



## Spring into Your Garden --a March event that grows in popularity

Thelma Valdez

Clovis Botanical Garden's "Spring into Your Garden" event drew over 600 visitors and is becoming more established and well-attended each year. This year's event featured a couple of excellent food trucks, fun music, beautiful weather, and recent rains, in addition to tours and hourly workshops. The Garden was resplendent in its spring dress with oodles of California poppies and blooming Ceanothus.

The folks who attended my talk about getting started with California native plants were primarily new to California natives. What more could you ask if you're looking to spread the word? I tried to make a gentle, but compelling case for the importance of bringing even one California native into your garden. I believe that if you find one native plant that you really like and works for you, the door is opened and you will be drawn to find the second native plant, and so on. It's a good reminder that we still have a long way to go in the CNPS mission of promoting native plant appreciation, research, education, and conservation.

If you're looking for information about gardening with California natives, download some of the PDFs on our website: <http://www.cnps-sequoia.org/index.php/native-plant-gardening/> and begin, share, or extend your journey into the world of gardening with California natives.



**April 12 – 20, 2014—California Native Plant Week.** In 2011, The California State Assembly and Senate approved Resolution ACR 173 establishing California Native Plant Week, which proclaims the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week and encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

**Ever wonder** how Earth Day started? Here is what The Old Farmer's Almanac says: This observance arose from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues. In 1970, San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. McConnell chose the spring equinox (March 21, 1970) and Nelson chose April 22. Millions of people participated, and today Earth Day continues to be widely celebrated with events on both dates.



The old Farmer's Almanac's suggestions for observing Earth Day sound very familiar to members of CNPS: plant wildflowers, landscape with natives, include plants that attract butterflies, try an organic vegetable garden, establish a water-wise garden. Those old farmers are preaching to the choir! See below and the next page for more ways to mark Earth Day, Native Plant Week, or your own commitment to California natives. Events include activities that are diverse in focus and location, from Fresno City to Fresno County, to the Central coast and beyond.

## May 2 & 3 Water-Wise Plant Events at CSU-Fresno

**May 3: 8-12 - Annual Water-Wise Plant Exchange** a CSU-Fresno Greenhouses 3150 E. Barstow Ave., just east of Chestnut Ave. Local gardeners are encouraged to donate water-wise plants, cuttings, bulbs, and seeds for an annual give-and-take plant event. No plants of your own to donate? No problem! Attend anyway and pick up a few plants for your garden and some knowledge from some of the water-wise plant experts on hand.

**May 2: 6 PM - Henry Madden Library, CSUF.** To kick-off Saturday's event, come and learn from experts John Valentino and Susan Stiltz how to make your garden beautiful while transitioning traditional lawns to more drought-tolerant landscaping. 6PM, Reception with hors d'oeuvres and no-host beer and wine bar. 6:45-Program.

**RSVP by April 30** [here](#) (enter code LIBWATER).

## Field Trip Opportunity for All

A special event after the April China Creek work party will be a field trip, organized by Park volunteer Gene Richards, to Kaweah Oaks, a preserve near Visalia, where we hope both to see more and different California natives, and to learn some things we can apply to our own project. All are welcome (even if you haven't been able to make the work party); for meeting time and place, call or email Warren Shaw ([warshaw1955@gmail.com](mailto:warshaw1955@gmail.com))

## Worth the Drive

**Going Native Garden Tour 2014** - A free tour of native gardens in Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula, San Francisco Bay Area. 10AM-4PM April 26 (north), April 27 (south) <http://gngt.org/GNGT/HomeRO.php>

## CHINA CREEK

Warren Shaw <[warshaw1955@gmail.com](mailto:warshaw1955@gmail.com)>

March--A good crew of willing workers, including one we hadn't seen in a while, and some new faces, turned out on a beautiful spring Saturday. Most went off to slay evil thistles in the southwest section of the Park, while a couple of us finished caging Valley Oak seedlings in the southeast grazing area -- none too soon, as the cattle had been moved to that side.

After break some of us tackled the chore of cutting a path through the top of a massive old Valley Oak, which had fallen across the trail. Mosquito Abatement vehicles had already started a detour around the tree, and we wanted to prevent further compaction on the previously undamaged soil.

We also picked up trash and checked for graffiti, but Madeleine has apparently been staying ahead of it pretty well.

In April (Saturday, 4-19) we plan to continue our destruction of non-native thistle plants -- probably in the north grazing area, and possibly to cage un- or under-protected Elderberries. We may also work on cutting away more of the downed Oak. It should be another glorious spring day. Please join us if you can. (We'll be knocking off early --11:00 -- to go to Kaweah Oaks for a field trip -- see announcement above).

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.

## CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt

Danny Slakey, Rare Plant Program Assistant [dslakeycnps.org](mailto:dslakeycnps.org)

The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) is a citizen-science program started by CNPS in 2010 with the goal of getting up-to-date information on many of our state's rare plants, while engaging chapter members and other volunteers in rare plant conservation. Many of California's rare plant populations have not been seen in decades and some parts of the state have seen little to no botanical exploration to date. This program helps conserve our rare flora by providing valuable data to the [CNPS Rare Plant Program](#) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Treasure Hunters can [join an organized rare plant search](#) or learn how to plan their own trips by attending one of our [training events scheduled for 2014](#); those who already have botanical experience can start [leading their own trips](#)! You can also sign up for the mailing list to be notified of upcoming events by sending an email to [treasurehunt@cnps.org](mailto:treasurehunt@cnps.org)

## Central Coast Treasure Hunts

Joining a staff-led trip is great way to get up-to-speed on rare plant survey techniques. We're teaming up with the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and U.S. Forest Service to continue our trips in the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness Areas of the Los Padres National Forest in Monterey County. We're also adding in several trips in the SLO County portions of the Los Padres -- the Santa Lucia, Machesna Mountain, and Garcia Wilderness Areas. Come explore this rugged and beautiful country with us as we look at new roads, trails, peaks, rivers, and, of course, swimming holes, in search of rare plants! We'll shift our survey targets throughout the season, from early-season fritillaries to cryptic bedstraws, to some stunning serpentine endemics that bloom in the heat of summer.

## Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at [nmtv@unwiredbb.com](mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com)

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



**Welcome new member:** John Constable

### Thanks to Renewing Members :

Lynda Daley, Jane Pritchard, David Hartesveldt, Richard Kauffman, Donna Preece, Fred Schreiber, Laslie Tidd.

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](http://www.cnps.org) and click on the JOIN button.



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thanks Derrel's for their support

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### Next Newsletter: May/June 2014

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@gmail.com](mailto:helshaw@gmail.com). The deadline for the May/June newsletter is Friday, May. 9



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.

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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

April 2014



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

*Madeleine Mitchell*

This time I'm not writing just about California native plants but more about beneficial insects. I love to take photos of insects in my garden; lately I usually have my iPhone in the pocket of my jeans so always have a camera with me. I do not use any insecticides and enjoy looking for various bugs. The good bugs take care of the "bad" bugs; nature without pesticides will balance itself out.

Last week I found the White Sage, *Salvia apiana*, starting to elongate and flower stalks will follow. All that soft tender new growth attracts black aphid but also provides food for young lady beetles (and probably some men beetles, too). The strange looking baby beetles look like tiny red and black alligators to me. They are all over the native part of my yard and the larvae eat far more aphids than the adults. I wish they were on the roses.

I've got lots of green aphid on the rose buds and just clean them off with my fingers. I usually use a fine spray from the hose to wash them off. This eventually kills them as the mouth parts are torn off and they can't attach themselves to eat again. With our drought conditions this year I've chosen not to use the water method. I even feel somewhat guilty for having roses at all. But I do use drip tubing with emitters and tiny sprayers between the plants and this applies the water just where it's needed. The photo of the praying mantis on the rose bud is actually from last fall. He or she stayed on that flower until it was fully opened. I took photos over several days. But I didn't find any egg cases and was disappointed.

I also have lots of bees buzzing around the salvias and when the Holly Leaf Cherry blooms in May the sound is quite loud. The final photo is from a Sedum from Mexico, with a long name. The common name is Coppertone, the real species is nussbaumerianum. It's blooming now and the bees are after the nectar.

See photos on photo page.

**April 2014  
Sequoia Chapter  
CNPS**



**featuring...  
beneficial insects!**



**And a wildflower drive  
on Road 208 in  
Madera County**

