

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



November/December 2016

www.cnps-sequoia.org

OBSERVATIONS

--**Thelma Valdez**



I'm writing this about 24 hours after the first rain of the 2016-2017 rainy season. We didn't even get that much rain where I live, but it was enough for some non-native ruderal species (mostly *Erodium* and *Bromus*) to germinate in certain areas and send up a few inches of new green growth. Sheesh! This only happened in areas where the mulch had become thin or hadn't been placed. It looks like I need to spend some quality time outside smelling the sage and blue curls as the breeze swirls around while I work to give the natives the advantage.

Some of my California natives receive summer water, usually about once every 3-4 weeks from June through August. Some get no supplemental water ever. September and October are stressful months because it's the end of summer, it's still hot and dry, and the plants are showing signs of lack of moisture. I try to let the plants become strong by using their evolved methods for dealing with drought instead of "helping" them by giving more than their once-a-month allocation. I've lost some plants doing that and learned that they probably weren't right for my garden or they were in the wrong location. Others need some extra water in September and maybe October, or until the first rain arrives. These are usually the plants that are native to areas of California that get more rainfall than I do.

The reward for tough water love starts in February when the strong plants wow us with their above ground activities. Gardening books say it's winter, but our plants, whose ancestors predate gardening books, know it's time to roll into the next part of the cycle, providing insects, birds, and mammals with their beauty and bounty.

--**Warren Shaw**

On a recent trip to the Shaver Lake area we saw a brilliant red-orange display of California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) at the 2000 foot level, redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) showing coppery leaves farther up, and a gorgeous variety of pinks, oranges, and reds above the four-lane as we got into the dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.), along with lovely gold leaves on the black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*). All these nice colors provide some welcome distraction from the tragic dull russet of countless dead conifers.



-*Epilobium canum*- ©2011 Kelly D. Norris



-*Cornus nuttallii*- ©1995 Saint Mary's College of California

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER PLANT SALE!

--**Thelma Valdez**

A round of applause and toasts to everyone who helped with the CNPS fall plant sale activities at the Water Wise Plant Sale and Fair held at the Clovis Botanical Garden (CBG). Every minute of help is much appreciated—from setup to gardening guidance to cashiering to breakdown.

Thanks again to CBG and their volunteers who make the garden spiffy and organize the plant holding area, the sale of other water wise plants, and the "Fair" part of this event. Many return shoppers had not been to the garden in a while and were able to see how much it's grown!

The big sellers this year were the buckwheats (Shasta sulfur flower and California buckwheat), milkweed, lupine, deergrass, sages, snowberry, and of course California fuchsia. Oh, and the manzanitas! It's so great that the word is getting out that, indeed, you can have a manzanita in your Valley garden!



CHINA CREEK REPORT

--**Warren Shaw**

October 2016 work party



It was, as predicted, a beautiful fall day. As is often the case during nice weather in the Valley, there were a lot of events and many people had conflicts; nonetheless, we had a good crew of stalwarts. We treated tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) sprouts in the north area using the cut-stump method, which we prefer because it uses a tiny amount of herbicide, applied precisely where it will do the most good (or, perhaps, from the plant's point of view, the most harm).

We also attacked the abundant bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) in the southwest area with vigor (and a little herbicide as well). In addition, we inspected the trail and were gratified to find all our signs intact.

Our November work party, the last of 2016, will be Saturday, November 19, from 9am to 12pm ("winter hours").

At 12pm sharp we'll adjourn to the nearby Blossom Trail Cafe for our annual "Thank You Lunch" on the Chapter's dime. All who have contributed to the progress of the China Creek Project in any way (this means you, Thelma) are invited to attend.

It is not necessary to attend the work party first. Please put this event on your calendar and plan to join us for a nice lunch. I promise my speech, as in the past, will not exceed 60 seconds in length.

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

FIELD REPORT

--Jane Pritchard

Black Rock Road

The upper end of Black Rock Road (11S12) is off McKinley Grove Road about 3 miles short of Wishon Dam and descends through Balch Camp to Trimmer Springs Road upstream of Pine Flat Reservoir. On September 7, 2016 we drove about 2.5 miles down Black Rock Road past Sawmill Flat Campground, parked at the intersection of 11S01, and walked back to the east overlooking Granite Gorge of the Kings River drainage below Wishon Dam.

At Long Meadow Creek we ate lunch. Then Aaron explored while Eileen and I looked at plants, which included: red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *sericea*) with bright red-purple twigs and round white drupes, Rocky Mountain ash or Cascade mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*) with globose orange fruit, western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra* [*lucida*] var. *lasiandra*) with wart-like glands at the petiole summit, and submerged shining pondweed (*Potamogeton illinoensis*).

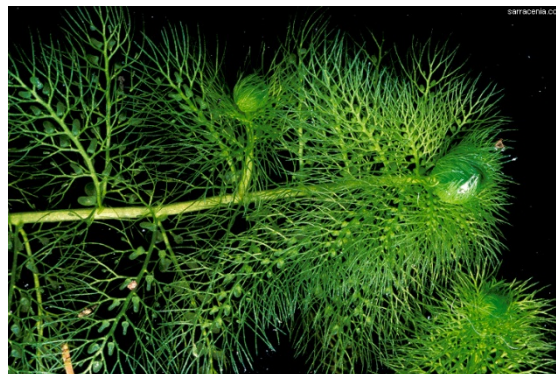


-*Polystichum munitum*-
©2008 Keir Morse



-*Dulichium arundinaceum*-
©1999 Dean Wm. Taylor

We continued on to a large pond where we identified three way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*) with stout, hollow, ROUND stems, the cow-lily or yellow pond-lily (*Nuphar polysepala* [*lutea*]), which has a genus name of Arabic origin, and tules (*Schoenoplectus* spp.) on the other side of the pond. We dug common bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*) out of the brown gunk at the bottom of the pond. A switchback road was at the far end of the pond. We walked to the crest of the hill and climbed onto granite where we were treated to a view of Wishon Dam to the northeast. Crevices in the granite contained Sierra stonecrop (*Sedum obtusatum*).



-*Utricularia macrorhiza*- ©2006 Barry Rice

On September 11, 2016 we returned to the other end of road 11S01

past the PG&E housing area and just before Lily Pad Pond (covered with yellow pond-lilies). A short distance in, the road splits 3 ways—we took the middle, unmarked one. Beneath the housing we were shocked, since there



-*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*-
©2015 Steve Matson

was no previous warning, to encounter signs that said sewage was sprayed. With visions of drowning in raw sewage, we hastened through that area. About a mile in, we went left down a trail a little over a mile to Cliff Bridge over the North Fork of the Kings River. We still need to explore the trail to Cliff Bridge on the other side of the river. The old suspension bridge is closed. We went down the river and discovered a locked cart on a cable for crossing to the other side. Pools of water cascaded into the next pool. An open sandy area had a large patch of western bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*). The growth form was different than those growing in the forest, but the spore pattern was identical.

Road 11S01 is drivable with a high clearance vehicle. The trail to Cliff Bridge is not as steep as expected but trees have fallen across it. Both hikes were very beautiful and highly recommended.

Training and Tools



•California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)

Training Videos

- Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds Workshop (on-line)
<http://cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention/preventiontraining.php>
- Thistles of the Bay Area (Parts 1-4)
<http://cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/videos/>

•Cal Weed Mapper

Enables natural resource managers, scientists and others to:

- Create maps and reports of invasive plant distribution.
- Identify management opportunities in a county, WMA, or region.
- Update species distribution data.

<http://calweedmapper.cal-ipc.org/maps/>

•Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDD MapS)

A web-based mapping system for documenting invasive species distribution.

- Does not require Geographic Information Systems experience.
- Combines data from other databases and organizations, as well as volunteer observations to create a national network of invasive species distribution data that is shared with educators, land managers, conservation biologists, and beyond.

<https://www.eddmaps.org/>

•WHIPPET

Helps land managers prioritize invasive plant populations. It prioritizes weed infestations for eradication based on potential impact, potential spread, and feasibility to control.

- Must be registered with Calflora.

<http://whippet.cal-ipc.org/>

•iMapInvasives

An on-line, GIS-based data management system used to assist citizen scientists and natural resource professionals working to protect our natural resources from the threat of invasive species.

- Requires registration.

<http://www.imapinvasives.org/>

•Calflora

A website to learn about plants that grow wild in California (both native and non-native). Asks that you register.

- You can enter the common or scientific name of a plant to find out information about it.
- You can choose a place and get an illustrated list of the plants that grow there.

<http://www.calflora.org/>

•California Native Plant Link Exchange (CNPLX)

A resource for people interested in gardening with California native plants.

- Helps select local native plants for any location in the state.
- Gives information on who sells them.
- Shows plant information from Calflora and photographs from CalPhotos.

<http://www.cnplx.info/query.html>

**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.

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Next Newsletter: January 2016

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Monday, December 19, 2016.**



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: _____

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State: _____ Zip: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student, Limited Income	\$25
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

New Member
 Renewing Member

California Native Plant Society
 2707 K Street, Suite I
 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

November/December 2016

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

JEANNE'S WINTER MUSING

--*Jeanne Larson*

When the days shorten and the temperatures drop, it's time to pull the old native plant favorites from the bookshelf. Mine are Gardening with a Wild Heart by Judith Larner Lowry and Hardy Californians by Lester Rowntree.

Instead of seed catalogues, we have the Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California by Glenn Keator and California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien. These books and others are listed in the CNPS on-line bookstore at www/cnps.org/collection/books. One book I don't have that tempts me is Rare Lilies of California by Peggy Lee Fiedler.



-*Triteleia laxa*- @2002 Brent Miller

Monocots already in my garden are harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans*), both in the ground and potted, and Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) in pots.



-*Brodiaea elegans*- ©2016 Steven Thorsted