



**Water-wise Plant Sale and Fair**  
**Saturday, September 28 - 8 AM to 12 Noon**

Clovis Botanical Garden 945 N. Clovis Avenue  
(corner of Alluvial in Dry Creek Park)

Fall is the perfect time to add new plants to your Central Valley gardens. The number and variety of plants for sale at our Annual Water-wise Plant Sale will inspire you. Choose from nearly 2,000 plants, all specially selected for their ability to thrive in our valley.

Spend an enjoyable morning at The Garden learning about and shopping for California natives and other drought tolerant, water-wise plants. **Members of CBG or CNPS enjoy a 10% discount on all plant sales.**

In addition, look for:

- Garden experts to answer your planting questions
- “Tours of The Garden”--sign up as you enter
- A drip irrigation demonstration area for information on converting or retrofitting your current sprinkler system
- A Buffalo grass demonstration area—a water-wise turf grass that “...requires less water — 50-75% less than tall fescue, and even much less than Bermuda grass. It is also highly resistant to diseases and insect pests...and it requires mowing only every 2-3 weeks for a mowed lawn look, or as little as once a year for a more natural look.”

See a preview of what waits for you—KAIL-TV is airing an interview for “The Valley Today” featuring Ruth Saludes (CBG) and Thelma Valdez (CNPS). Watch on Saturday, September 21 or 28 at 8:00AM.

Tune in at Chanel 13 (Comcast) or Channel 53 (Dish, DirecTV, AT&T U-Verse)

Watch for a post card in the mail. Then bring the card to the sale to be entered in a drawing to win one of two \$50 gift certificates to Intermountain Nursery.

**Please help!**

As you can see, this is our biggest activity of the year and our highest-profile opportunity to help the community see benefits of planting more natives. We really count on our membership’s support in this effort.

Do you have some time? • Friday at 4:00 PM to help unload plants • Saturday from 7:45 AM to 12:00 (or a portion of this time) to help customers stay organized and load plants into their vehicles \*Saturday from 12 to 2 to help break down.

Can we borrow your canopy? We need pop-ups, umbrellas, or any other portable shade structure to help shade plants and customers.

If you can help, contact •Thelma Valdez [mntv@unwiredbb.com](mailto:mntv@unwiredbb.com) (559-323-8962)

• Marian Orvis [mforvet@comcast.net](mailto:mforvet@comcast.net) (559-226-0145)



## Pinnacles, Part I

--Jane Pritchard

Years ago friends made an annual outing to the Pinnacles, and I was never able to go. One year I finally could but the leader was tired of the Pinnacles and was not going again. In April Eileen, Aaron, and I camped at Pinnacles National Park (monument from 1908 until recently). We followed Yahoo! directions that should have taken us to a couple of good Mexican restaurants in downtown Hollister. The directions need to be updated - staying on SR25 now skirts Hollister. We had been looking forward to Mexican food and were getting hungrier by the minute. We drove south through farms and small towns and finally saw people outside a feed store. They said that the general store in Paicines served lunch until 2 PM. We arrived there about 1:45 and ate fairly decent Mexican food and a hamburger.



Twenty-three million years ago a stratovolcano (composite cone of alternating layers of lava and volcanic ash) 8,000 feet high and 15-25 miles long erupted lava and ash near Lancaster. Major faults (San Andreas is the most well known) split the volcano and carried 2/3 of it north 195 miles. From high trails in the Pinnacles, a bare cream-colored area at the top of a hillside to the northeast across the valley is an on-going landslide, or slump, that began thousands of years ago. The still active Chalone Creek Fault in the valley is thought to be the ancestral trace of the San Andreas Fault.

In Hollister you are on the North American Plate going west. At the Pinnacles you are on the Pacific Plate traveling northwest. The rocks are as interesting (well . . . almost) as the flowers. Reddish to gray breccia is rock fragments welded into a lava or tuff matrix. Lava is molten rock that reaches the earth's surface. Tuff is rock formed by layers of falling ash or cinders from a volcano, which may or may not be stratified. Breccia is pronounced brech'e or bresh'e with long ending e's according to my dictionary. No geologist I read uses this pronunciation. Everyone has a different way to say breccia but the simplest is "betcha" with an r.

The fine-grained, flow-banded rhyolite has stretch marks like pulled taffy. Rhyolite has the same composition as granite but was formed on the earth's surface from material extruded from a volcano. Granite was molten rock that never reached the surface and cooled slowly deep underground. The slow cooling allows crystals of similar minerals to get larger and form the specks of dark and light colors. Granite outcrops all over the Sierra Nevada were molten rock that cooled in the throats of volcanoes. The overlying volcanoes now form sediments 5-8 miles deep in the San Joaquin Valley.

The beautiful green color of pumice lapilli tuff may be produced by weathering of magnesium and chromium bearing minerals. Lapillus (pl. lapilli) is a small stone ejected from a volcano. Perlite is opaque volcanic glass that cooled rapidly in water.

At the Pinnacles dacite is associated with dikes, the stripes you see running through granite. Dacite is light-colored lava containing a high proportion of quartz and feldspar. Andesite, another extrusive volcanic rock, is similar to dacite but has more dark colored minerals.

Weathering and erosion form spectacular geological formations – spires, crags, Starship Enterprises on pedestals, and rock faces. Talus caves were formed when weathering, erosion, and earthquakes loosened boulders that fell and wedged between the walls of deep, narrow gorges. An intermittent stream (low this year) forms pools and waterfalls as it runs through the cave. Sixteen species of bats roost in the caves and rock crevices. The western mastiff bat's echolocation calls are audible to humans. This bat roosts in crevices in high cliffs which provide the altitude they need to launch into flight.

Three tour bus loads of 10-year-olds from a school in the bay area were spread over various areas of the campground. In camp you could hear them screaming and yelling, enjoying games the adults kept them busy with. They filled the restrooms at night until 9 PM when noise stopped like it had been guillotined. After their hikes or rock climbing, a few preferred hanging out in the restroom to whatever else Pinnacles offered. They were always extremely polite and considerate. One girl asked how to get rid of a sinkful of foamy bubbles. I told her to just move to another sink and let the bubbles live as long as they could. She replied in a lilting voice, "It will be a short but happy life." The kids were lively and enthusiastic on their return from hikes. Parents were worn out and dragging. Next day some parents were sitting at picnic tables resting their heads on the table tops – really looking forward to going home on Friday.

Aaron and Eileen took down my tent while I was brushing my teeth and found a tick crawling on the rain fly. Eileen thought I was adult enough to be told about it. Nooooo!! Condors were introduced to the park. On the way out we stopped at the condor viewing area, which has telescopes – also useful for viewing the night sky. We never saw condors but others did while we were there. If possible, I would have returned to the Pinnacles the following week. Flowers were fantastic – some the same as here, many not. Will talk about them next time.

## Upcoming Events—

**Fresno City College Sat., Sept. 14 7:00PM-**  
Old Administration building

### **Bill McKibben speaks--**

Award-winning journalist, author, environmentalist, and one of the world's leading climate activists will speak on climate change and its effects on our planet. Much of his talk will be about the fossil fuel industry and their dubious intent to continue to look for more oil and gas despite the consequences. As a follow up to Mr. McKibben's talk we are invited to a discussion about local environmental issues and what we might do about them.-- Monday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m For location, information call 559-237-3223



### **October 12&13—Saturday & Sunday**

#### **Intermountain Nursery's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Harvest Arts & Peace Festival**

- Hwy 168@Auberry Rd. Prather

Art, Fine Crafts, Music, Homemade Food.

Many community non-profits participate, including our Sequoia Chapter, which will have a table.

### **Saturday, October 16, 9:30 AM**

#### **Propagation of California Native Plants**

#### **Intermountain Nursery \$15**

Ray Laclergue will teach various propagation techniques for California Native plants: collecting, storing, stratifying and germinating seed; taking and rooting cuttings; and proper growing conditions for the plants. Handouts and other information will be available. A tour of the Nursery's growing facilities is included. Advance registration, deposit required. <http://www.intermountainnursery.com>

Intermountain Nursery specializes in California Native Plants and low water-use perennials, shrubs, and trees. A full line of organic garden supplies are available in the nursery, which is open seven days a week year round.

## **Ingrid in the Peace Corps**

**Ingrid Carmean**, faithful China Creek worker and supplier of homemade ice cream has been in Peru, serving in the Peace Corps for the past year. She maintains a blog available to all-- where she asks and answers a common question:

“What am I doing in Peru? I am working with the Environmental Section of Peace Corps Peru. We work in three main areas: Reforestation (or forestation), Environmental Education, and Solid Waste. But we can do other projects as needed for our communities because our most significant job is helping the communities we live in whatever way we can.”

Ingrid describes her work in three communities; her blog tells of that work and of occasional excursions. Check it out. <http://ingridinthepeacecorps.blogspot.com>

## **Observations**

-- **Jeanne Larson**

My front yard and parkway have no grass. Occasionally, I still find a sprig of Bermuda grass that won't give up. Increased shade that is most welcome from the maturing parkway trees, will mean some changes in the full sun-loving natives. The Mexican sage that bloomed early at 9" is now full height (3.5' tall x 7' wide) with no bloom stalks in sight yet. I am hopeful that a drop in heat may give some fall color

The dry area between my drive and the yard next door, that has been dry due to a foreclosure, has had no water since winter. While the native plants there got some benefit from the lawn sprinklers before, they are mature enough that they only needed water once. (Ceanothus shows stress when some of the interior leaves turn yellow.)

The blue coastal Erigeron, which gets afternoon sun, is in full bloom. That is a pleasant surprise.

# Madera County Report

Belinda Gilbert

I thought many of you might be interested in hearing about my efforts to remove the plants on my property in the Ahwahnee area of Madera County. The land is approximately six acres of foothill woodland with a nonnative grass cover. Through determined persistence I have cleared about three acres. My big dream is to eventually reintroduce and reestablish native annuals on all areas of the property.

Cal Fire requirements were a part of my initial motivation to rid the area of nonnative grasses. They suggest that 100 feet of vegetation, including dry grass, be removed from around any dwellings on foothill property. I started mowing around the house when we bought the property in 1992, but found the grasses were replaced by even more aggressive plants.

By 1995, the ground cover of grasses was replaced by a mat of Erodium and subterranean clover that could barely be removed by hoeing. I learned firsthand why nonnatives have thrived here over the last 150 years; it took considerable efforts to eliminate them. I tried pulling weeds, “weed eating,” applying plastic over the dampened seed bed, adding chipped oak as a ground cover and Rototilling. After all of these unsuccessful attempts, I eventually resorted to spraying some areas with Glycophosphate (Roundup). After two years of spraying, I could control the nonnative plants by mechanically weeding them. I also started reseeding with local native annual plants. I have learned persistence and patience in the weeding process as seeds of both natives and nonnatives remain in the soil for several years. If nonnative plants go to seed this year, I will surely encounter them again next year, and probably the year after that.

Neighbors watching me hoe weeds shake their heads and ask, “What’s the point if weeds will return again?” My answer is that this is an experiment. I want to see

if the native plants can reclaim the land with a little help and at least I will have tried. Each spring seems worth it when a sea of brilliant native wildflowers blooms.

As I look out over the pasture, the color of the late summer annuals is gray-green. Many of these annuals have finished blooming and are going to seed. Most of the names will be familiar to you: Dove weed (*Croton setigerus*), Spanish Lotus (*Acmispon americanus*), Wild Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum leptaleum*), Bluecurls (*Trichostema* spp.), Farewell-to-Spring (*Clarkia purpurea*), Common Madia (*Madia elegans*), Wand Buckwheat (*Eriogonum roseum*), Willow Herb (*Epilobium* sp.) and Rosin Weed (*Calycadenia* spp.). I think this is a surprising late-season array of blooming plants!

In the adjacent foothills, the successful late-season family, Asteraceae has several members blooming: Tarweed (*Holocarpha heermannii*), Balsam root (*Balsamorhiza* sp.), Gum plant (*Grindelia nana*), Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), Lessingia (*Lessingia leptoclada*), Goldenbush (*Ericameria arborescens*), and Aster, plus Naked Buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*) are in the midst of their late-season bloom. Mountain Mahogany bushes appear silver white as their winged seeds disperse, Buckeye leaves have turned coppery reddish brown, and Clematis flowers and seed pods hang down from low trees and bushes like white pompons. The fall acorn drop will soon start at this elevation, while Manzanita, Coffeeberry and Redberry fruit are ripening, ready to be dispersed.

While annuals blooming this time of year are not as spectacular as spring annuals, it is one of my favorite times because of the surprising diversity of native plants that flower in late summer.



On September 3, 1964, the Wilderness Act was signed by President Johnson “to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

The Act initially set aside 9 million acres of our nation’s wild lands as wilderness. In California, places that include the San Jacinto, Thousand Lakes, Hoover, Domeland, and Cucamonga Wilderness areas were designated and permanently protected. Today, the California Wilderness Coalition is continuing its work to expand some of these original wilderness areas and to protect other areas of our state’s incredible wild lands.

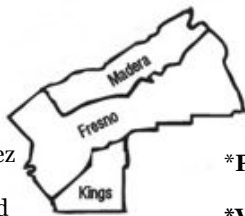
This month marks the 49th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, just one year shy of its “golden” anniversary. Already, preparations are under way for the 50th. Throughout next year there will be events around the nation to honor and celebrate our wilderness. To find an event near you, or to plan one, check out the official [Wilderness 50 website](http://www.wilderness50th.org/) or <http://www.wilderness50th.org/>



## 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.



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>*President</b>	open	
<b>*Vice-Pres.</b>	Paul Mitchell <a href="mailto:paul30@comcast.net">paul30@comcast.net</a>	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>*Secretary</b>	Marian Orvis <a href="mailto:mforvet@comcast.net">mforvet@comcast.net</a>	559/226-0145 (h)
<b>*Treasurer</b>	Jeanne Larson <a href="mailto:jrjars@aol.com">jrjars@aol.com</a>	559/243-0815 (h)
<b>Membership</b>	Thelma Valdez <a href="mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com">nmtv@unwiredbb.com</a>	559/323-8962 (h)
<b>Field Trips</b>	Jane Pritchard <a href="mailto:xxiii_xx@yahoo.com">xxiii_xx@yahoo.com</a>	559/7652910 (h)
<b>Newsletter Editors</b>	Warren&Helen Shaw <a href="mailto:warshaw@netptc.net">warshaw@netptc.net</a> <a href="mailto:helshaw@netptc.net">helshaw@netptc.net</a>	559/451-1256 (h)
<b>Hospitality</b>	Madeleine Mitchell <a href="mailto:madeleine43@comcast.net">madeleine43@comcast.net</a>	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>Horticulture</b>	open	
<b>Education</b>	Warren Shaw	(See Newsletter)
<b>Rare Plant</b>	John Stebbins <a href="mailto:johnst@mail.fresnostate.edu">johnst@mail.fresnostate.edu</a>	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	<a href="mailto:jnjseay@gmail.com">jnjseay@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:vernaj@sti.net">vernaj@sti.net</a> <a href="mailto:luvalle@mcn.org">luvalle@mcn.org</a>


### Thanks to \*New and Renewing Members

**Michele Luvalle, Paul Mitchell, Wendy Kronman**

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.

Sequoia Chapter, CNPS  
thanks Derrel's for their support





**Next Newsletter: October 2013**  
Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net) The deadline For the October newsletter is Friday, Oct. 5.



## 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
- Individual ..... \$45
- Family, Group, or Library..... \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron ..... \$300
- 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

September 2013



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

While pruning the willows along the road that ends at the China Creek County Park, I noticed honey bees buzzing around the blooming Buttonwillow, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* var. *californica* just off the road. The strange rounded balls of spiky flowers are certainly different from other natives. This



riparian shrub is native to the San Joaquin Valley and Western Sierra mountains. It's actually a member of the coffee family, Rubiaceae. It is deciduous, a small shrub or tree that ranges from 3-10 feet and has good fall color. The fruit is in the form of nutlets that birds and waterfowl eat.

"The town of Buttonwillow was named for this plant. A lone buttonbush served as a landmark on an old trans-San Joaquin Valley trail, and was used by ancient Yokut Indians as a meeting place. It later became the site of settlers' stock rodeos. This buttonbush tree is listed as California Historical Landmark No. 492, and is now as the Buttonwillow Tree." This last paragraph was taken from Wikipedia.





**CNPS SEPTEMBER 2013**



**Pinnacles National Park**

Counterclockwise from top

Erosion tunnel

Lava field

“Starship Enterprise”

Talus cave

Visitor center – constructed with green pumice lapalii tuff

Breccia