



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

April 2004

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 20. 7:00 p.m. "Ecological Restoration in the San Joaquin Valley"

Nur Ritter, Botanist with the Endangered Species Recovery Program will give a slide talk on ecological restoration of former agricultural lands in the San Joaquin Valley. His talk will include an overview of research being done to determine which native plant species to use for restoration. And, yes, there will be pretty wildflower photographs!

Meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue) at 7:00 p.m.

Future Meeting Programs

May 18	Nim (Mono) Uses of Native Plants. Gaylen Lee
June-August	No programs. See Field Trips.
September 21	Livestock Grazing and Native Plants Chuck Peck

Field Trips

Saturday, May 1, 9:30 am. Way of the Mono Interpretive Trail at Bass Lake. An easy loop trail with a little uphill climbing. RSVP and obtain meeting place information to Joanna Clines at 877-2218, x3150 or email <jclines@fs.fed.us>.

Saturday, June 5, 10:00 am. Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias – Shadow of the Giants Trail. Mountain Lady's Slipper Orchids should be in bloom. Field Trip Leader: Wendy Fisher. Call 642-4880 to RSVP and to get details of meeting place.

Saturday, July 10. Birding and Botany in a Sierra Nevada Meadow – Joanna Clines and Jeff Seay. Call Joanna at 877-2218, ext. 3150 to RSVP and to get details.

Volunteer's Corner

- **Between now and June 3**, to bake and otherwise make and or provide cookies, muffins, and other snacks for the June state chapter council meeting at SciCon in Tulare County, which we are co-hosting. Call or email Warren Shaw 559/855-4519 <warshaw@netptc.net >
- **Thursday, April 22**, at China Creek—to help Education Chair Peggy Jones manage a Sanger High Earth Day cleanup event at China Creek. Call or email Warren Shaw 559/855-4519 <warshaw@netptc.net >
- **Saturday, May 8.** 10 am-2 pm, SpringFest at Cottonwood Park, Clovis. This is a yearly event for the Clovis Botanical

China Creek Field Trip / Workday Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

We should be getting very close to time for mowing for YST control, so we will need to mark and map specific areas to be mowed. We may also establish a test area for experimenting with methods for controlling Japanese honeysuckle. There will also be milk, bull, and Italian thistle to pull.

Good things to bring would include rubber boots, gloves, hat, long sleeves, water, sun block, insect repellent, cameras, binoculars, and lunch. Some tools that might be useful would include rakes, hoes, shovels, and pruning shears. Hope to see you there!

China Creek is located near Centerville. Take 180 East to Smith Road (West fence of Centerville School). Go South on Smith Road for about a mile (cross Rainbow Road) and drive to the pipe barrier/gate.

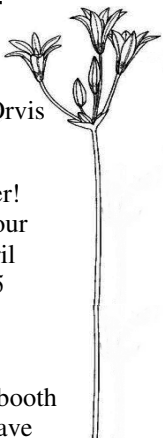


Native Plant Sale in September

Spread the news!...Saturday, September 25, 2004.
It's our biggest fundraiser.

Garden and CNPS has a table. Call or email Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145 oremail <mforvet@earthlink.net>

- **Saturday, May 29.** 8 am – 2 pm. Yard sale fund raiser! Coincides with the super Terrace Yard Sale. Bring your sellable items, especially gardening-related to the April meeting or call or email Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145 <mforvet@earthlink.net> for pickup or directions for dropoff. No clothes, please.
- **Saturday, June 26**, at Coombs Ranch to staff a table/booth focusing on native plants in landscaping as a way to save water. Call or email Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145 <mforvet@earthlink.net>



RELATED ACTIVITIES

Celebrate National Wildflower Week

Although the week of May 2 through 8 is designated as National Wildflower Week, lower elevations experience the height of wildflowers in late March/early April; higher elevations in late April. Consider a field trip, such as a drive through Watt's Valley or Wonder Valley.

Millerton Lake State Recreation Area features spring flowers on the Blue Oak Trail, an easy walk. Visitors taking a more strenuous hike on the Buzzards Roost Trail can also find spring flowers.

Bodfish Piute Cypress Grove Walk Sunday, April 25, 2004. 1 to 5 pm

The Piute Cypress (*Cupressus nevadensis*) only occurs in the Kern River Valley around Lake Isabella. The Bodfish Grove is the largest and most accessible grove of Piute Cypress and has many unique and endemic plants. Explore and learn about the Bodfish Piute Cypress grove with Fletcher Linton, the Botanist on the Sequoia National Forest. Meet at 1 pm at the intersection of the Bodfish-Caliente Road and Saddle Springs Road, two miles south of Bodfish. Prepare for a short walk into the Grove.

From Bakersfield, take the Borel Exit off 178 to the right. Go up the hill to a "T". Turn left at the "T" on to Old Highway 178. Go about 2 miles to the Bodfish-Caliente Road intersection. Turn right on the Bodfish-Caliente Road. Go about 1.5 miles to the top of a pass. This pass is at the Saddle Springs Road, park on the right in a wide pullout.

Sponsored by the Bakersfield Chapter of CNPS.

Spring Flora and Ecology Across Kern County May 7 - 9, 2004.

See details of this course in the March 2004 *Carpenteria* or visit < <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html> > or email < cperrine@uclink.berkeley.edu >.

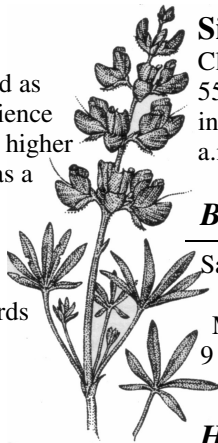
Going Native Garden Tour, Santa Clara Valley Sunday, April 18, 2004, 10 am to 4 pm

Free admission. 20 locations in Santa Clara Valley, including San Jose, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto. Visit home gardens that are water-wise, low maintenance, bird and butterfly friendly, and attractive. A variety of home gardens landscaped with California native plants will be open to the public.

Visit < <http://www.goingnativegardentour.com> > or email < info@GoingNativeGardenTour.com >. Partially sponsored by the Gardening With Natives group of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS.

Jepson Prairie Preserve Field Trip Saturday, May 1, 2004, 11:00 am

A midday walk through mima mounds, vernal pools, hoswallows and playa lakes. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and a lunch. The Solano Land Trust requests a \$5.00 donation. Meet at the Cook Lane parking area; of HWY 113, approx. 13.5 miles south of Dixon.



Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes require reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family). Call 559/855-3473 or visit < www.sierrafoothill.org > for more information and registration. Hikes are free and begin at 9:00 a.m. Call for meeting points and weather information.

Black Mountain Open House

Saturday & Sunday May 8 & 9 9 am - 5 pm	Great way to celebrate Mother's Day! Explore at your own pace or join the free class on Saturday (see below). The rare <i>Carpenteria californica</i> should be putting on a gorgeous show of blossoms.
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Hikes

Saturday April 17 Sunday April 18	Table Top at the McKenzie. A moderately strenuous 6 mile round trip. Tivy Wildflower Walk. Very leisurely with stops to identify plants, including Keck's Checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea keckii</i>).
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Classes

Saturday April 17 8 am- 2 pm	Songs of Sierra Nevada Birds. Jeff Davis, local author and ecologist, will focus on learning the sounds of five to ten key species at the Miller Preserve at Black Mountain.
Saturday April 24 9 am- 2 pm	Wildflower Identification at Black Mountain. Learn the fundamentals of wildflower identification from retired park naturalist, Jim Warner, in the classroom and the field.
Saturday May 8 10 am	Black Mountain Wildflower Walk (Free). This class, with Joanna Clines, botanist and authority on foothill plants, is held during the Open House and at the height of Black Mountain's wildflower display.

CNPS Desert Field Trip Joshua Tree National Park Friday-Sunday, April 23-25, 2004

Three days filled with bird watching, nature walks, plant identification, vegetation surveys, and general exploration.

Friday begins at the Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve and is optional, although this is the day of exploration and bird watching. Friday will include a night hike.

Saturday's agenda is the focus of the trip – performing vegetation surveys in specific survey areas within the Park. Ileene Anderson, CNPS Southern California Regional Botanist, will conduct the vegetation survey.

Sunday will be spent driving south to Cottonwood Springs with stops on the way and to visit "Native Canyon".

Space is limited. RSVP to < naturebase@aol.com > or call 818.881.3706. Detailed instructions will be sent via email to all respondents prior to the trip. Camping will be at Lost Horse Campground, reserved for this group.

March 28 Field Trip / Workday at China Creek

By Warren Shaw

Only a few stalwarts showed up for this Sunday event. One suggested it was cruel of me to schedule it during the basketball tournament. Not being a fan, I was unaware of that conflict. Sorry about that.

We did our usual tidy-up around the gate, whacked weeds around the kiosk and patrolled for early blooming YST to pull. We found no YST ready but did pull several patches of milk thistle.

Birdseye Gilia and Blue-eyed grass were in bloom, as well as both native and exotic blackberry vines. Also, one large valley oak had fewer and smaller leaves than others and we wondered whether it was declining or just on its own schedule.

The area north of the fenced "bird sanctuary" is grassy and heavily infested with star thistle. We looked it over as a possibility for a grazing trial since it provides access to water.

Neighboring landowner Hank Urbach mowed weeds on the road that runs into the park. This should slow them down a little, and certainly looks nicer.

Next China Creek field trip/workday—Saturday, May 1.

Quarterly Chapter Council Meeting

By Warren Shaw

It was a little difficult to focus at this indoor meeting surrounded by the beautiful native demonstration garden at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains on a gorgeous southern California March day. Nonetheless a lot of serious business was conducted.

Much of it was procedural: discussion of the adoption of a uniform template for CNPS policy statements, a proposal to reorganize the committee structure at the state level and other necessary but not especially inspiring business.

A lively open round table discussion of chapter outreach methods produced several useful-sounding ideas, some of which we should be able to put into practice.

A substantial portion of the afternoon session was devoted to two grassroots success stories: one presented efforts to save vernal pools in the Sacramento Valley by getting elementary classes involved and another described preservation efforts on a large area of foothill property east of San Jose.

Vern Goehring, legislative chair, discussed various native plant-relevant actions in the legislature, tracing the outlook for various Schwarzenegger appointments (mixed) and various bills. During the discussion of one of these, the high-speed rail bill was denounced by Emily Roberson as a, "scandalous corrupt boondoggle!" Seems the current idea is to route the rail system through the least developed areas of the state—thus opening them up for development—and around the populated areas.

The evening program described a project designed to return the Los Angeles River to some semblance of a natural state—not by changing its channeled, concrete-lined bed in any way, but by planting the right-of-way with native trees, shrubs and grasses (no annuals—too much trouble). It is of course an enormous undertaking and a success story in its own right, but I couldn't help chuckling a little at the concept.

Machado roots for native species as official grass of California

Excerpted from an article by Will Shuck, Capitol Bureau Chief. Published Sunday, March 14, 2004 in the Stockton Record

It chokes weeds and nurtures oak trees. Native Americans ate it, and pioneering ranchers grew it for grazing. Now a state senator and a contingent of native plant buffs want to enshrine *Nassella pulchra* as the official grass of California.

Grown in deep-rooted tufts that can live for 100 years, purple needle grass (as it's commonly known) is found throughout California, from the Mexican border to Oregon. Biologists say the grass once spread across 25 million acres. Today, it is found on about 100,000 acres.

Senate Bill 1226, by state Sen. Michael Machado, D-Linden, would give it a place alongside the California poppy and the grizzly bear as a symbol of the Golden State.

Biologist Frank Maurer, executive director the Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy in Yolo County, has been trying to get recognition for *Nassella pulchra* for years. Maurer is effusive about purple needle grass. The moisture held in its roots, which can burrow 16 feet, offers vital help to young oak trees. It battles the scourge of the star thistle, and it burns more slowly than other wild grasses.

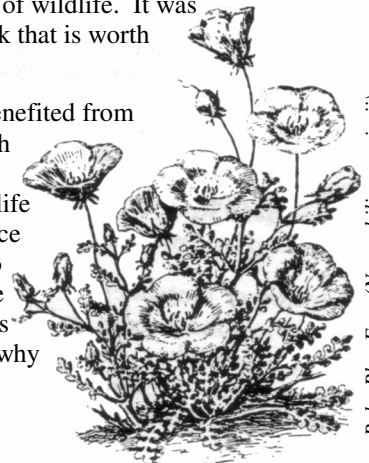
"It's a wonderful biological tool," Maurer said. "I think this could be a very important working symbol for California."

Over the years attempts have been made to make it official and many Californians are not aware that it is not an official designation. You are encouraged to promote the passage of SB1226 by mailing your comments to State Capitol, Room 3086 Sacramento, CA 95814 or < Senator.Machado@sen.ca.gov >

March Chapter Meeting

Those in attendance were treated to Warren Shaw's slide show of China Creek as it exists today. The park has various habitats in its 120 acres: riparian woodlands, savannah, and wetlands. There are also several challenges, including trash, graffiti, damage from gravel mining, and invasive exotics. More important, however, is the abundance of natural and beautiful habitat that is in use by a variety of wildlife. It was easy to see the beauty of this park that is worth preserving.

Gardening with Natives Q&A benefited from Joseph Oldham's experience with turning his new home's bare yard into a native plant and wildlife haven. Warren Shaw's experience with natives in his former Fresno city home and now his Tollhouse spread also helped with questions about the what, how, when, and why of native plant gardening.



Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)

Extinction of a single plant species may result in the disappearance of up to 30 other species of plants and wildlife.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As everyone knows, we are a volunteer organization. It's true that the Society has a small paid staff at the state level, but otherwise volunteers are responsible for everything accomplished by CNPS. It's also true that most offices are held, most committees chaired, and most work is done by the same small group of volunteers ("the stalwarts"). These people, who take time to volunteer, don't do it because they have nothing else to do. They are, in fact, extraordinarily busy people. They volunteer because they enjoy it and feel good about doing it. We think others would enjoy it too.

A new feature of Carpenteria is a "Volunteers' Corner" where we will be listing upcoming volunteer opportunities for chapter members. Now, we know some of you are shy or just don't feel

qualified to take some of these opportunities, but we know you are at least as qualified as some of us (especially me).

We've been having pretty good luck lately getting members to help out with various events by telephoning and asking them. This has worked so well that we'll probably be doing more of it, but, of course, it would be nice if folks would call in and voluntarily volunteer.

This time of year is full of opportunities for the chapter to do what it is pledged to do—educate the public about the beauty and the benefits of California Native Plants. Native plants are drawing attention to themselves by blooming, there are Earth Day activities, and we have some of the nicest weather of the year. See the list of volunteers needed and call. It'll be fun.

-- Warren Shaw

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Emily B. Roberson < EmilyR@cnps.org >

Forest Service Dropping Endangered Species, Riparian & Archaeological Reviews

March 18, 2004

The Bush Administration continues to eradicate requirements and opportunities for public and scientific review of public lands management activities that may harm imperiled plant species and communities. The Administration is proposing to eliminate reviews by outside agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Environmental Protection Agency, of Forest Service projects that may threaten plants or their habitats.

The U.S. Forest Service is moving to eliminate any reviews of its actions by outside agencies for compliance with endangered species, clean water, and historical preservation laws, according to a planning memo released on March 18 by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

Citing what Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has identified as "the Four Threats" (fire risk, invasive species, unmanaged recreation and loss of open space), the agency plans to jettison any "process" it deems unrelated to "the Four Threats."

"The Four Threats sounds more like a Maoist slogan than a coherent management philosophy," commented Ruch. "Healthy fish populations, water quality and preserving our cultural heritage are important values springing from our National Forests, not impediments to be overcome. Read the USFS memo at < <http://www.peer.org/ForestService/4threats.doc> >

California Scientists Speak Out on Bush Administration's Misuse of Science

March 18, 2004

Scientists are signing onto a letter calling attention to the misuse of science in Bush Administration policies and programs in California, and the environmental damage that results. Later this year, the letter will be sent to the President, the Governor, the State Legislature, Congress, and the media.

For more information on the Bush Administration's approach to science see the California Native Plant Society's web page on the topic: < <http://www.cnps.org/federalissues/> >. Click on "Misuse of Science". Also see the Union of Concerned Scientists report "Scientific Integrity in Policymaking" at < http://www.ucsusa.org/global_environment/rsi/report.html

CNPS files suit to protect San Benito Evening Primrose in Clear Creek Management Area.

March 25, 2004

Diversity (CBD) today filed a Notice Of Intent to Sue the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to seek compliance with federal laws governing management and conservation of the San Benito Evening Primrose and its habitat in the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) administered by the BLM. The CCMA is located at the border of San Benito and Fresno Counties in central California.

The FWS identified off road vehicle (ORV) use as the principle threat to the Primrose and its habitat when the plant was listed in 1985. However, the BLM proposed no measures to reduce ORV damage until 1998; and to date, few measures have actually been implemented. Instead, ORV use has greatly proliferated. Currently 900-1200 miles of ORV routes crisscross the CCMA, 3-4 times the 1998 level.

"ORV use is out of control on the CCMA, as it is on millions of acres of BLM lands in California.", said Daniel R. Patterson, Ecologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "Under the Bush Administration, the BLM has aggressively expanded ORV use on public lands in the U.S. In the CCMA, the BLM does not even know how many miles of routes or acres of barrens are being used."

LeNeve continued, "This March, the BLM allowed motorcycle races whose routes went right through areas the BLM itself has scheduled for closure to protect the Primrose. If this kind of destructive activity is still allowed, almost 20 years after the plant was listed, we have no choice but to ask the courts to enforce the law."

The groups stressed that the Notice of Intent to Sue does not oblige the parties to actually file a lawsuit. The Notice simply allows a lawsuit to be filed after 60 days, if management of the area does not improve. "We still hope to avoid litigation", said Emily Roberson, CNPS Senior Policy Analyst, "but we have to make sure that damage to this area stops."

See < <http://www.cnps.org/federalissues/> > for more information.

Despite the staggering economic value of native ecosystems, U.S. taxpayers spend on average less than 32 cents per year on endangered species conservation, less than the price of a single postage stamp.

-- From the CNPS "GoPlants" brochure



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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/Retired/Limited Income \$20
- Individual or Library \$35
- Family or Group \$45
- Supporting \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Bristlecone \$1000

Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail, with this form to:

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.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell 580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654-2428	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cVIP.net			

University of California Botanical Garden

Many Sequoia Chapter members travel to the East Bay. One stop worth making is the Botanical Garden at UC Berkeley. Their California section is impressive. Of the more than 4800 species native to California, over 1200 species are here.

Special displays include an alpine fell-field, vernal pool, pygmy forest, redwood forest, and plants adapted to serpentine soil. They have an outstanding collection of manzanitas, (*Arcostaphylos* spp.), California lilacs (*Ceanothus* spp.) and an almost complete collection of California bulbous monocots in the lily and amaryllis families.

The best displays are Feb-Jun. with peak blooming in late April.



Got Sequoia Monument Photographs?

Dr. Michael Kunz, who will be our speaker for the Quarterly CNPS Meeting in June at SCICON would appreciate any photographs taken in the Sequoia Monument for his talk in June. If you have photographs you can share, please contact him at <mkunz@fresno.edu> or (559) 453-2045.

Newsletter

Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net>.



CARPENTERIA

April 2004



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

**Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora.
For a membership brochure call Helen Shaw at 559/855-4519.
CNPS Web site: < www.cnps.org >**

FEATURED PLANT

Needlegrasses

Native grasslands are some of the most endangered of California's wild places. Increasingly, however, organizations and individuals are recognizing the beauty and appropriateness of grasses for restoration and in the garden.

The *Nassella* genus is commonly known as the "needlegrasses" because their seed has a long thread-like awn attached, resembling a needle and thread. They are native to the Western Hemisphere and three species are native to California: Purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), Nodding needlegrass (*Nassella cernua*), and Foothill needlegrass (*Nassella lepida*). These beautiful bunchgrasses are well-adapted to harsh growing conditions. They are cool-season bunchgrasses because they bloom in spring and are summer dormant.

Purple needlegrass is in the news as a candidate for our state grass. (See article in this newsletter.) This grass grows well in deep clay soils and thrives in deep, well-drained soils. In bloom it displays a purple hued seed as befits its name. Tough basal



leaves stay green most of the year, thanks to roots that can extend down to 20 feet.

Nodding needlegrass greatly resembles Purple needlegrass. The color of the seed is pink, rather than purple and the awn is generally longer and thinner. It is a very prolific seed producer and is especially adapted to well-drained soils. Both purple and nodding needlegrass can grow to a height 4' or more.

Foothill needlegrass is a small to medium-sized bunchgrass with finer leaves than either Purple or Nodding needlegrass. It has the smallest seed and awn of the three, with the seed almost black. It does not last long on clay or loam soils, doing better in well-drained and rocky soils.

All three are easily grown from seed and provide a beautiful display in spring when the seed and awns are blowin' in the wind.

