



# CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter  
California Native Plant Society

September 2005

## CHAPTER MEETING

**Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.**  
**“Gardening with California Native Plants – A Round Table Discussion”**

This round table is designed to answer questions you might have about planting and caring for California natives. It might even answer questions you didn't know you had! If you've been thinking of incorporating native plants into your existing landscape or if you have an area of your yard that would welcome a hardy landscape without a lot of watering, come to this meeting. We will have photos, plant lists, advice, and perspectives from a wide range of individuals who have experienced first hand the joys of native plant gardening. Join the fun!

Meeting at 7:00 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue). The public is welcome!

## PLANT SALE: OCTOBER 1, 8 AM – 3 PM

This year our plant sale is at the Clovis Botanical Gardens. If you haven't been to the Gardens, this is a perfect opportunity to see many mature native plants in a landscape setting. It might help you decide which plants to take home.

The center page of this newsletter is a two-sided sheet. One side is a poster suitable for copying and posting on your refrigerator, the refrigerator at work, a community or church bulletin board, or other willing public space. If you would like a PDF version of the poster, suitable for emailing to your friends and family, send an email to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net >.

The reverse side of the poster is a list of plant species that will mostly be available at the Plant Sale. Intermountain Nursery does a great job of bringing down a wide selection of available plants. Of course, due to early buyers and space limitations, the selection is limited. As they say, “Come early for the best selection!”

The weather is unpredictable this time of year but regardless of the weather, you'll be in for a treat. You can even enjoy a Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. for \$5.

**Seeds.** We will also have a variety of native plant seeds available for sale.

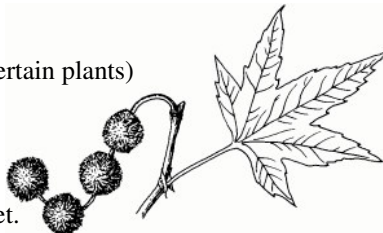
**Posters.** Have you seen the Native Grass Posters? Stop by the cashier table and have a close-up look. We'll have some of these posters for sale, too.

### Volunteers Needed!!

We're extending the plant sale to 3 p.m. and that means we can use as many volunteers as possible. Consider helping with this wonderful event. We need:

- Daytime help to direct visitors to the cashier, help buyers collect their plants, take purchased plants to cars, etc.
- Cashier assistance
- Plant information (even if you only know about certain plants)
- End of sale help (shortly after 3 p.m.)
- Any time! There's lots to help with!

Sign up at the Tuesday, September 20 meeting or by contacting Marian Orvis at mforvet@earthlink.net.



## CHINA CREEK UPDATE

by Warren Shaw

- Restoration work has continued with Vulcan Materials agreeing to mow Yellow Star Thistle a second time.
- We communicated concerns about groundwater changes and air pollution at the draft EIR meeting for the proposed gravel mining expansion project.
- A considerable pile of donated shredded tree trimmings has been accumulated for surfacing the trail.
- Planning for expanded grazing in the park is under way, and...

...most exciting, education chair Peggy Jones, has secured another grant--this one to finance academic studies focused on the park! She has also worked with teachers on native plant curriculum materials for elementary classes!

## BOOK SALE



We are planning a Used Book Sale as a fundraiser in November. We can use those books you were considering giving away! Ideally the books you donate have nature or gardening as the topic.

Bring books you no longer use to either the September or October meeting.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### Sierra Foothill Conservancy

**Classes.** Classes require early reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family). Space is limited. Bring lunch and water for daytime classes. Visit <[www.sierrafoothill.org](http://www.sierrafoothill.org)> for more information, registration, and changes/additions or call 559/855-3473. Space is limited so make reservations early.

Saturday October 15 9 am – 4:30 pm	<b>Oaks of the Foothills.</b> 8 species of oak grow in the central Sierra Nevada. During this class Chuck Peck will show you at least 7 of those species in the field. Meet at the Auberry Park & Ride, 1 mile east of Prather on Highway 168, just past Intermountain Nursery. We will carpool from there.
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Saturday October 22 8 am – 6 pm	<b>Biotic Communities and Geology of the Sierra.</b> See the connections between geology and natural history with geologist Craig Poole and biologist Rodney Olsen. Visit the western slope of the Sierra as high as Courtright Reservoir. Meet at the Forest Service office in Clovis, between Fowler & Sunnyside (1600 Tollhouse Road).
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### Hikes

Saturday Nov. 26	<b>Hikes at the McKenzie preserve.</b> Work off your thanksgiving feast by walking the Discovery Trail (easy 3.7 miles) or hiking to the top of the table (moderate 6 miles). These are our only hikes of the fall season – be sure to enjoy the cool air and beautiful views. Free. Meet at 9 a.m. with lunch and water.
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### The California Society for Ecological Restoration

SERCAL's 12th Annual Conference, "Restoring the Heart of California," will be held at the Bass Lake Conference Center October 18 - 22. Highly valuable technical sessions and workshops are available even if you are not a SERCAL member. For information, visit <[www.sercal.org/2005\\_conference.htm](http://www.sercal.org/2005_conference.htm)>

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Arts Festival

Intermountain Nursery's annual Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 8 (10-5) and Sunday, October 9 (10-4). Visit the nursery while listening to music and seeing the work of local artists.

## LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

In September it's easy to focus on home landscape use of native plants because that's the time to plan for getting natives off to a good start – warm earth, cooler days, upcoming rain – all those things are music to a native plant's, um, leaves?

It is important, however, to remember that CNPS also needs your help in fighting battles on the legislative front. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are both under assault.

Your efforts at writing a letter or e-mail or calling your congressman or representative really do make a difference. It's a small bit of time but legislators do hear the message when it comes from many individuals.

Visit the CNPS legislative page to see how you can help:  
< [www.cnps.org/programs/legislation/index.htm](http://www.cnps.org/programs/legislation/index.htm) >

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our long hot summer is finally fading away. Summer, when many valley natives are effectively dormant, or at least quiescent, and there are no chapter meetings, offers a time for recharging and reconsideration.

I've had a little time to think about the opportunities for Sequoia Chapter in the year ahead. We'll be holding our annual fall plant sale in a new venue with the chance to meet some new people and--perhaps--recruit some new members as well as sell some plants. As school starts we'll have a chance to introduce native plants to children through new curriculum materials and the China Creek trail.

China Creek will offer new ways to build on what we've started, with a host of potential projects.

Opportunities to serve our goals by taking on chapter offices and committee positions are coming up.

There are also many changes possible: How about a spring wildflower festival? Is a native garden tour a possibility? Does someone in the chapter have the skills needed to put together a power point virtual China Creek trail tour? Can we start a chapter nursery?

At times like this the possibilities seem endless. The question arises though, "Who's going to do all this stuff?"

How about you?



-Warren Shaw

## OBSERVATIONS

Vinegarweed (more kindly known as Blue Curls) is putting on a show in the field behind our home. The plants are smaller this year, but no less numerous, and the blue color is intense! The California Buckwheat has a mix of fresh and dry on individual blossoms, which make for a beautiful two-tone splash.

On a train trip from Bakersfield to Fresno in late August, I was surprised to see so little Vinegarweed or even Tarweed in open unused fields. Lots of Sow Thistle and other plants that become tumbleweeds when summer comes to a close.

It's always a treat to spy some natives in the city where you least expect them. Driving along a busy street, there in someone's side yard – a Desert Willow in full bloom! In a street median near Arte Americas (downtown Fresno), a row of Deer Grass.

In the foothills Warren Shaw says Tarweed is still blooming, Doveweed is rampant, Milkweed is heavy with pods, and Blue Oaks are beginning to drop fat green acorns.

Still discovering the resident plant life in his recently purchased foothill home, Joseph Oldham discovered a huge Coffeeberry (15' tall and 15' wide) with a matching crop of berries. The Blue Oaks don't have a heavy crop of acorns, but the Interior Live Oaks have a moderate crop.

Down in the valley where it's wide open and flat, a couple of Valley Oaks planted from acorns six years ago have learned to live on mostly what moisture nature provides, making slow but steady progress – the best kind of growth.

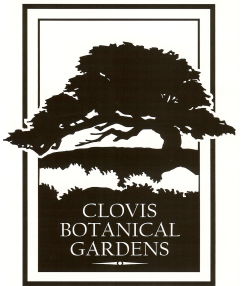


-- Editor



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

THE CLOVIS  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS



**Saturday October 1, 2005**

**8 am – 3 pm**

**Free Admission**

# NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Kiwanas Pancake Breakfast**

**7:30 – 9:30 am**

**\$5.00**



*Chilopsis linearis* a, seed pod. b, seed

**The Clovis Botanical Gardens**  
**945 N. Clovis Avenue, just North of Alluvial in Clovis**

Trees ● Seeds ● Planting Advice ● Shrubs ● Displays  
Posters ● Native Plant Information ● Perennials ● Grasses

**See established native plants in a landscape setting**

Phone 226-0145 or 333-0857 for more information

**The majority of the plants listed below will be available at the plant sale, depending upon availability.  
Make notes and bring this list with you to the plant sale!**

<i>Botanical name</i>	<i>Common name</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Botanical name</i>	<i>Common name</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>TREES</b>			<b>SHRUBS</b>		
Acer macrophyllum	Big Leaf maple		Salix	Willow	
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye		Salvia	Sage	
Alnus rhom. & ten.	Mountain Alder		Sambucus mexicana	Blue Elderberry	
Calodendrus	Incense Cedar		Trichostema lanatum	Wooly Blue Curls	
Chilopsis	Desert Willow		Vitis californica	Calif. Wild Grape	
Cornus nuttallii	Western Dogwood		<b>PERENNIALS</b>		
Juniperus osteosperma	Utah Juniper		Achillea	Yarrow	
Pinus	Variety of Pines		Aquilegia formosa	Western Columbine	
Plantanus racemosa	California Sycamore		Artemisia ludoviciana	Mugwort	
Quercus	Variety of Oaks		Aster occidentalis	Western Mountain Aster	
Sequoiadendron gigantea	Giant Sequoia		Chlorogalum pomeridianum	Soaproot	
Umbellularia californica	California Bay		Dudleya cymosa	Canyon Liveforever	
<b>SHRUBS</b>			Dugaldia hoopesii	Sneezeweed	
Arctostaphylos	Manzanita		Eriogonum	Buckwheat	
Asclepias eriocarpa	Wooly Milkweed		Grindelia camporum	Gumweed	
Atriplex	Saltbush		Heuchera	Coral Bells	
Baccharis	Coyote Bush		Linum lewisii	Western Blue Flax	
Calycanthus occidentalis	Spice Bush		Mimulus	Monkeyflower	
Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone		Monardella odoratissima	Mountain Pennyroyal	
Ceanothus	Ceanothus		Penstemon	Penstemon	
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonwillow		Potentilla	Cinquefoil	
Cercis occidentalis	Redbud		Rudbeckia	Coneflower	
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Mahogany		Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed Grass	
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Rubber Rabbit Brush		Solidago canadensis	Goldenrod	
Cornus stolonifera	Red Twig Dogwood		Stachys albens	White Hedge Nettle	
Eriodictyon californicum	Yerba Santa		Zauschneria	California Fuschia	
Eriogonum	Buckwheat		<b>GRASSES</b>		
Eriophyllum	Wooly Sunflower		Aristida ternipes	Three-awn	
Fremontodendron	Flannel Bush		Carex	Sedge	
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon		Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hairgrass	
Lonicera interrupta	Chaparral Honeysuckle		Elymus glaucus	Blue Wild Rye	
Lonicera involucrata	Twinberry		Festuca californica	California Fescue	
Mahonia	Oregon Grape		Juncus effusus	Rush	
Mimulus	Monkeyflower		Leymus triticoides	Creeping Wild Rye	
Prunus	Chokecherry		Melica californica	California Melic	
Rhamnus	Coffeeberry		Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	
Ribes nevadense, sanguineum	Currant		Nassella cernua	Foothill Nedlegrass	
Rosa	Rose		Nassella pulchra	Purple Needlegrass	
Rubus leucodermis	Western Raspberry		Poa secunda	One-sided Blue Grass	
Rubus ursinus	California Blackberry				

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

No new members for July / August.

### Renewing members:

Boudinot-Johnson (Sanger)  
 Evans (Fresno)  
 Kern (Fresno)  
 Oulton (Ahwahnee)  
 Ritter (Fresno)  
 Unruh (Kingsburg)



Thanks to all renewing members for their continuing support. Corrections of membership information can be sent to Helen Shaw <helshaw@netptc.net>

## NEWSLETTER



Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net >. The next newsletter will be the October issue. Contributions are due by Friday, October 7.

Thank you to Jeff Davis of Prather for responding to the summary of Pam Muick's talk on oaks with regard to many references to birds and their interaction with oaks. Pam Muick indicates she will research Jeff's information and reply. For the record, however, Jeff says acorns make up 50% of the annual diet of Acorn Woodpeckers. And he has tallied over 120 bird species on five acres of oak woodland in just two years. In addition, he can think of eight birds that plant oaks: Western and Island Scrub-Jays, Stellar's Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Raven, Oak Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch).

### SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>*President</b>	Warren Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) warshaw@netptc.net	<b>*Secretary &amp; Past President</b>	Marian Orvis 2427 E. Harvard Fresno, CA 93703	559/226-0145 mforvet@earthlink.net
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<b>Membership</b>	Helen Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) helshaw@netptc.net	<b>Horticulture</b>	Howard Latimer 4534 E. Rialto Fresno, CA 93726	559/229-4273 howardl@csufresno.edu
<b>Field trips / Programs</b>	Joanna Clines 57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643	559/877-2218 x3150 (w) jclines@fs.fed.us	<b>Education</b>	Peggy Jones 1931 Winter Street Kingsburg, CA 93631	559/897-9646 autumn_aspen@hotmail.com
<b>Co-chairs</b>	Jane Pritchard 276 W. Barstow, #103 Clovis, CA 93611	559/323-8253 (h) xlvi_xx@juno.com	<b>Rare Plant</b>	John Stebbins 357 Adler Clovis, CA 93612	559/278-2179 (w) johnst@csufresno.edu
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Thelma Valdez 12328 E. Sierra Ave. Clovis, CA 93619	559/323-8962 (h) nmtv@att.net	<b>Plant Sale</b>	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
<b>Hospitality</b>	Madeleine Mitchell 580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net	<b>Conservation Co-chairs</b>	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham 29123 Yosemite Spr. Pky. Coarsegold, CA 93614	(see above) 559/658-7165 J.Oldham1@sti.net



### JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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: \_\_\_\_\_

- Student/Retired/Limited Income.....\$20
- Individual or Library .....\$35
- Family or Group .....\$45
- Supporting .....\$75
- Plant Lover .....\$100
- Patron .....\$250
- Benefactor .....\$500
- Bristlecone .....\$1000

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

**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

September 2005



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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



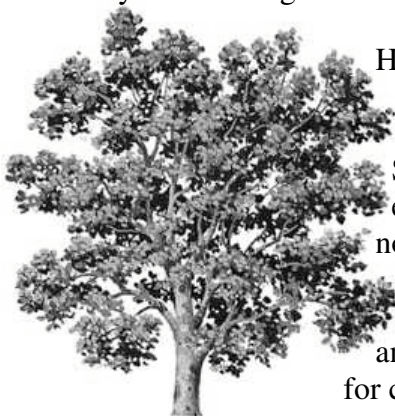
Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora.  
For a membership brochure call Helen Shaw at 559/855-4519.  
CNPS Web site: < [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) >

## FEATURED PLANT

### *California Sycamore*

*Platanus racemosa* is a fast-growing tree that can reach 75'. In 5-10 years it can grow to 20 feet. Naturally it grows along creeks (there are sycamores near the creek at China Creek). As long as it can get moderate water, it will take the wind and heat, full or partial sun, sandy or clay soil.

It is not drought tolerant until it is well established and only then as long as it can reach water.



Hummingbirds and butterflies (especially the Western Tiger Swallowtail) use it extensively. You may not want to use it extensively, but chips of bark from the trunk and roots can be boiled for coffee.

Donald Culross Peattie, in *A Natural History of Western Trees*, has this to say about the California Sycamore: *“Here is a tree that might have been created as friend of mankind. Out of all the western sylvia, the forests vast & somber, the ranked species in their cohorts, each with it’s boast of economic value, this one stands apart. For it grows singly or in little groves in the interior valleys, along the sandy washes, the upside-down rivers of the desert, in the cool of the canyon walls, more needed where you find it than valuable when felled, sawn, dressed and exported. With it’s intimately leaning trunks it seems, even in the wild to be pre-formed for bending above the rooftree that will come to it. The quality of its shade  $\frac{3}{4}$  broad but filmy leaved (more like some eastern hardwood’s)  $\frac{3}{4}$  is never so dense as to be stuffy; ever the breeze moves under the boughs, and any stir of air in the warm habitats it chooses...*

Tree image by Frederic Bonnet  
Reference: Las Pilitas Nursery