

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



June 2018

www.cnps-sequoia.org

CONTENTS

1	China Creek Report Work Party I
2	Upcoming Classes
2	Chapter Milestone
2	Field Report
3	Membership and Officers
4	China Creek Report Work Party II

CHINA CREEK REPORT

May Work Parties I and II

--Warren Shaw

Work Party I

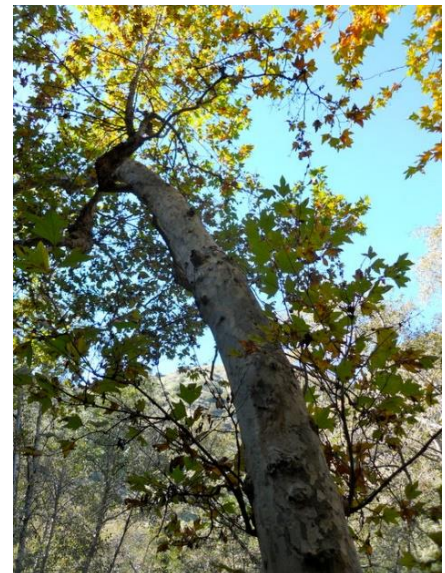
Cinco de Mayo was the date for our first May work party. It was a nice spring day, and the crew devoted most of their efforts to weeding in the southwest section of the Park. As expected, we found plenty of thistle plants to dig and a few areas with sufficient concentrations to flag for Hank to spray.

One unhappy and unexpected find was a concentration of our new pest, a large and non-native form of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), under the big valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) at Station 10 of the trail signs. We were reluctant to spray herbicides anywhere near this great old tree, and the number of plants was such that hand pulling/digging would be a daunting task. We concluded that we would try cutting them; but, research by Gene indicates this would be a bad idea, as it seems to actually encourage vigorous regrowth.

We also cleared growth from the north pond berm (but not enough, it turns out, for Hank to get his spray rig with its booms across).

And, finally, we did a quick inspection of the trail. We were happy to find all signs intact (though in need of cleaning because of their tendency to provide birds with perches). We were saddened, however, to discover that at least one of the massive old sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) at station 8 has died.

Some of the crew took advantage of the Chapter's offer of lunch at the Mexican taco truck in Centerville to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and a good morning's work.



(China Creek Report continued on page 4.)

-*Platanus racemosa*- ©2012 Daniel Passarini

Upcoming Classes in 2018

•July 10-12, Intro to Plant Identification—Northern CA

Location: Truckee Town Hall
10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee CA 96161

- 2.5 day introductory workshop will be taught at beginner level.
- In-depth introduction to keying and identifying plants.
- Those with some experience will be able to refresh and hone their skills at a higher level.
- Will learn plant structure terminology.
- Will learn to recognize 8 important families of vascular plants and know how to identify the most common tree, shrub, and herbaceous species by sight.
- Will need to bring specific materials (see website).

Cost: CNPS Members \$375 / Non-members \$395

Information:

<https://www.cnps.org/education/workshops/workshop-intro-to-plant-id-nca-july-2018>

For a list of other upcoming CNPS classes go to:
<https://www.cnps.org/education/workshops>

CHAPTER MILESTONE

On Twitter

--Brooke Nelson

The CNPS Sequoia Chapter reached the 100-follower milestone on Twitter in May! Meanwhile, we have 190 followers on Instagram. Woo-hoo!



FIELD REPORT

Eastman Burns

--Jane Pritchard

I arrived on May 14, set up camp, and ate while enjoying the pleasant view to the north across



Eastman Lake. A fat bald eagle perched from time to time in a dead oak to the lower right. Ten vultures rode the thermals, swooped over my shelter and the nearby grass, and three landed in the grass. The beach was down a steep hillside from my camp. In that short distance, there were several plants not included on the Calflora list for that area. They included interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), which filled the camps with fragrance.

The next morning at 7:30 AM, a fire briefing was held at the spillway. Gradually, red engines drove to a hilly region just west of headquarters. Several firebreaks had been made from the road to the lake. At least 10 firefighters ran downhill setting fire to the grass in a narrow swatch with the wind blowing toward the break. This was repeated with fire set downwind of the burn area until a large area was burned. At midday the area across the lake was burned—an action scene during lunch.



ABC and Sierra News Online reported the controlled burns. The burns are training for new recruits, caterpillar drivers, and assorted maintenance personnel. There is no charge for the work to the Army Corps of Engineers and the work provides training experience for the firefighters. Three trucks stayed to watch the fire.

The next day, areas to the east behind the hills, not visible from my camp, were burned. However, the burn was visible from behind the showers up the road. All smoke plumes were extinguished before the trucks left.

All in all, ten shrubs/trees and 25 herbs were not yet on the Calflora list. Many more are out there waiting to be discovered.

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

John 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: July/August 2018

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Monday, June 25, 2018.**



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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

June 2018

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

CHINA CREEK REPORT (CONTINUED)

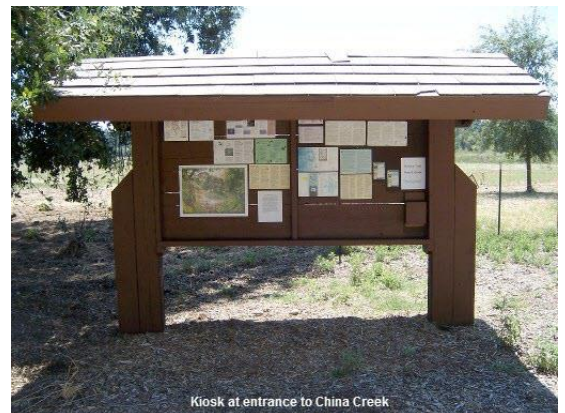
Work Party II

As we approached the Park gate for our second May work party, we were pleasantly surprised to find that one of the two picnic tables promised by Fresno County had been delivered. We were further surprised later when a County crew of strapping young men showed up to clear overgrown branches from around the gate and kiosk area. It is great to have some help.

On this pleasantly cool and breezy day, we went back to the north part of the Park for a second pass, where we found a few new bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and other plants, but not a lot—which, of course, is good news. We also noted and flagged some new root sprouts from the tree of heaven trees (*Ailanthus altissima*) we've been battling for several years. We were pleased to find all of the sprouts we had treated last fall were dead. We have plans to treat the new sprouts the same way in September.

Our June work party (only one scheduled) will be on Saturday, June 16, from 8am-12pm. We sure hope you'll be there.

China Creek Park is located in Centerville, 16 miles east of Fresno off Highway 180. To get there, drive east on Highway 180, 16.5 miles to Centerville. Turn right (south) on Smith Road and drive 0.2 miles to Rainbow Drive. Continue straight through the first gate 0.5 miles down the small road to the Park gate at the end of the road.

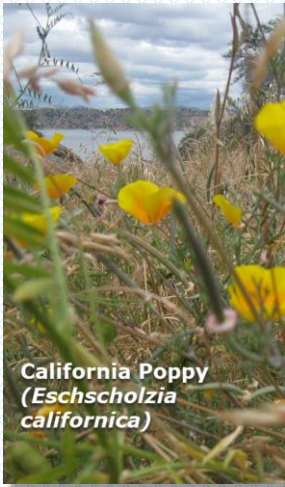


Kiosk at entrance to China Creek

June 2018 ☀ Sequoia Chapter CNPS



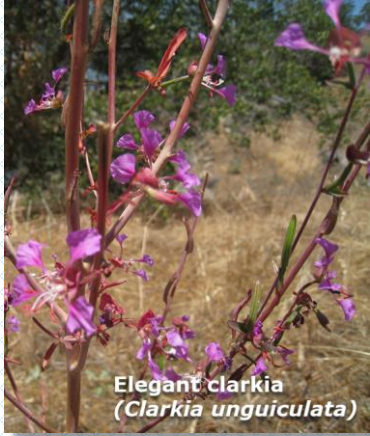
Blue Elderberry
(*Sambucus nigra ssp caerulea*)



California Poppy
(*Eschscholzia californica*)



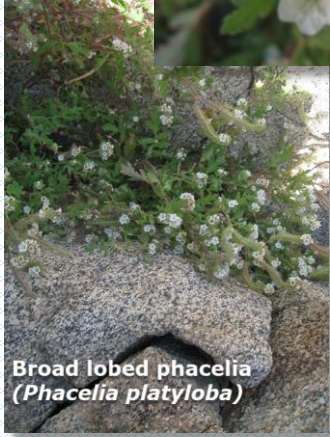
Nightshade
(*Solanum americanum*)



Elegant clarkia
(*Clarkia unguiculata*)



Harvest brodiaea
(*Brodiaea elegans*)



Broad lobed phacelia
(*Phacelia platyloba*)



Coyote Tobacco
(*Nicotiana attenuata*)



Indian Paintbrush
(*Castilleja applegatei*)



Buckbrush
(*Ceanothus cuneatus*)



Narrow-leaved Milkweed
(*Asclepias fascicularis*)



Toyon
(*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)



Dwarf Wood Sorrel
(*Oxalis micrantha*)