



Native Plants and the New September

Our appreciation of California's native plants moves us to promote the use of natives appropriate to our chapter's growing conditions. A big part of that goal is served every fall when we partner with Clovis Botanical Gardens for our annual plant sale. Here is a report from Thelma Valdez, co-chair of this year's sale (as well as past years' sales):

Approximately 380 California native plants are now in the gardens of local residents! Another big thank-you to all the volunteers. The Sequoia chapter held their first plant sale in 1994. Next year's sale will be our 20th annual sale and is scheduled for October 18. Mark your calendars, as this is one month later than previous years. The Clovis Botanical Garden has been our gracious partner since 2005! My, how the time does fly! A round of applause and appreciation for CBG who rack up many volunteer hours pre- and post-event. Visit our Website for photos: <http://www.cnps-sequoia.org/index.php/plant-sale-2013/>

Editor's note: You have seen that our 2014 plant sale will be in October. It will be no surprise to hear that we are dealing with the reality of earlier springs, later falls, and longer growing seasons. Prime time for transplanting is fall, taking advantage of autumn rains and moderate temperatures that allow plants to get established and develop the strong root system necessary for thriving in our Mediterranean climate. This is something all in our chapter are working with as we continue irrigating our plants—especially the new ones—while we wait for the first fall rain. For much of our area the percent-of-normal rainfall since July 1, is in single digits. Clearly, water-wise landscaping will be a high priority for now and the foreseeable future. In short, October is the new September.

Upcoming events and Outreach opportunities:

China Creek restoration project (ongoing) monthly work party Saturday, November 16. See China Creek Report on page 2 for more.

The **2014 Smart Gardening Conference**, hosted by the University of California Master Gardeners Program, will be held on February 22, 2014 at the Ramada Hotel, Fresno, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The **Fresno Home and Garden Show** -- We will again be given a gratis booth. March 7, 8, 9, 2014, with various opportunities to tend our Chapter's booth. No experience necessary. This is a very popular event and is well-attended by many who willingly pay the entrance fee. Our chapter welcomes help from those willing to trade some of their time for free admission and parking...such a deal! Contact Marian Orvis <mforvet@comcast.net>

Observations

--from Thelma Valdez

I was replacing some bird bath water when the irresistible fragrance of a blooming Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) wafted around me. If you garden with natives and don't have one of these incredible shrubs, please find a place for one or two in your garden. You won't be disappointed. These shrubs are havens for small birds and provide pollen for an amazing variety of insect pollinators during a time of the year that pollen is scarce. Besides, they are evergreen, tolerant of most soil types, and drought-tolerant. They are the strong, silent type - not necessarily the most showy, but once you learn a little about them, very impressive!



Baccharis pilularis

--another observation on page 2

THE SALVIAS IN MY GARDEN –Jeanne Larson

The first Salvia to bloom in my garden is Bees Bliss (cross between *S. Clevelandii* and *S. sonomensis*). This low grower is next to the sidewalk where it makes an entrance for the rest of the street garden. It is known to have problems with mildew and this year for the first time, some appeared. The street trees now produce too much shade and the top growth, wet from the old sprinkling does not have time to dry off, hence mold.

S. Clevelandii is next to bloom and the beautiful blue spokes when left to dry on the shrub provide interest into the late summer. Mexican or Velvet sage (*S. leucantha*) bloomed nicely at short height in the spring, and now is in its fall glory. It is a vigorous grower and must be edged significantly.

Although not native, Autumn sage (*S. gregii*) is in full bloom; Germander sage (*S. chaemanroides*), a low grower is showing its intense blue flowers. Garden sage (*S. officinalis*) in my herb garden border has beautiful blue blooms on its gray foliage in early summer. In the sage family, fall blooming Pineapple sage, *S. elegans*, whose foliage smells as its common name, is attracting hummers and bees. The bright red spikes brighten up the fall garden.

October 2013 at China Creek

---Warren Shaw

The Park was beautiful in October: asters in bloom, the ground littered with big fat acorns, the air so warm as to be downright balmy.

We noted with satisfaction that the ailanthus trees and sprouts we had sprayed in September were clearly dead. We sprayed some more but ran out of mix due to an unfortunate leak in one the backpacks – so will have to finish later.

The group walking the trail picked up a lot of trash, especially around the ponds. (We appreciate the fact that the fishermen are generally not destructive, but do wish they could be neater). We also cut back willows and berry vines across the berm for the north pond so that Hank,

who had recently mowed the road and the rest of the trail, could get his tractor across to mow the Oak Woodland Loop. The trail crew also re-erected a station post, which had been knocked down, and noted several other posts needing replacement. All in all, a pleasant and productive day.

The November work party will conclude with the annual Thank-You lunch, at which the chapter expresses its gratitude to those who have supported the China Creek Restoration and Education project. We'll take December off, with the first '14 work party tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 18, and we hope you'll consider putting China Creek on your resolution list for the year to come

Two Tries for Osprey Cove

Jane Pritchard

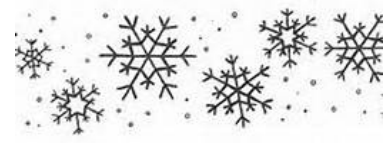
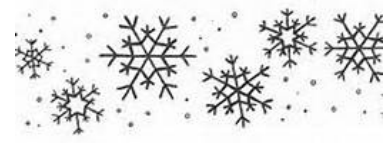
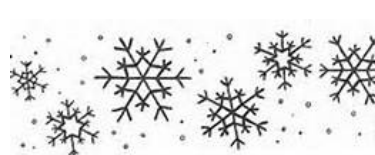
On 10-1-13 Peg, Roxy, and I parked near the waste disposal site on Dinkey Creek Road and took the Shaver Lake perimeter trail to the right. We turned back before reaching Osprey Cove and ate lunch at Burr Meadow a short distance before the Osprey Cove turnoff. It looked like a paint-by-number scene – patches of ochres, yellows, pastel red (blueberry bushes), and green. The creek running the length of the meadow had water! From the low point by the creek, the curvature of the land sloping up to the treeline was very striking. Granite outcrops and large boulders were scattered on the slopes. This is an area to visit in the spring.

On 10-13 Peg and Roxy were determined to reach Osprey Cove even though it sprinkled on my way up to Prather to meet them. Sprinkles became fine rain as we drove up toward Shaver and highlighted the pink/red dogwoods along Highway 168. At Chawanakee Road random snowflakes mingled with the rain. We returned to Shaver where Peg and Roxy bought ponchos. Once again we parked across Dinkey Creek Road from Chawanakee

Road. We followed Chawanakee Road to the pine needle disposal site and turned right onto the perimeter trail. Now sleet mixed with the rain. Peg shared Roxy's pair of gloves – one glove each until their bare hands froze, then they exchanged gloves. Water beaded on grey-green ceanothus leaves and formed drops on dark green pine needles. Numerous shades of green stood out in the rain.

Osprey Cove was beautiful in the rain. Steam rising off the lake made the entire scene misty. Mountains across the lake disappeared into low clouds. Two flocks of coots swam on the lake. We ate fast and scared off two perched ospreys on our way back up the hill. Sleet and hail whitened the ground. Ice water ran down the trail. My barefoot shoes just have fabric between the toes and provide no insulation.

To top off this glorious day, we made it to the Blue Sky Cafe in Shaver 15 minutes before they closed. This time we sat inside and thoroughly enjoyed **hot** coffee, **hot** chocolate, and **hot** tea.



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.



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Welcome to new members: Brooke Blasdale, Doreen Foley, Kathleen Miles, Malcolm Rice, Larry Underhill

Many thanks to renewing members: Anne Bredon, Jeff Davis, Stephen & Carolyn Juarez, Marianne Kast, Jeannine Koshear, Judith Parker, Rose Rowe, Thelma Valdez

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, the November renewals may have actually occurred in September or October. 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 support





Next Newsletter: January 2014
Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@gmail.com. The deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, Jan. 3



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: _____
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- Student, Limited Income..... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library..... \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
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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

Nov. Dec. 2013



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

The plant I'm featuring this month is well known by most native plant growers. They are always a sell out at our annual plant sale. That is of course the genus *Epilobium* or *Zauschneria*. Most of us still call them *Zauschneria* because we don't think they look like the "fireweed." (*Epilobium augustifolia*) The common name is "California Fuchsia" and they don't look anything like a fuchsia either. Names aside they are one of the stars of the late summer and fall garden. The hummingbirds love them, with the nectar deep in the flower's throats. There are over 50 selections and I've grown a few but most successfully the real native species, *Z. californica* and currently the selection "Eterii." It isn't an aggressive spreader, and 2 ft high by 3 ft. wide. I may water it once or twice in the summer to get the blooms started.



The key to keeping this genus alive and healthy is a hard pruning, which I usually do in January by cutting it back to just a few inches. The book [Calif. Native Plants for the Garden](#) by Bornstein, Fross and O'Brian says to cut to one inch. It lists the different heights of plants from low growing, under a foot, medium 1-2 feet and large, over 2 feet. The selections have also been chosen for different colors other than the red-orange of most. There are cultivars "Sierra Salmon" and "Solidarity Pink". And there is one with silver grey foliage, called "Silver Select". Something for every garden.