Santina (clearcreeknatives@gmail.com) 650-888-6392
Vice President:	Julie Carville (mtngypsy1@SBCglobal.net) 530-265-4741
Treasurer:	OPEN
Secretary:	Terry Gonzalez (iluvdedupiggy@yahoo.com) 530-863-8336
Newsletter Editor:	Brad Carter (bradcarter@aol.com) 530-271-5790

Committee Chairs

Membership Co-Chair:	Joan Jernegan (jernegan95602@wildblue.net) 530-613-4479
Program Chair:	Leslie Warren (leslie@wizwire.com)
Field Trips Chair:	Roger McGehee (rogm@sbcglobal.net) 530-264-8555
Spring Plant Sale Chair:	Chet Blackburn (chetblackburn@yahoo.com) 530-885-0201
Fall Plant Sale Chair:	OPEN
Publicity Chair:	OPEN
Education Chair:	Nancy Gilbert (nancyames@spiralemail.com) 530-272-4775
Rare Plant Specialist:	Karen Callahan (penstemon@nccn.net) 530-272-5532
Invasive Plant Specialist:	Dan Lubin (Dan.Lubin@parks.ca.gov) 530-272-0298
Conservation Chair:	David Magney (david@magney.org) 530-273-1799
Restoration Chair:	Karen Wiese (kwildoak@aol.com) 530-346-7131
Webmaster:	Bill Wilson (wilsonb@yosemite.edu) 530-265-8040
Chapter Council Delegate:	Joan Jernegan (jernegan95602@wildblue.net) 530-613-4479
Book Project Chair:	Chet Blackburn (chetblackburn@yahoo.com) 530-885-0201
Hospitality Co-Chair:	Karen Wiese (kwildoak@aol.com) 530-346-7131
Hospitality Co-Chair:	Julie Carville (mtngypsy1@SBCglobal.net) 530-265-4741
Publications:	Rebecca Baer (rbaer77@yahoo.com) 530-273-8897
Member at Large:	Carl Wishner (cbwishner@gmail.com) 530-346-7131
Member at Large:	OPEN

CNPS-Redbud Chapter
P.O. Box 2662
Nevada City, CA 95959
www.redbud-cnps.org

Please join us

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept 21

Northstar House, Grass Valley

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