



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

March 2004

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, March 16. 7:00 p.m.

“Gardening with Natives” Question & Answer conducted by a panel of native plant gardeners.

This is your chance to ask questions about growing natives in your garden. It doesn't happen often that you get a group of native gardeners together to share their knowledge. Some members have been planting natives in this area for over 25 years and have watched their gardens live through a variety of weather extremes. Don't miss this opportunity to tap into the experiences of real-world native plant gardening. These people understand the challenges of hardpan!



China Creek Project Report

Sequoia Chapter President, Warren Shaw will present a report on the China Creek Project. Recent workdays at China Creek have produced some beautiful photographs of the park, even in its current untended and overgrown condition. Warren has also been assembling bits and pieces of information from locals and Fresno County documents to give us some history of China Creek.

Meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue) at 7:00 p.m.

Future Meeting Programs

April 20	Soils and Native Plants. Emily Roberson
May 18	Nim (Mono) Uses of Native Plants. Gaylen Lee
June-August	No programs. Field Trips TBA.

China Creek Field Trip / Workday Sunday, March 28. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

We'll attack the weeds and mark areas to be mowed for Yellow Star Thistle abatement. We'll also take some time to explore and look for blossoms.

Good things to bring would include rubber boots, long sleeves, gloves, pruning shears, rakes, hoes, machetes, shovels, etc., water, lunch, cameras, and binoculars.

If you would like your e-mail address added to the China Creek reminder list, please send it to <helshaw@netptc.net>. All are welcome for any part of the day—it should be beautiful.

China Creek is located near Centerville. Take 180 East to Smith Road (west fence of Centerville School). Go south on Smith Road for about a mile (cross Rainbow Road) and drive to the pipe barrier/gate.

Poster! Poster! Poster! Poster!



Please take the poster you received with this newsletter and post it where others can see it. Some ideas for where you might post this are: work, church, or school news board, supermarket or community message board, a nursery that you frequent, or at minimum, your refrigerator! Your efforts at introducing the California Native Plant Society to others is a part of the goal of CNPS – that of using education to help ensure that California's native flora is preserved.

Field Trips

Do you have an idea for a field trip? Are you're willing to lead one? Contact Joanna Clines at <jclines@fs.fed.us >

New Brochure!

We have created a new brochure titled “Using California Native Plants.” Its focus is on native plant gardening here within the reach of the Sequoia Chapter. If you have not seen a copy, be sure to attend an upcoming chapter meeting where copies will be available.

The brochure is a good introduction for friends, relatives, or acquaintances that would welcome being introduced to California native plants. It is also a good reference for members that may be new to native plant gardening or simply need a reminder of how natives are different than exotics (non-natives) and the general advice on what makes them thrive. Just because they are native doesn't mean they don't need attention.



Plant Sale Date

Just a reminder...Saturday, September 25, 2004...Native Plant Sale!.....Tell your friends and neighbors...Plant the seed now....

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes require reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family). Call 559/855-3473 or visit <www.sierrafoothill.org> for more information and registration. Hikes are free and begin at 9:00 a.m. Call for meeting points and weather information.

Hikes

Sunday March 21	Wildflowers at the McKenzie. A moderate hike with stops to identify plants.
Saturday March 27	Tivy Mountain to the Peak. A very strenuous 6 mile hike.
Saturday March 27	Tivy Wildflower Walk. Very leisurely, with stops to identify plants
Sunday April 4	Smith Basin at the McKenzie. A very strenuous 5 mile hike
Thursday April 8	Discovery Trail at the McKenzie. An easy 3.5 mile round trip
Saturday April 10	Miller Preserve. A 4-6 mile round trip to the top of Black Mtn. & ridge, if you wish.
Saturday April 17	Table Top at the McKenzie. A moderately strenuous 6 mile round trip
Sunday April 18	Tivy Wildflower Walk. Very leisurely with stops to identify plants, including Keck's Checkerbloom

Classes

Saturday March 13	Geology & Wildflowers of Tivy Mountain Area. Rodney Olsen, Craig Poole.
Saturday March 20	Wildflowers of the McKenzie Preserve. John Stebbins.
Saturday April 3	Wildflowers of the Mariposa Area. Held in the foothills of Mariposa County.
Saturday April 17	Songs of Sierra Nevada Birds. Jeff Davis at the Miller Preserve at Black Mountain..

Native Plants in the Landscape, Intermountain Nursery, Saturday, April 10, 9:30 a.m.

This class is offered by Bonnie Bladen of Intermountain Nursery. Find out what will do well in your specific location. Cultural requirements of the plants will be discussed and handouts are available. Class is \$10.00.

Spring Plant Sales by other chapters

Sierra Foothills Chapter

Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
WestAmerica Parking Lot, east Mono Way, Sonora
209/928-4886 <cjames@mlode.com>

Marin Chapter

Saturday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tiburon Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd.,
Tiburon. 415/332-4117



Big Table Wildflower Walk

Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DFG Botanist, Mary Ann McCrary, will lead this hike. There will be plenty of vernal pool, vernal swale, and upland wildflowers to see. Spring on Big Table is very beautiful.

Pre-registration required: Call Lillian Fiedler (248-8480 x110) San Joaquin River Parkway Trust. Transportation provided from the meeting spot (ask Lillian) by Dept. of Fish & Game.

Bring a lunch and sun protection, water, and any other outdoor gear you may need. The hike is 2 miles on a dirt trail, nearly level...in a few places there will be some uneven rocks.

Spring Flora and Ecology Across Kern County May 7 - 9, 2004. Fletcher Linton and others

Kern County, California's third largest county, very likely has the highest plant species diversity in the state. This is largely because five major biogeographic regions - the Sierra Nevada, Central Valley, Coast Ranges, Southern California Mountains, and Mojave Desert - all overlap in Kern County.

Due to extensive agricultural and urban development in a region of such high biodiversity, Kern County has more endangered species than most counties in the United States. The course will emphasize vascular plant floristics and ecology of the dominant plant communities in the southern Sierra.

We will travel to sites in the Greenhorn, Paiute, and Scodie mountains and visit the Kern River Riparian Reserve. Weather permitting, we will take short hikes to explore interesting plant communities. Course fee includes meals, campground fees, and transportation in 12-passenger vans for the duration of the workshop. Campground has a full range of facilities including showers, flush toilets, and covered eating space.

California Native Grass Association Annual Conference. April 22-24, 2004

"Native Grasses and Graminoids: Tools for Protecting Water Quality"

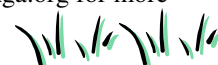
CNGA is sponsoring a technical conference for everyone interested in protecting the quality of surface waters in California and in enhancing our environment.

Participants will learn about work being done to establish native grasses, sedges, rushes and other plants where surface flows might negatively impact water quality. Planting native species is environmentally friendly and cost effective in these times of increased scrutiny. Workshops and field trips are also offered.

Participants may register for one of three outstanding field trips (with a second option as back up).

- Riparian Restoration on the San Joaquin River
- San Felipe Ranch (now called the Conservation Farms and Ranches of Merced and owned by The Nature Conservancy)
- Great Valley Grasslands State Park

Visit <www.cnga.org> or email admin@cnga.org for more information.



February 28 Field Trip / Workday at China Creek

By Warren Shaw

Once again a good turnout, including some folks who haven't joined us before.

We did a little work: Paul and Madeleine Mitchell pruned the willows that overhang the entry road and dealt with the park's latest "improvement" – a pool! (Somebody had dumped an old Doughboy liner outside the gate.) We also picked up some other trash and put some of our new posters up on the bulletin board.

Mainly we explored some areas we hadn't seen before. A neighboring landowner (and ally) Hank Urbach guided us to the southeast corner where we saw the devastating consequences of juxtaposing gravel mining to riparian forest and Vulcan Materials' efforts to replant.

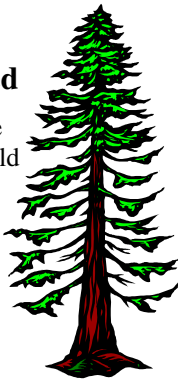
We saw and heard numerous interesting birds, e.g. a white pelican, a large (short eared?) owl, numerous ducks and a bittern. We also saw a gray squirrel and a beaver dam. There was ample evidence the park is used by a wide variety of species — in addition to its uses (and misuses) by Homo sapiens.

Two surprises — one pleasant the other not: First, the good news -- Joanna Clines, member and Forest Service Botanist, recognized that many of the berry vines that are everywhere along the creek and banks of the slough and ponds are natives. There are also exotic Himalayan vines but they are not nearly as pervasive as we had thought. Second, Joanna, who had not visited the park since 1998, was amazed and depressed by the degree to which honeysuckle has increased.

It was once again, a day of discovery and learning. The more I see, the more I am convinced of the park's worthiness for preservation and its potential as an educational facility about native plants and the interdependence of all forms of life, both for students and the general public.

Sequoia Monument Photographs needed

Dr. Michael Kunz, who will be our speaker for the Quarterly CNPS Meeting in June at SCICON would appreciate any photographs taken in the Sequoia Monument for his talk in June. If you have photographs you can share, please contact him at <mkunz@fresno.edu> or 453-2045.



Leaky Acres Update

The levees around two ponds at the Leaky Acres Ground Water Recharge Facility account for approximately 5,000 linear feet of embankment. This pilot project by The City of Fresno to use native plants on the levees is underway. Flats of creeping rye have been planted but 5,000 linear feet is a lot of area to cover. The plants will serve to stabilize and beautify the levees.

Do you have native plants you are dividing or have grown from seed and would like to donate? Contact Joseph Oldham at 237-2926 or 621-1106 or Betty Comelisen at 439-2267. **Volunteers are welcomed!**

Home & Garden Show Report

This was our first opportunity to use a newly donated booth display that let us feature many photographs of native plants. The display, combined with fresh cuttings of native plants in bloom, drew many people to the booth. As often happens with natives, people come near and wonder "what's that wonderful smell?" One gentleman asked Jeanne Larson if she was wearing perfume.

We had a great combination of plants on display including an "Ikebana" arrangement of manzanita and redbud by Madeleine Mitchell, a large spray of deer grass, maidenhair fern, lupine, fiddleneck, popcorn flower, miner's lettuce, and cleveland sage.

We also gave away more than 350 copies of the new brochure "Using California Native Plants." Our hope is that they are used and passed on and copied as part of our ongoing goal of outreach.

A big thank you to those that volunteered to setup, breakdown, and manage the booth traffic during the show. Your time was much appreciated: Verna Arnest, Kathy Boudinot-Johnson, Joyce Classen, Jeanne Larson, Madeleine and Paul Mitchell, Marian Orvis, Joseph Oldham, Nur Ritter, Rose Rowe, Phyllis Steele, and Thelma Valdez.

February Chapter Meeting

Julie Delgado, Hollister Field Office Botanist for the Bureau of Land Management, gave a very informative presentation on the serpentine rock found in the Clear Creek Management Area. This area includes approximately 100,000 acres in West Fresno County.

Serpentine is heavy in heavy metals, containing relatively large amounts of magnesium and/or iron and very low in calcium, nitrogen, and other important minerals for plant growth. Because of these elements, it is referred to as ultramafic. The Clear Creek area is particularly important when you consider that less than 1% of the world's landmass is ultramafic.

Plant species that exist in these sensitive areas begin very slowly in what are known as serpentine barrens. A barren is a crust that supports the early, microscopic beginnings of plant life. Unfortunately these sensitive areas are desirable to off highway vehicles (OHVs).

The BLM is charged with the difficult task of managing, restoring, and balancing serpentine endemic plant areas as well as recreational OHV use (and misuse). Most often this takes the form of building and rebuilding fences to keep OHVs out of protected areas.

Julie's slides demonstrated the beauty and unique nature of this area. A variety of habitats exist in serpentine, including vernal pool, forest, chaparral, barrens, riparian, and native grass. These support a wide range of endemic plants and the only place in the world where four conifers co-occur: Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), Coulter Pine (*Pinus coulteri*), and Digger Pine (*Pinus sabiniana*)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From my point of view chapter activity is hopping these days. We've had good turnouts at both the January and February China Creek work day/field trips and learned a lot. Thelma Valdez has not only produced great newsletters but also our new poster (see enclosed?) and brochure as well.

As I write this, it appears (due in part to Jeanne Larson and Thelma's work on the display and on the phone) that our table at the Home and Garden Show will be well prepared and be well staffed. (I'll be at the CNPS Quarterly Chapter Council Meeting in Claremont that weekend.)

Plans for our part in the June Quarterly Meeting at SCICON in Tulare County seem to be moving nicely.

And we seem to be experiencing a little growth in active membership as well.

Given all these and the fact that baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) have begun to open on the hillside below the barn, it's hard not to feel optimistic about our little chapter and life in general.

-- Warren Shaw

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Emily B. Roberson <EmilyR@cnps.org >

Boxer, Feinstein speak out against Sierra Nevada forest plan

Dan Berman, *Environment & Energy Daily* reporter 1/30/04

California Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein are concerned the Forest Service's plan to log 115,000 acres of Sierra Nevada forest annually to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires will unduly threaten old-growth stands and California spotted owl habitat.

The "Forests With a Future" plan unveiled last week will nearly triple the amount of logging in 11 national forests along the Sierra Nevada and allow old-growth trees of up to 30 inches in diameter. Overall, the Forest Service estimates the plan will produce 330 million acres of green timber.

Although it will cost \$50 million per year, the Forest Service only has \$30 million appropriated to implement the plan, agency spokesman Matt Mathes said. This means the Forest Service must raise \$20 million via commercial timber sales in order to keep the plan afloat, raising concern among environmentalists the agency will increase timber sales of larger, old-growth trees in order to make up the difference.

In a letter to Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Jack Blackwell sent Wednesday, Feinstein questioned whether the new plan adequately protects old-growth stands from logging compared to the Clinton-era Sierra Nevada Framework it replaced.

The 2001 plan created a 4 million acre old-growth preserve where only trees of less than 12 inches in diameter could be cut, but the new plan would allow logging of larger trees in 3 million acres of old-growth forest and potentially reduce the canopy cover of the forest to below 50 percent, threatening the habitat of the rare California spotted owl.

Feinstein supports the 50 percent canopy cover level for the 1 million acres of old growth the plan provides, but wrote she is disappointed "that these protections apply to just one-quarter of the 4 million acres of old forest in the Sierra mountains," Feinstein said. "Without provisions for the majority of old forest, your plan may threaten the very existence of old-growth reserves."

The 2001 framework was designed to protect old-growth stands and habitats for the California spotted owl, Pacific fisher,

Yosemite toad, frogs, willow flycatcher, northern goshawk and other species.

The Forest Service says the thinning is necessary to avoid a replay of the last October's Southern California wildfires in areas with similar conditions like the San Bernardino National Forest. The new strategy will reduce by 30 percent the acreage burned by wildfires in the 11 national forests over the next half-century and double the acres of large old-growth trees over that time, the agency says.

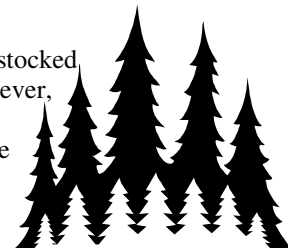
Blackwell last week emphasized the target is not old-growth trees, noting that few trees larger than 20 inches in diameter will be cut. "Large, old trees will not be cut. They're not the problem," Blackwell said. "The emphasis will be on unnaturally dense stands of smaller trees and brush. We've got to remove some of this dense growth in strategic sites. It may look beautiful, but it's deadly."

In a statement, Boxer disagreed with the Forest Service's decision to allow increased logging of trees up to 30 inches in diameter. "We will also see the removal of some of the larger, more fire resistant trees in the forest," Boxer said. "This is hardly a sensible step if our goal is to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires."

The new plan calls for focusing 50 percent of funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects near communities, down from 75 percent in the 2001 framework. "There are parts of the Sierras, such as the Lake Tahoe area, where substantial work needs to be done in the backcountry," Feinstein wrote in her letter to Blackwell. "I question, however, why your current plan devotes only 50 percent of funds throughout the state to the top priority of community protection."

On the other side of the hill, House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) said the amount of thinning authorized is too small to make a difference, especially since the Forest Service only plans to treat 20 percent of the net annual growth in the 11 forests.

"Extensive thinning is vital in these overstocked forests," Pombo said. "In large part, however, these forests will continue to grow at an unsustainable rate, adding more and more fuel to the fires that will certainly come."





JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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/Retired/Limited Income \$20
- Individual or Library \$35
- Family or Group \$45
- Supporting \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Bristlecone \$1000

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

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.



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In memory



We were saddened to learn of the death of John Hawksworth, long time Sequoia Chapter member who resided in North Fork. After John retired from the Forest Service, he served for years as volunteer, summer caretaker of Nelder Grove of Sequoias, northeast of Oakhurst.

Newsletter

Would you like to contribute an article or have an event publicized in this newsletter? Please send me an e-mail. Submissions must be received by Saturday, April 10 for the next *Carpenteria*. Contact Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net>

Weed Resource

"1000 Weeds of North America, An Identification Guide" is the most comprehensive weed identification reference ever assembled for North America. It is now available from the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).

This weed identification CD contains 140 grass-like weeds and 860 broadleaf weeds and will be useful to scientists and practitioners as well as teachers and students.

For more information on this publication as well as the new book "Aquatic and Riparian Weeds of the West" visit: <www.wssa.net/wsinfo/WEEDIdCD.pdf>

"Even the greatest men's gardens have weeds."

-- Deacon.

CARPENTERIA

March 2004



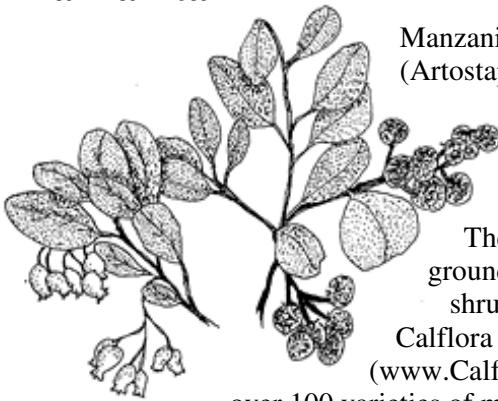
CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

Manzanita



Manzanitas (Artostaphylos) are found growing in a wide range of soils and elevations. They range from ground cover to a shrub or small tree.

Calflora (www.Calflora.org) lists over 100 varieties of manzanita native

to California with over 50 varieties known to grow in chaparral. They grow in nearly every combination of soils, elevation and weather.

A distinctive feature of this member of the Heath Family (Ericaceae) is the red bark. The small pink or white urn shaped flowers mature to a pulpy, berry-like fruit. The berries are edible raw but are more palatable when cooked.

Native Americans crushed the green or ripe berries, covered them with an equal amount of scalding water to make a cider drink. Squirrels and birds favor the ripe fruit while hummingbirds seek the flower nectar.

When looking for a manzanita to plant in your garden it is important to identify the area where they naturally occur. Before you buy, talk with a knowledgeable nursery person, or do your homework to be sure you know where they will do best, that is, the type of soil, light and amount of water that occurs in their natural area. The more closely your area matches the selected species natural habitat the more successful your planting will be. Although many are adapted to dry soil and sunny locations, a little afternoon shade in our area will be welcomed.

In 3-5 years your manzanita should be able to survive without any additional care except winter pruning for shaping, and occasional summer water during very hot summers.