

# Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



January 2018  
www.cnps-sequoia.org

## CHINA CREEK REPORT

### November 2017 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

The first few volunteers who got to the Park on the crisp morning of November 18, 2017 went out with weed whackers to do what they could for the overgrown sections of the trail. It wasn't long, however, before we heard the familiar diesely clatter of Hank's tractor starting, and—sure enough—a few minutes later here came Hank aboard his tractor with the big mower attached, a beautiful sight. It was also great to see Hank feeling well enough to tackle the job.

Thereafter, all of us walked up to the north part of the Park, where we devoted ourselves to caging seedling oaks and searching out and digging the now few-and-far-between thistle plants.

At break time, we held our "Annual Meeting," during which we considered how we could manage the project more effectively. Among the many good ideas that were offered was the suggestion that we have multiple work parties in the pleasant spring months when the thistles and other weeds are small, easy to deal with, and not yet producing seed, and then skip one or more mid-summer months when the weeds have a head start and working conditions are miserably hot. It was also suggested that we mow some areas now dominated by marehail and other big weeds, especially in the south area, which we can no longer graze because of fencing problems. Good stuff.

At 12:00pm we adjourned to the Blossom Trail Cafe for the annual "Thank You Lunch," enjoyed by 15 volunteers. A nice time.



As usual, we took December off, but will resume our restoration and education efforts on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 12pm (winter hours). Sometime soon we'll publish the Work Party schedule for the entirety of 2018. In the meantime, we wish you all a happy New Year. Raise a glass or whatever you do to celebrate, rest up, and then plan to join us on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

To get to the Park, drive east on Kings Canyon/ Highway 180, 16.5 miles to Centerville. Turn right (south) on Smith Road and drive 0.2 miles to Rainbow Drive. Continue straight, 0.5 miles down the small road to the Park gate at the end of the road.

Don't forget to check out our new China Creek Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chinacreekproject>.

## Upcoming Events and Classes in 2018

### •February 24-25, 9:00am to 5:00pm Introduction to California Lichens

Location: UC Berkeley and San Francisco Area Field Sites

- Start with introductory classroom session where basic lichen anatomy and terminology will be covered.
- Other class time will be divided between field trips and lab time.
- Will observe lichen in natural habitats and will take back to lab for study and identification.
- Will learn to sight-ID many of the region's lichens to genus or species.
- Will learn to recognize and distinguish between pollution-tolerant lichen communities and more pristine communities.
- Personal vehicle required for field trip, but carpooling possible.
- Hiking is easy.

Cost: \$275 members/\$305 non-members

To see a more detailed description and register go to <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>

## ADVOCACY

### CNPS Opposition to H.R. 1349, "Wheels Over Wilderness"

--Jeanne Larson and Laura Castro

In early 2017, Tom McClintock (R-CA) introduced legislation—H.R. 1349, the "Wheels over Wilderness" bill—that would amend the Wilderness Act of 1964, allowing mountain biking and similar non-motorized transport within federally designated Wilderness areas. As it stands, the Wilderness Act states that there shall be no "mechanical transport" in Wilderness.

Interpretation by the US Forest Service published in 1966 specified that "mechanical transport" included "any contrivance that traveled over ground, snow, or water on wheels, tracks, skids, or by floatation and is propelled by a nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device." In the 1980's, the US Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service adopted identical language, except that they added the clause, "or is a bicycle or hang glider."

Now, according to a December 19, 2017 LA Times article by Evan Halper, a San Diego cycling group and a handful of other organizations are pushing to lift restrictions on protected Wilderness land due to resentment over the inclusion of bicycles as "mechanical transport". On the other hand, the International Mountain Biking Association says that keeping some lands off-limits to bikers is appropriate.

On December 6, 2017, in response to H.R. 1349, CNPS and close to 100 other organizations signed on to a letter stating their opposition to the bill.



Bureau of Land Management via Flickr

CNPS opposition of the bill is part of an on-going defense against efforts to rollback existing environmental laws and conservation designations across the US.

The letter argues:

*"Since 1964, the Wilderness Act has prohibited mountain bikes from America's National Wilderness Preservation System, and the Act already permits the use of wheelchairs in wilderness. H.R. 1349 would fundamentally change this bedrock environmental law by opening America's 110 million acres of wilderness areas to mountain bikes."*

However, it adds:

*"We support mountain biking on America's public lands. Across the country, wilderness advocates and mountain bicyclists have successfully worked together to develop proposals that preserve access to important mountain bike trails and protect wilderness. We need more mountain bicycling opportunities and we need more wilderness and, working together, we can achieve both. Unfortunately, these collaborative efforts are threatened by H.R. 1349."*

It concludes:

*"H.R. 1349 would undermine protection of America's National Wilderness Preservation System, rewrite a bedrock environmental law, jeopardize America's 110 million acres of wilderness and imperil collaborative work across the country. For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject this legislation."*

The bill awaits action in the House.

## Membership

John LuValle

Thanks to new and renewing members.

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact John LuValle at [jluvalle@mcn.org](mailto:jluvalle@mcn.org).

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: February 2018

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at [lacastror@outlook.com](mailto:lacastror@outlook.com). The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, January 26, 2018.**



## Sequoia Chapter Officers\* and Committee Chairs

<b>*President</b>	open	
<b>*Vice-Pres.</b>	Warren Shaw <a href="mailto:warshaw1955@gmail.com">warshaw1955@gmail.com</a>	559/451-1256 (h)
<b>*Secretary</b>	open	
<b>*Treasurer</b>	Thelma Valdez <a href="mailto:yucca37tv@yahoo.com">yucca37tv@yahoo.com</a>	559/323-8962 (h)
<b>•Membership</b>	John LuValle	<a href="mailto:jluvalle@mcn.org">jluvalle@mcn.org</a>
<b>•Field Trips</b>	Jane Pritchard <a href="mailto:xxiii_xx@yahoo.com">xxiii_xx@yahoo.com</a>	559/765-9954
<b>•Newsletter Editor</b>	Laura Castro <a href="mailto:lacastror@outlook.com">lacastror@outlook.com</a>	559/643-6012
<b>•Hospitality</b>	Madeleine Mitchell <a href="mailto:madeleine43@comcast.net">madeleine43@comcast.net</a>	559/638-2784 (h)
<b>•Horticulture</b>	open	
<b>•Education</b>	Warren Shaw <a href="mailto:warshaw1955@gmail.com">warshaw1955@gmail.com</a>	559/451-1256 (h)
<b>•Rare Plant</b>	Jane Pritchard <a href="mailto:xxiii_xx@yahoo.com">xxiii_xx@yahoo.com</a>	559/765-9954
<b>•Plant Sale</b>	Thelma Valdez <a href="mailto:yucca37tv@yahoo.com">yucca37tv@yahoo.com</a>	559/323-8962 (h)
<b>•Conservation</b>	Jeanne Larson <a href="mailto:jrjlars@aol.com">jrjlars@aol.com</a>	559/243-0815 (h)
<b>•Directors at Large</b>	Michele LuValle Belinda Gilbert	<a href="mailto:jluvalle@mcn.org">jluvalle@mcn.org</a> <a href="mailto:belinda@sti.net">belinda@sti.net</a>
<b>•Webmaster</b>	Thelma Valdez <a href="mailto:yucca37tv@yahoo.com">yucca37tv@yahoo.com</a>	559/323-8962 (h)



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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student, Limited Income	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family, Group, or Library	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant Lover	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefactor	\$600

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

January 2018

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

## DIARIES OF THE WILD

### **The Finch Diaries: December 26, 2017**

As usual this time of year, a bunch of us passerines are down from the foothills to slightly warmer climes and the promise of seed. Thanks to everyone who provides water for bathing and drinking. There's nothing like a fresh bath to rinse our dusty feathers. And, with so little rain, we really appreciate having easy access to drinking water.

We eat bird seed, of course, but our wild ways favor California native plant seeds. This one place leaves their seed-filled dry blue curls for us. Yum! There are a lot of open fields with dry blue curls, but we like having fresh water and shrub cover nearby. This place also has plenty of seed from needlegrasses, sages, fireweed, milkweed, desert willow, and more.

Let me explain how we feel about leaf litter. We like it! There's a sweet spot between heavy leaf mulch and bare ground. The sweet spot is just enough leaf litter to let spiders and other bugs reproduce. We can noisily scoot and scratch for seed and find insect eggs to round out a meal. Perfect for seed eaters like me (a finch), juncos, white- and orange-crowned sparrows, and those handsome spotted towhees. Mmmm...one day I might fly off with a towhee.

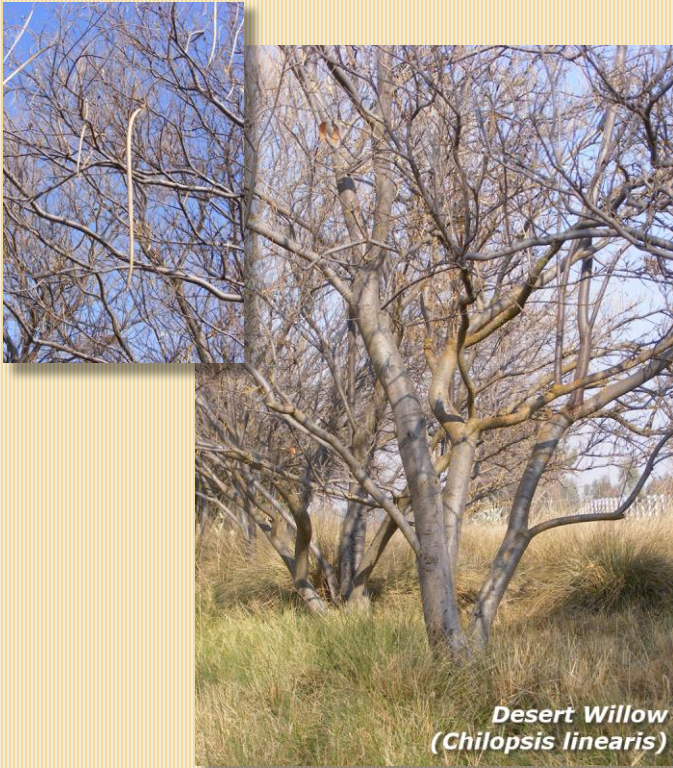




**Toyon**  
(*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)



**Coyote Brush**  
(*Baccharis pilularis*)



**Desert Willow**  
(*Chilopsis linearis*)



**Purple Needlegrass**  
(*Stipa pulchra*)



**Mexican Manzanita**  
(*Arctostaphylos pungens*)



**Quail Saltbush**  
(*Atriplex lentiformis*)



**Soap Plant**  
(*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*)

**Thelma Valdez:**

- Toyon, Needlegrass, Desert Willow, Coyote Brush, Soap Plant, Mexican Manzanita, Valley Oak and white-crowned sparrow, Quail Saltbush