



Plant Sale Report

Thelma Valdez, plant sale chairman

Changing the plant sale to October was a good decision. It was a beautiful day and the Clovis Botanical Garden looked spiffy! Plants, volunteers, and customers were in good spirits. The fine weather seemed to bring folks out steadily throughout the sale hours.

We have repeat customers and customers new to California native plants. Each year I reflect on the many plants we've facilitated becoming part of the Central Valley landscapes. "Yes, manzanitas CAN grow in your garden!" And I think about how many more persons now know a little more about California natives.

It's like being an overnight success. Some CNPS members have been gardening with California natives for 20 years and they've had low-water gardens for years. But the endless drought and Fresno water meters have opened the eyes of many. And now those 20 years of experience can be of help to those who have seen the light.

The Clovis Botanical Garden's sale of drought-tolerant plants from other places is a good complement to the pure CNPS California natives. Rare is the person who plants only California natives. (Note: Extra points if you do!) This is a win-win for the Valley, the Clovis Botanical Garden, and CNPS.

Many, many thanks to the CNPS and CBG volunteers, including students from Fresno State, friends, and family. An event that runs smoothly means there were many hands to setup, run, and break-down the sale operation. Every volunteer's time is appreciated more than you can know

Photos are now posted on our website— www.cnps-sequoia.org



Celebrating 50 Years
of Progress and Promise

As Carol Ralph, president of the North Coast Chapter expressed it so beautifully, "The CNPS Conservation Conference brings together great speakers, fun workshops, interesting talk sessions, creative outlets, and a lot of plant people you'd like to talk with--on all aspects of native plant science, management, horticulture, and enjoyment." 300 presentations, 25 sessions, Lightning Talks, Silent Auction, Photography and Botanical Art Contests, Workshops, Field Trips, and more. To view the program or see other details, go to www.cnps.org.

Four not-to-miss speakers have just been announced for the Saturday afternoon talks on January 17, at the Conference: **Paul E. Ehrlich**, **Peter Raven**, **Kim Stanley Robinson**, and **Rebecca Moore**.

WHITE MONKSHOOD AND PINK YARROW

--Jane Pritchard, field trips

On 6/26/14 Aaron and I drove up Dinkey Creek Road and turned left onto Rock Creek Road. In places it was lined with beautiful mounds of *Apocynum androsaemifolium* (bitter dogbane) loaded with blooms – white tubes with red-pink stripes and reflexed petals. This genus contains the saponin cymarin which causes hypothermia, pupil dilation, and a discoloration in the mouth. We parked at 25E09, walked past Gate 5473, and turned right on the road that follows a creek. Soon after crossing the creek, we were on rounded exposures of granite wiped clean of vegetation by all the off-road vehicles. The views were great, backed by a sky full of dramatic clouds. Higher up we were even with the tops of windswept and lightning-struck sugar and Jeffrey pines. In sheltered places a few *Ivesia santalinoides* (mouse tail Ivesia) and one small *Hieracium horridus* (shaggy hawk-weed) survived. One rock resembled a “fist ashtray” like little kids make from clay. *Corallorhiza maculata* (spotted coralroot) and *Pyrola picta* (white-veined wintergreen) grew in the dry forest near the car.

On 7/21/14 Eileen joined us to walk along the Potters Pass trail up 168 at about 9000' elevation. We were enthralled by the yellow witch's butter fungus (*Dacrymyces palmatus*) on a decaying log. When we turned around, there was another little fungus, alpine jelly cone (*Heterotextus alpinus*). Past a footbridge, we followed the largest creek upstream about where Ward Tunnel goes through. Dusty rose-colored yarrow (first I have seen in nature) grew on a collection of gravel and decomposed granite. Yarrow leaves look entire until the plant is about 3” long and get ferny from the tip toward the main stem. A moist meadow was filled with *Pedicularis attollens* (little elephant heads). Farther upstream we entered willows, *Castilleja miniata* (giant red paint-brush), *Geranium richardsonii* (Richardson's geranium), *Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys* (rein orchid), and *Helenium bigelovii* (Bigelow's sneeze-weed). I had my eye out for dark blue-violet monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum*). Aaron asked, “What's this white flower?” Man, it was white monkshood all over the place! I had read about it and forgotten it. All parts of the plant contain the alkaloid aconitine, a nervous system poison that can cause restlessness, nausea, vertigo, and impairment of speech and vision. About 4 PM we started being attacked by snow mosquitoes and hightailed it out of there. The day was overcast and cool. Clouds extended over the valley below Auberry (but no rain).

Note: In the September newsletter, Jeanne Larson listed several online sources of wildflower seed. We have found a more local source for some seed. Intermountain Nursery in Prather carries California poppy seed in bulk, along with a Sierra wildflower mix for higher elevations and a foothill wildflower mix appropriate for planting in the valley.

CHINA CREEK REPORT

--Warren Shaw, Education Chair

warshaw1955@gmail.com

It was a lovely fall day, but circumstances prevented several of our regular volunteers from attending. Eventually, we worked out a plan to divide up, with Chris taking the FSU students south to weed, and the rest of us north to do basal bark spraying on ailanthus and fig trees.

After break the weed crew took the oft-recurring task of clearing willow branches and berry vines from the north pond berm, and the chemical crew went back to poisoning invasive exotic trees. The poisoners had sprayed about half of the multitude of ailanthus sprouts by quitting time. However, they came back midweek and finished the ailanthus and sprayed a number of wild figs as well, before going to Clovis Botanical to help set up for the Plant Sale.

Our November work day, Saturday, 11-15 from 8-12, is a special one because it will be followed by our annual “Thank you” lunch for all who have participated in any way in the China Creek project during 2014. Lunch will be at the Blossom Trail Café at the intersection of Belmont and Academy, at 12:30. We truly hope that everyone, including non-members, whether you're able to be at the Park in the morning or not, who has supported the mission during the year, will join us.

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.

FALL GARDEN REPORT

--Jeanne Larson, Conservation Chair

The Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) had reached a height of 4.5 feet and width of 6 ft. in my front yard. Because of the water shortage I felt it was time to give it a heavy pruning. As I got into the chore and saw the heavy stalks at the base, it was a reminder of how hot chaparral fires can become. In the end, there are now two small touchdowns. It will be interesting to see if they grow enough to flower next year. The bare spots will leave room for more wildflowers.

There are two native ferns in my garden, Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum capillis-venustus*), which tends to be weedy in my sandy soil and Five Finger fern which I grow in a pot. The Maidenhair survived the cold nights quite well because of the shrubby overstory. Unfortunately, one of the freezing nights I forgot to cover the Five Finger fern (*Adiantum pedatum*). Early spring it was only a mass of black stalks and I felt sure it had died, but as the weather warmed up it sent out new fronds and is very lush as we head into fall.

Membership

John & Michele LuValle

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



SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- *President** open
- *Vice-Pres.** Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com
- *Secretary** Marian Orvis 559/226-0145 (h)
mforvet@comcast.net
- *Treasurer** Jeanne Larson 559/243-0815 (h)
jrjlars@aol.com
- Membership** Michele LuValle luvalle@mcn.org
John LuValle jlualle@mcn.org
- Field Trips** Jane Pritchard 559/765-2910 (h)
xxiii_xx@yahoo.com
- Newsletter Editors** Warren & Helen Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com
helshaw@gmail.com
- Hospitality** Madeleine Mitchell 559/638-2784 (h)
madeleine43@comcast.net
- Horticulture** open
- Education** Warren Shaw (See Newsletter)
- Rare Plant** John Stebbins 559/297-0144 (h)
johnst@mail.fresnostate.edu
- Plant Sale** Thelma Valdez (see Webmaster)
- Conservation** Jeanne Larson (see Treasurer)
- Directors at Large** Jim Seay jnjseay@gmail.com
Belinda Gilbert belinda@sti.net
- Webmaster** Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

Next Newsletter: Jan. 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@gmail.com. The deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, Jan. 2



Sequoia Chapter, CNPS
Thanks Derrel's



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*.

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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

Nov/Dec. 2014



CALIFORNIA NATIVE

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OBSERVATIONS

Thelma Valdez

Continued warm weather and a single, good rain have triggered a burst of green in non-native seed germination. That explains the light green we see in empty city lots and open fields. In our field, filaree emerges the fastest with the slightest bit of moisture. Fresh pocket gopher mounds mean there's probably been gopher sighs of relief that burrowing is a little easier after a rain.

I use wire gopher baskets if I plant in an area where gophers travel. And I know that if I plant in an active gopher highway system, the gopher baskets have to perform as well as my computer firewall software does when wandering through the Internet. Occasionally there may be intrusions due more to my use of the tool than the tool itself.



My last comment about gophers is that I don't do much about their gopher mounds. I've watched those mounds collapse and reshape the landscape a little. I've tossed California poppy and native grass seed on the bare soil and watched the plants thrive. Where gophers have feasted on Harvest Brodiaea bulbs underground, there seem to be more flowers than before. Presumably they don't eat every last bulb in their food caches, which serve to move bulbs to different areas. So, for me at least, it all works. Good thing I've long since wanted a carpet outside....I mean lawn.



November 2014 Sequoia Chapter CNPS



Dogbane
(*Apocyanum androsaemifolium*)



Little Elephant's Head
(*Pedicularis attollens*)



Monkeyflower at Markwood Meadow
(near Dinkey Creek)



2014 Plant Sale

