



## Water-wise Plant Sale and Fair

Saturday, September 25, was a perfect day for our plant sale. Unlike previous years, when all plants and people suffered with excessive heat, temperatures were right at our ten-year average with a high of 87. The decision to start and end the sale an hour earlier was also very welcome. This project would be impossible without volunteers and we were blessed with some hard workers: Thelma and Flora Valdez, Nye Morton, Marian and Frank Orvis, Jane Pritchard, Belinda Gilbert, Madeleine Mitchell, Michele and John LuValle, Jeanne Larson, Helen and Warren Shaw, Paul Rempel and Jean Linder, Jeannine Koshear, and, of course, a big thanks to IntermountainNursery (and owner Bonnie for being there during the entire plant sale).



Heartfelt thanks also goes to CSU students from Ornamental Horticulture classes and the Nursery. Their friendly enthusiasm and assistance were most appreciated by all sellers and buyers.

Our chapter sold 366 plants, close to 100 plants per hour—pretty impressive. CNPS members and volunteers also shared their knowledge and love of native plants with all who came to our area at Clovis Botanical Gardens.

More pictures on our website  
[www.cnps-sequoia.org](http://www.cnps-sequoia.org)



Bob Winter, emeritus Fresno City College instructor influenced the development of many California biologists and natural historians within and beyond the Central Valley. A beloved instructor of native flora and fauna, he died on September 21. He always admired the sunflowers along the roadsides even though they were introduced from Kansas. This perennial sunflower was recently found to be native by John Stebbins, et al., and named *Helianthus winterii* in Mr. Winter's honor.

Bob was the last surviving founder of the Fresno Jr. Museum of Natural History. From the late 1940's into the early 1970's, the Museum focused on Central Valley Natural History and had aviaries for injured birds and cages for a few mammals unable to return to the wild. In the 1970's the focus changed, and it was renamed the Discovery Center.

A Celebration of Bob's Life will take place on Monday, October 21, at 11 AM at the New Covenant Community Church, 1744 E. Nees, Fresno (north side between Cedar and Maple)

## **Sierra Foothill Report**

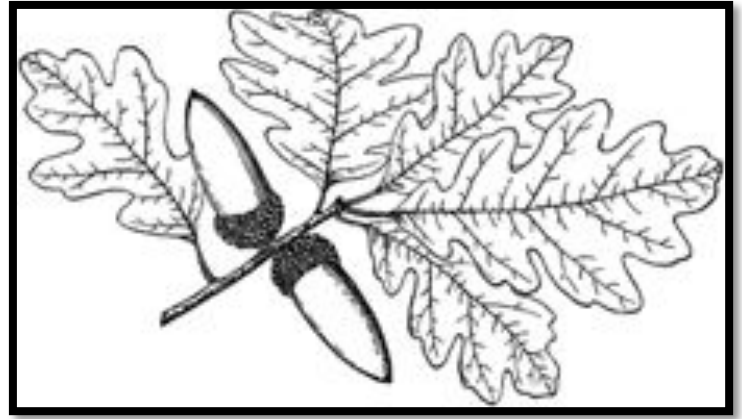
**--Belinda Gilbert**

After a long, hot summer in the Sierra Foothills, a violent September storm delivered a half inch downpour accompanied by thunder and lightning. I remember reading that native seeds should be sown at the start of the rainy season, so I donned my rain jacket and scattered native seeds that very afternoon. It has been dry and warm since then, but I look forward to the germination of seedlings. I have also been walking my Ahwahnee property, watching for signs that early Erodium or other non-natives have germinated, as I plan to remove them before the native annuals germinate.

A classic sign of fall, White or Valley Oak trees (*Quercus lobata*) are dropping acorns, which are scooped up for relocation by Scrub Jays, Acorn Woodpeckers and eaten by visiting deer. One unexpected surprise is the great number of white oak seedlings that have germinated in the years since I removed the non-native grass cover under the white oaks. The acorns fall in October, followed by a cascade of leaves in late October or November. With the arrival of winter rain and snow, the leaves provide a mulch cover to hold the moisture next to the seedlings, which lay dormant, then germinate by the hundreds in the spring!

Twenty years have passed since I began working with native annual seeds. I was first inspired by the beautiful fields of lupine blooming in this area as I walked in the nearby hills, and I returned to gather seeds, carrying baggies and envelopes in my jeans pockets. I was surprised and dismayed by how different the dry flowers, plants and seed pods looked. On more than one occasion I returned with bags full of non-native seeds and planted them in error. Sometimes the native plants seemed to dry up and disappear after blooming, especially when hidden by non-native grasses. It took several years until I recognized the blooming flowers and the dry seed pods of the same species.

The funniest first year story is when I sowed bags of precious Lupine seeds in the fall, then watched with alarm as migrating sparrows alighted, scratched and consumed all the seeds, hopping with delight among



***Quercus lobata***

my reseeded efforts. I hope they deposited them to grow somewhere else!

The following year I collected native Common Madia seeds from a local driveway edge which had been recently mowed. I was delighted to find small Madia plants less than a foot tall. I assumed these would not spread aggressively to other areas. Imagine my surprise when the seeds I sowed in a damp area near the pasture grew to four feet tall the following spring and dispersed seeds by the thousands! I pulled them up because they sprouted in a roadway where I drive. They were like beautiful Amazons, but not what I had in mind when I gathered the seeds.

Since those early years I have collected and sown approximately 30 species of native annual seeds, and have been successful with about half. I define success as those able to reproduce on my property yearly. Near the house I scatter local native annual seeds each fall at the beginning of the rainy season, and in other areas such as the pasture/swale area, native annuals are re-establishing themselves through reseeded or are dispersed by local wildlife.

This is the season when the foothills are filled with endings, as the late blooming annuals finish seeding, and new beginnings as the cool weather annuals germinate with the fall rains; an exciting time of year! I am heartened by the quiet process taking place under foot, as the cycle of life begins again.

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## **China Creek October Work Party**

Anybody interested in spending a gorgeous fall morning in lovely natural surroundings is invited to join us at China Creek Park Saturday, October 19 from 8-12 for the October work party. We'll be finishing foliar spraying of Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) sprouts, as well as walking the trail, clearing weeds around "station" posts and noting what needs to be done to spruce up the trail in general. We hope to see you there.

To get to the Park, take 180/Kings Canyon east across Academy to Smith or Oliver. Turn south about 1/4 mi. past the school to Rainbow and Smith. Continue south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate.

**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**  
**Susan Loucks, Monica Miller**


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.

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**Next Newsletter: November 2013**  
Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net) The deadline For the October newsletter is Friday, Nov. 8.



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

- Student, Limited Income..... \$25
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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 2013



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

*Madeleine Mitchell*

While on a garden tour with the Master Gardeners of Fresno recently, I found this unusual caterpillar and then the butterfly, both identified by Norm Smith, the retired entomologist for Fresno County. After retirement he went through the MG program and is always teaching us. The photograph also shows the plant which is not a California native, but a popular vine that many people have in this area, the *Passiflora caerulea*, with the common name of Passion Vine. It is native to South America and is quite beautiful as you can see. I have planted all my new CA. natives that I bought at our recent plant sale, and will remember to keep them watered weekly until the rains begin....





## 2013 Plant Sale



Counterclockwise from top

Marian Orvis & Jeanne Larson at our Sequoia Chapter table.

Bonnie Bladen & Warren Shaw consulting.

Our volunteers helped with plant selections.

We accepted cash, check, & credit cards.

A steady stream of shoppers came and went throughout the day.

With thanks to John LuValle CNPS,  
and Pat Wynne, CBG.

