



2015 Waterwise Plant Exchange

This year's Waterwise Plant Exchange on Saturday, May 2, at the Fresno State Horticulture greenhouses was a spectacular success, with an estimated 700 people attending. This was the seventh occasion of the annual event, sponsored by Fresno City in cooperation with FSU, with Master Gardeners, Clovis Botanical Gardens, Tree Fresno, and many other groups and agencies—including ours--pitching in.

There was something for everyone:

- Workshops on replacing lawns, nursing trees through a drought, etc.
- Kids' events.
- Free and low cost drought -tolerant plants.
- Expert advice from a wide variety of sources on plants, irrigation, etc.

The crowd seemed genuinely enthusiastic about landscaping with less water. At the Sequoia Chapter table, staffed by Marian Orvis and Warren and Helen Shaw, we estimated we made about 90 contacts: dispensing literature, advice, encouragement and free redbud seed.

There was also a Friday evening program at the Madden Library featuring William Kahrl, author of Water and Power, at which we also had a table.

All in all this is a great effort by the City, and we were proud to be part of it.



Milkweed seed is difficult to germinate, so many have been looking for plants. An ample supply is now available for \$5.95 at Intermountain Nursery 30443 N. Auberry Rd., Prather.

Two varieties are ready: the Purple Milkweed and the Woolly Milkweed. Both need the same conditions: full sun and a dry location in which to grow. No water needed after the first season. Intermountainnursery.com



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE, is published quarterly by University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and can be accessed online <http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.edu>

The current issue's focus is on forestry and covers some timely topics. Here are some of them:

- Learning from the past--the unanticipated effects of fire suppression.
- Forest thinning may increase water yield from Sierra Nevada.
- Mapping forests with Lidar provides flexible, accurate data with many uses.
- Large tree removal in mixed-conifer forest halves productivity and increases white fir. This long term study confirms the negative consequences of preferentially removing large trees.

--Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project-- All sides of the Sierra forest management debate have learned from SNAMP, Can stakeholders help ensure research results are part of future management?

- UC Cooperative Extension works with fire safe councils to reduce wildfires.

CHINA CREEK REPORT-April

--Warren Shaw

It was predicted to be an unseasonably warm day, but a good crew arrived to work on our pesky thistles. It wasn't long before we were looking for shady areas to dig and pull. Fortunately we're targeting mostly Milk Thistle now, and it thrives in shady spots. One enormous patch in particular, on the island east of the south pond, is shaded by gorgeous massive old Valley Oaks. We designated the largest and densest section (of thistles) for spraying, but decided to work out the outliers by hand. As an experiment, knowing the current blossoms would produce seed even after the plants were dug or pulled, we decided to cut the blossoms off before digging or spraying to see if depriving them of the nutrients in the stems and roots would prevent maturing (monitoring of specimen blossoms later seemed to prove this valid), however the process provided some close calls since it was difficult for the machete wielder to keep track of the diggers/pullers around him. Nobody was injured, but we agreed the process needed to be carefully choreographed in the future.

Another crew, working in the north leg of the Park (where, unfortunately, there is less shade) also marked a patch of Milk Thistle for later spraying, but dug lots of plants, including some Bull Thistle. Unhappily they reported seeing more new sprouts in the Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) grove we've worked so hard to kill over the last two years -- so more work there.

We noted the Wild Roses and Elderberries were flowering prettily, as were some blackberries. The Anemopsis (Lizard Tail) bloom was just beginning and should be absolutely spectacular by next time.

Next time will be Saturday, May 16; there are still lots of thistles to dig, but we hope to get started on some trail maintenance as well, and perhaps, cage some of the new crop of Valley Oak seedlings. It would be great if you could lend a hand.



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. I'll have my cell on at the park (559-281-8080)

THREE OBSERVATIONS

--from Jane Pritchard

Another Invasion by Aliens

Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) is a light green perennial up to 6 feet tall and is covered with pretty white flowers when it blooms. Rhizomes and numerous round, flat, notched seeds make established infestations nearly impossible to control. Introduced from Eurasia, this plant grows in Canada and the U.S. in various habitats (pastures, disturbed areas, fields, grassland, saline meadows, streambanks, sagebrush scrub, pinyon/juniper woodland, and edge of marshes) below 2500 meters (a little over 8000 feet). It has spread throughout California except the extreme northwest and the deserts. China Creek suits it well. Like other invasives, perennial pepperweed is highly competitive and forms dense colonies that displace native vegetation and wildlife.



--From Jeanne Larson

While weeding a few strays in my Mexican Primrose ground cover, there was a small moth, with spots on its wings, in a bloom a little less than 2 inches in diameter. It was beating its wings furiously. Then it beat its wings again furiously before flying away. This was a why moment, as Mexican Primroses spread too easily by vegetative spurs and don't need seed to reproduce. However, I do have some tall Evening Primroses that are just starting to bud. I shall have to watch those closely as the blossoms of the Evening Primrose do not fade until early morning. Perhaps a moth is waiting for the Evening Primroses.

--From Thelma Valdez

Vite, vite, vite! The Harvest Brodiaea is up, blooming, and some have already completed their bloom cycle. Early leaves of Blue Curls (Vinegarweed) and Dove Weed are out. The warm, dry winds of the past week have blown needlegrass seed hither and yon. It's now time to trim and rake through the grasses, removing as much dry, dead material as possible as a substitute for a good burn. The quiet of summer dormancy is almost here. Don't let it pass you by without your fair share of naps

.

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 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 jluvalle@mcn.org
- Field Trips** Jane Pritchard 559/765-9954
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** 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 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

Next Newsletter: July/August 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@gmail.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, July 3.



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

May/June 2015



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

This month I celebrate the completion of my water-wise native plant garden. As you know I've worked on removing my front lawn by killing it with glyphosate in the fall of 2013 and having some help digging it out while I was healing from a fracture. This took most of 2014; then I purchased lots of plants at our fall plant sale. I also constructed a broken adobe paver pathway in an oval. Although I purchased many plants for my mini meadow I also transplanted many clumps of *Nassella cernua* and *pulchra* from the established area into the bare area. They are now blooming and wave in the breezes.

I also moved many clumps of Berkeley Sedge, known as *Carex divulsa* or as *tumucolla*. However, now that it is identified as a European invasive plant on the Plantright.org website, I will remove it and replace with some more yarrow for now. I already have the red/orange variety "Fireland" and a pink one plus an almost blooming white one. I have a *Pensatmon heterphyllus* "margarita BOP" in bloom for over a month now. I also moved several clumps of *iris douglasiana*, the native iris, and they've bloomed, too.

I've planted *Monardella villosa*, Coyote Mint and another *Salvia clevelandii* variety "Winifred Gilman." I haven't decided whether I'll trim off the flower heads of the grasses but they attach themselves to my socks and tee shirts. The main color for the past 2 months has been the native orange poppy. These were not planted but have been welcomed to fill in all the spaces. They are getting leggy and get pulled out weekly as other plants fill in. I have a few buckets of the compost left to fill in the areas where I couldn't spread it earlier. Drip irrigation is set up and still is not perfect, but it's flexible and so am I.

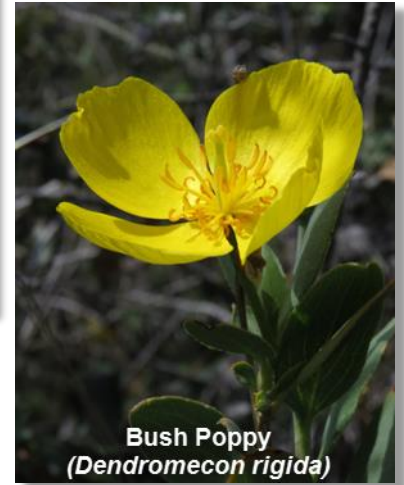
May 2015
 ❖
Sequoia
Chapter CNPS



Clustered Broomrape
(Orobanche fasciculata)



Astoria Violet
(Viola praemorsa subsp. praemorsa)



Bush Poppy
(Dendromecon rigida)



Foothill Lomatium
(Lomatium utriculatum)



Keck's Checkerbloom
(Sidalcea keckii)



California Thistle
(Cirsium occidentale var. californicum)



Blow-wives
(Achyraea mollis)



Miner's Lettuce with red sepals
(Claytonia perfoliata)



Oval-leaved Viburnum
(Viburnum ellipticum)



Belinda Gilbert's Ahwahnee property



Nightshade
(Solanum xanti)



California Figwort
(Scrophularia californica)

Photo credits:

Linda Sward: Blow-wives, Keck's Checkerbloom

Aaron Turner: California Thistle (east of Tollhouse Rock), Clustered Broomrape, Miner's Lettuce

Eileen Bennett: Astoria Violet, Bush Poppy, California Figwort, Foothill Lomatium, Nightshade, Oval-leaved Viburnum



Belinda Gilbert's Ahwahnee property

May 2015



Sequoia Chapter CNPS



Blue Elderberry
(*Sambucus mexicana*)



Monkeyflower
(*Mimulus bolanderi*)



Mountain Dogwood
(*Cornus nuttallii*)



Showy Phlox
(*Phlox speciosa*)



Alumroot leaves
(*Heuchera rubescens*)



Sticky Currant
(*Ribes viscosissimum*)



Penstemon
(*Penstemon heterophyllus*
'Margarita BOP')



Evening Snow
(*Linanthus dichotomus* subsp.
dichotomus)



Blue-eyed Grass
(*Sisyrinchium bellum*)



Wild Pea
(*Lathyrus nevadensis*)



Bird's Eye Gilia
(*Gilia tricolor*)



Snow Plant
(*Sarcodes sanguinea*)

Photo credits:

Aaron Turner: Alumroot,, Mountain Dogwood, Showy Phlox,, Sticky Currant, Wild Pea

Eileen Bennett: Evening Snow, Monkeyflower

Warren Shaw: Bird's Eye Gilia, Blue-eyed Grass,

Madeleine Mitchell: Blue Elderberry @ China Creek, Penstemon