

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



June 2020
www.cnps-sequoia.org

CONTENTS

1
China Creek Report

2
Classes and Events

3
Membership and
Officers

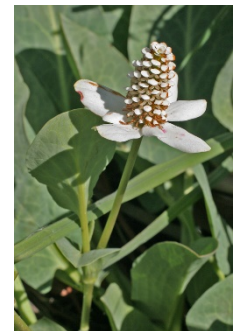
4
Garden Notes

CHINA CREEK REPORT

May 2020 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

Unintentionally scheduled for Memorial Day weekend and being our first “work party” since February because of C-19 considerations, we were a little concerned about fielding a team. However, we ended up with a nice-sized group (everyone masked) — small enough to make proper distancing easy, but large enough to get a lot of work done (see numbers below). It was a perfect late spring day: clear and sunny, warm but not uncomfortable, with light breezes all morning. The yerba mansa (*Anemopsis*) was covered in fragrant white blossoms, and the elderberry (*Sambucus*) was too.



-*Anemopsis californica*-
©2009 Vernon Smith

We started in the southeast section, looking mainly for invasive/exotic thistle plants; and, since we had missed 2 ½ months of work, we found plenty. Happily, most weren’t yet in bloom, so we were able to just dig or pull and let lie. Next month, we’ll probably need to gather most such plants and haul them out to avoid reseeding.

After break, we diversified a little, with two people going to the north section of the Park to survey the situation, another two walking the creek to find and pull water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) plants, three doing the trail loop to replace damaged or missing signs, clear vegetation to make signs more visible, and so on, while others went back to weeding.

Hank brought out his quad-mounted spray rig and spot-treated some small dense patches we had flagged before break, and in his travels, discovered a “new” grass. Anything new strikes terror into our hearts, but Laura was later able to key this one out to be wheat, which is unlikely to be a problem. Why do we have wheat in the park? Something to do with the cattle, maybe?

Sarah and Jesse, who had gone to the north section, texted they had found a raptor nestling on the ground and were puzzling over what to do. We consulted with a well-known local ornithologist who counseled that if it wasn’t injured, and parents were present, we should leave it, so they moved it out of the sun and did as recommended. Our expert identified it as a red-tailed hawk; we hope it’s ok.



And now those numbers: we dug or pulled 2,063 yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), 602 milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), and 1,452 bull thistle plants (*Cirsium vulgare*). Hank sprayed an uncounted number in several small but dense patches, and Sam and John fished at least 40 water hyacinth plants out of the creek. A great day for us; a bad day for weeds.

Our next work party (the first of two in June) is Saturday, June 13, from 800am-1200pm. Please plan to join us if you can.

Upcoming Online Classes and Events

• The 13th Annual California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) Field Day at Hedgerow Farms, Friday, July 10, 9:00am – 1:00pm

- Virtual online event with a From the Ashes: Fire and Restoration theme.
- Zoom sign-in begins at 8:45am, program begins promptly at 9:00am.
- Tour leaders guide you on virtual walks through the gardens and growing grounds at Hedgerow Farms.
- Driving tour leaders take you on a virtual hayride through production fields.
- Teams guide you through equipment demonstrations and prescribed burn.



Cost: \$50 member/\$65 non-member/\$25 student

For information and to register online go to:
<https://cnga.org/event-3561242>

Questions? Contact Diana Jeffery at
admin@cnga.org or (530) 902-6009

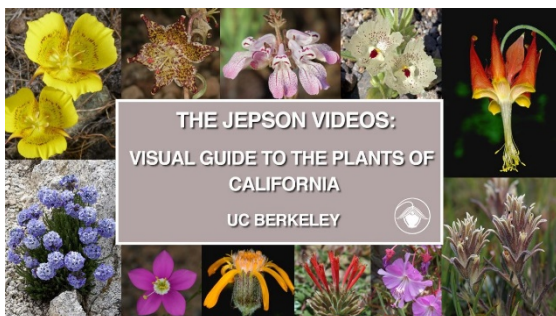
• The Jepson Videos: Visual Guide to the Plants of California

- The Jepson Videos were created to provide a trusted online resource to help learn the plants of California.
- Explore playlists where videos are organized by plant family.
- Get involved by contributing photos.

Cost: \$30 in advance member/\$35 day of tour

Information:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbG--FtGxmPCvLIoOFa1PHg/featured>



• Juggling Jewelflowers, Thursday, June 18 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Sponsored by CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter

- Online talk by Justen Whittall, PhD, with focus on *Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus* and *S. a.* ssp. *peramoenus*
- Event will be broadcast on Zoom and live streamed on YouTube.

Cost: Free

To Join on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpqqu65F9GNXdqBoN4hIptQ>

To Join on Zoom must RSVP:

https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/270891660/?fbclid=IwAR2D3AFad0AG3StZ60zo01LS8ZYca7w5r5DnNYgb_Qpi8IGspmM_Rk8dAbY

• New Calflora Tools for CNPS Users, Wednesday, June 24, 7:00pm

Sponsored by CNPS Mount Lassen Chapter

- On Zoom.
- Cynthia Powell will cover Calflora's new iNaturalist data feed, plant photo project, planting guide, population monitoring tools, and email alerts.

Cost: Free

Information: <https://mountlassen.cnps.org/>

• A 27-Year Wildflower Journey: Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change, Thursday, July 2, 7:30pm

Sponsored by CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter

- On Zoom.
- Internationally acclaimed conservation photographers Rob Badger and Nita Winter will take you behind the scenes on their photographic wildflower journey throughout California.

Cost: Free

Registration: https://cnps-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CTR1w5_MQqM2_tbnLR3NoQ



**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

Thanks to new and renewing members.

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Cherith Merson at echerith@gmail.com.

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: July 2020

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, June 26, 2020.**



- *President** open
- *Vice-Pres.** Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com
- *Secretary** open
- *Treasurer** Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com
- Membership** Cherith Merson
echerith@gmail.com
- Field Trips** Jane Pritchard 559/765-9954
xxiii_xx@yahoo.com
- Newsletter Editor** Laura Castro 559/643-6012
lacastror@outlook.com
- Hospitality** Madeleine Mitchell 559/638-2784 (h)
madeleine43@comcast.net
- China Creek** Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com
- Education** Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com
- Rare Plant** Jane Pritchard 559/765-9954
xxiii_xx@yahoo.com
- Plant Sale** Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com
- Conservation** Kate Waselkov
kwaselkov@csufresno.edu
- Horticultural Chair** Leslie Lipton
leslielipton@gmail.com
- Chapter Council Rep** Reece Riley
rreece523@gmail.com
- Webmaster** Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com



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: _____

- Student, Fixed Income \$25
- Individual \$50
- Plant Lover \$120
- Supporter \$500
- Patron \$1,000
- Benefactor \$2,500
- Steward \$5,000
- Guardian \$10,000

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

June 2020

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

GARDEN NOTES

--Thelma Valdez

I presume that most gardeners are interested in both the flora and the fauna in their gardens. But a conversation about which plants and which animals gardeners want in their gardens opens a door to a wide world of differences.

As a California native plant gardener, the flora part of these garden notes is fairly uncontroversial. You likely appreciate why California native plants work best in California gardens. You're aware of California's size, which means not all California native plants are suited to your garden. And, you're sensitive to having a garden that uses as little water as possible while providing beauty and diversity. Well enough. On to the fauna, and particularly the insects that our gardens support. If you're not a lover of bees and wasps, stop reading now.

My multiple cultivars of Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) grew particularly large this year and have been in full bloom, drawing a wide range of bees. One sage was especially attractive to bumblebees. I noticed there was a regular pattern of bumblebees heading underground through a hole (made by pocket gophers) under a Canyon Prince wild rye (*Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince') grass. Yay!

Gophers and ground squirrels regularly tunnel under the roots of a number of the Cleveland sage cultivars. The plants accommodate this disturbance by growing new root systems in non-tunneled soil. I just let it happen because I have enough space to let the plants move around. I have yet to lose a sage because of a rodent. The wild rye appears to be using the same accommodation method and the tunnel now has bumblebees!



-*Salvia clevelandii*-
©2013 Keir Morse

As I was clipping needlegrasses (*Stipa cernua*, *Stipa pulchra*, *Stipa lepida*), I noticed paper wasps in and about the grasses. They completely ignored me as no nest was near and I was no threat. Presumably they were looking for just the right kind of fiber to mix up with saliva and add a cell to their nest under one of the barn's eaves. There were some small grasshoppers that they might also find, ahem, "interesting". (Note - I verified they were paper wasps, not yellowjackets!)