



**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Home and Garden Show – Fresno Fairgrounds -- March 2, 3, 4**

**General admission - \$8.00 Parking - \$5.00 or ..... FREE**

Friday, March 2, 11-7; Saturday, March 3, 10-7; Sunday, March 4 10-6.

This huge event is always well attended and our Chapter's table is an important outreach. The sponsors of the show have made a table available to us in the lovely Garden Pavilion and we're hoping it will again be in a high-traffic area. Spring is wildflower time in our valley and there is always interest in our flowers, posters, brochures, and other information. Gardening with natives is a growing interest and this show is a perfect match of our interests and those of water-wise gardeners. This is a pleasant way to visit with other plant people and spread the word about native plants.

**Marian Orvis 559-226-0145 <[mforvet@comcast.net](mailto:mforvet@comcast.net)>**



In exchange for some of your time, you will be able to attend the show and park in the vendor parking area (with free shuttle service to and from). We need volunteers for coverage during the times above. If you are able to spare a few hours, please contact Marian Orvis with your name, phone number and time available.

At left – Our display..March 2011

## Spring Events

**February 9** – 8:45 AM Jesse Morrow hearing – Fresno County Planning Commission

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departmentpage.aspx?id=19735>

**February 25** – Master Gardeners' Smart Gardening Conference – Ramada Hotel

<http://camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

**March 2, 3, 4** – Home and Garden Show (see above) <http://fshows.squarespace.com/home-and-garden-show/>

**March 11** – Sequoia Chapter board planning meeting and potluck lunch – all members are welcome

**March 31** – Spring into Your Garden. Clovis Botanical Garden. Visit our chapter's information table and see Thelma Valdez present her suggestions for landscaping with natives. <http://clovisbotanicalgarden.com/>

**April 14** – Windshield Wildflower tour: Sanger, Trimmer, Watts Valley

**May 5** -- Water Wise Plant Exchange Cal State Fresno

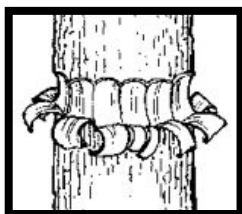
## China Creek Report

Warren Shaw

Magically, the rain ended just as we were ready to start work Saturday, Jan. 21, and appeared ready to start again just as we finished. The time in between was perfect. We had planned to roam the Park, with hoes and shovels, uprooting incipient Yellow Star Thistle plants as we went. We were a little surprised at how few we found. It's tempting to assume this dearth is the result of our past efforts, but we suspect it has simply been too dry to germinate much seed and that it will catch up now that there has been some rain. We did find a few bull thistle plants and lots of milk thistle, and we dealt with some, at least, of those.

We noted the park was relatively clean, in terms of new graffiti or vandalism, but assume again, that will increase as the weather becomes friendlier to outdoor activity. We did pick up trash and refresh the kiosk materials. To top off a great day, we saw a gray fox run across the road by the gate just as we were finishing up.

For the future, we're beginning to make plans to deal with the spreading grove of *Ailanthus* (Tree of Heaven), a highly invasive species which originated, I believe, in China, in the north dogleg section of the park. The latest literature indicates that a "Hack and Squirt" approach, where the bark is peeled back on a small area near the base and a small quantity of herbicide is sprayed or daubed on the area. The literature indicates the best time for this approach is late summer/early fall, when the tree is drawing nutrients from the bark into the roots. If done properly, it will be a permanent solution and not need re-application.



Hacked,  
awaiting squirt

Our February workday will be Saturday, February 18. Please join us if you can. To get to the Park take Kings Canyon/ 180 to Smith or Oliver, east of Academy. Turn south about 1/4 mi. to the intersection of Smith and Rainbow. Follow Smith about 1/4 mi. south to the Park gate.

China Creek volunteers—Please alert me if/when your email address changes. [<warshaw@netptc.net>](mailto:warshaw@netptc.net)

## Observations



From Warren Shaw

Four inches of rain do make a difference in the foothills, and things are beginning to green up a little. Mosses, of course, responded immediately, and lichens soon after.

Those months of warm weather preceding the rain also made a difference, with annual lupine starting to bloom two weeks ago and bright new leaves appearing on buckeyes before the end of January. Blue Oak buds are swelling, and we're guessing new leaves will be showing on the early trees before February is done.

Spring flowers? Who can say? It's been too dry for many seeds to germinate, but with the long warm spell and the sudden influx of moisture some may catch up.

from Jeanne Larson

My Cleveland Sage is out of bounds again, but I always enjoy the pruning, as the aroma from the bruised foliage is marvelous. As I moved over to trim the edges of my ground cover Bee's Bliss Sage I saw that it has flower stalks forming already. In my dry garden the Bird's Eye Gilia were wilting, not surprising as my soil is very sandy. That bit of rain last week perked them up and put on much new growth. The rain also invigorated my bicolor lupine, and I see Farewell to Spring germinating.



Bird's eye Gilia

Sometimes the best way to study natives is to grow them in your own yard.

**Got ink?** (cartridges, that is)

Save your empties for Jeanne Larson, who can get rewards credit from Office Depot. These credits help defray printing expenses. [<jjrlars@aol.com>](mailto:jjrlars@aol.com)

## Along Dinkey Creek Road

Jane Pritchard

On 9-15-11 Aaron took Eileen and me to more of his discoveries. On the right side of Dinkey Creek Road (DCR) just before the Bald Mountain trail head, we ascended the exposed granite dome behind the toilets, tables and azaleas = *Rhododendron occidentale*. Shaver Lake lays to the NW; the Wishon area to the SE. A shrub appeared to be huckleberry oak = *Quercus vaccinifolia*. However, the undersides of the leaves were gold, and the acorns were pointed and had small caps. We crossed DCR and climbed the Bald Mountain trail to a known huckleberry oak. This oak did have leaves with pale green undersides, and the acorns were fat and blunt. Yet another shrub had fat, blunt acorns with gold under the leaves. Apparently, the huckleberry oaks hybridized with canyon live oaks = *Quercus chrysolepsis* with varying results.

We turned the car around and drove about 6 miles on DCR. A beautiful, flower-lined creek runs under power lines on the north side of the road. I have driven past many times on the way to "better" destinations. We walked through forest to a serene setting – water falling from one granite ledge to the next, interspersed with quiet pools. This must have been a favorite place of the woman memorialized on a plaque at the creek side. There were lots of azaleas, Indian-rhubarb or umbrella plant = *Darmera peltata*, California mountain ash = *Sorbus californica*, numerous lilies gone to seed (probably leopard or Kelly's), white-flowered bog-orchids = *Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys* (nee Sierra rein orchid = *Platanthera leucostachys*), meadow lotus = *Lotus oblongifolia* with yellow and white flowers.

Across the creek at the top of another granite exposure, the habitat is sunny and drier. *Cordylanthus tenuis* = slender bird's-beak was thick there. In the new Jepson *Cordylanthus* and other root-parasites are moved to the Orobanchaceae family. We walked down the creek a short distance alternating between beautiful creek scenes and drier areas. We saw *Symphoricarpos mollis* = creeping snowberry or trip vine, *Frangula rubra* (nee *Rhamnus rubra* = Sierra coffeeberry; coffeeberries were removed from *Rhamnus* and put in *Frangula*), American dogwood = *Cornus sericea*, baneberries = *Actaea rubra* with clusters of red berries, California fuchsia = *Epilobium canum*, Bigelow's sneezeweed = *Helenium bigelovii*, nude buckwheat = *Eriogonum nudum*, Indian paintbrush = *Castilleja* ssp., *Navarretia leptalea* (nee Bridge's gilia = *Gilia leptalea*), common large monkey-

flower = *Mimulus guttatus* which has been placed into the Phrymaceae = lopseed (meaning ellipsoid?) family, *Eucephalus breweri* (nee *Aster breweri* = golden aster in Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada) which has only yellow disk flowers, and white hawkweed = *Hieracium albiflorum*. On the way out we passed a Sierra gooseberry = *Ribes roezlii* loaded with huge, spiny berries as most were in 2011. Near the gooseberry a big, hollow tree had been cut down some time ago. Lots of yellow-brown, wet-looking, gilled mushrooms crowded the trunk. The stump was filled with mushrooms so large and grown together, they looked brain-like.

We took the next dirt road to the west and drove back toward the creek as far as possible. Then we descended a steep trail on foot to the creek. Arnica was blooming; also mountain spirea = *Spirea densiflora*. *Darmera* was head-high. We crossed the stream and went uphill through forest to a cabin in view of Markwood Meadow to the west. A friendly man with an armload of rocks said we were at Pollard Camp Forest Service Administration Site. The cabin was built in 1912 and could be slid off its foundation onto the snow. It was refurbished 10 years ago but unused (you could smell strong mouse odor 10 feet away). At the time I didn't want to make him hold those rocks, but I sure wish I'd asked why they wanted to slide that cabin onto the snow.



*Platanthera leucostachys*

All day Eileen was taking photos like a crazed woman but only a very few turned out OK. They're on the pix page. Eileen also gave me the new Jepson for which I am very grateful. There are changes coming out the wazoo! Does anyone know how to print out the entire name change database all at once? Email me at [xxiii\\_xx@yahoo.com](mailto:xxiii_xx@yahoo.com) if you do. If I missed any changes in this article, let me know. The old names are listed in the index with the page number of the new name. Sometimes you need a magnifying glass to find the reference to the old name. You can look up the old plant names one at a time at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepsonflora/>. If you type out the name, there can't be any typos. It is easier to just type the first 3 letters of the genus, space once, type the first 3 letters of the species. Caps are not necessary.

*Actaea rubra*  
Red Baneberry





We are pleased to hear from Joanne Freemire in Madera County and look forward to an ongoing exchange of news and information. As you see, she has volunteered to be eyes and ears for the Sequoia Chapter with participation in community planning and advisory committees.

Hello, fellow CNPS members - I have volunteered to represent our Sequoia Chapter on two Sierra National Forest committees up here in North Fork.

The first is the Madera County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). This committee is supported by Secure Rural Schools Public Law 110-343, and distributes grant money to approved applicants for projects that enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality in Sierra National Forest and on surrounding lands that affect the forest. Projects the committee has approved for a total of \$276,524 of grant money are:

- Bass Lake Annex Fuels Reduction
- Motorized Trail Resource Mitigation & Lone Sequoia Staging Area Repair
- Field guide to Invasive Non-Native Weeds of Mariposa, Madera and Fresno Counties
- Lewis Creek Fuels Reduction / Watershed Protection
- Nelder Grove Interpretive Guide
- Replacement Toilets for Nelder Grove and Granite Creek Campgrounds
- Lillian Lake Trail Restoration
- Madera County Road 274 Fuel Break Maintenance
- Reduction of Loss of Life & Property from Fire in Timberview (housing subdivision)
- RAC Noticing Fees

The 17 RAC committee members were chosen by USFS to represent the various users and stakeholders of Sierra National Forest. One-third of the committee are OHV enthusiasts, one-third are conservationists (CNPS, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, etc.), and one-third are "at large" (includes one former and two current Madera County Supervisors and a Mono Tribal representative). In order for a project to be approved, a majority of each third must approve it. There were other proposed projects I would have preferred to see approved (three of them were stream and/or meadow restorations), but they didn't get as many votes as the above list. Some of them are on a secondary list should the approved primary projects not use all the grant dollars.

The next phase of our involvement will be to monitor the projects to assure they are completed according to the proposal parameters. I'll keep you posted.

The other committee on which I offered to serve is the Willow Creek Planning Collaborative. This large group is made up of a much broader range of Sierra National Forest stakeholders, including ranchers, loggers, and Forest Service specialists, and is charged with updating the (17,000 acre) Willow Creek Watershed Landscape Analysis in the form of an Addendum. The US Forest Service is seeking input upfront to hopefully avoid legal action during NEPA processes for future projects, such as the upcoming Whiskey Ridge fire-safing project. As one Collaborative participant pointed out however, state and national organizations may not necessarily agree with local members' opinions.

If you'd like to follow the Collaborative's progress, the following documents are posted on the Internet at: <http://sites.google.com/site/sustainablesierragroup2/potential-projects/willow-creek-project>

- Willow Creek Watershed Landscape Analysis
- Draft Addendum
- General Technical Report 220: "An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests", a science-based ecological approach prepared by USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station which, refreshingly, stresses biodiversity in fire prevention projects and was used as a reference in committee discussions.

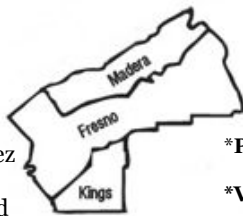
If you have questions or input on either of these committees please call me at 559-877-4911.

Joanne Freemire

## 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.



### \*New and Renewing Members (as of January)

#### Thanks to:

**Fresno County** :Kast, Meyer (renewals)  
Menschol – new to our chapter from East. Bay

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](http://www.cnps.org) and click on the JOIN button.

## Next Newsletter March, 2012

Please send corrections and contributions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net) by Friday, March 2.



Sequoia Chapter, CNPS  
thanks Derrel's for their support

## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>*President</b>	open	
<b>*Vice-Pres.</b>	Paul Mitchell paul30@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>*Secretary</b>	Marian Orvis mforvet@earthlink.net	559/226-0145 (h)
<b>*Treasurer</b>	Jeanne Larson jrjlars@aol.com	559/243-0815 (h)
<b>Membership</b>	Thelma Valdez nmtv@unwiredbb.com	559/323-8962 (h)
<b>Hikes</b>	Jane Pritchard xxiii_xx@yahoo.com	559/765-2910 (h)
<b>Newsletter Editors</b>	Warren&Helen Shaw warshaw@netptc.net helshaw@netptc.net	559/855-4519 (h)
<b>Hospitality</b>	Madeleine Mitchell madeleine43@comcast.net	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>Horticulture</b>	open	
<b>Education</b>	Warren Shaw	(See Newsletter)
<b>Rare Plant</b>	John Stebbins johnst@mail.fresnostate.edu	559/297-0144 (h)
<b>Plant Sale</b>	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
<b>Conservation</b>	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
<b>Directors at Large</b>	Jim Seay Verna Arnest Michele LuValle	jnjseay@gmail.com vernaj@sti.net luvalle@mcn.org



## JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide news and announcements of Societies 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  
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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

February 2012



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

## MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

*Madeleine Mitchell*



With the recent good rainy days, I've seen lots of changes in the garden. Notably the weeds! The well known definition of a WEED is "a plant in the wrong place". This can be anything from a non-native pest like Yellow Star-Thistle or the native Miner's Lettuce, *Claytonia perfoliata*, which is coming up between the pavers and making a nuisance of itself. My fault for thinking it was cute a few years ago and letting it reseed itself.

After finishing some pruning this week, I looked at my wildflower bed and found lots of "*Poa annua*" mixed in, so I set out to weed. Then I found lots of lupine seedlings. What a problem they caused. Were they the annuals from a seed packet I'd sprinkled on the bed, or seedlings from the mature Silver Bush Lupine, *Lupinus albus*? I needed to move the bush lupine since they were too close to the street. They are hard to transplant when they are more than a few inches high as the taproot will also be that deep in the soil. So I moved 5 seedlings that were nearest the bush lupine, quickly got them in the ground and watered them in. Then I'll cross my fingers that the others are the annuals. I have a hard time destroying plants that I enjoy.



FEBRUARY 2012

◆  
SEQUOIA  
CHAPTER  
CNPS



Photos from Jane's travels  
along Dinkey Creek Road

Clockwise, from top

Cabin at Pollard Camp

*Anaphalis margaritacea*  
(pearly everlasting)

Unknown mushrooms

*Darmera peltata*  
Indian rhubarb

*Ribes roezlii*  
Sierra gooseberry

*Maianthemum racemosum*  
False Solomon seal

