



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

April 2007

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

The Clovis Botanical Gardens with Vice President, John LeBoeuf

John LeBoeuf is a Certified Professional Agronomist. His background in plant science, soils, and biology provides broad support to the Botanical gardens. He has also worked throughout the Valley doing aerial photography which has led to an understanding of the vast amount of land that is being consumed by urban development and especially the housing

industry. He is vice president the Clovis Botanical Gardens Board of Directors. Join us!

Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.
Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue.
(South of Ashlan Avenue), Fresno.

Future Meeting Programs

If you can't make a meeting (or even if you can!), pass on the information to friends, students, or family members with an interest in the topics. Meetings are open to the public and refreshments are usually pretty good, too!

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| May 15 | "Plant Communities of Point Lobos: Beyond Wildflowers" with Rosemary Donlon, Point Lobos Docent |
| September 18 | "Future of National Parks & Wilderness in the 21 st Century with William Tweed, PhD., Retired Chief of Interpretation for the National Parks Service |
| October 16 | "Edison Forest Management" with Terry Sandridge, Nursery Program Manager |
| November 20 | "Inventory and Monitoring in the Sierran Parks" with Meryl Rose |

China Creek Workday

By Warren Shaw

The March "workmorning" crew again found the park in good shape, with no graffiti and little trash, but we were discouraged to find once again that the pile of woodchips from Provco had not been spread on the trail.

We whacked weeds and picked up what trash there was, and Hank Urbach mowed the trail. We also laid out a test plot of about an acre and sprayed bull thistle rosettes with an organic mixture, starting an experimental process we hope will lead to an inexpensive, nontoxic, non labor-intensive method for dealing with this evil weed. Time will tell.

So now we're gearing up for the laborious process of spreading all those chips ourselves, starting on our regularly scheduled April workDAY, Saturday, April 21, 9-3. We hope to have mechanical help in loading the chips on various trucks and trailers and enough folks with rakes and pitchforks to unload and spread them by hand. We really need all the help we can get for this. PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

Bring the usual; hat/gloves/water, and a lunch. If you have a garden rake, a leaf rake, and/or a pitchfork, bring those too.. If you need help finding the park (or finding us), call 281-8080. Hope to see you there.



California Wild Rose
(*Rosa californica*)

Chapter Field Trips

Don't forget the *Windshield Wildflowers* field trip on Saturday, April 14 with Peggy Jones and Warren Shaw. No hiking boots required!

And note the new date (Sunday, April 29) for the *Wonderful Wildflowers and Waterfalls* with Joanne Freemire.

Details are on the third page of this newsletter.

Bonus Page in Electronic Edition of Carpenteria

This month begins a regular addition to the electronic version of the newsletter. It's a special full-color page of California native plant photos taken by members during the month of publication. It's a great way to see what's blooming, what's in the foothills, and what our members have planted in their home gardens.

We can do this in the electronic version because it does not cost extra to e-mail additional pages in full color. The budget for our printed version would not cover the cost of color printing.

If you are able to receive the newsletter electronically but have not yet requested it, this might be an incentive to try.

Of course, we look forward to publishing any photos you wish to share. You remain sole owner of the photos 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.

March 2007 Meeting

Randy McFarland's presentation at the March meeting presented information that every citizen in the area should know – where our water comes from and how it is monitored, stored, managed, and used.

Although the focus of the talk was the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum (UKBWF), its membership and *raison d'être*, Randy set the stage by providing a historical perspective of Kings River water. As one can imagine in considering the history of water in the West, it is a tumultuous history. Since about 1870 there have been over 250 lawsuits over Kings River water.

The UKBWF has representatives from local water districts (the Kings River Water Association), cities, counties, and other interest groups with an interest in Kings River water. The State of California requires an integrated regional water management plan in order to allow the use of grant money. The Forum is the local decision-maker for the Upper Kings Integrated regional Water Management Plan. This is a weighty task, and Randy was very positive about the Forum.

Kings River water is stored at Pine Flat Dam and although it is a single reservoir, it's really more like 28 reservoirs. The shareholders of this water bank account make up the Kings River Water Association (KRWA) – 28 member water agencies (13 public and 15 private). This is a private association formed in 1927 to work out water entitlements for each agency.

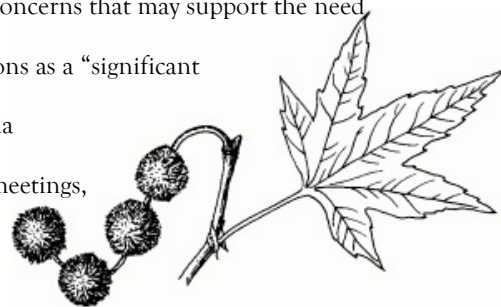
Another agency, Kings River Conservation District, is a public agency organized in 1951 that manages electricity at Pine Flat and is involved in biology and environmental work.

According to Randy, the cooperation among the very diverse members of the UKBWF has been very positive. This is as important as the Kings River water itself.



The CNPS Web site has a link for “Activities to Grow Our Grassroots”. I thought it was a good springboard for our Chapter. Below is the portion of “Activities to Grow Our Grassroots” for chapters. I'd like you to check the items off that apply to you. Those that require discussion and action by the chapter are set forth for consideration.

- Think strategically
- Register to vote
- Appoint a legislative chair and committee
- Identify CNPS “significant constituents” or become one (and then let Sacramento know)
- Send a chapter delegation to meet annually with each local legislator
- Invite legislators to chapter events and invite them to share their thoughts on our issues
- Add legislators to your mailing list for newsletters, etc.
- Invite legislators and local officials to workdays, plant sales, etc.
- Plan photo ops for publicity seeking elected officials
- Monitor and report to Sacramento a legislator's local activities or statements that may reveal attitudes toward CNPS policy issues
- Write letters-to-the-editor thanking or critiquing a legislator for his or her actions
- Identify local legislative issues or needs (e.g., locally focused legislative fix, resolutions)
- Don't just seek relationships with legislators - get to know and include their staff
- Get to know city, county, and school district elected officials (future legislators?)
- Form local coalitions with other environmental groups and other activists when we have common ground
- Identify local native plant concerns that may support the need for legislative action
- Make campaign contributions as a “significant constituent”
- Get to know the local media
- Issue local press releases
- Attend forums, town hall meetings, breakfasts, Rotary Club meetings, etc.
- Respond to grassroots appeals from Sacramento
- Educate, educate, and educate local legislators



~ Peggy Jones

OBSERVATIONS

At about 2000 feet, green is the dominant color. Some blue oaks in the early stages of foliation are a green so bright it almost hurts your eyes in the early light; others, acknowledging the coming drought, have begun to form their eponymous bluish pellicle. White, blue, red, pink, yellow, orange and purple abound as well, with a wide variety of shrubs and annuals blooming. Spring has definitely arrived and it looks like it will be short. Jeanne's Bee Balm is covered with blooms, creating a lavender haze from a distance, but nary a bee!

Why does spring always take me by surprise? As a gardener I enjoy the peace of our mild winters when California native plants are active in the earth and quiet above ground. Once spring arrives and everything around me is full of color, growing at a frenetic pace, I find myself needing to take a deep breath and remember that summer is waiting in the wings and will slow things down.

But it's important to be part of the cycle. Weeding is a good way to get into the motion of spring. Good weeding is meditative. Good weeding puts one close to the ground and causes birds to ignore you as they go about bathing, arguing, chatting, and their mating and nest-making rituals. Good weeding is the best way I know of to learn to identify plants when they have only a few leaves above ground and even to appreciate the beauty of many weeds...as you yank them out of the ground! Good weeding lets you experience and appreciate the earth. Good weeding has taught me that even small native grasses put down serious roots in locations I would never have chosen; but they did. Good weeding lets you get up close and personal with the brilliant color of a Red Maid, a Blue Flax, or a California Poppy. And the insects. How can one not be impressed with the insects? Well, okay, I suppose spring is all right.

- Editor

RELATED PLANT AND FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Hikes. Hikes are free and begin at 9:00 a.m. Call Jeanette at 877-2362 or 855-3473 to sign up and for meeting points and weather cancellations. Bring lunch, water, and hiking boots.

Saturday, 4/14	Table Mountain Smith Basin. Very strenuous.
Sunday, 4/15	Black Mountain Summit. Fairly easy.
Saturday, 4/21	Table Mountain Table Top. Moderate

Classes. Space is limited. Bring lunch and water for daytime classes. Visit www.sierrafoothill.org for more information, registration, and changes/additions or call 877-2362 or 855-3473.

Saturday June 2	Wildflowers of the Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias. With Joanna Clines, botanist. At 5600 feet, Nelder Grove is a cool, shady respite from the Valley heat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No Fee.
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Intermountain Nursery Classes

Saturday May 5 9:30 a.m. Fee: \$10	Native Plants in the Landscape Bonnie Bladen Spring is the time to view most native plants in bloom. Tour the many demonstration gardens at the Nursery and find out what will do well in your location. Cultural requirements of the plants will be discussed and hand-outs are available.
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Chawanakee Unified School District Adult Education Classes

Some classes may not be held due to low enrollment. It is important to register early. Make checks payable to Chawanakee Unified School District. Call Doug Waltner 683-0808 or Joanne Freemire at 877.4911 or 683-0808 if you have any questions

Saturday April 28 10:30-4:30 Fee: \$15	Hildreth History & Wildflower Walk with Joanne Freemire. Explore a gold-mining ghost town and Kennedy Table Mountain. See hidden waterfalls and fabulous flower fields on this privately owned site accessible only by owners' permission. Dress in layers. Pack lunch, water, camera and a hiking stick (uneven terrain). Meet at Spring Valley School on Rd. 200 in O'Neals to carpool.
Saturday May 26 th 1 - 4 pm Fee: \$10	Waterfall Walk with Joanne Freemire Carpool uphill for a 3 mile downhill hike over uneven terrain along Willow Creek to view Angel's Falls and Devil's Slide. Dress in layers. Pack snack, water, camera and hiking stick. Meet at Falls Picnic Area at North end of Bass Lake.

2007 California Native Grass Association

Visit www.cnga.org for details on this year's workshops.

Friday/Saturday, April 20 & 21. Grass Identification and Appreciation Workshop. East Bay Regional Parks, Oakland.

Saturday, April 21. Vernal Pool Workshop. Sacramento County.

Sequoia Chapter CNPS

Saturday
April 14
Second Annual **Windshield Wildflowers with Peggy Jones & Warren Shaw.** A no-hike trip. Then we'll take a leisurely drive up Trimmer Springs and Maxson Roads to Watts Valley, where we will stop, around noon, at the Shaws' for a lunch (and restroom) break. Finally we'll return to the valley via Watts Valley Road. This route will give us a good sample of foothill habitats, including savannah (some serpentine), blue oak woodlands, and riparian areas. Despite the title, we will actually stop to look, and photograph, at various points of interest.

Bring lunch, hats, sunscreen, water, cameras, and binoculars (but you won't need your hiking boots). Hope to see you there. It should be a lovely day. To add your name to the list and get carpool information, contact Warren at warshaw@netptc.net or [559] 855-4519. Free. (If using a map search for directions, Doyle's General Store is located at 25425 E Trimmer Springs Rd, Sanger, CA 93657.) Free.

Sunday
April 29
NOTE: NEW DATE! Wonderful Wildflowers and Waterfalls with Joanne Freemire, Naturalist. 11 am - 5 pm. Meet at North Fork Post Office/Pizza Factory parking lot to carpool or caravan along the San Joaquin River past Kerkoff and Redinger reservoirs. At stops along the way, we'll hike to a lunch spot overlooking the river, then to two hidden waterfalls (total hiking distance: 6 relatively level miles) to admire wildflowers at bloom peak. On the return drive we can follow either a paved road past the exact center of California, or dirt USFS roads past *Carpenteria californica* in bloom near Auberry, depending on road conditions and the group's wishes.

Pack lunch, water, camera, field guides, a Sierra National Forest map if you have one, and dress in layers. To register, call Joanne at 877.4911. Free.

Clovis Botanical Garden Work Days

Saturdays, April 14, May 12

Join us anytime between 9 a.m. - noon even if you can only come for an hour or two. Bring garden gloves or a hula hoe. Contact Georgia Porcella at georgiap@csufresno.edu. RSVPs appreciated.

7th Annual Teach the River

Space is limited for these events. Pre-register at 559-433-3190 x3 or www.teachtheriver.org

Saturday April 14	Weekend Nature Walk. Join a trained nature guide for a 2-3 mile walk along the San Joaquin River! 8:30-12pm, \$2, SJRPCT members and children under 6 free!
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The Sustainable Garden

By Joseph Oldham

The term “sustainability” has become an increasingly common word in popular articles and writing these days. The “ability to sustain”, as the word is defined, is more and more on the minds of people around the globe as scientific reports and analysis point out the dire consequences of our human activities on our planet and its ability to support life. As awareness of our human impacts dawns on the consciousness of the public, many are asking what will be required to sustain our lives as populations continue to grow and our “American” lifestyle of consumption is exported to China, India, and other regions of the world. The answer in most cases is efficient use of resources. In other words, doing more with less!

One area where this is especially important for California residents is the garden. Here in California the average landscape uses over 50% of the water consumed per household. And since the majority of Californians live in regions of the state that are classified as deserts, the efficient use of water in our landscapes is crucial to a sustainable future. Because California native plants are adapted to the climate and efficient in the use of precious water resources, their use in landscape design should always be a part of any planning efforts to develop sustainable communities within our state.

Drought tolerant California native plants, combined with high-efficiency irrigation systems, rain water capture systems, “gray” water systems, proper use of shade structures, and hardscape materials can provide a lush inviting garden appearance without wasteful use of water.

Our garden here in Yosemite Lakes Park is a good example of what can be done in this regard. Water costs are extremely high here and most of the residents either don’t have any landscape gardens, or they are small, or they pay a great deal of money every quarter for water. None of these options appealed to us when we moved here in 2005 and because of our success gardening with California native plants in Fresno, we were certain that we could have a lush garden around our home without using a lot of water and money.

Based on past experience with certain plants and landscape design, good advice from the folks at Intermountain Nursery, and some trial and error, we now have a garden that impresses neighborhood visitors to our home. Here are the steps that we took and they can be applied to any landscape.

1. Evaluate your yard area for drainage, water flow, and potential locations for rain water capture basins.
2. Once the “wet” and “dry zones are identified, select plants for those areas that are adapted for those conditions. This is a critical step in the landscape design; too often people choose plants based on looks and their own desires for the landscape not considering that the plant has certain needs and will not survive if those needs are not met. An example of what not to do would be to plant a water-loving White Alder on a south-facing, hard clay, dry, sloping hillside. This tree will die the first year or require so much irrigation that your water bill will look like your house payment!
3. Lay out irrigation lines in zones so that the “dry” plants can be watered on one schedule and the “wet” plants can be watered on another. Also, remember that the plants will grow and their water requirements will change over time. If you do it right, most of your plants will require little summer irrigation once they are established after the first year or so. In our garden we have limited the “wet” zone plants to those areas near the house or a strategic fire protection zone such as around our propane tank. These “wet” zones are areas that have rainwater capture basins and natural water flow channels so that irrigation is kept to a minimum.
4. Finally, be patient with your garden and be prepared for surprises. Some plants are slow starters and may take a year or so to show much growth. But once they get established they often take off and show you how rapidly your landscape can change. A good example of this has been some Elderberry bushes that I planted in 2005 when we first moved in. Elderberries are native on our property and I thought that it would be good to plant a few more closer to the house to attract birds. The specimens that I purchased were very healthy and I planted them the same as I had at our home in Fresno. I expected rapid growth, but for the last two years they have hardly grown a foot. This winter I considered pulling them out and starting over, but never did. Now this spring, in spite of record low rainfall, they are growing at an incredible rate! The moral of the story is to be patient; native plants always have a surprise waiting for you.

The “sustainable garden” design for California will be different for each region, but the ingredients will be the same; the rich palette of native plants that grace our state can grace our gardens and save our precious resources.

Happy planting!

Conservation Update

By Jeanne Larson

Several large issues that involve native ecosystems have raised their ugly heads again. The Hwy 65 from Tulare County to Fresno County along the foothills will only increase the smog damage already evident on yellow pine along Highway 180 into the Sequoia Forest and National Parks.

With the new Measure C transportation tax, no matter what was pushed to get the measure passed, the extension of Highway 168

from Shepherd to Shaver Lake may raise its ugly head again. Caltrans already owns the right-of-way and there are a number of sensitive/rare plants on the alignment.

A dam at Temperance Flat, as this dry season shows, would be a dry hole. There will probably be a “bath tub ring” around Millerton by early summer. A recent study reported that \$1 dollar in conservation is worth \$50 of a dam.



MEMBERSHIP

March 2007

*New Members and Membership Renewals

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

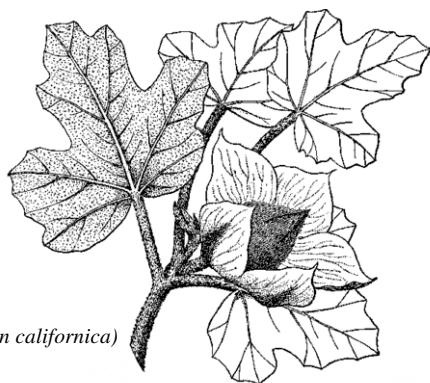
Fresno: Arrendondo, Enyedy, Kauffman, Latimer, Pritchard,
Schreiber, Smith & Peck, Van der Noordaa, Yorganjian
Madera: Arnest, Yosemite Research Library

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

NEWSLETTER



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions to the May newsletter is Friday, May 4, 2007.



Flannel Bush
(*Fremontodendron californica*)

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

*President	Peggy Jones 1931 Winter Street Kingsburg, CA 93631	559/897-9646 (h) autumn_aspen@ hotmail.com
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*Past President	Warren Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) warshaw@netptc.net
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Education	Peggy Jones	(see President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins 357 Adler Clovis, CA 93612	559/297-0144 (h) johnst@cviip.net
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



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

April 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

Black Willow

Salix gooddingii is one of the willow species that is native to the China Creek area. It is a deciduous tree that reaches no more than about 40 feet with long, narrow, finely-toothed leaves that are green on both sides.

The flower of the Black Willow are catkins that appear in early spring before the leaves emerge. Male and female catkins appear on separate plants and are 1-1/4 to 4 inches long. Once their cycle is complete, they produce a fluff that easily blows in the wind. The photos at right are catkins taken in late February at China Creek. If you visit today, the willows have long since dropped the catkins and are showing their delicate leaves.

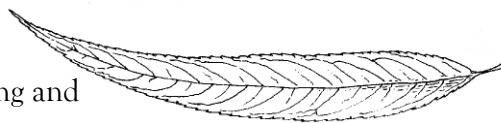
Native Americans used willows in basket making and chewed pieces of the rough bark as a pain reliever. The bark contains salicylic acid, from which we make aspirin.



Female catkins



Male catkins





Oldham Residence (1)



Western Redbud (1) (*Cercis occidentalis*)



Fremontia (3)
(*Fremontodendron californica*)



Frying Pans (2)
Eschscholzia_lobbii



Douglas Iris (3) (*Iris douglasiana*)



Nodding Needlegrass & Blue-eyed Grass



Ladybug on Needlegrass (3)



Western Blue Flax (3) (*Linium lewisii*)



Oldham Residence (1)



Blue Dicks at
China Creek (2)



Valley Oak leaves (3) (*Quercus lobata*)



Needlegrasses at Valdez/Morton Residence



Apricot Mallow (3) (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)

PHOTO CREDITS

- (1) Joseph Oldham
- (2) Madeleine Mitchell
- (3) Thelma Valdez

**APRIL
2007
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SEQUOIA
CHAPTER
CNPS**