

# Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



October 2020  
www.cnps-sequoia.org

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ONLINE FALL PLANT SALE

**This Year the Sequoia Chapter will be having the Native Plant Sale online.**

**WHEN to Order:** Wednesday, **October 28<sup>th</sup>** through Thursday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**.

**WHERE to Order:** A link will be made available on the Sequoia Chapter webpage (<http://www.cnps-sequoia.org>).

**HOW to Get Your Order:** Schedule a pickup time while ordering online. Pickup times will be Sunday afternoon at Clovis Botanical Garden on **November 8<sup>th</sup>**.

A plant list, as well as pricing, ordering, and pickup information will be available soon!

The Clovis Botanical Garden will be having its Water Wise Plant Sale  
on

Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 4pm

and

Saturday, October 17 from 9am to 1pm.

945 N. Clovis Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611

FREE ADMISSION

Masks and physical distancing will be required, and plants will be displayed further apart.  
Hand sanitizer will be available. 10% discount with CBG membership card!

# CHINA CREEK REPORT

--**Warren Shaw** (photos by Warren Shaw)

Our first work party of the “fall semester” was on a blessedly temperate day with a predicted high in the eighties, and locally it was pretty smoke-free (although a brown “smoke bank” could be seen hovering over the hills to the south).



Getting our new-to-us bright blue shipping container painted was a big part of the agenda, but there were the usual challenges of trying to stay ahead of the weeds, and keeping Valley oak seedlings protected that had to be met as well. After a goodly crew gathered — all masked like bandits, including some from the Kings River Conservancy — we divided up and went to work.

The container is on a space generously provided for us by Park neighbor, Kathy Yamamoto, about 200 yards from the Park gate. Our plan is to store our newly acquired mower and all our tools and supplies in this container rather than — as previously — in members’ garages, so that they need no longer to be loaded, hauled, unloaded, reloaded, unloaded and stowed for each work party. This will be vastly more convenient for volunteers, and, we hope, make our work more efficient. We were able to purchase both the mower and the container mostly with funds provided by a grant from the Rose Foundation.

The paint crew prepared for painting by sanding, scraping, and priming rusty spots, peeling decals, and wiping off dust as best we could, and then rolling on the olive drab paint, chosen to make the container as unobtrusive as possible. The crew ranged in age from 12 to 82, and worked with a will (and the “help” or at least interest, of Kathy’s dog) to cover the sides, doors, and back with paint and the top with a white, elastomeric roof sealer, finishing right on time.



We heard from the weeding crew in the south pasture, which has been heavily grazed recently, that they had found and dug a considerable pile of yellow starthistle (YST), which we’ll need haul out next month. They said the YST was made more visible by the heavy grazing and that they had found a patch of the dreaded stinkwort, which they flagged for Hank to spray. The caging crew protected three Valley oak seedlings and uncaged others that had outgrown their need for protection. Busy with getting finished and cleaned up at the painting site, we didn’t get a report from those weeding in the north grazing area, but are sure they vanquished a lot of noxious weeds.

All in all, it was a great start for the fall semester. Our October work party will be Saturday, October 24 from 8am to 12pm. We’ll be weeding as usual, checking out the trail for maintenance needs, treating root sprouts from our largely defeated *Ailanthus* (tree of heaven) grove, and getting the container organized, so, a busy day. Please join us; it should be a perfect fall day in the Park.

**Directions:** China Creek Park is located on the west side of Centerville, 16 miles east of Fresno off Highway 180. To get there, drive east on Kings Canyon/ Highway 180, 16.5 miles to Centerville. Turn right (south) on N. Oliver Avenue and continue for 0.2 miles, then follow the road southwest onto S. Rainbow Drive. Make a left (south) unto S. Smith Avenue, a narrow road, and continue straight, 0.5 miles down to the end of the narrow road where you will find the Park gate.

# CREEK FIRE OBSERVATIONS

--Warren Shaw



Photo by Warren Shaw

On September 29, we were finally able to drive to Shaver to see, firsthand, the fate of our cabin there. The good news is, apart from a lot of ash on the deck and a powerful aroma of smoke inside, it was fine, by the grace of God AND John Mount, longtime Edison forester and proponent of controlled burning and selective logging.

The trip up and back, however, was made horrific by scenes of formerly lush forest of pines, cedars, firs and oaks blackened and stripped. Shaver Ranch, a lovely property of our former cattleman Steve McDonald, was obliterated; cabins and businesses such as Cressman's, which had stood for 100 years, were piles of scorched and twisted metal roofing with only chimneys left standing. Along the highway, many trees had been felled, we presume to prevent them from falling across the road, with fresh cut stumps bright against the solid black background. Apocalyptic.

For us, the most heartbreaking sight was a huge, ancient black oak, across from the Shaver Ranch gate, that we have watched for decades in fall color and spring leafout; it had been burned and cut. Buildings can be reconstructed in a matter of months, but it will take two or three hundred years before that oak will be replaced.



Photo by Warren Shaw

People can argue about the causes of the "Creek Fire" and many other fires in California and elsewhere, but at this point there doesn't seem to be any way to argue that it is anything other than a tragedy, in both human and environmental terms.



Photos by Steven Lam, September 8, 2020  
REUTERS / [www.btimesonline.com](http://www.btimesonline.com)



## Upcoming Classes and Events

**•October 17, Spatial phylogenetics: A “big data” approach integrating ecology, evolution, and conservation,  
-Saturday, 1:00pm-5:00pm**

Online workshop hosted by The Jepson Herbarium

- Advances in digitization of natural history collections, broad-scale DNA sequencing of many taxa represented in public databases, and scaling-up of methods for building phylogenies have made it possible to apply phylogenetics.
- Workshop will be a combination of lecture, classroom activities, and discussion and will cover the basic principles of phylogenetic methods.
- Examples will be given from several floras from around the world.

Cost: \$75

Information:

<https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>

**•October 17, Jepson Herbarium Member’s Night!**

**-Saturday, 6:00pm-7:30pm**

- Member meeting via Zoom.
- An evening of conversation about the current status of the University and Jepson Herbaria.
- Get a peek at their research on floristic diversity, the new techniques they are using to evaluate it, and a special region of California that is particularly important for conservation.
- Bring your ideas and questions to share.
- Registration is required.

Cost: None

Registration:

<https://berkeley.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctc-mgqTgrGtNqAoIJPrTtg9L2TwWCoFaC>



**•October 17, Clovis Botanical Garden Raffle Drawing**

**-Saturday, 12:30pm**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4 Tickets to Disneyland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Succulent Arrangement
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Original Painting
- Sold during Water-wise Plant Sale.

Cost: \$1.00 each

Questions: [admin@clovisbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:admin@clovisbotanicalgarden.org)



Clovis  
Botanical Garden

## Job Opportunity

**•Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment is Hiring!**

The Rose Foundation has supported grassroots initiatives that inspire community action to protect the environment, community health, and people’s rights.

Position: Development Assistant

Location: Oakland, CA

- Summary: The Development Assistant plays a vital role in supporting the Rose Foundation’s development operations, which span across all departments. Primary responsibilities include gift and grant processing and acknowledgement, and information and database management. This position is a great opportunity for someone who is eager to learn the ins and outs of the nonprofit development field and is ready to grow their nonprofit career.
- Application Info: <https://rosefdn.org/wp-content/uploads/Development-Assistant-2020.pdf>



## Membership

Thanks to new and renewing members.

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Cherith Merson at [echerith@gmail.com](mailto:echerith@gmail.com).

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

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

### Next Newsletter: November 2020

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at [lacastror@outlook.com](mailto:lacastror@outlook.com). The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Saturday, October 31, 2020.**



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER CONTACTS

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<b>Rare Plants Coordinator</b>	vacant	
<b>President</b>	vacant	
<b>Hospitality</b>	vacant	
<b>Horticulture</b>	vacant	



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

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

New Member       Renewing Member

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

**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 2020

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

c/o Laura Castro ♦ PO Box 414 ♦ Fresno, CA 93708

### GARDEN NOTES

**-Thelma Valdez** (photos by Thelma Valdez)

October has finally arrived and with it two of my favorite fall-blooming California natives: deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) and blue curls (*Trichostema lanceolatum*), also known as vinegarweed.



-*T. lanceolatum*-



-*M. rigens*-

The blue curls, of course, are lovely, aromatic, and only require making sure your family doesn't step on them in early summer when they are small. Otherwise, no effort, no water, no human assistance.

They have been buzzing with bees for a month or so and now that some are turning to seed, small bands of finches are partaking.

My stands of deergrass are in bloom right now and this morning I stood in the early morning sun to watch and listen as bees crawled up and down the new blossoms packing on the pollen.