



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

May 2004

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, May 18. 7:00 p.m. “Nim (Mono) Uses of Native Plants” with speaker Gaylen Lee

Gaylen Lee is a Native American from the North Fork area. His people are called the Nim (Nim is the preferred name for the Mono people, the i is pronounced like the "u" in the word "put"). Gaylen was raised in a traditional Nim family, and taught the traditional ways by his grandparents. He graduated from Sierra High School, and attended UC Davis and CSU Fresno, majoring in anthropology and archaeology. Gaylen worked as an administrator for Central Valley Indian Health in the 1970s, and has been a self-employed upholsterer for 24 years. He teaches the Nim language and culture in schools and as an invited lecturer. His 1998 book "Walking Where we Lived" is a personal account of his family's history and culture. Gaylen will speak about Nim gathering and uses of plants in spring and will discuss various aspects of Nim culture during the spring as it relates to plants.

Board Meeting (open to all) meets promptly at 6 p.m.. Regular meeting and speaker are at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue).

Future Meeting Programs

June-August	No programs. See Field Trips.
September 21	Livestock Grazing and Native Plants Chuck Peck
October 19	Native Plant Gardening Thelma Valdez
November 16	The Sequoia Monument Michael Kunz

Field Trips

Saturday, June 5, 10:00 am. Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias – Shadow of the Giants Trail. Mountain Lady's Slipper Orchids should be in bloom. Field Trip Leader: Wendy Fisher. Call 642-4880 to RSVP and to get details of meeting place.

Saturday, July 10. Birding and Botany in a Sierra Nevada Meadow – Joanna Clines and Jeff Seay. Call Joanna at 877-2218, ext. 3150 to RSVP and to get details.

China Creek Field Trip / Workday Saturday, May 22, 8 a.m. – 12 noon

This will be our last workday until fall. Please note the earlier time (designed to get finished up before the hottest part of the day). I'm hopeful Vulcan will have finished at least the first mowing by then and we'll be able to deal with areas they couldn't get to with the big equipment, mark areas to be removed, and otherwise wage the weed wars.

We will also be watching for wildlife. In recent trips to the park we have sighted a herd of deer — all apparently mature does — and a weasel. Neighbor Hank Urbach reports struggling to keep beavers from damming the outlet to the north pond, which borders on his property.

Good stuff to bring would include rubber boots, gloves, garden tools, repellent, water and lunch.

China Creek is located near Centerville. Take 180 E to Smith Rd. (W fence of Centerville School). Go S on Smith Road about a mile (cross Rainbow Road). Drive to the pipe barrier.

--Warren Shaw

Volunteer's Corner

- **Between now and June 3**, to bake and otherwise make and or provide cookies, muffins, and other snacks for the June state chapter council meeting at SciCon in Tulare County, which we are co-hosting. Call or email Warren Shaw 559/855-4519 <warshaw@netptc.net >
- **Saturday, May 29.** 8 am – 2 pm. Yard sale fund raiser! Coincides with the super Terrace Yard Sale. Bring sellable items, especially gardening-related to the April meeting or call or email Marian Orvis 559/226-0145 <mforvet@earthlink.net> for pickup or directions for dropoff. No clothes, please.
- **Note: Saturday, June 26 Coombs Ranch** event has been postponed until next year.
- **Saturday, September 25.** CNPS Sequoia Chapter Native Plant Sale. Consider growing natives in 4" pots for sale – they are 100% profit! Or perhaps you can make dried native plant arrangements for sale or just to give away! Contact Jeanne Larson for additional information. 559/243-0815 or email <jrjlars@aol.com>

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CNPS State Chapter Council Meeting Saturday, June 5, 2004

The CNPS State Chapter Council is made up of presidents or representatives from all the CNPS state chapters and meets four times a year at different locations. Issues that affect all chapters are discussed at these meetings.

This year the meeting is co-hosted by the Sequoia Chapter and the Alta Peak Chapter and will be held at SCICON in Tulare County. It is open to all members, families, and friends and is worth attending.

SCICON is the Tulare County Outdoor Education Camp located in the beautiful Sierra foothills above Springville. Even if you don't attend the entire day of meetings, consider going for part of the day and exploring the area for the other part of the day. Field trips are planned around the meeting.

The meeting closes with dinner and a presentation by Dr. Michael Kunz on the biology and care of the Giant Sequoia grove.

For more information about booking rooms and meals, contact the state office at 916/447-2677. For general information on attending, contact Warren Shaw at 559/955-4519 or email at <warshaw@netptc.net>.

Observations

During the summer months of June, July, and August the CNPS Sequoia Chapter suspends monthly meetings. I appreciate this because it seems right to follow the way of the indigenous plants. They are in tune with the environment after many years of adaptation.

In the early heat of late April and early May, the Harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans*) burst into bloom in the "back 4" (the field behind our house) and provided a beautiful sea of blue I've not seen in previous years. What is different about this year? When I picked some *Brodiaea* to bring inside, I found that the root was cool and damp even though it was over 90 degrees and the ground seemed hard and unforgiving.

The Sulphur Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) is in full bloom and the Deergass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) blossoms are beginning to push through toward their peak in June. Vinegar Weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*) is beginning to show its subtle gray-green leaf. By July it will be in full bloom – a tiny, delicate lavender-blue blossom and a strong, medicinal smell. Dove Weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*) is also beginning to appear in our pre-foothill flatlands. House finches and doves eat the seed. I marvel at their ability to look so healthy and fresh, having germinated after we've had no rain since April.

Up in the foothills, Warren Shaw says the hills are very dry, with many mid-spring blooms gone to seed, though still-colorful patches of Chinese houses, yellow tarweed, etc. are in cooler, moister areas. There are also various *Brodiaea* and some white annual Lupine scattered around.

Intermountain Nursery Classes

A \$5.00 non-refundable deposit will reserve your space for any one class. All classes are 2 hours except as noted. Call 559.855.3113 for more information.

High Elevation Gardening

Saturday, June 5. 9:30 a.m.

With Chris Velez and Dawn Williams. Gardening in the higher elevations is unique. This class will teach you when to plant and what plants are appropriate for the higher elevations. \$10.00.

Reading Weeds

Saturday, June 19. 9:30 a.m.

With Ron Whitehurst, Urban Consultant. Learn what weeds are telling you about your soil's health and fertility and how you can use that information to balance your garden as a system. \$10.00

Herbal Medicines You Can Make

Saturday, September 11. 9:30 a.m.

With Dawn Williams. There are many herbal preparations we can make from local plants and herbs. Dawn will discuss and show you how to prepare teas, tinctures, and salves for the coming winter season.



Farewell-to-Spring (*Clarkia amoena*) is very pretty now all over and Warren sees some Mariposa lilies, for example at Hog Mountain Pass. Striking buckeye trees are covered with sweet-scented white "candles." Bright spots of blue penstemon appear here and there.

One benefit of the dry conditions is that various exotics, especially the thistles, seem less rampant this year. Annual grasses are still green in flat areas but brown on hillsides.

At China Creek, roses are blooming, as is the lizard tail (and the horrible honeysuckle). Native blackberries are showing fruit, and there are still a few blue-eyed grass blossoms. Grass, and even yellow star thistle, is drying up in places.

Within the reach of the Sequoia Chapter, if your garden leans to native, you know that summer is the time to slow down in some shade and not fight the temperature.

Spring's flowers have gone to seed, some plants have gone dormant, and the needlegrasses are in a semi-dormant state. Judith Lerner Lowry, in her book "Gardening with a Wild Heart," says, "I measure my true life as a Californian from the time that I stopped apologizing for a garden exquisite in its light and shadow, its still endurance. Reveling in shades of gold, blonde, palomino, gray, and muted greens, it seldom occurs to me to do so now."

Just thinking about this makes me consider a nap under the shade of a big tree.

--Editor

OTHER NATIVE PLANT NEWS

May 1 Field Trip / Workday at China Creek

By Warren Shaw

Well, it was a very quiet day at China Creek, but I soldiered on, walking the park and marking areas to be mowed by Vulcan Materials for star thistle abatement. I also moved bags of weeds, hoed by the Sanger High kids on their Earth Day project, to a composting area, and tidied up a bit around the kiosk. Despite reports of tick infestations, I saw only one, and was far more inconvenienced when I sat down under a nice shady oak to rest—on an anthill!

Next China Creek field trip/workday—Saturday, May 22 8-12.

See how fleeing and trifling is the condition of humans; yesterday an embryo, tomorrow a mummy or ashes. So for the tiny sliver of time that you are given, live rationally, and depart from life cheerfully, the way the ripe olive falls, praising the season that brought it forth and the tree that nurtured it.

--Marcus Aurelius (2nd century A.D.)

Earth Day 2004

By Peggy Jones

Forty of my students from Sanger High spent the morning of April 22nd with Warren Shaw, Jeanne Larson, Howard Latimer, Madeline Mitchell, Paul Mitchell, and me at China Creek. Small groups lead by one of five naturalists from the Sequoia Chapter went out on a scavenger hunt while the other half of the students weeded. Then, half way through the morning the groups switched.

The kids worked (some harder than in the classroom!) and thoroughly enjoyed their outing. There was plenty of learning going on...especially about stinging nettle and bare bottoms....need I say more?

The students sigh when their leaders names are mentioned in class as they watch the Power Point presentation of our day together or as they share a tidbit of gleaned information. It was interesting to see students who struggle in class, flourish in the field. I think Amanda is hooked on botany thanks to Paul :) Also, they love the fact that I can't call Dr. Latimer, "Howard".

Earth Day 2004 may not improve test scores but it was an outing the students will always remember. I want to thank each volunteer for their courage to face teens and ticks for the betterment of our environment. I sincerely hope this is the beginning of a long and wonderful relationship between my students and CNPS.

Earth Day was a wonderful success! Thanks again!

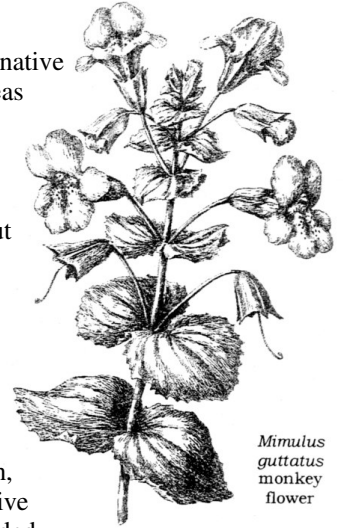
April Chapter Meeting

Nur Ritter of Endangered species Recovery Program, designed to retire westside farmland from agriculture, and restore it-as nearly as possible—to a natural state, shared some of the joys and frustrations of the project.

Among the frustrations is the fact that most of the land in the project area was originally wetlands, and there is no water to restore it to that state. Another is that years of intensive farming have obliterated the topography, pretty much destroyed the native seed bank, and left the soil salty.

Nonetheless careful, patient experimentation and effort revealed native species that can thrive, and some areas show considerable promise of achieving something like a natural balance.

This was a fascinating program about a fascinating project.



Mimulus guttatus
monkey
flower



Sanger High students weeding at China Creek



Students and Paul Mitchell out standing in their field (China Creek)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



(We're the HOSTS!) Co-hosts at least, with the Alta Peak Chapter — of the June State Chapter Council meeting. Delegates will be coming from all over the state on June 4th to SCICON in Tulare County.

Our duties as co-hosts are relatively light. The Alta Peak chapter has located the venue and made arrangements for housing and meals. We have been lucky enough to arrange for Dr. Michael Kunz of Pacific College to speak after dinner on Saturday (even though he has to be in Peru by Monday).

Alta Peak even has the (non-alcoholic) happy hour covered. All that is really left for us to do are snacks for the breaks, and, perhaps, transportation of delegates who fly into Fresno.

I'm hoping we can show off our cooking and baking, our gardens and orchards and agricultural contacts a little for these folks from all corners of California. If we can get a number of members helping, nobody needs to do a lot.

If you bake, muffins, cookies, and nut breads, etc. would be most welcome, and most can be done well ahead of time and frozen.

If you have a favorite hors d'oeuvre you could share, that would be great. Something ethnic or regional like hummus or salsa would add some Central California flavor to the occasion.

If you have a fruit tree that is bearing or a garden that is producing, some great fresh, homegrown valley fruits and veggies would be perfect.

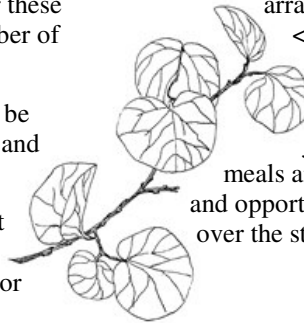
Or...if you have contact with growers with surpluses of nuts, raisins, or other dried fruit (or fresh for that matter) they'd be willing to donate, these would be greatly appreciated too. (We are non-profit so these donations might well be tax deductible.)

In any case I'd love to be able to show the attendees some of the bounty of the valley — and the generosity of its residents — without having to spend too much of the Chapter's meager treasure (or mine) at Costco—for stuff they could get anywhere.

Please call me between now and June 1 to make the necessary arrangements. 559/955-4519 or email at <warshaw@netptc.net>.

Also, please give some consideration to attending this meeting which is far more than just a meeting. It includes hikes, field trips, good meals and camaraderie as well as an informative program and opportunities to hobnob with native plant nuts from all over the state. (See Related Activities for details).

-- Warren Shaw



Western redbud

RESOURCES

CalFlora (www.CalFlora.org)

This is a wonderful resource for information on "...wild California plants for conservation, education, and appreciation." It is a digital library that allows you to search for information on over 7,660 native and introduced species. You can have access to over 30,000 photos of California plants.

If you are looking for a species that is native to your area, you can also search by county. Because its mission is to serve the general public as well as the scientific, education, and conservation community, we all benefit from the "experts".

Calweed Database

(<http://endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu/weeds/>)

The California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee is a group of sixteen State and Federal agencies meeting quarterly, in conjunction with stakeholders, to coordinate activities with respect to noxious weed control. A central project of the group has been to create an Internet accessible database, which acts as a clearing-house for noxious weed control projects in California. The database contains information on who is controlling which noxious weeds in California and what methods they are using.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

(http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=native_cal)

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has expanded its commitment to promoting plant-related organizations and events

to a North American audience by developing a fully automated National Organizations Directory and National Event Calendar as part of its Native Plant Information Network <<http://www.wildflower2.org>>

With over 100,000 requests to the Native Plant Information Network each week, these services provide you with an invaluable opportunity to promote your organization, as well as upcoming conferences, workshops, special lectures, and educational programs. These services are free and are provided as an extension of the Wildflower Center's mission to educate North America about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of wildflowers and native plants.

California Invasive Plant Council (www.caleppc.org)

The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) works to protect California wildlands from invasive plants through research, restoration, and education. As exotic plants replace native habitat, we also lose many species of birds, insects, fish and other wildlife. People concerned with the protection, management and enjoyment of our natural areas have become increasingly concerned about the alarming spread of invasive exotic vegetation. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) is dedicated to finding solutions to problems caused by non-native pest plant invasions of the state's wildlands.

It has been estimated that invasive pest plants cost California hundreds of millions of dollars annually.



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.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President	Warren Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) warshaw@netptc.net	*Secretary & Past President	Marian Orvis 2427 E. Harvard Fresno, CA 93703	559/226-0145 mforvet@earthlink.net
*Vice-President	Paul Mitchell 580 W. Manning Ave Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net	*Treasurer	Jeanne Larson 3457 E. Redlands Fresno, CA 93726	559/243-0815 (h) jrjlars@aol.com
Membership	Helen Shaw 30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) helshaw@netptc.net	Horticulture	Howard Latimer 4534 E. Rialto Fresno, CA 93726	559/229-4273 howardl@csufresno.edu
Field trips / Programs Co-chairs	Joanna Clines 57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643	559/877-2218 x3150 (w) jclines@fs.fed.us	Education	Peggy Jones 1931 Winter Street Kingsburg, CA 93631	559/897-9646 autumn_aspen@ hotmail.com
	Jane Pritchard 276 W. Barstow, #103 Clovis, CA 93611	559/323-8253 (h) xlvi_xx@juno.com	Rare Plant	John Stebbins 357 Adler Clovis, CA 93612	559/278-2179 (w) johnst@csufresno.edu
Newsletter Editor	Thelma Valdez 12328 E. Sierra Ave. Clovis, CA 93611	559/323-8962 (h) nmtv@att.net	Plant Sale	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell 580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net	Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson (see above) Karen Dulik 223 E Weldon Fresno, CA 93704	559/243-9881 kdulik@water.ca.gov

CNPS Publications

Members should have recently received the CNPS Publications Catalog for Spring-Summer 2004. Remember that sales from the catalog support CNPS.

There are numerous new books of note: "Introduction to California Spring Wildflowers of the Foothills, Valleys, and Coast", "Wild Lilies, Irises and Grasses – Gardening with California Monocots".

The Endangered Species Act provides almost NO protection to most Federally listed endangered and threatened plants – among the most imperiled American species.

Got Sequoia Monument Photographs?

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. If you have photographs you can share, please contact him at <mkunz@fresno.edu> or (559) 453-2045.



Newsletter

Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net>.

CARPENTERIA

May 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

Buckwheat Family

There are over 110 species of buckwheat (*Eriogonum*) native to California. They have a wide range of form, size, colors, and textures, and are easy to grow, which makes them an excellent choice for the garden.

Once buckwheat is established, they need virtually no water beyond the winter rains and they look attractive even when not in bloom.

Buckwheats generally have gray, gray-green, or white leaves out of which emerge blossoms with hundreds of individual flowers. The flowers are arranged into dense heads and range from white (fading to pink), yellow (fading to red), or even red (fading to a deeper red).

When the flower has dried, the head turns into a bright russet against the background of the gray-green leaves and look striking throughout the summer.

If using buckwheat in your garden, it's best to plant only species that are native to your area. A good resource for

identifying species native to your area is CalFlora.org (see "Resources" in this newsletter). If the nursery you frequent is knowledgeable in local natives, they can give you advice.

Be aware that there are many invasive non-native buckwheats available. Especially if you live near any open space, non-natives can establish themselves in the wild and displace natives.

Just as important is to plant species native to your area. California is a vast state and although many buckwheats are California natives, they can still be invasive if planted outside of their natural geographic area.

For example, CalTrans has planted buckwheat that is native to Southern California along Highway 41 north of Herndon. It is escaping into the wild. Many years ago Cal Trans also planted non-native buckwheat along Highway 1 near Pacifica, which has since invaded the dunes of Pacifica State Beach and almost completely displaced their native buckwheat.

