



--An interesting local wildflower project

It will come as no surprise that a number of us who are members of our local CNPS chapter also have membership in other organizations with similar missions. One of these is The Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Our Sequoia Chapter recently heard from (dual) member, Rich Gilman, giving our membership an opportunity to participate in an intriguing interactive wildflower ID activity, currently being created on the SFC website. Rich has included links to a bird tutorial (finished product) and the wildflower tutorial, currently under development. The bird tutorial is a great one—check it out. Here is Rich's message:

I am working with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to develop a wildflower tutorial. Gary Woods and I have completed the basics for our birding tutorial, which can be seen at http://richgilman.com/sfc_birds/sfc_birds.html

The wildflower tutorial will be based on this format and focus on flowers from the SFC Preserves. The intent is to increase interest and awareness in our foothill wildflowers and enhance the SFC's visitor's experience. The birding and wildflower tutorials will be available on our SFC website.

We are looking for volunteers to help develop this wildflower tutorial.

Our specific needs are:

- ✓ Help with identifying and validating correct identification of submitted wildflower photos.
- ✓ Provide basic information for wildflowers.
- ✓ Provide wildflower photographs.

The wildflower tutorial (in progress) is here: http://richgilman.com/sfc_wildflowers/sfc_wildflowers.html

Any help from CNPS members will be greatly appreciated.

CNPS members can contact Rich at rgilman46@comcast.net with questions.

Upcoming Events—

Have an hour or two? Help is always appreciated at our information tables

Contact Marian Orvis - mforvet@comcast.net or 559-226-0145

March 1,2,3, Friday-Sunday Home and Garden Show – Fresno County Fairgrounds - Our table will be in the garden pavilion near those of other plant-related organizations. It is another great opportunity for community education and outreach. March always brings questions about wildflower viewing, planting, and identification, along with requests for water-wise plant suggestions. Volunteers will receive free admission to the entire show, as well as free parking in the vendor lot and a shuttle to/from the fairgrounds. Come, staff the table for a while, and spend the rest of the day at this huge show.

March 23, 2013, Saturday, 9 am - 2 pm Clovis Botanical Garden's annual event, "Spring into Your Garden." Our chapter will have an information table and Thelma Valdez will again present. Her topic: Garden Heroes: California Native Shrubs.

Observations

--from Jeanne Larson

It has been interesting to see what native plants have had frost damage and those that didn't. In particular I am surprised that the coastal blue- and yellow-eyed grass look great and the Pacific Coast Iris also seem O.K. The woody perennials don't seem a bit different.

It took several evenings before the Maiden Hair fern was burned, but it always comes back with a vengeance, and it is almost weedy in sandy soil. The blue flowered Erigeron coastal daisy looks a little sad, but it will pep up as soon as the weather warms.

In weeding the largest, and already headed-out annual blue grass, I was surprised to see bloom stalks forming on the Bee's Bliss Sage.

I guess I will just give up on *Eriogonums*.

Their stems are brittle and don't bear up under unintended foot traffic, either *E. umbellatum* or E.'Ted Paine' (a beautiful, small leaved low bush beside my drive until the neighbor's cat decided it was a nice mattress).

--More Observations

--from Warren Shaw --In the foothills, the hillsides are now more green than brown, with grasses and the usual broadleaf plants growing rapidly. Blue Oaks are still bare, but buds are swelling. Our Buckeyes haven't broken bud yet, but some at lower elevations have. Mosses and lichens are lively. We expect to see Redmaids and other early blooms very soon.

China Creek Report

Though the morning dawned bright and sunny, the meadow was very frosty, so we kind of hung around the coffee pot for a while. Eventually, though, we gathered up a load of the tree cages we had previously removed from Valley Oak seedlings that no longer needed protection and began pursuing our stated goal of caging new seedlings.

We found that, like the old cages, we were a little rusty, since we hadn't done this job for several years. Finally, however, we got the procedure worked out, and, as the temperature rose, we warmed to our work and got about ten little trees protected.

We took time out to enjoy a pair of black tailed kites soaring and hovering overhead, and noted, as we were winding up for the day, they were roosted in the huge old dead oak that dominates the southeast section of the Park.

We have many more seedlings to cage and this will no doubt be our primary mission in the next few months, before the cattle are moved in. Our February work party will be Saturday, February 16, from 8-12. Please join us if you can.

Take Kings Canyon/CA 180 east across Academy to Centerville. Follow Smith or Oliver south to Rainbow 1/4 mi. Turn south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate. Call (559-855-4519) or email <warshaw@netptc.net> for more information.

Burrough Mountain Road in the Fall

On Monday, October 29, Aaron, Roxy, and I met Eileen at the dirt road leading to Tollhouse Rock. Eileen drove to the power lines, turned right up the steep hill, and went downhill to the south. She drove slowly up an exceedingly steep, deeply rutted hill – just as if the car was on tank treads. We stopped where the road turns left at a north-facing, pine-shaded hillside. *Staphlea* (Greek – cluster of white flowers) *bolanderi* = Sierra bladder nut trees created a Chinese scene. Off-white fruits hung from mainly bare limbs with a few remaining red leaves. The papery bladder-like fruit are approximately 3 cm long, 3-lobed, and prominently horned. Bare poison oak stems had very large, white berries. Bracken fern and pines were green.

We drove on. The road curves to the south on the east side of the mountain. We parked at the high point and walked west to the rocks-- where hang gliders take off-- overlooking the town of Tollhouse. On the edge there was a large clump of straw-colored *Boechera arcuata* (nee *Arabis sparsiflora* var. *arcuata*) = arching rockcress. We returned to the car and collected hiking gear and lunches. We walked about 2 miles more or less southeast surrounded by chaparral. The area is a roof pendant (like the ridge on Black Mountain across the valley west of Tollhouse Rock) and has beautiful metamorphic rocks. Much foliage and seeds were straw colored – fun to identify with the green, flowering plant. It

---Warren Shaw



Caged oak seedling



A well-earned break

---Jane Pritchard

had rained a week earlier so we saw pig tracks, wallows with bristle impressions, and trails into the grass. The temperature was just right with a slight breeze. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch at a stand of blue oaks just before a big downhill. We located several places in the layers of mountains and valleys to the east and south.

Reluctantly, we turned back up the rutted road and spotted 3 boards nailed ladder-like to a large blue oak. The others went behind the tree to see the reason for the boards. I stayed near the road. Suddenly a screech owl, which had blended perfectly with the tree, opened its eyes and surprised Eileen. She emitted a loud OH!! After my yellow jacket encounter the previous day, this sounded scared to me so I took off running. The others stayed and seemed focused on something interesting. So I inched back but the owl had retreated into its hole before I got there.

I sat in the front seat and looked at plants as we drove back. Roxy and Aaron had white knuckles as if they were in the dentist's chair as we crept and slid down the steep road. We are very impressed with Eileen's expert driving. I'm grateful to her for putting up with me dictating what to photograph – she could throw me off a cliff. Pictures of our hikes which appear on the photo page in this newsletter are taken by Eileen.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at nmtv@unwiredbb.com. The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



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Conservation	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
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Welcome to *new and renewing members:

Verna Arnest, *Clary Creager, Jeff Dal Cerro, Joanne Dean-Freemire, *Andrea Gjerde, Dave Graber, MaryBeth Janzen, Michael Kreps, Sandra McCormick, Marc Meyer, Jamison Tuitele-Lewis, Johan Van Der Noordaa

NOTE: Sometimes renewal information does not trickle down to the chapter for one or two months after your renewal has been received in Sacramento. Therefore, January renewals may have actually occurred in November or December. We maintain a three-month grace period, which should ensure no lapse in your receipt of the newsletter.

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible. Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, and convenient, and reduces renewal-mailing costs. Visit www.cnps.org and click on the JOIN button.

**Sequoia Chapter, CNPS
thanks Derrel's for their
support**



Next Newsletter: March 2013
Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@netptc.net. The deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, Mar. 8



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide news and announcements of activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, *Carpenteria*.

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
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- Student, Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

- New Member** **Renewing Member**

California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, science, and conservation.

CARPENTERIA

February 2013



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

c/o Jeanne Larson ♦ 3457 Redlands ♦ Fresno, CA 93726

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

I'm reporting this month on an exciting new project underway on the Kings River, just below Pine flat Dam..It involves the planting of dozens of our California native plants, both trees and shrubs. There is also a drip system installed to get the plants going as the river levels will of course fluctuate seasonally. The plants were ordered from Intermountain Nursery and are as follows:



Rosa californica,

Achillia lanulosa/millefolium, Common White Yarrow
Alnus rhombifolia, White Alder
Calocedrus decurrens, Incense Cedar
Cercis occidentalis, Redbud
Frazinus latifolia, Fresno Ash
Fremontodendron californica, Flannel Bush
Mulenbergia rigens, Deer Grass
Pinus sabiniana, Foothill Pine
Rosa californica, Calif. Wild Rose
Salvia clevelandia x sonomensis, 'Bee's Bliss' sage



**CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER
FEBRUARY 2013**

Seeds on Burrough Mt. Road

--from top

***Cercocarpus*-mountain mahogany**

***Clematis lasiantha*- virgin's bower**

***Ceanothus* – California lilac**

***Alnus* - alder**

***Staphylea bolanderi* - bladder nut**



Screech Owl

**Thanks to
Eileen Bennett
for all photos**