

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



March 2019

www.cnps-sequoia.org

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CHINA CREEK REPORT

February 2019 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

Rain was predicted, and, in fact, it was still raining lightly at 7:30. By 8:15, however, it eased off, and except for a couple of sprinkles, remained dry the rest of the morning.

For the first half of the morning we all worked in the southeast area of the Park looking for thistle rosettes, and, as we had suspected, they were up in numbers. Milk thistle and bull thistle are easy to recognize, even in the very early stages. Yellow starthistle, on the other hand, is not yet so obvious. A good crew of volunteers kept busy digging all kinds of thistle until break time.

After coffee and treats we broke up for more diversified activity: replacing trail signs and a post, picking up trash, and digging dormant lizard tail (*Anemopsis*) plants from the road, where they would not survive upcoming spraying (and/or possible grading*). The plan was to pot them in preparation for their sale at the fall plant sale.

By quitting time, the sky had cleared, except for some broken clouds, and the park was beautifully sunlit and freshly rainwashed.

One annoyance attending the weed work in the southeast area was the necessity of dodging cow pies. Our new cattle contractor, Blake Ricken, had unexpectedly moved his cattle there from the north area. An even greater annoyance resulted from the same problem in the southwest area, where a neighboring cattleman (NOT a legal contractor) was allowing his cattle to graze. We even had to watch our step around the kiosk! He has since been contacted and has assured us he'll move them ASAP. We hope no further action will be necessary.

*Another interesting development is underway in that southwest area. Gene has been working to get some controlled burning done there, in hopes of reducing the heavy thatch and the prevalence of non-native grasses. On February 13, 2019, Gene, Hank and I met with several Cal Fire officers and their Forester to look at the area. They seemed anxious to burn as a training exercise, and even asked if there were trees they could use for chainsaw training, for which we happily offered them any of the many invasive fig trees. If they're able to work out the details with the County, this will most likely happen in March and will begin with bringing in a bulldozer to remove vegetation from the road around the proposed burn area — which conveniently corresponds to our trail. So far, this appears to be a win-win plan, thanks to Gene.



GARDEN NOTES

--**Thelma Valdez**

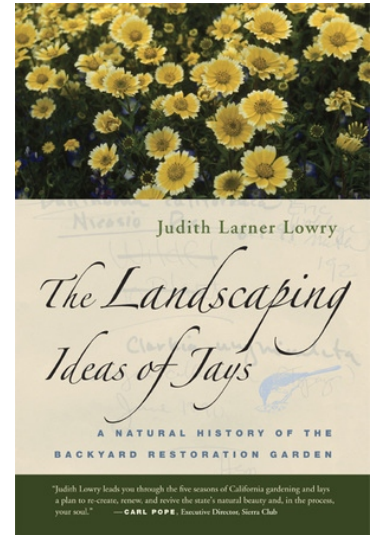
California gardeners have long recognized that plant activity during each of the calendar's seasons is very different from the rest of the country. Variations exist everywhere, of course, but no other place in the United States has a fifth season, coined by David Rains Wallace and expanded on by Judith Larner Lowry in her book, "The Landscaping Ideas of Jays."

This clicked with me when I read her book some years ago. I struggled to bridge the gap between a California summer and summer anywhere else when talking about California native plants. Lowry's expanded definition of the fifth season is "that time between summer and fall when no rain has fallen for three to five months and none is expected...when plants are in a holding pattern."

Recognizing this period as a season, albeit unique to Mediterranean climates, reminds us that calendars and seasons are human inventions, established long ago and a long way from California. It's better to use our categorizing and organizing minds to understand our gardens and plant behaviors to bring out the best in them. For me, that means thinking about whether I did the right thing when planting to capture as much water as possible during our recent rains.

Even though this fifth season is farthest from our minds right now, this is when you should check to see if your plants are in a position to take maximum advantage of the rainy season so they can be vigorous and make it to the fifth season when they will take a well-deserved rest.

There's still time to make adjustments before our rainy season is over (cross fingers that more rain is coming). Plants that were placed in the ground in October or November should be checked now to make sure their roots are in solid contact with the soil. They might be looking great right now with water aplenty but they need to be well seated with no air gaps around their roots. Damp soil should let you put foot pressure close to the root ball. Does the plant go down into the hole? Hmm...maybe it wasn't as much in contact with the soil as you thought. No problem, make the adjustment now and the plant will be the better for it.



MEMBER'S REPORT – CALFLORA LECTURE

Calflora Lecture and Hike at Big Table Mountain Draw a Crowd

--**Brooke Nelson**

CNPS Sequoia Chapter hosted a workshop by Calflora's Executive Director Cynthia Powell on Feb. 4 and 5, drawing a large group of native plant enthusiasts to an evening lecture and hike the following day. Calflora (a nonprofit organization) operates a website, database, and app which allow users to learn about plants that grow wild in California.



MEMBER'S REPORT – CALFLORA LECTURE (CONTINUED)

During a presentation at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, Cynthia showed about 35 attendees how to use the Calflora website and Observer Pro app. Calflora enables users to log observations of plants, upload photos, search a statewide database to find species (natives, non-natives, and invasives), ask other users to help identify a plant, set up email alerts to be notified when new observations are posted, and search for species by bloom period, soil tolerance, range, location suitability, and other tools for surveying and tracking plant populations. Cynthia also discussed the 'What Grows Here?' and 'Weed Manager' tools. 'Weed Manager' lets land managers track weed infestations and treatments over time.

The following day, about 14 of us set out on a brisk morning hike to Big Table Mountain Ecological Reserve near Prather, where Cynthia guided us in recording our plant sightings and photos. The recent rains left the hills green and the road soggy, and we found many plants budding out and manzanitas in flower. Participants logged observations of species including California buckeye, bull pine, yerba santa,

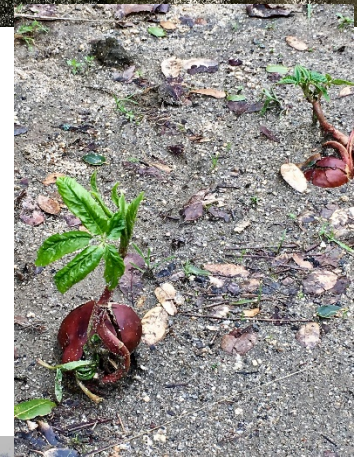


poison oak, Mariposa manzanita, chaparral honeysuckle, lupine, fiesta flower, and Padre's shooting star. Hikers posed for a photo overlooking the San Joaquin River Gorge, the proposed site of the controversial Temperance Flat dam.



A special thanks is due the Central

Valley Hiking Club Meetup group for posting the announcement of the workshop to its 3,000 members, which helped to attract a sizeable audience. Attendees included hikers, academics, botanists and biologists from government agencies, friends on a Ladies Night Out, CNPS Sequoia Chapter and Kings River Conservancy members, and native plant fans who were new to the area and wanted to learn more about our local flora. It was inspiring to meet so many native plant fans in the Fresno area! We agreed to consider another hike later in spring when more plants are in flower.



Upcoming Classes and Events

•March 9, Ditch the Lawn! Saturday, 9:30am – 11:00am

Location: Clovis Botanical Garden at 945 N. Clovis Avenue just north of Alluvial Avenue at Dry Creek Park

Sponsored by Cooperative Extension
Fresno County



- Cover different techniques on how to remove grass, from solarization to using a sod cutter.
- Explore different substitutes for turf, such as Kurapia and other landscape alternatives.
- Convert your space into a beautiful, healthy, lawn-free garden that will save water and require less frequent maintenance.

Cost: Free

Information and registration:
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/?calitem=434034>
or contact mgfresno@ucdavis.edu

•March 16, Spring Into Your Garden Festival Saturday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

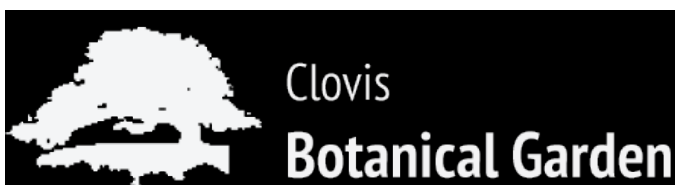
Location: Clovis Botanical Garden at 945 N. Clovis Avenue just north of Alluvial Avenue at Dry Creek Park

Sponsored by Cooperative Extension Fresno County

- Festival includes a water-wise plant sale, exhibitors and vendors, garden tours, and Master Gardeners to answer your questions.
- Breakfast from 9am to 11am by Kiwanis Club of Old Town Clovis is \$6.00 per person, but free for those age 5 and under.
- Guest speaker Ruth Saludes will talk about succulents.
- Guest speaker Thelma Valdez will talk about California native plants.

Cost: Free to Clovis Botanical Garden members/\$5.00 for non-members

Information:
<https://clovisbotanicalgarden.org/event/spring-into-your-garden-festival-4/>



•March 30, Low-Water Use Landscaping with Native Plants Saturday, 9:30am – 12:00pm

Location: Intermountain Nursery at 30443 N. Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651

- Tour the demonstration gardens at the nursery and find out what will do well at your location and elevation.
- Learn how growing native plants benefits wildlife.
- Sample garden designs and a plant list available.
- No walk-ins are allowed.

Cost: Free

Information and registration:
<https://www.intermountainnursery.com/classes.htm>
or contact the nursery at 559-855-3113

•April 6 or 7, Beginning Bee Keeping Saturday or Sunday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Intermountain Nursery at 30443 N. Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651

- Hands-on class includes going into hives to examine the health of the queen and hive, making splits, honey tasting and evaluation.
- Class will cover all business aspects and start-up costs of a hobbyist beekeeper.
- Class limit 14

Cost: \$55.00

Information and registration:
<https://www.intermountainnursery.com/classes.htm>
or contact the nursery at 559-855-3113

•April 9, Seminar on Science and Environmental Reporting Tuesday, beginning at 6:00pm

Location: Fresno State University

- Keynote speaker will be Pulitzer Prize winner and author Deborah Blum; Speech Title "Science Journalism in the Age of Mistrust."
- Seminar will feature a panel of top science journalists discussing the challenges of covering science and environmental issues in today's divided political environment.
- Panelists will also discuss how scientists view media coverage of their subject area.

Cost: Free

Information:
<https://mediaandpublictrust.com/2019/03/02/media-institute-is-sponsoring-a-seminar-on-science-and-environmental-reporting-on-march-18-at-fresno-state/>

**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: April 2019

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, March 22, 2019.**



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, Limited Income..... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

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

March 2019

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

FIELD MEETING NOTES – PROPOSED BURN

Photo by Laura Castro



--Gene Richards

I thought it was a good meeting with Cal Fire out at China Creek Park. There must have been three or four of their large pickups parked out there, and about four or five dudes, three of which walked around the southwest pasture with us. We tried to point out interesting sights, giving them the lay of the land, pointing out native and invasive plants, ponds, etc. In return, they gave us feedback on how these might respond to fire. Jim, especially, had some experience in plant reactions to fire damage.

If it's approved by the County, Cal Fire will scrape a firebreak with a bulldozer around the perimeter of the proposed burn area, which follows the existing dirt track. They also talked about cutting some cross tracks to further limit the fire, but I thought this would not be a good idea as the marks would probably be permanent and we wouldn't like to see those out there in the future.

We also went across the berm that blocks the north pond and to the southwest border where they might also burn a patch of starthistle that we've never dealt with.

Cal Fire also seems to be happy to burn the pile of weeds we've left at the end of the paved road. They were clear that they'd like to work with us and, besides training their crews, do what we want done. They can also do some chainsaw work, and we suggested attacking the fig trees.

The entire operation would take about 18 days! So, it will take multiple burns, no doubt, plus all the prep and training exercises, I guess. They're hoping to do it this spring and then come back in the fall for a follow-up operation. They will send us the paperwork, such as the agenda and research on our environment — everything except notes on the possible archeological sites.