

OBISPOENSIS

Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society for San Luis Obispo
and Northern Santa Barbara Counties



APRIL 2006

About the Cover Deer-weed (*Lotus scoparius*)

Some plants are much more common than they appear. These are ones without conspicuous characteristics. This allows them to blend into the greens and gray-greens of the surrounding plants. However, the plant profiled in this issue of the *Obispoensis* is not one of these. Although it is non-descript, it prefers to be right along the paths where we can see it. The plant is common shrubby deer weed or *Lotus scoparius*. A glance at Bonnie's drawing will lead most of you to quickly recognize the small but obviously pea shaped flower and elongate green-bean shaped fruit characteristic of the Legume family (Fabaceae). Shrubby deer-weed is a semi-shrub that produces abundant three-foliolate leaves in the spring and a scattering of yellow flowers. It blooms most prolifically in the spring, but a few flowers can be found in our area every month of the year. Shrubby deer-weed is extremely drought deciduous. That is, with the first days of summer, it loses most of or all of its leaves. After that, all that remains is a tangle of thin wiry green stems.

In our area, we have two nearly identical shrubby species of *Lotus* – *L. scoparius* and *L. junceus*. These two species differ only technically. *L. scoparius* has calyx (sepal) teeth that are long and pointed and a small but standard shaped (i.e. straight) legume fruit. *L. junceus* has very short, blunt calyx teeth and a fruit that makes a sharp bend just as it leaves the calyx tube. Dr. Hoover, in his *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County*, states that these two species often grow in close proximity but usually on different soil types. *L. scoparius* is soil neutral whereas *L. junceus* is almost always restricted to rocky outcrops. It is a distinction I plan to look for this wildflower season.

Why do I say that shrubby deer-weed is less common than it actually appears? Shrubby deer-weed is a pioneer. It is most common immediately after an area of vegetation has been removed or destroyed by some kind of disturbance. In Southern California, that disturbance usually means fire. Immediately after the fire, deer-weed germinates and grows rapidly. The extra high nutrient ash left on the ground after the fire as well as the lack of competition from the taller shrubs that were there before the fire aids it. However, within a few years, other shrub species have grown tall and the soil fertility has become less, causing the deer-weed gradually to die out. This is true everywhere except where there is localized disturbance, such as along trails. We humans are among the largest of land animals. We certainly have very large feet such that whenever we make trail, we tend to create wide paths. These let in the extra sunshine needed by this pioneer. In other words, deer-weed gradually becomes rarer and rarer

out in the native vegetation but remains quite common right along our paths.

A retired Cal Poly professor of wild game management (Dr. Douglas Donaldson) called this plant, "deer ice cream." If asked to assess an area for its ability to support deer and other wildlife, he would simply count the number of individual deer-weed plants. He could do this because deer-weed is most common immediately after a disturbance, especially fire and then gradually disappears. So the number of deer-weed plants is inversely correlated with the time since the last fire. Legume plants like deer-weed have symbiotic bacteria living in special nodules on their roots. These symbiotic bacteria are able to change atmospheric nitrogen into organic forms which are then passed on to the host. Then when the deer-weed dies and decays, this extra organic nitrogen is incorporated into surrounding plants. In addition, early pioneer plants are also incorporating the abundant nutrition freed by the fire and converting it into green plant material. This green material allows for larger herbivore populations, because more of it is in a form they can digest. In mature shrub communities, like chaparral and dune scrub, most of the energy plants trap goes into producing woody branches that are indigestible.

– Dirk Walters Illustration by Bonnie Walters

President's Message

By Lauren Brown

I attended my first Chapter Council meeting on March 4. The highlight for me was a presentation on the history of the organization of the California Native Plant Society and the development of the Chapter Council. Since I am only recently involved in the organizational aspects of CNPS, I found this information interesting and thought I would try and summarize what I learned. I hope I got most of it correct.

Historically, the CNPS Board of Directors consisted of a group of about 50 people that included the chapter presidents, program vice presidents and an executive council. At board meetings, the decision making process was difficult with such a large body of people. In addition, there was a high rate of turnover with Chapter Presidents, which meant that there were different levels of knowledge on a particular issue when the Board of Directors met. To compensate, the Executive Committee would perform a preliminary review of issues, then bring the issues to the Board of Directors for a vote. This was not satisfactory and led to a perception of lack of openness among the board members. In addition, there was a concern that the election of the executive council was skewed, where the executive council members were electing themselves. There was also no time for interactions among the chapter representatives and sharing of ideas. Another problem was that the lines of authority

were unclear with regard to management at the state level. The Executive Director was in charge of office staff as well as the program staff and there was confusion between the Executive Director and the Program Vice Presidents.

The situation indicated that reorganization was needed that would be able to maintain CNPS values and the common emphasis on native plants. The objective of the reorganization was to keep addressing Chapter-related issues, but define a smaller, more effective Board of Directors with clear lines of authority and a more open election process. A new system was put into place with a Board of Directors that is focused on running the organization, lines of authority are clear, and there is an independent election of the Board of Directors. The chapters provide direction to the Board of Directors through the Chapter Council, which has representatives on the Board of Directors, and there is time for chapter representatives to support each other and share their experiences.

On the state level, the CNPS organization supports the chapters, supports science and professionalism, publishes and contributes to CNPS' reputation, influences agencies and legislation, and provides a stable core for chapters. The Chapter Council guides the Board of Directors by setting strategic direction, providing basic governance, and maintains the relationship between the chapter members and the state. The Board of Directors governs CNPS by developing the strategic plan, ensuring financial resources and accountability, and develops leadership. And the Executive Director manages the program staff and the administration staff.

The Chapter Council meets four times a year and the Chapter representative's role is to:

- Stay informed: through program reporting (presented at the Chapter Council), interaction with the Board of Directors, and knowing real-world issues and needs concerning CNPS.
- Provide good direction: inform the Board of Directors about CNPS direction, work to develop effective and relevant policies, and optimize support of rare plant programs.
- And support each other.

Another important role for the Chapter representative is to keep our Chapter members informed. We requested some presentations and other information be made available over the internet. I hope I can share more of what I learned in upcoming newsletters. I really enjoyed participating in the Chapter Council meeting, getting an understanding of how CNPS works at the state level, meeting people from other chapters as well as the council representatives that are on the state Board of Directors.

And the best part of the Chapter Council Meeting: David Chipping was presented with a recognition award for his many years of dedication and hard work in conservation. **Congratulations to David.**

E. Craig Cunningham Receives Appreciation for Photography

By Malcolm McLeod

Upon his retirement, Craig moved from Southern California to the San Luis Obispo County area. Soon after his arrival he joined the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

It became obvious very soon that Craig had a great interest in photography. It was also obvious that he was a very accomplished photographer. He joined the photography committee and eventually became chair of that committee.

Craig had a goal to photograph all of the flowering plants of San Luis Obispo County. One result of that goal was the production of a video discussing the plants of Coastal San Luis Obispo County.

Craig worked on several projects. A notable one was the photography of the plants of the Carrizo Plain area. Craig, accompanied by his wife Eileen, made a number of trips out to the area. The Nature Conservancy sponsored the production of two loose-leaf books, one on the plants of the area the other on plant communities. Those books



Malcolm McLeod and Craig Cunningham

were illustrated largely with Craig's photographs. They are still in the visitors' center at the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The photographs were also used in the production of *Wildflowers of the Carrizo Plain Area* a plant identification book produced by the

local chapter.

In the early 1990s the Highway 41 fire burned across Cuesta Ridge West. Again accompanied by his wife Eileen, he undertook to photograph as many of the plants that followed the fire as he could.

In the late 1990s Craig was involved in another project. Kathleen Jones had long wanted a book about the wildflowers of the dune area of southern San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties. Many of the photographs were his, taken on a series of trips to the dunes or that were already existing. The book was *Dune Mother's Wildflower Guide*.

He has been very liberal in letting us use his photographs. Another book that includes many of his photographs is *Wildflowers of* (Continued on page 4)

Craig Cunningham continued

Highway 58, another production of the local chapter. It has been a great pleasure to work with Craig. We are here to celebrate his accomplishments. Congratulations, Craig, on all of your great work.

CONSERVATION NEWS

By David Chipping

During the last month CNPS has been tracking the San Luis Obispo Airport Master Plan Update, which involves lengthening runways. The plan prefers an expansion to the northwest, toward the old tank farm site on Tank Farm Road. Three CNPS List 1B plants are located in the area, these being Cambria morning-glory, Hoover's button-celery and Congdon's tarplant. Impacts to these species are described as being less than significant, and therefore the study lacks any sort of mitigation for their impact. This is in contrast to actions take by the City of San Luis Obispo in regard to Congdon's tarplant that was destroyed by the development around Costco and Home Depot, where mitigation was the creation of a successful wetland enhancement on the west side of Foothill Boulevard. We believe that any losses to CNPS 1B plants should be mitigated, and think that on-site opportunities exist. If not, there should be off-site mitigation such as used by the City.

CEQA LESSON #2- EARLY STAGES OF THE PROCESS

In the last lesson you selected a geographic area, found the lead agency for most CEQA issues, and found from them how to obtain information on impending projects. Usually "Googling" the city or county name gets you to local government and contacts, although a simple telephone number from the "blue pages" will get you there. Try Planning and Community Development departments first. Some have downloadable project files on the web, most don't. This time we will address the opening moves made by a project developer on the one hand, and a CNPS activist on the other.

In many cases a developer will have taken the project to the Planning Commission, so you will have had a chance to give comments there. This is important in establishing a CNPS interest to strengthen a later legal challenge. A developer can (but doesn't have to) request a pre-submission consultation with the Lead Agency, and might have gone to local citizens advisory councils, chambers of commerce, or other groups to "test the waters" regarding possible local opposition. Try to develop personal contacts with the lead agency or with local groups to be warned of problem projects. Be prepared to forge a direct link with the developer or their

agent, but beware of empty promises. It can be mutually beneficial to CNPS and the developer to resolve conflicts before the CEQA process gets underway. You might also detect troubles well in advance if the developer rejects any discussion. In any discussions, take the high ground, remain polite, but point out issues that are important to CNPS. Do not threaten litigation or raise the ante too far, as the poker game has just started.

The developer then sends a project description to the lead agency, which determines its sufficiency. The agency determines if CEQA applies, (if not, it issues a Notice of Exemption), and then if there is likely to be a significant environmental effect (Notice of Determination). An environment-unfriendly Lead Agency might determine incorrectly that there is no impact, most often because the effects of adding to regional cumulative impact are ignored. Such a "Negative Declaration" might than have to be challenged legally, with an incredibly short 30 day window for filing the case. To have a case, CNPS should already have submitted to the Lead Agency a letter pointing out reasons why a full or issue- focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should have been prepared. The CEQA rules state boldly that if there is any reasonable case to be made for an EIR, the Lead Agency should do the study. Next lesson we will examine the production of the Draft EIR, and CNPS participation. I will leave the issue of lawsuits till later. For homework, find out how you can get information of the Planning Commission agenda.

Al Naydol

With the death of Al Naydol last month, the Environmental Community lost a tireless, if at times outspoken advocate. For many years, Al was the Chief of Natural Resources Protection at Vandenberg AFB until his retirement in 2004. Many of us considered him to be Vandenberg's Environmental Conscience. Over the last 10 years, Vandenberg AFB received over 24 local, regional, and national awards for excellence in Natural and Cultural Resource Protection. He was also active in promoting native plants in horticulture. His home garden was a showcase of creative use of California natives. He helped design the landscaping at The Dunes Center in Guadalupe, and taught native horticulture courses there and in the general area. He also served on the SLO Chapter and State Horticulture Committees, hosting several local Board Meetings at his home. After his retirement, he and his wife Linda moved to Grant's Pass, Oregon where he continued his native plant advocacy. He will be sorely missed.

– Charles Blair



WETLANDS

By Bill Denneen

New Years weekend had about four inches of rain much like what occurred on March 5 in 2001. On Nipomo Mesa plastic irrigation tubing seems to be the biggest problem. It makes a tangle with branches and debris forming a dam resulting in adjacent flooding. This tubing should not be dumped in the creek and of course not burned as it makes a poisonous gas.

Wetlands include estuaries, swamps, bogs, vernal pools, riparian corridors, marshland, creeks and sloughs. California has the dubious honor of having lost more than 90% of its historic wetlands, the largest percentage of any state in our nation. Prior to the arrival of our civilization the U.S. had 5 million acres of wetlands with only a half million remaining – this is horrendous. Local examples of wetlands are west of Guadalupe, Cienega Valley and Black Lake Canyon. The situation gets even worse as we become "Losangelified" and former wetlands start growing houses (Point Sal Dunes).

Wetlands are sacred to biologists because they provide critical feeding, breeding, and spawning grounds for one-third of our endangered plants and animals, and a myriad of waterfowl, migratory songbirds, and other wildlife. Wetlands recharge ground water supplies, control floods, purify water that flows through them and are the nurseries for the fish of the seas. Wetlands are vital to the economic and environmental health of our nation, yet they are being lost at the alarming rate of 300,000 acres per year.

Our culture has not been kind to this resource. We have dredged, diked, bulldozed, channelized, diverted, silted in and contaminated this pristine resource in the name of "progress." A few years ago there was a big tractor parade in Santa Maria. The parade ended at the County Government Center. Over 200 tractors and farmers gathered to protest regulations to protect wetlands; there was one lone demonstrator for wetland protection (me). When I carried my sign "Save Our Creeks" one farmer yelled out "save our geeks," which got a big laugh (even from me). The farmers invited me to their excellent BBQ, which I appreciated.

I have watched with great pain the slow inexorable destruction Oso Flaco Creek. State Parks and for awhile the Nature Conservancy have been doing a fine job taking care of Oso Flaco Lake while at the same time ignoring the drainage into the lake. I first saw this riparian corridor in the 1960's. I wish I had taken pictures. It had high biodiversity, giant willows and cottonwoods, songbirds, watercress, yerba mansa, duckweed, azolla, rushes, bulrushes, muskrats, black-shouldered kites, raptors, cattails and all kinds of insects, amphibians, garter snakes and horseshoals. Western pond turtles once lived here.

Clear water flowed in the creek. I always stopped here with my biology classes on our way to the Nipomo Dunes. Now it is a channelized, sterile, very silted ditch. It is rapidly filling in Oso Flaco Lake. Agriculture has expanded so that all that is left of this once rich riparian corridor is an ugly ditch – this pains a biologist.

The pressure to obliterate wetlands comes from out exploding numbers. I call it the "silent invasion" which comes mainly from Central America. It used to be due to high teenage pregnancy rate with Santa Maria leading. With Planned Parenthood leading, sex education, contraceptive availability and back-up abortion provided we have finally reduced teen pregnancies. In California alone we have "exploded" to 34 million – a number which in my opinion is about 30 million more than what is sustainable. I call it the "people glut" much like the rabbits in Australia.

Casting Pearls or Sowing Seed

By Charlie Blair

The term, "Pearls of Wisdom", often refers to distilled insights, pithy sayings, or other significant reflections from a respected professor or other mentor as guidelines for a particular problem or as general advice. There also is a general injunction about "casting pearls before swine" that will not appreciate their value and turn and attack the giver because they don't see immediate benefit in them. Another view of these insights is as seeds, some of which will reach willing ears (good soil) and bear fruit, but many of which will be lost on an unsuitable substrate.

When others and we dedicated to environmental preservation speak, act, and testify, we often wonder if we are really being heard, or are but voices crying in the wilderness. Are our "pearls of wisdom" being taken seriously, or are they simply ignored - "trampled under foot"? We are at times attacked as "tree huggers" or as disruptive of business or progress, especially when we defend a rare plant or animal that stands in the way of some pet project that was slid through without adequate EIR or other review. The Sierra Club has been sued for its stands on important issues. The standing (right to bring suits) of various environmental groups is even now being challenged in the court system and new regulations.

In our education and outreach roles, I see us rather as "sowers". Much of our effort falls upon deaf ears but those who do "get the message" (the good soil) can become real advocates. Who knows which participant on one of our field trips or programs will become a future leader? I know of a well-known Ph.D. biochemist, who in his formative years took a great liking to a *Calochortus*, I believe a Cat's Ear, and went on to become one of our more effective State Presidents. I am referring, of course,

to the late George Clark who piloted us through a difficult period, and, by his gentle guidance, encouraged me in CNPS activities and leadership.

The analogy of the sower seems to leave out one important characteristic of native plants; delayed germination. We all know of many annuals, particularly in the desert or in fire-prone areas that sprout and bloom only when the conditions are right to mature and set seed. One example is the fire poppy (*P. californicum*), which has been known to bloom after a fire, up to 30-50 years since the last fire. A corollary of this concept is the importance of reaching out to children. After all, they are the future generations that we are preserving the environment for. It is indeed fortunate that Betsy Landis's binder on Native Gardens for Schools came out at a time when school gardens are being encouraged. Here indeed is "good soil"!

We need to maintain the camaraderie and joy along with the quality of our programs and field trips, so that they will continue to nurture "good soil". Let us then rejoice and be glad when a few seeds grow and bear fruit, and not be discouraged by the occasional swine that turn and attack us.

Meetings

San Luis Obispo Chapter Meeting. Saturday, April 1. Annual Field Trip to Shell Creek. See Field Trips.

Field Trips

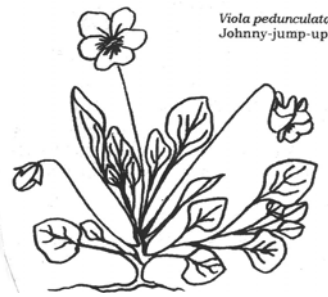
Saturday, April 1, Annual Field Trip Meeting at Shell Creek led by Dirk Walters, Jack Beigle and David Chipping. This will be our monthly meeting for April. Meet at the SLO Vets Hall at 8:30 a.m. and/or Santa Margarita at 9:00 a.m. Bring your "Wildflowers of Highway 58" plant guide by Dr. Malcolm McLeod or plan to purchase one on the trip. For more information call Dirk Walters at 543-7051 or Mardi Niles at 489-927.

Sun, April 2, 9 a.m., CNPS and Sierra Club Spring La Purisima Burton Mesa Wildflower Walk: Meet at the La Purisima Mission parking lot, corner of Purisima and Mission Gate Roads at 9 a.m. for this annual California Native Plant Society and Sierra Club spring tour of the beauties of the Burton Mesa Chaparral. This is turning out to be a very good, possibly great year for wildflowers, annuals as well as shrubs. Optional afternoon tour. Sturdy shoes, lunch & liquids, camera and binoculars advised. For more information, call Charlie at 733-3189.

Saturday, April 8, we'll visit Chimineas, along Highway 166 in the eastern section of San Luis Obispo County led by George Butterworth. This time we'll probably ramble into the western section of beautiful oaks,

chaparral and ponds. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the pull out on the north side of Hwy. 166, 37 miles east of Santa Maria & Hwy 101. This is ½ miles east of Carrizo Canyon (on some maps, no road sign, but some cactus). Going west, it's just about 20 miles from the Buckhorn Restaurant in New Cuyama and 2 miles from the Spanish Ranch sign. **Please be careful on Hwy 166**, as it is a narrow and curvy highway and some people speed. We will not drive through to Carrizo like last year, but will return to Hwy 166. Trucks or SUV recommended. Bring a picnic lunch, water and dress in layers. Rain cancels. For additional information call Mardi Niles at 489-9274 or George Butterworth at 475-2332.

Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m., LPNF and CNPS Wildflower Weekends Figueroa Mountain, at the Figueroa Fire Station: The Santa Lucia District, Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) will hold its one of its seventh annual Wildflower Weekends on Figueroa Mountain in



conjunction with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Meet at 9 a.m. at the Fire Station on Figueroa Mountain Road. This will be a "drive and stroll" tour of this year's spectacular display. Sturdy shoes, lunch and liquids, and camera and binoculars recommended. Call Helen Tarbet at 925-9538 ext.

246 or Charles Blair 733-3189 for details.

Saturday, May 6. We will be joining the Morro Coast Audubon Society for the first collaborative picnic of these two groups at the White Oak Flats Picnic Area, Santa Margarita Lake starting around 10:00 a.m. Please note: Daily use fees will be waived for event participants. Activities include informal and guided native plant and wildflower walks, bird walks, hikes, fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and activities and a playground for kids. Bring a picnic lunch and / or dinner (grills available for BBQs), kayaks, canoes, spotting scopes, bikes, etc. for enjoying the day at the lake. Santa Margarita Lake is San Luis Obispo's largest regional park and boasts an 800 acre lake along with oak woodland, riparian, freshwater wetland, and chaparral habitats. Nesting Clark's, western, and pied-billed grebes are likely sightings along with raptors including bald and golden eagles and peregrine falcons. Native plant inventory at the park includes various species of dudleya, phacelia, and lupine. Chia, woolly blue curls, larkspur and other showy spring wildflowers should be in bloom. For additional information call CNPS Field Trip Chair Mardi Niles at 489-9274.

Saturday, May 13, 9:30 a.m. LPNF Pozo Wildflower Weekend, Pozo Fire Station: As part of its seventh Annual Wildflower Weekends the Santa Lucia District, Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) will meet at the Pozo Fire Station on Pozo Road, south of SR 58 at 9:30 a.m. This will be a “drive & stroll” tour of wildflowers along Hi Mountain Road, including some serpentine areas, and the Lookout Station, now a focal point of the Condor Recovery Program. Sturdy shoes, lunch and liquids, and camera and binoculars recommended. Call Helen Tarbet at 925-9538 ext. 246 or Charles Blair 733-3189 for details.



Ranunculus californicus

Peter Raven to Speak at Cal Poly

SAN LUS OBISPO – Botanist and ecologist Peter Raven, Time magazine’s 1999 “Hero for the Planet,” will mark Earth Day 2006 with a presentation at Cal Poly on Friday, April 7.

Raven’s talk, “Biodiversity, Sustainability and the Modern University,” will be at 7:30 p.m. in Mott Gym. The lecture, dealing with some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, is free and open to the public.

The Washington University professor is a world leader in the environmental movement. He received the National Medal of Science from the President of the United States in 2000. He was appointed a MacArthur Fellow. Together with Paul Erlich, he developed the theory of coevolution in the 1970s. Coevolution is described as a change in the genetic composition of one species as a result of a genetic change in another.

Raven is president of Missouri Botanical Gardens. He has served as chair of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the largest association of professional scientists in the world.

During his visit to Cal Poly, he will study challenges faced by the university in its efforts to advance biodiversity and sustainability through education, research and institutional behavior. He plans to tour the campus, meet with senior officials and representatives of groups engaged in these efforts, and offer suggestions for future progress.

For more information, contact Steven Marx at 756-2411 or smarx@calpoly.edu.

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The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California’s native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education and conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal, *Fremontia*, the quarterly *Bulletin*, which gives statewide news and announcements of the Society activities and conservation issues, and the chapter newsletter, *Obispoensis*.

Obispoensis is the newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS. It is published October through June except January. Items for submittal to *Obispoensis* should be sent to

Cambria Wildflower Show

You can have your wildflower questions answered at the Second Annual Cambria Wildflower Show presented by North Coast Small Wilderness Area Preservation. It will be held Saturday afternoon, April 22 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday April 23 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. You will see a display of wildflowers collected from the Monterey County line to the Morro Bay Estuary and from the coastal bluffs to the ridge of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Each plant will be labeled with its botanical name and family, along with its common name.

The purpose of the show is to enhance the enjoyment of wildflowers by educating through viewing. Trained teams of collectors will be picking flowers only for educational purposes, from habitats with large populations, so that people can learn to respect them in their natural habitats without picking the flowers themselves.

Last year's show featured over 400 specimens and received rave reviews from attendees, including author Sharon Lovejoy and members of the Pacific Grove Wildflower Show team. Lee Taylor, a professor at Michigan State University, saw the show and said it "surpassed even the big one in the Great Smokey Mountains." Who knows what this year will bring!

The California Native Plant Society will have a table at the event featuring wildflower books and other items for sale.

The show will be free to students of all ages, but we will be asking others for a \$2 donation at the door to help cover costs. A bibliography will be provided to all attending and a list of last year's specimens will be available at for \$3. Refreshments will also be available for purchase.

Please feel free to call the North Coast SWAP office at 927-2856 for more information.

rhotaling@charter.net. The deadline is the 10th of each month. Botanical articles, news items, illustrations, events and tidbits are welcome!

www.cnps.org
www.cnps-slo.org

Where the Wildflowers are Blooming

Here is a list of places to help you find where wildflowers are blooming now.

California Wildflower Hotsheet
<http://www.calphoto.com/wflower.htm>

Desert Wildflower Watch
<http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/ca>

Theodore Payne Wildflower Hotline
March through May (818) 768-3533
<http://www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html>

