



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

***Designing California Native Gardens:
 The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens***
Speaker: Alrie Middlebrook, Native Garden Designer, Middlebrook Gardens

Alrie Middlebrook will be speaking about designing native plant gardens. Please spread the word about this meeting and come to hear an expert in the field and the co-author of a best selling book on California native gardens. The timing is perfect for planning your purchases at the Plant Sale to be held on September 27 (see Plant Sale notice on this page.)

Alrie is a committed advocate and practitioner of the sustainable lifestyle, respected landscape professional, and California native plant specialist. Her San Jose, California-based build/design firm, Middlebrook Gardens, has installed over 150 California native gardens and remains on the leading edge of the rising sustainability movement.

She published the California native plant cook book, "Eating California" and co-authored a groundbreaking new book "Designing California Native Gardens; The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens," with renowned field botanist, Dr. Glenn Keator.

Her marketing and garden installation program, Lose The Lawn, offers low cost, simple solutions to "lose your lawn" and upgrade to a pesticide free, water saving, low maintenance landscape.

Alrie is committed to educating the public and promoting sustainability through native gardening. Her many workshops and speaking engagements at diverse venues throughout the State of California have provided key forums promoting critical knowledge and understanding.

			Shaw
	Santa Ana		
		✕	
			Gettysburg
Fruit	Thorne	Palm	

Meeting Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 50 East Santa Ana Avenue (near Palm & Shaw).

Dinner with Alrie Middlebrook: We will meet at 5:00 p.m. at The Mediterranean Restaurant in Fresno (4631 N. Fresno St. at NW corner of Fresno & Gettysburg).

General Meetings: March, May, September, October
Board Meetings: November, January, February, April

September Plant Sale - Saturday, September 27

Volunteers Needed!! We need volunteers to help unload plants on Friday late afternoon and we need help on Saturday from 7 am to 2 pm. The plant sale is between 8 am and 1 pm but you can help early to get ready for the sale, help during the sale, or late to help break down. Contact Marian Orvis (mforvet@earthlink.net) or Thelma Valdez (nmtv@att.net) if you can help. We will call members in search of volunteers but if you know you can help for even an hour or two, send an email!

Buyers Needed!! The plant sale is a joint effort with the Clovis Botanical Garden and is held at the Garden again this year. Clovis Botanical Garden sells water-wise plants from other Mediterranean climates and CNPS sells only California natives. The Garden is a good place to hold the sale because one can see natives and non-natives, all of which are selected in the Garden for their low use of water. Plan to come to the September meeting to hear ideas about designing native gardens from Alrie Middlebrook. Make your list and come out to the Plant Sale!



China Creek Update
 Warren Shaw

The volunteers have been working diligently trying to eradicate all blooming Yellow Star Thistle from the Park. The point, of course, is to prevent new seed from being added to the substantial existing bank. YST seed survives 3-5 years in the soil so if we can stop seed production we can eventually eliminate YST entirely.

Ideally the population would be reduced to the point where we could simply walk around and uproot all the plants by hand. We may not see this in our lifetimes but it's nice to think about. Things at the park are surprisingly pretty considering the drought. Asters are out and wild roses are still blooming a little

and beginning to form clusters of bright red hips. Some lizard tail plants still show creamy white flowers and there are still a few blackberries to pick. Sadly, one apparently healthy old oak has fallen, the victim perhaps of root disease. If it's like some others in the park, it may continue to live for many years.

In any case, we'll be trying to finish up our YST work as well as do some science on our "Ten Most Wanted Weed List" at our September workday (Sat. 9/20, 9-12). Botanists, bring your Jepsons! Weeders, bring your gloves, hoes and shovels! Birders, bring your binoculars!

Whatever your personal interest, please join us if you can.

Horticulture

Joseph Oldham

Valley Gardens for a Changing Climate

I have written articles about climate change and native plant gardens before, but some new information has come to my attention that I believe warrants a re-examination of this topic.

Our global climate is changing and getting warmer. This information is not new and it seems that most people have accepted this fact. What's new are the results of recent studies by the State of California and universities that have shown the impacts to our region of California and what we can reasonably expect to see in the next 30-40 years. As with most situations in life there is good news and bad news and I will give a brief outline below:

- Precipitation levels will likely stay about the same, but the frequency of storms, their timing during the year, and the intensity of the rainfall during the storms will change.
- There will be an increase in extreme temperature days as summer temperatures start earlier and end later in the year. There will be less winter fog and warmer winters.

So how will this impact native plant gardens and gardening in general? Again the answer has good news and bad news.

The good news with milder winters will mean a longer growing and planting season with weather suitable for planting and garden maintenance extending from December through March on a typical year. In fact, as the climate warms in 30 years, the prime planting season may start in December on the valley floor with spring-like conditions in January and February. For California native plants, December has always been a good month to plant and many natives begin blooming in January and February. These characteristics will make regionally adapted natives attractive garden choices for the new climate patterns of the mid-century time period.

The bad news for this new planting and growing season climate is that non-native and non-regionally adapted native plants will require costly and unsustainable supplemental irrigation in order to be grown in our region due to the longer dry season conditions and the increased number of extreme heat days. People that attempt to mimic coastal or Midwest gardens in Fresno will be doomed to failure, however those that accept our new climate and plant accordingly will be successful.

The good news about precipitation levels is that they should stay about the same, which will mean that regionally adapted California native plants that can be used in our Fresno area gardens today will still be viable choices in 2050.

The bad news with the new climate precipitation patterns is that we will see a shorter winter wet season and an increase in summer monsoon rains similar to what happens now in Arizona and New Mexico during the summer. Storms will be more intense and less frequent. This will lead to increased flooding, erosion, and run-off unless our garden designs are changed to adapt. New climate gardens will need to have bio-swales and catch basins designed into them to trap rainfall and prevent or reduce run-off. Sloped and flat expanses of lawn will be reduced or eliminated to provide increased soil percolation points within landscapes and to prevent run-off contamination from lawn fertilizers. Play areas for children will need to be made from recycled wood chips or other soft, permeable materials in place of lawn grass to reduce dry season supplemental water use and to provide for increased run-off capture. Regionally adapted native plants will again play a critical role in the design of the new climate gardens due to their deep root systems that will help prevent erosion and provide infiltration paths for water percolation, their low water use, and their ability to withstand high summer temperatures.

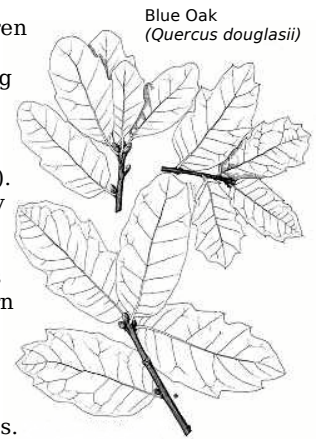
The new climate for central California will present many challenges over the next 30-40 years but nothing that the native plants adapted to California are not capable of handling, which will make them the proven gardening choices for our new landscapes. Happy gardening in our changing world!



Woolly Blue Curls
(*Trichostema lanatum*)

Observations

Up in the foothills Warren Shaw reports that the Blue Oaks are beginning to defoliate, though it's hard to tell if this is in response to the season or the drought (or both). As usual they are highly variable: some remain bluish-green; some are turning gold and others scarily brown. The acorn crop seems generally very light, predicting a tough winter for acorn woodpeckers, deer and other dependent species.



Fat, pale green milkweed pods are popping. Tarweed is blooming profusely especially in overgrazed pastures, and there has been some red monkey flower near a little seep. Doveweed, lush despite months without water, is also in full bloom in its monochromatic way as are various other late season species. Plants never cease to amaze.

He's right, of course. Take, for example, that "love it or hate it" plant, Blue Curls. It's usually the strong smell that turns some people off or makes devotees out of others. But talk about a plant that thrives in our dry summers and yet produces exquisite lavender-blue blossoms! Native bees are all over the blossoms right now. European honeybees are nowhere to be seen but our native pollinators seem to be much more in abundance than in previous years.

Speaking of bees, the Desert Willows have also drawn an increased number of carpenter bees this year. It makes one wonder whether the absence of honeybees is behind this. Hmmmm....

Sunset/Moonrise Walk

Join Chawanakee Adult Education's naturalist Joanne Freemire on a Sunset/Moonrise Walk on Saturday, September 13, from 6:30 - 9 PM.

Explore our local Biosphere Reserve on a four-mile roundtrip naturalist-guided evening stroll. We'll walk a level dirt road to experience the magic of moon shadows and other nighttime phenomena. Bring a flashlight. Fun for all!

If you'd like to join in the fun, make a check for \$8 per person to: Chawanakee Unified School District.

Mail (by 9/8/08) to:
Kris Rich
c/o Chawanakee Unified School District Adult Education
Chawanakee Academy
P. O. Box 210
O'Neals, CA 93645

For the Tour, meet at San Joaquin Experimental Range, just inside the Hwy 41 entrance, 2 miles south of Road 200 (North Fork Rd.) junction.

Questions? Call Joanne at: 559-877-4911

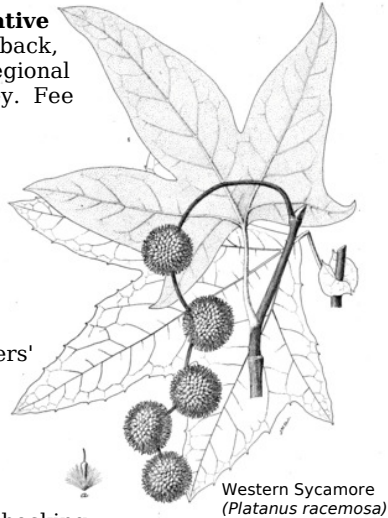
Related Events - Within Reach

Oct. 4. Annual Plant Sale. A show and sale of uncommon garden plants for the Central Valley, 10 am to 3 pm, UC Davis Arboretum, 1 Shields Ave, Davis 530/752-4880, www.arboretum.usdavis.edu.

Oct. 11. Arboretum Fall Plant Sale with the California Native Plant Society. In the Eucalyptus Grove, 12 to 4 pm. UC Santa Cruz Arboretum.

Oct. 11. Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies VI: California. One day symposium. A rare opportunity to meet gardeners from other Mediterranean climates of the world. For details or to register, visit <http://regonline.com/medskiesvi>

Oct. 18. Landscaping with Native Grasses. A class with Bob Hornback, 9 am to 12 pm, Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley. Fee \$45; pre-registration required. www.nativeplants.org



Western Sycamore
(*Platanus racemosa*)

Membership

Helen Shaw

I have recently completed the semi-annual update of all members' information, using data received from the Sacramento office. If there are any corrections or additions please let me know. helshaw@netptc.net

You can confirm your status by checking the code on your label (e.g. 0509=May '09)

*New Members and Membership Renewals

Fresno : Bergthold, *Brodeur, Eckenrod, *Hanson-Barnes, Loucks, Mitchell, Rudd, Schreiber, Teviotdale
Madera : Koshear, Rivers

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Rare Plant	John Stebbins johnst@cvip.net	559/297-0144 (h)
Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
Directors at Large	Jim Seay Verna Arnest	jaseay@comcast.net vernaj@sti.net

Newsletter



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for the October newsletter is Thursday, October 8.



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide 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: _____

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

New Member Renewing Member

- Student, Limited Income\$25
- Individual\$45
- Family, Group, or Library\$75
- Plant Lover\$100
- Patron\$300
- Benefactor\$600
- Mariposa Lily\$1500

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

September 2008



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 CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

Jimson Weed

Datura wrightii is hard to miss this time of year. You see it in dry, empty lots in cities as well as along roadsides and in open fields in the country below 4000 feet. Simple advice with Jimson Weed is to admire its almost tropical display of leaves and flowers but keep your distance. Not only is this an exotically beautiful plant but it is also very dangerous.

Throughout the world where species of *Datura* grow (and it appears on every continent) and throughout history, it has been used as a hallucinogenic medicinal plant.

All parts of the plant are deadly if ingested. Many Native American tribes did smoke or drink Jimson Weed usually as part of once-in-a-lifetime ceremonial rites (primarily puberty rites) or at special ceremonies or before important hunting treks. Such events, however, were under the auspices of an experienced shaman and even then deaths occurred.

In recent times documented deaths have occurred when someone attempts to use *Datura* to experience its hallucinogenic properties.

Yokuts call this herb *Tanai* and to the Cahuillas (Southern California) it is *Kiksawva'al*. Spanish Californios called it *Toloache*, which comes directly from the Aztec. The name Jimson Weed may be a corruption of Jamestown Weed, which is what a non-native relative (*Datura stramonium*) is called in Eastern states.

There are also documented topical uses by Native Americans, early European settlers, and even today by some survivalists. These medicinal purposes included a poultice for arthritis or neuralgia or applied to bruises and swellings.



Reference: "Early Uses of California Plants" by Edward K. Balls. "California Herbal Remedies" by LoLo Westrich, "Temalpakh: Cahuilla Indian knowledge and usage of plants" by Lowell John Bean and Katherine Siva Saubel. Drawing from "Early Uses of California Plants" by Edward K. Balls.

SEPTEMBER 2008

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SEQUOIA CHAPTER CNPS



Clockwise starting from top left

- Red Monkey Flower (*Mimulus* sp.)
- Fallen Valley Oak at China Creek (*Quercus lobata*)
- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
- California Wild Rose hips (*Rosa californica*)
- California Willow Herb (*Epilobium foliosum*)
- Jimson Weed (full blossom) (*Datura wrightii*)
- Jimson Weed (emerging blossom) (*Datura wrightii*)
- Jimson Weed (before blossoming) (*Datura wrightii*)
- Hayfield Tarweed (*Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*)

