



## Plant Sale Update

Saturday, September 29, and the predicted cooler weather did not arrive. However, it was not so hot as last year and that was a good thing. The heat did not dampen the enthusiasm of attendees and it was good to see quite a few young families and children of all ages. Again we were blessed with an amazing group of dedicated volunteers who helped with another successful plant sale. While this sale is the largest fund raiser for the chapter, its value in outreach and education is as valuable as the cold, hard cash. Each year more customers appear to be well-informed and more interested and willing to incorporate natives into their gardens. One could speculate on many of the reasons and never really know why, but we can take some credit for being there year after year, spreading the word. We send thanks to all who supported this event by attending and send a big thank you to our volunteers: Laura Castro, Belinda Gilbert, Michele LuValle, Madeleine Mitchell, Paul Mitchell, Nye Morton, Frank Orvis, Marian Orvis, Jane Pritchard, Gene Richards, Rudy Rulloda, Jim Seay, Helen Shaw, Warren Shaw, Thelma Valdez. We were also fortunate to have Ray Laclergue, owner of Intermountain Nursery. Ray brought the plants then stayed to help with advice, suggestions, and answers to questions.



**Lots of shoppers with lots of options**

## Board Report

Several times a year our Sequoia Chapter Board meets. These are open meetings—all are welcome. We gather for a potluck lunch, followed by reports and updates from committees and a time for planning upcoming events. Our last meeting was August 26, and here are some highlights: •Jesse Morrow Mtn. gravel mining proposal was turned down by Board of Supervisors—Cemex will appeal •Our membership is holding steady

at about 100. •Upcoming events –final plans for fall plant sale Sept. 29 • decision to participate in Arts and Crafts in the Park Oct. 6- Squaw Valley Library, and at Intermountain Nursery Harvest Festival Oct. 13/14- Prather. •Derrel's Mini Storage has extended our arrangement for another year.

**Next meeting** Sunday, November 4, at 1:00PM at the home of Thelma Valdez. All are welcome. Contact Thelma or Helen for address/directions. (see pg. 6)



## South Fork of Stevenson Creek & Shaver Lake

Jane Pritchard

Since hunting season opened, we have been hiking on exposed granite and the beach at Shaver Lake. We went out Dinkey Creek Road, turned left at the Fish Camp sign, and followed the dirt perimeter road about 2 miles. We parked where the road forks (the right fork goes uphill) and walked down the left fork past a locked gate signed with "No Hunting Past This Point." We had seen 5 jeeps of hunters cruising those 2 miles but at least they were not shooting. In a short distance we reached the bridge over the south fork of Stevenson Creek, which is out now but is being repaired. Of course, the other side looked verrry interesting.

We U-turned and parked about a mile back where the perimeter road turns left and walked to the right past another locked gate posted "No Hunting Populated Area." We were in hog heaven to find 2 no hunting areas. A house with a large patio looking out over Shaver Lake was on the edge of the beach. We walked left along the beach and saw lots of short, stubby coyote tobacco = *Nicotiana attenuata* with inch-long, white, trumpet-shaped flowers. Weeden must be a smoker because he says the not unpleasant tasting leaves and stems contain nicotine which may cause irregular breathing, weakness and evidence of pain if eaten. You would have to eat a lot more than I did – the plant stunk and tasted terrible. If you are hurting for a cigarette, the leaves make an inferior tobacco. There were also lots of an unkeyed lupine, many still in bloom where moisture came out of the forest. We walked along the beach to the left and walked uphill past seating and a fire pit to another house on the roadside. A doe with 2 fawns without spots were on the east side of the buildings. They seem to know

**Note:** Jane hikes on her own several times each month, in addition to serving as docent for the Sierra Foothill Conservancy. She knows her way around the foothills and mountains like few others. Anyone interested in joining her is welcome. For information on upcoming hikes, see Jane's contact information on pg. 6.

what NO HUNTING means. They were not afraid and looked very statuesque with their heads turned to look back at us.

Eileen couldn't make it on Sep 21 so we went to the same place on Sep 29. She hadn't been there before or know of the bridge over Stevenson Creek – a real surprise. She has explored the mountains for 35 years. This time we walked to the right on the beach with the intent of reaching Stevenson Creek. We stopped at some broken up rocks strewn from the trees to the waterline and ate lunch with our feet dangling in the water. A female mallard swam toward us along the lake edge eating floaters in the water. She stopped among us and hung around waiting to be fed. I gave it 4 broken up raw almonds and hazelnuts until it got tired of them. It is probably used to tastier things like Cheetos, potato chips and cookies. We have seen 10-20 ducks fly out and surround boats that stop in the water. When we left, she swam back alongside us.

Eileen knew what the structures were that had puzzled us the previous week. A radio tower on the hillside across the lake to the north is Balsam Forebay. The structure at the water edge on the north side of the lake is the tail race where water is pumped back up to Balsam Forebay at night using hydroelectric power.

After the hike Roxy recognized the boaters who had caused big waves during our lunch which wet our seats and packs. We drank coffee and ate goodies on the patio while looking at orbicules in a geology book Eileen gave me and through the magnifiers at an interesting beach rock and immature male cones of incense-cedar.



Incense cedar cones

## September China Creek Report

--Warren Shaw

Our planned attack on the Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) grove in the north grazing area of the Park was short-circuited last month by bureaucratic delays. So, we devoted most of our efforts to continuing to remove protective cages from oak seedlings which have outgrown the need, flagging new seedlings to cage, trimming the willows back from Smith Avenue near the Park gate, and counting the Ailanthus.

To our amazement, Laura Castro counted over 1000 Ailanthus trees; most, over 800, were under three inches in diameter, and of these, she estimated that 60% could be cut with loppers, so a somewhat bigger job than we had been thinking, but doable.

We now have an official Fresno County permit, and a supply of carefully selected herbicide in hand. Mary McClanahan and I have spent a morning experimenting with the “hack and squirt” application method and equipment, and we feel confident we are truly ready to attack those evil weed-trees, which we plan to do at our October Work Party on Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> from 8-12.

-- Some good news: Vulcan Materials has volunteered to provide mesh and posts for cages for about 30 Valley Oak seedlings. Many thanks to Vulcan.

Please join us if you can. Take Kings Canyon/CA 180 east across Academy 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.



**Left:**  
*Ailanthus altissima*

**Right:**  
*Distribution map!*



## Upcoming Events

**October 13 & 14, 10:00 AM** - Twentieth Annual Harvest Arts & Peace Festival at Intermountain Nursery 30443 N. Auberry Road @ Highway 168. Art, fine Crafts, Music, Homemade Food, Community Non-profits, Children’s Activities. Our Chapter will have an information table at this event. For a full description of activities and the music schedule: [intermountainnursery.com](http://intermountainnursery.com)

**October 27, 9:30 AM** – Propagation of California native Plants. Ray Laclergue, Intermountain Nursery, \$15. Details and registration: <http://www.intermountainnursery.com/classes.htm>

**October 27 or 28, 10AM-4PM** – “Pepperwood Preserve, Santa Rosa. Tending the Wild” An interactive program presented by California Indian Master Basket Weavers. Participants will learn to identify, tend, gather and process native basketry plants, meet some of California’s finest master Basket Weavers, and join in the “Walkabout” experience with weavers. Registration details [www.CIBA.org](http://www.CIBA.org) 530-668-1332

**November 11, 10AM – 2PM** Holiday Cheer sponsored by San Joaquin River Parkway Trust. Details forthcoming. See [riverparkway.org](http://riverparkway.org) for last year’s schedule of events.



## Reflections on plant sale(s)

--Helen Shaw

Many CNPS chapters sponsor plant sales and our Sequoia Chapter is no exception. In our efforts surrounding the sale—and there are many, during and long before and after—it is understandable that we concentrate on the financials. Will buyers come? Will we sell enough to break even? Will there be a profit? How much?

But emphasis on the money-making aspect of our plant sale occurs at the risk of our losing sight of the CNPS mission: “...to increase understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants ... through scientific activities, education, science and conservation.”

Our workers’ efforts (see the impressive list on pg.1) did much more than sell merchandise. Our information table and appealing plant photos greeted arriving people with the rewards of planting with natives and suggestions for doing so. The plants themselves were displayed with obvious pride and attended by those willing to stand in the sun for hours and share their appreciation for native plants and the advantages of incorporating them into the home landscape, along with suggestions for specific needs. Each purchaser left with a page of helpful tips for successfully establishing their newly purchased plants.

We not only sold plants; we answered questions, offered guidance, encouraged others to try natives in their home gardens and we shared our love of native plants and their well-deserved place in our lives. Did we “increase understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants”? I think we did, and I hope you agree.

## Observations

--from Jeanne Larson

Our early heat and continued heat may have been responsible for two of my coast natives to be in distress. My blue flowered *Erigeron* did much better when I first moved it out of afternoon shade to morning shade and afternoon sun. However, it is now really looking a little sad, but I think it will perk up with the cooler weather.

The blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) has been a spectacular sea of blue in the open shade of my large Chitalpa, and was this spring. However, when I was cleaning out the bed today, it is apparent that in the sunnier side of the open shade, some plants have died.

Fortunately, there are enough volunteers to fill the gaps. A gardening friend who has just moved to Southern Oregon, and felt she was going to miss her blue-eyed grass, was delighted to find it available in the nurseries there. It is also native to southern coastal Oregon.

My Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) had a short light bloom this spring and I wondered if it would bloom again in the fall. Well, it is in full bloom and the hummers and bees are busy. If these warmer, longer summers are to be the norm, I hope we can still grow coastal natives with some adjustments to location in our gardens.

--from Warren Shaw

Little has changed in the foothills in September, except the bright yellow tarweed blossoms, and the pungent blue curl are fading, the Blue oaks are browner and more defoliated, and dropping more acorns; the mikweed pods are all finished opening, and their seed all floated away on their fluffy parachutes. The Buckeye trees are all definitely russet, with their pale greenish nuts continuing to fill, with some beginning to split and drop. Only some doveweed plants seem to be growing and blooming enough to excite bees, and the landscape in general is drab and brown and waiting patiently for rain.

## Ingrid in Peru

Longtime member (and faithful China Creek worker) Ingrid Carmean has joined the Peace Corps and will be in Peru for the next 2+ years. From time to time she posts pictures and updates on a blog she maintains. To check on her activities go to [ingridinthepeacecorps.blogspot.com](http://ingridinthepeacecorps.blogspot.com)

## Membership

Thelma Valdez

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



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>*President</b>	open	
<b>*Vice-Pres.</b>	Paul Mitchell <a href="mailto:paul30@comcast.net">paul30@comcast.net</a>	559/638-2784 (h)
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<b>*Treasurer</b>	Jeanne Larson <a href="mailto:jrjlars@aol.com">jrjlars@aol.com</a>	559/243-0815 (h)
<b>Membership</b>	Thelma Valdez <a href="mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com">nmtv@unwiredbb.com</a>	559/323-8962 (h)
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<b>Horticulture</b>	open	
<b>Education</b>	Warren Shaw	(See Newsletter)
<b>Rare Plant</b>	John Stebbins <a href="mailto:johnst@cvip.net">johnst@cvip.net</a>	559/297-0144 (h)
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<b>Conservation</b>	Jeanne Larson	(see Treasurer)
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## New and Renewing Members (as of November)

### Thanks to:

New: Afifi, City of Fresno Water Conservation Program, Hannah, Tidd  
Renewal: O'Leary

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](http://www.cnps.org) and click on the JOIN button.



### Next Newsletter November/December 2012

Please send corrections and contributions to Helen Shaw  
[helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net) by  
Friday, November 9



⊙ Please remember to save empty print cartridges. Bring to November board meeting or contact Jeanne Larson or Helen Shaw to arrange drop off or pickup. (See contact info to the right.)

Sequoia Chapter, CNPS  
thanks Derrel's for their support



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Student, Limited Income ..... \$25
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

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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

October 2012



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

*Madeleine Mitchell*

Before I begin to write this issue's Musings, I must edit last month's column by stating that *Datura wrightii* can be either an annual or a perennial. When Paul read my column for September he insisted it couldn't be both. My source had indicated that it can be an annual in all geographic zones; as a perennial it doesn't exist in the northern coastal and high mountains.

For this month, I'll discuss the two plants that I purchased at our recent sale. I lost the *Salvia spathacea*, the Hummingbird Sage that I moved last spring. It made it for a few months but finally died completely. I bought the Las Pilitas variety this time, which likes some shade as it is now planted beneath a 20 year old Western Redbud, *Cercis occidentalis*. It has large light-green leaves and is the only red flowered native salvia. I think the flowers are more of a dark pink than red. Its range is from Solano County south through the Coast Ranges to Orange County. It spreads slowly through rhizomes as a ground cover.

I also lost the *Eriogonum giganteum* this summer after 15 years and will replace it with the *E. fasciculatum* that does so well in our area. It's seen along the highway 41, now at it's best color of rust in the fall. It grows throughout most of our state on dry slopes and canyons, in coastal scrub, chaparral, desert woodland and scrub. Before it turns rusty it has creamy white flowers, sometimes with a pink tinge.



***Eriogonum* –  
fall/spring**

***Salvia spathacea*  
Las Pilitas**





**Plant Sale - September 2012**  
Counterclockwise, from top

- Setting up
- Plants and customers ready
- Marian Orvis and information table
- Madeleine Mitchell assists a customer
- Checking out

**OCTOBER 2012**  
◆  
**SEQUOIA  
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