



# CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter  
California Native Plant Society

October 2006

## CHAPTER EVENTS

### Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. "Projects & Goals of the State Vegetation Program" and "The Manual of California Vegetation"

Speaker: Julie Evens, CNPS Lead Vegetation Ecologist for the state Vegetation Program

The role of vegetation classification and mapping has achieved prominence in many state and federal agencies because of its ability to capture multiple aspects of conservation planning, long-range monitoring of habitat, and natural resource management. In California the role of mapping using a detailed floristic vegetation classification has been spearheaded by The California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Julie Evens has directed CNPS vegetation projects and analyzed vegetation data for the past 5 years. She spent time as crew leader for major vegetation projects in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National

Parks and the Mojave Desert. She currently coordinates vegetation sampling and training sessions across California and manages the sampling protocols and databases.

Meetings are open to the public. Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue. (South of Ashlan Avenue), Fresno.

### Mini Plant Sale at Tuesday's Meeting

We have a limited selection of Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), Needlegrass (*Nasella* sp.), Coastal Iris (*Iris douglasiana*), Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum jordanii*), Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), California Fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*), as well as quite an assortment of seed from which to choose.

First come, first serve! If you missed the Plant Sale or if you need just one more California native, don't miss these plants grown by CNPS members.

Join us!

### Future Meeting Programs

November 21 "Finding Keck's Checkerbloom on Tivy Mountain".  
Presented by John Stebbins, Herbarium Curator,  
CSU Fresno

December No meeting.

### China Creek Update

By Warren Shaw

Our September 23rd "work morning" went well, with the usual crew of faithfuls turning out to tidy up, refresh and replace signs, hack willows, and pull a few weeds ~ all to prepare the recently mowed interpretive trail for the upcoming field trip season.



Thelma Valdez and Paul Mitchell setting a sign post

As an experiment we're going to try having the next work morning on Wednesday, Oct. 18. We realize this excludes most who are gainfully employed, but hope it might enable some whose weekends ~ like ours ~ tend to be very full, to attend. We'll focus mainly on weeds. Hope to see you.

[Some snippets of conversation during the recent China Creek work morning:

"Did you see those acorn woodpeckers at the top of that Valley Oak? There must have been 10 of them!"

"Look at that patch of Yerba Mansa still in bloom!"

"The cattle sure did a number on the Yellow Star Thistle."

"Check out Warren's trick to discourage vandals pulling out this sign post."

"There are four different types of galls on this Oak."

China Creek: Always an education and a beautiful spot to do some "work"!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wow! What a plant sale! (see article) Thank you to all those who volunteered! It's a tremendous effort to organize such a sale! Thank you, thank you! I was shocked at how fast we sold out! We all agreed the wonderful article in the Fresno Bee on Saturday morning was the reason for the unprecedented turnout. Now how can we get that same coverage next year?

I think Helen Shaw hit the nail on the head with the comment of how members of the local communities are finally realizing they have to plant drought tolerate plants. The number of individuals, the book sales, number of pamphlets given, and questions answered sure seem to support her thought. Let's hope so!

Now is the perfect time to plant natives. Join us at Intermountain Nursery Saturday and Sunday for their popular Harvest Festival. A great time to see how they have used natives, get some great horticultural advice, shop for gifts, and enjoy a great day!

Thanks again for everybody's help and remember to bring a guest to the next meeting!

~ Peggy Jones



### Plant Sale Results

By Marian Orvis

As far as I can tell (even without seeing figures), this year's sale was a SELL OUT! Folks were still stopping as we were wrapping up. In random order, many other thanks to Warren and Helen Shaw, Jim Seay, Jeanne Larson, Bonnie Bladen, Ray Laclergue, Ingrid Carmean, Peggy Jones, Nye Morton, Frank Orvis, Howard Latimer, Morgan Jones, Kathy Boudinet-Johnson, Madeleine Mitchell, Rose Rowe, Joseph Oldham. These are the folks helping our Society. The Clovis Botanical Garden had its own cadre of volunteers. My multitude of thanks goes to Thelma for her ongoing energy and ideas that never seem to abate. (I remember those days when I was that age mentioned in The Fresno Bee article!)

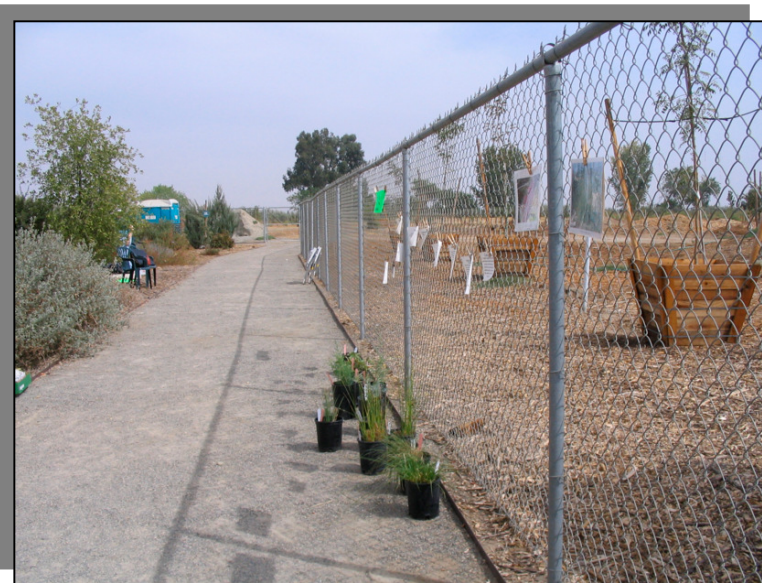
We are definitely making gains in our community for native plants and we must never give up our resolve to educate others.

Editor's note: Profit to Chapter: \$992.04 after taxes! (includes profit from book sales).

Madera Co members who missed the plant sale can order Native Plants from Intermountain Nursery at Western Sierra Nursery in Oakhurst and pick them up there.



Six smiling volunteers proudly wearing their CNPS Sequoia Chapter aprons. They had good reason to smile!  
Back Row: Warren Shaw, Helen Shaw, Madeleine Mitchell  
Front Row: Rose Rowe, Thelma Valdez, Jeanne Larson



After the sale at 2 p.m.

Judith Larner Lowry has a small pamphlet available called "Notes on Natural Design." In it she gives practical advice for designing with native plants. Because no garden or individual will incorporate natives in the same way, she provides guidance in three ways: to individuals who wish to have a traditional garden while using native plants incidentally, collectors who wishes to grow a single specimen per species or to focus on a single genus, or to the backyard restoration gardener who wishes to make his California garden look like California.

Here is a quote from that advice: "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 the 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."

## Help Prevent Power Blackouts Next Summer – Plant Natives this Fall! – Part II

By Joseph Oldham

Last month, I discussed the need to reduce electric power consumption in California next summer and how native plants can help this effort. This month, the focus is on specific plants that you can plant this fall that will reduce your total water consumption for landscape use and thereby reduce power consumption.

The California native plants I am recommending are ones with which I have personal experience and know won't require large amounts of water during high summer temperatures.

### Trees

**Arizona Cypress, (*Cupressus arizonica*).** This is a large evergreen tree that can reach 40' tall. Fast growing with conical shape similar to Coastal Redwood, but needs a fraction of the water. Plant this tree in full sun with soil mounded up so that the top of the root ball is elevated above the surrounding ground level about one inch. Use a drip type shrub bubbler set at the edge of the root ball so that the water pattern wets the entire edge of the root ball, but does not spray directly on the base of the trunk. This can be a little tricky. I usually set the bubbler in a water well that circles the root ball and run the bubbler to just fill the water well. Once a week watering during the summer is all this tree requires for the first couple of years; after that you may be able to cut back to once every two weeks or less depending on your soil type.

**Desert Willow, (*Chilopsis linearis*).** This is a fast-growing, small (20-25' tall) deciduous tree, native to the Mojave Desert. It has beautiful pale pink to burgundy tube-shaped flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and native bees. This small tree should be planted in full sun using the same planting techniques as described above. Once a week watering in the summer will be sufficient, but it can take less frequent watering once established.

### Shrubs

**"Dr. Hurd" Manzanita, (*Arctostaphylos sp.*).** This is a large evergreen shrub that can reach 15 feet tall with a growth rate of about 12 inches per year. The shrub has white flower clusters in January, beautiful smooth red trunk, and bright green leaves making it a very striking addition to your landscape. Planting should be in full sun and follow the same technique as above except for the watering. This shrub needs less water to get established than the trees and will survive on just hand watering around the edge of the root ball once a week for the first summer. If you do use drip, a fan spray emitter is better because it simulates rain and the plants seem to prefer that method. "Dr. Hurd" Manzanita is very water-tolerant compared to other manzanitas and you should not worry too much about over watering.

**Cleveland Sage, (*Salvia clevelandii*).** This is a medium sized evergreen shrub that can reach about 6 feet in height. This is a fast growing shrub with blue-green, fragrant foliage and bright blue flower spikes that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and native bees. Planting technique and watering is the same as "Dr. Hurd" Manzanita.

### Perennials

**Sulfur Flower, (*Eriogonum umbellatum*).** This is an evergreen sub-shrub that reaches about 12 to 18 inches tall. The plant is covered in globular clusters of brilliant sulfur-colored yellow flowers in spring, hence the name. These clusters turn rust red in summer and are held until winter making this plant a spectacular addition to garden all season. Sulfur Flower is a true water miser; this plant does not require any summer water after the first summer and even during the first summer only requires a once a week drink by hand watering near the root ball. Plant Sulfur Flower in full sun and soil with good drainage.

**California Fuchsia, (*Epilobium sp., formerly Zauschneria sp.*)** This is a spreading, low growing perennial that reaches about 12 to 18 inches in height. California Fuchsia has blue-green foliage and bright, coral red tube flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and native bees. This plant spreads by underground runners and makes a great tall groundcover. California Fuchsia tolerates a variety of watering schedules, but gets along very nicely on a once a week regimen. Plant California Fuchsia in full sun; it seems to like flower beds along walls or sidewalks. California Fuchsia can be cut back to about two inches above the ground in winter for a more formal appearance in spring.

The California native plants I have listed are just a sample of what can be planted to reduce water use in the garden. For more information or other choices for your garden, ask the folks at Intermountain Nursery in Prather. To see these plants in a garden setting, visit the Clovis Botanical Garden or the demonstration gardens at Intermountain Nursery.

The electrical power crisis facing California is real and every bit of conservation from every Californian can make a difference. Be a part of the solution and plant some California native plants this fall to reduce power use next summer! Happy planting!

In Madera County the Blue Oaks have not gone summer deciduous this year and the acorn crop appears higher than last year. Many seedlings have survived the summer.

Warm temperatures and recent rain have encouraged new growth on Manzanitas, Live Oaks, and Coffeeberries. Numerous Foothill Pine seedlings have survived this summer.



California Buckeye seed crop at lower elevations (below 2,500 ft) in Madera County is very light this year. Several trees have only a couple of seed cases. Trees at higher elevations seem to have a more normal crop. I wonder if the record high temps in July had an impact?

In the Fresno County foothills the little sprinkle we enjoyed last weekend has greatly heightened the anticipation of the season to come. We know it won't take much more to excite the mosses, refresh the perennials, and start the annual grasses sprouting. We love our blue oak woodlands and savannah at all seasons, but it's always fun to see what develops as the long drought of summer ends.

The tiniest hint of rain and cooler weather with a little moisture in the air has given the needlegrasses just the sign they needed to begin to show signs of greening. An adventurous California Poppy that received some water is blooming! Pruning the sage and carrying off the clippings makes one dizzy with the wonderful smell. Read on...

One of our members was cutting back the summer damage to her coastal Cleveland Sage near her Hmong neighbor's driveway when he excitedly asked her not to take it out. He liked to come out in early morning and crush the leaves as the aroma reminded him of "home". This Hmong family has three college graduates and a bilingual grandson just entering a bilingual Spanish kindergarten. The American dream is still working.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### 14th Annual Harvest Festival at Intermountain Nursery

**Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>.** Two days of live music, hand crafted gifts, children's activities and great food. Wander the Nursery to see a wide range of California Native plants in various demonstration gardens.

### Propagation of California Native Plants

**Saturday, October 21, 9:30 am**

with Ray Laclergue

Intermountain Nursery's class will teach you about the various propagation techniques for California Native Plants. Ray will demonstrate and discuss collecting, storing, stratifying, and germinating seed. Taking and rooting cuttings successfully and proper growing conditions for California Natives will be covered. A tour of the Nursery's growing facilities will be given.

### Tree Fresno's Walk Along the Trees

Tree Fresno is offering a series of three "Walk Along the Trees" events this fall. These are guided walks with an expert along tree-lined trails, parks or ponding basins at 10 am on specific Saturdays.

Come get a fun education while you enjoy nature's magnificence amid the trees – right here in Fresno! For further details and to make a reservation, call Tree Fresno at 221-5556 x100. Fee: Free to members of Tree Fresno; \$3 for non-members.

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. 10 a.m.** A tree expert will discuss the CSUF Arboretum as we follow the Arboretum trail through the campus.

**Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. 10 a.m.** An expert from PG&E will stroll through Woodward Park speaking about energy conservation.



### Using California Native Grasses and Graminoids in the Urban Landscape

Friday, October 27, 8 am - 4 pm

California Native Grasslands Association workshop

The Presidio/Golden Gate NRA Building 1216 with instructors: Steve Nawrath, Caltrans Landscape Architect, CPESC David Amme, EBRPD Range Manager

This course examines the use of California native grasses and graminoids in a broad range of urban settings, from large-scale public works projects and commercial development to residential applications. It will examine many regional examples of urban landscape design projects that incorporate native grasses successfully.

A section will be devoted to the application of California native grasses in water quality improvement design. It will also examine the cultural requirements and adaptability of key native grass and sedge species as they relate to the soil and site parameters

The workshop is appropriate for Landscape Architects, Engineers, Planners, Parks and Recreation Staff, Landscape Contractors, Biologists, Regulatory Staff, Land/Resource Managers, Nursery Practitioners, and Homeowners.

Fee \$120 for CNGA members; \$160 for non-members. Contact Jan Bridge at 530.759.8458 or email [admin@cnga.org](mailto:admin@cnga.org) for more details. Class has a maximum enrollment and a waiting list will be maintained.

### Gardening with California Native Plants

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon with Bonnie Bladen

Learn which native plants are easy to grow, how to properly grow them, and how to use them in your garden. A comprehensive plant list will be provided. Fee: \$10.00. Pre-registration required. Presented by the UCCE Master Gardener program at Riverview Ranch Coke Hollowell Center. Visit <http://mgfresno.ucdavis.edu> or call 559.456.7285 for more information.

## SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Three chapter members (Madeleine Mitchell, Joseph Oldham, and Thelma Valdez) each shared their particular type of gardening challenges and successes with California native plants. Madeleine's Reedley landscape contains many natives that were planted to help screen a busy street in front of the house and deal with the heat and low water available in that area. It required some convincing of the local PG&E tree trimmers that, indeed the Desert Willow would not grow much taller than it was and not be a threat to the lines. Slowly the garden continues to evolve and she finds her former lawn shrinking by the year, being replaced by more California natives. Members were able to see how she has definitely screened out the traffic with her use of natives.

Joseph Oldham's Yosemite Lakes property has a lot of existing native Oaks, Coffeeberry, and other familiar foothill shrubs. Like most everyone in the foothills, he has deer that bring both pleasure and nibbling. Various physical barriers as well as native plants selected for their deer-resistance have been his focus as he converts a previously non-native landscape around the house into one that blends and belongs to the foothills. Photographs of how he has established his watering setup, mulched areas, as well as the general layout of his planting provided a good model for a foothill garden.

At the home of Thelma Valdez, the predominant soil is heavy clay. Deergrass seems to perform particularly well in her garden and members were interested in the pruning method and frequency of this showy grass. Photographs of plants in full splendor as well as pruned back in early spring helped provide the perspective.

A plant list of California natives in each of the gardens is available by e-mailing Thelma Valdez at [nmtv@att.net](mailto:nmtv@att.net). It is interesting to see which plants are in all three gardens and which are not.



*Ribes nevadense*

## MEMBERSHIP

September membership information was not available as of the newsletter deadline so will be reported next month. A number of people took membership information during the plant sale and we hope to see some new faces at our next chapter meeting.

Thanks to all for your continuing support. Send membership corrections to Helen Shaw at [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto: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](mailto:nmtv@att.net). The deadline for contributions to the October newsletter is Thursday, November 9, 2006.

### Your Good Quality Landscape Photographs Are Needed for CNPS Projects

The CNPS Vegetation Program needs you to donate photographs representing plant communities within California.

The Program's expanding photograph collection will be used to illustrate the variety of vegetation types found in California and to underscore the value of protecting our state's native and rare plant communities. We plan to incorporate photographs into vegetation publications and resources, including the next edition of the Manual of California Vegetation, which will be published by CNPS in 2007 and will describe over 500 vegetation alliances.

If you have high quality digital images of vegetation / plant communities taken from the broader landscape perspective, please consider donating them to our collection. The following link provides more information:

<http://www.cnps.org/programs/vegetation/photocollection.htm>

Questions? Contact [hazelgordon@hotmail.com](mailto:hazelgordon@hotmail.com). Thank you!

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

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<b>Conservation Co-chairs</b>	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
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## 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

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- Mariposa Lily ..... \$1500

**California Native Plant Society**  
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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

October 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](http://www.cnps.org) >

## *FEATURED CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT*

### Deer Grass

Muhlenbergia Rigens is a native perennial bunchgrass that is very versatile and adaptable. It tolerates full sun, light shade, sand, clay, and seasonal flooding. It will do fine in moist or dry soils and performs well in clay soils. Deer tend to not eat it. In fact, its name comes from how deer use it to hide their fawns under its protective cover.

It forms large dense clumps 3'-4' tall and wide with 2'-4' tall flowering stems (culms) in early Autumn. It is a striking grass both as a single specimen and breathtaking when planted in mass. It is also very quick growing, reaching a mature size often within a single season.

Natively it grows where rainfall is approximately 15 inches per year so provide summer water if you are in an area of lower rainfall or wish it to look lush.

Bundles of the flowering stems were commonly used by the numerous California Native American tribes for the foundation (primary coils) of baskets.

Each year in early spring use a steel rake to pull out dried leaves and culms. Every two or three years you should prune back younger, smaller plants to 6". Larger, more robust clumps should be pruned to 1'. After pruning, rake out dead leaves and culms. You will be surprised at the speed with which new growth begins.

