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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
ALTA PEAK CHAPTER. FIELD TRIPS 2013

CNPS FIELD TRIPS FOR SPRING, SUMMER 2013

Once again, with warming weather, roads open, we look ahead to going out to see what is blooming, spreading, old or new flower-friends. It would be fun for all if other of our CNPS members could take us to some of their favorite local places. Let me know your suggestions, maybe even offer to be part of our "field trip committee"! Higher elevations give opportunities to schedule trips later in the year; low elevation hillsides where we generally begin the field trip season are already drying. Perennials, yes....the foundation species of our various habitats, but it is often the ephemeral annuals that provide excitement, and something New?

For all CNPS outings, bring food, water, sunscreen, appropriate clothing and shoes. Car-pooling is always encouraged especially since parking space at most trailheads is limited. Field trips are open to everyone... bring a friend, or.... Pets are discouraged.

So----- here is a tentative, let's try, list of places, dates, that seem to offer chances to get out in coming months.

The dirt road up from the Wishon road, to the top at PG&E forebay has some special plants. *Staphylea* (Bladder-pod) at its southernmost site, plus some *Clarkia springvillensis* (if still blooming?), and many other mid-elevation taxa. A long way to top, and generally we stop before the last several switchbacks, eat, share thoughts, and turn back down. Shady canyons interspersed with open sunny stretches. Up hill going, down on return. Meet at the turn-out just before the split in 190, left fork going up to Camp Wishon, right, continuing up Hwy 190. **May 19**, 9:30 will work. I realize this is a Sunday, and won't suit some of our members, but others ask for at least one outing on a Sunday.

Traditionally we have gone up Jordan Peak early June... except in those years when lingering snow closes roads and trails. No problem this year, and the special plants we go up to enjoy may not still be blooming. Who knows!! Saturday, **8 June** is the day we have chosen for this climb, steep, couple of uphill miles with two species of *Fritillaria*, and a rare Fawn Lily near the peak. We'll meet, 9:30 again, where Hwy 190 ends at Quaking Aspen, drive along North Road several miles, to trailhead parking.

Usually we plan several hikes into, around higher elevation meadows....I checked on Quaking Aspen last week and it was dry, brown....first and only time I have found it in this condition. So it is hard to know where "meadow" vegetation will be available for us to examine, enjoy. As I write this, I haven't been able to visit many of our special places along Western Divide. I'd like to have one day at Long Meadow, not just because it is an interesting botanical site, but because the USFS is working here, to restore drainage, remove non-native invasives, and in general to try to bring it back to a more "natural" condition. Let's wander and see just how this "project" is progressing. Consider **July 7** a tentative day for this, but call to confirm.

As the summer unfolds, there may be other high elevation meadow places that we can share, but as I write this I cannot predict how this summer's weather conditions will affect the vegetation, the "wetness" of these places. and thus what plants can be found. As in other years, call me, **559-539-2717** to learn where, when we might be able to wander through our wonderful back country. Freeman Creek, some private ranch properties, are all potential places to share and enjoy. Let me know what you want!!
