



## ***Water-wise Responses to Water Restrictions***

As more of us prepare to replace or revise our landscaping, the events below are timed to maximize a successful transition. Admission is free to both events.

**Wednesday, October 1**  
**5:30 -7:30 p.m.**

### ***Beauty without (much) Water***

Clovis Botanical Garden has graciously agreed to host a pre-sale seminar presented by members of Sequoia Chapter.

The Gardens will be open for this free event presented by experienced native plant gardeners. Topics will include:

- suggestions for choosing low-water California natives to replace thirsty non-natives
- efficient and effective water, mulch, and other maintenance practices
- lawn/no lawn decision

Bring a chair and your questions.

**Saturday, October 18**  
**8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### ***Annual Plant Sale and Fair***

This plant sale is an established tradition, attracting more visitors every year.

Watch for a postcard and plan to attend both events at

Clovis Botanical Garden 945 N.  
Clovis Ave. Clovis

**Barbara Renshaw**

**California Fuchsia**



### **Wildflowers Brighten Spring**

**Jeanne Larson**

Predictions, so far, do not look promising for even an “average” rain year. However, we can at least have a great spring by filling in the bare spots with California native wildflowers.

Wildflower seed can be sown as late as early January, but it is best to sow seed after the first 1/2 inch of rain and before the next storm. Formerly, various wildflower seed packets were available at local garden center seed racks. So far, I have found only California poppies and little else. I found no packets of Baby Blue Eyes, Desert Bluebells, Chinese Houses, and Farewell to Spring, previously available locally. The “wildflower” mixes include many non-native species and should be avoided.

My online search,--CA Native Seed Sources-- brought up interesting information. The two best –

- Theodore Payne Foundation, 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley (San Fernando Valley) with weather similar to the S. J. Valley has a great website and pictures for wildflower seed of annuals, perennials, bulbs, and seed mixes; also books and other gardening items of interest. <http://theodorepayne.org> Phone 818.768.1802
- Larner Seeds, <http://www.larnerseeds.com> P.O.Box 407. Bolinas CA 94924 offers seed of individual wildflowers and mixes, grasses, shrubs, vines, trees. Phone 415.868.9407

If the reader finds sources not mentioned, please send info to Sequoia Chapter Newsletter Editors, Shaws, 4789 N. Safford Fresno 93704, or < [helshaw@gmail.com](mailto:helshaw@gmail.com) >.

## Field Report

Belinda Gilbert

I began collecting Narrow Leafed Milkweed seeds (*Asclepias fascicularis*) during the second week in August. Milkweed follicles split open, displaying flat, dark brown seeds and downy parachute-like hairs that the wind disperses. Flowers, ripening seed follicles, and dispersing seeds were all present on each plant.

Milkweed was “the best show in town” in the Sierra Foothills at 3000 feet elevation. Monarch and Tiger Swallowtail butterflies, Bumblebees and Tarantula Hawks visited the flowers. Gold-colored aphids covered the seed follicles. Huge populations of orange and black Large Milkweed Bugs (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*), in both the nymph and adult stages, enveloped the stems. I also found a few Monarch butterfly larvae feeding on the stems!

The Milkweed family (*Asclepiadaceae*) was recently reclassified, and is now included as a subfamily in the Dogbane family. Pollination has an unusual twist in the Milkweed genus. Instead of grains of pollen, the flowers produce pollen sacs. The feet of visiting insects, such as bees and butterflies, slip into these sacs, which remain on their feet when the insects fly away. When the insects land on another flower, the pollen sacs are deposited on the anthers.

In the foothills, the seasons continue to progress about a month ahead of schedule. Occasional deciduous Oaks are turning golden brown, leaves scattered by the wind. Poison Oak is cloaked in reddish fall-colored leaves. Buckeye is coppery brown, and Redbud leaves are yellow, while the pods are pink to tan.

Some of the medium sized Ponderosa Pines are drying out and dying. Drought-stressed trees produce less resin making them more susceptible to bark beetles, which burrow under the bark in the growth layer called cambium. This can cause death of the pine trees.

The good news is that most foothill trees and shrubs are the typical summer color of drab green, not wilted, drying out or dying. Reduced seed production is one drought-related adaptation made by foothill trees and shrubs. This year Manzanita, Ceanothus and Buckeye produced fewer seeds of smaller size.

The late summer native annuals are abundant with blooms, mostly yellow. Tarweed (*Holocarpha heermanii*) Wand and Nude Buckwheat (*Eriogonum roseum* and *E. nudum*) have adapted to succeed in our annual dry conditions.



*Asclepias fascicularis*

## August China Creek Report

Warren Shaw

A slight cooling trend had been predicted, and we were hopeful of a comfortable day to work in the Park. However, by Saturday, temperatures were back in triple digits. Nonetheless a good crew of willing workers showed up.

We divided ourselves into two crews: one to check the “finished” north section of the park for thistles (which they found in abundance) and one to start caging the many Valley Oak seedlings which had been flagged during weeding operations in the southeast section.

Because the thistles were in full bloom, the weed crew couldn’t leave them in the field, knowing from experience the blossoms would continue to mature and go to seed, despite the uprooting of the plant. Therefore they laboriously loaded them in cans and rolled them down the road to be covered with plastic and solarized to kill the seed.

The caging crew installed all the cages that had previously been made up, and spent the rest of the morning making new ones. Noting that cages of the light mesh we’ve been using recently weren’t rigid enough to prevent cattle from collapsing them to reach grass growing inside (as well as seedlings), we decided to try doubling it. We’ve also begun adding a single strand of barbed wire around the bottom of each cage. As we inspected previously caged seedlings, we were impressed to observe fresh new growth despite the months of drought.

A warm day, but one with a lot of accomplishment, and we left the Park sweaty but content.

The September work party will be Saturday, September 20, from 8-12 (and it really should be cooler). Please join us if you can.

To get to the Park, take 180/kings Canyon east across Academy to Smith or Oliver. Turn south about 1/4 mi. past the school to Rainbow and Smith. Continue south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate.

## Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at [nmtv@comcast.net](mailto:nmtv@comcast.net). The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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<b>Conservation</b>	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
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<b>Webmaster</b>	Thelma Valdez	(see Membership)

### Thanks to Renewing Members

Kerry Arroues, Stephen & Carolyn Juarez, Michael Kreps, Hank Urbach, Susan Loucks, Monica Miller, Rose Rowe, George Whitmore.

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](http://www.cnps.org) and click on the JOIN button.



Sequoia Chapter, CNPS  
thanks Derrel's for their support

### Next Newsletter: Oct. 2014

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@gmail.com](mailto:helshaw@gmail.com) The deadline for the October newsletter is Friday, Oct. 3



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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Student, Limited Income ..... \$25
- Individual ..... \$45
- Family, Group, or Library ..... \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
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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

September 2014



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

**BEAUTY**  
**without**  
(much)  
**WATER**

*Landscaping for our future with  
California native plants*

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
**Clovis Botanical Garden - 945 N. Clovis Ave.**  
(just north of Alluvial at Dry Creek Park)

Talk with experienced native plant gardeners who will provide information and Q&A sessions on:

- Substituting non-native, thirsty plants with low-water California natives
- The importance and types of mulches in conserving water
- Maintenance of California native plants

## MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

Several months ago, I wrote about my plan to remove the front lawn in the spring and be ready to plant this fall. The lawn is almost out and I'm glad I had the summer to continue to kill the common deep-rooted Bermuda with the chemical glyphosate. I've had help from a worker who comes once every two weeks so it's been a slow process, but I'm now able to dig and rake. We dig very deep with a trenching spade to get most of the bermuda out, but if you miss a tiny root it comes back. There were also tree roots from an Atlas Cedar that was removed over 12 years ago that extended far from the base which had been ground out. I guess that's why Cedar Chests are used; the wood lasts forever. Of course with this deep digging, I forgot about where the plastic irrigation pipe was, so that had to be repaired. My fault, not his, as I should have been aware of this hazard.

This morning, I put in a very simple drip system, using just the tiny tubing with bubblers for now since I don't know where the plants will be planted, or actually just what will be planted other than the grasses I already have. But I'll be a good customer for our plant sale in October !!! I already have some yarrow so there will be some color seasonally. And there must be another sage that I don't yet have. I also have a long soaker hose to water areas that I usually water by hand every 2 weeks. I'm taking a trip to Maine this month so this will keep things alive until I can do it correctly.

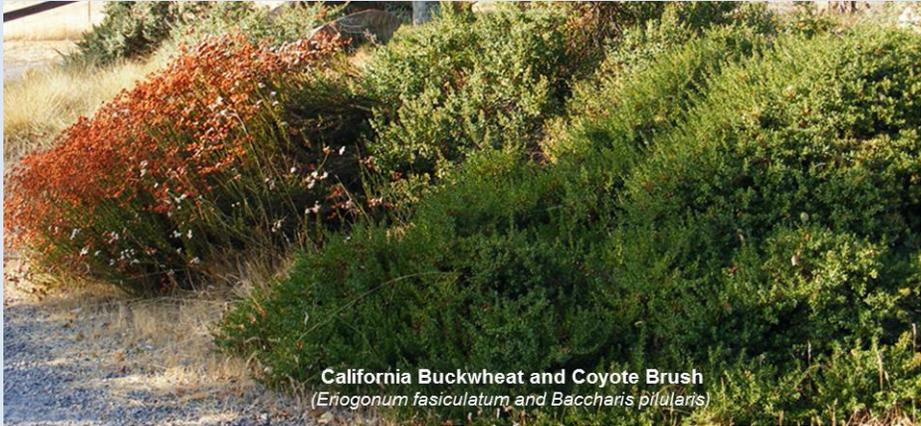
**September 2014  
Sequoia Chapter CNPS**



**Buttonwillow (aka Buttohbush)**  
*(Cephalanthus occidentalis)*



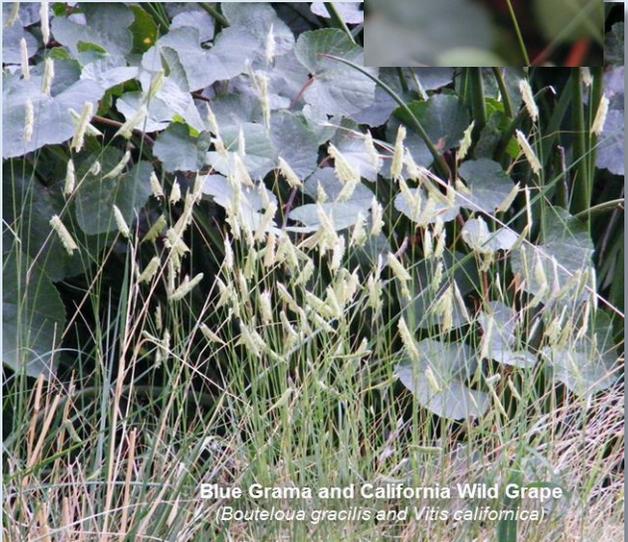
**Jimsonweed**  
*(Datura wrightii)*



**California Buckwheat and Coyote Brush**  
*(Eriogonum fasciculatum and Baccharis pilularis)*



**California Fuchsia**  
*(Epilobium canum)*



**Blue Grama and California Wild Grape**  
*(Bouteloua gracilis and Vitis californica)*