



### Good advice

Sleep. Rest. Conserve energy. That's what dormancy is all about and summer is a Mediterranean climate's dormant season. Do your best to ignore appeals for "summer color" using plants from who knows where?

Have a nap, emerge refreshed, and think about what you might like to plant in October. Make your list and bring it to the September plant sale.

Like gardeners in other climates who spend their dormant season (winter) browsing through seed catalogs thinking about spring, you can do the same with your summer. Except you have it a whole lot better. During your dormant season you can take a nap outside underneath a native oak or watch hummingbirds at California Fuchsia or Desert Willow. With notebook in hand, you don't have to trudge through cold, winter dormancy to think about planting. Warm, dry, summer evenings, cool drink in hand, can be spent gazing out at your yard, planning for winter. Topsy-turvy? Nah. It is what it is.

---Thelma Valdez

### Calendar Items



#### August 19 12:30 PM Board Meeting

Board meetings are open—all members are welcome. For place/time, contact Thelma, Helen, or any board member—see pg. 5. We gather for a potluck lunch, followed by reports and updates from committees and a time for planning upcoming events.

The main order of business will be plans for our annual fundraiser—native plant sale and fair, in cooperation with Clovis Botanical Garden, Sept. 29. Bring empty print cartridges for rebate.

#### Harvest Arts & Peace Festival (20<sup>th</sup> annual)

Oct. 13-14 Art, fine crafts, music, homemade food, community non-profits, children's activities. Free. Intermountain Nursery, 30443 N. Auberry Rd. @ Hwy 168, Prather [www.intermountainnursery.com](http://www.intermountainnursery.com)

### Plant Sale September 29

Planning is beginning for the September 29th plant sale at Clovis Botanical Garden. Mark your calendar and if you can volunteer, contact Thelma Valdez (559/323-8962) [nmtv@unwiredbb.com](mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com) or Marian Orvis (559/226-0145) [mforvet@earthlink.net](mailto:mforvet@earthlink.net)

Volunteers are often in short supply so don't think, "Someone else will do it." We need you!



## Vigorous Regrowth on Black Mountain

Jane Pritchard

On Feb 5 the roadside on Black Mountain was bare dirt, stumps, brush piles, and the reeking remains of burnt brush piles. As a docent for SFC, my goal is to interest people in the beauty of nature. I was aghast at what had been done to “our” mountain. On June 7 vegetation was regrowing lush than ever. Carpenteria just below and above the granitic outcrop at the 0.5-mile point was bright green and over 2 feet tall. These are the only naturally-occurring Carpenteria clumps close enough to the road to label for the open house on Mother's Day. Erosion that concerned me started about 1 mile up and continued to the top where brush had been cleared on steep roadsides. On June 7 erosion was still evident but covered with dry grass.

Joanna Clines, John Stebbins, and Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis of Sierra Foothill Conservancy, walked the lower 0.5-mile to the granitic outcrop on April 27. They concluded that no lasting harm was done to the Carpenteria. No mention was made of the elderberry.

They noted concern about the introduction and control of noxious weeds. Bur-chervil appeared several years ago and is more numerous every year. Maybe Cal Fire will control tree of heaven near the Kneeland homesteads when they clear that area.

Jeannette met with Cal Fire in early April. Cal Fire was supposed to avoid removing species listed as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered, or species of special concern by state or federal entities. They will try to make it right. Remaining brush piles will be burned this fall. By then they will be habitat for fungi, insects, and animals. It might be better to let them be overgrown by vegetation and decay in place.

→Ed. note: On June 23, Jeanne Larson, our conservation chair, received email from Rodney Olsen, Board President, SFC, stating the conservancy is working to identify what has been learned from this process and is “working directly with Cal Fire to ensure the remainder of the project meets Cal Fire’s goals while preserving the aesthetics and biological integrity of the preserve.”

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## A new sunflower (*Helianthus*) species from Central California.

John Stebbins, et. al., describe a new sunflower species, Winter's Sunflower (*Helianthus winterii*), in a recent abstract. This species is distinguished from the common sunflower (*H. annuus*) by its perennial growth habit, woody trunk and year round bloom. *H. winterii* occurs in annual grassland and open foothill woodlands on steep well-drained granitic soils in limited locations in southern Fresno and northern Tulare Counties on relatively steep open areas on well-drained soils within foothill woodlands between 180 and 460 m. (≈600-1500 ft.) *Helianthus winterii* is named after Robert F. Winter who has influenced many Californian botanists and natural historians.

To read the abstract:

<http://www.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=838>

## [www.cnps-sequoia.org](http://www.cnps-sequoia.org) Our Website's Upgrade

If you have not visited our web page recently, I urge you to do so—you are in for a treat!

From the easy-on-the-eyes background and format to the informative pages with details on landscaping, former newsletters, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events, you will enjoy every minute you spend there. Almost every page presents you with a slide show that is a visual delight! You will also see our request for assistance at our annual Plant Sale and Fair, in cooperation with Clovis Botanical Garden, on September 29.

We are truly fortunate to count in our membership and on our board, webmaster and photographer extraordinaire, Thelma Valdez

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## San Joaquin Valley in the Pleistocene Era

How interesting would it be to see the San Joaquin Valley 500,000 years ago? You can do this at the Fossil Discovery Center in Chowchilla. One of the exhibits is a large pond landscaped to simulate the appearance of the San Joaquin Valley long ago. Talk about native plants!

The pond is landscaped with California natives including Purple Needlegrass, Deergrass, Narrowleaf Milkweed, Mullen, Yarrow, Willow, Sedges, Mugwort, Tule, Dogbane, Elderberry, Buttonwillow, California Sycamore, Valley Oaks, Ash, Cottonwood, and more.

The non-profit museum is looking for volunteers to help maintain the pond and keep the museum running. If you would like to help, contact Director Blake Bufford at 559.665.7107. Visit the museum's website at [www.maderamammoth.org](http://www.maderamammoth.org).

Purple needlegrass



## China Creek Report – June 16

Warren Shaw

[warshaw@netptc.net](mailto:warshaw@netptc.net) 559-855-4519.

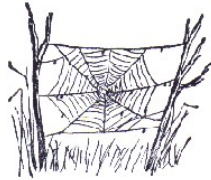
It was very, very hot – predicted to be 106. Nonetheless, we had a good crew of willing workers. We walked the southwest section of the Park, hunting Yellow Star Thistle. We were gratified to find very little, and felt we got most of what there was. We also annihilated a certain amount of Bull Thistle – probably our next target species.

We were disgusted, but not surprised to find an uptick in the amount of graffiti, which we dealt with as best we could. Also, we noted a number of new Valley Oak seedlings in need of protection in the two grazing areas. We decided to start by removing the mesh rings from trees that have outgrown their need, and moving them to the new little ones, which we'll start in July.

The morning's work went so well, that, after an extended break – at which Ingrid's homemade apricot sorbet was the highpoint – we decided to call it a day, a very satisfactory day.

Our July Work Party will be Saturday, July 28; (a change from the original schedule). August's work day is Saturday, August 18. We hope to see you then. 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.

## Observations



### From Jeanne Larson

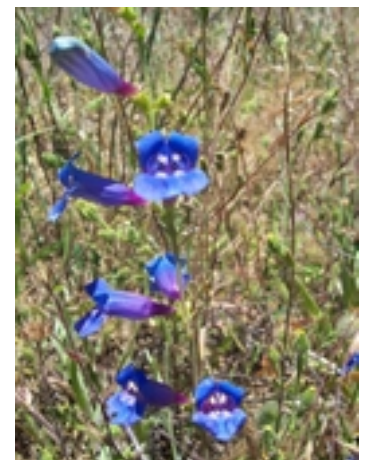
As I write this, we have a week of scorching weather and possibility of thunderstorms and lightning, and the worry of where a wildfire might erupt. While Cal Fire has set requirements for homeowners to clear combustible material from their homes, that may not always be enough. Here in Fresno and Madera Counties there are increasingly dense areas that have not burned in 60 years. If we are fortunate enough to pass this season without too much devastation, it will be imperative to take a stronger and different look at how we recognize the danger. That will include the kind of wildland-urban interface we allow with any new development in the foothills.

However, fire can be a renewer as it allows regeneration of unproductive chaparral for wildlife habitat and food. We need to learn more, about using fall prescribed burns, and browsing animals to create more natural breaks in the vegetation.

### From Warren Shaw

In the foothills Buckeyes are, apparently, dying – their usual summer swoon, and Blue Oaks are poised to begin their usual drought deciduous drop. Dove Weed is rampant and Milkweed is blooming, with sticky Tarweed soon to follow. Most other species have settled down for the summer – awaiting the first rains of fall.

On a recent trip to the mountains, however, we noted a nice patch of Scarlet Monkey Flower at about 2000 feet, White Ceanothus around Shaver Lake (Blue should follow soon), and two kinds of Penstemon and lots of other colorful blooms as we got close to Huntington Lake; at 8000 feet it's still Spring.



## Helen Used to Be My Friend

Jane Pritchard

(ed. note—she still is)

On June 10 five intrepid souls braved the heat and dryness to clean Tollhouse Rock. The major bloom took place earlier but there were still lots of flowers and great scenery. Warren took beautiful pictures with his new camera. The dirt road to the rock was lined with wallflowers = *Erysimum capitatum*, Indian milkweed = *Asclepias eriocarpa* with flowers just starting to open, *Clarkia modesta*, and very few Indian pinks = *Silene laciniata* subsp. *californica* (nee *S. californica*). We took Warren and Helen to show them the bladder plums on Sierra plum = *Prunus subcordata*, and there were none this year. The plum pocket gall fungus *Taphrina prunisubcordatae* infects the fruit, which expand and elongate into soft, hollow, mealy greenish-white bags up to 2 cm wide x 4.5 cm long. As the galls age, they dry and turn beige.

We started going up onto the rock at the south end. Warren went down through dry grass to photo a large, yellow clump of golden-yarrow = *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*. There was more of it close to the trail a little further up. A few blooms had started to appear on mule's ears = *Wyethia elata*, found only from Mariposa to Tulare Cos. Flannelbush = *Fremontodendron californicum* was starting to go downhill but still had many fresh blooms. Bush poppies = *Dendromecon rigida* with large yellow flowers and long curved fruits abound on the hills. We encountered two large snakeskins. They each looked 5 feet long to me so probably were closer to 4 feet.

As I hoped, someone had cleaned the rock. We managed to glean gun shells, broken glass, and a couple beer cans. After the steep climb, Helen was red faced and spent a lot of time in the shade. A good breeze saved the day. Many purple-flowered, skunky-smelling monkeyflowers = *Mimulus layneae* (now Phrymaceae, lopseed family) grew in cracks of the granitic rock. There was no sign of most of the liveforevers = *Dudleya cymosa*. Jepson says they are evergreen. I hope they dried up and are not obliterated. My eye was caught by blue flowers covering a shaded area. Of course, I was unprepared for something new - no key and only a lunch bag to collect in. From what I could see of the dried out, mangled plant at home, it probably is either many-flowered eriastrum = *Eriastrum pluriflorum* subsp. *pluriflorum* or *Navarretia prolifera* subsp. *prolifera*. Farnsworth's jewelflower = *Streptanthus farnsworthianus* on the rock has dark purple leaves. Helen found a fresh-blooming patch of orange lupine = *Lupinus citrinus*.

Eileen left us at the rock. At my suggestion the rest of us continued on to the north on the ridge above the road we had walked in on. Vehicles drive all over the rock, which still has wondrous flowers, and make heavily-rutted dirt roads to follow. I had come in on that high road once before earlier last spring when it was covered with flowers. This time it was steep and just kept going up and seemed to never end. Finally we hit the downhill but it was loong and steep too. The road was hard packed, covered with loose soil, and sloped steeply into the deep ruts. It was easier to walk in the bottom of the ruts but that was a favored habitat for young poison oak = *Toxicodendron diversilobum*. Sometimes I sat on one heel directly behind the other foot and skied down the hill. At the bottom I was relieved nobody had got hurt. Helen's face was red as a beet. She had fallen on her back a couple times and was being stuck by the grass seeds caught in her shirt.

Helen and Warren treated themselves to hamburgers at Tollhouse market on their way home. Aaron and I drove up Tollhouse Road a short distance and enjoyed lunch under a canyon live oak = *Quercus chrysolepsis*. We turned right on 168 and had coffee and raspberry cheesecake at Cressman's. A swallow nest in the eaves above us contained at least 3 babies. The adults were flitting around, hoping to be fed.

Helen still treats me civilly regardless of how she really feels. Many days later she said next time she would go up to the rock on the south end and come down the same way. So that sounds hopeful. She will enjoy it more when it is cooler and has more flowers.



## Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at [nmtv@unwiredbb.com](mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com)  
The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### \*New or new to our chapter and Renewing Members

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### Next Newsletter September 2012



Please send corrections and contributions to Helen Shaw  
[helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net) by Friday,  
September 7.

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*.

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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

July/Aug. 2012



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

## MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

*Madeleine Mitchell*



I'm featuring *Salvia apiana*. White Sage or Bee Sage are the common names. This summer, my plant has just finished blooming and the bees and I enjoyed it. Many people think the odor it gives off is too strong, but where it's placed in the garden must be considered. Mine is near the edge of the native bed facing out to Manning Ave., so I rarely smell it unless weeding nearby. The plant is about 15 months old and the flower stalks are over my head, from 6-8 ft tall. The Western Garden book says the flower stalks are 2 ft. long and that it's a good plant for viewing in the evening since it's so white. The foliage is very compact and less than 2 foot tall.

The Native Americans have dried and burnt the leaves for smudging ceremonies. It grows naturally in Southern California and Baja and is very drought tolerant. In the book by Glenn Keator, *The Complete Garden Guide to Native Shrubs of California*, he mentions it doesn't do well with cold and wet, but that hasn't bothered this plant yet; of course this past winter was drier than normal. It gets no summer water now and is in full sun most of the day, with filtered shade in the late afternoon.



**JULY/AUG. 2012**



**SEQUOIA  
CHAPTER  
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**Counterclockwise from top**  
**Anemopsis at China Creek**  
**View from Tollhouse Rock**  
**Monkeyflower atop the Rock**  
**Buckeye "candles"**  
**Aaron with snake skin**  
**Madeleine's salvia**

