--Jane Pritchard

A Day in the Park

Chris, Michael, and I extract thistles and water plants at China Creek Park on Wednesdays. We were working on a patch of yellow star-thistles (YST), too. Some had diameters of one inch - too big for me to pull. After retrieving my pick-ax from the car to dig them out, I stepped on the end of a long mustard stem with my left foot and did a full body flop as my right foot tripped on it. Michael had pulled the giant YSTs by the time I returned to the patch. Fortunately, my trip to the car wasn’t wasted; the pick-ax was used on bull thistles in the surrounding area.

After Chris and Michael left, I went to water the two surviving lupines near the arm of the creek. I filled the bucket with water from the creek and put half of it on one lupine. I flat-out fell again maneuvering to the other lupine and spilled the water. I returned to the creek and bent over (instead of squatting) to fill the bucket. My footing failed and I dove crown first into the creek, completely submerging. Luckily my glasses stayed on. My rubber boots were filled with water and it took me a few tries to successfully stand. I finally caught my plastic bucket slowly floating downstream along the bank. However, my straw hat landed upside down further out in faster current. I watched it disappear around a bend in the creek.

I clambered out of the creek, emptied my boots, and got more water to put on the lupines. I was very cool the rest of the day but had to keep pouring water out of my boots. Driving home, the open windows chilled me, but it was better than the smell of a wet animal.
New Email System Hiccups

Our new email system has substantially cut down on volunteer hours for sending out monthly newsletters, although this hasn’t been without hiccups. Some email servers have flagged our newsletter emails as promotions, junk mail, or worse, full blown email blocks. In my personal experience, my Gmail account placed all CNPS emails into a promotions folder. Fortunately, there is an easy fix for this by clicking a button “to teach Gmail that the conversation is important”. See image for help.

Outlook may route the emails to the junk folder. In this situation you would need to tell Outlook that it’s not junk by right clicking the message and navigating the junk options to select “not junk”.

If you’ve had an experience unlike mine, where you’ve figured out how to tell your email system that certain emails are not junk or promotions, please share! We will be sending out a traditional email to all with as much helpful information as possible so members who haven’t received the new newsletter emails, will have a chance to retrain their email system and receive chapter related emails despite some email filtering systems. If you have a junk email story to share please email us at cnpssequoiachapter@gmail.com.

--Reagen
**Classes and Events**

- **Mitigation Measures & Monitoring**  
  **Monday, October 4 to Wednesday, October 6**  
  **Location:** Casitas Springs Community Center, 8437 Edison Drive, Ventura, CA 93001
  - CNPS workshop will provide a framework for mitigation of botanical resources based primarily on CEQA impact assessments.
  - Learn which mitigation measures need to be monitored and why.
  - Learn how to draft a mitigation measure.
  - Learn monitoring methods.
  - Learn Thresholds of significance and success.
  - Homework will be assigned on day two.
  - Participants must be able to walk on uneven terrain and be outdoors for up to 4 hours, rain or shine.
  - Last day to register is September 20, 2021.

  For more information go to:  

- **The Clovis Botanical Garden 4th Annual Scarecrow Garden**  
  **Wednesday, October 6 to Sunday, November 14**  
  **Location:** 945 N. Clovis Avenue, Clovis, Ca 93611
  - Create a free-standing scarecrow with your family, friends, employees, etc. that will be displayed at the Clovis Botanical Garden.
  - Bring entries to the garden from October 1 to October 8 (except Monday and Tuesday when the garden is closed), 9am to 4pm.
  - Provide a sign to accompany your scarecrow to advertise or highlight your affiliation.

  For rules and information go to:  

**Fall Plant Sales**

- **Clovis Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale,**  
  **Friday, October 15, 12pm to 4pm, to Saturday, October 16, 9am to 1pm**  
  **Location:** 945 N. Clovis Avenue, Clovis, Ca 93611
  - Sale of water-wise plants.
  - Admission is Free.

**Support Calflora**

- **Dollar for Dollar Match of Your Donation to Calflora by their partners.**
  - The challenge is to raise $32,000 by September 19, 2021.
  - Your donation will be doubled!
  - Your gift will allow Calflora to continue providing hand-curated photos that bring plants to you, to help users identify plants, and to document rare plant locations.

  To make a donation go to:  
  [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=XEGWPDLTNMYBG](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=XEGWPDLTNMYBG)

**Memorial Award**

- **Dean W. Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award**  
  Applications due October 1, 2021.
  - The aim of the Award (up to $500) is to cover costs associated with botanical exploration in Northern California.
  - The Award is open to all people with an interest in the native plants and wildland ecology of Northern California.
  - Awardees will either present at the January 2022 Northern California Botanist (NCB) symposium or will write an article for the NCB newsletter.

  For more information go to:  
  [http://www.norcalbotanists.org/](http://www.norcalbotanists.org/)
Membership

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information contact Gavin O’Leary at sequoia.cnps@gmail.com.

The Sequoia Chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings Counties.

Thanks to new and renewing members.

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 us” or “BE A MEMBER” button. You’ll be allowed to choose the Sequoia Chapter during the process.

Next Newsletter: October 2021

Send newsletter entries or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com.

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Sequoia Chapter Contacts

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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 habitats through scientific activities, education, science, and conservation.
Meet the Fall Semester Intern, Michael Mendiola

We would like to introduce you all to our chapter’s fall semester Fresno Pacific University (FPU) Intern, Michael Mendiola (Michael M.). Michael M. is a senior at FPU in the Environmental Science Program and currently enrolled in Michael Kunz’s Environmental Practicum class which requires 45 hours of internship hours. We are happy to have him, as the Sequoia Board members looking forward to his service on many projects. Last year we had Kelly Damm from FPU volunteer for our chapter; she added a youthful air to The China Creek Project Facebook page, as well as to the Park labor. Michael M.’s tasks will mimic Kelly’s work for all our social media pages, and he’ll also be working on other projects that our chapter board has wanted to do. Such tasks include writing up a history of China Creek Park to inform on a management plan, creating new chapter outreach materials, and, of course, getting his hands dirty on the China Creek Park workdays.

Michael M. is a born and raised Central Valley local, currently residing in Sanger. His favorite California native plants include all purple blooming Lupinus species. In his free time, he loves to read (especially Michael Crichton books), run in his neighborhood, and spend time with his dad fishing at Avocado Lake. Please offer him a warm welcome if you get a chance to meet him this fall.