



## Water-wise Plant Sale and Fair

--Thelma Valdez & Marian Orvis, chairs

From Thelma: What an event! The Water-wise Plant Sale and Fair on September 25, was a big success! A roaring round of applause goes to our Chapter and the Clovis Botanical Garden for an event that continues to grow and educate. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped on Friday and Saturday. We could not accomplish this without you!

If there is anything that characterizes this event, it's camaraderie and enthusiasm. The Clovis Botanical Garden and CNPS partner in all ways – from planning to publicity to an agreement that our adjacent missions make an excellent partnership. Together we sent over 1000 post card mailings, paid for a Fresno Bee ad, received two different television coverage events, received Fresno Bee newspaper coverage, and individual members of both organizations spread the word.

I speak on behalf of those of us on the ground talking to customers about California natives. Each year we find that generally people are interested in California natives and they're willing to learn but these plants are not in the mainstream of nurseries or books. The Plant Sale provides an excellent way to bring the plants to the people. This year we placed 590 California native plants into the homes of local residents. The message is

beginning to take hold – each year more individuals know about natives; they are return customers and they have success stories!

Remember that if you purchased plants, get them into the ground soon. The soil and the days are still warm. Give them a good head start by ensuring they have a good (normal) winter of periodic rains. When it rains, don't water. If it doesn't rain, make sure they think it's raining! You'll be rewarded by a well-adjusted California native that will have you coming back for more.

Marian adds special thanks to Thelma Valdez for her dedication. She notes many others who gave part or all of their weekend, ensuring a successful event. These volunteers included Ingrid Carmean, Belinda Gilbert, Michelle LuValle, Jim Seay, Madeleine Mitchell, Sue Haffner, Robert Hansen, Jane Pritchard, Mary McClanahan, Howard Latimer, Michelle Dooley, Gay Abarbanell, Laura Castro, and Peggy Jones

The editors add their thanks to all and apology to anyone we've left out. The Fresno Bee gave "Thumbs Up" to shoppers & volunteers on their editorial page October 2.



## China Creek Update - Warren Shaw

Our September China Creek Workday was a little different, in that we were starting something new -- planting. It sounds odd to admit that in the eight years the chapter has been involved in "restoration" at China Creek all we've done is kill stuff, mainly Yellow Star Thistle. Now, however, having killed YST very efficiently with chemicals last spring, we're beginning what we assume will be a long and gradual process of planting and encouraging native grasses to compete with and take the place of YST and the exotic annual grasses which dominate the Park's savannah areas.

As noted in last month's report, we're beginning by mulching these areas. We persuaded Vulcan materials to use their heavy equipment to dump piles of mulch, and then devoted ourselves to spreading it more evenly by hand. We had a great crew, and for once, we actually finished spreading all the mulch Vulcan had hauled before 12:00 and went home early.

We expect our October Workday, Saturday, October 16 to be much the same, except perhaps, for even nicer working weather. We'll start around 8:00, and, unless we finish early, will knock off at 12:00. To get to the Park, take Kings Canyon/180 to Centerville (east of Academy). Turn south on Smith or Oliver about ¼ mi. to the intersection of Smith and Rainbow. Follow Smith about ¼ mi. east to the Park gate. We hope you can join us.

(Call or email Warren Shaw, 559-855-4519/<mailto:warshaw@netptc.net> for more information.)

、 Next workdays – October 16, November 20

# Tollhouse Rock revisited

Chapter one

Jane Pritchard

In spring Tollhouse Rock is beautiful. Because of the sun exposure and reflection from the rock, foliage and flowers of *Allium abramsii* (fringed onion) and foliage of *Streptanthus farnsworthianus* (Farnsworth's jewel flower) are dark purple. Some other flowers of note are *Linanthus dichotomus* (evening snow), *Lupinus stiversii* (harlequin lupine), *L. citrinus* (orange lupine), and *Comandra umbellata* (bastard toad-flax) which is an occasional root parasite. Skunky smelling *Mimulus layneae* (Layne's monkey-flower) line crevices in the granite.

Old Tollhouse Road is a great drive, and Tollhouse Market now has a Grill which serves fresh (not frozen) hamburger. Another approach is up Hwy 168 to about 4000' and turn right on Old Tollhouse shortly after the power lines cross overhead. After 2 miles or so, a dirt road on the left is marked 33365 and 33368 on two yellow posts. Park at the head of the dirt road and walk about a mile to the power lines. The road is lined with *Silene californica* (Indian pink) and an unkeyed *Agoseris*. Go right up the steep road under the power lines and keep bearing right up to the rock.

I revisited Tollhouse Rock with Ingrid on September 4 to see *Ericameria arborescens* (golden fleece) in bloom. It was warm so we planned to take a quick look and go to a higher elevation to hike. Ingrid didn't carry her lunch along. We got back to the car at 5:30, and she ate her baked sandwich then. Luckily she did bring water. I had shared cheese sticks, nuts, and fruit with her on the rock.

*Lessingia leptoclada* and *L. filaginifolia* were both in bloom. *Filaginifolia* means gray foliage. The flowers have darker purple petals and brighter yellow centers than those of *L. leptoclada*. *Rhamnus rubra* (Sierra coffee berry) was covered with green, red, and black berries. Just across the valley to the west, Black Mountain has *R. tomentella* (chaparral coffee berry). Foliage of *Keckellia breviflora* (gaping penstemon) had turned purple. Bear clover still had a few blooms. The air was filled with its great smell all day. *Umbellularia californica* (bay tree) had pairs of fruit that resembled a small guava – green with lighter spots. The thin juicy rind tasted faintly like guava. The seeds are dark purple when ripe. The thin buff seed coat surrounded the seed which splits in half like a bean and has an astringent taste. Parching or roasting the nuts removes the bitter taste. *Asclepius eriocarpa* (Indian milkweed) only had one open pod so far with silky, white parachutes puffing out. The seeds are flat (more area to catch the wind?). *Eriocarpa* means wooly fruit but the whole plant is hairy. I didn't magnify the seed to see if it has hairs. Clumps of yellow (some white) flowers spread up the stems of *Eriogonum microthecum*. Its stem and opposite leaves are grey and hairy (on both sides of the leaves).

At the power lines we turned right up the steep dirt road. One person last spring sat down and scooted down it on her butt. Since then the road had been scraped and widened which demolished a lot of plants. Very deep ruts that had been difficult to traverse were filled in with loose

dirt. It will be interesting to see the effect of rain on it. Now there is better access for the beer guzzling, picnicking, shotgun shooters to drive all over the rocks where rare and beautiful flowers grow. Quite a bit more trash than before was left everywhere. Anyone interested in taking a trash bag along with me in May 2011?

-----Chapter two in November-----

## Observations

From Jeanne Larson, Fresno: Since this season has been erratically cool my Mexican Sage had sent up a few flower spikes during the summer. I was wondering what fall would bring. Happily, it is in full bloom and the hummers are having a ball. The clump of Beach Aster (*Erigeron glaucus*) that had been planted in the shade, as it can burn in hot sun, was not doing well. It is now in the back yard with morning shade and hot afternoon sun. The foliage has not burned and it is covered with lavender-pink daisies and has spread considerably by runners.

In the spring when weeding nutgrass out of Blue-eyed grass, it is helpful that the Blue-eyed grass has strong roots as the two look very much alike when the blue-eye is not blooming. In the fall, blue-eyed grass has a period of summer dormancy since the roots are waiting to renew themselves. If you find that you have pulled out blue-eyed grass unintentionally, (and don't see any roots) put the clump in a container of water and you will have root growth within a week.



Blue-eyed grass

This stimulant to root growth also works well with Pacific Coast Iris which should be thinned in November. If roots are lacking, a week in water will ready the iris for replanting.

If you want to get rid of Bermuda without using weed killer it can be sprayed with 4% acetic acid (cheap vinegar). This does not kill the Bermuda, but weakens it enough to be dug up (if you don't have to worry about tree roots). A trenching shovel with a long blade accompanied by a long, thin trowel, and lots of elbow grease, does work.

From Warren Shaw: The annual Fall miracle has taken place in the foothills: We had rain the first Saturday night of the month; by Tuesday morning dicots were up; by Thursday grasses were beginning to show; now, a week and a half later, grasses are up 2 or 3 inches, and the long-brown hills are beginning to take on a greenish tinge. Mosses exploded within hours, and lichens within a day or two. The heavy showers knocked most of the russet leaves off the buckeyes, but the blue oaks seem to have paused in their gradual and individualistic defoliation.

On a recent trip to Shaver Lake, we noted California Fuchsia is blooming profusely at 2000 ft. and higher up the Dogwoods are beginning to turn.

And from Thelma Valdez in Clovis: Rain or not, the Blue Curls have stood their ground and this year I've seen hummingbirds visiting those beautiful blossoms. Of course, California Fuchsia are blooming again with a vengeance after last week's rains. Leaves of every plant are washed clean, the Deergress is blooming, and the Coyote Bush is just beginning to bloom. Native needlegrasses respond within a day of the rain and now they're looking quite ready for winter's rains. I will miss the summer days of quiet dormancy; I always do. It's now a time of crickets, toads, worms, and a lot of other underground activity. Time to look forward to dropped leaves turning to rich soil and noisy birds looking for insects beneath.

## Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at <mailto:nmtv@unwireddb.com>  
The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



### \*New and Renewing Members (September)

**Fresno:** Bladen, \*Chase, \*Finch, Gibson (from Santa Clara) Kast, Minton, Roberts, Teviotdale

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

**Email option** – If you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, contact Thelma Valdez, Membership chair, [nmtv@unwireddb.com](mailto:nmtv@unwireddb.com). A bonus will be receiving photos in color and an additional page of photos submitted by members.

### Dark Side of Solar - PS

Jeanne Larson, who expressed our concerns in September about the rush to solar farms found a little light in the following from Tara Hansen, Executive Director of CNPS:

(Recently) "Greg Suba received a message from the Director of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) that CNPS would be accepted as a member of the DRECP Stakeholder Committee. Prior to this Greg has delivered critical information related to rare plants and vegetation communities to the group through other stakeholders who actually sit on the committee. Director David Harlow cited that after a discussion with the REAT agencies, there was agreement that the addition of CNPS to the Committee would add important expertise not currently represented on the Committee.

We now have our own seat at the table. This is a testament to the high quality data that has been developed through the CNPS science programs, and Greg's persistence and excellent delivery skills as a non-member participant in the DRECP process to date."

## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### Next Newsletter: November 2010



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw at [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net). The deadline for the November newsletter is Friday, November 5.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**California Native Plant Society**  
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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 2010



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

## MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

### *Salvia*

*Madeleine Mitchell*

I have several *Salvias* in my native plant garden; the oldest being *Salvia clevelandii*. I bought two more at our recent plant sale and removed more lawn to plant them. So I decided to feature *Salvia brandegeei* that I bought at last year's sale to contrast with my grey-leaved plants. The leaves are dark green and the flowers are lavender and white. It has grown from a small one-gallon size plant to about 4 feet tall by 5 feet wide.

Brandegee sage (common name) is native to Santa Rosa Island and a few coastal locations in northwestern Baja California. Most *salvias* benefit from a yearly pruning to prevent them from getting too woody and floppy. I'll do this in January when I cut back the *Zauschnerias*.





**OCTOBER 2010**  
◆  
**SEQUOIA  
CHAPTER  
CNPS**

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**

**PLANT SALE SEPTEMBER 25 –  
FIVE ACTIVITIES**

**HAPPY MOSS IN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS**

**SPREADING MULCH AT CHINA CREEK**

