

# Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



July/August 2020

www.cnps-sequoia.org

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China Creek Report

## CHINA CREEK REPORT

--Warren Shaw

### June 2020 Work Party 1

Weather mid-week, prior to the scheduled first June work party, was a hot high 90s. But, by Saturday, the prediction was for a high of 80, and so it was. The lovely, mild, breezy day was perfect for the hard work of grubbing out stubborn invasive exotic thistle plants and other Park chores.

A nice-sized group turned out, including new volunteer, Ken, who showed up armed to the teeth with chainsaws, etc. We had decided to concentrate most of our weeding efforts on the north leg of the Park, so most of us started there, while Jane and Janet went back to a patch they'd been working on in the southeast leg and John and Ken tackled the chore of trimming up the Oak Woodland Loop trail. John II sprayed out 4 gallons of herbicide mix, mostly on bull thistle plants too large to dig, or milk thistle plants that had gone to seed.

At break time (10:00am) we took a weed count, with totals of 685 yellow star-thistle (YST), 1,336 bull thistle, and 22 milk thistle plants, not counting those spot-sprayed. We didn't complete a count after break, but suspect numbers would have been equally impressive. Another bit of good news: Jesse came back from walking the creek to report he couldn't find any water hyacinth to pull. He seemed a little

disappointed, but, of course, NOT finding our targeted weeds is what we keep hoping for.

It was a great day to do good work with like-minded folks. We could not, of course, promise such nice weather for our second June work party, the last of the "spring semester," but we hoped for another good crew to try to leave the Park in good shape to get through the summer.

Note: We've heard from Gene, liaison with Cal Fire, that more burning may take place in the park in the near future (dates as yet unscheduled), but they've already graded the perimeter roads and a break across the east leg and another along the west leg; so, once again, we'll be watching with great interest to see the results in terms of effects on native versus non-native plants.

### June 2020 Work Party 2

Unlike the first June work party, the second was predicted to be beastly hot (108°F). We got right to work shortly after gathering at 8:00am, with crews going to both the north and southeast legs of the Park for weeding. John I and Ken went off to finish trimming up the Oak Woodland Loop trail and John II loaded up with a fresh batch of herbicide in the backpack sprayer and headed out to the southwest leg to deal with large bull thistle plants and dense patches of YST. Hank once again brought his quad-mounted spray rig out to spray patches we flagged as we worked. We also checked the trail for signs needing cleaning or replacing.

(continued on page 4)

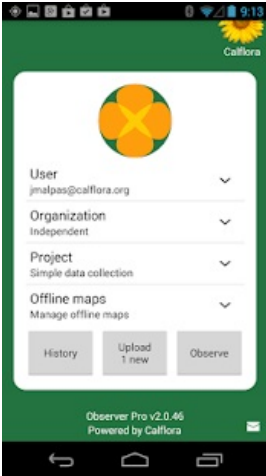


-China Creek-

Photos by Laura Castro

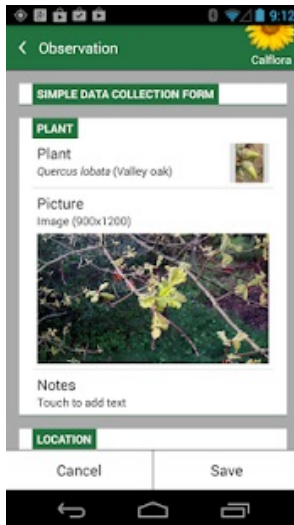
## In the Know

### • Calflora Observer Pro



Use Calflora Pro to record observations of wild plants in California using your phone or tablet and then upload them to the Calflora.org website.

You can include photos, GPS coordinates, notes, and other information. You can edit each record with a web application. No one besides you can see your records unless you publish them.



Polygons and points can be used in the application.

Observations can be updated to note changes over time.

San Luis Obispo Chapter example of Calflora Observer Pro results:  
<https://cnpslo.org/resources/finding-plants-in-the-wild/>

For information on Observer Pro:  
<https://www.calflora.org/phone/proios/>

### • July 2, 2020: Excerpt from San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. to County of Fresno Regarding the CEMEX Expansion Project near Lost Lake.



Excerpt 1:  
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation [NOP] of a Draft Environmental Impact Report 7763 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Applications 3666 and 3667

Our interest in the project, and the basis for our comments, is the location of the project site in the environmentally sensitive river bottom immediately adjacent to Lost Lake Park...

Excerpt 2:  
The State of California documented the significance of the San Joaquin River as a statewide resource and the importance of protecting it by adopting the San Joaquin River Conservancy Act.

Excerpt 3:  
Any substantial development in close proximity to the San Joaquin River Parkway must be assessed for its potential impacts on the Parkway.

Excerpt 4:  
The depth of the proposed mining pit—roughly 560 feet below the bed of the San Joaquin River—has the potential to dewater a portion of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the project site, thereby altering river flows necessary for the implementation of the [March 30, 2009, San Joaquin River Restoration] Settlement Act.

Excerpt 5:  
We hope that the significant impacts that will be evaluated as part of the EIR lead to a rejection of the proposal and an end to mining at the quarry site below Lost Lake Park.

For the full letter go to:  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/464f7b56001/059a6187-be8f-4b67-9db5-fca297ad9a22.pdf>

For NOP:  
<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=45060>

For project information:  
<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=45058>

## Membership

Thanks to new and renewing members.

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Cherith Merson at [echerith@gmail.com](mailto:echerith@gmail.com).

The Sequoia Chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.

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: September 2020

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at [lacastror@outlook.com](mailto:lacastror@outlook.com). The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, August 28, 2020.**



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER CONTACTS

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<b>Rare Plants Coordinator</b>	vacant	
<b>President</b>	vacant	
<b>Hospitality</b>	vacant	
<b>Horticulture</b>	vacant	



## JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Member       Renewing Member

- Student, Fixed Income ..... \$25
- Individual ..... \$50
- Plant Lover ..... \$120
- Supporter ..... \$500
- Patron ..... \$1,000
- Benefactor ..... \$2,500
- Steward ..... \$5,000
- Guardian ..... \$10,000

**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*

July/August 2020

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### *CHINA CREEK REPORT*

#### **June 2020, Work Party 2** (continued)

We knew of course we were behind on weed work because we had skipped several work parties due to C-19 concerns, but we hoped we'd caught up because we'd had good days of weeding in April, May, and early June, plus Janet, Jane, and Chris have been working in the Park on their own. We were unprepared, therefore, for the startling quantity of YST we found, especially in the southeast. We'd hoped to leave the Park in good shape for the summer hiatus, and tried hard, but know we didn't get it all.

At our ten o'clock break, we totaled up the morning's work: 896 YST and 637 bull thistle plants. John I and Ken reported they had finished the trimming, and all trail signs were in good shape. By then, the temperature had climbed to a very uncomfortable level. We decided to call it a day and wished each other a happy summer. Several people indicated they planned to work in the Park during July and August (on less hot days), and Cal Fire has said they would be doing some burning, which Gene hopes to monitor and supervise as needed. We hope the burning will help with the remaining weeds, but we'll be watching the results with great interest and concern.



–Working hard at weeding; north leg of Park–

Our next work Party will be **Saturday, September, 26**, from 8:00am to 12:00pm, and we're hoping you'll be ready to return to the Park with renewed vigor and determination.