

*Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall  
in the eastern Mojave Desert*

James M. Andre and Tasha La Doux  
UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center  
September 29-October 1



**Course Description:** Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California's desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals are considered "summer annuals", species that germinate following the monsoonal cloudbursts of summer, grow rapidly, and complete the life cycle before temperatures decline sharply in fall. In addition, many perennial species flower in early fall, particularly those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species.

**Cost CNPS members:** \$435 includes meals and dorm lodging for 2 days & 2 nights

**Non-members:** \$460 includes meals and dorm lodging for 2 days & 2 nights

**LOCATION:** UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, located within the Mojave National Preserve, eastern Mojave Desert

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Professional botanists, ecologists, agency resource managers, and conservationists. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate to short day hikes.

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**ATTENDEES WILL:**

- Become familiar with a significant component of California's desert flora that is reproductive only in fall
- Observe up to 25 fall-obligate rare plants (often overlooked by consulting surveys)
- Obtain training in the ID of difficult and prominent fall season desert plant groups such as the Polygonaceae and Poaceae.
- Learn about ecological processes and natural history concepts unique to summer annuals and other fall-flowering taxa
- Receive field instruction on basic plant voucher collecting techniques.



*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*

**INSTRUCTORS:**

**James M. Andre** An avid botanist and conservationist in California for 30 years, Jim has served as Director of the UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center (GMDRC) since 1994. He is a recognized expert on the flora of the Mojave and Great Basin Deserts, author of *A Flora of the Mojave National Preserve*, and is currently working on a flora of the Owens Valley/Eastern Sierra. Jim's research interests include plant demographics, floristics, and the conservation biology of rare plants. He has taught numerous university-level courses and advanced field workshops in botany, including six UC Jepson Workshops. He remains active in CNPS serving as the Senior Advisor to the CNPS Rare Plant Program.

**Tasha La Doux** Ph.D., Botany, currently works full-time as the Assistant Director of the GMDRC and part-time as the Botanist at Joshua Tree National Park, and is a Research Associate with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Her research interests include: reproductive biology in plants, rare plant management, and floristics; she maintains an active role in public lands management and the conservation of rare plants in the region. She is currently working on a Flora of Joshua Tree National Park.

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**PROPOSED AGENDA:**

**Tues, Sept 29**

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Arrival at Granite Cove, orientation

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner at Allanson Center, Granite Cove

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Introductions, Evening lecture/presentation

**Wed, Sept 30**

**7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast at Allanson Center, Granite Cove

**8:30 a.m.** Meet at parking area, Allanson Center, Granite Cove

**9:00 a.m.** Drive to field sites (locations TBD by optimal flowering)

**Noon:** Lunch - bag lunch in field

**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Continue in field

**5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Return to Granite Cove

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner at Allanson Center, Granite Cove

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Plant ID session at Allanson Lab

**Thurs, Oct 1**

**7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast at Allanson Center, Granite Cove

**8:45 a.m.** Meet at parking area, Allanson Center, Granite Cove

**9:00 a.m.** Drive to field sites (locations TBD by optimal flowering)

**Noon:** Lunch - bag lunch in field

**1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Continue in field

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Departures

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**Equipment list, Materials and Resources Provided, Location:**

**Please bring the following:**

- Hand lens
- Notebook and pencils
- Day pack
- Hiking boots and clothing appropriate for the weather and conditions
- Water bottles, sunscreen, sunglasses for field
- Snacks for field
- Camping gear if camping

**Please bring the following items, if you have access to them:**

- Jepson Desert Manual
- GPS unit

**MATERIALS AND RESOURCES PROVIDED:**

- Course materials for lecture on a CD (e.g., slides and reference material)
- Handouts of relevant species lists and/or publications
- CNDDDB forms and references for conducting botanic surveys

**LOCATIONS AND FACILITIES:**

Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center -Allanson Center,  
University of California Natural Reserve System, HC1 Box 101, Kelso, CA 92351  
<http://granites.ucnrs.org>

**For online registration go to**

<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php> or use your back button