

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



June/July 2021
www.cnps-sequoia.org

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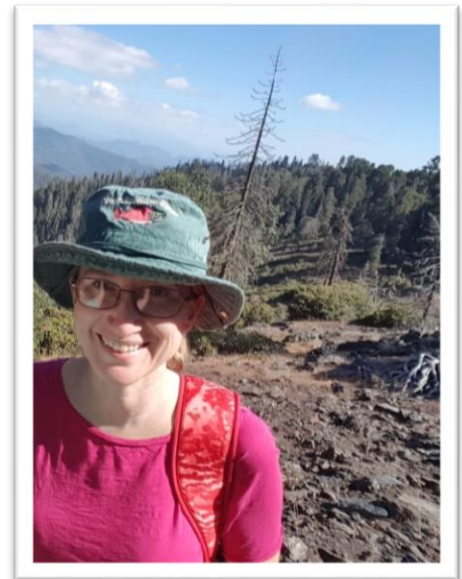
BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Meet the Treasurer, Katherine Waselkov

I am a transplant to the Central Valley, and in fact to California! I grew up in the part of Alabama that touches the Gulf of Mexico and went to college at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and then got a Ph.D. in St. Louis, Missouri, and did research for a couple of years in Manhattan, Kansas. I moved to California in 2015 to join the faculty of the Department of Biology at CSU, Fresno. (If I had kept this continually westward trajectory up, I would have ended up in the Pacific Ocean!) At Fresno State, I teach plant taxonomy, plant anatomy, and evolution, and guide undergraduate and master's students in their research projects on the genetics of herbicide-resistant agricultural weeds or native plants, depending on their interests. I also curate the Fresno State Herbarium, a collection of ~40,000 pressed, dried plant specimens that documents the flora of Fresno County and surrounding counties over the last 130 years. In 2018, I got involved in our local CNPS chapter, because it seemed a natural fit for my interests. I served as the Conservation Chair for about a year, and then in January 2021, stepped into the role of treasurer when our previous treasurer, Thelma Valdez, very sadly passed away.

I am one of those strange (lucky?) people who has always loved plants! My parents tell me that when I was

about 4, I learned the scientific name of one of our native Alabama plants (*Houstonia*) and went around pointing it out. In 3rd grade, I taught my friends how to recognize the edible wood sorrel (*Oxalis*) on the playground (much to the annoyance of my teacher). My mom always had a huge garden and was very knowledgeable about wild edible plants, and both of my parents are educators and scientists who encouraged my botanical interests. There was never really any question that I would become a botanist—I have a knack for recognizing plants and remembering their names, and I enjoy teaching others about them as well. I've moved around so much that now I have about 5 different local floras in my head, but learning the California flora has been the greatest challenge so far, since almost all of the plants out here are different species than in the East! My favorite California native species changes from day-to-day, depending on what cool new-to-me species I've happened across while hiking, which I do a lot in my spare time.



CONSERVATION

CNPS Conservation Speaks for More Than Trees

--Michael Kunz

The Lorax of Dr. Seuss famously spoke for the trees, but CNPS has a broader voice: we are speaking for the herbs and shrubs as well. A significant portion of CNPS statewide efforts is devoted to conserving the full range of California's unique, diverse, and threatened flora. The Conservation Section of CNPS speaks for vanishing native plant habitats and the hundreds of rare and endangered species whose survival in a rapidly changing world depends upon wise human decisions.

Headlines and false news often drive public opinion, but CNPS is committed to advocacy based on sound science. CNPS conservation staff are currently following over thirty pieces of proposed state legislation that address issues as diverse as desert conservation, parks expansion, wildfire management, and commercial cannabis farming, often speaking in support, but at times suggesting important changes or voicing opposition.

A positive example of CNPS leadership is our current sponsorship of legislation to curtail poaching of the succulent genus *Dudleya*, or live-forever. Thirty-one taxa of the genus are listed in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, so speaking on their behalf is critical. Gardening with drought-tolerant native succulents is something CNPS certainly supports, but a crisis results when those succulents come directly from rare wild populations of *Dudleya*, and some poachers are even supplying lucrative overseas markets. The bill AB223 would put in place increased penalties for such predatory practices, and it recently passed the assembly without a single nay vote.

CNPS is leading a large choir of voices. In response to the unprecedented extent and intensity of wildfires, CNPS Conservation drafted a letter cosigned by 58 other organizations recommending important changes to funding priorities. California is funneling

significantly increased funding for CAL FIRE, but will the funds be used in a way that most effectively protects people, property, and healthy natural ecosystems?

Taking positions on legislation involving fire and forest management is politically controversial. As with all challenging problems we face, CNPS understands that "it's complicated." The needs of southern California, where high fire frequencies threaten the persistence of native chaparral communities, are different than those of Sierra Nevada conifer forests, where fire suppression and lack of preventive prescribed burns have contributed to unhealthy forests and increased danger of catastrophic megafires. Forest fuel treatment plans may



by Anthony Valois, National Park Service (NPS)

-Verity's dudleya (*Dudleya verityi*)-
threatened California live-forever



by Anthony Caprio, NPS

Prescribed fire in a giant sequoia grove of
Sequoia National Park

be made by agencies that overlook the full range of options and consequences. Among the public voices that provide comment, CNPS will advocate for plans that, where feasible, consider vulnerable plant species and sensitive habitats, and minimize the spread of invasive species.

CNPS Conservation plays an essential role in speaking up for the beauty and diversity of California trees, shrubs, and even the tiniest herbs. Your membership and support ensure that all voices can be heard.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sequoia Chapter Members!

As you are likely aware, the Sequoia chapter leadership has gone through some substantial changes in 2021, which also leads to changes in operating procedures. For those that receive monthly newsletters by email you would have noticed that May's newsletter came through an email system and not directly from a board member's email address. This new system is directly connected to the CNPS Central Office membership data, which minimizes our time of painstakingly sorting through membership communication preferences. Helen Shaw did a wonderful job in past years transforming our chapter's communication with members from all hardcopy to primarily email, saving our chapter money and volunteer time. A few of you requested to continue to receive communications and newsletters by hardcopy, however, this option will not be available after this month's newsletter. For those that this will affect, I hope you are understanding that **our new leadership is no longer able to offer hardcopy communications** due to time limitations, as the majority of us are busy with full time jobs. Instead, our volunteer hours will be focused on offering services for all the members.



By Gavin O'Leary

-orange lupine (*Lupinus citrinus* var. *citrinus*)-

A huge thank you to Cherith Drescher and Elizabeth Kubey (CNPS staff) for updating our communications system. This project is Cherith's lasting legacy with us, as she stepped down as Membership Coordinator shortly after the May newsletters were distributed. I am ever grateful to her for researching and pursuing our communications upgrade.

Gavin O'Leary, my husband, will be stepping into the Membership Coordinator role. He is a database "guru" (I call him) as he has managed complex data solutions for a local engineering firm and is the leader of the company's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) unit. If you have membership or communications updates please contact him at sequoia.cnps@gmail.com.

Also, please be on the lookout in your email for a summer hike and other potential events.

--Reagen

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

•Restoring habitat & engaging community scientists in pollinator conservation throughout California Tuesday, June 22, 11am to 12:30pm

Via Zoom

- Will discuss trends in pollinator decline, focusing on the monarch butterfly and bumble bee species classified as species of greatest conservation need in California.
- Will review actions the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is taking to support their recovery.

For more information go to:
<https://files.constantcontact.com/4be112ef301/5847b247-5b19-44ee-bcd6-27a39707e4bf.pdf>



•Theodore Payne Foundation Multiple Online Workshops

- Learn about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plant landscapes via online workshops:

Poppy Hour: Cultural Burns
Thursday, June 24, 5:30pm, Free

Pruning and Maintenance for Wildfire Resilience, Saturday, June 26, 10:00am, Free

Landscaping for Wildfire Resilience, Saturday, June 26, 1:30pm, Free

Edible Gardens and California Native Plants, Tuesday, June 29, 5:30pm, \$25-\$35

For more information go to:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/theodore-payne-foundation-6606817237>



•Regional Parks Foundation Multiple Online Workshops

- Choose from our seasonal selection of classes on natural history:

Mount Eddy, Monday, June 28, 10am
\$20

Basics of Asteraceae: A Guide to Identification, September 13 and 20, 10am, \$35

For more information go to:
<https://nativeplants.org/events-and-classes/classes-field-trips-workshops/>

•Herbal Gels: How to use and prepare these versatile mediums in your medicines Sunday, August 29, 10am to 1pm

Online

- Learn the virtues of hydrocolloids
- Will discuss how to utilize ingredients and pair them with your herbal medicines to create a variety of topical preparations.

For more information go to:
<https://cshs.com/workshops/#herbalgels>

Cost: \$40



Membership

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information contact Gavin O’Leary at sequoia.cnps@gmail.com.

The Sequoia Chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings Counties.

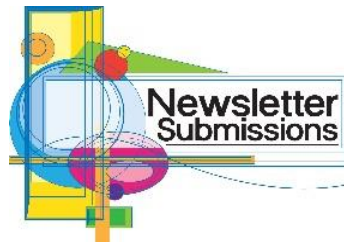
Thanks to new and renewing members.

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 us” or “BE A MEMBER” button. You’ll be allowed to choose the Sequoia Chapter during the process.

Next Newsletter: August 2021

Send newsletter entries or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com.

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Thursday, July 29, 2021.**



SEQUOIA CHAPTER CONTACTS

Role	Name and Email
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Secretary	Kate Ludwig ludwigke27@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Sarah Bahm sbbahm@gmail.com



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

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

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

- Student, Fixed Income \$25
- Individual \$50
- Plant Lover \$120
- Supporter \$500
- Patron \$1,000
- Benefactor \$2,500
- Steward \$5,000
- Guardian \$10,000

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

June/July 2021

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

c/o Laura Castro ♦ P.O. Box 414 ♦ Fresno, CA 93708

CHINA CREEK REPORT

--Warren Shaw

May Work Party

Creamy white blossoms of *Anemopsis californica*, in less massive arrays than in wet years, but still beautiful, dominated the park, as predicted. And, as usual, there were plenty of thistle rosettes and bigger plants to dig, so that's what most of us did. However we also tended our newly planted grasses and other natives.

We also mowed the trail, did some experimental tree graffiti abatement (painting over paint), checked and cleaned signs and replaced one.

Somebody noticed the 12x12 redwood posts that support the kiosk had been seriously weakened by rot and/or termites and coincidentally the County staffer, who does what maintenance can be managed for the Park, came by to empty the garbage, and we were able to show him the problem. He promised to let the Parks Department know. We'll see.

It was a lovely mild spring day, and lots of weeds were uprooted, though no count was taken. Lots inevitably remain.

Our next work party, our last of the "Spring Semester," has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 23 from 8-12. An email went out announcing the date change. We'll be doing what we can to put the Park to bed for the summer. This will include an attempt to stabilize the kiosk in hopes of keeping it from falling, trimming the willows, etc. along the road and at the north pond, working with Hank to increase the flow of water to the north pond, continuing to tend the new plantings, and, of course, more weeding. Please come if you can and help us prepare the Park for the long hot months ahead.



by Laura Castro