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Summer 2006
Vol. 16, No. 4

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
ALTA PEAK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Please send changes of address to Membership Chair

SUMMER....we hesitate to state what "season" it is, since weather these last few months has been so confusing. At least as a setting for hikes/walks to see flowers and landscapes that we expected to be in bloom between February and June. Looking back, the two May walks weren't exactly "cancelled" but because of uncertain weather up to the last minute, we had to let callers know that it was unlikely that they would take place.

Jordan Peak, on 24th June, is likewise dependent on North Rd. being open, and as of writing, mid June, **it is not**. So put big ??? on calendar if you already marked the date. This is particularly disappointing because we have *Erythronium* enthusiasts from other parts of California on standby to join us on this climb. If, and this is big ??, North Road does become drivable, some of us will keep the date to go up Jordan. If not, we will simply have to wait another year.

22 July, the annual Giant Sequoia Experience, will take us to the Octopus Tree, aka Great Bonsai Tree...see your No. 3 issue of '06. [Meet at Hedrick Pond at 10:00...call 2717 for more details.] All roads are open, trails cleared, and this is a First Time visit to an interesting place in Mt. Home State Forest. A short walk between about 6000 and 6500' elevation, and we can also view the Genesis Tree. We'll be close to Dogwood Mdw, if anyone wants to explore further.

We said earlier that we would be visiting Mountain Meadows in July and August. These special places are one of the reasons for living near the southern Sierra, if you like things like orchids,

saxifrage, corn lily, marsh marigold, sedges/juncus, lousewort, buttercups, fireweed, larkspur, Veronica.....list goes on and on. All are moist soil dependent, and each meadow is different. Starting from Hwy 190, a string of easy-to-reach places lies along North Road; more are accessible from Crawford Rd., and several large ones aren't far from the Great Western Divide, starting with Quaking Aspen itself. Botany classes and groups come from all over the state to wander in QA Meadow (and use group campground nearby); we tend to take it for granted. Balch Park Rd is open, and the meadows in and around Mt. Home State Forest can be counted on.

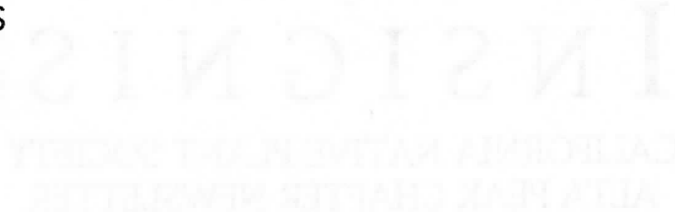
At this point, wanting to at least confirm that botanizing in high elevation meadows is definitely part of our CNPS summer schedule, perhaps the best we can offer as a plan, is to suggest first, that after the walk up to Octopus Tree on **22 July**, an optional follow-up walk will explore Dogwood Meadow or some other nearby place with meadow vegetation.

And then **August 12th**, some other Meadow, to be selected as the summer goes along, and road conditions improve. A longer day, with more driving, could take us to other meadows further south off Great Western Divide, or continuing south, several are historically as well as botanically interesting.

Let's leave details open at this time....I will be hiking into as many places as I can over the next several months, and always glad to have company. Weekdays, as well as weekends are available. Call me to let me know your interests....collect a group of interested friends, and we'll find a place and time that suits all (539-2717).

(from Stewart)

Insignis News, CNPS
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California Native Plant Society

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all, and includes informative publications, free field trips, programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included are the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and this chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

New Membership Application

Name _____	Membership Category
Address _____	___ Individual \$45
City _____	___ Family \$75
State _____ Zip _____	___ Group, library, agency, business \$75
Tele phone _____	___ Student, Limited Income, \$25
I wish to affiliate with:	Mail application and check to:
___ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)	California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816
___ Other _____	

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