

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2008

*“Stewardship Council for the
Upper San Joaquin River Basin” with
Steve Haze, 7:00 p.m.*

Steve Haze is a resident of the foothill community of Auberry who has worked with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy as a Program Coordinator for the Millerton Area Watershed Coalition for over six years. This program was funded by the State of California to conduct area wide investigation of watershed conditions around Millerton Lake. (He is also President of the San Joaquin River Trail Council, in which CNPS has been a member.)

Recently, the Sierra Resource Conservation District of eastern Fresno County was awarded a grant from the California Department of Water Resources to create a Stewardship Council for the Upper San Joaquin River Basin. The Council will be responsible to conduct an assessment of the upper basin. Steve will manage this program over the next two years.

Steve's presentation will cover the outcomes of the prior watershed program ~ discuss the new Stewardship Council and watershed program ~ and how organizations such as CNPS may want to become involved.

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



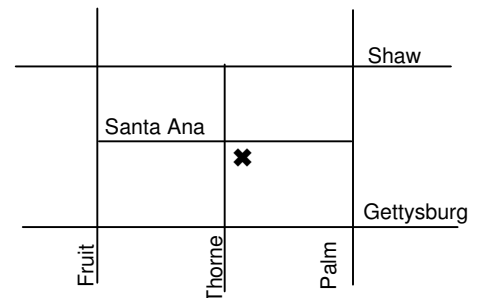
CARPENTERIA
Newsletter of
The Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

March 2008

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!

MEETING LOCATION.

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



China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

(GOOD NEWS!)

First of all, we once again had a good crew for our February work morning, and once again attacked young bull thistle plants and laid waste to an impressive number. Given the volume of new plants appearing in the 120 acres of the park, it probably doesn't make a huge difference in statistical terms but it was extremely satisfying. We also walked the trail and found everything in pretty good shape.

We received some extremely good news this week when we learned that Vulcan Materials is prepared to step in and haul chips and dump them along the trail for us to spread as we have the time and the personnel. Given the fact that the County had informed us they definitely couldn't help us this year, and that this had proved a daunting task last spring, this is very good news indeed!

Our March work day is scheduled for the Saturday, March 29. We expect that Vulcan will have begun hauling by then and we can begin spreading. So we're hoping for a good gang to show up, with rakes and pitchforks and wheelbarrows. The plan is for a full day (9-3), so I suggest bringing lunch (perhaps to share) as well as tools (and hats, sunscreen, water, gloves, etc.).

Hope you can join us. It should be a beautiful day in the park! You might bring your camera, too!



RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sat., Mar. 15 (9 am - 5 pm) Sun., Mar. 16 (9 am - 5 pm)	Table Mountain Open House Bring your family and friends to the Open House to explore on your own, enjoy the wildflowers and perhaps bring a picnic lunch. Pick up a Discovery Trail guide and walk the loop trail or hike to the table top to see the beautiful view. No reservation needed.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org .
Sat., Mar. 29 9 am - 3 pm	Wildflowers of the McKenzie Preserve John Stebbins, botanist and local wildflower authority, teaches this class. You'll see spring flowers, including vernal pool species, and spectacular scenery. Fairly strenuous 6 mile round trip hike, including a 1000' elevation gain to the top of the McKenzie table.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Reservations required. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org . \$10.
Thu., Mar. 27 to Sun., Mar. 30	Flora, Geology, and Paleontology of the South Diablo Range With a wide-ranging elevation (200 to 5000 ft.) the flora of this region boasts a number of rare and endemic plants. This workshop will introduce this unique vegetation, geology, and land use issues as well as the I.D. of rare and common plants. Expect desert-like conditions.	Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops \$450 (\$475 non-members). Includes campground fees, meals, and transportation. Contact Anna Larsen at 510.643.7008 or http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops
Sat., Mar. 29 9 am	Table Mountain Table Top A six-mile round trip on a trail for most of the hike with some level walking and then a climb on a good trail to the top. Elevation gain is 1000 feet and takes about five hours allowing for lunch at the top.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Sat., Mar. 29 9:30 am - 2 pm	Wildflower Walk at the River Gorge Take an easy 2-mile round trip walk with River Parkway Trust staff to explore an amazing variety of wildflowers, and walk across the footbridge that spans the River Gorge. After lunch meet with BLM staff for a close look at Native American artifacts.	San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. \$10. To register, call 559.433.3190 x3#
Sun., Mar. 30 9 am	Tivy Mountain Peak A very strenuous, all cross-country hike of about 6 miles, with a 2000' elevation gain and poison oak along the way which is sometimes hard to avoid. With lunch the hike is about 6 hours.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Sat., Apr. 5 8:30 a - 12 noon	Edible Plants Along the River Come along with Dr. John Pryor, Professor of Archaeology at CSUF, and discover how rich our area is in natural food sources. This is an easy 2-3 mile walk.	San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. \$10. To register, call 559.433.3190 x3#
Sat., Apr. 5 9 am - 3 pm	Wildflowers of the Mariposa Area Meet at the Hite's Cove trailhead, about 22 miles above Mariposa on Highway 140 near Savage's Trading Post. This is a moderate 4-5 mile round trip hike along the South Fork of the Merced River. The trail passes through foothill oak woodland, lush riparian areas and native rock gardens. A local wildflower expert will teach you about some new plants and you will have lunch on the river.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Reservations required. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org . \$10.
Sat., Apr. 5 9 am	Table Mountain Table Top (see description above)	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Sun., Apr. 6	Black Mountain Summit Fairly easy hike with good footing on a four-mile, three-hour round trip along a dirt road with an elevation gain of 800 ft.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org
Fri., Apr. 11 8:30 am - 1 pm	Field Biology Walkabout Ask questions, hear stories, and learn more than you thought possible in one day from a man who has been exploring this part of the world for decades. Our field guide is Bob Winter, instructor at Fresno City College.	San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. \$10. To register, call 559.433.3190 x3#
Sat., Apr. 12 10 am - 4 pm	Natural History of Kennedy Table Join Bart & Cindy Topping for lunch and a rare opportunity to see the splendor and beauty of Kennedy Table. Explore the natural history with botanist John Stebbins, biologist Rodney Olsen, and geologist Craig Poole.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Reservations required. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org . \$35.
Sat., Apr. 12 9 am	Tivy Mountain Peak (see description above)	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org .
Sun., Apr. 13 9 am	Table Mountain Discovery Trail An easy, mostly level hike of about 3.7 miles, with an interpretive guide to the flora and history along the trail. It takes about 3 hours with stops for interpretation. Meet at the corrals.	Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Free. 559.855.3473 or www.sierrafoothill.org .

RELATED ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Mon., Apr. 14 - Wed., Apr. 16	Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy UC Davis and Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Vernal Pools with instructors Carol Witham, Ellen Dean, and Jennifer Buck.	CNPS. Contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or call 916.447.2677
Thu., Apr. 17 to Fri., Apr. 18	Vernal Pool Vegetation Classification. UC Davis and Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Vernal Pools with instructors Michael Barbour, Ayzik Solomesheh, Stephen Rae.	CNPS. Contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or call 916.447.2677
Thu., Apr. 17 to Sun., Apr. 20	Flora of Santa Cruz Island Santa Cruz Island is the largest and most diverse of the eight Channel Islands. Known for its striking natural beauty, it supports a flora of over 675 taxa, 485 of which are native. This intensive 4-day workshop focuses on field ID of the island's flora, with an emphasis on its rare and endemic plants.	Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops \$575 (\$600 non-members). Includes lodging, meals, and ground & water transportation. For more info. contact Anna Larsen at 510.643.7008 or visit http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops
Fri., Apr. 18 8 am - 4 pm	California Native Grasslands Field Day at Hedgerow Farms An exciting opportunity for practical, hands-on learning about native grasses and grassland restoration. Hedgerow Farms is a renowned native grassland seed production farm and home of numerous restoration sites. The full-day event features field identification, tours, presentations, and demonstrations. Pre-registration is required. Co-sponsored by Hedgerow Farms and includes a barbeque lunch for all attendees, catered by the award-winning Buckhorn restaurant.	CNGA. Students \$30; CNGA members \$40; Non-members \$50. 530.759.8458 or www.cnga.org

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Yosemite National Park Service's Vegetation and Restoration Branch is gearing up for the 2008 field season by recruiting interested people for its volunteer program, Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY).

HaPY volunteers work on a range of projects, from backcountry trail work to water surveying to invasive species removal. In return, groups get a free park entrance pass and a night of free camping for each day they volunteer. They also work right alongside Resource Management and Science staff, which means they often learn more than the average visitor about Yosemite's native vegetation and natural history.

Most groups spend between four and six hours in the morning and early afternoon working on projects. They then have the rest of the day to explore "the most beautiful place on earth."

HaPY also runs a drop-in program in the summers for the more casual volunteer. Interested visitors can meet every Friday from May 2nd to October 31st at 9am at the Valley Visitor Center. The Vegetation and Restoration Volunteer Coordinator, Becca Sondag, will meet volunteers there and lead them to nearby Cook's Meadow, where they'll work on restoration projects like meadow conifer removal, rare plant surveys, native planting, and invasive plant removal. Each drop-in event lasts until 1pm, leaving visitors plenty of time to explore Yosemite Valley.

Each volunteer program welcomes all ages. For more information on either program, parties should contact Assistant Volunteer Program Manager Diane Stewart at (209) 379-1850.



Miner's Lettuce
(*Claytonia perfoliata*)

Project BudBurst 2008 is here!

Help scientists track climate change using wildflowers and other plants. Project BudBurst is a project of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in collaboration with universities, botanic gardens and other organizations across the nation. The project tracks climate change by compiling observations of the timing of flowering and other developmental (phenological) changes in plants.

The project will operate year round so that early- and late-blooming species in different parts of the country can be monitored throughout their life cycles. Project BudBurst builds on a pilot program carried out last spring, when several thousand participants recorded the timing of the leafing and flowering of hundreds of plant species in 26 states.

For more information the project or to register as a volunteer, visit www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst

3rd annual Endangered Species Day and Plant Conservation Day. - May 16

The Day celebrates our natural heritage, endangered plants, and wildlife through numerous events organized by schools, botanic gardens, wildflower groups, libraries, community organizations, conservation groups, zoos, aquariums, and others.

Thousands of people have enjoyed these programs over the last 2 years, and have shared information and learned about the value, beauty and imperilment of endangered species. The events also offer opportunities to get involved directly in conservation.

To find an event near you visit www.stopextinction.org/EndangeredSpeciesDay. To learn more visit www.plantconservationday.org

Observations

It may still be winter by the calendar but the native flora don't know from calendars so they're off and running into spring. Each day the changes are dramatic and if you haven't been spending time out in the foothills or in your own native plant yard you're missing the show.

I must admit that every year when spring approaches I have the feeling that everyone is talking at once. Where winter was quiet and peaceful, spring is very noisy. It isn't just that the birds are in constant chatter but visually every plant is pushing out new growth, new leaves, blossoms, and blades. Whew! That isn't a complaint. It just takes a little adjustment for me to transition from the measured pace of winter to spring's frenzy. It's no wonder that I look forward to our hot summers when it seems right to slow down a little.

But we're coming up on spring and the lupines on Freeway 168 are standing tall. The poppies in some places are already blooming. Green is bursting out everywhere. Here we go!

In the foothills (about 2000 feet) things are happenin': buckeyes are in full leaf, blue oaks are, in their very individualistic way, showing signs of life; annual grasses are booming, and fiddleneck, popcorn, red maids, miner's lettuce, and blue dicks are blooming. Can baby blue eyes and poppies be far behind?

New Book Focuses On Critical Role Of Native Plants For Wildlife And Humans

Although the following article by Margo McDonough is about Delaware, it's really about everywhere...

Delaware's native plants make it possible for the state's 850,000 people to exist, says Douglas Tallamy, chairperson of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at UD.

Tallamy has been conducting research studies on the interaction between native plant species and native wildlife since 2000. And with every study, he is further convinced that healthy local ecosystems aren't just important for wildlife but for people.

"We invariably take plants and the benefits they provide for granted," says Tallamy. "Who takes time to think that the oxygen in each breath we take has been produced exclusively by plants?"

Plants play the primary role in the food chain. "Most native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants," says Tallamy. "When native plants disappear, so, too, do native insects. "A land without insects sounds like a gardener's dream; doesn't it?" notes Tallamy. "But a land without insects is a land without most higher forms of life." With the rapid rate of development in Delaware and resulting habitat destruction, the pressures on native plants--and thus native species--has never been greater. Propped up near a window in Tallamy's office, next to a sweeping view of UD's Newark Farm, is a map of all current and proposed development projects in Delaware. At first glance, it appears that the only thing not under development is the farm right outside.

But Tallamy isn't ready to give up on the First State anytime soon. There is a way to sustain biodiversity in Delaware, he says. The heroes won't be the scientists who conduct research, the legislators who enact restrictions on development or the environmental groups who work to reduce habitat loss--as valuable as all these things are. Look in the mirror--you're looking at the potential hero of this story, says Tallamy. "Every Delawarean has

the ability to affect change," he says. "Every one of us has the power to make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity."

Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens is the title of Tallamy's new book (released by Timber Press on Nov. 15), and it's also his credo on how we can all make a difference.

If you own a yard--even just a quarter acre--fill it with native plants and watch the wildlife come. If you rent, ask the landlord if you can plant a native tree, shrub or perennial in open space. Or volunteer to do so at a local park or with a community green space project. Think your small patch of greenery won't make a difference? Think again. Karin Burghardt, AG '07, conducted a one-year study of 12 home sites--six of which were planted exclusively with native plants; the other six with more traditional landscapes.

"The number of breeding birds and diversity of breeding birds, as well as the number and diversity of caterpillars, was large on the native-planted yards, but abysmally low on the other properties," says Doug Tallamy.

Each year, Tallamy gives more than 40 lectures on the link between native plant species and native wildlife, traveling to arboretums and horticultural organizations in Chicago, Virginia, Cleveland, Boston and, closer to home, Middletown and Dover. He brings something of a convert's zeal to his quest. That's because, back when he was an entomology grad student, he spent his weekends filling his relatives' yards with such species as Paulownia and burning bush, both now recognized as alien invasives.

"I took a course in woody landscape plants and found out about all these fascinating exotic plants," says Tallamy. "Meanwhile, in my entomology courses, I was learning about plant-insect interactions. "All of the information I needed to realize that covering the land with alien plant species might not be such a good idea had been neatly placed in my lap in grad school, but it was 20 years before I made the connection: our native insects, and therefore our wildlife, will not be able to survive on alien plant species." Yet those of us who try to plant natives exclusively know that the garden path is paved with good intentions. Nurseries specializing in natives are few and far between and the "big box" stores sell plants (mostly non-natives) dirt cheap. And during a dry summer like this past one, we may covet our neighbor's drought-tolerant (and invasive) butterfly bush while we struggle to keep our native Joe-Pye Weed alive for the butterflies.

"You can find a native for every situation--shade, full sun, dry sites, moist sites--you just need to educate yourself," says Tallamy. "Joe-Pye Weed likes moist soil but the native butterfly weed, for example, does fine in dry conditions."

And natives don't need to be expensive. To prove it, Tallamy whips out a photo of an 8-foot-tall white oak on the edge of his property. Seven years ago, this sturdy oak was an acorn that Tallamy dropped into the soil one warm day. Time spent? Two minutes. Cost? Not a penny.

'Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens,' by Douglas Tallamy, 288 pages, published by Timber Press, \$27.95

Tallamy: "Every one of us has the power to make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity."

Newsletter



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions for the April newsletter is Friday, April 4, 2008.

Membership

September 2007

Membership cards are being issued (by CNPS) to new and renewing members beginning January 2008. A preliminary list of supporting organizations will be available soon on the CNPS Web site (cnps.org). There include nurseries and botanic gardens—none currently in the Central Valley. CNPS is seeking other organizations willing to offer membership benefits (e.g. discounts, special offers, e.g.) in exchange for mention on the CNPS Web site and mention in the chapter newsletter in the form of thanks for their sponsorship.

Members who have contacts with businesses that are willing to offer membership benefits are encouraged to get in touch with Helen Shaw <helshaw@netptc.net> or Arvind Kumar <chhaprahiya@yahoo.com>

*New Members and Membership Renewals

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

Fresno: Carmean, Christenson, Janzen, Jones, Poole, Pritchard, Russell, Seay, Van der Noordaa, Wingfield

Madera: Arnest, Clines, Dean-Freemire, Yosemite Research Library

Out of Area: Meyer, Davis, CA; Tuttle, Los Angeles, CA; Bartel, Carlsbad, CA

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

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	open	
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell paul30@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
*Secretary	Marian Orvis mforvet@earthlink.net	559/226-0145 (h)
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson jrjlars@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
*Past President	Peggy Jones autumn_aspen@hotmail.com	559/897-9646 (h)
Membership	Helen Shaw helshaw@netptc.net	559/855-4519 (h)
Programs	Jane Pritchard xxiii_xx@yahoo.com	559/323-8253 (h)
Newsletter Editor	Thelma Valdez nmtv@att.net	559/323-8962 (h)
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell madeleine43@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
Horticulture	Joseph Oldham J.Oldham1@sti.net	559/658-7165 (h)
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:

New Member

Renewing Member

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

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 2008



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

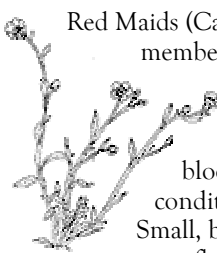
c/o Jeanne Larson • 3457 Redlands • Fresno, CA 93726

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

Red Maids and Fiddleneck

This month's featured plants are two commonly seen California natives that herald the beginning of spring and remind us not to overlook many of the common native plants that are reliably there, year after year. They are not rare or endangered, but this does not diminish their value or beauty.



Red Maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*) are members of the purslane family and germinate as soon as the rains begin in the fall. They bloom in the cool, damp conditions of late winter. Small, bright, four-petaled magenta flowers open in the afternoons of sunny days and close at night. The leaves are edible and have a tang like arugula that works well in salads. They move quickly into disturbed areas and serve as a colonizer plant in restoration projects. These plants play an important role because they are nitrogen-fixing and in their short life they make the soil favorable for longer-lived plants.

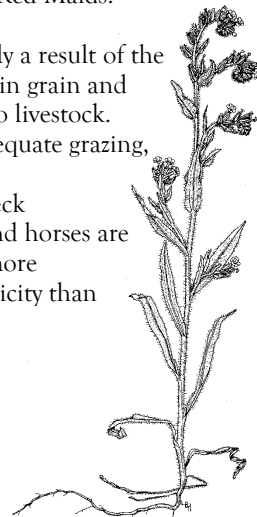
They usually complete their cycle by drying up with the onset of warmer spring weather. The abundant tiny black seeds are favored by doves but have frequently been found in archaeological sites and are known to be collected and eaten by Native Americans. They were also used as a pot herb by early settlers.

Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*) is a California native plant (some say "weed"). There are 17 species and sub species of *Amsinckia* that are native to California. Lewis and Clark collected Fiddleneck during their return trip in 1806 as shown by herbarium specimens in their collection.

Known mostly for their toxicity to horses, swine, and cattle, or the irritation caused

by rubbing against the skin, they are another plant that readily colonizes disturbed areas such as roadsides, plowed fire breaks and orchards. Their benefit to the land is similar to Red Maids.

Their toxicity is mainly a result of the presence of the seeds in grain and grain screenings fed to livestock. In the presence of adequate grazing, animals do not normally eat Fiddleneck. Interestingly, cattle and horses are thirty to forty times more susceptible to this toxicity than sheep and goats.



MARCH 2008
 ◆
SEQUOIA CHAPTER CNPS



- Top to bottom (left column)
- Red Maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*)
 - Miner's Lettuce (*Claytonia parviflora*)
 - California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*)
 - Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)



- Top to bottom (middle column)
- California Poppy (*Echscholzia californica*)
 - Ashy Leaf Buckwheat (*Eriogonum cinereum*)
 - Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum* var. *gracillimum*)
 - Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)
 - Common Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)



- Top to bottom (right column)
- Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*)
 - Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)
 - Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)

