



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Summer 2004

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 21. 7:00 p.m.

“Livestock Grazing, Native Plants, Environmentalists, and Cattlemen” with speaker Chuck Peck

Chuck Peck, Executive Director of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, will speak on how grazing can work to benefit native plants and animals. The Sierra Foothill Conservancy allows cattle grazing on its preserves and works with local cattlemen to stay true to its mission of protecting "...wildlife, ranching, and natural beauty for present and future generations." His ongoing experience with working with all sides of conservancy issues should make for a lively and informative talk.

Board Meeting TBA. Regular meeting and speaker are at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue).

Future Meeting Programs

June-August	No programs. See Summer Field Trip.
September 21	Livestock Grazing and Native Plants Chuck Peck
October 19	Native Plant Gardening Thelma Valdez & Joseph Oldham
November 16	The Sequoia Monument Michael Kunz
December 21	Potluck and Member Slides

Summer Field Trip

Birding and Botany in Sierra Nevada Meadows

Saturday, July 10. 9 am – 3 pm. Joanna Clines and Jeff Seay. **Limited to 25 persons.** Call Joanna for more information: 559/877-2218, ext. 3150 or e-mail <jclines@fs.fed.us>

Meeting place: The Pines Resort at Bass Lake. Highway 41 north through Oakhurst to the Bass Lake turnoff. Turn right, and go about 6 miles to the Pines Resort. Meet in front of the Post Office, across from the Pines. Bring a lunch, water, and shoes you don't mind getting wet.

We'll carpool/caravan up Beasore Road and visit several mountain meadows at around 7,000 feet elevation. Bring binoculars, bird book, and a 10X hand lens if you have one.



CNPS Sequoia Chapter Native Plant Sale: Saturday, September 25

We need your help! If you have never volunteered to help with the plant sale, this would be a good opportunity to start. There are many ways you can help with our most important fundraiser. And you don't have to be a native plant expert to do so. Here are a few ideas:

- Mark your calendar and attend the Native Plant Sale.
- Volunteer to make signs or placards for the plants for sale. A good summer activity to do in the shade.
- Start now by growing your favorite natives in 4" pots for sale – they are 100% profit!
- Make dried native plant arrangements for sale or just to give away!
- Sign up to help setup or break down the display and plants. Setup begins at 6:45. Break down is shortly after 12 noon.

- Invite your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to attend the Native Plant Sale.
- Think now about native plants you can put in the ground in the Fall and then plan to purchase them at the Plant Sale.
- Volunteer for a couple of hours to help customers take their plant purchases back to their cars or to help customers find plants suitable for their need. You'll learn a lot by being part of this event.

Contact Jeanne Larson for signup, ideas, and additional information. 559/243-0815 or email <jrjlars@aol.com>



California Coffeeberry
(*Rhamnus californica*)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The State Chapter Quarterly meeting, which we (Sequoia Chapter) co-hosted with Alta Peak, at SCICON in Tulare County, was a great success. There are many reasons for this—not inconsiderably the fact that, since it was in their backyard, Alta Peak handled a lot of the basic stuff. Then there is the fact that the facility was near perfect and the staff was incredibly helpful.

Our responsibilities were also significant. We were asked to enlist an after dinner speaker. Despite the fact he had to leave early the following morning for the Galapagos, Sequoia Chapter member Dr. Michael Kunz had painstakingly prepared a spectacularly beautiful slideshow and talk on the Sequoia Monument—tracing John Muir's travels through the southern groves of redwoods—and later commercial exploitation of these areas. One delegate told me it was the best after dinner talk he had heard in a long time. Others were equally enthusiastic.

We also wowed them with refreshments. Paul and Madeleine Mitchell hustled up 4 lugs of beautiful peaches and nectarines from packing house friends in Reedley and Madeleine made brownies. My own dear wife, Helen, baked muffins; we had persimmon breads by Rose Rowe and Marian Orvis, who also sent pistachios, and homemade fig newtons by Thelma Valdez.

Paul Mitchell helped with advance preparations, with setup on Friday, and took responsibility for getting those who had chosen to camp settled. Madeleine and Rose Rowe were also there to help and observe. Jeanne Larson's carefully prepared display drew lots of attention to our part of the state.

These volunteers cared enough to give their time and talents, and it allowed not only a productive meeting but also made a memorable weekend for the delegates. Many, many thanks.

-- Warren Shaw

RELATED TOPICS

Intermountain Nursery Class: *Herbal Medicines You Can Make* Saturday, September 11. 9:30 a.m.

With Dawn Williams. There are many herbal preparations we can make from local plants and herbs. Dawn will discuss and show you how to prepare teas, tinctures, and salves for the coming winter season. A \$5.00 non-refundable deposit will reserve your space. Class is 2 hours. Call 559.855.3113 for more information.

Native Plants and Pollution

Kate DeVries, a researcher and television producer/director living in Southern California, contacted CNPS chapters in the Sequoia National Park region with the following information:

Sequoia National Park is on the list of the five most polluted National Parks in the nation. Pollution at this park regularly exceeds EPA standards and almost all of the pollution affecting the park drifts up from the San Joaquin Valley. Laura Whitehouse, the NPCA Central Valley Field Rep was interviewed about the latest statistics. This report offers an opportunity to inspire valley residents to take action and improve our air by planting drought tolerant native evergreen trees. Statistics show that the average tree absorbs ten pounds of pollutants from the air each year and that each urban tree provides an estimated \$273 a year in reduced air conditioning, air pollution, erosion and storm water control costs. (Source: City of Portland, Oregon). More of this data is available at: <www.friendsoftrees.org/tree_resources/facts.php>. Drought tolerant native evergreens have added benefit: they attract birds and butterflies. A few we might consider are:

California Lilac (*Ceanothus 'Blue Window'*) (full sun)
Flannelbush (*Fremontodendron*) (full sun)
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), (part to full sun)
Nevin's Barberry (*Mahonia nevinii*), (full sun and heat)
Mahonia species. (shade or partial sun)
Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), (full sun)
Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) (full to part sun)

Observations

Out Reedley way Madeleine Mitchell's Desert Willow is in full blossom, the Cleveland Sage is still going strong, and the Hollyleaf Cherry is full of green fruit that will ripen later in the summer. The Deer Grass is big and bushy, getting ready to blossom. And though the California Poppies are mostly dry, there are always a few that continue with a bloom here and there through the month of June.

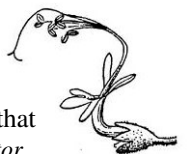
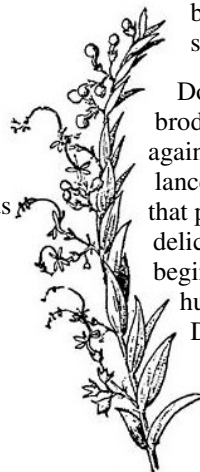
Warren Shaw says that everything in the foothills is showing the effects of the dry winter. As of late June, springs and seasonal creeks are mostly dry. Blue oaks and other drought deciduous plants are showing yellow and brown and falling leaves. Buckeyes are well on their way to being completely russet. Grasses are all a tawny brown.

The only blossoms are milkweed and Jimson weed. Sticky, aromatic tarweed is up but not yet blooming. Poison oak is turning a spectacular array of colors—some are quite scarlet. Clusters of purple have appeared on the elderberry bushes and mountain mahogany is covered with fuzz. May of these are normally mid to late summer/early fall manifestations.

In mid-June Jeanne Larson's Ithuriel's spear in a pot was blooming its heart out, perhaps enjoying some sprinkler water and pleasant June temperatures.

Down in the flatlands, the field that was full of Harvest brodiaea six weeks ago is beginning to show a blue haze again -- this time from Vinegar Weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*). It's one of those plants with a strong smell that people either love or hate. No denying its flower is delicately beautiful, however. California fuchsia is just beginning to bloom and typically attracting hummingbirds. And true to its name, the Dove Weed is, well, attracting doves.

Enjoy the beautiful summer evenings that are Central California. --Editor



An illustration of *T. lanceolatum* from Leroy Abrams' "Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States."

China Creek Report

By Warren Shaw

In early June Vulcan materials, true to their promise, mowed all the areas infested with yellow star thistle that they could get to with their tractor. We estimate that at least 20 acres were mowed. Some areas were over our heads (see photo) and, in some cases, too thick to walk through and, even though the weather was relatively cool, the tractor tended to overheat and had to be cooled with buckets of water dipped from the pond.



Since some plants were merely knocked down and new plants have sprouted, Vulcan has agreed to mow a second time.

Regrettably the small crews working out the areas inaccessible to the tractor have been unable to finish. Nonetheless we have probably killed hundreds of thousands of plants. At the rate of 10 to 20 thousand seeds per plant we have prevented the dispersal of millions, if not billions, of seeds.

In addition, we're looking into a grazing trial in one area of the park and also the possibility of spraying those plants that survive our other efforts.

Our goal is to reduce the infestation to the point where we can manage with hand pulling and small scale mowing. It's a big challenge.

May Chapter Meeting

A lively group attended Gaylen Lee's glimpse into the Nîm (Mono) use of familiar native plants. In a short hour, attendees were treated to family stories and explanations of edible, medicinal, and utilitarian uses of acorns, red maid seed, Manzanita berries, sourberries, popcorn flower, buckeye, wild tobacco, buckwheat, yerba santa, wild cucumber, oak galls, soap root, wormwood, and even dodder!

Special rocks were used for cooking oak acorns in a basket. In the spring, "women's work" consisted of seed gathering and cooking while "men's work" focused on hunting. Gaylen shared with the group a headdress he made as well as a variety of baskets made by his family.

Gaylen signed copies of his 1998 "Walking Where we Lived" with proceeds going to the Sierra Mono Indian Museum. It was a special treat to meet and listen to someone from our local native culture.

CNPS State Chapter Council Meeting Report

Saturday, June 5, 2004

By Warren Shaw

Delegates from all over the state met at Tulare County's sixth grade camp, SCICON, near Springville (see President's Message).

Friday evening we were privileged to see a beautiful slide-illustrated program given by Fletcher Linton, Sequoia Forest botanist, on rare plants of the many and varied habitats of the southern Sierra.

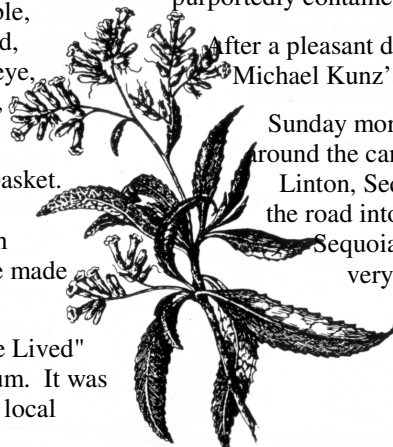
On Saturday the council dealt with a full agenda. A few highlights:

1. Some good news—the chapter subvention allowance has been raised to 600 dollars.
2. A new book, *The Best Spring Ever*, (about the El Niño bloom in '98), new membership brochures, and new directories are all now available.
3. It was agreed to send a list of program policy core committee members to chapters for consideration and possible additional volunteers. This is an effort to coordinate the efforts of state level policy committees with program committees.
4. Candidates for state president, vice president and secretary gave "campaign" statements.
5. In a fairly lengthy discussion of the fortieth anniversary celebration it was concluded that we would indeed celebrate statewide, but that involving the legislature and other agencies in a "Year of the Native Plant" need not coincide with the anniversary. The committee asks for chapter input on activities, and there is a logo contest (specs. in Bulletin—deadline Aug. 31).
6. Native plant mapping was detailed in a presentation, on "Western Riverside Mapping."
7. Outreach methods for both members and funds at both state and chapter levels were discussed.
8. In the course of the Conservation Program update, Chair Dave Chipping asked for help (letters) re: planning for the southern forests (see "Legislative Update.")

It was a long day and delegates were ready for "Happy Hour" which featured (non-alcoholic) beer and Poison Punch, that purportedly contained essences from numerous toxic natives.

After a pleasant dinner, delegates and guests enjoyed our own Michael Kunz's beautiful talk on the Sequoia monument.

Sunday morning featured a "short field trip" in the area around the camp and a "Tall field trip" led by Fletcher Linton, Sequoia Forest Botanist (who's about 6'5") up the road into the Balch Park/Mountain Home Giant Sequoia areas. We joined the latter and found it very informative and great fun.



Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*)

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."

-Albert Einstein

Feds Urge Caution on Release of Genetically Modified Grass

For what may be the first time federal agencies have publicly opposed the release of a genetically engineered organism, a grass used in golf courses. The agencies are concerned that if the grass, which is engineered to be herbicide resistant, escapes into wildlands, its herbicide tolerance will render it uncontrollable.

Scientists and environmentalists have long cautioned that genetically engineered herbicide resistant plants and other organisms may become uncontrollably invasive if released into the wild, and cause severe damage to wildland ecosystems.

"Our concern is that if it was to escape onto public land, we wouldn't know how to control it," says Gina Ramos, senior weed specialist for the Bureau of Land Management. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have asked for more study of the grass to determine the consequences and potential responses to a possible escape.

"What we're saying is let's be very careful until it is proven that its not going to do the things we're concerned about - like take over," says Jim Gladen, director of the Forest Service's watershed, fish, wildlife, air and rare plants division.

At the Bureau of Land Management, Ramos stresses that because the grass is resistant to Roundup, it's unclear how it could be kept in check if it were to escape the confines of a golf course. "Our budget is already strained trying to control invasive species - having one more will really be difficult for us," she says.

Those words of caution from federal agencies have taken some by surprise. "I've never seen it happen before," says Peter Jenkins, policy analyst for the International Center for Technology Assessment, which advocates for limits on genetic engineering.

Other government voices joining the chorus of caution include the Oregon Department of Agriculture, California Department of Fish and Game, experts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.



Major Conservation Alert for Southern California from Dave Chipping, CNPS Conservation Director

The Draft EIS for the Land Management Plan Revisions for the four southern forests, Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland N.F.s is open to comment until August 11. It is absolutely critical that citizens comment on these plans, as the preferred alternative out of the six that were analyzed is absolutely the very worst as far as the protection of the environment is concerned. You can obtain CDs of the plans from Region 5, or view them on the web at: < <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/scfpr/draft/publication/index.htm>> You can also mail comments to the following address: Southern California Forest Plan Revisions , Name of National Forest (if Applicable), USDA Forest Service Content Analysis Center, P.O. Box 22777, Salt Lake City, UT 84122

I would much prefer that comments be sent in from individuals. I suspect that if any more than one letter comes in bearing CNPS letterhead, only one will be counted, and I am going to make that Ileene Anderson's letter. As High Country News pointed out, the agencies are now jobbing out the analysis of comments, and I am suspect of both this action and the motives behind it. Be doubly careful if you choose to use the electronic comment submission, as it asks, "are you representing a group". Do NOT say CNPS.

Army Orders Environmental Cutbacks to Save Money

By John Heilprin, Associated Press, 5/27/2004 11:09

WASHINGTON (AP) Army garrison commanders worldwide are being told to drop some environmental protections and cut all temporary employees so the savings can be shifted elsewhere because of the war on terrorism.

An environmental group says some of the programs affected by the changes reduce aircraft collisions with birds, control non-native species and affect how hazardous waste is handled. According to a May 11 memo obtained by The Associated Press, Army Maj. Gen. Anders Aadland wrote that the Army will now "take additional risk in environmental programs; terminate environmental contracts and delay all non-statutory enforcement actions" until after the new fiscal year begins in October.

An environmental group, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, said the Pentagon is irresponsibly ordering severe cuts in spending on programs that reduce pollution and protect wildlife.

"This is an order to base commanders authorizing pollution of American soil when it saves money," PEER's executive director, Jeff Ruch, said of Aadland's use of the phrase 'take additional risk.' "Protecting America's land, air and water is not a secondary mission that should be shirked when budgets get tight," Ruch said.

Ruch said Army environmental specialists have told his group that the programs to be cut also include those for protecting endangered species, disposing of munitions in open-air burning and monitoring groundwater.

In the last two years, Congress has agreed to five of eight Pentagon requests to ease environmental requirements. The department and the Environmental Protection Agency are trying to make the remaining three requests more palatable to lawmakers. Congress has approved the Pentagon's requests to ease requirements for designating critical habitat and a lower threshold for what can be considered "harassment" of a marine mammal.

Now, the Pentagon wants the Clean Air Act amended so any extra air pollution from training exercises wouldn't count for three years in states' plans for meeting federal requirements. It also is seeking changes that would let the military avoid cleaning up land of munitions used for normal purposes on operational ranges. Read more at <www.acq.osd.mil/ie/environment.htm> and <www.peer.org>.



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: _____

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

Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

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.

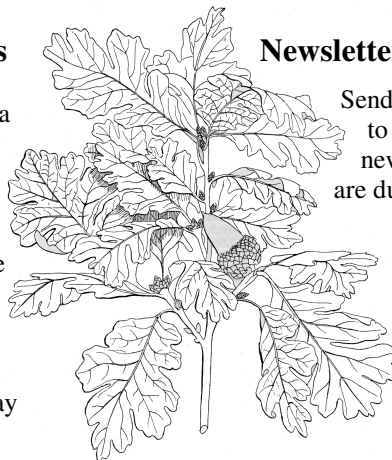
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May Yard Sale Fund Raiser Results

Great participation by Rose Rowe and Thelma Valdez. Many thanks for the donations from Jeanne Larson, Rose Rowe, Thelma Valdez, and Cynthia Eayre. And a big Thank You to Marian Orvis for hosting the event at her home and her many donations. Too bad more folks did not show up to purchase some very good, one-of-a-kind items. Total Receipts: \$156.90.

We have plans to do this again in the fall. Stay tuned...Save those valuable white elephants!



Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)

Newsletter

Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at < nmtv@att.net >. The next newsletter will be the September issue. Contributions are due by Friday, September 10.

*Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
And a person for work that is real.*

Marge Piercy, "To Be of Use"

CARPENTERIA

Summer 2004



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

California Fuchsia

Zauschneria californica has been a desirable native for many years because it produces brilliant salmon color trumpet flowers beginning in the summer and continuing into the fall – seasons when many California natives are well into summer dormancy or have finished blooming.

It spreads 18 inches across with the lower branches becoming somewhat woody in age. Its height is between 18 and 24 inches.

As with many California natives, it was appreciated outside of California as far back as 1845 when the Horticultural Society of London sent someone to collect some specimens. It was originally noticed in 1751 in Monterey.

Like most natives, it requires little care if it is given a suitable environment. It works best in dry sunny locations, including rock gardens and slopes. It

prefers light soil, full sun, and very little water, although in heavy soils it can do fairly well with a little summer water and will also tolerate some shade.

It can become invasive in cultivated areas because the plant spreads by layering and rhizomes.

In winter you can prune California Fuchsia to the ground to keep it from becoming leggy in the summer. In mild areas it will begin to regrow immediately.

There is probably a dry spot in your garden that would be perfect for *Zauschneria californica*'s summer blooms. Plenty will be available at our chapter's Native Plant Sale in September.

