

*The Fourteenth Annual*

Spring Outing,

Botanical Excursion,

Foray, Retreat, and Escape to the Environment!

\*\*\*\* SO BE FREE 14 \*\*\*\*

**Tuesday-Friday, 24-27th March, 2009**

**Central Sierra Nevada near Oakhurst, California**

*impresario: Brent Mishler*

*treasurer: Paul Wilson*

*fieldtrip scout: Jim Shevock*

Founded in 1996, SO BE FREE is a series of West Coast forays started by the Bryolab at UC Berkeley, but open to all botanists. The main focus is on bryophytes, but we also encourage experts on other groups to come along and smell the liverworts. We welcome specialists and generalists, professionals and amateurs, master bryologists and rank beginners. SO BE FREE is held each spring, somewhere in the Western US, associated with spring break at universities. The usual tradition is to have a four-day, three-night schedule with communal meals, in inexpensive and remote locations. Evening slide shows and informal talks are presented as well as keying sessions with microscopes. In addition to seeing interesting wild areas and learning new plants, important goals for SO BE FREE include keeping West Coast bryologists (and friends) in touch with each other and teaching beginners. For glimpses of the past outings, consult the SO BE FREE web site: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/bryolab/trips/sobefree.php>

**LOCATION THIS YEAR:**

The 2009 SO BE FREE will be held in the lower elevations of the central Sierra Nevada. The area offers great sites for montane coniferous forest, oak woodland with rocky outcrops, chaparral, and gorges of all sizes cut through granite by swiftly flow waters. We will also visit a giant sequoia grove and a foothill woodland. Bryophyte diversity will span a life-strategy range from California's spring ephemerals to the brown mosses of continuously wet sites. The wildflowers should be great too!

Beginning bryologists are welcome, and we are planning some special activities for beginners, as well as serious fieldtrips that will be exciting for the hard-core.

We will be based at Calvin Crest Conference Center, near Oakhurst, California (not far from the south entrance of Yosemite National Park, which will not visit during the Foray but a good choice for a tourist trip before or afterwards). Fresno airport is ~60 miles (1 hour and 20 minutes) away.

Calvin Crest is at 5,000 ft elevation, and has great facilities ([www.calvincrest.com](http://www.calvincrest.com)), with bryophytes right on the grounds there for the picking. Calvin Crest will be providing eight meals starting with dinner on Tuesday night and going through breakfast on Friday morning. For lodging, we have several options: (1) Cedar Lodge (where our headquarters and microscope room will be) has 22 hotel-style rooms each with a bathroom, intended for 3-4 people per room, and linens are provided. (2) The Apple

Orchard is a group of 4 cabins with 8 bunk beds per cabin to be occupied by students and other destitute individuals who bring their own linens. (3) You may engage your own motel/lodge in or near Oakhurst (although we do not encourage this option -- Cedar Lodge is quite nice, probably the best accommodations we have ever had for SO BE FREE). (4) You may camp nearby (we *really* don't encourage this option, but it is there for the truly destitute). Calvin Crest is completely surrounded by Sierra National Forest.

Registration details are below. **Registrations and deposits are due by 1 March, 2009** (and housing will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis). **All registration is being handled by Paul Wilson**, so please do not contact Calvin Crest directly. Please fill out the following registration form and return by paper mail with your check. Further details will be sent to those who register.

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SO BE FREE 14 24-27 MARCH, 2009 Sierra Nevada near Oakhurst, CA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Room and board (facility fee and copying fees included):

Bed in Cedar Lodge, room shared among a few acquaintances, linens included: \$200 for 3 nights, 8 meals

Bunk in the Apple Orchard for students and others claiming poverty, bring your own sheets, sleeping bag, towel, etc.: \$130 for 3 nights, 8 meals

Meals and facility fees only; you're on your own with motels, camping, or whatever: \$100 for 8 meals, facility fee, copying fees; or \$50 for the one day and \$25 for each subsequent day

**We really encourage everyone to eat with the group, as this is part of the magic of SO BE FREE. But if you insist:**

Facility fees only; you're on your own for housing and all food: \$35 for 3 days.

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**Checks should be made out to Paul Wilson and sent to:**

Paul Wilson

Department of Biology

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Northridge, CA 91330-8303

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