

THE NEWSLETTER
Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



April 2015

www.cnps-sequoia.org



Native Plant Week April 11-19

Since 2011, the third week of April has been recognized as California Native Plant Week, thanks to the efforts of our Native Plant Society staff and volunteers.

Our drought of four years (and counting) has made for growing awareness of native plants and the importance of using them for attractive and water-wise landscaping. This was evident in recent outreach activities by Sequoia Chapter members.

- March 6-8—Fresno Home and Garden Show—many who stopped at our table were pleasantly surprised to see photos showing the diversity and attractiveness of natives adapted to their locations—most often oak woodlands (foothills) and the valley's Mediterranean climate. A frequent question was, "I plan to get rid of my lawn; what can I put in its place?"
- March 28—Spring event at Clovis Botanical Gardens and Thelma Valdez's presentation about landscaping with (the right) natives: a show of hands told her that information about our Mediterranean climate and plants suited to it was new to many and welcome to all. A surprise to some was that California has well over a dozen climate zones and appropriate plants for one may well be very inappropriate for others (think Coast Redwood). Those attending left with new or renewed appreciation of native plants and were ready to ask the right questions when looking for water-wise plants. Thelma's handout gave specific suggestions for choosing and establishing native shrubs.

Speaking of the Home and Garden Show, Marian Orvis sends the following:

WELL! Mission accomplished for another great year of spreading valuable information of California Native Plants. In no particular order, my thanks go out to Madeleine Mitchell, Jeannine Kosher, Jeanne Larson, Helen and Warren Shaw, John and Michele LuValle, Laura Castro, John Craft, Morghan Williams, and Frank Orvis. I couldn't have done it without all of you...thanks again...

Our chapter adds our thanks to Marian for coordinating this event year after year. This includes scheduling volunteers to help her staff the table along with the setup and breakdown and trips to our storage unit to fetch and return supplies.

CHINA CREEK REPORT

--Warren Shaw

An Early spring has produced an early crop of exotic invasive thistles in the Park, so we've been concentrating on digging them in the rosette stage while they're easy, and before they are so big as to require the use of chemicals (which we work devoutly to keep to a minimum). Yellow Star Thistle (YST), Bull Thistle, and Milk Thistle are at the top of our list of "Ten Most-wanted Weeds." We've made dramatic progress in our ten-year fight against YST, but still find it regularly; we're really just beginning to tackle the others. All thistles are prodigious seed producers, so, even though the Park may look pretty clean by the end of our work year, in November, they're always back in the spring.

This time we had one crew working the north section of the park, where they found plentiful amounts of Bull Thistle, large, dense patches of Milk Thistle, too large to tackle by hand (thus requiring spraying) and, happily, very little YST.

Paul, who is the sworn enemy of milk thistle attacked a patch in the Oak Woodland Loop area with such determination that we were unable to get him to stop for muffins at break time. What a weed warrior!

The crew in the north section also surveyed the results of last fall's spraying of Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) and Wild Fig, and reported that progress had been made, but more work is needed.

Our April work party will be Saturday, April 18, from 8-12 (as always, willing workers are welcome whenever). We'll be continuing our concentration on thistles. We may also designate a crew to cage Valley Oak seedlings since we have a new stock of supplies, thanks to Vulcan Materials. It should be a gorgeous spring day in the Park; we sure hope you can join us.

To get to the park, 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 (559-451-1256) or email <warshaw1955@gmail.com> for more information. I'll have my cell on at the park (559-281-8080)

Sierra Nevada Field Campus

2015 Summer Class Schedule

Fly Fishing, Photography, Insect biology and ID, Birds, Natural History, Butterflies, Moths, Edible Plants

These are some of the opportunities for hands-on experience at San Francisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus. This is a place where people from all walks of life can come together, energized by the easy camaraderie of a place described as a nature camp for adults. All classes are available to the general public; you do not need to be matriculated.

www.sfsu.edu/~sierra

VOLUNTEERS / INTERNS NEEDED! CNPS has a backlog of tasks that are crucial to several of their program initiatives, but for which they have neither the funding nor the staff time to address. They are therefore reaching out to supporters whom they know have a wealth of talents to offer! cnps.org>job announcements

Earth Day Events



A quick Google search brought up numerous Earth Day Events in our area--three counties in the valley, foothills, and mountains. Events are scheduled throughout the month of April. Here are a couple of websites with events listed:

- Fresnoalliance.com
- earthdayfresno.org

Of particular interest to native plant enthusiasts is a day at [Intermountain Nursery](#), near Auberry, specializing in native plants suited to our area.

- 10AM-- guided tour of the nursery's demonstration gardens where you will see how to incorporate natives into landscape, learn of plants that provide habitat for pollinators and Monarch Butterflies, improve the health of the environment, and use less water. Includes plant list handouts.
- 11AM – 2PM Storytelling, poetry, music, cooking demonstration Lunch available – Liz Laury's food booth.

Membership

John & Michele LuValle

Thanks to •new and renewing members:

•Robert Koons •Gene Moise

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact John LuValle at jlvalle@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 and click on the JOIN button.



SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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• Rare Plant	Jane Pritchard	(See Field Trips)
• Plant Sale	Thelma Valdez	(see Webmaster)
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Next Newsletter: May/June 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@gmail.com. The deadline for the newsletter is Friday, May. 8



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: _____

- Student, Limited Income.....\$25
- Individual\$45
- Family, Group, or Library.....\$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron\$300
- 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

April 2015



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

OBSERVATIONS

Thwlma Valdez



***Brodiaea coronaria*, early harvest bordiaea**

©2009 Walter Siegmund

I'm waiting for the Brodiaea. It happens every year after the Redmaids, Blue Dicks, and annual Lupine finish their bloom cycle and the field is mowed. It's all golden now and I hope we didn't mow too low or too late and nip the Harvest Brodiaea buds. Everything seems to be blooming earlier and going through the cycle faster. Blossoms are beautiful one week and spent the next. Or maybe I'm just getting older and time goes zooming by. After many years of planting California natives whose ancestry includes drought, I see their hardiness being put to the test. Stay tuned.