FUN & FOLLY: FILEDTRIPPING WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHER

on the
Yana Trail
at
Perry Riffle
in the
Sacramento River Bend Recreation Area, Tehama County

on
Saturday
February 20, 2016

A fieldtrip sponsored by the
Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Fieldtrip leader: David Ledger
Photographer: Susan Gallaugher
Story by Susan Gallaugher
Heavy-handed editing by Laurie Burk
Further finessing by Susan Gallaugher
It was a beautiful blue-sky day for a fieldtrip, complete with sandhill cranes flying overhead.

Twenty-four other nature-lovers thought it a good day for a hike, too.
As our clueless photographer blissfully traipsed along, she noted this oak decorated with many oak gall "ornaments."

The trails were still wet with recent rains (which, unbeknownst to our unwary photographer, disguised a few deep potholes).
But what really caught her eye was all the California pipevine (Aristolochia californica), some flowering, with large clumps against an oak trunk, and some climbing up poison oak.

And she saw how some oak trunks were used as a granaries by acorn woodpeckers.

She also admired the poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) littering the area with its fresh shiny red and green leaves.
It was about at this point in the hike that our intrepid photographer met her downfall. When foot met rainwater-filled pot-hole... alas, down she went—ending up on both hands, one knee, and a camera lens. Luckily, bodily injuries were kept to a minimum. The ankle sprain only twinged mildly for about 10 minutes, the muddy hands were cleaned on nearby jeans, and the knee complained fitfully now and then, but was mostly quiet. Hardware damages, however... while the camera lens still functioned, the mud would have to be removed by professionals.

However, never to be deterred, our determined photographer continued on and saw this chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera interrupta*)... and a single berry on a California juniper (*Juniperus californica*).
More flowering pipevine and poison oak were captured in digital form...

...as was California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), already greening up.
Canyon dudleys (Dudleya cymosa) with last year’s blooming stalks were found amongst the moss- and lichen-covered rocks.

Only a few brave bluedicks (Dichelostemma capitatum) were out this early, along with a saxifrage (Micranthes sp.).
Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) was in bloom. And the good eyes of fellow hikers spotted this lovely violet. A lengthy discussion ensued as to exactly which one it was. Had *Ashton* brought his *Jepson Manual* along, it would have been quickly learned that it was Douglas’ golden violet (*Viola douglasii*).

Kinder trails graced the end of the hike. Yes, it was a good day. Even the photographer would agree.
Fin!