

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



March 2016

www.cnps-sequoia.org

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?

We have been asked to man a table at the Big Sandy Rancheria Pow Pow Grounds on Earth Day, April 16 from 10am-2pm. We would like to find some volunteers to distribute educational materials. See 'Dates to Remember' section for further event details. If you would like to help out, please contact Jeanne Larson at jrjlars@aol.com.

OBSERVATIONS

--*Helen Shaw*

In Fresno

Our garden is poised to wake up. Former and recent purchases from the native plant sales are doing well for the most part: I see buds on ceanothus, orange and apricot mallows, and blue eyed grass; new growth on palo verde, red bud, toyon, and bay; our clumps of deer grass look good, except for one that shows sign of a setback after being moved; and a woolly milkweed has new growth after a near-death experience.

Our lupines are sending mixed messages: all new and established plants but one are fine; last week one young plant showed signs of being chewed on by something. Yesterday we discovered it had been completely stripped by an unknown predator.

In the Foothills

On a recent drive along Auberry Road from Fresno to Prather spring is evident in abundance. The hills are covered with annual grasses and dotted with fiddle neck and popcorn flowers. On Auberry Road I saw Lupine and white thorn in bloom. Just beyond the Millerton Store, a large stand of bush lupine is in full bloom, as is another stand nearer Prather.



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--*Jeanne Larson*

My Powder Blue Ceanothus is slowly entering its bloom period. I hope the Bird's Eye Gilia is in synch, as it makes a gorgeous combination. The Bee's Bliss Sage is in full bloom and bees are busy, but numbers are small. I had noticed that the first blooms on the Blue Eyed Grass were disappearing. What prompted Sox the cat to find the blossoms appetizing is a mystery.



Upcoming Events and Classes

•April 3-6—Measuring & Monitoring Plant Populations,

Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx (Western Mojave)

Taught by John Willoughby, Independent Ecological Consultant.

Details--www.cnps.org/workshops or contact Becky Reilly at breilly@cnps.org for more information.

•April 16 10AM-2PM—Earth Day

Big Sandy Rancheria Pow Wow Grounds

Directions from Fresno: Take Hwy 168 to Auberry Road. Take Auberry Road and turn left at Jose Basin Road. Grounds are on the corner of Jose Basin and Auberry Mission Road.



Each year organizations and individuals are invited to exhibit educational booths. Vendors sell their repurposed, natural, or native products. An e-waste drop off location will also be available this year.

Details--contact Hazel at 374-0066 x 204 or hearley@bsrnation.com

•March 19 9AM-2PM—Spring Into Your Garden Festival

Clovis Botanical Garden
945 N. Clovis Ave.
(just north of Alluvial Ave.)



This popular annual event has something for everyone.

- Exhibits
- Garden Tours
- Kids' dish garden project—make and take
- Breakfast and lunch available for purchase
- Food Vendors
- Plant sale

Garden presentations start at 10AM—Expert presenters including Fresno Bee garden writer Elinor Teague

Donation \$5 –CBG members and children: free
Details--<http://clovisbotanicalgarden.org/events/>

•March 19 9AM-2PM—Low-Water Use Landscaping with Native Plants -FREE

Intermountain Nursery
30443 Auberry Road
Prather, CA 93651

- Find out what will do well at your location and elevation.
- Benefits to wildlife from growing native plants.
- Plant lists and sample garden designs will be made available.

Details--www.intermountainnursery.com/

CONSERVATION REPORT

CALIFORNIA HERBARIA

--Jeanne Larson, Conservation Chair



The January FREMONTIA article on the Consortium of California Herbaria does not include the California State University Fresno (CSUF) Herbarium. This oversight is very unfortunate as the Central Sierra holds species not generally collected by early and some later botanists. Most plant collectors of the late 1880's and early 1900's came as far south as Yosemite and as far north as Sequoia, leaving a void in the south central Sierra. This is evidenced by the *Carpenteria* mystery. Why was *Carpenteria* growing in English gardens while no one knew where in California it was endemic to?

When CSUF moved to its present site, it had a Biology Department recognized as one of the best in the State. During that time, the Herbarium at CSUF was continually being enlarged and it was a hard fight to find ample space for the valuable plant specimens. With all the Natural Science that is all around us, it does not seem to be an important part of the current curriculum at CSUF.

FIELD REPORT

FINE-TUNED COEVOLUTION BETWEEN PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

--Jane Pritchard

Long-billed hummingbirds can reach in and guzzle more nectar from *Heliconia tortuosa*, a tropical plant with tube-like flowers, than can shorter-billed hummingbirds. That prompts the plant to reproduce. The plant accepts the majority of pollen from birds with bills that match its flowers' shape.

A study used 148 pollinators from 6 hummingbird species and 1 butterfly species. Not all pollinators enticed the plants to reproduce. The most successful were 2 hummingbird species with long, curved bills.

Next, nectar was pipetted out of hand-pollinated flowers. Flowers grew more pollen tubes as more nectar was withdrawn, suggesting that the plants use a bird's guzzle rate to recognize preferred pollinators.

Tagged long-billed hummingbirds travel farther than do tagged short-billed hummingbirds. Pollen from a long way off is unlikely to be related and reduces inbreeding. Recognizing pollinators lets the plants reproduce only when birds bring pollen from unrelated *H. tortuosa* flowers.

Every living thing has coevolved with its environment. How complicated things must be!

CHINA CREEK REPORT

--Warren Shaw

In January, rain was predicted and the morning was chilly, so we were very pleasantly surprised when a crew of 13 or 14 arrived (we lost count), eager to get to work. So we did. We finished clearing the area around the entrance, and you can now see the kiosk as you drive down Smith Avenue.

Also exciting was the placement of our new trail signs, complete with QR codes at ALL of the 13 stations. We'll continue to offer brochures at the kiosk, but hope the signs will offer at least basic information about the Park's Native Plants to casual walkers and others who may not have picked them up at the entrance. Special thanks to Thelma Valdez for the signs!



The work day in February started with the snarl of chainsaws as a crew worked to clear the trail of a large fallen Valley Oak branch. Others (including two students from Pacific U, who joined us for the day) searched for Thistle rosettes and gleefully interrupted their life cycles. Madeleine became so engrossed in uprooting Milk Thistle plants and feeding them to a neighbor's cows, she failed to come in for break (an odd fact: cows will not eat Milk Thistle when it's standing, but cut, dig or spray it and they eat it with relish. Weird). We also made a good stack of cages in preparation of protecting seedling Valley Oaks in the grazing areas, as we're expecting cattle to be brought in soon. In addition, we inspected and photographed grievous reported damage to the fences on the east side of the "Sanctuary" by the irrigation company or PG&E (or both).

(Finding damage aplenty we've sent photos and complaints to the County, and met with a rep from the water district, who offered to help — a little — with protecting the Sanctuary with piled brush; something to work on in March).

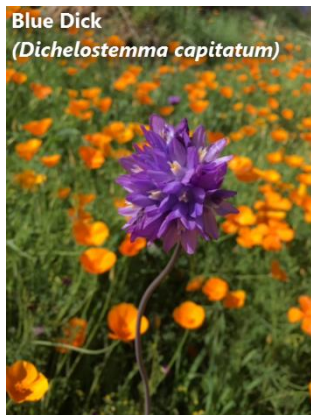
Despite the bad news about the fence, it was a perfect early spring day. Blue Dicks and Birdseye Gilia are up, and other blossoms will be out soon. Our April Work Party will be Saturday, April 16 from 8-12. Please join us if you can.

To get to the Park, take 180 to Smith or Oliver; turn south, about 1/4 mile to the intersection of Smith and Rainbow; follow Smith south about 1/4 mile south to the Park entrance.

March 2016 Sequoia Chapter CNPS



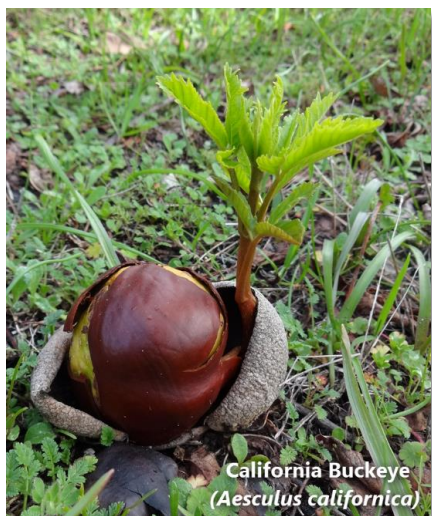
Witch's Butter
(*Dacrymyces palmatus*)



Blue Dick
(*Dichelostemma capitatum*)



China Creek
(Milk thistle for the cows)



California Buckeye
(*Aesculus californica*)



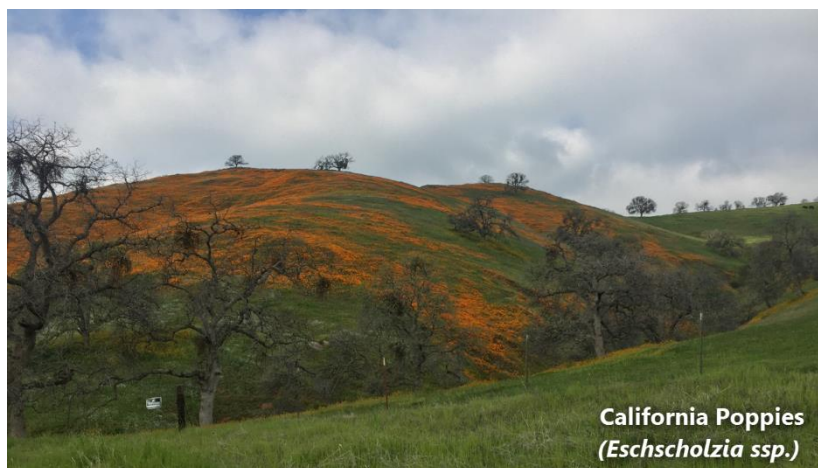
Lupinus arborescens and
Salvia brandegii



California Poppies
(*Eschscholzia ssp.*)



California Poppies
(*Eschscholzia ssp.*)



California Poppies
(*Eschscholzia ssp.*)



Apricot Mallow
(*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)



Manzanita Lester Rowntree
(*Arctostaphylos*)



Spider Lupine
(*Lupinus benthamii*)

Photo credits:

Susan Jensen: Spider Lupine, Blue Dick (Big Creek Road and Pine Flat Lake)

Aaron Turner: California Buckeye, Poppies (near Pine Flat Reservoir), Poppies (Finegold), Witch's Butter

Thelma Valdez: Manzanita Lester Rowntree

Warren Shaw: Apricot Mallow
Madeleine Mitchell: Milk thistle and cows, Lupinus arborescens and salvia brandegii

Greg Seay: Poppies (Sample Road near Pitmann Hill)

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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.

Next Newsletter: April 2016

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday, April 1**



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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

March 2016



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS



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Apricot Mallow

--*Madeleine Mitchell* madeleine43@comcast.net

I've just come in from weeding the front native garden. The mini meadow is densely planted and hardly any mulch is showing, but there are still some small weeds. I do not spray for weed control except where weeds come up on pavement, between the adobe pavers and driveway. There is a large field just 1/2 a block down the street and I don't even know the names of all of the weeds I've been pulling there. Of course the next door neighbor has weeds, too. I usually pull the ones adjacent to my yard. They ignore that area because that's where the trash cans are stored. Reedley doesn't have an ordinance like Fresno does.

I also found that the Apricot Mallow that was so vigorous last summer has given me many babies. I'll pot them up and they'll be available to anyone who has room for this grayish shrub. The "Valley Violet" Ceanothus is just beautiful and of course the State Flower, California Poppies are starting to bloom. The State Grass, *Stipa* (*Nassella*) *pulchra* is also blooming. The common name is Purple Needle Grass. Let me know if you would like the Apricot Mallow.