



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

January 2004

CHAPTER EVENTS

Upcoming Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, January 20

Program: Geologic History of the Sierra Nevada. Craig Poole, geology instructor at Fresno City College, will present a story (in words and slides) on the last 300-400 million years of the central Sierra, geologically speaking. The program is geared to a general audience.

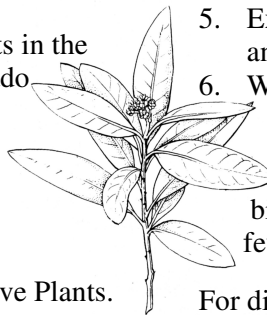
Craig knows the Sierra very well, having backpacked and hiked there for over 30 years. He is a board member with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy and has been very involved in working with K-12 science education reform in California.

Board elections and by-laws: Final vote!

Meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue).

Future Meeting Programs

February 17	Serpentine and Rare Plants in the Coast Range. Julie Delgado
March 16	Native Plant Gardening. Thelma Valdez
April 20	Soils and Native Plants. Emily Roberson
May 18	Nim (Mono) Uses of Native Plants. Gaylen Lee
June-August	No programs. Field Trips TBA.



China Creek Workday Saturday, January 17. 10 am – 3 pm

If you have not visited China Creek, this is a perfect opportunity. It's easy to envision the possibilities for such a beautiful park; it's also easy to see that it will require a dedicated effort to achieve our goals.

This workday provides an opportunity to be part of the early stages of a project that has tremendous potential for the "preservation of native California flora."

Come any time between 10 and 3. We will be focusing on the following tasks:

1. Mapping and marking areas infested with star thistle and other exotics. Attempt a measurement of the area infested.
2. Starting a bird list.
3. Starting a native plant list.
4. Starting a list of exotics.
5. Examining a preliminary design for interpretive trail and "stations," discuss revisions.
6. Weeding, picking up trash, and generally cleaning up around bulletin board "kiosk."

Bring rubber boots, gloves, long sleeves, binoculars, water, and if you stay more than a few hours, some lunch.

For directions to China Creek, email or call Warren or Helen Shaw at < helshaw@netptc.net > or 559/855-4519.

We continue to recruit members who are willing to be notified when a workday is planned. Please let Warren or Helen know if you would like to have your name on this list.



Field Trips

Joanna Clines, Program and Field Trip Chair, continues putting together the 2004 spring field trips. If you're willing to lead a trip or have an idea for one, please contact her at < jclines@fs.fed.us >

Success comes before work only in the dictionary.

--Anonymous

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes require reservations and are \$10/person, \$20/family. Call 559/855-3473 or visit their Web site < www.sierrafoothill.org > for more information and registration form.

Hikes are free and begin at 9:00 a.m. Call for meeting points and weather information.

Hikes


Saturday February 7	Archaeology at the McKenzie. Leisurely 2 mile walk to the top of Black Mtn.
Sunday February 8	Loop Trip at the McKenzie. Very strenuous 7 mile hike.
Wednesday February 18	Discovery Trail at the McKenzie. Easy 3.5 mile round trip.

Classes

Saturday March 6	Photography at the McKenzie Preserve. Tom Tidyman.
Saturday March 13	Geology & Wildflowers of the Tivy Mountain Area. Rodney Olsen, Craig Poole.
Saturday March 20	Wildflowers of the McKenzie Preserve. John Stebbins.

Johnny's Garden Nursery & Outdoor Living Center

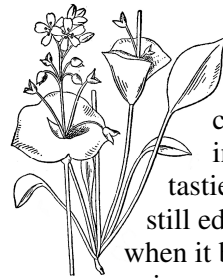
Classes require reservations and a minimum of 6 persons. All materials and taxes are included in the cost of each class. Call 559/251-5383 for more information and registration. All classes at the Nursery, located at 6931 E. Belmont, Fresno (SW corner of Belmont & Temperance).

Saturday February 7	 Landscape Trees that thrive in our Valley, and those that don't. Leslie Feathers, Arborist and Coordinator of Master Gardening Program.
Saturday February 21	Ornamental Grasses in Your Landscape. Landscaping with native grasses. Presented by the California Native Grass Association.

OBSERVATIONS

In the midst of Winter, blooms have become berries and hips. Native plants are busy under the ground sinking their roots ever deeper, drinking in winter rains, and there are beginnings of things to come. There is much to admire and appreciate:

Toyon / California Holly / Christmas Berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Our featured December plant continues to display red berries through January (unless local birds have eaten them all).



Miner's Lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*). This edible native continues growing through our infrequent frosty mornings. It is tastiest in its early, smaller size but is still edible and wonderful in salads even when it blooms in late February through spring.

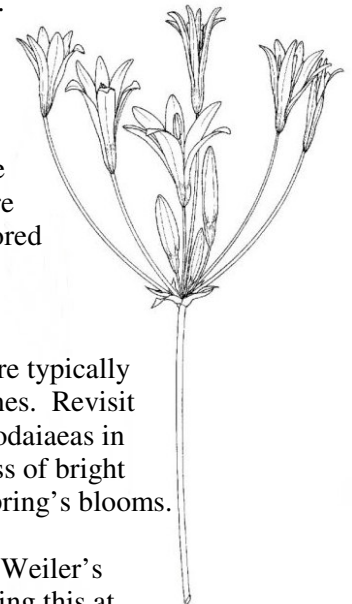
California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*). The rosehips of this shrub are bright and appealing. There is an abundance of these roses at China Creek. Check them out on our next China Creek workday!

Some of the native grasses, **Nodding Needlegrass (*Nasella cernua*), Purple Needlegrass (*Nasella pulchra*), and Foothill Stipa (*Nasella lepida*)** are greening up with the winter rains. One of nicest winter events is spying these plants renewing their growth as we head toward spring.

The Brodiaea Complex. At our November meeting, Dr. John Weiler gave a great program on the 31 species of brodiaeas native to California. The recent rains are exactly in keeping with their favored weather conditions, and they are responding.

This month the brodiaea leaves are typically above the ground two to five inches. Revisit open areas where you've seen brodiaeas in bloom and you'll likely see a mass of bright green leaves – the precursor to spring's blooms.

Perhaps you planted some of Dr. Weiler's seeds or corms and are experiencing this at home.



Woodward Park Kiosk

We are working at getting some information about the California Native Plant Society posted at the kiosk in Woodward Park. It's excellent exposure for us and for the education aspect of our mission.

Community Trails Plantings

Come springtime, trees located in "The Gap" of the Sugar Pine Trail should bloom with native wildflowers in the irrigated tree well. Thanks to Jeanne Larson and Marian Orvis for their efforts. The Gap is a gated portion of the trail between Cole and Audubon Drive.



This section of the Trail is a project we are hoping can eventually feature native plants in the open ground as well.

Newsletter

Would you like to contribute an article or have an event publicized in this newsletter? What about your "Observations"? Please send me a brief email or a longer commentary about your native plant experiences and observations.

Submissions must be received by **February 7** for the next Carpentaria. Contact Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net >.

ARTIST NEEDED!

In an effort to draw attention to native plants and CNPS (and, of course, in hopes of attracting new members) we're working on a generic poster that could be placed on public bulletin boards around the area.

We can handle the text OK, but are anxious that it be attractive, interesting, and attention-getting. Any volunteers to illustrate this poster and possibly other outreach materials? Contact Warren Shaw <helshaw@netptc.net >

"The plants are as busy as the animals, every cell in a swirl of enjoyment, humming like a hive, singing the old new song of creation."

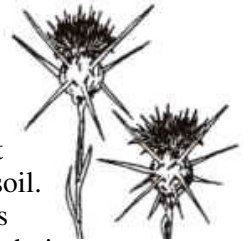
-- John Muir,
Our National Parks

Yes, weeds. We must understand weeds to successfully grow and promote native plants. And we must educate others about weeds. An excellent resource is the Web site for the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Noxious Weed Information Project. < www.cdfa.ca.gov/weedhome >

State and federal organizations enact noxious weed laws and regulations. Weeds are more than just a problem in your home landscaping and garden.

In this issue, we feature Yellow Star Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). If you are not familiar with Yellow Star Thistle (YST), take note of the incredible (impressive?) facts about this weed:

- The CFDA estimates that YST infests over 12 million acres in California
- One plant can produce up to 1000 Flowerheads. Each head can produce 30-80 seeds
- Most seeds are viable for 3-5 years but some can last 10 years or more in the soil.
- Roots can extend 3-6 feet which makes water unavailable to native plants. Height is from 6 inches to 3 feet.



According to the CFDA, YST is "...beyond total statewide eradication. Such a project would cost billions of dollars and engage tens of thousands of people for many years. Currently, the major activity devoted towards YST is focused on reducing infestation levels in areas where YST is very abundant."

The Merced Canyon area is the worst infestation in the Sierra National Forest at this time. Most Sierra National Forest infestations are being successfully managed by hand pulling and several have already been eradicated.

On February 7, 2004, the Forest Service has organized a Field Trip to the Project Area at Merced River Canyon from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Call 559/877-2218, ext. 3150 to RSVP or for information.

Closer to home is the Sequoia Chapter's **China Creek Project**. There is plenty of Yellow Star Thistle to be eradicated, but we believe it is not so widespread as to be overwhelming.

Joanna Clines, Forest Botanist for the Sierra National Forest, is fast becoming a weed expert and is helping to coordinate eradication efforts at China Creek. Part of the Workday on January 17 will be used to map the area and identify the infested areas. Eradication might include spraying, hand pulling, mowing, or a combination of all three methods.



Good News!

The US Forest Service received \$2 million for a program to develop locally appropriate native plant materials for revegetation for Fiscal Year 2004. This excellent program is already well developed in California. The BLM expects something in excess of \$4 million for its own native plant materials program.

Native plant societies and botanic gardens may wish to contact their local BLM or USFS offices to explore possibilities for collaboration on this project.

See the interesting and encouraging report on these programs on the CNPS Federal Issues Web site: < www.cnp.org/federalissues >. Click the "Issue Lists" page and then "Good News".

Effort to Save California Air Rule Fails in Senate, Succeeds in Conference

Although Senator Feinstein (D-CA) was thwarted in her effort to preserve California's right to regulate emissions from small, off-road engines, (e.g. lawnmowers), her cause ultimately prevailed in the conference committee. California is set to regulate such vehicles, taking a more stringent stand on air pollution than the federal government. An amendment to an appropriations bill from Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO) would have prohibited states from enacting such regulations. Feinstein was blocked from offering an amendment to strike the language.

However, House conferees refused to accept the provision, and Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) said the Senate acceded to the House position.

Bond repeated his Senate floor arguments that the rule being proposed by the California Air Resources Board would increase fire dangers by requiring catalytic converters and cost jobs in his and other states. Bond's amendment had been attached at the request of engine-maker Briggs and Stratton Corp., which has two plants in Missouri.

Representative James Walsh (R-NY), chairman of the House VA-HUD subcommittee, said the Bond amendment in the bill was an authorization provision that did not belong in an appropriations measure. Walsh said it raised an issue of states' rights and noted that California could lose federal transportation money if it did not meet air quality standards.

Items of interest: the Ecology Society of America Policy News and press releases from CA Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Both discuss California's efforts to keep our air clean despite aggressive efforts to roll back air quality protections by the Bush Administration.

Native plants are increasingly falling victim to air pollution through acid rain, climate change, ozone damage to forests and other plant communities, and weed spread encouraged by fertilization of soils by deposition of nitrogen and other nutrients that are components of air pollution.

ACTION: Thank Attorney General Lockyer and Gov. Schwarzenegger. Let them know we want them to fight for California's air, biological diversity, and environment.

Attorney General Lockyer
California Dept. of Justice
Public Inquiry Unit
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanks to all of you who take the time to read this newsletter, in part or in toto. There's a special skill in putting a newsletter together that piques readers' interests. As busy as they are, Warren and Helen Shaw have been faithful and diligent in giving us a first-class paper for our Chapter despite their busy schedules. They are hereby given many kudos for their hard work and good deeds.

The November 2003 *Carpenteria* included recommendations for changes to simplify the Chapter's By-Laws as well as a ballot to elect your officers for 2004 .

On page 4 of the newsletter under ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS Section 4. should read: "If there is no more..." I apologize for not catching this sooner. So with that change, you are urged to attend the January 20 meeting and hear the results of the ballots received from the December newsletter mailing. It will occur before the program. Not to worry, it won't take long.

Even if you aren't interested in the political scene of our Chapter, please attend the January 20 meeting if only to hear Craig Poole present his not-to-be-missed program on Geology of the Sierra Nevada. I'll guarantee there will be refreshments, too, this close after the holidays.

-- *Marian Orvis*



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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: _____

- Student/Retired/Limited Income \$20
- Individual or Library \$35
- Family or Group \$45
- Supporting \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Bristlecone \$1000

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

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.



SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



President	Marian Orvis	2427 E. Harvard Fresno, CA 93703-1813	559/226-0145 mforvet@earthlink.net
Past President	Jeanne Larson	3457 E. Redlands Fresno, CA 93726-5862	559/243-0815 (h) jrjlars@aol.com
Vice President	Paul Mitchell	580 W. Manning Ave. Reedley, CA 93654-2428	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net
Recording Sec'y.	Thelma Valdez	12328 E. Sierra Ave. Clovis, CA 93611-9485	559/323-8962 (h) nmtv@att.net
Treasurer / Corresponding Sec'y.	Jane Pritchard	276 W. Barstow, #103 Clovis, CA 93612	559/323-8253 xlvi_xx@juno.com
Field trips / Programs	Joanna Clines Sierra National Forest	57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643	559/877-2218 x3150 (w) jclines@fs.fed.us
Newsletter Editors Membership	Warren & Helen Shaw	30400 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667	559/855-4519 (h) helshaw@netptc.net
Plant Sale	Jeannine Koshear	P.O. Box 205 Friant, CA 93626	559/822-2332 (w) 559/658-2640 (h) Jkoshear@hotmail.com
Hospitality	Madeleine Mitchell	580 W. Manning Reedley, CA 93654-2428	559/638-2784 (h) madpaul@cvip.net
Horticulture	Howard Latimer	4534 E. Rialto Fresno, CA 93726	559/229-4273 howardl@csufresno.edu
Education	Rose Rowe	535 E. San Ramon Fresno, CA 93710	559/224-2240 ivanr@csufresno.edu
Rare Plant	John Stebbins	357 Adler Clovis, CA 93612-0780	559/278-2179 (w) johnst@csufresno.edu
Conservation Co-chairs	Karen Dulik Jeanne Larson (see above)	223 E Weldon Fresno, CA 93704	559/243-9881 kdulik@wter.ca.gov

CARPENTERIA

January 2004



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

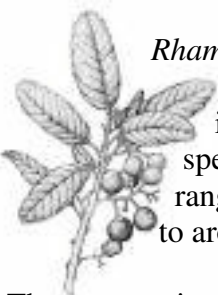
c/o Jeanne Larson • 3457 Redlands • Fresno, CA 93726

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 >

JANUARY PLANT

California Coffeeberry

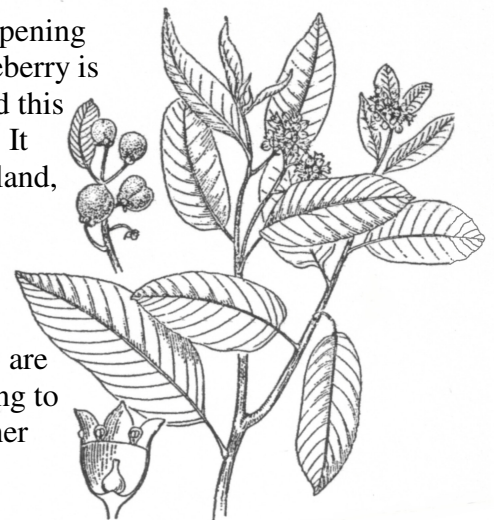
--Jeanne Larson



Rhamnus californica, commonly called Coffeeberry because the ripening seeds, two per fruit capsule, resemble coffee berries. Coffeeberry is in the Rhamnaceae or Buckthorn family. In California we find this species as a shrub (4-6 feet) or small tree (over time to 15 feet). It ranges the length of our California foothills, both coastal and inland, to around 4000 feet.

There are varietal differences of this evergreen in both the bark and leaves that enhance its use for landscape purposes. Leaves are generally elliptical in shape, glossy to dull green above and sometimes yellow below. Leaf margins are smooth to slightly dentate. Young twigs can be red or green generally maturing to brown or gray. Some species have considerable tomentum (fuzziness) on either leaves or bark.

A popular shrub selection, "Eve case" grows 4-8 feet tall with equal spread. As with many natives that survive the summer drought once established, a monthly drink improves their appearance.



Rhamnus californica