



China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

Our October workday, Saturday, October 24, was quite a day. We mourned the falling of two venerable Valley Oaks along our Woodland Loop after the recent storm. We then went to work clearing the trail. We also replaced three "station" posts which had been broken off or pulled up, presumably by vandals, and we painted over tagging and replaced literature on the kiosk.

Special thanks to Madeleine, Laura, Socorro, Mary, Jane, Ingrid, and Hank. They dragged brush, hauled logs, set posts, painted over graffiti, picked up trash, and generally worked for the good of the order. It was a beautiful day and we accomplished a tremendous amount. Some of us were a little sore the next day.

The last workday of 2009 is Saturday, November 21. The day will be devoted largely to trail maintenance, mainly hauling and spreading chips though it's likely we'll need to devote some time to graffiti abatement as well. Rakes and pitchforks will be needed. We'll start at 8:00 and knock off at 12:00. We hope you can join us.

To receive email notifications of "Work Mornings" and other events at China Creek, please email [<warshaw@netptc.net>](mailto:warshaw@netptc.net).

Sequoia Chapter – Upcoming Activities

Saturday,
February 27, 2010

Smart Gardening Conference sponsored by the UC Master Gardeners. Ramada Hotel, 324 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno. We will have a table at this event (8 am to 5 pm). Contact Marian Orvis at mforvet@earthlink.net or 559/226-0145 if you can help for any part of the day.

Friday-Sunday
March 5-7, 2010

Home & Garden Show. Fresno Fairgrounds. We will have a booth at this three-day event that always draws big crowds. Please contact Marian Orvis mforvet@earthlink.net or 559/226-0145 if you can help on any of the days even for only an hour or two.

Remember! Your purchases at any of the SaveMart family of stores (SaveMart, S-Mart foods, FoodMaxx, and Lucky) can be meaningful contributions to the chapter. When only a few persons use their S.H.A.R.E.S. card the return from SaveMart can often pay the expense, for example, of a monthly newsletter printing and mailing.

Small efforts add up when we have many participants. Contact Marian Orvis at mforvet@earthlink.net or 559/226-0145 to get your card.

Resource: Calflora.org

If you haven't visited calflora.org lately it's worth another stop at their website, www.calflora.org. In the past year and a half they've developed a number of tools designed specifically for CNPS chapters. Here are three areas within the site that are worth a visit:

- Checklist Entry (www.calflora.org/add), with an integrated Google Map, makes it easy to enter a checklist into Calflora. If you have a list of plants in the form of a spreadsheet, you can paste it right in. The "Go to" place finder helps to locate creeks, mountains, small towns, and other geographical features.
- What Grows Here? (www.calflora.org/wgh) is not new but has a lot of new infusion of data. This shows a cumulative, illustrated plant list for a selected area, with the number of observations of each plant.
- Places to view California Native Plants (www.calflora.org/places-help.html) is a new application for sharing and displaying special native plant places in your area, on a Google Map. You can also use it to find public native plant gardens.

Calflora is an excellent resource for California native plant information. Although a generous donor allows amateurs to use the site for free, professionals are asked to pay. Unfortunately, donations have not kept pace with the more relaxed access policies so even a small donation to support their work is greatly needed.

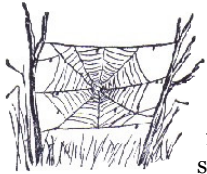
Greening California's Landscapes: Smart Solutions for a New Era

Saturday, January 30, 2010
Sacramento Convention Center

This symposium is presented by the Planning and Conservation League (PCL) and PCL Foundation. It's a day filled with sessions ranging from subjects like *The Pros and Cons of Desalination*, *A Dialogue about Central Valley Land Use*, *Water Justice*, to *How to Find Common Ground*.

Registration is available online or by mail and early bird registration ends December 31, 2009. To learn more, visit www.PCL.org

Observations



What a difference a rain makes! We had four and a half inches here in the foothills a few weeks back; it was so dry there was very little runoff. Warm days followed and in two days filaree and other broadleaves were up. In five days the grasses were three or four inches high. Mosses and mushrooms responded, and twinberry vines that had appeared dead put out new leaves.

Now the hills look like spring, with thick grass, especially in the canopies of the oaks which are still, for the most part, still fully leafed. Some giveaways that it's really autumn, though, are sycamore leaves turning color and the silvery bark and hanging fruit on the buckeyes.

Recent trips to higher elevations have been more fall-like, with brilliant orange dogwoods, golden black oaks, and resplendent wild grape vines in the canyons. Fall has definitely arrived.

Except that in the lower elevations of the Valley we received only an inch and a half of rain, the growing activity is much the same as in the foothills. Many plants seemingly thinks it's spring. Brodiaea are pushing up bright green leaves, filaree are everywhere (hope they expire before the next rain), and California poppies are growing as though there's no tomorrow.

Does this mean an early start of the rainy season will be bad for spring wildflowers as their seed is shaded by fast-growing annual grasses? We shall see...

-Editor

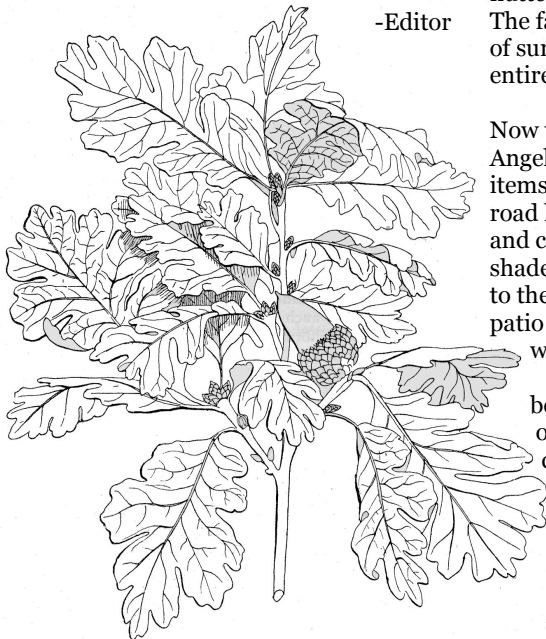
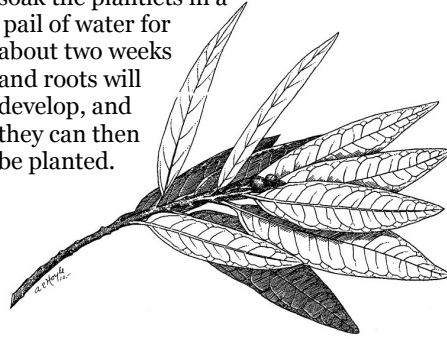


Fig. 29. *Quercus lobata*, n. Liebm. et Oers! (3).

Gardening Tips

November is the time to divide your Pacific Coast iris. If you find after dividing them, that they have not formed roots, you can soak the plantlets in a pail of water for about two weeks and roots will develop, and they can then be planted.



Up Near Shaver

The Shaver Lake area is laced with hikes. From the museum through Edison campground takes you to the sandy beach strewn with beautifully colored rocks that shine like metal when they reflect the sunlight. Like a lizard you can alternate between sunny beach and a shaded path under the evergreens in view of the lake. On a Saturday walk to Dora Bella Cove, we only met one person. The quiet makes up for the lack of flowers. After Labor Day hardly a mouse is stirring in the town itself either.

Edison road #72 starts near the marina at the north end of the lake and gradually inclines 2.5 miles to 168. The fall colors are fantastic. Scouler's willows are yellow, black oaks are mostly yellow-gold, and dogwoods are pink-red against the background of several shades of green. Sunlight through the oak foliage and their black limbs knocks your eyes out. Once in a while a breeze blew loose oak leaves that fluttered down like a group of butterflies. The faint odor of bear clover (reminds me of sunflower seeds) hung in the air the entire way. No one else was on this hike.

Now to the important part – food!! Angelo's has good breakfast and bakery items. The deli on the west side of the road has good sandwiches, ice cream, and coffee with outside tables that are shaded in the summer. The coffee shop to the east of Bob's has good coffee and a patio back a

ways from the street that is sunny in the fall. We always eat at Angelo's before the hike and stop at the deli or Bob's afterward – ingest 2000 calories and walk off at least 50.

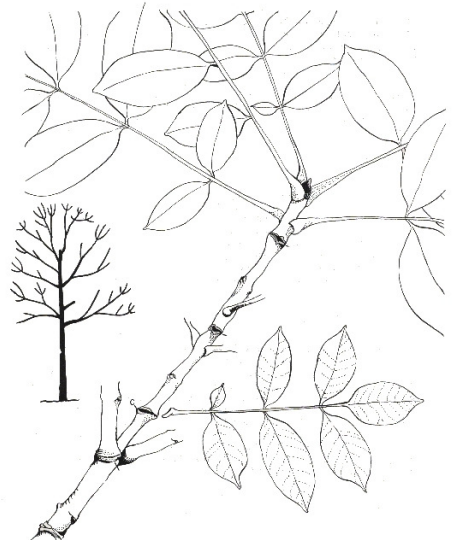
Jesse Morrow Mountain Mine and Reclamation Project OR Strip Mining Local Landmark

It is known that the Federal and State listed 1B endangered San Joaquin Adobe Sunburst (*Pseudobahia piersonii*) is well established at base of Morrow Mountain. However the Draft EIR Survey states no plants were observed in 1999, 2000, 2005, or 2007 surveys. This could be due to the time of year of survey or a rainfall year producing only a few specimens. Even If the transects were run after bloom a good botanist should have been able to recognize a post-bloom dry plant.

The Draft EIR only lists *Sidalcea* spp. Recently rediscovered *Sidalcea keckii* by Sequoia Rare Plant Chair John Stebbins on Tivy Mountain might indeed be the among *Sidalcea* species not identified beyond the generic level. Conditions on Tivy Mountain mimic those of Morrow Mountain and the distance is too close to not assume that this endangered species also grows on Morrow Mountain.

Even if there were no rare plant species to question this project, the scope of the land rape and ensuing environmental problems is almost beyond comprehension. There is plenty of gravel in western Fresno County flood plains, but it is not so easy to access or haul from that distance. Too bad the rail line to that area was torn out. When the Fwy 180 west extension is completed mining in west Fresno County would produce jobs in an area where unemployed Fresno County residents are living.

There was a public meeting on the DEIR at Sanger High School Multi[Purpose Room at 1045 Bethel Ave, Sanger from 6 pm to 8 pm, November 18., when the newsletter is going to press.



Membership

Helen Shaw

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net

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



*New Members and Membership Renewals (October)

Fresno : Davis, Gorman, Schreiber, Valdez, Weiser
Madera : Bredon, Hartesveldt

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible.

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to 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.

**The miracle
is not
to walk on water.**

**The miracle
is to walk
on the green earth,
dwelling deeply
in the present moment
and
feeling
truly alive.**

— Thich Nhat Hanh

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Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
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Next Newsletter: January 2010



Send corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@unwiredbb.com. The deadline for the September newsletter is Thursday, January 7.



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide and announcements of Society activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, *Carpenteria*.

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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State: _____ Zip: _____

- Student, Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
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- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

- New Member
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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

November-December 2009



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora.
For a membership brochure call Helen Shaw at 559/855-4519.
CNPS Web site: www.cnps.org.

FEATURED CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

Valley Oak

Quercus lobata, our beloved Valley Oak, is also known as the California White Oak. As cooler days arrive Valley Oak leaves begin to change color and will soon take on their winter appearance as massive sentinels whose bare branches look so impressive on a foggy day drive through the local foothills. Those trees might be 400 years old or they might be much younger, depending on the amount of water they have had at their disposal.

The Valley Oak is the largest of the western oaks, easily reaching over 80-100 feet tall with a diameter of 30 or more inches. The acorns are long and slender, and provide food for many kinds of wildlife and in earlier years, were a staple for local native peoples.



In the photos shown here (taken at China Creek), oak galls decorate the tree at right while a youth on the left is just beginning to take on the characteristic spread of a maturing Valley Oak.



In the garden, be sure your Valley Oak has access to a source of ground water. It does not need a lot of water but will grow very quickly if it has access to a good source of water.

If you are blessed with existing Valley Oaks, be sure to maintain the soil environment to which they've grown accustomed. What may seem like a simple idea to plant lawn under an existing Valley Oak will only be the beginning of the end for the oak. But if you're planting a new Valley Oak and it grows up with lawn around it, it will thrive. Just be sure not to yank out the lawn after the oak is well established and expect the oak to

thrive. Like people, Valley Oaks are very adaptable, but prefer environmental stability once established.