

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



May 2021
www.cnps-sequoia.org

CONTENTS

1
Membership

1
China Creek Report I

2
China Creek Report II

2 & 3
Board Member
Introductions

4
Events and
Workshops

5
Membership and
Officers

6
Message From the
Chapter President

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Information

Is your membership information up to date? If you have corrections or additions to your contact information please let Cherith Drescher know at sequoia.cnps@gmail.com.

Perennial Membership

Give a gift that goes further for native plants and skip the hassle of membership renewal deadlines! Set up your automated monthly membership, starting at \$5/month. To sign up go to <https://www.cnps.org/perennial-membership>.

CHINA CREEK REPORTS I & II

--Warren Shaw

Work Party I – April 10

At 8:00 it was chilly enough that a vest or sweatshirt felt good. By 12:00 some of us had worked up a sweat – so another lovely spring day at China Creek. Once again, we mostly worked on weeding, concentrating on the north pasture area, primarily hand digging thistle rosettes, but also spraying a little herbicide on an area too thick to dig. We also did a little fence and gate repair, and watered new plantings.

A conversation with our grazing contractee revealed that the cattle were being moved north, but that, sadly, there was one heifer who was apparently dying after a difficult birth. He promised to take care of whatever resulted from that situation.

At break time, instead of our usual plant talk, forty-year Park neighbor and caretaker, Hank Urbach shared his knowledge of the history and political background of the Park. What a treat!

The second April work party will occur on Saturday April 24, when we'll pursue our usual weeding and maintenance goals until break time, but then will celebrate Earth Day with a 'Meet Your Board Members' reception for the second half of the morning (see Work Party II on page 2 for more detail).



--Warren Shaw

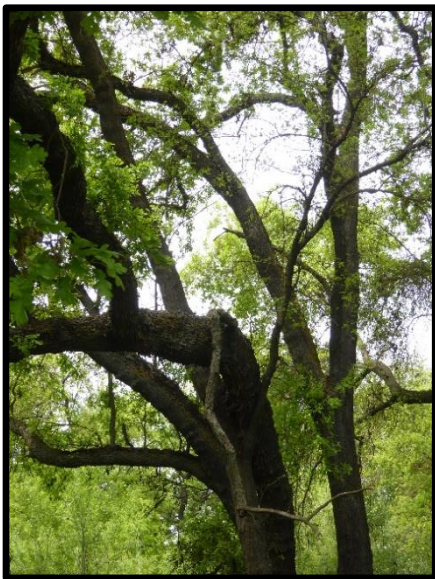
Photos by Laura Castro

Work Party II – April 24

The day started with bad news: we discovered our Park gate lock, which had mysteriously disappeared earlier in the week, had been tossed in the weeds. It was broken in a way that made it obvious it had been forced open with a pry bar or something, not cut, as is more common. To compound the mystery, the north gate lock to the south pasture had been similarly mistreated. We may never know who did it or why, but at least it appears that no other damage was done nor anything taken.



The rest of the day went better. John nearly finished mowing the trail, though the “Oak Woodland Loop” was so overgrown that he wasn’t sure where to mow. We’re determined to get this section more clearly marked so it can be finished in May.



Dedicated volunteers watered recently planted native grasses in the southwest leg of the Park, and removal of yellow star-thistle and other invasive exotic thistles continued in the north leg.

The Chapter board members, many new, were very well represented for our Earth Day, ‘Meet Your Board Members’ event, and a lot of good information disseminated. We’ll be taking advantage of the training and suggestions offered in our future work.

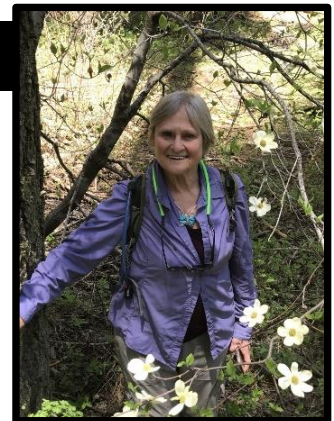
It was, all in all, a beautiful day to be alive, enjoying and celebrating our Earth.

Our May work party (just one this month) will be Saturday, May 15, from 8am to 12pm. The *Anemopsis* should be in full, glorious bloom by then, and worth a trip to the Park all by itself. However, we will also be pursuing our usual restoration and educational goals, as well, and we hope you can join the fun.

BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Meet the Membership Chair, Cherith Drescher Merson

I have been an annual CNPS member for about four years—finally went Perennial this year to avoid having to remember to renew. I don’t recall how I discovered CNPS. I think it had something to do with Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). I maintain my membership with CNPS for the programs and workshops such as CEQA impact analysis and mitigation studies, or such events as the San Joaquin Desert talk last week. I am very interested in the China Creek project, but health issues keep getting in the way of my participation. About two years ago, I decided to help with membership. The chapter was meeting at the Shaw family cabin in Shaver and we were discussing what needs to be done and who could help—and it seemed like the right thing to do.



The San Joaquin Valley was my childhood home, where I spent quality time on my grandparents' farm. Those days were pre-California Aqueduct, so our farm was near the edge of the western San Joaquin desert (home to tumble weeds and jackrabbits), which stretched all the way to the Coast Range. The amazing oak lands started a little to the north, on the floodplain of the Kings River. In the 60s, I left the Valley to go to college and law school in San Francisco, but my real home never changed. I came back to be a Public Defender in Fresno where I worked about 20 years, but I never forgot the San Joaquin Valley as it when I was growing up. To see the desert irrigated for farms and the farmland paved over for urban development has been an unhappy experience.

My journey to native plants came with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The development of groundwater regulation changed my grief to hope for solutions to the unsustainable results brought on by our over-ambitious agricultural and municipal development. Clearly, there will be farmland abandoned for lack of water—bringing opportunities to restore the native desert and to make room for *Quercus lobata* to thrive again over the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin.



Winter snow, summer water for the SJV as seen over several mountain ranges to the east, descending Telescope Peak in the Panamint Range of Death Valley. -Photo by Cherith Drescher-

I am currently a student at Fresno State working on my Master of Science degree in Water Resource Management. That is why native plants have become important to me. There is no longer water sufficient to support the landscape styles of England as practiced in the cities, or the water-intense tree crops overtaking west-side farms. This is California. Forty million people live here; there is not enough water for everybody to have everything.



Meet the Outreach Chair, Kristen Stone



I am excited to be the Sequoia Chapter's new Outreach Chair! I have outreach experience with Sierra Foothills Conservancy as a docent, as an interpretive guide for the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, and I am a certified California Naturalist. I grew up in Oakhurst, California and have been living in Fresno for five years.

I am currently a student working on my degree in Geology and have a full time job at the National Ecological Observation Network working in the Botany and Aquatics departments. I also have a six-month-old Shiba Inu puppy named Poppy, after the California poppy!

Despite my busy schedule, I wanted to get involved in the Chapter because I love to inspire wonder in others. Getting people to see the magic in all that surrounds us in every bird, spider, flower, and rock is what brought me to the Sequoia Chapter, and I hope to, with the help of the Chapter, show people how beautiful and delicate the ecosystem that is supported by our native plants is and how they can do their part to protect and restore it.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

•Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) 2021 Annual Fundraising Event Virtual Kickoff Party Friday, May 14, 6pm to 8pm

- Event will feature guest speakers, live and silent auction, and the premier of SFC's new documentary short showcasing the spring bloom at some of SFC's conserved lands and a live interview with local film maker Jeff Aiello.
- Registered guests will receive registration access with ticket purchase to guided outdoor experiences that will take place May 15-16.
- All in-person events will adhere to current CDC health and safety regulations.



For more information go to:
<https://sierrafoothill.org/2021-annual-fundraising-event/>

•SFC Silent Action Bids are open until 12pm, Thursday May 13th

- All auction proceeds benefit SFC's mission of saving natural lands forever.

For more information go to:
<https://sierrafoothill.org/2021-auction/?bblinkid=250859055&bbemailid=31142108&bbejrid=1954682448>

•Calflora's 7th Annual May Photo Contest

- Any wild California plant photos uploaded to Calflora in May 2020 qualify for the photo contest.
- Take new photos or use photos from bygone days and added them to the contest.

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/photo-contest-underway-.html?soid=1101318247526&aid=EPKNtv15cFM>



•Double Your Impact – Join the Calflora Matching Gift Challenge! A Virtual Fundraiser

- If you make a donation by May 16th, Calflora partners will match your gift dollar-for-dollar.
- Calflora relies on your donations to keep this incredible plant resource running.
- Their fundraising goal is \$32,000.
- Your gift will assist Calflora in sharing tools with a wider audience, improve Observer Pro for data collection in the field, improve the plant range algorithm, create more mobile-friendly Calflora web pages, help users ID plants, and support documentation of plants across the state.

For more information go to:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=XEGWPDLTNMYBG

•California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) 14th Annual Field Day at Hedgerow Farms Friday, June 11, 8:30am to 3:30pm

Online Event

- CNGA is partnering with Hedgerow Farms to offer an opportunity to learn about new perspectives on grassland restoration.
- Will take you through the restoration process: from wildland seed collection through farm production to tours of a restored field site.

Cost: \$50 member/\$65 non-member

For more information go to: <https://cnga.org/event-4127334>



Meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*) harvested and drying
-Photo by Michele Ranier, Hedgerow Farms -

Membership

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

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

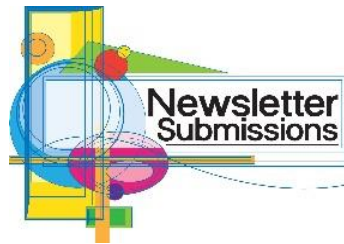
Thanks to new and renewing members.

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: June/July 2021

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

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Monday, July 26, 2021.**



SEQUOIA CHAPTER CONTACTS

Role	Name and Email
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Secretary	Kate Ludwig ludwigke27@gmail.com
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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.

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

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

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 2021

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Sequoia Chapter Members!

We (Sequoia Board) want to hear from you, meet you, and get to know you! With today's technology there are all sorts of ways to express your thoughts and opinions, but there is no better way to make an impact except through good ol' in person meet ups. Now that (fingers crossed) we are coming out of the "black hole" of 2020, we can look forward to actually seeing our friends in person and making new friends.



Our meet the board members event on April 24th was a good first start. This was the first time many of our board members have met one another in person, and the China Creek Project volunteers were able to discuss event ideas with the board.

This month (May 8-9) we are hosting our first Rare Plant Treasure Hunt where not only will data be collected for the conservation of rare species, but where another great opportunity to meet new people and make friends will be afforded. We will host more treasure hunts, so if you're bummed that you couldn't make this one, there will be more to come. Stay tuned.

We are currently in the planning phases of prioritizing our next events, and we would love to receive input from you. What sort of Sequoia Chapter events would you like to attend? A hike through the sequoias? Garden tours? Guest speaker talks? Board meetings? Other ideas? If you'd like to provide suggestions please email us at cnpsequoiachapter@gmail.com.

--Reagen O'Leary