

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



February 2017
www.cnps-sequoia.org

HOME AND GARDEN SHOW—CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The 31st Annual Fresno Home & Garden Show will occur on March 3, 4, 5. The Sequoia Chapter participates annually passing out information at our booth to the curious and to seekers of botanical knowledge. We are recruiting volunteers to take shifts manning the booth. If you don't know too much about plants or trees, it is no problem—we have a plethora of information you can hand out. If interested in volunteering or you have questions about the booth location, please contact Marian Orvis at (559) 226-0145 or mforvet@comcast.net.

GARDEN NOTES

--**Warren Shaw**

The Accidental Meadow

When we moved to Fresno, going on 3 years ago, our new backyard had been nicely redone, with stamped concrete, a new sprinkler system, and a nice hybrid Bermuda lawn. Unfortunately most of the landscaping was pretty thirsty. We pulled many shrubs and trees and shut off the sprinklers, and among the plants we added to the perimeter beds were California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and bird's eyes gilia (*Gilia tricolor*).



-*Gilia tricolor*- ©2015 Steve Matson

Apparently, in the process of sweeping the walks, I spread seed from these plants on the lawn area. The following spring we had quite a few poppy and gilia plants sprouting. I weeded and mowed around them, and they have spread to the point that most of the area is currently covered with a carpet of gilia with occasional poppy plants. We've added some *Clarkia* seed collected in the foothills, but of course, I don't know yet if any of that will germinate. In any case, our Bermuda lawn has mostly been taken over by natives and should be very showy this spring.

AN EDUCATION ON FLORA

--**Jeanne Larson**

The Reality About Annual Grasslands



-*Juncus bufonius*-
©2008 Zoya Akulova

Annual Grasslands is really a misnomer, as the forage crop of the open slopes is usually one-half forbs (broadleaves) and one-half grasses and grasslikes. The dry weight ratio can vary from 50/50 to 40/60 or 60/40. The broadleaves have more biomass than the grass (Poaceae Family), even though the grass appears denser.

To clarify, grasslikes are most often the lilies, soap root, onions, and graminoids (sedges, rushes, arrow-grasses, and quillworts).

The species composition is dependent on the arrival of the first rains and the temperature, and whether the grass or forbs germinate first. Many square foot quadrants are clipped, dried, weighed and sorted into categories to determine peak plant production for the grazing year. The grazing season starts with inadequate green grazing in the fall and continues through adequate green grazing in the spring until the annual plants complete their growth cycle and are dry.



Upcoming Events and Classes in 2017

•March 11—Introduction to Fern (and Lycophyte) Biology and Evolution 9:00am-4:00pm

Location: Holt Hall Room 129
California State University, Chico



- Crash-course in the introduction to ferns, with a focus on species found in California.
- Will learn the basics of fern morphology, ecology, development, and evolution.
- Will end with a trip to Bidwell Park.
- After the course, you will understand what a fern is, what it does, how it does it, and where it came from, evolutionarily-speaking.
- Bring in any mystery ferns or pictures of them you might have.

Cost: \$90 for members of Friends of the Herbarium / \$100 personal / \$125 business / \$40 for students.

Details: Contact Carl Rothfels at crothfels@berkeley.edu for information about workshop content. Contact the Biology office at (530) 898-5356 or chatfield@csuchico.edu for information about workshop registration.

<http://www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/>

•March 30-April 2—50 Plant Families in the Field: San Francisco Bay Area

Location: UC Berkeley and Bay Area field sites

Target Audience: Geared towards beginning botanists.

- Workshop introduces participants to the flora of the San Francisco Bay area and the techniques used to identify plants of California.
- Emphasis will be on learning to recognize characteristics of the Bay Area's plant families.
- Will practice keying plants in the field.
- A general familiarity with morphological terms is helpful but not necessary.
- Participants may drive up to 75 miles per day to field sites and walk up to three miles each day (easy hiking). One van will be available for transportation to field sites.

50 Plant Families in the Field: San Francisco Bay Area (continued)

- The second day, participants will have a morning lab session. Afterwards, they will caravan to a field site and learn to identify major bryophyte groups, and discuss and observe their general ecology and evolutionary features.
- Participant should be prepared to hike up to four miles on Sunday in possibly wet weather. Participants will be expected to purchase their own copy of the book "Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region: Mendocino to Monterey" by Beidleman and Kozloff, 2014.

Cost: \$375/ \$405

Details: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>

•April 4-6—Introduction to Plant Identification-Part II: A Beginner Look at Nine Plant Families

Location: Placer Nature Center, Auburn, CA

Target Audience: Workshop will be taught a beginner level and is open to anyone interested in learning or improving their knowledge of plant terminology and the basic characteristics of dominant California plant families.

- A 2.5-day in-depth introduction to keying and identifying plants.
- Those with some prior experience will be able to refresh and hone their skills at a higher level.
- Will review plant structure terminology.
- Emphasis will be given to northern California species; however, information will be readily applicable throughout California and the world.



- Includes classroom presentations and exercises, with at least half the time outdoors.
- To earn a certificate of completion, participants will need to pass a quiz at the end of the workshop.
- Last day to register is March 27, 2017 and class is limited to 20 participants.

Cost: \$375 for CNPS members / \$395 for non-members.

Details: Contact Becky Reilly at breilly@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 x 207

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/2017/0404_intro_plant_id-2.php

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

John LuValle

Thanks to new and renewing members.

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.

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Next Newsletter: March 2017

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, February 24, 2017.**



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: _____

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State: _____ Zip: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student, Limited Income	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45
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<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

New Member
 Renewing Member

California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite I
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

February 2017

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

CHINA CREEK REPORT

--**Warren Shaw**

It was the day after Inauguration Day; a number of our faithful few were marching in Sacramento, and rain had been predicted, so it was not surprising our crew was not large. The few of us that met at the Park went bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) rosette hunting. We had no problem locating our quarry, and proceeded to dig with a will, bothered only briefly by a light shower.

After a coffee and muffin break mid-morning, we drove the trail to check signs and found a few that had suffered water damage and a couple that had been vandalized, but all were still legible. We put their replacement on the list for February.

In general, we were glad to see that the park looks good: the ponds are full, no new trees have fallen, and vandalism has been slight.

We're looking forward to another great year, our thirteenth. In February (on the 18th, from 9-12), we'll be tackling those pesky rosettes again, maintaining the trail, and perhaps, dropping some dead *Ailanthus* trees. Please join us if you can. China Creek Park is located on the west side of Centerville, 16 miles east of Fresno on Highway 180. To get there, drive east on Kings Canyon/ Highway 180, 16.5 miles to Centerville. Turn right (south) on Smith Road and drive 0.2 miles to Rainbow Drive. Continue straight, 0.5 miles down the small road to the Park gate at the end of the road.



-*Quercus lobata*-

Â© Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College