

Carpenteria

THE NEWSLETTER

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



October 2015

www.cnps-sequoia.org

The plants are coming! The plants are coming!



With apologies to Longfellow and Revere, our chapter is pretty excited. Soon hundreds of native plants will arrive at Clovis Botanical Garden. Many of these plants will move on to the gardens of a growing number of homeowners who have learned or remembered that they needn't sacrifice attractive landscapes for drought tolerance. Other plants will take up residence in a new demonstration garden of California native plants. Your help is needed at both events—see below.

October 17th – Saturday—Annual Native Plant Sale & Fair 8AM-1PM

Information, sales, food vendor, tours of the gardens (9 & 10:30).
All are invited to come, look, shop, and help.

Your help is vital before and during the sale:

for a day or an hour or two—whatever you can give.
Volunteer or just show up.

For details --Contact Thelma Valdez <yucca37tv@yahoo.com>

Before the plant sale: **Supplies**—•strong boxes to hold multiple plants for shoppers
• loaners of wheelbarrows, wagons, carts, for transporting purchases to autos •publicity-- •copy our notices and forward to social media or post in the neighborhood. **Setup**— starting at 9AM •Wed. Thur. Fri. 10/14-16, sprucing the garden, setting up tables and chairs •Fri. 10/16,—labeling, pricing and placing plants.

In appreciation of your help on any/all of the above days—volunteers will receive a sandwich lunch and early selection/purchase of plants on Fri.

During the plant sale beginning at 8AM: •help at the plant display: sales, Q&A, advice. There is no substitute for face-to-face interactions. •direct traffic to plants, boxes, help, cashiers, cars.

Again, in appreciation of your time and help –lunch.

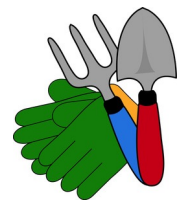


November 14—(tentative) Planting the Native Plant Garden

This joint effort of the Garden and Sequoia Chapter, CNPS, will culminate with our planting of California natives in their own demonstration garden on the grounds of CBG.

Your help is needed again

The planting is tentatively scheduled for November 14. Please email Thelma Valdez (yucca37tv@yahoo.com) if you can assist. She will contact you to confirm date/time. Even a few hours of help would be much appreciated.



Observations

--from Belinda Gilbert

This has been the driest year in California in 500 years according to recent news reports. I am encouraged to find autumn flowers flourishing in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Rather than focusing on the disheartening loss of thousands of Ponderosa pines, I look for flowers that were blooming in these extreme drought conditions. Wand and Naked Buckwheat, and Willow Herb are abundant, but the most abundant and successful species are in the family Asteraceae. Called by the common name, "Tar weed" *Holocarpha heermannii* covers open fields like a golden yellow blanket. Mixed in with the *Holocarpha* is another plant also known as "Tar weed", slightly taller lemon yellow *Madia elegans*. Two yellow perennials, *Grindelia nana*, known by the common name "Gum plant" and *Ericameria arborescens*, also called "Golden bush" are finishing their bloom cycles.

Why is the Aster family so successful in the autumn, in such extreme drought? One reason is that foothill members of this family have linear hairy leaves, which minimize evaporation.

Another reason for their success is that the flowers and leaves have aromatic glands, which produce resin or latex, covering the plants in a sticky film and giving rise to the common names "Tar weed and Gum plant". An unpleasant side effect of this resin production is that walking through a field of tar weed coats pants and shoes with sticky resin. Cattle and horses are not exempt. The resin turns the fur on their legs and heads a sticky grey-brown. This seems like a good defense mechanism against predators!

Some members of this abundant family are missing or less abundant this year. I looked for Sierra aster, Goldenrod, Sand aster and Sierra Lessingia but found very small populations. These species bloom in areas with damp soil in the late summer or fall; no wonder their numbers are reduced this year!

The foothills received one-half inch of rain on September 15th which was enough to cause *Erodium* sp. and grasses to germinate in the shade of Oak trees, but that's literally a "drop in the bucket". I hope for more rain and cool weather in the very near future.

--from Thelma Valdez

Many of my garden plants are reacting nicely to fewer daylight hours and less intense heat. Some of the deergrasses are beginning to bloom. California fuchsia are just now in full bloom and blue curls look positively ethereal at night during the recent full moon evenings. It's time to do some serious pruning of various California native plants that I've allowed to become a bit unruly. It's also a good time to cut back some dead parts of plants that had to hunker down during this unrelenting drought. Better to lose some branches than lose the entire plant.

--from Madeleine Mitchell

Well, it's now Fall and time to review what's been successful in my little meadow garden. We were on vacation in August for 3 weeks and upon returning could really see the new growth. The only plant that died was the Woolly Milkweed, so I'll get a new one at the fall plant sale and try planting in the fall instead of spring. Some of the new plants have grown larger than the labels indicate and this is probably due to the compost, which added nutrients to the soil. The only weeds have been the seedlings of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, and I can find homes for them. They grow taller each year and are now over 9 feet tall and have bloomed for months. They're not CA natives but so striking I've left them for now.

I also found a Western Columbine blooming and the Apricot Mallow, and the *Prunus Illicifolia* (Hollyleaf Cherry) has lots of fruit this year and it rarely gets any water. I still have California poppies sprouting and some other grasses. I have a hard time telling which *Cernua* is which, as I have 3 species. I will study them as they bloom this winter or spring. I dug up a small *Datura* from in front of the China Creek display kiosk and it has bloomed and set its' spiny fruit. (I had a bare spot, so I won't keep it). I hope to see you at the native plant sale October 17 and hope that I've inspired some of you to get rid of the lawn and plant natives that use little water. I will be removing the drip system next year and let them survive on their own.



Western Columbine
©1987 Gary A. Monroe

CHINA CREEK REPORT

Warren Shaw

Thistle abatement season being largely over (because most of the remaining thistle plants have gone to seed, and messing with them would just spread seed), we concentrated mainly on housekeeping chores.

Deborah and Amanda cleaned and repainted the numbers on the trail signs (oddly, there were two they couldn't find; we'll need to look into that).

Laura and Hank loaded up and hauled out Yellow Star Thistle plants dug last month.

A batch of us finished clearing the berm at the north pond, so Hank could get his tractor across to mow the trail, and we picked up the deteriorated plastic, which had covered YST plants piled on the pavement for solarization.

And we sprayed some mature Bull Thistle plants, which are biannual, in hopes of preventing another batch of seed next year. Also, we assessed the progress of our Ailanthus abatement project, and found, to our disappointment, that though almost all of the big trees are dead, there are dozens of root sprouts, so now we're in the process of working out how to deal with those.

Our October work party will be Saturday, October 10, a week earlier than usual because the Plant Sale will be on the third Saturday (10-17). It should be a beautiful fall day in the Park, and we'd love to share it with you.

To get to the park: take 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 (559-451-1256) or email <warshaw1955@gmail.com > for more information.

Membership

John & Michele 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.



SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	open	
*Vice-Pres.	Warren Shaw warshaw1955@gmail.com	559/451-1256 (h)
*Secretary	Marian Orvis mforvet@comcast.net	559/226-0145 (h)
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson jrjlars@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
•Membership	Michele LuValle John LuValle	luvalle@mcn.org jluvalle@mcn.org
•Field Trips	Jane Pritchard xxiii_xx@yahoo.com	559/765-9954
•Newsletter Editors	Warren&Helen Shaw warshaw1955@gmail.com helshaw@gmail.com	559/451-1256(h)
•Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell madeleine43@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
•Horticulture	open	
•Education	Warren Shaw	(See Newsletter)
•Rare Plant	Jane Pritchard	(See Field Trips)
•Plant Sale	Thelma Valdez	(see Webmaster)
•Conservation	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
•Director at Large	Belinda Gilbert	belinda@sti.net
•Webmaster	Thelma Valdez yucca37tv@yahoo.com	559/323-8962 (h)

Next Newsletter: November 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@gmail.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, Nov.6.



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

October 2015



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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



Saturday, October 17
from 8 am to 1 pm

California native plants



Just North of Alluvial
at Dry Creek Park



Free Admission!

Clovis Botanical Garden
945 N Clovis Avenue, Clovis



Water-wise plants

Water-Wise Plant Sale & Fair



Heermann's tarweed
(*Holocarpa heermannii*)



Goldenfleece
(*Ericameria arborescens*)



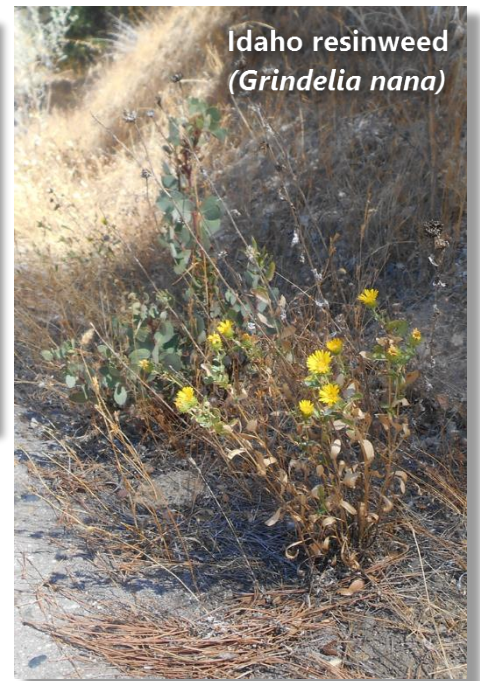
Quail chick and
eggs at China Creek



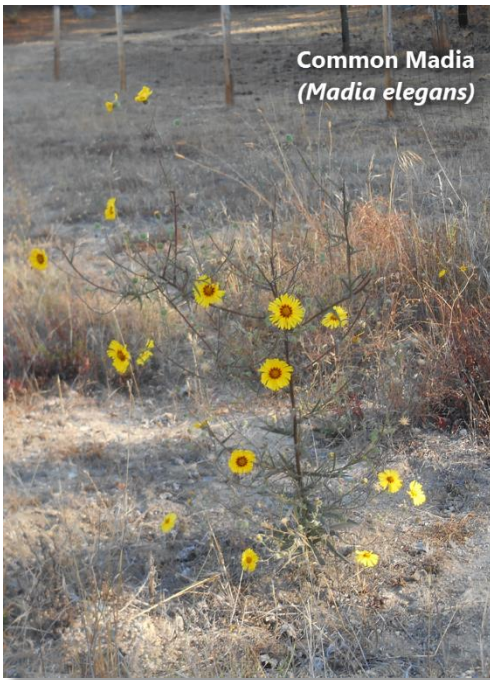
Winter's Sunflower
(*Helianthus winteri*)



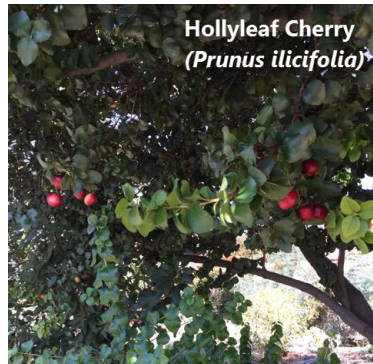
Western Columbine
(*Aquilegia formosa*)



Idaho resinweed
(*Grindelia nana*)



Common Madia
(*Madia elegans*)



Hollyleaf Cherry
(*Prunus ilicifolia*)

Sequoia Chapter CNPS September 2015

Photo credits:

Madeleine Mitchell: Western Columbine, Quail chick and eggs, Winter's Sunflower
Belinda Gilbert: Goldenfleece, Idaho Resinweed, Idaho resinweed, Common Madia
Aaron Turner: Pines, L to R: Jeffrey Pine (1, 2, 4), Sugar Pine (3)

July 2015 • Pine cones

