

THE NEWSLETTER
Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



April 2013

www.cnps-sequoia.org

April may not be “the cruelest month” but it certainly is a busy one. We could have used some more rain January through March but, with it or without it, April is here with opportunities for all.

Saturday, April 20 Earth Day Fresno at Courthouse Park, in downtown Fresno on Van Ness Avenue between Tulare and Fresno Streets. This FREE "green festival" will celebrate the earth's natural resources, and feature exhibits, workshops, live music, kids' activities, healthy local foods, green vendors, an alternative car show and lots more!! Ride your bike to the event and use I Bike Fresno's FREE valet bike parking. Co-sponsored by the Earth Day Fresno Coalition and Downtown Fresno Partnership. Details, schedule of event, photos at www.earthdayfresno.org



Saturday, April 20 – China Creek workday—8:00-12:00 rescheduled from April 13th. China Creek Park, Centerville. Kings Canyon/CA 180 east across Academy to Centerville. Follow Smith or Oliver south to Rainbow 1/4 mi. Turn south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate. Call (559-855-4519) or email <warshaw@netptc.net> for more information. See China Creek report on page 3.

Saturday, April 27, Master Gardeners Spring Garden Show Rain or Shine 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The seven inspiring and diverse private gardens on the tour offer something for everyone: water wise drought tolerant gardens, a historical Fresno garden, garden rooms, terraced gardening, and more. Garden of the Sun, the Master Gardener demonstration garden, features the annual plant sale. Tickets will be available for purchase by mail, at local nurseries, specialty home/garden stores, Garden of the Sun, and from Master Gardeners. 559-930-3976 or 281-1520 for ticket information.

April 14-21—California Native Plant Week—What better way to celebrate our commitment to native plants than to learn more about the benefits of landscaping with natives best suited for our Mediterranean climate? Intermountain Nursery, established in 1980, has evolved into the principal grower of California native plants in the Central Valley. With over a dozen demonstration gardens and a full calendar of classes and activities, this is **the** place for ongoing support of native plants and gardeners.



Saturday, April 27 9:30-12:30 Native Plants in the Landscape \$10. Intermountain Nursery, Prather. This is the time to view many native plants in bloom. Tour the demonstration gardens with Bonnie Bladen and find out what will do well at your location and elevation. Learn about the numerous benefits to wildlife of growing native plants. Cultural requirements of the plants will be discussed and informational handouts will be available. To register: intermountainnursery.com/classes

Saturday, May 4 8-12 5th annual Water-Wise Plant Exchange Gardeners are invited to bring drought tolerant plants, cuttings, bulbs, seeds, and trees to share and exchange at the Fresno State Horticultural greenhouses (Barstow, just east of Chestnut). There will be a variety of information tables (including CNPS) Free drought tolerant plants will be available.

Aaagh – a Tick!!!

Jane Pritchard

Eileen and I walked Tollhouse Rock and surrounding area on 3/27/13 minus Aaron and Maggie the dog. Maggie had a bad foreleg, and Aaron had hurt his hind leg. Leaves for many flowers that will bloom later had emerged. One short *Silene californica* (Indian pink) showed a red flower. Nodding shooting stars bloomed in a background of *Nemophila pulchella* var.

pulchella. Large patches of western meadow-rue (*Enemion occidentale*, nee *Isopyrum o.*) had pink flowers. In other places I have only seen 1 or 2 clumps of *Enemion*, some with white flowers. Five or 6 elfin saddle fungi, 2" diameter little black brains, were scattered along on the hike. Near the end of the fairly level dirt road, there were several delicate plants about 4" tall with tiny white flowers. We had never seen anything like them and were trying to figure out what they were. Finally, I noticed a tiny seed



Fringe pod
T. curvipes

pod. They were *Thysanocarpus curvipes* (fringe pod). The miniature version is very pretty.

Along the steep road to the south side of the rock, leafless stems of man-root (*Marah horrida*) up to 3' long had flower buds and 1 flower. A gate installed by Edison and the Forest Service was bowed where someone had tried unsuccessfully to pull it loose. Mountain mahoganies (*Cercocarpus betuloides* var. *betuloides*) were solid yellow with blooms. Pollen-loaded anthers stuck out past the petals. Their smell was sweet but non floral and fresh. Red-leaved poison oak was climbing up through the yellow shrubs.

I felt an itching, burning pain on my leg, which turned out to be my first tick after hiking the Sierra for 15 years. I couldn't scrape it off although it probably hadn't been stuck down more than half an hour.

Finally after the tick was just an empty shell anyway, I pulled it off. It left no feel of where it was but the hole is still there a week later. Now I'm more wary of ticks than rattlesnakes.

Tollhouse Rock was a striking sight. Goldfields formed yellow puddles at its edges and on the rock itself wherever there was enough dirt to take root. *Coreopsis biglovii* had large yellow flowers. The top of the rock showed more vehicle use than ever – they can just drive up another way that is not gated. Glass bottles had been used for target practice so we picked up several bottle tops like those used in barroom brawls in the old westerns, the associated shell casings, and beer cans. A fire had been built in the center of a live oak shrub and completely charred it. Traffic must have destroyed many plants, but Tollhouse Rock has a profusion of rarely seen flowers. The sky and clouds over the mountains to the east were dark and foreboding. Even though I had no poncho, there was still no rain.

We took the high road back to the cars, enjoying familiar sights until we had to concentrate on the downhill. The ground is covered with creeping sage (*Salvia sonomensis*). When in bloom it has beautiful lilac-blue flowers. The steep, deeply rutted road was damp and easier to traverse than Helen's encounter last spring. I wait with foetid breath for the profusion of flowers that bloom later on.

Collecting Seeds

Jeanne Larson

With temperatures above normal the native flowers are going to seed much faster than normal. Much to my surprise a few Bicolor Lupine pods have already dehisced. Time to pick the mature green pods with petiole (flower stem) attached and get them into a brown bag to cure. The same goes for poppies, which sometimes seem to open their pods overnight.



Lupine pod

For plants with upright seed capsules a large kraft paper grocery bag is handy so that the upright seed pod stems can be turned upside down without losing any seed. A variety of kitchen sieves will be found useful in cleaning the seed.

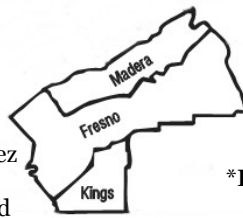
Remember, seeds need to breathe and therefore need to be stored in PAPER and not plastic. If you are the ultimate recycler, the prepaid, return mail envelopes in junk mail can be used. Seal them, and cut at one end and close with a paper clip. These same envelopes can be kept in a hip pocket while hiking if you see a plant with seed, that you might want to try in your garden. Don't forget your pencil for labeling.

The cylindrical containers for spices can be recycled for sowing seed. The perforated tops are great for sprinkling seed somewhat evenly. For very fine seed, some sand mixed with the seed is helpful.

Membership

Thelma Valdez

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



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MARCH '13 CHINA CREEK REPORT Warren Shaw

Saturday, March 16, was another beautiful spring day at China Creek Park. Our little team of volunteers substantially completed the task we have been working on for several months: that of protecting Valley Oak seedlings with wire cages. So we're ready for spring grazing to provide bovine assistance with the goal of ridding the Park of Yellow Star Thistle.

The date of our April work party has been changed from the thirteenth to the twentieth, when we'll get back to trail maintenance and perhaps some weed hunting. It's an especially pretty time of year in the Park and we hope you can join us from 8-noon.

Kings Canyon/CA 180 east across Academy to Centerville. Follow Smith or Oliver south to Rainbow 1/4 mi. Turn south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate. Call (855-4519) or email <warshaw@netptc.net> for more information.

Sequoia Chapter, CNPS thanks Derrel's for their support



Next newsletter May/June 2013

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw. The deadline for the next newsletter is May 10.



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

April 2013



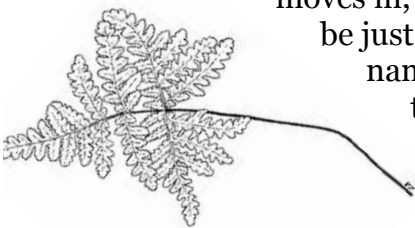
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

Goldenback Fern

This little perennial native fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*) likes to grow in soil or rock crevices and comes alive with fall rains. It appears in a variety of plant communities including Valley Grassland, Coastal Sage Scrub, Foothill Woodland, Yellow Pine Forest, Chaparral, and Creosote Bush Scrub; in other words the vast majority of California. Its black stems were sometimes used in basket making.

It grows in the full shade and as warm, dry weather moves in, Goldback Fern goes dormant. It should be just about ready to go dormant again. The name is derived from the powdery spores on the underside of the leaves that turn golden as they mature.



**Sequoia Chapter CNPS
April 2013**

**Tollhouse Rock March 27, 2013
With thanks to Eileen Bennett**

Counter-clockwise from top

- *Enemion occidentale*
(western meadow-rue)
- *Helvella lacunose*
(elfin saddle)
- *Marah horrida*
(man-root, wild cucumber)
- *Cerocarpus betuloides*
(mountain mahogany)
- *Dodecatheon clevelandii*
(shooting star)

