

Board Meeting:
Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 6 p.m.
The Mediterranean Restaurant – 4631 N. Fresno St.
(NW corner of Fresno & Gettysburg)

We will hold a board meeting on April 15. Members are encouraged to attend, as we look ahead to activities that we feel support the mission of CNPS, keeping in mind that active volunteers tend to be a small group.

The meeting will be primarily business. Dinner is optional (you cover the cost of your own meal) but lively discussions are likely to ensue so please join us!

General Meetings in March, May, September, and October.
Board Meetings in November, January, February, April.

China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

The March workday crew discovered with delight that Vulcan Materials had spread chips on most of the trail (all but the "Oak Woodland Loop"), so we were able to devote our efforts mainly to refining the spreading process and beginning to stockpile chips to spread on the loop.

"Our" cattle (provided by area cattleman Steve McDonald) had started their work of grazing off the incipient crop of yellow star thistle, and watched with great interest as we shared a delicious potluck lunch (thanks, mainly to Ingrid Carmean).

Workday

Our April workday will be Saturday, April 19th, and will be shorter (9-12) to allow participants to attend other Earth Day events as well. We hope to have enough volunteers so that we can have a trail crew working on the loop, and another attacking bull thistle and other evil weeds. Rakes and pitchforks, hoes and shovels all will be useful.

It should be a perfect spring morning in the park and a perfect way to celebrate Earth Day. Please join us if you can.

Observations

The foothills are beautiful: poppies, baby blue eyes, blue dicks, goldfields, shooting stars, pretty faces, Ithuriel's spear, buttercups, lupines, etc. etc., all on a background of bright new green. Better see it soon, though; there are already tinges of brown on the higher slopes, and it looks as if it will be a short season.

I don't know how old standby California poppies are doing in the wild, but Jeanne reports that in town they are vigorous and very large. It must have been those early rains. Her Bird's Eye Gilia are in full bloom and really are an eye stopper. It is always interesting to find the color variants—some with petals that are completely purple and some pure white.

Jeanne's Pacific Coast hybrid irises are just starting to bloom. She says that when she goes out each day she wonders what surprise will be greeting her. Once Bee Balm is established it really expands. The bloom is abundant this year, but again, only one or two bees. It will have to be cut back or it will cover the sidewalk by summer.

Yes, it's spring again for sure. While much of the country continues to wait for the greening of their landscapes, many of our beloved foothill wildflowers are already waning having been without rain for over a month and warmer temperatures moving in. Higher elevations are still in bloom and many blooming shrubs have yet to show their blossoms. Oak leaves have returned and are bringing shade that we'll all crave by midsummer.

But California natives aren't finished yet! Carpenteria won't be in full bloom until early May. The Harvest Brodiaea blossoms in the back field is just out of the ground about an inch. Needlegrasses are stunning right now especially in the early morning or low glow of early evening. Black Sage is in full bloom and I've seen hummingbirds buzzing around it. California Wild Rose is pushing large quantities of growth so this year's display of blossoms should be impressive. Ceanothus is in full bloom and the Blue Elderberry is looking good, too. If you haven't been out to see spring in the wild yet, be sure to take advantage of one of the many events that will bring you back to nature.



CARPENTERIA
Newsletter of
The Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

April 2008



RELATED ACTIVITIES

Thu., Apr. 17 to Sun., Apr. 20	<p>Flora of Santa Cruz Island Santa Cruz Island is the largest and most diverse of the eight Channel Islands. With striking natural beauty, it supports a flora of over 675 taxa, of which 485 are native. This intensive 4-day workshop focuses on field ID of the island's flora, emphasizing rare and endemic plants.</p>	Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops \$575 (\$600 non-members). Includes lodging, meals, and ground & water transportation. For more info. contact Anna Larsen at 510.643.7008 or visit http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops
Fri., Apr. 18 8 am - 4 pm	<p>California Native Grasslands Field Day at Hedgerow Farms An exciting opportunity for hands-on learning about native grasses and grassland restoration. Hedgerow Farms is a renowned native grassland seed production farm and home to numerous restoration sites. This event features field ID, tours, presentations, and demonstrations. Co-sponsored by Hedgerow Farms.</p>	CNGA. Students \$30; CNGA members \$40; Non-members \$50. Pre-registration is required. Includes a barbeque lunch for all attendees. 530.759.8458 or www.cnga.org
Sat., Apr. 19 4 pm	<p>An Evening of Science, Sights, Sounds, and Supper at McKenzie Preserve This hike and class includes the geology and ecology of Table Mountain and will be led by geologist Craig Poole and biologist Rodney Olsen. You'll hike to the summit and enjoy the moonrise, sunset, and a picnic as you listen to the evening sounds of Table Mountain. Flashlight and hiking shoes are a must! Meet at McKenzie Preserve at 4 pm sharp.</p>	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Sat., Apr. 19 10 am - 5 pm	<p>Sierra Resource Conservation District Earth Day Event hosted by Intermountain Nursery Celebrate Earth Day by taking one or more of the any free classes offered on this day such as "Drought Tolerant gardening", "Local Weather Patterns", "Backyard Forestry". Enjoy and entertainment focused on how to live lightly on the earth, how to minimize our impact, and responsibly care for our limited resources.</p>	Intermountain Nursery. Free. 559.855.3113 or www.IntermountainNursery.com
Sun., Apr. 20 6:30 - 8:30 pm	<p>Sunset / Moonrise at the River Wrap up your weekend with a quiet time at the river, watching the sunset and the full moon rise. Bring a picnic supper, the special people in your life, and prepare to exhale. Easy 1-2 mile walk.</p>	San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. \$2 To register, call 559.433.3190 x3#
Sun., Apr. 20 9 am	<p>Table Mountain Table Top A six-mile round trip on a trail for most of the hike with some level walking and then a climb on a good trail to the top. Elevation gain is 1000 feet and takes about five hours allowing for lunch at the top.</p>	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Thu., Apr. 24 to Sun., Apr. 27	<p>The Sky Islands of the Eastern Mojave The mountains of the Mojave Desert are hotspots of botanical diversity, rising an additional three to four thousand feet above the "high desert" floor. Cooler and moister than the surrounding areas, the ranges support unique assemblages of desert plants. We will be hiking, collecting in the field, and identifying collections.</p>	Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops \$450 (\$475 non-members). Includes accommodations, meals, and transportation. Contact Anna Larsen at 510.643.7008 or http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops
Sat., Apr. 26 to Sun., Apr. 27	<p>Compositae (Asteraceae, Daisy Family), Especially Tarweeds We hope that this workshop will prove to be an effective solvent for sticky problems in tarweed identification and that participants may even come away with enhanced admiration for tarweeds, one of our most maligned and distinctly Californian group of plants.</p>	Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops \$225 (\$250 non-members). Contact Anna Larsen at 510.643.7008 or http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops
Sun., May 4 to Mon., May 5	<p>ID, Ecology, and Management of the Most Invasive Plants of California's Wetlands UC Davis and Sacramento Valley habitats. Primary instructors are Virginia Dains, Bob Holland, and Jeff Hart</p>	CNPS. www.cnps.org/cnps/education and click on "Workshops" or contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or call 916.447.2677
Sat., May 10 9 am - 3 pm	<p>Wildflowers of Black Mountain John Stebbins will lead a moderate hike to the top of the mountain looking at flowers and shrubs in bloom. Carpenteria and orange (yellow) lupine will be blooming along with many other species.</p>	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. \$10. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Sat., May 10 8:30 am - 12 noon	<p>A visit to Rank Island Join us for a rare opportunity to see Rank Island Ecological Reserve. Accessible only by canoe, this beautiful island was the first property to become part of the San Joaquin River Parkway</p>	San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. \$2 To register, call 559.433.3190 x3#
Sun., May 11 9 am - 5 pm	<p>Black Mountain Open House Mother's Day on Black Mountain has become a tradition for many families. Come celebrate this special day with a pleasant 3-mile round trip hike to the top of Black Mountain, with an optional added mile to go along the ridge and back.</p>	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org

Newsletter



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions for the May newsletter is Friday, May 9, 2008.

Membership

March 2008

If you aren't sure when your membership needs to be renewed, check your mailing label. The month and year of renewal is right after your name. For example 0608 = renewal April, 2008.

Email recipients of the newsletter can get that information from membership chair, Helen Shaw, <helshaw@netptc.net>

Membership cards are being issued (by CNPS) to new and renewing members beginning January 2008. A preliminary list of supporting organizations will be available soon on the CNPS Web site (cnps.org). There include nurseries and botanic gardens—none currently in the Central Valley. CNPS is seeking other organizations willing to offer membership benefits (e.g. discounts, special offers, e.g.) in exchange for mention on the CNPS Web site and mention in the chapter newsletter in the form of thanks for their sponsorship.

Members who have contacts with businesses that are willing to offer membership benefits are encouraged to get in touch with Helen Shaw <helshaw@netptc.net> or Arvind Kumar <chhaprahiya@yahoo.com>

*New Members and Membership Renewals

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

Fresno: Hunter, Miller, Yorganjian

Out of Area: Cowgill - La Jolla

Thanks to all for your continuing support. Send membership corrections to Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	open	
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell paul30@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
*Secretary	Marian Orvis mforvet@earthlink.net	559/226-0145 (h)
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Education	Peggy Jones	(see President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins johnst@cvip.net	559/297-0144 (h)
Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
Directors at Large	Jim Seay Verna Arnest	jaseay@comcast.net vernaj@sti.net

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



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

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

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

- New Member Renewing Member

- Student, Limited Income..... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library..... \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

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 2008



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

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, Goldenback 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.

