



## Volunteer opportunities—AKA Please Help!

Contact Marian Orvis - <[mforvet@comcast.net](mailto:mforvet@comcast.net)> or 559-226-0145

**Our chapter will have an information table at several upcoming occasions. These annual events are well attended and give us an opportunity for education and outreach; however, an empty table is not at all inviting-- so this is where you come in. An hour or two will be much appreciated by our chapter, by Marian, and by all who visit our table.**

**February 25**, Saturday. Master Gardeners' Smart Gardening Conference - Ramada Hotel, 324 E. Shaw, Fresno. Our table is a popular stop for those attending this all day conference.

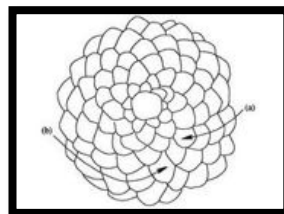
**March 2,3,4**, Friday-Sunday. Home and Garden Show - Fresno County Fairgrounds - Our table is usually in the garden pavilion near those of other plant-related organizations. It is another great opportunity for community education and outreach. Of particular interest to many who stop by is information related to landscaping with natives, given the advent of water meters. March also brings questions about wildflower viewing, planting, and identification. Help is needed for minding the table and its information brochures Friday through Sunday. 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, and spend the rest of the day at this huge show.

**March 31**, Saturday, 9 am - 2 pm Clovis Botanical Garden, Spring into Your Garden. Along with our chapter's information table, Thelma Valdez will again present her suggestions for landscaping with natives, "There's No Place Like Home"

## Plants and Fibonacci Spirals

*Jane Pritchard*

Happy New Year Everybody! I'm hoping for rain and waiting with fetid breath for another year of hiking. I changed my mind on the subject for this article after seeing my email. You can join for free to get a botany photo of the day plus related information emailed by [Daniel.mosquin@ubc.ca](mailto:Daniel.mosquin@ubc.ca).



The January 5 entry was <http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2012/01/triteleia-hendersonii.php>. That site has a link to a great YouTube video named "Doodling in Math: Spirals,

Fibonacci, and Being a Plant." In the video the fast-talking Vi Hart demonstrates Fibonacci spirals on some pine cones and flowers. The Fibonacci series was taught in calculus back in the dark ages when I was young. Several years ago I was happy to find this so-far useless information tied to plants on a Carolina

Biological Supply calendar. Hope you enjoy it too.

Ed. note: Jane takes a hike or two every month, weather permitting. Those interested in joining Jane—or in information on upcoming hikes-- can contact Jane. Her email address and phone number are listed on page 3.

## CHINA CREEK UPDATE JANUARY 2012

--Warren Shaw

We have nothing to report, in terms of work and progress at the Park, because we, like many of the species which call China Creek home, have been more or less dormant since November. This will end for us – the Volunteers -- at least on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 8 AM.

For those who haven't had the pleasure of making its acquaintance, China Creek is a 120 acre undeveloped Fresno County Park, near Centerville, in the Kings River floodplain. It combines remnant oak woodland and savannah. Though it has been sadly abused at various times in the past by several forms of "progress," it remains one of the jewels in the crown of Fresno County. Though only a few miles from Fresno, and only a couple from the busily growing town of Sanger, it hosts deer, bobcats, coyotes, hawks, and a vast array of other native species, with its ancient oaks and sycamores, and its wetland and grassland areas.

Sequoia Chapter took on the restoration of the Park in 2002, largely through the persistent urging of charter member Jeanne Larson. Restoration there is largely a matter of removing exotic invasive plant species. We started by making a "Ten Most Wanted Weed" list. So far we've worked mainly on Yellow Star Thistle, number one on the list.

In keeping with the Society's Vision, we've also laid out an interpretive trail, with 13 native plant stations, for which we provide an informative brochure, and for which we try to maintain a walking surface by spreading mulch acquired free from PG&E's tree trimmers.

A small, but dedicated crew of "China Creek Volunteers" meets once every month but December to battle weeds, plant grasses, maintain the trail, and other needed chores, usually from 8-12. They're kept informed of Park events by allowing their email addresses to be kept on a "Willing to be Informed" List. This is a No-Fault list, with no RSVP's expected and no obligations. Those of us who volunteer for the Park enjoy its beauty and natural diversity, and have a good time at our potluck coffee breaks. If you would be willing to be kept informed of our events, please call or email (see below).

It is, of course, a public park and open to everyone (from dawn to dusk). You're welcome to enjoy it anytime, either with us or on your own. To get there: 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. For more information, call (559-855-4519) or email <[warshaw@netptc.net](mailto:warshaw@netptc.net)>.

## Observations

--from **Jeanne Larson**

To my surprise, my *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, Theodore Payne buckwheat, has a few blossoms. This cultivar from the San Fernando Valley has done well in the dry area beside my driveway. This buckwheat has small white blossoms, but the usual rust colored dry blooms. It is now an oval of about 3 x 4 feet and bloomed profusely last spring. The buckwheat have one drawback and that is that the stems are quite brittle and foot traffic, which breaks branches, can leave open areas.



--from **Warren Shaw**

An interesting, if somewhat alarming, reversal has taken place in the foothills. A month ago the hills were green with newly sprouted grasses and broadleaf plants, mostly fillaree. Blue oaks still had some leaves. Now the grasses and other new plants have withered and browned. No wonder; our weather station recorded .01 inches of rain for the month of December 2011 – probably from dew.

The oaks are mostly defoliated but are covered with fat new buds. Buckeyes, always early, are also budding, and no doubt will have leaves out before the end of this month. Nothing is blooming and we wonder what the Anna's Hummingbirds we see at our feeders are living on (other than the nectar we provide).



Member **Ingrid Carmean** took her hiking group to China Creek Park. Here is her report with observations:

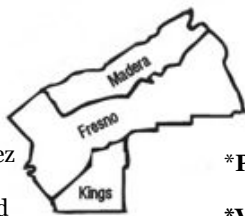
There were 21 or 22 people on the hike, including 5 children, which made this hike unique for this group. We went on the trail and then into the "Sanctuary" going all the way from the west to the east and back. I heard several comments about how beautiful it is, and "I never knew this place was here". I think everyone had a good time, they posted positive comments and one wants to come back in the spring.

I had never been in the Sanctuary and I was amazed and awed by the beauty there.

## Membership

Thelma Valdez

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



**Thanks to \*New and Renewing Members**

**Fresno County:** Bergthold, Bissonnette, Cameron, Carmean,  
\*Castro, Haffner, Hunter, Janzen, Knoblock,  
\*Tuitele-Lewis

**Out of area:** Botti

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 <http://www.cnps.org> and click on the JOIN button.

### Next Newsletter: February 2012

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net) Deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, Feb. 3.

### Solar-a Mixed Blessing

Habitat destruction threatens the diversity of life on our planet. Renewable energy strategies that damage habitat only make the problem worse. Distributed generation such as rooftop solar is the faster, cheaper, cleaner and more effective way of meeting our energy needs in the next century. The Sequoia Chapter board signed a supporting petition and we encourage you to do the same. For details, including a call to action and petition see [solar.doneright.org](http://solar.doneright.org).



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>*President</b>	open	
<b>*Vice-Pres.</b>	Paul Mitchell paul30@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>*Secretary</b>	Marian Orvis mforvet@comcast.net	559/226-0145 (h)
<b>*Treasurer</b>	Jeanne Larson jrjars@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
<b>Membership</b>	Thelma Valdez nmtv@unwiredbb.com	559/323-8962 (h)
<b>Field Trips</b>	Jane Pritchard xxiii_xx@yahoo.com	559/7652910 (h)
<b>Newsletter Editors</b>	Warren&Helen Shaw warshaw@netptc.net helshaw@netptc.net	559/855-4519 (h)
<b>Hospitality</b>	Madeleine Mitchell madeleine43@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>Horticulture</b>	open	
<b>Education</b>	Warren Shaw	(See Newsletter)
<b>Rare Plant</b>	John Stebbins johnst@mail.fresnostate.edu	559/297-0144 (h)
<b>Plant Sale</b>	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
<b>Conservation</b>	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
<b>Directors at Large</b>	Jim Seay Verna Arnest Michele LuValle	jnjseay@gmail.com vernaj@sti.net luvalle@mcn.org

Sequoia Chapter, CNPS thanks Derrel's for their support



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: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |                                |       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student, Limited Income.....   | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual .....               | \$45  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family, Group, or Library..... | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Plant Lover \$100              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron .....                   | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor \$600               |       |

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

January 2012



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

## MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

### Late Fall is the time to prune Native Plants



Hummingbird sage  
*Salvia spathacea*

The sunny days in December and the lack of fog or rain encouraged me to get outside and prune even when it was cold. My small native plant garden had become crowded and too shady so I had my 20 year old Desert Willow taken out. It grew toward the south and into the street and had to be pruned to accommodate the weekly trash trucks. I'll miss the pretty summer flowers but not the mess in the street. The salvias were pruned back in November and will enjoy more sun this spring. The *Zauschneria* is still blooming, even after weeks of nightly frost. I will need to cut it back but will wait another week or two, since it complements the red of the Toyon berries.

I moved the Hummingbird sage, *Salvia spathacea*, to a sunnier spot, and hope it establishes. I had planted it too close to the "Bee's Bliss" salvia in the fall of 2010., before realizing how big that hybrid salvia spreads.(8 foot) They were competing for space. I still need to remove more lawn to extend the garden. I've also cut the *Rosa californica* to the ground for the first time to rejuvenate it. I planted a tiny Manzanita "Pacific Mist" and a White Sage, *Salvia apiana*, in October. Wildflowers are already coming up, mostly poppies and lupine. Looking forward to a colorful spring bloom.

**CNPS Sequoia January 2012**  
**Clockwise from below:**

**China Creek pond**

**China Creek volunteers  
taking a break.**

**China Creek silhouette**

**Coyote bush in bloom**

***Erigonum umbellatum*  
(Sulfur Flower) reacts to  
January cold.**



***“One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.” Sophocles***