

Redbud Review

Newsletter of the Redbud Chapter—Nevada and Placer Counties
California Native Plant Society
Spring/Summer 2013

Field Trips

Spring 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.

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Evening Programs

A Growing Restoration Program in the Yuba Watershed

Presented by Redbud Chapter
CNPS and the South Yuba River
Citizens League

April 24 (Wednesday), 7:30 PM
Madelyn Helling Library
Community Room, Nevada City

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) has been steadily growing their restoration program over the past few years. In SYRCL’s new strategic plan, they have identified three goals: rehabilitating the lower Yuba River with an emphasis on salmon habitat, restoring the health of mountain meadows, and protecting the river corridors from invasive

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Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4
Sierra College, Rocklin

See article on page 4 and visit
www.redbud-cnps.org for
details on plant sale

Evening programs (continued)

species. These goals have manifested in several projects including the Hammon Bar Riparian Enhancement project on the lower Yuba River, several aspen regeneration projects in meadows and a newly developed invasive weed removal program. Adele Rife, SYRCL's AmeriCorps Restoration Coordinator, will be joining the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society to present these up-and-coming restoration initiatives in the Yuba Watershed.

The Fascinating World of Lichens

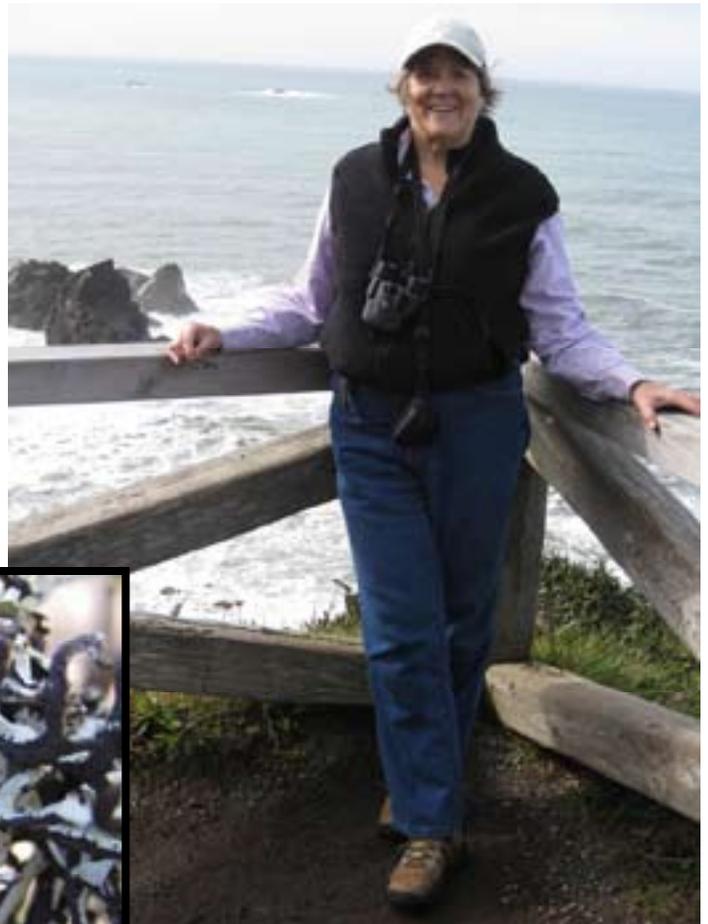
by Pam Kirkbride, Naturalist

June 26 (Wednesday), 7:30 PM
Madelyn Helling Library
Community Room, Nevada City

Lichens are Lilliputian-sized elements in our environment that are often overlooked because they are seemingly insignificant when compared to our native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. But these small beings play a very important role in nature. Whether your interest is in studying birds, mammals, insects, soils, people, chemistry, environmental issues, arts or medicine, you'll find lichens in the mix. When studied under magnification, they reveal a special beauty not

seen with the naked eye. The talk will give an overview of lichen habitats, evolution, morphology, reproduction, ecology and identification. Pam will introduce us to ten common species of lichens, found locally, that are easy to recognize. A variety of lichens will be available to allow you a hands-on experience. Pam will also discuss how to start exploring the world of lichens and share her library of reference guides.

Pam Kirkbride is a self-taught naturalist specializing in native plant botany and lichenology. She has been a member of CNPS for over 30 years, acting as a docent for Jepson Prairie Preserve and Mather Field. She has taught native wildflower classes and has led and participated in dozens of field trips throughout California.



Pam Kirkbride, above, will talk about lichens on June 26 at 7:30 PM at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room in Nevada City.

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.

From the President

This winter, our friends and past Redbud Chapter President and Treasurer, Jane and Will Godfrey, were called back to Chicago to be with family. Their passion, energy, and humor are certainly missed and we send them our best wishes. On the other hand, this has created a timely and exciting opportunity for me to share my passion for native plants, habitat restoration, community stewardship and education.

Raised in the S.F. Bay Area, with the constant sound of hammers and saws, I watched my forts and trails through serpentine outcrops and oak woodlands give way to houses and traffic. I never got over the loss of what used to be. While attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and upon watching a prescribed burn through a remnant tall-grass prairie, I began to understand how I could support what I loved and earned a Bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology. I have planned and led habitat restoration projects in Yosemite, Lassen and Golden Gate National Parks and Audubon Canyon Ranch in West Marin. As Nursery Manager for Save The Bay in San Francisco, I coordinated the growing of 30,000 watershed specific native plants a year for shoreline restoration.

I moved to Grass Valley two years ago and feel so blessed to call this home. I look forward to making new friends, inspiring and supporting each other, and standing up together at this critical time for our planet to protect and restore native plants and habitats in our backyards and beyond. I hope to see you all soon!

Best,
Denise R. Della Santina

Field Trip Leaders Needed

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.

CNPS Chapter-Based Rare Vegetation Sampling Workshop at Hell's Half Acre, Nevada County April 23-24, 2013

The CNPS Vegetation Program is conducting a field-based sampling/mapping workshop at Hell's Half Acre in Nevada County. This workshop will focus on techniques to identify and survey rare natural communities using our combined CNPS/CDFW protocols. The overall goals of the workshop are to learn about the diversity of vegetation at Hell's Half Acre, learn to identify discrete stands of vegetation and estimate percent covers, and become familiar with the Relevé and Rapid Assessment methods for sampling vegetation.

Hell's Half Acre is a special bit of botanical heaven in the Sierra Nevada foothills where acres of brilliant wildflowers bloom in spring. Surrounded by pine and oak forest, Hell's Half Acre is a distinctive open habitat sometimes called a "Mehrten meadow." The forest opening is formed by shallow soils underlain by a hard volcanic mudflow, or lahar. Geologists call this a Mehrten Formation. Due to the cement-

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The Spring Plant Sale has a New Twist

Circle the date of **Saturday, May 4** on your calendar. That's the date of the Redbud Chapter's annual spring plant sale and wildflower show. The hours open to the public are from 9:30 to 2:30. The sale will be held at the Sewell Hall Parking lot of the Sierra College campus in Rocklin, 5000 Rocklin Road, Rocklin.

Early 8:00am admission for CNPS members only; join at the door for early admission and the best selection of plants.

Most Redbud Chapter members are aware that the Sierra College campus in Rocklin is home to a wonderful little natural history museum. The breadth and scope of the museum is exceptional for the physical space that it occupies. To the general public, however, it still remains one of the area's best kept secrets. The natural history museum staff is trying to change that. Last year Sierra College held a "Celebration of Nature" festival that was well publicized and well attended with more than a thousand people showing up. The object was to bring more attention to the museum and to serve as a museum fund raiser.

This year our spring plant sale will be held in conjunction with that event, adding to the festival atmosphere that we have been trying to develop over the last few years as opposed to simply being a typical plant sale. It opens up exciting possibilities for both groups.

All of the logistics of the plant sale will remain the same. The plant sale, wildflower show, information booth and cashier's tents will occupy the same locations that they have in recent years and continue to operate in the same manner. Adjacent areas will be occupied by information booths from many of the area's other environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Placer Nature Center.

The museum will be open to the public for a small fee to be collected at the entrance. The fee applies only to the events taking place within the museum, where seminars, children's events, interactive exhibits, and other activities will be taking place. There is no fee to attend the outside activities such as our plant sale,

wildflower show and the other exhibits. Food and refreshments will be made available from several food trucks offering a variety of foods.

Some of the native plant nurseries that are expected to participate are Cornflower Farms from Elk Grove, High Ranch Nursery from Loomis, Native Springs Nursery from Durham, Floral Native Nursery from Chico, Sierra View Nursery from Loomis, Lotus Valley Natives from Lotus, and Steve Doty. In addition to the plants made available through these nurseries, the chapter obtains additional species from nurseries such as Las Pilitas, Tree of Life, Mostly Natives, and California Flora in an effort to provide what is perhaps the widest selection of native plants available anywhere in northern California, if only for the period of the sale.

Other features include the wildflower show of more than 150 kinds of wildflowers living and blooming in containers, educational exhibits, a wildflower hike, the "Connoisseur's Corner" where rare and hard to find plants are available, as well as the sale of books, posters, apparel, and other related items.

Call for Volunteers

Volunteers will be needed both for the day of the sale and prior to the sale. The nurseries begin arriving at 7:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help set up tents, tables and displays, unload plants, set up the wildflower show, serve as cashiers, transport plants, provide customer assistance, staff the booths, and several other functions.

Volunteers will each receive 1 free one-gallon plant of their choice, and be able to participate in the volunteers only pre-sale from 8:30 to 9:00.

Please volunteer by contacting Leslie Warren at leslie@wizwire.com. She will be available until April 24 before trudging off to Africa. After that, contact Chet Blackburn at chetblackburn@yahoo.com.

As further information develops, it will be posted on the chapter Web site.

Save the Date

Art in the Garden Party—Saturday, June 1, 2013

Plan to come and join us on Saturday, June 1, 2013, from 10AM to 4PM in the 1-acre native plant garden at Brad Carter and Fred Hodgson's home in Grass Valley for a new event called Art in the Garden Party. This all-day garden party is free to the public and features food and drink, numerous artists selling outdoor garden art, tours of the garden, sustainable gardening talks and more.

Sierra Streams Institute, which recently received a \$2,500 grant from Redbud Chapter to launch a new native plant/nature journaling program in Nevada County schools, will be a sponsor of this event and receive 20% of the art sale revenue as a donation. "We are just thrilled that Brad and Fred are creating this new event that not only helps local folks learn about river-friendly, sustainable gardening, but also will contribute financially to Sierra Streams Institute," says Joanne Hild, Executive Director of Sierra Streams Institute.

Carter and Hodgson have been developing this garden for ten years. There is extensive rockwork throughout the garden and numerous large ceramic sculpture installations. "I have always thought of this garden as a habitat garden for wildlife, especially birds, insects and reptiles," says Carter. "But it is also an outdoor art gallery of sorts, which I hope to fill up with my own ceramic sculpture over time."

The garden, which is landscaped with California native plants, usually reaches peak bloom in late May. "We use it a lot during May and June for entertaining friends and for hosting a couple of events that we have started, including Art for Life, which raises money to assist people by HIV/AIDS in Nevada County," says Hodgson. "

"Now we adding another event," says Carter. "Sometimes this feels like a real stretch, but I'm out there weeding and grooming the garden January-April anyway. And it really looks spectacular for a couple months. Then it goes into

summer dormancy. So we like to use it as much as possible during May and June. The good news," says Carter with a laugh, "is that because it is not irrigated and completely drought-tolerant, I just walk away in July and do other fun things during summer, and usually don't come back to the garden again until January."

For more information on this event contact Fred Hodgson at 272-8900 or fwhodgson@aol.com, or visit the Sierra Streams Institute website www.sierra-streamsinstitute.org.

Welcome New Members

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

Susan Barnett
Amber Barrett
James DeVinny
Thomas Durgin
Michelle Hamil
Connie Suddath
Gene Thompson

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

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Vice President:	Julie Carville (mtngypsy1@SBCglobal.net) 530-265-4741
Treasurer:	OPEN
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Newsletter Editor:	Brad Carter (bradcarter@aol.com) 530-271-5790

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Invasive Plant Specialist:	Dan Lubin (Dan.Lubin@parks.ca.gov) 530-272-0298
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Webmaster:	Bill Wilson (wilsonb@yosemite.edu) 530-265-8040
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Publications:	Rebecca Baer (rbaer77@yahoo.com) 530-273-8897
Member at Large:	Carl Wishner (cbwishner@gmail.com) 530-346-7131
Member at Large:	OPEN

Vegetation Sampling Workshop at Hell's Half Acre

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like layer and gentle slopes, rainfall collects in shallow depressions before slowly draining off or evaporating. Showy, mostly native, annual plants thrive with little competition from invasive species.

The cost of the workshop is \$25 for CNPS members, \$65 for non-members that includes a one-year membership to CNPS. The precise meeting location, agenda, and options for

lodging (with specifics on camping and hotels, as well as important items to bring) will be sent out to participants in early April.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Deborah Stout dstout@cnps.org no later than April 9, 2013, if possible, so that we can arrange travel plans and other specifics. The Vegetation Program staff looks forward to meeting and working with your Chapter members!

California Botanical Society Centennial Celebration

1913-2013

12
FRIDAY

Field trip to Mount Diablo
8:30-5 PM Barbara Ertter

Field trip to Mount Tamalpais
8:30-5 PM Dean Kelch

Opening Mixer
5:30-8:30 PM Senior Hall
University of California, Berkeley

13
SATURDAY

Centennial Symposium
8-5 PM Botanical Frontiers: Past and Future
Valley Life Sciences Building
University of California, Berkeley

Centennial Mixer & Banquet
5:15-10 PM Hotel Shattuck
Berkeley, CA

14
SUNDAY

24th Graduate Student Meeting
7:30-5 PM Valley Life Sciences Building
University of California, Berkeley
<http://calbotsoc.org/symposium.html>

2013 April
California Botanical Society
Centennial Celebration 1913-2013
Botanical Frontiers: Past and Future
12-14 April 2013 www.calbotsoc.org

CNPS-Redbud Chapter
228 Commercial St., Box 125
Nevada City, CA 95959
www.redbud-cnps.org

Please join us

Redbud Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
March 27, 7PM at the home of
Joan Jernegan in Auburn. Contact Joan at
jernegan95602@wildblue.net 530-613-
4479 for address and driving directions.