

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



January 2020
www.cnps-sequoia.org

CONTENTS

1

Grant Received

2

China Creek Report

3

Book Review

4

Classes and Events

5

Membership and
Officers

6

In Your Garden

GRANT RECEIVED

Rose Foundation Grant Serendipity

--Warren Shaw

Last fall, as the work crew at China Creek was taking a break for coffee and muffins, we were discussing how we were going to manage when longtime Park guardian, trail mower, provider of storage space, and all-around good neighbor and benefactor, Hank Urbach moved. Volunteer Sam Canales suggested we apply for a grant from the Rose Foundation, describing the application as a simple one-page document. Later she emailed contact information and encouragement to give it a try.

The idea of applying for grants has been suggested before, but we've always been intimidated by the application process, and on the one previous occasion when we applied, the process was tremendously complicated and time-consuming, and we didn't come even close to getting anything.

This, however, sounded like something we could do, and we relaxed until 2 days before the deadline (a mistake). When we finally got started on the application, we found it was indeed pretty short and simple, but were confused by some of the instructions (not being especially adept at computer processes) and the requests for Chapter financial information were more searching than expected. We had to beleaguer Chapter Treasurer Thelma Valdez for an emergency report, without time for much detail.

So we submitted the application just under the deadline, knowing some parts were pretty sketchy, and with little expectation of success.

Surprise! We were awarded \$3000 of the \$5000 we had requested. We had asked for money to buy mowing equipment, a shed in which to store it (and other materials and equipment), and to hire a consultant to write a scientific restoration plan. The Rose Foundation contract specified funds were to be used for a mower and shed, obviously providing nothing for professional consulting.

So, while we were enormously grateful to the Foundation for the award, we were feeling a little bereft of consulting help. The Sequoia Chapter China Creek Project has been in progress since 2004. In the last 15 years, we've devoted thousands of person-hours to weed abatement, fence-building, trail design and maintenance, seedling oak caging, and so on, but the work has always been organized on the basis of immediate apparent need, rather than on a scientific restoration plan.

Amazingly, the cavalry appeared on the horizon! Just a few days after receiving the news of the grant — and its restrictions — we got a call from Reagen O'Leary with the news that she and her friends Sarah and Jesse Bahm had volunteered to write a restoration plan for the Park. This spectacular coincidence was almost unbelievable, but, of course, most welcome. We have since met at the Park, walked the trail and outlined our needs, so a scientific restoration plan is in actual progress. Woohoo!

-representation only-



CHINA CREEK REPORT

November 2019 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

Oddly, plans for this work party were somewhat upset by an unexpected influx of strong young volunteers, and help from the Kings River Conservancy (KRC). We want to say quickly that we need and appreciate all the help we can get; it was just that we weren't ready to take full advantage of these resources. We recovered.

The young volunteers were students from Fresno Pacific University under the aegis of Professor Michael Kunz, who requires some public service of his students, thus providing us with much-needed youthful strength and energy. We also had volunteers from KRC. We stuttered a little but did find useful things for them all to do.

We had planned to delegate a team to fish water hyacinth plants out of Collins/China Creek at the east and south edges of the Park, and arrived prepared with long-handled tools and boots to accomplish this, but it turned out KRC's weed abatement

contractors had already dealt with those plants. They had also mostly dealt with a considerable stand of yellow starthistle (YST) near the southeast corner of the Park that Gene and I had discovered while meeting with Mike Bowman of Cal Fire a month or so ago. These plants had apparently sprouted and grown AFTER our spring work in that area, when we had left it clear of YST. Discouraging.

All this unexpected help didn't leave us with nothing to do, of course. We rounded up and staged rings and posts from cages removed from seedling oaks that had grown beyond the need for protection, and we dug and bagged stinkwort (our "new" weed) and YST.



©2008 Keir Morse - stinkwort; invasive-



©2010 Moorea Biocode -water hyacinth; invasive-

We failed to get to the planned treatment of Ailanthus sprouts, or checking the trail for maintenance needs, but we did take time for a planning meeting. We were joined by Vernon Crowder, Executive director of KRC, and were able to cover a considerable agenda. Most of the items concerned how we can compensate for the eventual departure of longtime Park neighbor, guardian and maintainer, Hank Urbach, who is moving for family health reasons. We've got some really big shoes to fill, for which we'll provide more details and an appeal for help in the near future.

For now we'll just wish you all a happy new year. We'll be starting the year with a work party on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 9am to 12pm, and we'd love to see you there.

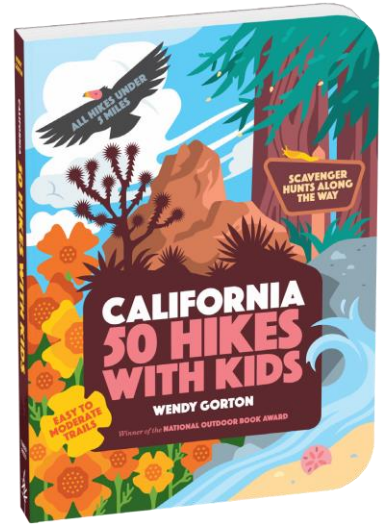
BOOK REVIEW

California: 50 Hikes with Kids by Wendy Gorton

--Review by Warren Shaw

California: 50 Hikes with Kids is a great book for teachers, parents, and grandparents who want to get kids off the sofa and away from screens for a while. After our first look at it we ordered a copy to give to our son and daughter-in-law, parents of our lively six-year-old granddaughter.

The author, Wendy Gorton, has impeccable credentials and wide experience in exposing kids to Nature, and though, apparently from her bio, has no children of her own, has been a teacher and an aunty, and a professional guide, and has extensive understanding of kids and wonderful memories of exploring natural places from her own childhood.



She provides detailed information for 50 hikes, complete with maps, tips on things to watch for, restroom locations, places to get treats to sweeten the experience, wonderful photos, and in general a wealth of information for hikes ranging from San Diego north to Crescent City.

Just a couple of caveats. First, though the author does recognize the tediousness for kids of the travel time to reach many of the sites she recommends, and even suggests travel games and distractions to keep kids occupied during those times, we think this problem could have been highlighted a little more. For example, hike number 22, “Do a 360 on top of Sentinel Dome,” provides a map starting at the Glacier Point road, instructions for getting to the trailhead, trail length, elevation gain, time to explore, and other useful details. It also presents a “Scavenger Hunt” detailing geological and historical points of interest and some nice photos. However, details about how long it would take to get to the starting point are not provided. The Yosemite gate is 90 miles from Fresno—the nearest big town—and it’s a considerable drive from the gate to the Glacier Point turnoff. Of course, the trip needn’t start in Fresno, but no matter where one starts, there are going to be many hours of travel time.

Second, an emphasis on gathering specimens for examination from where they’ve fallen on the ground rather than picking from live sources was made; however, collecting is generally discouraged and even strictly forbidden in some places. Kids generally love collecting and do want to touch things, and while some collection is harmless, it needs to be done carefully, which we feel is something the book could have been more specific about.

These concerns aside, we feel *California: 50 Hikes with Kids* is a book a great many teachers, parents, and grandparents (and kids) will enjoy and find useful, and we wish we’d had one when our kids were younger.

ISBN: 978-1-60469-870-1

nurture a love of
nature on the trail!

Upcoming Events and Classes

January 25, Bald Eagle Hike at Millerton Saturday 8:30am – 12:00pm

Meet Location: River Center, 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno, CA 93730

- Celebrate the return of the migratory Bald Eagles. (Eagle sightings are not guaranteed.)
- Easy 2 to 3 mile hike to view these magnificent birds.
- Bring long pants, closed toed shoes, sunscreen, binoculars, water, etc.
- Event will occur rain or shine.
- No dogs.

Cost: Free

Information:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/Gardening_Classes/

February 1, Composting Saturday, 9:30am – 11:00am

Location: please confirm it will be at Garden of the Sun, 1750 N Winery Ave, Fresno, CA 93703



- Learn to turn your garden clippings and kitchen scraps into valuable compost.

- Learn the benefits of starting your own compost pile, what you can and what

you shouldn't add to your pile, how to fit composting into your lifestyle, and ways you can use the finished product around your yard to improve your soil.

Cost: Free

Information:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/Gardening_Classes/

February 8, Under the Spell of Succulents Saturday, 9:30am – 11:00am

Location: Fig Garden Library, 3071 W. Bullard Avenue 93711

- Learn successful tips for growing succulents in your garden.
- Learn fun crafts that can be made with succulents.



February 8, Under the Spell of Succulents (continued)

Cost: Free

Information:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/Gardening_Classes/

February 8 – 9, Introduction to Lichen Identification and Ecology Saturday – Sunday, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Location: UC Berkeley and Marin Municipal Water District Field Site

- This two-day workshop will focus on developing skills for identifying common Bay Area macrolichens to genus.
- Will begin with an introductory classroom session covering basic lichen anatomy and terminology.
- The rest of class time will be divided between field trips to nearby natural areas and lab time.
- Students will learn to recognize and distinguish between pollution-tolerant lichen communities and more pristine communities.
- Personal vehicle or carpool required for field trip.

Cost: \$275/\$305

Information: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>

February 20 – 23, Charismatic Microflora: The Ecology and Management of Biological Soil Crusts Thursday – Sunday, 4:00pm – 12:00pm

Location: Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx, CA; located at Soda Springs on the northwestern edge of the Mojave National Preserve

- This workshop will cover the basics, including what a biocrust is, what they are composed of, how they are identified, where they are found, how they survive, their role in the ecosystem, and how they can be managed.
- Classroom lecture will be combined with use of microscopes and field visits.

Cost: \$75

Information: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>



Mike Baird 2009 -Desert Studies Center-

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

Thanks to new and renewing members.

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

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: February 2020

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, January 24, 2020.**



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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
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- 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

January 2020

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

IN YOUR GARDEN

Tips for Success in Moving Native Trees and Shrubs by Charles Bruce (January 1973, Progressive Farmer)

--Summarized by Laura Castro

Digging

- 1) The best time to move most plants is during the dormant season. Trees are moved during the fall and winter months at any time the ground is not frozen. Some believe that the best time to move trees is just before bud break in the spring.
- 2) Root pruning a year before plants are to be moved will increase the chances for survival.
- 3) For shrubs and trees in good soil, it may be sufficient to simply cut the roots with a sharp spade, making the cuts in a circle about 6 inches away from the trunk for each inch of trunk diameter.
- 4) For larger plants or those in poor or shallow soil, cut the roots as described, then dig a trench around the plant and fill it with good, loamy topsoil. Wait a year while the pruned roots form a compact, fibrous root system before moving the plants.
- 5) When digging out root-pruned evergreen plants, dig a ball large enough to include new roots. Work a burlap covering around, over, and under the ball and tie securely to hold soil in place. Always handle plants by the ball and never by the trunk.
- 6) Hardwoods and other deciduous plants may be dug with roots bare. Save as much of the fibrous roots as possible and cover the roots with burlap. When moving trees, cover the roots with damp peat moss or burlap to keep them from drying.

Planting

- 1) Make the hole deep and wide enough so that roots are not crowded.
- 2) If heavy clay is present or soils drain slowly, make the hole 6 to 12 inches deeper than necessary, backfill with good topsoil, and tamp firmly to prevent settling. Do not plant too deep; set trees about 2 inches deeper than they grew in their original site.
- 3) Fill planting hole in steps using a mixture of topsoil and well-rotted compost or peat moss. Tamp lightly after 1/3 full and work mixture into roots to prevent air pockets, and continue process. Then, soak the soil.
- 4) Trees and shrubs should be staked and trees should be immediately pruned to help balance the top with the root system. Lightly thin evergreens. For deciduous trees, remove branches from bottom third of trunk, remove crossing or conflicting branches, and thin so there is plenty of space between remaining limbs. All cuts should be flush for rapid healing.
- 5) Soak at least once every two weeks, but more often during heat spells.