

Serpentine Soils and the Plants that Live There

Sierra Club General Meeting: Wednesday, May 19 at 7 p.m.



Rare earth The San Luis Mariposa Lily lives in serpentine soils and is found only in San Luis Obispo County.

A high percentage of rocks or clay in soil can cause difficulties for gardeners across California. One of the most toxic soils for ornamental plants is serpentine soil, but for plant biologists this soil type provides a fascinating and unique environment.

The rock serpentinite has a black to green color and occurs in patches of outcrops or as a component of grasslands in our county. Serpentine soils are known for their composition of relatively high heavy metals, a low Calcium to Magnesium ratio and low essential nutrient levels.

Dylan Stephens will address a few of the solutions available for people who have serpentine in their yard and still want to garden, as well as a brief introduction to the fascinating ecology of serpentine soils and their evolutionarily interest. He will also introduce several of the areas of research that the Geocology lab at Cal Poly focuses on and several of the experiments he has conducted.

Register here to attend this May 19 virtual meeting:
<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001IGpuAAE>