

THE NEWSLETTER
Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



January 2015

www.cnps-sequoia.org

--It's not too early to...



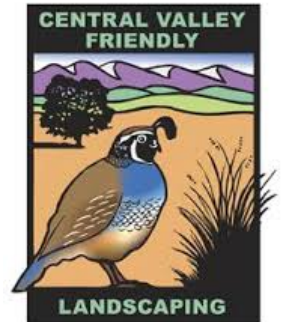
Fresno
HOME & GARDEN
Show
MARCH 6,7,8, 2015

- **think about the annual Home & Garden Show.** This popular event is at the usual time and place—first weekend in March—Fresno Fairgrounds. Admission \$9; parking \$5

- **plan on free admission and parking.** We will trade these perks for a couple of hours of your time. In recent years our table has been near those of Master Gardeners and Clovis Botanical Garden. This generates a lot of traffic and contact with plant lovers and others interested in native plants and their benefit to the environment, other plants and animals, and mindful gardening. Choose your day/time and contact Marian Orvis with your preferences: Friday 11-7, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-6. mforvet@comcast.net 559/226-0145

--It's not too late to...

- **congratulate Marian and Frank Orvis** for their award from the Central Valley Friendly Landscape Committee in recognition of “..creating a healthy sustainable garden.” If you'd like to drive by their Fresno yard, Marian can give you the location when you contact her to volunteer --hint, hint. (see above)—



- **join the China Creek restoration project.** China Creek, an undeveloped Fresno County park near Sanger, is a remnant of once-vast acres of riparian oak woodlands and is home to some of the largest valley oaks in the San Joaquin Valley. Join a group of volunteers dedicated to the mission of restoring China Creek Park to a state as nearly natural as possible. See the report on page 2 and contact leader, Warren Shaw, for more information or just show up on January 17th at 9AM. To get to the Park, take 180/Kings Canyon east across Academy to Smith or Oliver. Turn south about 1/4 mi. past the school to Rainbow and Smith. Continue south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate.

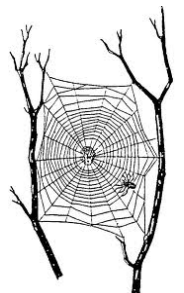
Observations

--Thelma Valdez

After one of our December rains, I was replacing the water in a bird bath next to a couple of mature Cleveland Sage. The smell of sage in the air was intoxicating as only sage can be. Another bird bath is near a Coyote Bush that was blooming at the time. Oh my! Another incredibly wonderful smell that belies Coyote Bush's nondescript presentation. No wonder it attracts all manner of insects that I don't see on other blossoming shrubs.

Since the rains, our field has become a bonanza of filaree. Looking carefully, though, I can also find new leaves of a small annual Lupine. And Red Maid leaves are spreading wide on some gopher mounds. Native needlegrasses look good, demonstrating their bunchgrass ways.

Warm December weather prompted some plants to hesitatingly send out a few pioneer blooms, only to be hit with long-overdue frost. No, no, no! Not yet!



California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)

--Marian Orvis

from "Early Uses of California Plants" by Edward K. Balls, 1962 Note: Interesting information but be aware it may be outdated.

The California Buckeye was used among many of the Indian tribes for food. It needed considerably more leaching than acorns. The nuts were broken open and soaked in water for a day, then pounded into meal and leached in the sand filter. The process of washing and drying had to be repeated as much as ten times, count being kept by laying aside a stick for each time the washing and drying process was done. The "drying" between washings was rather a [thorough] draining, and the process could take a whole day. The mush was usually cooked as soon as the leaching was done and was eaten right away.

The Indians of Round Valley cooked the whole nuts for as long as ten hours in a stone-lined pit, lined with willow leaves and covered with hot ashes and earth. After this the nuts were sliced or mashed and leached in running water for several days.

There are numerous references to the use of the Buckeye as a fish poison. Different tribes appear to have had varying practices in the use of this plant. The leaves and young shoots were used by the Concow and Yuki Indians. The more common reference is to the use of the nuts, which were crushed by stamping earth into them; the resulting mush was floated into small streams and stupefied the fish, making them rise to the surface to be taken in coarse nets or by hand.

CHINA CREEK REPORT, NOV. '14/JAN '15

--Warren Shaw warshaw1955@gmail.com

Our November work party was short, both because we started late ("winter hours") and because we quit early for our annual "Thank you" lunch. Nonetheless, we picked up trash, flagged seedlings for caging, and finished up our spraying of wild fig trees for the year.

Then we adjourned to the Blossom Trail Café for a nice lunch, on the chapter, where we expressed our gratitude to those who have devoted so much to the mission of restoring China Creek Park to a state as nearly natural as possible.

The efforts of these and other volunteers have brought Yellow Star Thistle to the point at which it's possible to control with hand work, likewise *Ailanthus*. We've also made serious inroads into the Bull Thistle and Wild Fig populations. In addition we've protected dozens of new Valley Oak seedlings, kept the Park clean, and reduced the volume of graffiti and vandalism. Well done, Volunteers!

But there's much more to be done. Our January work party will be on Saturday, January 17, from 9:00 – 12:00 (winter hours). We'll most likely devote most of our efforts to cleaning up, and caging Valley Oak seedlings in preparation for spring grazing. Please join us in getting 2015 off to a great start.

Field Report

--Belinda Gilbert



The foothills of Madera

County received about six inches of rain before the Pineapple Express arrived on December 12th. Deciduous oaks and willows still showed fall colors and had lost about half their leaves. Otherwise, we have spring-like conditions, with both native and non-native annuals growing rapidly in response to rainfall and warm temperatures.

On my 6 acres in the Ahwahnee area, non-native *Erodium*, Chickweed and European grasses are several inches tall, and I am busily pulling weeds to prevent them from flowering and going to seed so early. I am delighted to see Miner's Lettuce growing lushly under the oaks. In the open pasture three species of Lupine, Gold Fields, Popcorn Flower, Red Maids, Five Spot and Baby Blue Eyes have germinated. These annuals, adapted to low rainfall conditions of central California, germinated after the first storms. The autumn rainfall produced thick green carpets of annuals. The extremely dry weather conditions of other years produced annuals which germinated, turned rose grey in color and then grew very slowly until rainfall resumed.

Ten years ago, my property was thick with European grasses. Removing the grasses, *Erodium*, and other non-native species allowed native annuals to become established on three of the six acres. (I am gradually clearing the other three acres). I am interested in seeing the populations of annual plants change yearly. Miner's Lettuce, Chinese Houses, Lupines, Red Maids and Popcorn Flower are well established and increase in numbers ever year.

Yearly, I collected and sowed native species of seed, such as Buttercups, Baby Blue Eyes and Five Spot, Monkey Flower, Spider Lupine, *Monardella candicans*, Birds Eye Gilia, Mustang Clover and Whisker Brush. Many became established, although increases in population were less dramatic. Perhaps these species have more specific niches (sun/shade, water requirements, temperature, elevation, slope, or soil type). One example is Spider Lupine. I sowed seeds in several locations, and finally it germinated under the overhang of an outbuilding, in sandy soil on the shaded west side! The extra rain falling off the roof plus sandy soil might have been the key. In this case, persistence paid off.

I haven't succeeded in getting some species to germinate at all, such as Harlequin Lupine, Delphinium, Sand Aster and Fiesta flower as the growing conditions aren't right. It's always thrilling to see which species thrive at this location and interesting to see which species don't.

Some tree species showed sensitivity to continuing drought. Ponderosa Pines reacted to lack of water and insect infestation and died by the hundreds on steep hillsides at this elevation. Live Oaks, some with heavy Mistletoe infestation also succumbed to dry conditions. My hope for 2015 is continued rainfall!

Membership

John & Michele LuValle

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.

Next Newsletter: Feb. 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@gmail.com. The deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, Feb. 6



Sequoia Chapter, CNPS
Thanks Derrel's

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	open	
*Vice-Pres.	Warren Shaw warshaw1955@gmail.com	559/451-1256 (h)
*Secretary	Marian Orvis mforvet@comcast.net	559/226-0145 (h)
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson jrjlars@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
•Membership	Michele LuValle John LuValle	luvalle@mcn.org jluvalle@mcn.org
•Field Trips	Jane Pritchard xxiii_xx@yahoo.com	559/765-2910 (h)
•Newsletter Editors	Warren&Helen Shaw warshaw1955@gmail.com helshaw@gmail.com	559/451-1256(h)
•Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell madeleine43@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
•Horticulture	open	
•Education	Warren Shaw	(See Newsletter)
•Rare Plant	John Stebbins johnst@mail.fresnostate.edu	559/297-0144 (h)
•Plant Sale	Thelma Valdez	(see Webmaster)
•Conservation	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
•Directors at Large	Jim Seay Belinda Gilbert	jnjseay@gmail.com belinda@sti.net
•Webmaster	Thelma Valdez yucca37tv@yahoo.com	559/323-8962 (h)



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide news and announcements of activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, *Carpenteria*.

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

January 2015



CALIFORNIA NATIVE

PLANT SOCIETY

SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

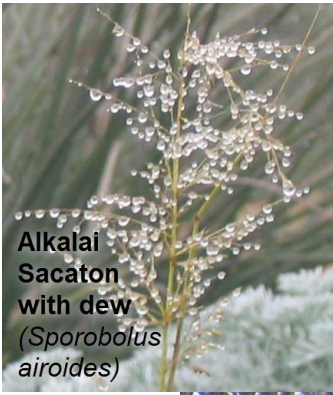
Madeleine Mitchell



In September two friends and I made a trip to Acadia Nat'l Park in Maine to hike and see the East Coast for the first time. This was a Road Scholar program. We went a couple of days early to make a side trip to Boothbay to see the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden (we are all Master Gardeners). While there we found out about a Monarch Waystation project that the Botanical Gardens had joined recently. I checked their website: mainegardens.org then searched for Monarch. I found that there are many gardens that have joined this crusade to plant milkweed and help the species to continue. So many natural areas where they breed are being cultivated for farming and the use of glyphosate is used for weeds.....plus developments, roads, etc.!

For California we would need to plant *Asclepias fascicularis*, the Calif. narrow leaf milkweed that can be ordered from several native plant nurseries. I only checked with Las Pilitas and Calflora. The plant is a perennial and dies back in the winter but does return in the spring. It does need some summer water so is not really drought tolerant but would be great to order some plants and see how they do. Intermountain Nursery's plant list has *Asclepias eriocarpa*, the woolly milkweed. Then I checked with xerces.org and there are two other natives, *Asclepias vestita* and *californica*. Those were the ones listed for California. So we have choices; maybe within our chapter we can try different species and see what we can do to help the Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*





**Alkalai
Sacaton
with dew**
(*Sporobolus
airoides*)



Chaparral Yucca
(*Yucca whipplei*)



Western Redbud and House Finch
(*Cercis occidentalis*)



Woolly Blue Curls
(surprised by the frost)
(*Trichostema lanatum*)



Needlegrasses
(*Nassella pulchra* or *cernua*)

**January 2015
Sequoia Chapter CNPS**



Desert Willow
(*Chilopsis linearis*)

Deergress
(*Muhlenbergia rigens*)