

Donald and Sylvia McLaughlin Natural Reserve

April Events



Sunday, April 9, Wildflower Open House

After the summer fires of 2015 and record rainfall this winter, we are expecting dramatic wildflower displays. This open house is timed for you to catch early-season wildflowers that start in March and finish by April. Arrive any time between 10 AM and 4 PM to take a self-paced tour through some of the reserve's most botanically diverse grasslands. Reserve staff will be on hand to provide directions, species identification, and to explain the natural history and management of the reserve's unique grasslands. Meeting location is 27195 Morgan Valley Rd., 14 miles east of Lower Lake. No RSVP or registration necessary.

Saturday, April 15, Grateful Dead Hike

Hike a beautiful Lake County location that few people ever visit. The loop begins at the McLaughlin Reserve where we hike down the slopes overlooking Hole Creek and across to the rock outcrop that we affectionately call "Grateful Dead." After appreciating the views from the top, we'll loop back to the start. Be prepared for a steep ascent to the top of the rock with sections of loose scree slope. 3 miles, moderately strenuous. Hike info and registration are available at napalandtrust.org, or by phone 707.252.3270.



Sunday, April 16, Three Counties Hike

Hike a remote corner of the McLaughlin Reserve where Napa, Yolo and Lake Counties come together. We will cross wildflower-laden serpentine meadows and view interesting geologic formations, the remains of a 19th century mercury mine, and unusual plants such as the primitive conifer California nutmeg. 5 miles, moderately strenuous. Hike info and registration are available at napalandtrust.org, or by phone 707.252.3270.

Saturday, April 15, Camp Out at McLaughlin

Sign up for one or both hikes above, and join us for overnight camping and a group potluck at the McLaughlin Reserve. Sign up for each hike individually then email Cathy Koehler (koehler@ucdavis.edu) to make reservations for the campout. Cathy will provide details on access, available facilities, and a nominal reserve use fee.



Tuesday, April 18, Evening Lecture in Ukiah

Presented by the Sanhedrin chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Dr. Paul Aigner, co-director of the McLaughlin Reserve will talk about how California's prairies, once dominated by wildflowers, were gradually taken over by annual grasses from Europe starting with the arrival of Spanish more than 400 years ago. Dr. Aigner will discuss over a decade of native prairie restoration at the McLaughlin Reserve and how outcomes have depended on soil conditions and past land use. No registration necessary. Free to the public. Starts at 7 PM at the Ukiah Garden Clubhouse, 1203 West Clay, Ukiah.