

THE NEWSLETTER
Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



March 2013

www.cnps-sequoia.org

Spring~~



~~to paraphrase the song, is bustin' out all over, and plant-related news and activities abound. For our California Native Plant Society the calendar is full of events, activities and suggestions for celebrating California Native Plant Week (CNPW), dedicated to the education about, appreciation, and conservation of California's flora. Established in 2010, this year it is marked by a calendar of events that will be updated frequently in the coming weeks. Keep checking for an event near you—plant sales, wildflower shows, gardening workshops, lectures, hikes, garden tours, and more. If you know of a CNPW event, send details to cnpw@cnps.org. You can check the calendar at cnps.org, clicking on the Native Plant Week logo.

Fresno Home and Garden Show

This annual event, the first weekend of March, is always a popular one and 2013 was no exception. Our information table was housed in an actual exhibit hall, instead of a dairy barn, and was much more appealing to visitors and volunteers alike. Many thanks to Marian and Frank Orvis for setup and break down. Our chapter is very grateful to all volunteers for their "table time" answering questions, sharing flyers, and putting a friendly face on our chapter's outreach. Visitors approached our table for a variety of reasons: casual interest in our photos or flyers; specific questions about landscaping issues vis-à-vis natives—ranging from drought-tolerance to hardpan to cat urine; purchase of wildflower posters; and, of course, freebies: samples of California bay were given until we ran out. CNPS and our chapter were well served by our volunteers: Laura Castro, Jeanne Larson, Michele and John LuValle, Mary McClanahan, Madeleine Mitchell, and Warren Shaw.

China Creek Report

--Warren Shaw

It was a perfect early spring day, and we had a good crew of willing workers. We finished caging seedling oaks in the south grazing area and got a good start on the north.

The day started with a certain sadness, however, when we realized that the huge old dead Valley Oak, which has been kind of the central feature of the Park for many years, had fallen.

This tree, which local residents had identified as the largest tree in the whole Centerville area, died suddenly in 1998, and was the subject of a careful post mortem by botanists Bob Winter and John Stebbins, funded by Vulcan Materials. They concluded it had died of fungal infections caused by unnatural groundwater conditions, resulting from agricultural irrigation, especially after the

construction of Pine Flat in the fifties, and, unfortunately, that all the big old oaks in the floodplain were doomed. This unhappy prediction has been borne out by the fact that numerous large oaks in the park and surrounding areas have fallen in recent years (though some of these fallen giants are still living—in a reclining position).

Fortunately, many magnificent trees still stand, and young trees seem to adapt to the current conditions as they grow, so the park will continue to be a beautiful place, especially for Valley Oaks.

Our March work party will be Saturday, March 16th from 8-12. We'll continue to work to protect oak seedlings; please join us if you can. Take Kings Canyon/CA 180 east across Academy to Centerville. Follow Smith or Oliver south to Rainbow 1/4 mi. Turn south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate. Call (855-4519) or email warshaw@netptc.net for more information.

Canoeing on San Joaquin River

--Jane Pritchard

Mary McClanahan picked me up at 7 AM – very early to perhaps be dumped into cold water. Ten canoes, two people each, put in at Lost Lake. Weather was mild and sunny, blue skies with puffy cumulus clouds. Tri-colored green mats of parrot feather, *ludwigia* (yellow flowers when it blooms), and *azolla* floated along the shore in places. A few willows had the beginnings of young green leaves. Most trees were bare. Several Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) were covered with clusters of last year's samaras. Button willows (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*, now called button bush in Jepson) had buttons on the end of their straight, upward-pointing twigs. A fact I have never found the reason for: Some oaks were covered with galls or mistletoe, and neighboring oaks had none. Sycamores glowed white in the sunlight. A bald eagle perched on a sycamore branch watched all the canoes pass directly underneath it. Mary and I nearly ran into islands and floating debris because I was always looking to the side.



Button Bush

Gray clouds covered the sky, a breeze came up, and it turned cool just as we stopped at a river-rock covered bar for lunch. Richard had arranged a BBQ

to celebrate Janet's 50th birthday. (O, to be so young again!) I ate my first hotdog in about 20 years because I didn't see the burgers in time (reported to be delicious). Janet invited everyone to taste some chocolate wine with cream. Nobody tasted it so I did. Surprise, surprise! It was very good. I lured Mary over to try it. We could have finished it off but there were only 2 bottle caps to drink from and people were packing up to leave. And the clouds moved off so it was warm and sunny again.

As we neared the end at Fort Washington beach, Mary exclaimed that nobody had capsized. I just stood out of the way when they loaded canoes. A young man shook his sweater over the water. A 2-inch, mangled dead catfish fell out. This person had fallen into the water to prevent capsizing when we went through the "tunnel" (a large culvert). What was the chance of the fish meeting its end that way?

The canoe trip – always peaceful and beautiful – was organized by Richard Sloan of the River Tree Volunteers. They have regular excursions to get trash out of the river (tires, lawnmowers, etc.). A trip with no BBQ takes about 4.5 hours. They do stop for a bring-your-own lunch. Each capsizing adds 15 minutes. Pictures of this trip are on their Facebook page. Anyone interested in a free canoe trip on the SJR can sign up on the RiverTree Volunteers page on Facebook.

Observations

--from Warren Shaw

In the foothills spring is exploding all around us. Dry weather has limited the bloom, but we're still seeing poppies, Baby Blue Eyes, annual and bush Lupine. Blue Dicks, Buttercups, Fiddleneck, Popcorn, Red Maids, Bird's Eye Gilia and other blossoms characteristic of the season. On our place at 2000' only one Blue oak has leafed out, but many at lower altitudes are bright (pre "blue") green. Buckeyes are full out and glorious. Manzanitas are past full bloom but still humming with bees, and this seems to be an especially great year for Wild Cucumber, with rampant viney growth and delicate white star-shaped blossoms.

--from Helen Shaw

Last weekend's visit with family in Davis gave us the opportunity to tour again the arboretum at UCD. For the first time we walked along the redbud collection during their mid-to-peak bloom. Both sides of Putah Creek for 100 yards or more were lined with this gorgeous bush. We even saw, for the first time, a white redbud *Cercis Canadensis alba*. Not a native, but fun to see peeking out from its magenta cousins. We were also very impressed with the diversity in the newly signed oak grove, a 10-acre collection of nearly 100 oak species, varieties, and hybrids. <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

--Jeanne Larson reminds us to remember the waterwise plant exchange in May by potting up seedlings or touchdowns to share at this popular event on the first Saturday in May.

The Edible Lauraceae—Aromatic trees and shrubs

--Jeanne Larson

The free California bay leaf samples at our Outreach Display table at various events often draw comments. At the Garden & Home Show, Saturday, March 2, I had an interesting, questioning conversation with a fellow who wanted to know if all Laurel were edible. Since my knowledge was limited to the horticultural Laurel or Sweet Bay (*Laurus.nobilis*), widely sold as a condiment, and native California-Bay or California-laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) used as a condiment and insect repellent, and also known as “Myrtlewood” in Oregon where it is used for craft projects, my answers were limited.



My interest was sparked, and when I got home I decided to research the printed resources on hand. The following is the result of that search. *U. californica* is described as a tree 20-60 feet tall. The old science building on the Fresno City College campus had two Bays that reached the second story windows. In our chaparral belt it is a shrub. In northwestern California and southern Oregon, *U. californica* becomes a large tree. *Umbellularia* is a Latin term describing the fruit, which may give rise to one common name—Pepperwood.

Laurus nobilis is the laurel of history. It is native to the Mediterranean region. Grown as a tree it can reach heights of 40 feet, but it is normally grown as a shrub and sometimes called Italian laurel or Sweet bay.

There are three other common Lauraceae. Two are used for food and one horticulturally. First, *Persea americana*, the avocado, native to South America, a common food in North and South America. Second, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, Cinnamon tree, the bark of which yields the cinnamon of commerce. Native of Asia. Third, *Cinnamomum camphora*, Camphor Tree, a common street tree in Fresno where older trees are quite large.

Spring Events

--in Fresno/Madera County

Saturday, March 23 – Spring into Your Garden Clovis Botanical Garden 945 N. Clovis Ave., between Alluvial and Nees. 9am to 2pm. Free to CBG members, \$5.00 non-members Plant Sale, Ask The Experts – Visit with vendors and experts in gardening, landscape design, irrigation, water conservation and more. Among the presenters is our own Thelma Valdez telling us about “Garden Heroes: California Native Shrubs.”



Thursday, March 28—Workshop on proposed Whiskey Ridge Ecological Restoration Project within the Willow Creek watershed near North Fork and Cascadel Woods. DEIR documents available for viewing and comment until April 8 at www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=37829. CNPS members interested in attending may contact mavance@sierranevada.ca.gov

Saturday April 20 – Denis Kearns, BLM botanist, will lead a field trip to BLM’s San Joaquin River Gorge. The purpose is to build on the initial species list from John Stebbins, with plans to collect, photograph, and ID specimens. A few scopes will be on hand and the SJRG pole barn facilities will be available. The day use fee will be waived for participants, who need to sign up with Denis. <dkearns@blm.gov>.

Year round Classes and events at Intermountain Nursery 30443 N. Auberry Rd., Prather. Crafts and classes from vegetable gardening to Herbal Holiday Wreath construction with birds, bees, spinning and weaving in between. For a full schedule of classes and registration information see www.intermountainnursery.com.

More Spring Events

--Farther Afield

April 12-14 Berkeley--The California Botanical Society will be celebrating one hundred years of Western North American botany this spring at its Centennial Celebration: ***Botanical Frontiers: Past and Future, April 12 - 14, 2013***. We are invited to join them in Berkeley, California for the Centennial Symposium, social events, field trips, and the 24th annual Graduate Student Symposium.

To celebrate the Centennial, the California Botanical Society is bringing together a panel of eight distinguished speakers to remind us of our botanical heritage and to address the challenges ahead. The symposium speakers will present the most up-to-date understanding of topics including



vegetation dynamics and management; evolution and historical biogeography; plant genetics and conservation; biology, impacts, and control of invasive species; and impacts of changing climate and fire regimes. Sunday's Graduate Student Symposium will

showcase the research of tomorrow's leaders.

For more information about the Centennial Celebration and to register for the events, please visit the website:

http://www.calbotsoc.org/centennial_symposium.html



May 5- Garden Tour- Alameda and Contra Costa counties-- Registration is now open for the free "Bringing Back the Natives" Garden Tour, which will take place Sunday, May 5, 2013, from 10:00 – 5:00 at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Participants on the ninth annual, free, self-guided Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can choose from forty showcase native plant gardens. They will have the opportunity to learn how to select and care for California native plants, lower their water bills, design a low-maintenance garden, attract butterflies, birds, and bees, and garden without using pesticides. More than forty talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 6,000 people are expected to register for this annual event, which will fill; early registration is suggested to ensure a place.

The delightful collection of gardens offered this year range from large in-the-hills lots to small front gardens in the flats. Garden styles run the gamut—from restoration gardens containing local native plants to the horticulturally available suite of natives from throughout California, and from gardens designed and installed by owners to those designed and installed by professionals.

Sustainable Landscape

“Sustainability is a way of living that meets the needs of the present without impacting the needs of the future.”

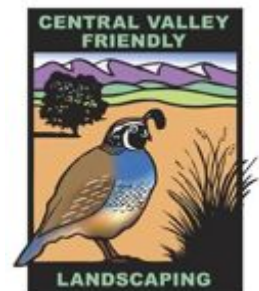
From: *Sustainable Sites Initiative*, <http://www.sustainable-sites.org>

Our gardening practices directly affect our community and our environment. There are many healthier gardening habits we can adopt that will lessen our personal impact on our surroundings, creating a healthier community today and tomorrow.

Anyone can take small steps to make their garden more sustainable. It is not necessary to spend a large amount of money or to renovate your entire garden to make a difference. There are many helpful adjustments you can make in your existing landscape that are simple and free.

The University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno County, has a list of simple but effective practices that can make your garden healthier and friendly to natural conditions in central California. Check the website below for suggestions and ideas.

http://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/Sustainable_Landscape



CARPENTERIA

March 2013



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

The rest of the story..... Last month's column didn't work out as planned so this is what I was talking about, taken from the Kings River Conservancy Newsletter (Winter/Spring)

North Riverside Park Grand Opening March 16, Ribbon cutting at 10 AM Tours and Trail Walks 11 am to 1:00 pm.

Located on the northern bank of the Kings River just downstream of Pine Flat Dam, the Conservancy's newest park is now scheduled to open in March. Funded by a grant through Prop. 84, the park features a 1.5 multi-purpose trail directly accessing the River with a 1/2 mile ADA path and a restroom and 1/2 acre parking area with room for 11 cars. There are also interpretive kiosks, 3 picnic tables and visitor feedback stations. This is on Fresno County property and is part of the Conservancy's "Kings Ribbon Gems"

Additional funding through a generous grant from the Martin Family includes the ongoing removal and control of invasive plant species along the walking trail and the planting of the native plants that I mentioned last month. The Grant also provided for the refurbishing of the trout incubator house adjacent to the trail and expansion of the existing program managed by the Kings River Fisheries Management program. Both the trail and the incubator house will be open for visitors on March 16.



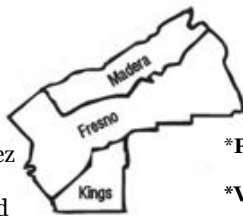
<http://www.kingsriverconservancy.org>

Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@unwiredbb.com>

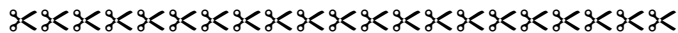
The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



*New and Renewing Members

Thanks to: John Buada, Roland Bergthold, Colin Wilkinson, *Intermountain Nursery

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.

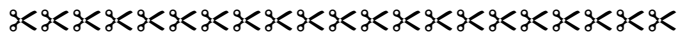


Next Newsletter – April 2013

Please send contributions, suggestions, and corrections to Helen Shaw helshaw@netptc.net



Deadline for April newsletter is Friday, the 5th.



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Sequoia chapter CNPS thanks Derrel's For their support



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: _____

- Student, Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library \$75
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- Patron \$300
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

- New Member
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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.

MARCH 2013



**SEQUOIA
CHAPTER
CNPS**

**Clockwise, from right
Close views of redbud,
manzanita and bee**

**With thanks to
Thelma Valdez**



**China Creek sentinel oak
then and now**

**UC Davis arboretum
oak "family tree"
redbud
redbud grove**

**Thanks to
Warren Shaw**

