

# Davis Botanical Society Presents

## A field trip to the Santa Rosa Plain

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8 am to 5 pm

Trip leader: Dr. Christina Sloop

*Dr. Sloop is a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Senior Environmental Scientist and author of studies on population genetics and breeding dynamics of Santa Rosa Plain endangered vernal pool plant species.*

The Santa Rosa Plain (SRP), situated at the heart of the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed in Central Sonoma County, is a vast oak savannah grassland, dotted with vernal pools and swales that become visible during spring. After winter rains, these pools and swales fill and support a characteristic community of endemic plants and animals. The SRP extends west of Santa Rosa, north of Cotati, south of Windsor and is bordered by the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Sebastopol on its western side. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands that once occurred throughout California grasslands, providing habitat for many rare and endemic organisms. Today, less than 10% of vernal pool habitat remains across the state, and native pool species are in decline. The SRP has lost 85% of its vernal pools within the last 50 years; during that time it has changed from a rural, open space with seasonal and perennial wetlands, vernal pool grasslands, and oak woodlands, to a more urbanized and intensive agricultural landscape. Through this change in land use, the vernal pool ecosystem habitat on the SRP has suffered great losses, significantly reducing the number of populations of local endemic animal and plant species. Many of these are now federally and state listed as endangered, including Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*), and Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is managing several Santa Rosa Plain sites with natural and constructed vernal pools to mitigate for impacts elsewhere.

Join us for a trip to explore the seasonal wetland and vernal pool habitats of this unique ecosystem. We will visit multiple sites in the region, including areas of natural and constructed vernal pools. More information about the Santa Rosa Plain is available on the Laguna de Santa Rosa website:

[http://www.lagunafoundation.org/programs\\_sr\\_srpe.shtml](http://www.lagunafoundation.org/programs_sr_srpe.shtml)

**Details:** We will meet in the parking lot across from the Arboretum headquarters at UC Davis (lot 46) at 8:00 a.m. Wear shoes comfortable for walking. Bring lunch, hat, sunscreen, and water.

**Cost:** *FREE but only open to members of the Davis Botanical Society and their guests. New members are welcome!*

Make your reservations using the form below. Limited to 15 people. Please reserve by May 6, 2017. Please fill out the form below and mail to UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity, Plant Sciences Mail Stop 7, One Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616. Contact Daniel McNair for more information or confirmation of your spot: [dmcnair@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dmcnair@ucdavis.edu)

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### Santa Rosa Plain field trip reservation form:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are willing to give rides to others from Davis, please indicate how many you can fit in your vehicle besides yourself \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box below if you do NOT want your contact information distributed to other participants to facilitate carpooling: