



China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

Saturday, June 27 was predicted to reach 105 degrees (and may even have topped that). Nonetheless, we fielded a team of 10 volunteers to battle the forces of evil (weeds). We also had to devote time and energy to cleaning up the kiosk which had been plastered with graffiti. Most of our literature and posters were removed or defaced. We attacked the Yellow Star Thistle with both power and hand tools, and laid waste to a substantial quantity. Alas, there always seems to be more. Hank Urbach also mowed the entire trail, as well as some patches of YST.

Of particular note was our mid-morning break which is usually a simple matter of coffee, well water, and muffins. No so on that day! In addition to coffee, lemonade, and iced tea we had an amazing smorgasbord featuring homemade elderberry muffins by Thelma Valdez, zucchini bread, peanuts, Tollhouse cookies, and Ingrid Carmean's incredibly delicious homemade fresh peach ice cream! It was tough to get back to work after that but we managed.

While we can't promise such a spread at every work morning we can say they are all rewarding. We hope others will consider joining us on future dates. Those dates for the rest of 2009 are (all Saturdays) August 8, September 19, October 24, and November 21.

To receive email notifications of "Work Mornings" and other events at China Creek, please email warshaw@netptc.net.

Sequoia Chapter Plant Sale - Clovis Botanical Garden Saturday, September 26, 2009

We need help with the plant sale. This year we again join with Clovis Botanical Garden for the fall plant sale. We sell California native plants and CBG sells non-native, water-wise plants. All are well represented in plantings through the Garden so it's a win-win!

Please consider contributing a little time and/or a garden aid; even a couple of hours would be a big help. Below is what we're looking for:

Time

1. A cashier (we have one cashier but need another (8am – 1 pm)
2. Setup folks on Friday, Sept. 26, from 4 pm – 6 pm (or any part of that time). Just plain light labor of unloading plants and placing them in their designated place on the showroom floor.
3. Thursday and/or Friday morning (8 am – 11 am or any part of that time). Assist with putting out chairs, wipe down tables.
4. Sales Slip Assistants. No native plant knowledge needed! Write up a sales slip to make it easier and faster for the cashiers. Help customers load plants in their cars. (Saturday, 8-1 or any part of that time)
5. "Ask Me" persons who have a little knowledge of native plants (Saturday, 8-1 or any part of that time)
6. CNPS booth attendant. Spend time at the CNPS table (under a canopy) to hand out brochures, etc. (Saturday, 8-1 or any part of that time)
7. Wrap Up (Saturday, 1-2 pm). Load unsold plants back in the truck. Take down canopies, General wrap-up.

Items

1. Cardboard boxes for collecting and transporting purchased plants
2. 10' x 10' canopies
3. Wheelbarrows or carts (for customers to collect their purchases)

If you can spare an hour or a wheelbarrow or canopy, contact Thelma Valdez (559/323-8962 or nmtv@unwiredbb.com) or Marian Orvis (559/226-0145 or mforvet@earthlink.net). We'd really appreciate any time or item you can provide! Help us make this our best sale ever.



Paul Mitchell and a healthy Yellow Star Thistle.
It was not healthy for very long after this photo.

CNPS Plant Science Training Program Workshops

August 12-14
Vegetation Rapid Assessment

Sept 29- Oct 1
Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert

October 13-15
Vegetation Mapping

Visit <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/> for complete details.



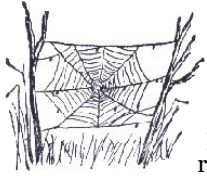
UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars Program

www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstar1/index.htm

One of the Sequoia Chapter's members, Madeleine Mitchell, participated in the UC Davis Arboretum's work in this All-Star Program intended for outreach and promotion of landscape plants appropriate for hot summer, interior California gardens.

Located in Davis, California, it reflects a climate nearly identical to much of the Sequoia chapter's reach. They have good examples of native plant gardens that could easily be located in our area. Visit www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu for more information.

Observations



In the foothills milkweeds and dove mullein are the most noticeably active plants. Buckeyes are rapidly going dormant, and some blue oaks have begun their drought deciduous behavior by dropping their first leaves. On a recent trip to Shaver Lake we noted the woods seem surprisingly lush with a lovely mix of azalea and tiger lily at one spot between the dam and Camp Edison and large annual lupine and white ceanothus everywhere.

In our hot summers, microclimates can be important. Jeanne Larson notes that one yard she passes on her morning walk has a nice drought tolerant garden beside a driveway. It had morning shade from a seedless Mulberry in the yard to the east which a new owner cut down. Most of the natives have survived and Cone Flower, Yarrow and a red Penstemon are in full bloom. The small leaved Manzanita and Eterri Fuchsia have not survived.

After the recent hot spell and then cool, two of Jeanne's natives (Frosty Blue Ceanothus, and Ted Payne Buckwheat) sprouted a few after season blooms. She noticed this "re-bloom" with some horticultural ornamentals in her yard as well.

Some recent Fresno Bee articles seem to bypass, or not emphasize, the care and watering that California natives need the first two seasons to become established. Many natives whose home is in areas that get a little more water than we do will require a once-a-month drink.

Gardening with natives means one becomes tuned into microclimates and the year-round weather. Native plants reflect the seasons' activity even after the season is over. The easy example is when the foothills produce outstanding spring blossoms after a wet winter.

However, more subtle reflections of the seasons and microclimates abound. This year, for example, a couple of Desert Willows have enormously long seed pods! Have the willows just become of age (whatever age that is)? The Golden Currant is now in almost fully shaded and has yet to go summer dormant which it did in years prior.

For an excellent perspective on why gardening with native plants is important, read *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy.

-Editor

CNPS Educational Grants Program

Each year the state CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000.

Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office.

Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2009.

2009 California Invasive Plant Council Photo Contest

When talking about California native plants it's nearly impossible to not have a tangential discussion about weeds. Here's an opportunity to do more than just talk about weeds.

You can submit up to five photos in various categories (Landscape, Specimen, Impacts, Before/After, Weed Workers, Humor). The deadline for entries is September 1, 2009. Visit www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/pdf/2009%20contest%20flyer.pdf for more details or contact Bree Richardson at breeemerr@yahoo.com or 650-291-5053.

Visit www.cal-ipc.org/symposia for general details about the organization and the symposium which will be held this year in Visalia from October 8-10.



On the Subject of Volunteering

Returning from a recent Saturday work morning at China Creek I got to wondering about the motivation of the individuals who are busy with their own lives, jobs, homes, yards, and families and yet still make time to work for a few hours in a very low-profile task.

Summer work mornings can leave one hot, sweaty, and dirty. For some, hearing that description is enough to swear never to volunteer at China Creek. For others, the word "work" is toward the end of the list of adjectives describing work mornings. It's after words like satisfaction, being in nature, camaraderie, beauty, learning, accomplishment, sights, sounds, smells, and snacks! Yes, doesn't doesn't food always taste better outdoors after one's appetite has been primed?

Jane Pritchard had that experience after working up an appetite pulling Yellow Star Thistle and then stopping to eat at the nearest convenience store. She says, "The food at Johnny Qwik was so good, I'd almost drive out there just for it. Probably the same effect as when I used to bicycle. I bicycled from southeast Fresno, out Ashlan, Watts Valley, Maxon Creek, Trimmer Springs to a cafe in Piedra where they had great food. My husband visited & drove there to meet me. I asked what he thought of his steak sandwich & he said it was the worst food he ever tasted." I think it's clear who had more enjoyment that day.

Being very busy seems to be the nature of life these days. And many of you volunteer with other organizations and know the importance on so many levels – others (especially youth) can learn to give back by example; in times of economic difficulty it's good to get out into nature and be comforted and awed; it's good to feel the satisfaction of work and contribution.

If you can spare a few hours, plan to help us with the plant sale (see page 1) or come out to China Creek some Saturday work morning.

Your help will be well appreciated. In the words of Jane Goodall, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."



Cephalanthus occidentalis a. flower; b. fruit

Membership

Helen Shaw

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net



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

*New Members and Membership Renewals (June)

- Fresno** : Britz, Chirstenson, *Dooley, Eckenrod, Hunter, *Mackey, Mallory
Out of Area : Whitmore (Fresno), Juarez (Ramona), Pitman (Monterey)

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

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to 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 button.

**If we are to go on
LIVING together
on this earth, we must
ALL be responsible
for it.**

-- Kofi Annan

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	open	
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell paul30@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
*Secretary	Marian Orvis mforvet@earthlink.net	559/226-0145 (h)
*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson jrjlars@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
*Past President	Peggy Jones autumn_aspen@hotmail.com	559/897-9646 (h)
Membership	Helen Shaw helshaw@netptc.net	559/855-4519 (h)
Programs	Jane Pritchard xxiii_xx@yahoo.com	559/323-8253 (h)
Newsletter Editor	Thelma Valdez nmtv@unwiredbb.com	559/323-8962 (h)
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell madeleine43@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
Horticulture	Joseph Oldham J.Oldham1@sti.net	559/658-7165 (h)
Education Co-chairs	Warren Shaw Peggy Jones	559/855-4519 (h) (see Past President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins johnst@cvip.net	559/297-0144 (h)
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

Next Newsletter: September 2009



Send corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@unwiredbb.com. The deadline for the September newsletter is Friday, September 4.



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide 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: _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student, Limited Income | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family, Group, or Library | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Plant Lover | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | \$600 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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

July-August 2009



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

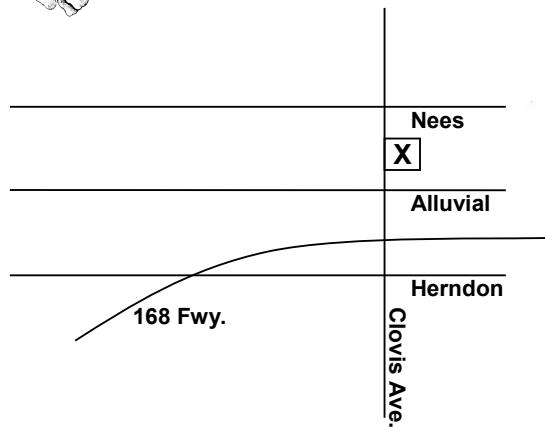
c/o Jeanne Larson ♦ 3457 Redlands ♦ Fresno, CA 93726

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.

19th Annual California Native Plant Sale



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER



California Wild Rose
(*Rosa californica*)

Saturday
Sept. 26, 2009
8 am - 1 pm
Clovis
Botanical
Garden
(945 North Clovis
Avenue)

- 168 East
- Exit Herndon Ave.
- Rt. (E) on Herndon to Clovis Ave
- Lt. (N) on Clovis Ave, past Alluvial



THE CLOVIS
BOTANICAL
GARDEN



JULY-AUGUST 2009

SEQUOIA CHAPTER CNPS

Left to right starting at top left

- *Elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*) taken on Yucca Point Trail to junction of Middle and South Forks of Kings River
- *Dandelion head of unknown species taken on Goat Mountain west of Bass Lake
- Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)
- California Button Willow (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Sacred Datura, Toluaca, or Jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*)
- California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*)
- Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanceolatum*)
- California Poppy (*Escholzia californica*)
- *Lemmon's Catchfly (*Silene lemmonii*) taken just east of Hume Lake

*Photos courtesy of Tom Zimoski