



## New Plants at Elderhostel— *Jane Pritchard*

The first week of August I returned to the Elderhostel 4 miles upriver from Florence Lake. Spring was delayed at least 2 weeks this year. Water was high in the river, streams, meadows, and paths. Flowers were in bloom that are usually gone by the time I get there. One plant had lots of lanceolate basal leaves about 8-9 inches long and a long curved stem lined with flowers with maybe 5 tiny petals and a few vicious-looking stickers. Magnified, the business end of each point on the sticker resembled a grappling hook. I tried every route I could think of and couldn't key it. Long-time residents had never seen it before. It sounded like a recently introduced weed to me. Bonnie at Intermountain Nursery had no idea what it was and planned to forward it to Joanna Clines. I hope she didn't because it would be embarrassing. Since then I have seen bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*) with actual petals on the flowers and identical stickers on the same stem. The leaves vary – lanceolate on some plants and ovate on others. Now, had I never seen the stickers before or had I forgot? One thing about lacking memory – everything is always new and exciting.

A first sighting for me (I think) was *Veronica serpyllifolia* var. *humifusa* (thyme-leaved speedwell) with 4-petaled light blue flowers. In Latin serpyllum=serpillum means thyme, humus means ground or soil, and fusus means spread out. The name describes the appearance and growth pattern of the plant perfectly. It grew in a rarely used corral near the house. I found it soon after in a wet meadow on a road that starts at Tamarack Snow Park.

*Trifolium wormskioldii* (mountain clover), around 18 inches tall with magenta blossoms with white tips, covered the edges of a marshy area. I have seen it there for over 10 years but it was not on the plant list – overlooked because it is too common.

This elder hostel is the highlight of my year – less than 11 months until the next one. It is #4808 on the Elderhostel or Road Scholar website.



*Trifolium wormskioldii*

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## Plant Sale Report

Another year's plant sale on a hot September day. Believe it or not, in years past, late September used to sometimes bring clouds, cool weather, and rain! A big thank you to Friday afternoon's volunteers who helped unload and organize the plants. A round of applause for those of you who returned for more work on Saturday. You are the best. Everyone who contributed



time is very much appreciated. Your help is needed and it's very nice to have a reason to get together and chat.

The numbers aren't in yet but everyone

agreed that the crowds were smaller this year. We can conjecture about why 'till the cows come home or we can feel good about the people we exposed to California native plants. From that perspective, it was another successful sale.

A big thank you to our volunteers:

Jeanne Larson, Helen Shaw, Warren Shaw, Ingrid Carmean, Jane Pritchard, Jim Seay, Belinda Gilbert, Robert Hansen, Michele Luvalle, Paul Mitchell, Sue Haffner, Thelma Valdez, Nye Morton, Flora Valdez, Frank Orvis, Jim Coburn, a great young CSUF student Beau and, of course, Albert-- our canine corps. Saturday afternoon when the rest of us were about out of gas, a group of young energetic volunteers from Clovis Botanical Gardens helped us load unsold plants. Many thanks.

## The not-so-lowly Lichen

By Jeanne Larson

After the blossoms are gone, and the leaves have fallen (and the snakes are hibernating) is a good time to fill the void by learning about lichens. For starters, a 15x hand lens will provide a lot of interesting sights. There is lots of activity going on around lichens with minute critters, such as red mites and tardigrades scampering around. Also, magnification of the thallus is awesome.

Lichens are a symbiotic organism of an alga (Trentepohlia or Nostoc in California) and a fungus for which the lichen is named. There are three main lichen growth forms. The material on which they grow is called substrate.

**CRUSTOSE** lichens are crust-like, have a low profile and grow in close contact with their substrate. On rock outcrops such as granite or basalt the most outstanding are the bright orange Jewel Lichen and the



**Jewel Lichen**  
*Caloplaca saxicola*

yellow Egg Yolk lichen. Those found on tree bark are the

orange you see on our City trees, which is Sunburst Lichen, and on old barns and fences washed in yellow, is Lemon Lichen. A brown disk about the size of a quarter, common on rocks in the foothills is Rock Tripe. It is edible, if boiled, but said to taste like shoe leather.



**Wolf Lichen**  
*Letharia vulpina*

**FRUITICOSE** lichens can be small and bushy in appearance. One such is the chartreuse Wolf Lichen (“moss”) very abundant on shady side of trunks of Incense Cedar in our area. It is so named because it was once used to poison wolves. It is also a great natural dye material. Or, fruiticose

lichens can be long and dangling. Hanging from Red Fir at 7,000 ft you will find a brown, pendulous lichen called Old Man’s Beard. Native Americans in the Northwest make a pemican food of this lichen.

**FOLIOSE** lichens grow loosely attached to their substrate and are leafy in appearance and greenish or grayish in color.



**Green Shield lichen**  
*Flavoparmelia caperata*

The upper surface is noticeably different from the lower surface, and color change, when wet, can be confusing when

trying to identify the species. This lichen form is often abundant on oaks and other trees and shrubs in our foothill areas.

Lichen are survivors. They have the ability to dry out and become dormant and survive heat or cold until the next moisture event awakens them. Some are particular as to aspect, (compass points) and shade or sun. A good example are the landscape rocks that have been improperly placed, and wetted with sprinklers during summer dormancy, only to become barren of lichens.

The latest beginner book on lichens is the 1998 UC Press by Hale and Cole “California Lichens”, and is hard to find and nomenclature has changed. The lichen bible is Brodo’s “Lichens of North America” with keys and marvelous colored photos and index to name changes.

For those interested in pursuing the subject, The California Lichen Society website: [californialichens.org](http://californialichens.org) has information on other literature and on classes that meet regularly on the 2nd and 4th Friday evenings at College of Marin, San Francisco, and 2nd Saturday at Tilden Botanical Garden, Berkeley, and various field trips. Some of this article has been gleaned from the Bulletin of the California Lichen Society Bulletin 18(1) 2011, p. 23, Lichen Question Answers, Bill Hill and Shelley Benson

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## Sequoia Chapter Board

Our board meetings are open to all interested in participating in (or observing) updates and planning beyond that presented in our newsletter. The board meets three or four times each year for: more in-depth information and planning for our projects; reports from officers and committee chairs; and, of course, lunch and fellowship. Our **next board meeting** is Sunday, October 16, at 12:30, and will begin with a potluck lunch in the garden of Thelma Valdez. Thelma’s home is in Clovis, near Academy and Herndon. If you need directions, contact Thelma ([nmtv@unwiredbb.com](mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com)) or Helen Shaw ([helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net))

## Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez [nmtv@unwiredbb.com](mailto:nmtv@unwiredbb.com)



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

**Thanks to \*New and Renewing Members Fresno County:** Bladen, Merrill, Parker, Valdez

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.

### John Greenlee is back by popular demand! Sponsored by the Clovis Botanical Garden

An internationally known horticulturist and landscape designer specializing in cultivation and study of grasses and grass-like plants, Greenlee is author of "The American Meadow Garden"

John Greenlee's presentation will be at 7 pm on Thursday, November 17, at the Clovis Memorial Building located at 4th and Hughes in Clovis.

Admission is free for CBG members, non-members \$10.00. Seating is limited to 150.

Come mingle with John Greenlee at an exclusive pre-event social gathering while enjoying adult beverages and hors d'oeuvres. In addition, a front row seat will be reserved for you at the presentation.

Time 5:30 to 6:30 pm - Donation \$50.00 - Limited space

R.S.V.P. is required by November 10, 2011, Contact - Joanna Chase 559.970.5561

## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### Next Newsletter: Nov./Dec. 2011

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@netptc.net](mailto:helshaw@netptc.net). The deadline for the newsletter is Friday, Nov.11.



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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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 2011



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

## MADELEINE'S MUSING

*Madeleine Mitchell*

I just read an interesting article from [California Agriculture](http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.org) that involved several studies over the last 10 years involving the use California Native plants in hedgerows. (I've always thought only farmers in England used them to border their farms.) The Central Valley was chosen for the study, planting native shrubs and grasses in rows, with the grasses used to overwinter beneficial insects that were drawn to the native shrubs during their bloom cycles. Grasses were planted alongside the shrubs in 10-foot wide areas either on one side or both. Both beneficial and pest insects were counted.

Shrubs used, listed in order of attractiveness to beneficial insects, were: *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (CA buckwheat), *Baccharis pilularis* (coyote brush) *Sambucas mexicana* (elderberry), *Rhamnus californica*, (coffeeberry), *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, (toyon) and *Ceanothus griseus* (CA lilac). The perennial grasses used were *Nassella pulchra* and *N.cernua*, (purple and nodding needle grasses) and *Melica californica*, *Poa secunda*, (one sided bluegrass) *Elymus glaucus* (blue wildrye) and *Leymus triticoides*, (creeping wildrye)

The entire article, listing the names and number of species found in both beneficial and pests are listed, along with the crops the hedgerows bordered: <http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.org> October-December 2011  
Authors were Lora Morandin, Rachel F. Long, Corin Pease, and Clair Kremen



From Left:  
*Melica californica*  
*Toyon*  
*Nassella*

**Sequoia Chapter CNPS**

**October 2011**

**Clockwise from right:**

**Chapter table at plant sale-- Paul Mitchell, Helen Shaw, Jeanne Larson; hiding behind a hat, Flora Valdez**

**Shopping for water-wise plants**

**Aster occidentalis, zauschneria for sale**

**Doveweed, poison oak in Sierra foothills**

Plant sale photos by Jim Seay

Foothill photos by Warren Shaw

