



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

May 2006

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. "Native Plants of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks"

Speaker: Melanie Baer-Keeley, Restoration Horticulturist

Melanie Baer-Keeley will present a colorful program illustrating beautiful "Native Plants of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks." Many of these plants can be cultivated in the garden as well, so there will be discussion on growing native plants as well.

For the last 20 years, Melanie has made a study of the cultivation and propagation of California native plants in order to promote their conservation. She has grown and landscaped with many

species of native plants and enjoys educating and generating enthusiasm about these unique plants through writing, teaching and illustrating about them.

As always, meetings are open to the public and lately the snacks have been quite scrumptious. Join us! Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue. (South of Ashlan Avenue), Fresno

Board meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. All members are welcome to listen in on board meetings.

Future Meeting Programs

June-August	No programs.
September	Central Valley Native Plant Gardening - From Foothills to Flatlands. Madeleine Mitchell, Joseph Oldham, and Thelma Valdez.

China Creek Update

By Warren Shaw

Things have been happening at the park. The cows have been doing their job; they actually seem to prefer yellow star thistle to some of the mature annual grasses, and there is no Yellow Star Thistle more than an inch tall in the area they are grazing. I pulled a plant at least 3 feet tall in an ungrazed area recently.

Most of the elderberries in the new grazing area have been fenced (after we discovered, to our surprise, that the cows found them pretty tasty too), and all of the seedling oaks small enough to be vulnerable have been fenced. The walkthrough gate has been completed and signs posted explaining the presence of cows in the park and the nature of our project there.

At the Earth Day workday, we began mowing the badly overgrown interpretive trail; during the following week, the county finished mowing. With some touchup hand work and some sign repairs, the trail should be in good shape for spring field trips, etc.

Berry vines, anemopsis (lizard tail), bird's eye gilia, and blue eyed grass are currently blooming in the park, and, of course, everything is incredibly lush and green.

Next Workday

Our next workday will be Saturday, May 20. Assuming it will be warm, let's try to start by 8:30, break for lunch about 12:30, and call it a day after lunch. We'll be weeding, doing trail maintenance, and, perhaps cleaning up around the entrance. Bring the usual waterhatglovesunscreenlunchandweedingtools. Hope to see you there.

All are welcome. If you would like to have your name added to the CCV, "Willing to be Notified" list, please let Warren know: warshaw@netptc.net or (559) 855-4519.

Sequoia Chapter Field Trips

See details on page 4 of this newsletter.

Sat., May 27	Signal Peak with Joanna Clines
Sat., June 24	Grand Bluffs with Bonnie Bladen

Clovis Botanical Gardens "Springfest"

The Sequoia chapter will have a table at this annual event on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be at Cottonwood Park (SW corner of Clovis and Alluvial). Have a tri-tip lunch for \$10, browse plants for sale, and enjoy the entertainment.

The Gardens are half a block away just north of Alluvial and will be open. Admission is free.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's hard to believe summer is almost here. As I look back on the recent months and what the Sequoia Chapter has accomplished, it reminds me of how so much in the world is accomplished by volunteers. Busy people who are willing to make time for something they believe in.

As an organization moves through the years, different individuals are willing and able to dedicate their energy and currently I think of four individuals that make extraordinary efforts for our Chapter:

First, Warren Shaw. We haven't seen Warren at meetings this year but he sure has been busy! If it weren't for Warren, China Creek wouldn't be what it is today. He has spent hours building fences, communicating with the County, fighting Yellow Star Thistle and maintaining the trail. Thank you Warren not only for all you have done for China Creek but for CNPS, my students, and for the environment.

Next I'd like to thank one of our most energetic and creative members, Thelma Valdez. Besides creating an informative newsletter, it is also so pleasing to the eye and mind. Thelma is a volunteer extraordinaire. Who wouldn't want to plant natives after a brief encounter with Thelma!

Finally, Paul and Madeline Mitchell. These folks don't know what retirement is. Both can out work me without breaking a sweat. What is their secret? A deep dedication to what they believe in whether it be CNPS, the Cactus & Succulent Society, Master Gardening, or any of the other organizations or causes they commit to. Thank you for your tireless and cheerful donations of time and energy.

If you have volunteered to help in some of our endeavors, I thank you. You've contributed to our success as stewards of California's native flora. If you previously haven't been able to make time but might be able to carve out a few hours this year, please watch for opportunities listed in the newsletter. We'd love any time you can give.

Enjoy your summer!

- Peggy Jones

April 2006 Chapter Meeting

Bob Case's talk on invasive plants is one that everyone should hear. Although the topic of invasive plants can be somewhat depressing, Bob's enthusiasm for this subject is contagious and his knowledge of the subject is excellent.

One of Bob's current missions is to spread the word to anyone who will listen about how individuals can make a difference in weed eradication. Non-experts can detect and report weeds. They can be Volunteer Detection Partners! CNPS members can detect invasives, note the location of invasives, and then report them. To whom would one report? The Ag Commissioner is the first choice. Next would be the UC Cooperative Extension.

Bob emphasizes that as land has been and continues to be lost to development and agriculture, undeveloped space is becoming increasingly valuable. Reducing introduced species can help make the remaining open land more productive.

Friant Ranch Community Meeting

Helen Shaw and Thelma Valdez attended the first Public Information meeting for updating the Friant Community Plan and to consider a proposed Friant Ranch Project. It is interesting that the proposed project is being considered at the same time as the update to the community plan. Naturally the focus ended up being the proposed development rather than the community plan at large.

Why would CNPS be interested in this community plan? Primarily because there is substantial vernal pool habitat on the Friant Ranch property that would be severely impacted by the proposed development even though marketing materials make it sound as though the vernal pools would be "protected". In addition, looking at the 20-year community plan for Friant should include much more area than the current area under consideration.

Residents expressed a range of opinions about the proposed project, from very positive to intelligent skepticism. The next public meeting will be held in June and we'll be there!

Tour of Restoration Nursery

This was a wonderful opportunity to see first hand the work, challenges, and successes involved in part of the Land Remirement Demonstration Project administered by California State University, Stanislaus, with support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Nur Ritter, Restoration Botanist, Graham, Nursery Manager, and Krista, Wildlife Biologist gave us an excellent tour of the restoration nursery that has emerged out of their work on the project.

Along the drive to the site we stopped to see how a colony of burrowing owls have found quite a nice habitat in an old, unused concrete irrigation ditch whose sides have buckled.

In the midst of the retired farmland heavily filled with non-native grasses is the nursery site. It is a rich tapestry of California natives grown from seed collected within a 50-mile radius. This is a broader range than originally desired but due to the dearth of natives in a smaller radius, it was a necessary expansion.

The result of these years of work is impressive: over 80 species of local natives from grasses to Bladderpod. On the day of the tour, the nursery was abuzz with bird and insect life - an oasis of native plants that seemed to be a magnet for local wildlife.

The effort has not been without its challenges including rabbits, theft of supplies, illegal sheep grazing, and the ultimate challenge - lack of funding. The current funding runs through September of this year and this would be an unfortunate end to the project.

Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone.

-Jean Jacques Rousseau

OBSERVATIONS

Everything happens so quickly once the weather warms – natives planted in the fall or winter looked above ground exactly like they were when they were planted until the temps hit 80 degrees for a few days. Then there was an explosion of activity above ground that demonstrated what was happening all along – quietly during winter and early spring, the roots were busy.

It's happening everywhere: In Peggy Jones' garden in Kingsburg, sulfur flower buckwheat, penstemon, coral bells, columbine, dudleyas, monkey flower and cleveland sage are all in full bloom.

In Watts Valley green and yellow are the dominant colors. Green is everywhere brightened by large patches of tarweed (*Madia elegans*) and common yellow monkey flower seems to be taking over the areas covered with goldfields a few weeks ago. Golden brodiaea is also widespread.

Blue dicks, Ithural's spear, globe lillies, Chinese houses, fiesta flower, mustang clover, and many other blooms provide some contrast.

Buckeyes have sprouted "candles," and should begin their spectacular bloom in the next couple of weeks. If the number and size of Clarkia plants is any indication, spring will be bid a fantastic farewell.

Speaking of Buckeye, I see some have been planted on the 168 Freeway. Look for them on a ramp near you!

In last month's Observations I mentioned some Purple Owl's Clover in a median on Bullard Avenue in Fresno. Lo and behold, when the City was cleaning up the weeds, some City employee pulled the weeds and left the Owl's Clover and left a bright spot in my day.

The needlegrasses are in their full glory right now, awns glinting in the sun and waving in the evening breeze. Given a small chance they can spread and establish themselves very nicely.

Two years of above average rainfall and a few years in the ground have brought out the blossoms of many California natives planted in my heavy soil: *Carpenteria*, *Fremontodendron*, and *Manzanita*. And a special treat – over four years have passed since an Apricot Mallow I planted had lived out its life. The area now contains *Nude Buckwheat* and *Cleveland Sage*. During the heavy rains what should appear but a vigorous Apricot Mallow four feet away from the original plant! It grew quickly and now sports a healthy crop of beautiful blossoms visited frequently by hummingbirds and carpenter bees. *Monkeyflower* has been appearing in small quantities where years ago none existed. Birds and insects are appearing that I've never seen before. It's absolutely true – plant them and they will come.

- Editor

Spring Appeal

A hearty "Thank You" for your generous contributions to our Spring Appeal. We received \$1095 in contributions. There are so many organizations that need support and we sincerely appreciate that you've given us that extra bit of cash to help fund our efforts. It will be put to good use in pursuit of the CNPS mission.

HORTICULTURE

A Time to Enjoy

By Joseph Oldham

Spring is often thought of as a time for much garden activity and for those that have gardens with exotic non-native plants that is mostly true. However, for those of us that have native gardens spring is primarily a time to enjoy the fruits of our labor from the fall and winter. Wildflowers that were sown as seed in the fall are now in full bloom. Shrubs and trees that were carefully planted in the winter are putting out new growth, blooming, and attracting wildlife of all types. Everywhere there is life in abundance and native gardens are exciting places for exploration and reflection.

A native garden can be designed to give visitors (human and non-human) pleasant sights and smells. Plants such as *Cleveland Sage* provide a dazzling display of flowers and also perfume the garden with a delightful fragrance. Other plants such as *Coyote Bush* and *Sticky Baccharis* provide enjoyment from their fragrance and their ability to attract the most astonishing array of interesting insects that I have ever seen. Tiny bizarre looking wasps, brilliant green hover flies, and many more species love these plants and will provide hours of enjoyment. Insects are not the only wildlife attraction in a native garden; amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals all love native plants.

This time of year a native garden is filled from morning to night with interesting creatures. Hummingbirds love the *Cleveland Sage*, *Foothill Penstemon*, and soon the *Desert Willows*. *Warblers*, *Titmice*, and *Nuthatches* have a great time picking insects from the various shrubs and trees. *Kingbirds* and *Ash-throated Flycatchers* stake out perches around the yard, then fly out and catch insects in mid-air using amazing aerobatic maneuvers. In the evening, *Cliff Swallows* and *Violet-green Swallows* swoop through the air snapping up mosquitoes and other insects. After sunset they are replaced by bats. At night the air is filled with the songs of *Pacific Tree-frogs*; the fruit of their labors are thousands of tadpoles. Children love tadpoles!

Of course it isn't all play and no work with natives in the spring. There is a big benefit to keeping the grasses mowed down in the foothills besides reducing the fire hazard. This also benefits the wildlife. *Quail*, *towhees*, *bluebirds*, etc. seem to only forage on mowed areas. The more the non-native grasses are controlled, the better the wildlife benefit.

So take some time this spring to enjoy your native garden along with all the other creatures that enjoy it as well. Sure there are always things to do in the garden such as weeding, a little pruning, etc., but take some time to stop and smell the native roses.

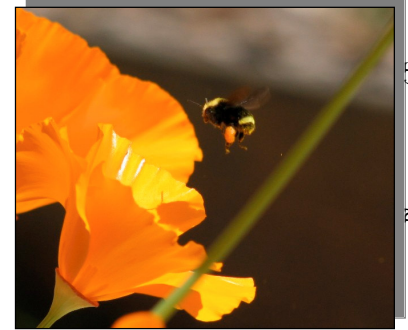


Photo courtesy of Frances

Garden as though you will live forever.

-William Kent

RELATED PLANT AND FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

Nelder Grove Exploration with Joanne Freemire

Saturday, May 13, 1pm - 5pm

Mountain House Restaurant Parking lot. Enjoy an easy, one mile walk among the Giant Sequoias and blooming Dogwoods. Explore historic logging exhibits. Wear long pants and sleeves. Pack water, snack, and insect repellent. Chawanakee Unified School District Adult Education Classes. Call Doug Waltner at 683-0808 for more information.

Botanizing the Byway with Joanne Freemire

Saturday, July 8, 10am - 5 pm

North Fork School

Drive to High Sierra Meadows, stopping at scenic Byway viewpoints. Dress in layers for temperature changes and mosquitoes. Pack a lunch, water, and camera. Purchase of a Sierra National Forest map is recommended.

Fee: \$15

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Black Mountain Open House. Sunday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Mother's Day with an invigorating but not too difficult walk on Black Mountain. It's 2 miles from the parking area to the top with an optional mile along the ridge. There should be abundant wildflowers and the rare *Carpenteria californica* should be in full bloom.

Classes. Classes require early reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family). Space is limited. Bring lunch and water for daytime classes. Visit <www.sierrafoothill.org> for more information, registration, and changes/additions or call 559/855-3473.

Saturday June 3	<i>Wildflowers of the Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias.</i> With botanist Joanna Clines. At 5600 feet, Nelder Grove is a cool, shady respite from the Valley heat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday June 10	<i>Wildflowers of the Grand Bluffs.</i> With Bonnie Bladen. Enjoy the cool mountain air at 6000 feet while taking a moderately paced hike at the Grand Bluffs Demonstration Forest. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sequoia Chapter CNPS

Thursday
May 25

Chounimuni Field Trip 9:30-12:00. We need adult leaders for 10 groups. Topics will include water quality, history of the Kings River, native American uses of native plants, plant identification and riparian ecology. The students have begged for Warren's scavenger hunt! Please come out and share your time. For details contact Peggy Jones at autumn_aspen@hotmail.com

Saturday
May 27

Signal Peak with Joanna Clines, Botanist.

Sequoia Chapter and Sierra Foothills Chapter invites you to see the rare Yosemite onion in bloom, and enjoy 360 degree vistas from this 7,000 foot mountain in the Chowchilla Mountains. This lookout is behind a locked gate, so here's your chance to visit this wonderful place. RSVP to Joanna Clines at jclines@fs.fed.us or 559/281-2789. Meet at the junction of Hwy 49 and Chowchilla Mountain Road at 9:00 a.m. We'll carpool to Signal Peak. Four-wheel drive vehicles may be helpful. From Fresno, Madera, or Oakhurst, you may meet Joanna at 8:30 at the US Post Office parking lot in Oakhurst, near Longs Drugs on Hwy 49. Bring water, lunch, sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection. Optional: binoculars, camera, bird and flower field guides. We won't hike far, but the hiking we do will be on steep, loose, rocky slopes at 7,000 feet elevation. Expect to spend the day, getting back to Highway 49 by 3 or 4 pm.

Wednesday
May 31

Come to China Creek and help supervise a collaborative investigation into oak woodlands with Sanger High and Centerville third grade students. 10:00 to 12:00. For ore information contact Peggy Jones at autumn_aspen@hotmail.com

Saturday
June 24

Grand Bluffs with Bonnie Bladen, Raymond Laclergue, and Jane Pritchard. Get out of the Valley heat and come up the mountain to the Grand Bluffs Demonstration Forest near Dinkey Creek to view and identify mountain wildflowers. The Forest is located 6 miles east of Shaver Lake on the Dinkey Creek Rd. (5200-6200ft. elevation). There are many habitats to enjoy including granite outcrop, mountain meadow, and year round creek and forested areas. Wear long pants, hiking boots, a hat and bring your handlens, lunch and drinking water. The hike will last about four hours and be moderately strenuous, but slow. We will meet and carpool from the Shaver Lake park n ride on Dinkey Creek Road at 8 am. For more information, call Bonnie at 855-8697.

There is a "new" native plant nursery in Fresno. It's Grandma's All Natural Vegetable Market and Herb Nursery. It is located in the Tower District at 403 W. Olive on the site of the old Miller-Clark Nursery. Owners Dan and Cheryl Wilson want everyone to know that they have a passion for native plants and organic gardening. They wish to serve the needs of the native plant gardener with plants, books, tools, compost tea, seeds, and many other items. Their native plants come from Intermountain Nursery in Prather and with the high cost of fuel, it is great to have another valley location for native plants.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

March 2006 *New Members and Membership Renewals
The Sequoia chapter serves the Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.

Madera County: O'Leary
Fresno County: Buada, Tenneboe, Anderson

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

Want your newsletter by e-mail instead of printed and mailed? If so, email Helen Shaw at the above email address.

NEWSLETTER



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions to the May newsletter is Friday, May 5.

Everyone is welcome to contribute. We have a busy membership and some of you are doing interesting and noteworthy activities regarding natives. I encourage you to send me information on your doings. It would be great to hear how natives are used in your endeavors.

Endangered Species Day

The U.S. Senate has declared May 11, 2006 "Endangered Species Day" to raise awareness about the threats to endangered species and the success stories in species recovery. The resolution was sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and was adopted unanimously. See Senator Feinstein's Press Release at <http://feinstein.senate.gov/06releases/r-endangered-species.htm>.

California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
July 17-23, 2006!
www.cal-ipc.org



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

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
*President	Peggy Jones 1931 Winter Street Kingsburg, CA 93631	559/897-9646 autumn_aspen@ hotmail.com
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell 580 W. Manning Ave Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net
*Secretary	Marian Orvis 2427 E. Harvard Fresno, CA 93703	559/226-0145 mforvet@earthlink.net
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson 3457 E. Redlands Fresno, CA 93726	559/243-0815 (h) jrjlars@aol.com
*Past President	Warren Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) warshaw@netptc.net
Membership	Helen Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) helshaw@netptc.net
Field trips / Programs	Jane Pritchard 276 W. Barstow, #103 Clovis, CA 93611	559/323-8253 (h) xxiii_xx@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Thelma Valdez 12328 E. Sierra Ave. Clovis, CA 93619	559/323-8962 (h) nmtv@att.net
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell 580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net
Horticulture	Joseph Oldham 29123 Yosemite Spr. Pky. Coarsegold, CA 93614	559/658-7165 J.Oldham1@sti.net
Education	Peggy Jones	(see President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins 357 Adler Clovis, CA 93612	559/278-2179 (w) johnst@csufresno.edu
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

- 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

May 2006



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 PLANT

The Sages



They're numerous, their scent is almost universally loved by humans and non-humans, they like dry places, and they're easy to grow. They're the *Salvia* species.

The genus name *Salvia* is Latin for "to save" and they are well known for their culinary and medicinal value. Many people clip

and dry Cleveland Sage to use as a seasoning instead of the Mediterranean variety.

California's native sages represent a small percentage of the world's *Salvias*. However, within that small percentage is a

great variety from which to choose: Purple Sage with its love of sunny, steep slopes makes good erosion control. White Sage – known for its use by local Native Americans for its purifying qualities. Cleveland Sage and its hybrids with their incredible fragrance after it rains or when you brush lightly against it. Black Sage – wonderful for bees.

Hummingbirds, bees (native and non-native), and wasps all visit the sages. When the flowers dry, they bear seeds that are relished by goldfinches and quails. Let them show you the way to a shrub that can be enjoyed by all.

Excerpted from *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien. Image of Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*) From *Native Shrubs of California* by Glen Keator.