

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



January 2019

www.cnps-sequoia.org

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CHINA CREEK REPORT

November 2018 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

The Park was, like everything else following the fires in Paradise and elsewhere, pretty smoky. Otherwise it was a perfect fall day. A good crew of volunteers worked to uncage Valley oak seedlings that had outgrown their protective rings. Another group replaced a trail sign knocked down by a Mosquito Abatement vehicle, and a third surveyed the north for surviving Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) sprouts that we hoped were dead after being treated with herbicide last month. Unhappily they found several, so we'll try to get to the Park soon to re-treat.

After break, we held our annual planning meeting in preparation for 2019. Some interesting ideas arose from this discussion.

1. It was the consensus that doubling up on work parties in May and June –when weeds (especially thistles) are small, easy to dig, and not blooming or producing seed – was a good idea and we should continue it. It was suggested that we should, however, schedule fun events (e.g. field trips) during those non-work months. We'll be listening for ideas for those.

2. A less conclusive discussion took place on the perennial problem of attracting new volunteers, but there were some thoughts we'll try to pursue.

3. We also considered the recommendation that we extend our trail to include the pristine area we call "The Sanctuary." We decided a tour of this area would be a good way to get started on this trail (details to follow). We also chose a person to be responsible for the planning process, but she wasn't there and hasn't been informed of her new responsibility yet, so no names.

4. In addition, we talked about ways to coordinate our efforts with our new partner, The Kings River Conservancy (KRC) (who have already devoted some time and funds to China Creek – specifically to water hyacinth abatement). Fortunately two KRC members were there to share thoughts and email addresses, so that's off to a good start.

5. We agreed in principal that it would be good to publicize the Park and our project there via Instagram, and talked about who would do it, including, perhaps getting some technical assistance from Gene's 12-year-old friend Eric.

Then we packed up and moved to the Blossom Trail Cafe for our annual "Thank You" lunch, where we were joined by Vernon Crowder, executive Director of KRC. Unhappily, an unusual number of team members had conflicts and were unable to join the party, but it was, nonetheless, a nice lunch and a good way to finish the year.

Our first work party of 2019 will be [Saturday, January 19](#), from 9am-12pm (winter hours). We'll tackle whatever seems to need doing the most. Please help us get the New Year off to a good start by joining the team. Contact Warren Shaw for directions (see page 3 for contact information).



Photo by Laura Castro

Upcoming Classes and Events

•January 14-15, Northern CA Botanists Symposium; with workshops on January 16

Location: Chico State University, Chico Bell Memorial Auditorium

Information:

<http://www.norcalbotanists.org/symposia/symposium2019.htm>

•January 19, Grape Pruning Saturday, 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Garden of the Sun, 1750 N. Winery, Fresno, CA 93703

- Learn how to prune your grapevines.
- Emphasis will be on UC methods available on the web.
- Bring smartphone, loppers, and warm clothing.

Cost: Free

Information and registration:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/Gardening_Class/s/?calitem=434015&g=45154

•February 2, Backyard Composting Saturday, 9:30am – 11:00am

Location: Garden of the Sun, 1750 N. Winery, Fresno, CA 93703

- Learn how to turn your garden clippings and kitchen scraps into valuable compost.
- Learn the “why and how” of starting your own compost pile and using the finished product around your yard to enrich and improve your soil.

Cost: Free

Information and registration:

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/?calitem=434016&g=10616>

Hikes and Field Trips

•January 26, Fine Gold Creek Hike Saturday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Fine Gold Creek Preserve
21582 Rd 216, Friant, CA 93626

- Docent led hike over the easy to moderate loop trail along Fine Gold Creek.

- Participants must stay with the group and are not allowed to leave early or wander away from the designated hike.

Cost: Free to Members of Sierra Foothill Conservancy/\$10 per non-member individual/\$20 per non-member family.

Information and list of additional hikes:

<https://sierrafoothill.org/events-listing/>

•January 26, Winter Night Hike on the McKenzie Saturday, 6:00pm– 9:00pm

Location: McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve
22477 Auberry Rd, Clovis, CA 93619

- Docent led hike.
- Explore the night life on the McKenzie Preserve.
- Bring water, flashlight, and dress for the weather.
- Participants must stay with the group and are not allowed to leave early or wander away from the designated hike.

Cost: Free to Members of Sierra Foothill Conservancy/\$10 per non-member individual/\$20 per non-member family.

Information and list of additional hikes:

<https://sierrafoothill.org/events-listing/>

•January 26, Field Trip to Merced Grasslands/Merced National Wildlife Refuge Saturday, 7:00am – 5:45pm or later

Meet Location: Walmart Supercenter, 1804 E. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726

- Trip led through Merced Grasslands Important Bird Area and finishing at Merced National Wildlife Refuge.
- See wintering raptors and other birds of the low foothills and grasslands.
- Will mostly be driving and getting out of cars periodically.
- Be at meet location by 6:45am. Must sign liability waiver.
- Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, cameras, radios, jackets, lunch/snacks, water, and insect repellent.

Cost: Free

Information: www.fresnoaudubon.org/event/saturday-field-trip-merced-grasslandsmerced-nwr/?instance_id=174

Contact Jeff Seay at 559-960-0849 for more information.

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

John LuValle

Thanks to new and renewing members.

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact John LuValle at jluvalle@mcn.org.

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 and click on the JOIN button.

Next Newsletter: February 2019

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, January 25, 2019.**



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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: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student, Limited Income	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Family, Group, or Library	\$75
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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

January 2019

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

OBSERVATIONS

--Thelma Valdez

It seems 2018's weather ups and downs matched those of the stock market. If I look at how the plants responded, it was hot a lot longer this past summer and fall than what I used to consider normal. Some trees and shrubs needed supplemental watering toward the end of fall because we hadn't had any rain. That was the case with a number of my native shrubs.

Moisture (fog or rain) and cold weather seemed very late in coming. The recent coldsnap finally convinced



all the deciduous trees to shed the last of their leaves. After the first rain event, followed by warm temperatures, we had much sprouting of California poppies to the point where a couple of them bloomed! Harvest brodiaea leaves emerged around the same time. That usually doesn't happen until January. And miner's lettuce is growing like gangbusters. Caramba!

These recent freezing nights hit the early sprouts only minimally. A sunny (or even overcast) cool day seems to be enough to straighten them up and even invite a sturdy honeybee to one of the poppies.



As for pruning, is this the right time? Maybe not quite yet. Read Bert Wilson's native plant pruning tips for guidance (<https://www.laspilitas.com/garden/howto/pruning.htm>). Bert Wilson died in 2014 but his wisdom, experience, and humor remain an excellent resource that I regularly consult.

California poppy

Photos by Thelma Valdez