

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



April 2021
www.cnps-sequoia.org

CONTENTS

1
Here We Grow Again

2
Introduction

2
Member Report and
Invitation

3
China Creek Report I

4
China Creek Report II

4
Announcements

6
Events and Resources

7
Membership and
Officers

8
Announcement

HERE WE GROW AGAIN

--Reagen O'Leary

In February we gained two Hospitality chairs for our Chapter, Wendy Murillo and Kathy Yamamoto. And in March we gained an Outreach coordinator Kristen (Kris) Stone, as well as a new Field Trip coordinator, Kristofer (Kris) Robison. I want to thank Jane Pritchard for her service to us through the years, although she's not getting away that easy as she will still be involved in our future events and field trips.

All new board members are very excited to be a part of our chapter's leadership and some are new to CNPS! Here's a little bit of information about each of them:

Wendy was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. She found biology/ecology during her time at Fresno City College and fell in love with the subject. Wendy is the first in her family to graduate from college and is now a biological consultant.

Kathy is a retired pediatric physical therapist who enjoys hiking, skiing, traveling, grandkids, and native plants. She is a regular volunteer at China Creek Park and enjoys being around people with plant knowledge.

Kris Robison is a biologist with over 14 years of experience studying California's flora and fauna. He gained experience organizing field trips while serving as president of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He has a professional background in native habitat restoration and avian ecology and is addicted to growing native plants.

Kris Stone has experience with public outreach and is pursuing a degree in geology. She is outgoing and has a passion for pollinators. And a benefit for us, she loves social media and has already set up a Sequoia Chapter Facebook page! Check it out at www.facebook.com/cnpssequoia.



[California Native Plant Society - Sequoia Chapter](#)

California Native Plant Society - Sequoia Chapter. 21 likes · 13 talking about this. Serving Madera, Fresno, and Kings counties, our mission is to conserve California native plants and their natural...
www.facebook.com

I'm in awe of the new leadership and broad skill sets we all have. I truly believe that we will make a cohesive team. I'm looking forward to the great things we will do for native plants and our communities in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Meet the Conservation Chair, Michael Kunz

I have a deep personal taproot in the local soil: when my family moved to Clovis around 1960, the city limit sign near our home proclaimed a population of five thousand. Though I have been transplanted into several Central Valley flowerbeds since then, our family has become well-established in the Huntington Boulevard neighborhood of Fresno. I returned to this local habitat in 1987 to be in the biology department at little Fresno Pacific College. As the university grew over the years, I have been able to focus on teaching environmental biology.



Growing up, my parents never took me to Disneyland. Instead, our family spent time in much happier places like the mountains, desert, and coast. Though all those places nourished my soul, heaven was hiking and packing in the High Sierra. There my gaze eventually turned from the broad vistas to what John Muir called the “plant people” that kept me company on the trail. I am thankful for that moment of enlightenment in graduate school when I chose to focus on plant ecology. Few things are more fascinating and essential than intimately connecting with our fellow earth-travelers who make this planet a habitable home for the rest of us. I take as sound advice John Muir’s reflection on education: “This was my ‘method of study’: I drifted about from rock to rock, from stream to stream, from grove to grove. When I discovered a new plant, I sat down beside it for a minute or a day, to make its acquaintance and to try to hear what it had to say.”

Like many CNPS members, I am heartened by hosting native plant-people in my garden. Beauty is not just a visual attribute, but flourishes where we live gratefully, gracefully, and graciously. Knowing that I am enhancing my urban ecology while conserving water and sustaining birds, bugs, and other critters makes the garden experience that much more beautiful.

Though I have been a CNPS member for decades, I am honored now to serve on the Sequoia Chapter board as the conservation chair.

MEMBER REPORT AND INVITATION

--Chris Velez

Helping Heal Communities

On September 4th 2020, a wildfire started near Shaver Lake. Little did we know that this would become one of California's biggest fires to date. Many homes were destroyed and many families displaced. In the aftermath of this destruction, several nonprofits have popped up to fill the needs of the community and begin the healing and rebuilding process. The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund, The People Food & Land Foundation, along with the partnership



between the Sierra Resource Conservation District and Intermountain Nursery have been hosting community work days for post fire erosion control and stabilization. The goal is to train volunteers on best practices for simple erosion control. There have been 6 work days since November 2020 and many hands have contributed to cover many acres. We are now reaching out to our CNPS Sequoia Members to come help local communities heal. With spring on the way, we can help CNPS with their Fire Followers Campaign while helping our local families and forests in the process. On the last workday, there were 37 different plant species found coming up through the ashes. These plant surveys always help to restore hope and reassurance, and add a smile to the property owners who have lost so much. The location and time of the next work day will soon be announced. If interested in attending the erosion control work days, contact rfvolunteers@sierrahistorical.org.

CHINA CREEK REPORTS I & II

--Warren Shaw

Work Party I – March 6

The day started with the unhappy discovery that we had been robbed! All nine of our custom-made oak starting pots had had their carefully planted acorns removed, presumably by a larcenous squirrel.

The rest of the day went better: a big crew dug hundreds of thistle rosettes. Another crew, volunteers from Provost and Pritchard (P&P), completely removed the old fencing, which included barbed wire, posts, and even braces, from something approaching 1/4 of a mile in the northwest corner of the west leg of the Park. This was an area once grazed under an expired contract, which we plan to restore to a more natural condition, including planting started Valley oaks. (Since our attempts at getting some started were frustrated by the thief, we may try direct planting.)

We also checked the entire trail, finding all signs intact and needing no more than a cleaning from the results of birds using these as perches. Attempts, however, to remove graffiti from oak bark by scraping with a knife blade and “whipping” with a line trimmer proved ineffective. We may have to paint.

At break time (snacks and beverages provided by Wendy, new Hospitality co-chair), our botanists, mainly Reagen, did a plant ID talk, covering a variety of finds, both non-native and native, including an early-blooming buttercup. What fun!



Photos by Laura Castro



After break, some went back to weeding, the P&P folks finished up the fence removal. John and Gene herded escaped calves back into the southeast pasture and then worked to patch the broken fence through which they had escaped. Jane cut some Sycamore branches to try starting, and Reagen and others analyzed the newly unfenced area for its weed population and restoration needs. It was a busy but pleasant and relaxed spring morning for all.

During our second March work party (two in in March and April when weeding is easy; July and August off),

which would be Saturday, March 20, we planned on, once again, attacking the weeds, getting more plants identified, perhaps planting some oaks, maintaining the trail, and doing whatever else needed doing. It would be another beautiful spring morning in the Park.



Work Party II – March 20

Another gorgeous spring day, another great crew! Friday night was rainy, and we were a little concerned there might be lingering showers Saturday morning but were relieved when it dawned bright and clear. The day started with a special treat; we saw that the palomino mare in the pasture next to our container had finally given birth and was accompanied by a cute, leggy buckskin foal.

John and Mary arrived early, built a new ramp for the container, backed the tractor out, and loaded up tools and chairs for the day's work. Chris divided the folks that assembled into groups: one to weed in the north



pasture, one to plant deergrass and bush lupine brought by Janet and Jane from Scout Island, and one to repair the south brace in the fence along the pavement.

Kathy and Janet provided treats and beverages for our 10 o'clock break and Reagen talked about the plants she had collected: both native and non-native. After break, the crews went back to work. So we interrupted the life cycles of hundreds, or maybe thousands, of weeds, restored some plants we believe would once have been common in the Park, and built a solid new brace in the fence, complete with new chain and

padlock, which we hope will help keep the cattle where they belong. It was a day of satisfying accomplishment, but also a refreshing morning to spend in a beautiful natural place.

Our next work party, the first of two in April, will be Saturday, April 10, from 8am to 12pm. We'll be doing more weeding, more planting, trail maintenance, and maybe getting started on our milling project. Our second work party will be Saturday, April 24, from 8am to 12pm. Please come join and meet the Sequoia Chapter board on April 24!!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Chris Winchell

Don't Forget: Creek Fire CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt in Jose Basin, May 8-9, 2021

The Sequoia Chapter, in coordination with the Sierra National Forest, is hosting a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) in Jose Basin within the 380,000-acre Creek Fire burn area. This will be a unique opportunity for people of all botanical skill levels to get to know and document first-hand



-Mariposa pussypaws-

nearly a dozen CNPS California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) species, while also providing valuable data to Forest Service land managers and CNPS's rare plant program. The RPTH program has been a great way for volunteers to gather vastly more information than public lands botanists can obtain on their own. More information on the RPTH program can be found online at:

https://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps_rpth_manual-2012.pdf

To register for this event or if you have any questions, contact Chris Winchell at cjwinchell@gmail.com or Joanna Clines at joanna.clines@usda.gov or 559-760-3618. Further details will be provided (directions to meeting place, photo guides, etc.) as the date nears.



Meet the CNPS Sequoia Chapter Board

When: Saturday, **April 24th** from 10am to 12pm

Where: **China Creek Park**

Directions: From Fresno take Hwy 180 east. In Centerville, make a right on Oliver Ave. Make a slight right onto Rainbow Ave. Then, make a left at the first cross-street, Smith Ave. Go through the open gate and down a one lane road until you see the gate. Park either on the side of the road or in the additional parking area that will be marked by signs.

A tour of areas of the Park will occur after the meet and greet.

You are more than welcome to explore the beautiful China Creek Park on your own.

Masks and physical distancing will be required.
Hand sanitizer will be available.



Beautiful Basics for Your Garden:
Grasses, Sages, Coyote Brush, & Sagebrush
Part II: Grasses, Sagebrush, & Coyote Brush

Useful foundational native plants the deer don't like

Join us!

Monday, May 3, 2021
7PM - 8:30PM
via Zoom

California Native Plant Society
Regional Chapter

Native Plants Live Here

--Leslie Lipton

Our next Horticulture meeting will be Part II of the "Beautiful Basics" series, this time focusing on native grasses, sagebrush, and coyote brush in the garden.

Part I, in which we geeked out on CA native sages for our gardens, is now available online at

<http://www.nativeplantslivehere.com/meetings--resources.html>.

Please RSVP for the May meeting at <http://www.nativeplantslivehere.com/meeting-rsvp.html>

EVENTS AND WEBINARS

•California Native Plant Week Saturday April 17 – Saturday, April 24



- CNPS invites you to cultivate native plants, act for native plants, restore native plants, and enjoy native plants.
- Each day of California Native Plant Week, CNPS will unveil a 360° native plant experience online.

For more information go to:
https://www.cnps.org/california-native-plant-week?utm_source=Marchenews21&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=growcareeverywhere

•Wildflower Meadow Review Spring 2021

- Review best examples of wildflower fields in your area by walking through them and grading them with a point scale.

For details call Craig Dremann at (650) 325-7333

•Earth Day Tour at Clovis Botanical Garden Thursday April 22, 10:00am

- Sustainable landscaping methods
- Limited to 10 people

For reservations call Anne Clemons at 559-493-8052

•National Public Gardens Day Friday, May 15, 10:00am

- Enjoy a garden tour.
- Limited to 10 people

For reservations call Anne Clemons at 559-493-8052

•Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates featuring California Natives

Tuesday, April 20, 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

- Presented by Saxon Holt of Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
- Will define summer-dry climates, followed by a presentation of plants and gardens up and down the west coast.

Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members

For more information go to:
<https://nativeplants.org/events-and-classes/classes-field-trips-workshops/>

ART CONTEST

•Forever Forests Art Contest Submissions Now – May 17

- Contest includes seven categories aligned with the seven FOREVER concepts and phenomena: Fire, Old Growth, Rhythm, Ecology, Variety, Energy, and Resilience
- Select a FOREVER concept and use your artistic interpretation. All levels of artwork and media are encouraged.

For details go to https://www.cnps.org/forever-forests?utm_source=Marchenews21&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=foreverforests

RESOURCES

•Calscape Garden Planner

- Find the perfect native plants for your garden in just 4 questions.

For details go to <https://gardenplanner.calscape.org/>

•Weed Photo Gallery

- At UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program website.
- Get help identifying weeds, including weed seedlings.
- While on the site, be sure to look for other name variations if you don't see your weed in the list. Example: Yellow star-thistle is listed as Starthistle, yellow.
- For details go to http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/weeds_intro.html

Membership

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information contact Cherith Drescher at echerith@gmail.com.

The Sequoia Chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings Counties.

Thanks to new and renewing members.

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 us" or "BE A MEMBER" button. You'll be allowed to choose the Sequoia Chapter during the process.

Next Newsletter: May 2021

Send newsletter entries or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com.

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Wednesday, April 28, 2021.**



SEQUOIA CHAPTER CONTACTS

Role	Name and Email
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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 Society activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, *Carpenteria*.

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

- Student, Fixed Income \$25
- Individual \$50
- Plant Lover \$120
- Supporter \$500
- Patron \$1,000
- Benefactor \$2,500
- Steward \$5,000
- Guardian \$10,000

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

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 2021

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

c/o Laura Castro • P.O. Box 414 • Fresno, CA 93708

ANNOUNCEMENT



Join PlantRight this spring for their 9th annual Spring Nursery Survey! Participation in the 2021 Spring Nursery Survey is easy, educational, and fun! Register to volunteer on their website PlantRight.org.

To conduct survey, volunteers will:

1. Sign up to survey a store in their county
2. Download required survey materials
3. Visit retail store(s) you have signed up for (following COVID-19 safety protocols) and record information about invasive plants sold there
4. Submit data and photographs to PlantRight online

The survey will be open for the following dates:

March 8-June 30, 2021

The survey process takes about 2.5 hours to complete. Volunteers can get started by creating an account and RSVP'ing to participate on their website. After completing the short training, you will have access to the survey materials.