



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

October 2005

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.
“Members’ 2005 California Wildflower Photos”

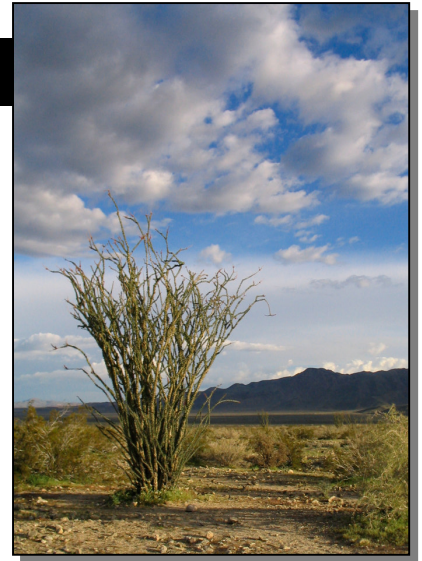
Let’s get together and show off the best of our photos from this glorious wildflower year. Bring digital photos (on a CD or memory stick) or slides. We will provide both types of projectors. Bring 5-10 minutes worth of photos and we’ll establish time limits based on how many individuals bring photos. We also welcome your photos from CNPS projects such as the great work out at China Creek, or any other special native plant issues captured on film. No need to RSVP, just come and bring one or more photos! See you there!

Did you know that we often bring a variety of native plant seeds, posters, and other CNPS items for purchase to each meeting? There are also handouts, information about growing native plants and, of course, members willing to share experiences.

Unitarian Universalist
Church, 4144 N.
Millbrook (S of
Ashlan Avenue).

The public is
welcome! If you know
someone that loves
beautiful photos, bring
them along

*Ocotillo in bloom.
Joshua Tree National Park
March 2005.*



NEW AND VACANT POSITIONS

Nominating Committee Formed

As of December 31, 2005 several offices and committee positions will be open. A nominating committee has been formed with the responsibility of filling new and vacant positions. Slots we know we need to fill are: President, Programs (co-chair), and field Trips (co-chair). Others may develop.

New positions we also hope to fill may include Madera County VP and 2 Directors at Large.

We will be calling some of you, but if you’d like to save us some trouble and volunteer, please call or email Marian Orvis, Warren Shaw, or Thelma Valdez (contact info in the directory found on the next to last page of this newsletter).

CHINA CREEK WORKDAY

Saturday, Oct. 22. We’ll mainly be attacking bull thistle, from about 9:00 – 3:00. Bring a shovel, some good gloves and some hand pruning shears (and, of course, water and lunch). Take 180 East to Smith Road (West fence of Centerville School). Go South on Smith Road for about a mile (cross Rainbow Road) and drive to the pipe barrier/gate.

(China Creek, an undeveloped Fresno County Park near Centerville on the Kings River, is a Sequoia Chapter restoration and educational project area.)

SEQUOIA CHAPTER YARD SALE

On Saturday, October 15, CNPS will be having a yard sale at 2427 E. Harvard in Fresno (2 blocks N of Clinton and just W of Fresno St.). If you’re looking for some good deals, stop by. If you have some things in your home or garage that you are willing to donate, contact Marian Orvis at 559/226-0145. (No clothing, please.)



NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING BOOK SALE

Come to the November chapter meeting and browse our used books. If you have not yet donated to the cause, we can use those books you were considering giving away! Ideally the books you donate have nature or gardening as the topic.

In addition we will have some native bulbs and divisions of native iris.

Bring books you no longer use to October’s meeting and plan to find a treasure at the November meeting!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Expanded Vision



For this issue I'd like to focus on a stunning proposal presented at the September Chapter Council Meeting in San Clemente. This meeting had the usual full agenda, and a great deal of significant business was addressed. (See [Chapter Council Report](#) in this newsletter.)

At the end of the daylong session, outgoing conservation chair Dave Chipping proposed that CNPS expand its vision to take in THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM—moving from simply plants to plant communities. His arguments include the following:

- Focusing on plants as separate from their habitats is scientifically narrow and incomplete—even artificial.
- No other statewide organization “looks holistically at habitat” from a scientific point of view.
- Including “charismatic species—megafauna” will increase public awareness, attention and sympathy.

My initial response was that CNPS has trouble now handling all the facets of native plants alone: conservation, horticulture, pure botanical research, etc. How can we be expected to cover every living thing?

Dave, however, foresees this as a manageable goal if we take a systematic and gradual approach. He also foresees that the attention and sympathy generated will cause our membership to grow, and increase the number and variety of applicable grants, and in general amplify our resources. A number of delegates expressed a desire to study this idea with Dave, and an Ad Hoc committee was formed.

It's an exciting prospect. We shall see.

-Warren Shaw

Monardella villosa
coyote-mint



CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

September Chapter Council Highlights

As usual it was a full day (and more). Friday evening there were:

1. A conservation conference at which results of statewide conservation meetings were summarized and a “reinvigorated vision” urged.
2. A horticulture gabfest where delegates shared concerns and success stories about plant sales, chapter nurseries, spring wildflower shows and so on.

Saturday the full council met to deal with an extensive agenda. Highlights:

- Heard explanation of Executive Director, Pam Muick's, departure and the search for a new ED, by Carole Witham.
- Approved draft Off-road Vehicle Policy (“closed unless signed open”)
- Heard election results—still no candidate for board president.
- Voted to retain original mission statement after considering several optional (shorter) versions.
- Heard exotic invasive program presentation by Bob Case.
- Heard presentations of forestry abuses, overuse of herbicides etc. by lumber companies, especially in Stanislaus County: Jennifer Kalt and Vivian Parker
- Encouraged by results of NCCP/HCP (conservation planning) process: presented by John Hopkins and others. (Nothing started yet in Fresno County.)
- Heard Dave Chipping's proposal for Expanded Vision (see President's message).

It was a very full and stressful day, which was followed by a pleasant happy hour, a nice dinner, and a lovely program. Many thanks to the hosts: Orange and San Diego County and South Coast Chapters



Buckeye

Native plants are beautiful and full of LIFE! A native plant garden is like a formal park with your own private zoo of fun animals, birds and butterflies in it, and NO cages, for either you or the wildlife.

-- Las Pilitas Web site

CHINA CREEK UPDATE

The park is not at its prettiest right now: the annual grasses are dry and brown. Dried milk thistle plants up to 10 feet in height stand in patches, and the greenest and most luxuriant plants are bull thistle. Near the gate is a huge tangled pile of shredded tree trimmings, and when I was last there, the trail was somewhat overgrown.

However, looks can be deceiving. Sure, we've still got a lot of thistle abatement to do, but Vulcan Materials did mow the yellow star thistle a second time. Neighbor Hank Urbach has promised to mow the trail (may have already) and that pile of tree trimmings is intended to be spread on the trail to provide a walking surface and keep weeds down. Our grazing trial was a great success, and we have County permission to expand it.

Brochures keep disappearing from the box (and I've found no evidence of inappropriate use) and the display Peggy Jones put up for the Earth Day trail opening ceremony in April is sun-faded but still intact and undefaced by graffiti.

Most exciting of all, Peggy has secured a grant from the Sanger Environmental Fund to facilitate a series of student projects in the park. She has also developed curriculum materials for use by local elementary classes. (She had a busy summer.)

Help Wanted

All that shredded stuff? It will have to be hauled and spread—mostly by hand.

And those elementary classes? Their teachers need help conducting tours of the trail.

Then there are the cows. If we're going to expand our use of grazing to control YST, we need to build and repair fences.

Please email me < warshaw@netptc.net > or call me (559-855-4519) to have your name added to the China Creek Crew list. This is a no-guilt, "willing-to-be-notified" list. We'll notify you when workdays are scheduled. If you can make it, show up. If you can't, don't; no need to send regrets.

The first workday of this "fall semester" will be Saturday, Oct. 22. We'll mainly be attacking bull thistle, from about 9:00 – 3:00. Bring a shovel, some good gloves and some hand pruning shears (and, of course, water and lunch). Hope to see you there. The park is at the end of Smith Avenue south of Rainbow near Centerville.

-- Warren Shaw

FALL PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale produced \$355.94 for the chapter. While this amount is lower than in previous years, this was our first year at the Clovis Botanical Gardens in a joint effort with them.

One of the advantages to having a plant sale at the Botanic Gardens is that when someone wanted to see a mature specimen of a plant in which they were interested, frequently we could walk that person over to a full-grown shrub or tree.

Sometimes native plants are a tough sell to newcomers to the native plant world. The best time to plant them is when they are at their least showy. But they sell best when they're in their full glory. If you have ideas on how we can improve our sales effort, please email any of the Board Members.

A hearty "Thank You!" to volunteers who helped make this possible: Ingrid Carmean, Howard Latimer, Jeanne Larson, Joseph Oldham, Kathy Boudinot-Johnson, Marian Orvis, Peggy Jones, Rose Rowe, and Thelma Valdez.

We greatly appreciate Bonnie and Ray from Intermountain Nursery and the great effort they make to supply us with plants and expertise.



Creek Dogwood

OBSERVATIONS

The lower foothills seem to be quietly pondering this transition to cooler, wet weather. Blue oaks have dropped most of their thin crop of acorns and some have defoliated somewhat (others show some new leaves). Tarweed is still blooming.

On a recent visit to Shaver (5500 feet) the Shaws noted dogwoods and black oaks starting to turn.

During the Fall Plant Sale, Desert Willow was still in bloom at the Clovis Botanical Garden. Only an occasional bloom continues to open on my row of Desert Willow at home. And, of course, California Fuchsia is just the ticket for a beautiful end-of-summer burst of color.



Blue Oak

-- Editor

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture – the cultivation of gardens. The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.

To that end, we will regularly feature a horticulture column that will focus on

California native plant gardening. Even the most scientific among us are touched by a successful garden specimen. The longer you spend among natives in your garden, the closer you become to the beauty and appropriateness of native plants. It's a special feeling when you recognize your garden plants with their wild cousins on a field trip.

California natives so clearly fit in the cycle of their natural world that you start to see how unnatural it is to create a tropical world in Central California! Compared to a rich diversity of local flora that invite native insects and birds, an expansive (and expensive) green lawn becomes a real bore and a chore that has you worrying when your sprinkler system goes on the blink! Need we comment on the difference in water requirements of exotic plants versus natives? More on that subject in future columns.

Plan today for spring wildflowers. It's time to think about planting seed for spring wildflowers. Purchase seed now so you're ready. Here are some seed sources:

- Larner Seeds www.larnerseeds.com
- Theodore Payne Foundation <www.theodorepayne.org>
- Elkhorn Nursery <www.elkhornnursery.com>
- Hedgerow Farms <www.hedgerowfarms.com>

Be careful. Many nursery "wildflowers" have naturalized exotics mixed in and should not be used in foothills. Intermountain Nursery has appropriate foothill seed.

Let the first rain germinate weeds, then till the weeds out before sowing. No space? Consider a few of your special favorites in planter boxes.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes. Classes require early reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family). Space is limited. Bring lunch and water for daytime classes. Visit <www.sierrafoothill.org> for more information, registration, and changes/additions or call 559/855-3473. Space is limited so make reservations early.

Saturday October 15 9 am – 4:30 pm	Oaks of the Foothills. 8 species of oak grow in the central Sierra Nevada. During this class Chuck Peck will show you at least 7 of those species in the field. Meet at the Auberry Park & Ride, 1 mile east of Prather on Highway 168, just past Intermountain Nursery. We will carpool from there.
Saturday October 22 8 am – 6 pm	Biotic Communities and Geology of the Sierra. See the connections between geology and natural history with geologist Craig Poole and biologist Rodney Olsen. Visit the western slope of the Sierra as high as Courtright Reservoir. Meet at the Forest Service office in Clovis, between Fowler & Sunnyside (1600 Tollhouse Road).

Hikes

Saturday Nov. 26	Hikes at the McKenzie preserve. Work off your thanksgiving feast by walking the Discovery Trail (easy 3.7 miles) or hiking to the top of the table (moderate 6 miles). These are our only hikes of the fall season – be sure to enjoy the cool air and beautiful views. Free. Meet at 9 a.m. with lunch and water.
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San Joaquin River Parkway Nature Walks

Spend time along the San Joaquin River observing native trees, birds, and wildlife in their natural, undisturbed setting. You'll see some of the largest stands of Valley Oak and other native valley tree species.

Reservations required: 248.8480 x110. \$2.00 per person. River Parkway Trust members and children under 6 are free. All walks begin at the River Center (11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno) and are held on Saturdays 8:30 – 12 noon

Saturday, October 15 Saturday, November 5 Saturday, November 12 Saturday, November 19 Saturday, December 3 Saturday, December 10 Saturday, December 17	Willow Unit Ecological Reserve Rank Island Ecological Preserve Ball ranch / Ledger Island Willow Unit Ecological Preserve Rank Island Ecological Preserve Ball ranch / Ledger Island Willow Unit Ecological Preserve
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LEGISLATIVE ALERT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Senate is delaying taking up the HR 3824, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 for the moment.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Inhofe (R-Okla.) is inclined to let his Wildlife Subcommittee draft its own bill to revise the Endangered Species Act, rather than taking up the proposal that passed in the House.

Inhofe is waiting to see what comes from Wildlife Subcommittee Chairman Chafee (R-R.I.) and ranking member Clinton (D-N.Y.), who are working on their own ESA legislation. But he said if the pair are unable to come up with a proposal soon, he may consider the House bill.

"They should have a product soon to look at, but if that is not the case, we may look at the Pombo bill," Inhofe said. "But for now, I will defer to them."

The House approved Rep. Pombo's (R-Calif.) ESA overhaul in a 226-193 vote. The bill throws out ESA's "critical habitat" requirements in favor of recovery plans, allows the Interior Department to set requirements for the science it uses and creates a program to pay landowners for the lost value of their land if taken for habitat.

Pombo put the bill on a fast track for passage -- with its introduction, committee markup and floor vote all occurring within the space of two weeks. Advocates following the act have said the bill's fate comes down to how it is received in the Senate, and many have speculated that Inhofe would try to shoulder it through his committee.

Calls and faxes are needed to Senators to encourage them support the Endangered Species Act and oppose anything like the HR 3824.

SENATE:

E mail your Senators and tell them to support the Endangered Species Act. You can look up your Senator at: www.senate.gov.

Please act today! You can read the CNPS position at <<http://www.cnps.org/programs/conservation/ESA.htm>>

CNPS 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The East Bay Chapter and the Willis L. Jepson Chapter are organizing a fun evening party celebrating the 40th anniversary of CNPS. The party coincides with the CNPS Chapter Council meeting in Berkeley on the weekend of December 3. All CNPS members are invited to come to this very special celebration. There will be a silent auction along with food and drink, a jazz duo, and a live auction later in the evening.

Date: Friday, December 2, 2005

Time: 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Place: Brazilian Room, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

Cost: \$10 plus a few dollars for wine or beer

What to Bring: A contribution to the Auction (see below) and money to spend on the auction items

Refreshments: Appetizers, Moroccan stew (all veggie or with chicken), rice pilaf, salad, fruit, anniversary cake, soft drinks, coffee, and tea will be served. Wine and beer will be available for a reasonable price.

To attend, please RSVP by November 25.

We will be paying a per person charge, so it is important that you tell us if you are coming. Please contact jve or

(925) 372-0687 to RSVP or if you have questions.

Find out more information at <www.cnps.org>



Yerba Santa
(*Eriodictyon californicum*)

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

New members (August & September 2005)

Feaster (Fresno)
LaLonde (Coarsegold)

Renewing members:
Bredon (North Fork)
Davis (Prather)
Merrill (Sanger)
Seay (Kerman)
Siegfried (Fresno)
Valdez (Clovis)
Winter (San Luis National Wildlife Refuge) Los Banos



Coffeberry
(*Rhamnus californica*)

Thanks to all renewing members for their continuing support. Corrections of membership information can be sent to Helen Shaw <helshaw@netptc.net>

NEWSLETTER



Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net >. The next newsletter will be the November issue.

Contributions are due by Friday, November 4.

Would you prefer to have your newsletter sent via e-mail as a PDF instead of printed and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service? If so, email Helen Shaw <helshaw@netptc.net> and let her know.

Why would you want your newsletter sent via e-mail? All the regular reasons about saving trees, but one added bonus – photos like that on page 1 can be seen in color!

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	Warren Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) warshaw@netptc.net	*Secretary & Past President	Marian Orvis 2427 E. Harvard Fresno, CA 93703	559/226-0145 mforvet@earthlink.net
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell 580 W. Manning Ave Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net	*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson 3457 E. Redlands Fresno, CA 93726	559/243-0815 (h) jrjlars@aol.com
Membership	Helen Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) helshaw@netptc.net	Horticulture	Howard Latimer 4534 E. Rialto Fresno, CA 93726	559/229-4273 howardl@csufresno.edu
Field trips / Programs	Joanna Clines 57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643	559/877-2218 x3150 (w) jclines@fs.fed.us	Education	Peggy Jones 1931 Winter Street Kingsburg, CA 93631	559/897-9646 autumn_aspen@hotmail.com
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Newsletter Editor	Thelma Valdez 12328 E. Sierra Ave. Clovis, CA 93619	559/323-8962 (h) nmtv@att.net	Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell 580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net	Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham 29123 Yosemite Spr. Pky. Coarsegold, CA 93614	(see above) 559/658-7165 J.Oldham1@sti.net



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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:

- Student/Retired/Limited Income.....\$20
- Individual or Library\$35
- Family or Group\$45
- Supporting\$75
- Plant Lover\$100
- Patron\$250
- Benefactor\$500
- Bristlecone\$1000

California Native Plant Society
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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 2005



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 PLANT

Hollyleaf Cherry

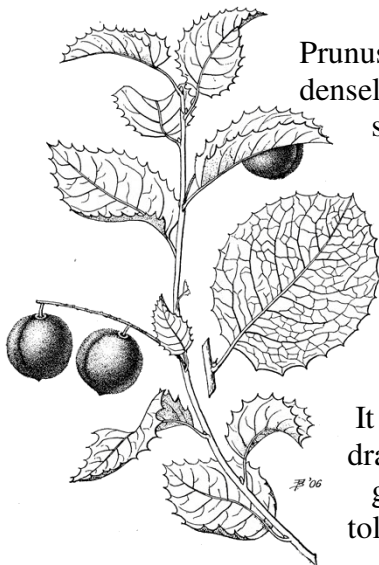


FIG. 168.—*Prunus ilicifolia*.

Prunus ilicifolia is a beautiful densely branched evergreen shrub that can grow from 3' or be trained to become a 25' single-trunk tree. If you prefer a hedge, simply shear it to the size you need.

It prefers full sun and good drainage, and although it is generally drought tolerant, occasional deep watering is needed to

help it reach the larger sizes. A big plus is that it is a very fire resistant plant.

The shiny, dark green leaves are 1-2 inches long and have prickly edges (hollyleaf). In the spring it produces small clusters of white flowers that cover the entire tree and attract bees and other insects. It is a host plant for the Pale Swallowtail butterfly.

Later in the year the flowers mature into dark red sweet cherries. The cherries are edible but don't have a lot of flesh – mostly skin and seed. If you don't eat the cherries, though, you'll have a plethora of birds that will! The roots and leaves can be used in cooking.

Image from 19759 U.S.D.A Forest Service., Courtesy of the Hunt Institute