



China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

At our September workday we made a last attempt for this year in our effort to eradicate yellow star thistle from the park. As the seed matures we follow advice to leave the plants in place for fear of spreading the seed if disturbed. Though we don't know exactly how to gauge the level of maturity, it appears many of the yellow blossoms are turning to fluff which suggests a readiness to float away and start more colonies. Consequently we have decided to suspend work on YST for 2009.

It's can be discouraging with YST continuing to come back and re-bloom after grazing and mowing, despite a generally dry year. We recognize the need to reassess our approach and are considering, the use of biological controls, changing grazing patterns, and reluctantly, even chemical control. We have made good progress in the southeast section of the park but other areas are proving to be an ongoing challenge.

We posted our new "paper" sign, describing park rules and regulations in plain English. We did this mainly to make the sign easily replaceable in case of graffiti, but also to make the rules clearer. We sought and received Fresno County approval for this.

Upcoming Workdays: In October and November (the 24th and 21st, respectively) we'll get back to trail maintenance as our main focus. These should be beautiful, cool fall days in the Park, and we'd love to have you join us. Call 855-4519 or email warshaw@netptc.net for directions or other information.

Fall Plant Sale Report

Thelma Valdez

We did it again. We sent over 500 California native plants into the hands (and gardens) of local residents. Each year we increase our outreach by a little. Each year we talk with more repeat customers. This year it seemed more customers planned to take out their lawns or already had removed their lawns and were looking to replace their landscapes with California natives or other low-water use plants. Our net proceeds to the chapter were \$871.03. This is good in a year where the economy is still struggling.

As you would expect, the blooming perennials are big sellers - California Fuchsia, Penstemons, Desert Willow. Large photographs showcasing spring-blooming plants help sell those that aren't in bloom in September like Western Redbud, Sulfer Buckwheat, and Carpenteria. Of course the sages are typically popular as are the manzanitas once customers realize that, yes, you can grow manzanita in your Fresno garden! Spreading the knowledge is as important as selling plants.

The sale felt quite festive with canopies and umbrellas providing shade and atmosphere. Many, many thanks to CNPS volunteers who lent canopies, came out on a blistering day to setup and/or help with the sale. Helen Shaw, Howard Latimer, Ingrid Carmean, Jane Pritchard, Jeanne Larson, Jim Seay, Laura Castro, Laura Colton, Madeleine Mitchell, Marian Orvis, Marianne Kast, Mary Beth Janzen, Michele LuValle, Paul Mitchell, Robert Hansen, Sandra McCormick, Sue Haffner, Verna Arnst, and Warren Shaw. Hats off to you!

The Clovis Botanical Garden, too, deserves a big round of applause for the time and effort put in by their volunteers and organizers. Each year we do this joint plant sale we learn how to work together a little better and recognize how important is our work of outreach. The Botanical Garden is a great backdrop for the plant sale and we appreciate the opportunity to share the space for this annual event.

S.H.A.R.E.S. Card = \$\$ for the Chapter

A recent check received from SaveMart's S.H.A.R.E.S. Program was \$65.00. That amount pays for one of our newsletter distributions. However, recently the user amount as dropped. It's a little extra step in your purchases but we encourage you to carry your card and use it. It really does provide needed revenue.

The SHARES card is an arrangement with SaveMart and FoodMaxx stores whereby most purchases at these stores earn points. A percentage of these points becomes a donation to the Chapter.

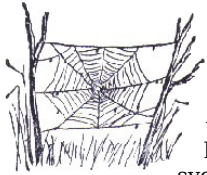
It's easy to use. Simply present your card at checkout before you pay for your purchases. The cashier swipes the card and that's it! You pay normally using cash, debit card, etc.

If you use the self-checkout at many SaveMart stores, there's a button on the screen specifically for the SHARES I.D. Press the button and swipe your card. Then press the finish and pay button to complete your transaction normally.

We have plenty of cards so if you would like a card, contact Marian Orvis at mforvet@earthlink.net or 559/226-0145.



Observations



Our foothill correspondent gave this report prior to our recent full day of rain: "I the foothills even the tarweed is brown.

Twinberries are ripe and red, but many of the vines are sadly dead-looking. Most blue oaks haven't yet begun heavy defoliation and sycamores are still mostly green, but it's clear everything is waiting for rain." Well they got their wish.

Jeanne Larson says, "The fall bloomers are one of the rewards of native plant and drought tolerant plant gardening. One of my favorites is our near native (to Baja) Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*). The variety I have has flower spikes that are entirely purple which presents a great display. The neighborhood hummers visit all day.

"In sandy soil and open shade Maidenhair fern grows so well that it needs to be thinned. If there is an empty, shady spot in your garden that you need to fill, please give me a call, and I will be glad to share this native fern with you. Jeanne Larson 243-0815."

Press time this month was about four days after that great soaking of Tuesday, which contained remnants of Super Typhoon Melor that was over Japan the previous week. Within the range of the Sequoia chapter, areas received from 1.4 inches of rain in Fresno to an exciting 13 inches at Dinkey Creek.

Presumably you and your surroundings were washed clean of summer's dust. Plants responded almost immediately and I imagine our foothill correspondent would tell a different story only four days after the storm.

California natives in my area were already starting to move out of their summer dormancy, responding to cooler temperatures and longer nights. In the flatlands 1.4 inches of rainfall was welcomed by all. The warm weather that followed served up the quickest germination of filaree I've ever seen.

The weird warm fog of Friday and Saturday showcased strong, active spider webs covered in delicate dew. Abandoned webs were generally washed away. Old leaves and dust were brought down to the ground to begin their return to the soil. Natural housekeeping. Yes.

Autumn is a great season in Central California. Flora and fauna emerge from long, hot summer days to shorter, warm days and longer, cooler nights. As a member of the local fauna, it's a time to be relished. If you haven't already done so, this would be a perfect time to put some new California natives into your garden. Don't forget to water them well and monitor the soil as it begins to dry out. Provide them with an environment that mimics the best of fall and winter rains and you'll be rewarded with healthy plants that look and feel right at home....because they will be.

-Editor



Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*)
leaf and acorn



A Visit to the UC Davis Arboretum

Helen Shaw

On our way home from Oregon in late August, we stopped over to visit our son in Davis who took us to the UC Davis Arboretum. It is 100 acres of plants with winding paths, numerous benches and even some picnic tables.

As we strolled along the paths, we were treated to a number of plant collections, including the California Foothill collection, The Redbud collection and the Oak collection. All plants were identified with tags.

The Arboretum staff has identified 100 Arboretum All-Stars—tough, reliable, easy-to-grow plants for the Central Valley, many of which are, of course, California natives. The nametags noted if the plant was an All-Star.

Warren was particularly interested in plantings of his favorite tree—the oak—and even found a species he had seen only once before: *Quercus engelmannii*, the Engelmann oak. I was impressed by a large collection of redbud and am committed to returning next spring when they are blooming.

The Arboretum gardens are open 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and there is no charge for admission. Visitors may wander through the Arboretum on their own or join public tours. One can even listen to a cell phone tour at home or while viewing.

The website www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu has maps, a reference library, gardening websites, and information about guided tours. There is a searchable database and an illustrated list of All-Stars that are California natives.

The Arboretum's Summer Newsletter describes one of their newest projects--a Native American Reflective Garden enveloped by large oaks and buckeye trees, featuring locally-native plants. This first phase of a project to honor Native Americans is a cooperative venture involving students of Native American studies, the Arboretum staff, and members of the Patwin community.

Speaking of the Sacramento area...

If you happen to be traveling to Sacramento and would be willing to return a box of posters sent to us by the state CNPS, please contact Jeanne Larson. Posters are not big sellers as they used to be and the quantity "consigned" by the state is more than we can use. Your help in taking the posters to the CNPS office in Sacramento would save us shipping costs.

Speaking of the state CNPS...

Over the past year or so the state CNPS Web site (www.cnps.org) has undergone vast improvements. If you haven't visited in a long while, have another look. There is quite a strong emphasis on natives in the garden and PDF versions of *Fremontia* all the way back to 2000 are on the site. Older issues are available from another site.

It's well-organized and attractive. There are educational resources for instructors who teach students from kindergarten to graduate school.

You can also sign up for a monthly CNPS eNewsletter that is quite informative. The Web site does not easily provide a way to do this so if you are interested, contact Jack Tracey (jtracey@cnps.org).

Membership

Helen Shaw

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net

The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



*New Members and Membership Renewals

Fresno : *Parker, Van der Noordaa
Madera : Koshear

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible.

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs. Visit www.cnps.org and click on the JOIN button.

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

-- Jane Goodall

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Next Newsletter: November 2009



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@unwiredbb.com. The deadline for the November newsletter is Saturday, November 7.



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

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

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student, Limited Income | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$45 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mariposa Lily | \$1500 |

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

October 2009



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 CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

Hollyleaf Cherry

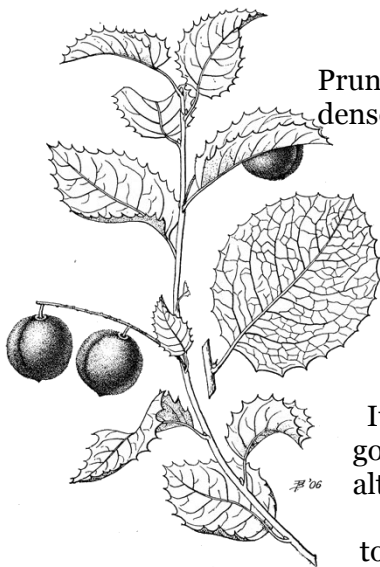


FIG. 168.—*Prunus ilicifolia*.

Prunus ilicifolia is a beautiful densely branched evergreen shrub that can grow from 3' or be trained to become a 25' single-trunk tree. If you prefer a hedge, simply shear it to the size you need.

It prefers full sun and good drainage, and although it is generally drought tolerant, occasional deep watering is needed to

help it reach the larger sizes. A big plus is that it is a very fire resistant plant.

The shiny, dark green leaves are 1-2 inches long and have prickly edges (hollyleaf). In the spring it produces small clusters of white flowers that cover the entire tree and attract bees and other insects. It is a host plant for the Pale Swallowtail butterfly.

Later in the year the flowers mature into dark red sweet cherries. The cherries are edible but don't have a lot of flesh – mostly skin and seed. If you don't eat the cherries, though, you'll have a plethora of birds that will! The roots and leaves can be used in cooking.

Image from 19759 U.S.D.A Forest Service., Courtesy of the Hunt Institute



Clockwise, starting at top left:

- Live Oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) Gallfly (*Callirhytis quercuspomiformis*)
- Blue Oak galls and acorns (*Quercus douglasii*)
- Live Oak acorns (*Quercus wislizeni*)
- Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*)
- Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) supporting Banded Garden Spider and web (*Argiope trifasciata*)
- Mexican Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*)
- Manzanita trunk
- Pink Spineflower (*Chorizanthe membranacea* Benth.)
- Center photo: California Wild Rose Hips (*Rosa californica*)

OCTOBER 2009



SEQUOIA CHAPTER CNPS