



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

September 2004

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 21. 7:00 p.m.

“Livestock Grazing, Native Plants, Environmentalists, and Cattlemen” with speaker Chuck Peck

Chuck Peck, Executive Director of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, will speak on how grazing can work to benefit native plants and animals. The Sierra Foothill Conservancy allows cattle grazing on its preserves and works with local cattlemen to stay true to its mission of protecting "...wildlife, ranching, and natural beauty for present and future generations." His ongoing experience with working with all sides of conservancy issues should make for a lively and informative talk.

Regular meeting and speaker are at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue).

Future Meeting Programs

- | | |
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| September 21 | Livestock Grazing and Native Plants
Chuck Peck |
| October 19 | Native Plant Gardening
Thelma Valdez & Joseph Oldham |
| November 16 | The Sequoia Monument
Michael Kunz |
| December 21 | Potluck and Member Slides |

Everyone is welcome to attend meetings and programs. Our meetings and programs are also open to the public and we encourage you to bring others that may be interested.

Native Plant Sale Flyer

On page 3 and 4 of this newsletter is a flyer for the Native Plant Sale that you can pull out and share or use to ponder what plants you need this year

The basic procedure for every garden is the same. Figure out what to plant, obtain it, control the weeds, plant at the right time of year, supplying enough water to establish the plant, and then, in most cases, stop watering. You don't need dozens of garden books with glossy photos, endless plant lists and charts from encyclopedic works, tomes on drip irrigation. The land will teach us how to garden.

--from Notes on Natural Design by Judith Larner Lowry

The Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 25. 8 am – 12 noon

Come to the plant sale and bring friends and family! The sale is strategically held at the end of September because this gives you perfect timing to get native plants into the ground between late September and late October.

The Plant Sale is a good time to meet and talk with others about their native plant experiences. Whether you're new to native plants and just want to get a little education, or if you just want to squeeze one more native plant in your garden, plan to stop by!

Since this is our biggest fundraiser, your attendance and purchases are especially important.

It's also never too late to volunteer to help. Setup begins at 6:45 and break down is shortly after 12 noon. Contact Jeanne Larson for additional information. 559/243-0815 or email <jrjlars@aol.com>



Blue Elderberry
(Sambucus mexicana)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Tarweed, (*Holocarpha heermannii*) sticky and aromatic (I like the smell -- many don't) covers large areas of our foothills with dull green foliage and bright yellow blossoms. Dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*) grows in strips and patches, especially in disturbed areas along roads and such—its roundish grey-green leaves just high enough to provide a little shade for the doves and quail that forage under the plants for their tiny black seeds.

That these plants are able to grow, bloom and produce seed in September in a landscape parched by six years of drought, with a palette consisting mainly of various shades of brown is truly a testament to the toughness and persistence of California native plants.

It is also, I think, a symbol for those of us who work for the preservation of native flora. We too must be tough and persistent in these lean and dry times—when our own government seems to be working against us, and peoples' attention seems to be focused on other matters—so that there is no deluge of bright idealistic energetic young members to take up the fight as we tire and fall away.

We too must continue to grow and bloom as well as we can, knowing that in time the winds will change, and the rains will come, along with renewed interest in California's natural habitat and a new willingness to work to preserve it.

-- Warren Shaw

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Intermountain Nursery Class:

Propagation of California Native Plants

Saturday, October 18. 9:30 a.m.

Learn about the various propagation techniques for California native plants. Ray Laclergue will demonstrate and discuss collecting, storing, stratifying, and germinating seed. Also taking and rooting cuttings successfully and proper growing conditions for California natives. Handouts and information on books and supplies will be provided. A tour of the nursery's growing facilities will also be available. A \$5.00 non-refundable deposit will reserve your space for any one class. All classes are 2 hours except as noted. Call 559.855.3113 for more information.

Johnny's Garden Nursery & Outdoor Living Center

Wild about California

Saturday, October 2. 10:00 a.m.

Prepare your yard this time of year for springtime using California natives. CNPS Sequoia Chapter members, Thelma Valdez and Joseph Oldham, will share experiences in designing a low-maintenance naturalistic garden that is attractive to birds, butterflies, and people, too. You will have the opportunity to choose and mix a wildflower seed selection. The nursery will highlight their selection of native plants.

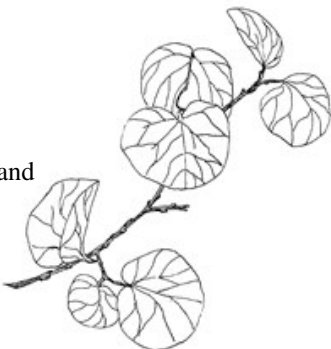
12th Annual Harvest Arts Festival

Intermountain Nursery

Saturday, October 9. 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, October 10. 10 am – 4 pm

hop for unique gifts crafted by local artisans and treat yourself to a delicious lunch and unique homemade goodies and refreshments. Local musicians provide original music. Browse the nursery for native plants still in plenty of time for fall planting.



Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes require reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family) unless otherwise noted. For more information and registration call 559/855-3473 or visit <www.sierrafoothill.org>. Hikes are free. Call for meeting points and weather information. Bring lunch & water for all daytime classes.

Hikes

Saturday November 27 9 am	Hikes at the McKenzie Preserve. (Free) This is the only fall hike. Walk the Discovery Trail (3.7 miles) or hike to the top of the table (moderate 6 miles) in the cool fall air. Bring lunch and water.
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Classes

Saturday October 9 8 am- 6 pm	Biotic Communities and Geology of the Sierra. A carpool into the Sierra with stops to observe various biotic communities along the way. Geologist Craig Poole and biologists Bob Winter and Rodney Olson will interpret the Sierra's natural history. Meet at the Forest Service parking lot at 1600 Tollhouse Road in Clovis
Saturday October 30 9 am- 2 pm	Natural History of Sierra Foothill Birds. Join Jeff Davis, local ecologist and writer, to learn about the relationship of birds, acorns, berries, and oak trees at the McKenzie table Mountain Preserve.

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



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

NATIVE PLANT SALE

**September 25, 2004
Saturday, 8 am to Noon
Free Admission**

**Vineyard Farmers' Market
Northwest Corner of
Blackstone and Shaw
in Fresno**



Chilopsis linearis a, seed pod. b, seed

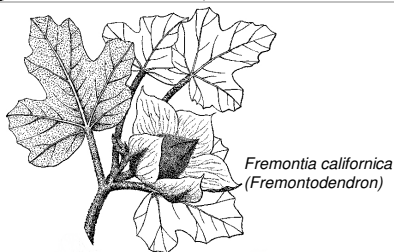
Trees ● Seeds ● Planting Advice ● Shrubs ● Displays
Catalogues ● Native Plant Information ● Perennials ● Grasses

Phone 243-0815 for more information

The majority of the following plants will be available at the plant sale, depending upon availability:

<i>Botanical name</i>	<i>Common name</i>
TREES	
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Big Leaf maple
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California Buckeye
<i>Alnus rhom. & ten.</i>	Mountain Alder
<i>Calodendrus</i>	Incense Cedar
<i>Chilopsis</i>	Desert Willow
<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	Utah Juniper
<i>Pinus</i>	Pine
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak
<i>Sequoiadendron gigantea</i>	Giant Sequoia
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California Bay
SHRUBS	
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	Manzanita
<i>Atriplex</i>	Saltbush
<i>Baccharis</i>	Coyote Bush
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spice Bush
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Bush Anemone
<i>Ceanothus</i>	Ceanothus
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonwillow
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Redbud
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rubber Rabbit Brush
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Dogwood
<i>Eriogonum</i>	Buckwheat
<i>Eriophyllum</i>	Wooly Sunflower
<i>Fremontodendron</i>	Flannel Bush
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Lavendula</i>	Lavender
<i>Lepechinia calycina</i>	Pitcher Sage
<i>Lupinus</i>	Lupine
<i>Mahonia</i>	Oregon Grape
<i>Philadelphus l. 'Goose Creek'</i>	California Mock Orange
<i>Prunus</i>	Chokecherry
<i>Rhamnus</i>	Coffeeberry
<i>Ribes aureum, nevadense, sanguineum</i>	Currant
<i>Rosa</i>	Rose
<i>Rubus leucodermis & ursinus</i>	Raspberry

<i>Botanical name</i>	<i>Common name</i>
SHRUBS	
<i>Salix</i>	Willow
<i>Salvia</i>	Sage
<i>Sambucus</i>	Elderberry
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	Apricot Mallow
PERENNIALS	
<i>Aquilegia</i>	Columbine
<i>Aster</i>	Aster
<i>Fragaria</i>	Strawberry
<i>Heuchera</i>	Coral Bells
<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	Gumweed
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue Flax
<i>Helenium hoopesii</i>	Sneezeweed
<i>Mimulus</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Monardella</i>	Coyote Mint
<i>Penstemon</i>	Penstemon
<i>Potentilla</i>	Cinquefoil
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	Coneflower
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed Grass
<i>Symphoricarpos acutus</i>	Creeping Snowberry
<i>Zauschneria</i>	California Fuschia
GRASSES	
<i>Achnatherum nelsonii</i>	Mountain Needlegrass
<i>Aristida ternipes</i>	Spreading Three-awn
<i>Carex</i>	Sedge
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hairgrass
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Blue Wild Rye
<i>Festuca</i>	Fescue
<i>Juncus</i>	Rush
<i>Leymus triticoi</i>	Creeping Wild Rye
<i>Melica californica & imperfecta</i>	California Melic
<i>Muhlenbergia</i>	Deer Grass
<i>Nassella</i>	Needlegrass
<i>Scirpus</i>	Bull Rush



Fremontia californica
(*Fremontodendron*)

The Official State Grass of California

Purple Needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) is now the official State Grass of California. SB 1226 was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on Monday, August 23, 2004. Native grasses may now receive more attention as a result of this bill. Fourth graders throughout California will study the state grass along with the official state flower, the state bird, etc.

Here is an excerpt of an article by Jeffrey Cobin (San Francisco Chronicle, July 5, 2004), "It is worth remembering that the golden hills that most Californians associate with summertime vistas are a very different landscape than the one that would have greeted the earliest European settlers. California's grassland ecosystems were once largely dominated by native perennial bunchgrasses, including purple needlegrass, that live for more than 100 years and grow deep root systems so that they can survive our annual summer drought.

Machado's bill recognizes the prime role that purple needlegrass played in native California grasslands and its importance in the restoration of native biodiversity. This species is key to our biological heritage and is even immortalized on our state flag. (Take a look -- the grizzly bear is walking on native bunchgrasses!)

The shift from native perennial grasses to exotic annual grasses has also had cascading effects on the animals that depend on the perennial plants as food sources in the summer."

Observations

A nice, hot summer. Well, we do live in the Great Valley. Not a boring summer, though. If you have a Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) or know someone who does, you already enjoy the constant buzz of activity surrounding this ever-blooming tree/shrub throughout the summer. Carpenter bees and hummingbirds take full advantage. California Fuchsia (*Zauschneria californica*), too, provides nectar for the hummingbirds.

The native needlegrasses (*Nassella*) are hanging in there, just enough green at their base to show they'll make it to the winter rains.

And I can't help it -- the beautiful blue flower of the Vinegar Weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*) and its gray-green leaves make it one of my favorite native plants.



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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/Retired/Limited Income \$20
- Individual or Library \$35
- Family or Group \$45
- Supporting \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Bristlecone \$1000

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

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.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell 580 W. Manning Ave Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net	*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson 3457 E. Redlands Fresno, CA 93726	559/243-0815 (h) jrjlars@aol.com
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Lawsuit Filed to Protect Habitat for Five Rare Plant Species

Urban Sprawl, other factors in San Diego, Monterey, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties threaten five species of plants with extinction. The Center for Biological Diversity and the California Native Plant Society filed suit in Federal District Court on August 13 to compel Gale Norton, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to designate 'Critical Habitat' under provisions of the Endangered Species Act for five extremely rare plant species. The species; the Mexican flannelbush, San Diego thornmint, Vail Lake ceanothus, Yadin's rein orchid and Nevin's barberry occur in San Diego, Riverside, Los Angeles, Monterey Counties and Baja, Mexico. The species are threatened with habitat destruction from urban sprawl, competition from nonnative species and other factors.

"Critical Habitat" under the Endangered Species Act is defined as "areas essential for survival and recovery of a species." Critical Habitat adds an additional important layer of protection for endangered species. Under the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are barred from granting permits, funding or authorizing activities that would destroy the habitat areas.

Visit <<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/press/plants9-13-04.html>> for the full news release.

Newsletter

Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net>. The next newsletter will be the October issue. Contributions are due by Saturday, October 9.

CARPENTERIA

September 2004



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 >**

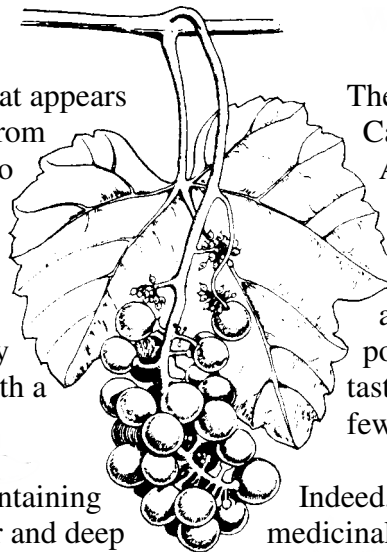
FEATURED PLANT

California Wild Grape

Vitis californica is a deciduous vine that appears in stream banks and foothill canyons from Kern County northward. It is similar to its cultivated relative but not nearly as ubiquitous as it once was. The vines are thick and can climb to 60 feet. They will climb trees, especially oaks and cottonwoods. The bark is shreddy and the leaves are minutely toothed with a variety of three-lobes or no lobes.

The fruit is a standard grape cluster containing many grapes, about ½ inch in diameter and deep purple. Although the skin is tangy, the flesh is sweet. Grape pie is a favorite of wild plant foragers.

California Native Americans used the plant frequently as food, much as we do today, eating it fresh, drying it, making jelly, and adding grapes to stews. The leaves were also boiled and used to wrap other food.



The wild grape found admirers in early California visitors. John Woodhouse Audubon, who visited California in the mid-nineteenth century wrote, “At sundown far down the valley of Santa Maria, we rejoined our camp and found all well, and Mr. Browning treated me to a pound or two of most delicious grapes. They tasted so refreshing and delicious, that for a few minutes I forgot everything else...”

Indeed, it was the early white settlers who used it medicinally. They made concoctions that served as a tonic, claiming it to be a remedy for urinary problems, kidney stones, bladder complaints, and used it as an eye wash. The leaves were used in poultices for cuts, scratches, and sores.

Looking for a beautiful native trellis plant or along a sunny wall? Consider *Vitis californica*.