

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



May 2016

www.cnps-sequoia.org

MEMBERS REPORT

Sierra Foothills Drought Report

--*Joanne Freemire*, CNPS member and North Fork resident

It's shocking to see how many ponderosa pines and incense cedars have died around North Fork, Bass Lake, Oakhurst, and Mariposa. The biggest pines,



weakened by drought, are unable to produce enough sap to fight off beetle attacks. The good news is the smaller pines apparently don't provide enough space for egg-laying galleries, so they appear to be surviving to replace the older dead ones. Pine seedlings are also sprouting after a winter of near-normal rainfall. But the rain appears to have come too late for the cedars, old and young, which I had hoped would recover with winter water. A landscape architect I spoke with opined that their roots had just dried up so much during the drought that they are simply unable to take up water – how sad!



With a 90% die-off of ponderosa pines and PG&E sub-contractors hard at work felling those that threaten power lines, my Cascadel Woods home feels and sounds more like a lumber mill operation than a residential community – chainsaws whining, huge pines crashing down, chippers and splitters roaring, burn piles smoking, and logs laying everywhere.



But Cascadel residents are maintaining their sense of humor through all this. Thanks to some creative folks, we have bears carved from stumps, and “woodmen” decorating the neighborhood, which puts a smile on our faces every time we spot one.



Interestingly, the black oaks seem unaffected by the drought, while live oaks near Pine Flat Reservoir and blue oaks and gray pines along Route 41 are dying. The latter three species are supposed to be drought-resistant with their reduced foliage and light-reflecting leaves, while black oaks have large thin leaves – go figure!

Meanwhile, our herbaceous native plants are loving the winter rains – the best crops of miner's lettuce, snake lilies (twining brodiaea), fivespots, and common gillias I've seen in our 14 years here are covering the lush landscape. Mountain dogwoods are blooming three weeks early and non-native grasses are already forming seed, due I guess to a warm as well as wet El Niño winter.

CONSERVATION REPORT

--*Jeanne Larson*

The Sunday, April 24, 2016 edition of THE FRESNO BEE had a very good article on regeneration of giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in Kings Canyon National Park. Unfortunately, the caption for the piece read Sequoia National Forest; nonetheless, there will be new growth in Sequoia National Forest because nursery stock of ponderosa and sugar pine (*Pinus ponderosa* and *P. lambertiana*) are being planted near the Hume Lake section of the Rough Fire.



Upcoming Events and Classes

•May 13th 1:00am-3:00pm—Monarch Butterfly Conservation in the Western United States

Location: Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

- Presentation will provide overview of the biology, life history, and conservation status of monarchs in the western U.S.
- Some high priority projects will be discussed.

Details:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Lectures>

•Explore Threatened Places

—**May 13th-15th** Merced Wild River and Potential Devil Gulch Wilderness

- Family camping in a BLM campground near Mariposa.
- Will hike downstream of the Merced Wild and Scenic River threatened by the proposed expansion of McClure Reservoir.
- Will hike the Hite Cove Trail along the South Fork Merced Wild River in the potential Devil Gulch Wilderness.

—**May 28th-30th** Kings River

- Family camping in the Kings River Special Management Area
- Will hike the Kings River National Recreation Trail along the Kings River eligible for National Wild & Scenic River protection.
- Explore a potential addition to the Monarch Wilderness.

—**June 10th-12th** Kern Plateau

- Family camping in Horse Meadow Campground on the Kern Plateau.
- Will explore potential additions to the Domeland Wilderness
- Will hike along Salmon Creek, a potential Wild & Scenic River.

Details:

<http://www.calwild.org/explore-threatened-places-for-free/>

•June 4th 9:30am-3:00pm—Wildflower Walk at Grand Bluffs Forest - FREE

Meet at Dinkey Creek Rd. Park N Ride.

- Plant list available.
- A mildly strenuous hike.
- Wear long pants and hiking boots. Bring lunch and water.

Details: Led by Bonnie Bladen of Intermountain Nursery (30443 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651)

CHINA CREEK REPORT

April 2016 work party

--Warren Shaw

We had such a great turnout that we ran out of muffins at break time. To our delight, this crowd included two young women from Pacific University. They were fulfilling a requirement for a class, but seemed genuinely impressed with both the China Creek Park and our work there.

Since this is prime time for uprooting thistle rosettes, most of these willing workers were sent out to hunt thistles. A small crew also installed cages around seedling oaks to protect them from grazing cattle.



-Milk Thistle-
©2013 Jean Pawek

The grazing situation is complicated, not only because of the destruction of the fences east of the "Sanctuary," but also because Vulcan, an aggregate mining corporation, is no longer willing to maintain their fence in the face of continuing vandalism. Faced with these conditions, Steve McDonald, who runs the cattle in the park, is unwilling to move them to the south area, and will only graze the north. One solution would be for us to build (and maintain) a new fence on the Park side of the creek – about ¼ mile. We're pondering the cost of the materials and the possibility of other options. Any ideas?

Our May work party will be Saturday, May 21, from 8am-12pm; the *Anemopsis* (yerba mansa or lizard tail) should be blooming, and the park is generally a beautiful place to spend a spring morning. We'll be sure there are plenty of muffins, so join us if you can.

China Creek Park is located on the west side of Centerville, 16 miles east of Fresno on Highway 180. To get there drive east on Kings Canyon/ Highway 180, 16.5 miles to Centerville. Turn right (south) on Smith Road and drive 0.2 miles to Rainbow Drive. Continue on Smith Road down the small road 0.5 miles to the Park gate at the end of the road.

For more information call (559-451-1256) or email <warshaw1955@gmail.com>.

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

John LuValle

Thanks to new and renewing members.

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact John LuValle at jluvalle@mcn.org.

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




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 and click on the JOIN button.

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Next Newsletter: June 2016

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is **Wednesday, June 1.**



	JOIN  THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  RENEW													
Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, <i>Fremontia</i> ; the quarterly <i>Bulletin</i> which gives statewide news and announcements of activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, <i>Carpenteria</i> .														
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CARPENTERIA

May 2016

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

GARDEN NOTES

--*Jeanne Larson*

The fairwell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*) in my garden have started to bloom. Annuals are setting seed at a fast pace due to wind drying the sandy soil too soon after our last rain. Pacific Coast hybrid iris did well this year. The yellow flowering Pacific Coast iris are most vigorous, but I prefer the orchid and purple bloomers. The Chitalpa tree (hybrid of *Chilopsis* and *Catalpa*) is full of blossoms, which range from white to pale lavender. The lack of color does not seem to stop the hummers. My Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) is just starting to bloom its deep rose colored flowers.

The sages are going wild with growth and blooms. Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*) is doing its spring flower thing again. It may be with changes in weather patterns that this new spring and fall blooming period will be permanent. The Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) has grown unbelievably larger than the early spring bloom, and is into a second, heavier bloom.



-Chitalpa tree- Frau Siebenschläfer

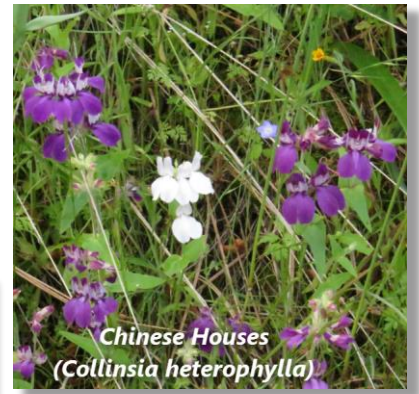
Eriogonums (California buckwheats) are nice, woody ground covers, but the branches are so brittle they need to be in secluded sites away from heavy footsteps. The 'Theodore Payne' cultivar I have, is a rolling, low growing green mound with pretty pink buds, and the small white flowers will turn rust colored after bloom like the yellowing flowering buckwheats.

Lastly, I will mention the large swath of Mexican evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*) that is still blooming. Buds indicate another week of blooms. These dainty pink flowers and thin leaves have weathered the wind better than the hardier looking annuals. While they can be aggressive, moving into new space, these primroses are easy to rogue.

**May 2016
Sequoia
Chapter
CNPS**



Congdon's Monkeyflower
(*Phrymaceae Mimulus congdonii*)



Chinese Houses
(*Collinsia heterophylla*)



Granite Phacelia
(*Phacelia quickii*)



True Baby Star
(*Leptosiphon bicolor*)



Seep Monkeyflower
(*Mimulus guttatus*)



Wind Poppy
(*Papaver heterophyllum*)



Mountain Meadowfoam
(*Limnanthes montana*)



Broomrape
(*Orobanche uniflora*)



Glassy Onion
(*Allium hyalinum*)



Cream Cups
(*Platystemon californicus*)



Albino Tomcat Clover
(*Trifolium wildenovii*)



Eileen Bennett: Albino Tomcat Clover, Chinese Houses (Black Mountain); Mountain Meadowfoam, Glassy Onion, Seep Monkeyflower, Cream Cups, Mountain Meadowfoam, Granite Phacelia (Jose Basin Road); Congdon's Monkeyflower (Sugarloaf Mountain); True Baby Star, Broomrape (Tollhouse Rock area)
Tom Zimoski: Wind Poppy (Welbarn Road)