



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

March 2007

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

“Water Issues and Solutions in the Upper Kings River Basin”

Speaker: Randy McFarland, Public Information Consultant to the Kings River Conservation District

Water – a topic of the ages, especially in our arid climate. For 15 years Randy McFarland has served as a public relations/public information consultant for several San Joaquin Valley water agencies. Among those is the Kings River Conservation District.

The Upper Kings Basin Water Forum consists of representatives of local water districts, cities, counties, and other interest groups to work collaboratively to develop strategies to resolve water resource concerns. The vision of the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum is to develop a sustainable supply of the Kings River Basin’s finite surface and groundwater resources that is balanced and beneficial for environmental stewardship, overall quality of life, a sustainable economy and adequate resources for future generations.

The Upper Kings Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) defines projects and programs to manage and develop the surface and groundwater supplies in a sustainable manner.

Randy has been a Fresno County resident since 1957 and has a background of 29 years in journalism, primarily in newspapers in Fresno County. He has authored three local history books and has published many papers and given talks on Fresno County history. His knowledge of Fresno County, past and present, is impressive and he continues to be actively involved in countywide issues.

Please join us in learning about the various water agencies and what they are doing to address water needs. Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue. (South of Ashlan Avenue), Fresno.

Future Meeting Programs

Our slate of speakers for 2007 is particularly worthwhile. If you can’t make a meeting (or even if you can!), pass on the information to friends, students, or family members with an interest in the topics. Meetings are open to the public and refreshments are usually pretty good, too!

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| April 17 | “Climate Change and the Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks with Phil VanMantgen, PhD. |
| May 15 | “Plant Communities of Point Lobos: Beyond Wildflowers” with Rosemary Donlon, Point Lobos Docent |
| September 18 | “Future of National Parks & Wilderness in the 21 st Century with William Tweed, PhD., Retired Chief of Interpretation for the National Parks Service |
| October 16 | “Edison Forest Management” with Terry Sandridge, Nursery Program Manager |
| November 20 | “Inventory and Monitoring in the Sierran Parks” with Meryl Rose |

China Creek Workday

By Warren Shaw

Our February work morning at the park was uneventful (sometimes boring is good). No graffiti, little trash, weeds dead or dormant, a sunny if chilly day, and great cookies. What could be better? Steve McDonald’s cattle are working on the thatch, and Hank Urbach mowed the trail. We actually quit a little before 12:00.

The March work morning, scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 9-12, should also be beautiful, though there are no guarantees that there won’t be more work to do. We may need to get started spreading chips on the interpretive trail, since we’ve had no sign we’re going to be getting the help we were hoping for. It would be good to bring a shovel, a rake, and/or pitchfork if you can. Hats, gloves, water, and sunscreen are also recommended.

If you need help finding the park (or finding us), call 281-8080. Hope to see you there.



California Sycamore buds at China Creek

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The warm weather and longer sunlight hours have found me in my garden. I swear my plants are growing inches a day! Oh, and the blooms...who needs the blossom trail...I have my own! I never imagined I would enjoy my natives as much as I have. I just thought natives would look scraggly and not offer many varieties of blooms. Wow, was I wrong!

The more contact I have with the general public the more I find that most folks feel as I did. Now many are ready for a change. They are ready to replace their high maintenance, water guzzling landscape with natives. Help pass on the passion of growing natives. Volunteer for an event, give your neighbor a native, chat natives up to friends and fellow gardeners. The public is ready for a change.

~ Peggy Jones

Restoration Nursery Field Trip

It was a perfect field trip day in the foothills near Three Rivers to the California native plant nursery maintained by Melanie Baer-Keeley. We saw first hand the challenges and successes Melanie has had in her work as Restoration Horticulturist at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Melanie oversees the propagation of plants for restoration projects that span elevations from foothill to high Sierra. The nursery operation has grown over the years but minimal funding continues to be the biggest challenge.

After visiting the nursery we took a small hike near Potwisha where we spotted a beautiful little flowering plant (*Isopyrum occidentale*) that Melanie had not seen before. We then headed back into the town of Three Rivers to see two landscaping projects. The CDF Fire Station was landscaped two years ago to demonstrate a fire-safe garden. The U.S. Post Office is a newly laid project (one week old and not quite finished) done in conjunction with a local garden club that is heavily oriented to natives. Both are excellent examples of how one could landscape a home or a public space and it was especially good to see a project in progress. If you are ever in Three Rivers, make a point to stop and see these projects. Many thanks to Melanie for sharing her time and knowledge with us.

February 2007 Meeting

Hannah Nadel delivered an enjoyable and educational presentation on pollination at February's meeting. Although she claims to have only touched the surface of the subject (and we believe her!) members were as impressed with the pollinators as they are with the plants.

We started with the most ancient of pollinators, the beetles, which also happen to be the most abundant life form on earth. Even today, beetles pollinate nearly 80% of all flowers in the world. Most of those are in the tropics and their flowers tend to be drab colors because beetles don't see much color; yellow, blue, and colors in the ultraviolet light spectrum. Beetles are attracted to strong odors so the plants they pollinate have evolved to oblige their pollinator.

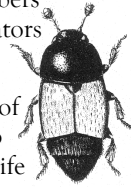
Moving on from beetles, we heard about flies. Yes, there are flies that serve as pollinators, and like beetles, they don't see red at all and they like strong odors. We weren't surprised.

Day flying butterflies do see red and tend to have very long tongues. Some moths are out in the daytime, others are night pollinators (for those blossoms that are open at night and quite fragrant). Moths pollinate yuccas and the current thinking is that each yucca species has its own specific moth pollinator.

Of course bats are important night pollinators. Saguaros and some other cacti are pollinated by bats, which require the flowers to be hefty in order to support the weight of a bat, and often have odors that are disagreeable to humans. Hummingbirds, on the other hand, have a poor sense of smell but a strong sense of the color red. So bird-pollinated blossoms have little smell but are bright and have long tubular pendant shapes since the hummingbird comes in from below.

Returning to insects, there are ant pollinators (flowers are low to the ground) and even some species of mosquito pollinate. Bees depend on the pollen and nectar to feed their broods so at different times in their lives they may forage for pollen or forage for nectar, depending on the need.

Of the 1400 cultivated crops in the world, animals or insects pollinate over 80% of them. Hannah's presentation was a lively show of flowers and these pollinators. Native plant enthusiasts are well aware that critters are a crucial component in the web of life



Cactus Beetle (*Carpophilus pallipennis*)

OBSERVATIONS

In Watts Valley at 2,000 feet, things are pretty green, finally, especially the buckeyes which stand out like beacons on the hillsides. Popcorn, Fiddleneck, Red Maids, Blue Dicks, Baby Blue Eyes, Redbud and poppies are beginning to bloom, but generally, in small quantities. Who knows, however, what the next few weeks will bring.

One Yosemite Lakes Park resident has been keeping rainfall records for over 27 years and to date YLP has 35% of the average 21 inches of annual rainfall this area receives. Stream flows are very low and the spring that for the last two years has run out of the ground from behind Joseph Oldham's house is not flowing. The seasonal creek that crosses the property and flows down to one of the three artificial lakes here is no more than a trickle.

Buds are swelling on the Western Redbud. Manzanitas are in full bloom at about 1,500 feet and the Buckbrush is in bloom at about 1000 feet elevation along Hwy 41. Popcorn Flower, Lupines, California Poppies, and other wildflowers are about 2 to 3 inches in height. Grey Pines are shooting up new candles and the buds are swelling on the California Sycamores. Wild Cucumber has sent out new vines and the ones on the hill north of Joseph's house are about 6 feet high. Elderberry bushes are sending out new shoots and most have about 2-3 inches of new growth showing. Silver Bush Lupine has been pushing out new growth for about a month, but no bloom stalks yet.

Except for the low stream flows and slow grass growth, it is starting to look a lot like spring. If we don't get more rain, it will likely be a very short one.

-- Editor

Home & Garden Show

Our booth at the Home & Garden Show was filled with photographs of California natives and drew in many attendees. In the three days of the show we talked with individuals from Merced to the local foothills to city folk. More people than ever seemed to be interested in conserving water and a surprising number have already planted natives to one degree or another. Hopefully the conversations about natives and the brochures we handed out will remain on the minds, desks, and refrigerators of attendees and provide education and inspiration.

RELATED PLANT AND FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Table Mountain Open House.

Saturday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk the Discovery Trail using a trail guide or hike to the table top for a magnificent view and spectacular wildflowers. Bring a picnic if you like. A wildflower class will begin at 9 am.

Hikes. Hikes are free and begin at 9:00 a.m. Call Jeanette at 877-2362 or 855-3473 to sign up and for meeting points and weather cancellations. Bring lunch, water, and hiking boots.

Sunday March 18	Table Mountain Smith Basin. Very strenuous.
Saturday March 24	Table Mountain Wildflower Hike. Easy.
Saturday April 7	Tivy Mountain Wildflower Hike or to the Peak. Very strenuous.
Sunday April 8	Table Mountain Loop Trail. Strenuous.
Saturday April 14	Table mountain Smith Basin. Very strenuous.
Sunday April 15	Black Mountain Summit. Fairly easy.
Saturday April 21	Table Mountain Table Top. Moderate

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 877-2362 or 855-3473.

Saturday March 17	Wildflowers of the McKenzie Preserve. With John Stebbins, botanist & wildflower authority. Be prepared for a strenuous 6 mile round trip hike. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday March 24	Wildflowers of the Mariposa Area. With foothill botanist Wendy Fisher 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Intermountain Nursery Classes

Saturday March 31 9 a.m. Fee: \$10	Foothill Wildflowers with Shirley Spencer, Naturalist We will go on a morning hike at the San Joaquin River Gorge to recognize wildflower species in our area. Meet at the Nursery to carpool. Bring a hand lens, water, snacks, and sun protection.
Saturday May 5 9 a.m. Fee: \$10	Native Plants in the Landscape with Bonnie Bladen Spring is the time to view most native plants in bloom. Tour the demonstration gardens and find out what will do well in your location. Cultural requirements will be discussed and handouts are available.

Sequoia Chapter CNPS

Saturday
April 14
Windshield Wildflowers with Peggy Jones & Warren Shaw. For those who want to see wildflowers but aren't into hiking. We'll meet at Doyle's Store near Piedra at 9 and "tour" up Trimmer Springs Road, stopping to smell the roses. Then we'll take Maxon over to Watts Valley, stopping at the Shaws for lunch (and restroom), returning to the Valley via Watts Valley Road. It should be a lovely day. To add your name to the list and get carpool information, contact Warren at warshaw@netptc.net or [559] 855-4519. Free. (If using a map search for directions, Doyle's General Store is located at 25425 E Trimmer Springs Rd, Sanger, CA 93657.) Free.

Sunday
April 15
Wonderful Wildflowers and Waterfalls with Joanne Freemire, Naturalist. 11 am - 5 pm. Meet at North Fork Post Office/Pizza Factory parking lot to carpool or caravan along the San Joaquin River past Kerkoff and Redinger reservoirs. At stops along the way, we'll hike to a lunch spot overlooking the river, then to two hidden waterfalls (total hiking distance: 6 relatively level miles) to admire wildflowers at bloom peak. On the return drive we can follow either a paved road past the exact center of California, or dirt USFS roads past *Carpenteria californica* in bloom near Auberry, depending on road conditions and the group's wishes.

Pack lunch, water, camera, field guides, a Sierra National Forest map if you have one, and dress in layers. To register, call Joanne at 877.4911. Free.

Chawanakee Unified School District Adult Ed Classes

To register, call Joanne Freemire at 877.4911 or 683-0808.

Saturday
March 31
Hite Cove Hike with Joanne Freemire, Naturalist
On a leisurely 6 mile round trip wildflower walk, we'll follow the Merced River from historic Savage's Trading Post to an abandoned gold mining town site. Dress in layers. Pack lunch, water and camera. Meet in front of Oakhurst Post Office in Von's Shopping Center to carpool or caravan to the trailhead on Rt. 140, 22 miles north of Mariposa. Fee: \$15.

Saturday
April 28
Hildreth History & Wildflower Walk with Joanne Freemire. Explore a gold-mining ghost town and Kennedy Table Mountain. See hidden waterfalls and fabulous flower fields on this privately owned site accessible only by owners' permission. Dress in layers. Pack lunch, water, camera and a hiking stick (uneven terrain). Meet at Spring Valley School on Rd. 200 in O'Neals to carpool.

California Native Grass Association

Visit www.cnga.org for details on the 2007 CNGA Workshops.

Friday & Saturday, April 20 and 21. **Northern California Grass Identification and Appreciation Workshop.** East Bay Regional Parks, Oakland.

Saturday, April 21. **Vernal Pool Workshop.** Sacramento County.

MORE RELATED PLANT AND FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

Jepson Herbarium Public Programs

Workshops are taught by recognized authorities in their fields. Most workshops are designed to accommodate beginners as well as professionals. For a full schedule, descriptions, and registration, visit <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html>.

Sunday March 24	Basics of Botanical Illustration (Linda Ann Vorobik)
April 5-8	Eastern San Diego and Imperial County (Jon Rebman).
April 12-15	Lichens of the Mojave National Preserve (Larry St. Clair)
April 14-15	Introduction to Field Collecting Techniques (Abby Moore & Mike Park)
Saturday April 28	Using Electronic Keys for Botanical Identification ((8am - 12pm) (Tom Rosatti and Chris Meacham)

www.NativePlantNetwork.org.

This is a nice resource for propagation information and comes from Melanie Baer-Keeley (see Restoration Field Trip on the second page of this newsletter).

7th Annual Teach the River

Space is limited for these events. Please pre-register at 559-433-3190 x3 or www.teachtheriver.org

Saturday April 7 and Saturday April 14	Weekend Nature Walk. Join a trained nature guide for a 2-3 mile walk along the San Joaquin River! 8:30-12pm, \$2, SJRPCT members and children under 6 free!
Saturday April 7	Volunteer as a River Steward during workdays for habitat restoration, removal of invasive plants, trail maintenance, and river cleanup events. Training provided. 8-12 p..

Clovis Botanical Garden Work Days

Saturdays, April 14, May 12

Please join us for a Garden Workday anytime between 9 a.m. – noon Saturdays, April 14, and May 12, even if you can only come for an hour or two. If you have garden gloves or a hula hoe, bring them (be sure to put your name on them). We will be doing winter garden cleanup. If you have students or classmates interested in volunteering, or just have questions, contact Georgia Porcella at georgiap@csufresno.edu. Looking forward to a productive day at the Garden! RSVPs appreciated.

HORTICULTURE

The Eye of the Beholder

By Joseph Oldham

Lately I have been watching a number of the real estate and home improvement programs on HGTV and I always find it interesting how people perceive the various landscapes that are shown on the programs. For the most part the landscapes that are shown reflect the dominant Victorian style of landscape design that has been around since the late 1800s. This style of landscape design focuses on expanses of lawn with neatly trimmed shrubs situated around the border and a carefully pruned tree here and there. This is a totally unnatural landscape and reflects the Victorian point of view that nature was unruly, something to tame, and humans had a responsibility to reshape the natural world to a more orderly design. It seems that in spite of over 100 years of progress in many areas, we are still viewing our landscapes with eyes set in the 1800s.

For California residents, and particularly those of us in the Central Valley, the Victorian landscape design does not work out very well because it tends to be very thirsty. When gardening with California native plants you find that you begin to develop an eye for the natural world and an appreciation for the beauty and diversity that nature provides. The great thing about California native plant landscapes is that you can lean toward a more natural display or you can have a bit more of a manicured look. Most natives tolerate gentle shaping and “management”. With California natives you get diversity, unexpected sites and smells, beauty all year, and most of all they are thrifty with valuable resources such as water, money, and time. Conventional Victorian style landscapes waste all three of these and that is something that Californians can no longer afford.

As cities and communities across California begin to develop plans for sustainable communities, the need to change our definition of a beautiful garden landscape becomes a critical component. It is time to shed the views of our great-grandparents and look at our landscapes in the light of the 21st century and our resources. We travel to our natural places and wonder at their beauty and diversity; it is time to make our home landscapes just as exciting. California native plants can be successfully used in home landscapes and they bring with them the beauty and diversity of our state. And if you already have your landscape established, you can still begin to incorporate California natives and gradually convert over to a more sustainable design.

If you are worried that having a California native plant landscape will lower your home values, think again. In 2005 when our family sold our home in Fresno, we had a very diverse California native plant garden and the house sold for more than we were asking. In fact, the landscape was one of the main selling features and everyone that visited the house commented on how wonderful and beautiful the yard was!

Happy planting!

Santa Barbara Wild Lilac (*Ceanothus impressus*)
From "Growing California Native Plants" by
Marjorie Schmidt



MEMBERSHIP

February 2007

*New Members and Membership Renewals

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

Fresno: *Bissonnette, *Bladen, Hansen, Hunter, *Kentner, Peterson
Madera: Beroza, Dean-Freemire,
Out of Area: Alsobrook (Las Vegas, NV), Preece (Danville)

Thanks to all for your continuing support. Send membership corrections to Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net.

Did you know you could request to receive the newsletter via email? An electronic copy of the newsletter allows you to keep past newsletters in a folder on your computer instead of taking up space on your desk or in a file cabinet. And when we publish color photos, you get to see them in all their glory. With an electronic copy, you can print pages from past newsletters or to use them as reference. If you'd like to switch, email Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net.

NEWSLETTER



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions to the April newsletter is Thursday, April 6, 2007.

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	Peggy Jones 1931 Winter Street Kingsburg, CA 93631	559/897-9646 (h) autumn_aspen@ hotmail.com
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell 580 W. Manning Ave Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) paul30@comcast.net
*Secretary	Marian Orvis 2427 E. Harvard Fresno, CA 93703	559/226-0145 (h) mforvet@earthlink.net
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson 3457 E. Redlands Fresno, CA 93726	559/243-0815 (h) jrjlars@aol.com
*Past President	Warren Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) warshaw@netptc.net
Membership	Helen Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) helshaw@netptc.net
Field trips / Programs	Jane Pritchard 276 W. Barstow, #103 Clovis, CA 93611	559/323-8253 (h) xxiii_xx@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Thelma Valdez 12328 E. Sierra Ave. Clovis, CA 93619	559/323-8962 (h) nmtv@att.net
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell 580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madeleine43@comcast.net
Horticulture	Joseph Oldham 29123 Yosemite Spr. Pky. Coarsegold, CA 93614	559/658-7165 (h) J.Oldham1@sti.net
Education	Peggy Jones	(see President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins 357 Adler Clovis, CA 93612	559/297-0144 (h) johnst@cvip.net
Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
Directors at Large	Jim Seay Verna Arnest	jaseay@comcast.net vernaj@sti.net



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

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, Limited Income..... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library..... \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

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

- New Member Renewing Member

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.

CARPENTERIA

March 2007



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

Wild Lilac

The genus *Ceanothus* contains a large number of species (43 in California), none of which is related to the true lilacs. Regardless, they are very important in a low water use garden because they require very little water (often none once they are established). Good drainage is also important.

There are low growing and spreading *Ceanothus*; there are medium-sized shrubs, and there are tall tree-like species. They are effective as a ground cover (no foot traffic) or as a hedge or as a specimen tree. Keep in mind, however, that their life span is limited, sometimes no more than six or seven years although occasionally plants may remain vigorous for ten or even twenty years.

Notwithstanding their life span, they can provide a beautiful complement in the garden. The flowers range from blue to purple to pink to white and are

attractive to bees. If you're low on soap you can rub the flowers in water a soap substitute.

Nearly every native plant garden should have some *Ceanothus*!



Sources: Native Plants for California Gardens by Lee Lenz, Encyclopedia of native Shrubs by Glenn Keator, Growing California Native Plants by Marjorie Schmidt. Drawing of *Ceanothus velutinus* (Tobacco Brush) from Native Shrubs of California.