



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015  
8 AM - 1 PM  
**WATER-WISE PLANT SALE & FAIR**  
  
CLOVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN  
945 N CLOVIS AVENUE IN CLOVIS  
Just north of Alluvial at Dry Creek Park

This is our most impressive event of the year—in terms of education and service to the community. It also draws on the time and energy of a great many of our members and friends. This event serves a growing demand for information, advice, and plants adapted to our Mediterranean climate. It has also been a source of help to homeowners responding to a drought of historic proportions.

Please set aside some time to help with setup, sales, and shopping for your own native plants—we will have hundreds available.

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**Saturday and Sunday—October 10 and 11**

**Intermountain Nursery 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Arts & Peace Festival**

30443 N. Auberry Rd.

Prather, CA 93651

[Intermountainnursery.com](http://Intermountainnursery.com)

Live Music both days all day

Over 70 local artists, non-profits and food booths

Native Plants, Herbs, Fall Vegetable Plants all grown without pesticides.

Take Out Your Lawn Display with sample garden plans available. Live Raptor display Saturday

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**CBG's California native plant garden**---In case you missed this in the previous newsletter, our chapter is assisting the Clovis Botanical Garden with their new California native plant garden area. The Garden provides examples of low water use plants for home gardens in the Central Valley. Of course, many (most?) of those should be California natives!

**Donate!** Please consider donating toward the purchase of plants and everything else that goes with establishing a new garden. Mail your donation to Clovis Botanical Garden, 1865 Herndon, Suite K, Box 330, Clovis CA 93611. Note on your check that it's for the California Native Plant Garden. All donations are helpful, small or large.

**Volunteer!** We will need help planting in November. Please email Thelma Valdez ([yucca37tv@yahoo.com](mailto:yucca37tv@yahoo.com)) to place your name on the list of volunteers. She will contact you with dates and times as the time approaches. Planting will probably take place in 1 or 2 days. Even a few hours of help would be much appreciated.

## Observations

### --from Jeanne Larson, Fresno

•Drought gardening with sandy soil to 3 feet has shown wilt on many species, even with added watering from shower warm-up water.

Surprisingly, herbaceous Coast Natives are holding on quite well. (Pacific Coast Iris have a little tip burn, Eriogonum Daisies look a little wilted some days but recover overnight.)

Shrubby Mexican Sage is wilted some days, but bounces back. It had spring bloom and I am wondering if it will bloom again this fall, its regular time.

The news is that some Ceanothus have died.

My well established, Powder Blue Ceanothus, now a large shrub, is in good shape. It was irrigated once, but must get some relief from the watered lawn next door, although it is a good seven feet from that source.

• I try to keep my eye on the road to include the medians on Fresno Streets between Ashlan and downtown, and east and west of Blackstone, Some seem in good shape. Where drought stress is showing on trees and shrubs, the Toyons are in good shape. As expected, there are many dying or stressed Coastal Redwoods. Pine species are mainly O.K. Drought tolerant Eucalypts are looking a little sorry, but I expect they have not been on the watering truck route.

### --from Belinda Gilbert, Ahwahnee

It is so dry here (2300 ft.) with pine trees dying by the hundreds. The fall Asteraceae species are blooming successfully even in drought conditions. The cool season annuals and grasses are dormant, waiting for that rain. Landscape plants and my lawn continue to dry up and die.

I am expending more water than I want to, keeping the rest, including trees, alive. I am looking forward to planting new, adaptable natives after the October plant sale and some much needed rain.

The neighborhood wells are holding here, but there are many families who are buying 2000 gallon tanks and buying water as their wells have run dry.



### --from Warren and Helen Shaw, Fresno

The response to drought of our young collection of natives has been mixed. Cottonwood, desert willow, fuchsia, mallows, toyon and deer grass have thrived on restricted water. One redbud seedling has been very happy, with large leaves that tell us we may need to cut back on water; others are growing slowly; and two or three have not survived. We have lost all but one of our manzanitas, lupines, ceanothus, and Mexican sages; the last lupine is fine, the sage droops in the afternoon and the ceanothus is suffering. Helen took a chance on a mid-summer planting of a milkweed and lost it. Lesson learned.

### --from Thelma Valdez, Clovis

An extended drought tests the mettle of our garden plants. I wondered how some of my California natives would handle it. Have I spoiled them over the years? The manzanitas are impressive, as always. They still look great, even now at the end of summer. Most have had no water all summer. A few look better with a deep watering once every 4-6 weeks.

The surprises are three Valley Oaks that I planted about 10 years ago. They are definitely not spoiled. Over the years I gave them a deep watering once every five or six weeks, only in the summer. This year, two of them have had no supplemental water and one got watered once so far. And they look fine. I wish I could learn the depth of their root system.

Generally, however, less water means fewer blossoms on the Desert Willows. Bees and hummingbirds are having to tighten their belts, too. Or whatever serves as a belt for a bee or a hummingbird. Another surprise - goldfinches started appearing in the past week or two. This is very early for them to be at our feeders. Are they fleeing the fires and smoke in the foothills?

Another summer and another reminder that one year is truly not like the previous, or the next. California natives are suddenly an overnight success - one reads about using them in home gardens wherever you turn. At last

## Volunteers sought for Blue Oak and Foothill Pine woodlands Sampling.

**Researchers and native plant enthusiasts throughout California are participating in a cooperative flash sampling protocol of trees in their regions, and we need your help!**

--from CNPS E-Newsletter August 2015



As we head into the hottest part of summer 2015 and the fourth year of drought in California, there are widespread reports of drought stress, defoliation, and mortality of trees around the state. The Ackerly/Dawson labs at UC Berkeley and the McLaughlin lab at University of Idaho are monitoring the drought's effects on blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) woodlands. Blue oak and foothill pine are important native species found only in California, and we are surveying the status of these trees across the state during the critical peak of this summer's dry season (August to September). We are particularly interested in identifying areas where blue oaks and foothill pines are under high stress with brown canopies or low/no leaf out.

You can contribute to this study by taking photos of the leaves and canopies and recording locations of the blue oaks or foothill pines in your local area. And if you'd like to do a bit more, you can also collect leaves and small stem segments from the trees and send them to us for

analysis. Our goal is to have a sample of 10 trees of each species (blue oak and/or foothill pine) at each site. We are looking for trees that span the range of apparent drought stress, from drier (e.g. hilltops or south-facing slopes) to wetter (e.g. valley bottoms or north-facing slopes) locations.

The data you send us will help us understand how trees are responding to the drought in different parts of the state, and your samples will be used to test for spatial patterns in tree water status and drought stress as a function of regional climate and landscape position. It will also provide a baseline to quantify patterns of mortality and recovery over the next several years, and will help us better understand which populations may be most vulnerable to climate change. The final results of the study will be presented in a future CNPS newsletter.

For more information on how to join the study, and receive instructions and a sampling kit, please visit our webpage at [ackerlylab.org/research/2015-blue-oak-drought-survey/](http://ackerlylab.org/research/2015-blue-oak-drought-survey/), or contact us at [ackerlylab@gmail.com](mailto:ackerlylab@gmail.com). Thank you for helping to monitor California's oaks!

## AUGUST CHINA CREEK REPORT

### --Warren Shaw, Education Chair

It seemed terribly unfair: mid-nineties all week and then 102 on Saturday! Nonetheless, a crew of stalwarts -- some regulars and some new folks -- reported to do battle with the evil forces of invasive exotics.

By now everybody is thoroughly sick of digging thistles (we stand accused of being obsessed), but they seem to be unusually persistent this year, and just when we think we have them licked, we find more. To add to the frustration, they're now blooming and we can't just grub them out and leave them, but must bag and haul them out to the pavement, where they can go to seed safely. So we spent the first half of the morning working on thistles, before settling in the shade of a Valley Oak to cool off and share Helen's muffins and a variety of beverages.

After break we tackled the chore of hacking back the jungle of willows and berry vines that regularly choke off the berm which allows access to the Oak Woodland Loop section of our trail. Hank pitched in with his pole chainsaw, and the rest of us with machetes, loppers, and various saws made good progress. We're hoping it will be cooler when we go back to finish clearing in September. And, of course, we're hoping you can find time to come and help us with that and other chores in our beautiful Park on Saturday, September 19, from 8-12.

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. Email <warshaw1955@gmail.com> or call (559-451-1256) for more information. I'll have my cell phone on at the park (559-281-8080)

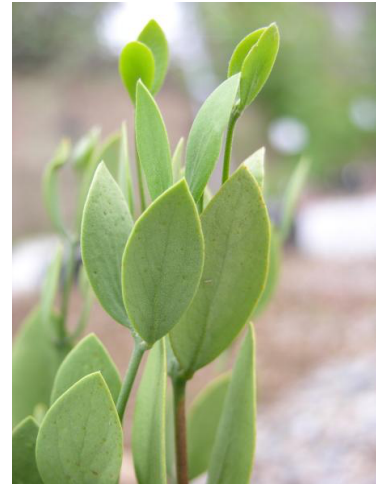
### **Jojoba, Goatnut (*Simmondsia chinensis*)**

A common shrub on dry rocky hillsides below 5,000 feet on the western Colorado Desert, south of the San Jacinto Mountains to San Diego and to Arizona, Sonora and Lower California, the Jojoba has large nuts rich in oil, which were eaten with avidity and without preparation by Indians, children, sheep, and goats. The Coahuila Indians, in whose territory they grew abundantly, used them also to make a drink, first grinding the nuts and then boiling the meal and straining off the liquid.

At one time, the nuts were sold in Los Angeles drug stores as a hair restorer. To prepare this, they were boiled and the released oil was rubbed into the scalp or the eyebrows. This product seems to have had a wide reputation in the Southwest, and is still used in parts of Mexico.

The Mexicans made a rich drink of the Jojoba nuts, which they first roasted, then ground together with the yolk of a hard-boiled egg. The pasty mass was boiled with water, milk and sugar. To improve the flavor a vanilla bean was added. This made a drink something like thick chocolate.

**FROM:** Early Uses of California Plants by Edward K. Balls, UC Press, 1962  
--with thanks to Marian Orvis



*Simmondsia chinensis*.  
©2009 by Ken Gilliland

### **Do you like to read about or share advice for planting and maintaining California natives?**

Here are some good resources:

**The Santa Clara chapter of CNPS** has a **YouTube** channel that is all about California natives. Check it out! <<https://www.youtube.com/user/sailinsteve1?feature=hovercard>>

**Tree of Life Nursery** in San Juan Capistrano has a lot of excellent information:

Sage Advice

<<http://www.californianativeplants.com/index.php/resources/sage-advice>>

Plant Profiles

<<http://www.californianativeplants.com/index.php/plants/plant-profiles>>

Maintenance Guide

<[http://www.californianativeplants.com/index.php/plants/planning\\_tools/maintenance-guide](http://www.californianativeplants.com/index.php/plants/planning_tools/maintenance-guide)>

### **Theodore Payne Foundation Native Plant Library**

[http://www.theodorepayne.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=California Native Plant Library](http://www.theodorepayne.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=California_Native_Plant_Library)

## Membership

John & Michele 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.



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### Next Newsletter: October 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@gmail.com](mailto:helshaw@gmail.com). The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, October 2.



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

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September 2015



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

**We need lots of help on this big event. If you can provide some, please contact  
Thelma Valdez <[yucca37tv@yahoo.com](mailto:yucca37tv@yahoo.com)>**

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