



In the foothills, rain and a (so far) mild winter have brought an abundance of green: grasses, Filaree, Fiddleneck, Blue Dicks, etc. Mosses are ecstatic; lichens are bright, Buckeye buds are swelling, and unless weather changes, Spring is fast upon us. The valley is no exception. Annuals like poppies have reseeded and woody plants are showing signs of waking up from our brief winter. Just another January in Central California. Not so much for most of the country east and north of us. Oh, well.

As our plants return to their job of growing and propagating, we humans resume our efforts to “preserve California native flora.” Below are ways in which you can help in this endeavor. Our chapter outreach and education activities in the next months are listed below. A look at the CNPS website shows their immediate need for volunteers to help with collecting and entering data. Please consider sharing a bit of your time and skills.

Volunteer opportunities—

Contact Marian Orvis - mforvet@comcast.net or 559-226-0145



Our chapter has information tables at a couple of upcoming occasions. These well-attended annual events give us the opportunity for education and outreach; however an empty table is not at all inviting so this is where you come in. An hour or two will be much appreciated by Marian and all who visit our table.

March 1,2,3, Friday-Sunday Home and Garden Show –. Fresno County Fairgrounds - Our table is usually in the garden pavilion near those of other plant-related organizations. It is another great opportunity for community education and outreach. Of particular interest to many who stop by is information related to landscaping with natives, given the advent of water meters. March also brings questions about wildflower viewing, planting, and identification. Help is needed for minding the table and its information brochures Friday through Sunday. Volunteers will receive free admission to the entire show, as well as free parking in the vendor lot and a shuttle to/from the fairgrounds. Come, staff the table, and spend the rest of the day at this huge show.

March 23, 2013, Saturday, 9 am - 2 pm Clovis Botanical Garden’s annual event, “Spring into Your Garden.” Our chapter will have an information table and Thelma Valdez will again present her suggestions for landscaping with natives.

Ongoing – Chapter delegate(s) to quarterly Chapter Council Meetings. The next two meetings are March 9-10 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA, and May 31 - June 2 at Marin. Four times a year chapter representatives gather to conduct the business of CNPS, receive legislative updates, network with other chapters, hear from varied speakers and attend field trips. The meetings are scheduled in different venues throughout the state. Some previous meetings were at Berkeley, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Fort Bragg, Arcata, and Incline Village. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the diversity of California and its flora. CNPS offers partial reimbursement of mileage and accommodations. Your responsibility would be to attend the meeting, have a great time, and report back to the Chapter at a board meeting, in the newsletter, or both. Such a deal.

Old and New Years at China Creek

---Warren Shaw

2012 was a pretty good year at the Park. For one thing we could see real progress in our battle against Yellow Star Thistle, and an increase in native grasses in the areas once dominated by YST. For another, we finally got organized to begin Ailanthus and fig abatement. We also got a good start on negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Fresno County, something we've been talking about for a long time. We held our own in the off-and-on battle against graffiti and vandalism, and though we lost one of our faithful volunteers (and the occasional batch of homemade fresh peach ice cream) when Ingrid went off to Peru with the Peace Corps, we also gained one, namely Gene Richards.

In other ways it wasn't so good. We rather neglected the trail. Though Hank kept it open with mowing and a little spraying, some signs were destroyed and not replaced, and we failed to keep up with the mulching, which keeps the weeds down and provides a walkable surface.

We also realized rather suddenly near the end of the year that we had dozens of new little Valley Oak seedlings in the grazing areas we were not protecting from the cattle, and, perhaps most discouraging of all, we realized we had a new weed infestation, as large patches of Mares tail or Horse Weed popped up in a couple of areas.

So, for 2013 we have some clear-cut goals (we won't call them "resolutions" since those always seem doomed to fail).

- **First:** We need to concentrate on getting the seedlings caged. We have a good start on this, since Vulcan Materials has donated most of the materials needed, and we've flagged most of the trees.
- **Second:** We hope to make better progress on trail maintenance; replacing missing signs and catching up on mulching, and, possibly, adding new signs at the various stations (replacing the numbers with reference to explanations in the brochure).
- **Third:** We have to figure out what to do about our new weed.
- **Finally:** We need to do whatever is necessary to complete our MOU with the County.

So, you see, we have our work cut out for us in 2013, and we need all the help we can get. How about joining us? Our first Work Party of the year is on Saturday, January 19, from 8:00-12:00. To get to the park take Kings Canyon/CA 180 east across Academy Ave. to Centerville. Follow Smith or Oliver south to Rainbow 1/4 mi. Turn south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate. Call (559-855-4519) or email <warshaw@netptc.net> for more information.



Surprise at China Creek

---Jane Pritchard

I left out the highlight of the duck encounter at Shaver Lake (Oct. 2012) We were eating lunch and dangling our feet in the lake. Raw nuts didn't suit the duck's taste, and it wasn't getting anything else. After a while, it cocked its head, studied my toes, and finally reached down and gave them 3 quick nibbles. Every few minutes, it repeated this - astonished that something which looked so plump and juicy was so tough and tasteless.

On Sunday, October 28, Mary McClanahan picked me up, and we met Laura and Socorro at China Creek to kill some figs. Figs prefer wet areas and grow like willows. Branches root wherever they touch ground. One fig tree produces many clones. Mary and I took the right side of a mosquito-spraying lane into the woods. Mary hacked trees, which cried sap like crazy. I sprayed herbicide on the wounds.

Two figs a little over 1" diameter grew next to each other at a Y in the lane. We pulled away Japanese honeysuckle and cut it off to get at the trees. Mary hacked a couple times then yelled a panicked RUN!!! I should have run as far and as fast as possible instead of stopping once in awhile. Ground-dwelling yellow jackets covered my sweatshirt. I was hatless and swatted furiously at my head and neck with

a rubber glove. There were only a few hangers-on when I reached the paved road. Mary had run the other direction and only got a painful sting on the armpit when she came back by the nest to check on me. I thought I had 4-5 stings but one ear was already hot, the other cold.

Laura and Socorro left after break. Mary and I went to Hank's to borrow loppers. While Mary and Hank discussed herbicides, my blood pressure was elevated and I felt funny. But I wasn't going to let a couple stings bother me. We hacked and squirted until after 2 PM. The stings hurt more when I wasn't occupied with the figs. The taco truck in Centerville was closed so Mary treated me to a great burrito at Taco Grande in Clovis. She ordered 2 extra tortillas and made 2 additional tacos from her taco grande.

A friend applied cortisone cream to my stings that night. They covered my head, left ear, and right neck. Every sound seemed to portend a yellow jacket attack. I needed to get up early for a hike the next day and slept only a couple hours because of pain and high blood pressure . . . to be continued in Feb. Happy New Year!



Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at nmtv@unwiredbb.com. The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



Welcome to new members: Rich Gilman, Sajeemas Paskadee, Georgia Porcella, and Dorothy Woolum.

Many thanks to renewing members: Yancy Bissonnette, Anne Cameron, Laurie Colton, Sue Haffner, Marianne Kast, Ingeborg Minton, Marge Patrick, Donna Preece, Paul Rempel and Jean Linder, June Richie, Fred Schreiber, Alex Sherriffs, Glory Warner.

NOTE: Sometimes renewal information does not trickle down to the chapter for one or two months after your renewal has been received in Sacramento. Therefore, December renewals may have actually occurred in October or November. We maintain a three-month grace period, which should ensure no lapse in your receipt of the newsletter.

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.

Sequoia Chapter, CNPS thanks Derrel's for their



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Next Newsletter: February 2013

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@netptc.net. The deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, Feb. 1



JOIN



THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide news and announcements of activities 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
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

- New Member
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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

January 2013



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell



Nassella cernua
Nodding needlegrass

I took a walk through my small native garden this morning to see what's new. I bought another *Salvia spathacea*, "Hummingbird Sage" at the plant sale in September. I had transplanted one that was 2 years old and it died during the summer. Now, I see 2 of its seedlings have volunteered in a narrow space so will need to be relocated. I had planted 3 plants of *Nassella cernua*, the "Nodding Needlegrass" several years ago and now have too many to count. I may move some or pot them up for the plant sale. In other words a garden is never finished. It's always in transition, always changing.

I also found many seedlings of *Lupine albifrons* which are almost impossible to transplant, but I'll try potting them up for the future. If moved when less than an inch high they have a chance. They strike a long tap root when they sprout. You see, I can't intentionally kill plants that I love. I must find homes for them to give them a second chance. Now, when it comes to weeds, that's another thing. The definition of a weed is just a plant that is out of place.



**Sequoia Chapter
CNPS
January 2013**



Photos by Warren Shaw

**Mossy rocks
January sunset
Caloplaca Jewel lichen
Evernia prunastri Oakmoss**

