

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 2007
6 pm Workshop ● 7 pm Speaker

*“Edison Forest Management” with
Terry Sandridge, Nursery Program Manager, 7:00 p.m.*

This is our last general meeting of the year. Please join us for a unique opportunity to hear about forest management as practiced by Southern California Edison. Many people think “So Cal Ed” or “Edison” is only a power company, and it is. Terry Sandridge will give a brief history of the company’s role in forest management and describe the general condition of the lands it manages. His talk will include a general discussion of the harvesting and burn programs, the reforestation and nursery side of management, and recreation uses, and the challenges they bring.

Terry received his AS in Forestry from Reedley College in 1978 and continued his education at Oregon State University’s Forest Engineering program. He is active in local foothill organizations in involved in water, weed, and pest management.

Dinner with Terry Sandridge: We will meet at 5:00 p.m. at The Mediterranean Restaurant (4631 N. Fresno St. at NW corner of Fresno & Gettysburg).

6 p.m. Workshop

This meeting’s workshop will focus on plant identification. Is there a plant you would like to key? Would you like to know a little bit (more) about keying? Or do you just have a mystery plant you’d like identified? Bring it to the workshop and we’ll see if we can pin it down.

The world is one percent good, one percent bad,
ninety-eight percent neutral. It can go one way or
the other, depending on which side is pushing.
This is why what individuals do is important.

- Hans Habe

China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

The September workday, which had a "Back-to-School" focus (making sure the park, especially the trail, was ready for field trips, etc. by school groups) was well attended. We picked up trash, repaired and replaced signs, cleared overhanging willows from the berm at the north pond, and generally tidied up.



We were also pleased to find the park in pretty good shape, with the trail having been freshly mowed by Hank Urbach. In the area cleared of chips by the Vulcan crew the Anemopsis was sprouting with a vengeance and the clumps of Deergrass planted near the gate have survived their first summer and are blooming (thanks to somewhat regular watering by Thelma Valdez). There wasn't even any graffiti!

Despite the drought, large numbers of acorns were observed, along with huge bunches of bright red hips on the wild roses. There were a few asters blooming and the Anemopsis leaves were turning prettily bronzy. Grass specialist Mary McClanahan burned off several of the naturally occurring clumps of Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) in hopes of encouraging increased new growth.

It was a good day.

Since that lovely Saturday the trail signs have been repainted by friend and neighbor Karen Fritchen, and the Vulcan crew has reportedly mowed the yellow star thistle.

Workday. The October workday, scheduled for Saturday, October 20, would be a good day to whack the Yellow Star Thistle that the Vulcan crew couldn't get to or missed with their tractor. Unfortunately I have several conflicts for that day and can't make it. I'm hopeful the work can proceed without me. I CAN make my equipment available; please contact me (see Directory) to make arrangements.



CARPENTERIA
Newsletter of
The Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

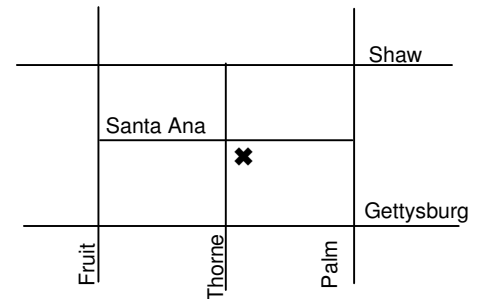
October 2007

General Meetings in March, May, September, and October. Watch the March newsletter for details!

Board Meetings in November, January, February, April. Watch the November newsletter for details!

NEW LOCATION.

Westminster Presbyterian
Church, 50 East Santa Ana
Avenue (near Palm & Shaw).



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wow! What a response to our annual plant sale. First, I'd like to thank Bonnie and Ray of Intermountain Nursery for providing the plants. Their advice to customers was priceless, plus I always learn a lot from eavesdropping!

Next, thanks to all you members who volunteered! Without you we wouldn't have been able to handle the droves of customers! I must include the Clovis Botanical Garden folks for their cooperation, advertisement and great pizza!

Last but not least our dedicated customers ~ those who are interested in xeriscaping and in including native plants in their gardens.

My favorite customer was a young man, David, who came list in hand to re-landscape his home and a vacation home in Cambria. If only my students had the interest in research this young man had. Not only did he know what he wanted to buy, he knew why!! He stunned me with his enthusiasm and knowledge.

I was pleased to see Dr. Fred Schreiber, CSUF entomologist, and my old buddy Gary Potter, ornithologist/teacher, each purchasing plants for their individual interests.

We made money, but most of all we have made a difference!

Cheers

~ Peggy Jones

CONSERVATION

Jeanne Larson

THE FRESNO BEE, Saturday October 6, Valley Voices "Watching water down to the last drop" by Steve Haze is a must read. If you missed it, try the fresnobee.com Web page. It outlines the studies being done for "finding" more water, and to date the average amount of water captured from any number of possible dam sites would be less than 10% above current supply. We city dwellers could do so much more. Every morning walk I see water gushing down gutters, people watering on wrong days, and others with nothing better to do than hose down driveways. The ultimate is the new, huge water waster, Catfish Falls, at the Fresno County Fair. Kids used to fish at Lake Washington in Roeding Park in two feet of water, while people were riding in paddle boats.

Also, on the same date, "UC MERCED TRIMS ITS EXPANSION PLANS, School will conserve more wetlands in bid for permit". UCM's new expansion plan preserves 330 acres of vernal pools east of the campus and 310 acres of open grazing land. Still 81 acres of wetlands will be lost, down from 121. That's a compromise that shows someone is at last listening.

Valley Oak acorn
(*Quercus lobata*)



PLANT SALE REPORT

Marian Orvis

FRIDAY, September 28, set up at 4:30. Frank and I arrived at about 5 p.m. after work. Sequoia Chapter volunteers were already involved in the unloading and set up of lots of natives. Many helpers meant less work for all. Oh, yes, did I mention that they brought double the inventory than last year? Friday night setup made Saturday ever so much smoother.

SATURDAY, September 29, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great volunteers: Helen and Warren Shaw, Jeanne Larson, Ingrid Carmean, Thelma Valdez, Nye Morton, Peggy Jones, Jane Pritchard, Frank Orvis.

Thelma was great on John Pape's "Art of Gardening" show on Ch 18, Tuesday, September 18, and numerous publications and radio stations promoted or at least mentioned the sale. All of this contributed to getting the word out, including a large combined (CBG & CNPS) mailing effort.

It seemed like during that beautiful Saturday the Clovis Botanical Garden was in a near-constant buzz with plant shoppers. Joining forces with Clovis Botanical Garden (holding our native plant sale on the same day they hold their drought-tolerant, non-native plant sale) has been a good match and we are very appreciative of being able to partner with them on this.

We offered trees, planting advice, native plant information, grasses, perennials, shrubs, displays, posters, handouts, and so many knowledgeable folks to share their wisdom. Numerous customers had never been to the Botanical Garden and said they would be back!. As Peggy Jones notes in her President's letter, it was a real treat to talk with quite a number of persons who have already planted natives and are coming back for more.

Views/comments from the checkout table were very rewarding. Comments overheard: "Good Planning and set-up," "Exceeded my expectations," "Great inventory and displays," "Will you do this again?"

NATIVE PLANTS TO THE RESCUE!

From Emily Roberson, Center for Biological Diversity, Native Plant Conservation

Native plant community restoration helps native wildlife (as expected). As we know, native plant conservation and restoration is not just about plants. Plants are the foundations of ecosystems, and conservation/restoration of native plants is prerequisite to recovery for native ecosystems.

In a southern California example, removal of invasive non-native iceplant and restoration of coastal native plant communities appears to be leading the way for restoration of the ecosystem as a whole, including improvement in the status of associated wildlife species.

The rare "El Segundo Blue" has returned to two popular beaches southwest of Los Angeles where it has not been seen in decades. Scientists say they are surprised at the resurgence. Dozens of the rare butterflies are thriving, not in some rarefied fenced-off reserve but in public view at county beaches in Redondo Beach and Torrance.

This success story was led by a grass-roots team of residents and two non-profits, the Urban Wildlands Group and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' lab program. They used a simple scientific formula: Put in the buckwheat.

Starting in 2004, they stripped thick green carpets of non-native ice plant from small areas on beach bluffs in Redondo Beach and Torrance. Month after month, they restored the scrub plants that flourished here centuries ago, including buckwheat. Now, the butterflies seem to be declaring independence. They forged ahead on their own to reach new native vegetation at the two beaches. There they are mating and feasting on the buckwheat nectar they crave.

Fall Watering

By John Nowak, Horticulture Chair, San Luis Obispo Chapter CNPS
Reprinted from the October 2007 issue of *Obispoensis*

I have been receiving many questions from people concerning what to do about watering their gardens. Some have plants drying out from the heat and others are very concerned about losing new plantings altogether. The question, I'm afraid, is not that easy to answer. First we must consider how old are the trees and shrubs in question. Second, it's very important to know how much normal rainfall we received last winter.

Let's start by discussing older, maturer plants such as oak trees, Ceanothus, Fremontia, Toyon, and Manzanita. Older, more mature trees and shrubs would not do well with watering this time of year. Watering them now could cause a root problem such as oak root fungus and do more harm than good. Watering late in the season can also cause fungal leaf spot on many species of Manzanita and Toyon. Older trees and shrubs have extensive root systems and the ability to survive even the driest of summers. The lack of rain will become a problem for them only if we have two or three years with low rainfall. During these extended dry times it's best to water extra only during the rainy season as a supplement. This will help the trees and shrubs to store up the reserves needed to make it through the long dry summer months.

Now, let's talk about newer plantings, say less than two years. If you purchased plants at last year's sale, you are probably starting to see them suffer. They were planted during a low rainy season and were not able to develop the extensive root system of the older, more mature trees or shrubs. Without the ability to store up enough reserves they are now starting to decline and may even die. I'm suggesting that you give these new plantings a deep drink to help them through the rest of the summer. Make sure you build a basin around the plant to direct the water to the root zone. A sprinkler set on low can also do a good job. Some plants will pick up right away and other may not show any signs at all but they will still benefit from the watering.

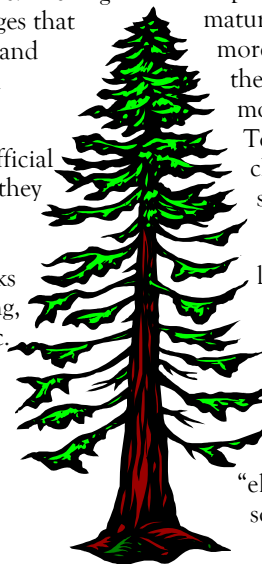
I hope that helps a little.

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Our speaker, Bill Tweed, recently retired ranger for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, took a sentimental journey when his wife dropped him off in Yosemite (Tuolumne Meadows) and he walked home ~ to Three Rivers. During the weeks it took him to make this solo trip, he reflected on the changes that have occurred, including the inevitable change in plant communities and habitat that is coming with our warming climate....a prospect that will certainly change the face of the parks.

After the presentation we had a lively discussion about whether the official goal of the national parks system (essentially to maintain the parks as they are) is a realistic one. Dr. Tweed's Ph.D. is in history, and in a giving brief history of the parks system, he noted that it was an advertising man from San Francisco that came up with the idea of a national parks system. Now one must recognize that climate, plants, etc. are changing, and the goal of maintaining the status quo is not necessarily a realistic.

His talk was accompanied by beautiful photos he took along the way (nicely displayed on our new digital projector).



In the foothills, Warren Shaw notes that the grasses are up several inches (at least in areas where it rained a few weeks ago), and some broadleaves, most apparently filaree, are sprouting. Tarweed and Datura are still in bloom. Buckeyes are lovely, with deep copper leaves, golden fruit, and silver bark.

On a recent trip to Shaver, he noted a luxuriant burst of California fuchsia at about 2000 ft. on the four lane. Just below the village the dogwoods are turning color with some in full red-orange splendor while the Black oaks are turning golden.

One of Jeanne Larson's local hummingbirds leaves the feeder across the street to feed on Desert Willow blossoms 10 feet in the air, then to grey fuchsia barely a foot off ground and then to the Baja native, Mexican Sage, to finish the feast. Besides the nectar provided by the plants, that hummingbird likely also finds spiders, gnats, and other valuable protein sources in the leaves and branches of the plants.

Thankfully hummingbirds are small. Their aggressive defense of their food sources could be dangerous for a gardener if they were large or poisonous. That California Fuchsia and that Desert Willow is theirs, you know!

October is a welcome transition to cooler weather. There is usually enough dry, warm weather to continue enjoying a bit of summer but it's cooled enough that we and some native plants become a bit more energetic. This is when the native needle grasses begin to show new growth while deciduous trees begin their fall and winter above-ground dormancy. They're not really dormant. They stay busy and active underground but our self-centered perspective is that if we don't see their activity we say "they're sleeping". (Getting off soapbox now.)

If you travel Highway 168, look up at the landscaping. In places such as between the Temperance and Fowler exits, the Toyon are mature and their berries are starting to look more reddish by the day as we approach their ripening in time for Christmas. The mockingbirds in my garden visit "their" Toyon multiple times a day, presumably checking on the status of the berries like someone watching a pot boil.

The Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanceolatum*) are far fewer in number in response to a dry winter, but both honey and native bees are visiting them in abundance. Even the pudgy Carpenter bees will sometimes venture away from the Desert Willows to try a Blue Curls blossom, usually only to discover the "elephant in a china shop" syndrome, and soon return to the willow blossoms.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sat., Oct. 13 (10 am – 5 pm) Sun., Oct. 14 (10 am – 4 pm)	Harvest Arts & Peace Festival Two days of live music, hand crafted gifts, children’s activities, food. CNPS will have a table at this event. Stop by and say hello.	Intermountain Nursery. Free event. 559.855.3313 or www.intermountainnursery.com
Tue., Oct. 16 – Thu., Oct. 18	Vegetation Mapping Held at UC Berkeley/Mount Tamalpais with instructors Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evens, John Menke.	CNPS Plant Science Training Workshop. CNPS Members receive a discount. Contact Josie Crawford at 916.447.2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org or www.cnps.org/cnps/education/
Sat., Oct. 20 9 am -4:30 pm	Oaks of the Sierra Chuck Peck will show you most of the eight species of oaks growing in the central Sierra Nevada.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Reservations required. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org . \$10 per person or \$20 per family.
Sat., Oct. 20 9:30 am	Propagation of California Native Plants Learn various propagation techniques for California native plants. Ray Laclergue will also demonstrate and discuss collecting, storing, stratifying, and germinating seed as well as root cuttings and proper growing conditions. Handouts are available, as well as a tour of the Nursery’s growing facilities.	Intermountain Nursery. \$15.00 559.855.3313 or www.intermountainnursery.com
Sat., Oct. 20 9 a.m.	Fine Gold Creek Preserve An easy hike at the new Fine Gold Creek Preserve. This hike is appropriate for children, with emphasis on learning about the streamside habitat. Bring lunch and water.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org .
Sat., Oct. 27 9 am – 3 pm	Natural History of the McKenzie Preserve Join anthropologist Allen Beck, biologist Rodney Olsen, and geologist Craig Poole to explore the natural history of the Preserve. We will look at plants, animals, rocks, and archaeological sites, including a five-mile round trip hike to the top of Table Mountain.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Reservations required. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org . \$10 per person or \$20 per family.
Wed., Nov. 7 – Thu., Nov. 8	Riparian Ecology and Plant identification for Professional Botanists. Held at Casitas Springs in Ventura County, with instructors David Magney and Cher Batchelor	CNPS Plant Science Training Workshop. CNPS Members receive a discount. Contact Josie Crawford at 916.447.2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org or www.cnps.org/cnps/education/
Fri., Nov. 9 – Sun., Nov. 11	Mycorrhizae Join two experts in the biology of these behind-the-scenes organisms for a weekend workshop exploring the north coast forest ecosystem, in which mycorrhizae are abundant. Topics will include an introduction to mycorrhizae, their ecology and botany, and how changes in the environment affect their association and abundance.	The Jepson Herbarium. \$350 (members) or \$375 (non-members). Includes field station & lodging fees and meals for the duration of the workshop. Lodging in double occupancy rooms with twin or double beds. 510.643.7008 or http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops or e-mail cperrine@berkeley.edu
Sat., Nov. 24 9 a.m.	Table Mountain Discovery Trail or Table Top Walk the Discovery Train (an easy 3.7 miles) or hike to the top of the table (a moderate 6 miles)	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org .

CESHA Comments on Proposed New UC Merced Footprint

For the past two years CNPS and six other organizations (CESHA) have been meeting with the University of California and the regulatory agencies to discuss conservation issues related to the Merced campus. These meetings resulted in a stronger conservation strategy and a smaller campus. On Friday, October 5, 2007, the University issued a press release announcing the reduction of their footprint and the intention to start the environmental review process over.

Much of the proposed campus location will be permanently protected by a conservation easement. More easements to protect vernal pools and to contain sprawl are also expected as the new

campus plan unfolds. The agreed upon reduced footprint will protect an additional 670 acres of pristine vernal pool habitat that would have been destroyed by the current plan. The reduced footprint will also conserve many additional occurrences of threatened and endangered plants and animals. CNPS applauds the University of California for coming to the table with a willingness to work out a compromise that works both for the environment and for the campus.

The UC’s announcement marks the beginning of a new public process for the campus expansion. Previous permit applications will be withdrawn. A new application will be submitted that will trigger a joint EIR/EIS for the campus and community. CNPS and others will continue to participate in the public process.

Newsletter



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions for the November newsletter is Friday, November 9, 2007.

E-mail newsletter recipients receive the extra page containing native plant photographs from October and November. If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically contact Helen Shaw.

We would like to publish photos you wish to share. You remain sole owner and are given credit or you can remain anonymous, as you wish. Photos will not be used for any other purpose. E-mail Thelma Valdez with photos or questions at nmtv@att.net.



Membership

September 2007

*New Members and Membership Renewals

The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.

Fresno: Teviotdale, *Tietz

Thanks to all for your continuing support. Send membership corrections to Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net.

The Carpenteria...share it with someone!

By sharing your issue of the newsletter you can encourage others to join. Or consider giving a gift subscription as a birthday, anniversary, or other special event. All but \$12.00 of the membership cost is tax deductible.

New members can bring their application to a meeting and we'll take care of the rest. It's your recommendation that is especially important. It lets others know the reason CNPS exists and helps to reach its goals.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	Peggy Jones autumn_aspen@hotmail.com	559/897-9646 (h)
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell paul30@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
*Secretary	Marian Orvis mforvet@earthlink.net	559/226-0145 (h)
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson jrjlar@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
*Past President	Warren Shaw warshaw@netptc.net	559/855-4519 (h)
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Education	Peggy Jones	(see President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins johnst@cvip.net	559/297-0144 (h)
Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
Directors at Large	Jim Seay Verna Arnest	jaseay@comcast.net vernaj@sti.net

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible.



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: _____

Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

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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

October 2007



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora.
For a membership brochure call Helen Shaw at 559/855-4519.
CNPS Web site: www.cnps.org.

FEATURED CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

Blue Curls and Wooly Blue Curls

These two plants of the same genus, *Trichostema*, are unmistakably related and yet are very different. If you're lucky you can see both in bloom in September and October.



Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanceolatum*) is the annual most commonly seen in dry, open fields or in the foothills.

It is gray-green from a distance and is often thought of as a weed. In fact it is also known as “vinegarweed”, likely due to its strong scent. One either loves or hates the scent.

Regardless, insects and photographers alike love the delicate blue flower on this remarkable annual. An up close inspection of Blue Curls reveals a blue carpet of spent blossoms beneath the plant. In a summer after a wet winter, fields can take on a lavender-blue haze when these beauties explode into color in September and October. You'll find Blue Curls throughout most of California.

Wooly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) is a perennial that is one of the most beautiful California native plants. It, too, has a pungent aroma,

but not nearly so powerful as that of its cousin. It is native to the Coast Ranges and southwestern California, but has been grown in gardens for many years.



ROMERO—Trichostema lanatum.

After the first year in the ground it can bloom almost year-round, but it is not a long-lived plant – typically in no more than five years it must be replaced. But during those years you will feel blessed to watch the display of emerging flowers to full bloom.

OCTOBER 2007
CHINA CREEK
SEQUOIA CHAPTER CNPS

