

Spring Events

Native Plant week is in April. What better way to celebrate than with one of the activities listed below?

Windshield Wildflower Tour April 14, 9AM- from Centerville along Pine Flat Lake to Trimmer; return via Watts Valley Rd. Lunch provided at the Shaws' in Watts Valley. Jane Pritchard, guide.
helshaw@netptc.net

Earth Day Celebration April 14, 11-4. Unitarian Universalist Church Fresno. Kids' activities, demonstrations and workshops, food, music, bike valet parking. < fresnoearthday.org >

Gardening with Native plants in a Warming Climate – April 18, 7PM Sierra Club chapter meeting program. Bonnie Bladen of Intermountain Nursery, presenter. < tehipite.sierraclub.org >

Field Day at Hedgerow Farms April 20 Winters, CA Field talks on grassland ecology topics, tours of restoration sites. Sponsored by California Native Grasslands Association. < CNGA.org >

Water-Wise Plant Event May 5 8 – 12 CSUFresno greenhouse. Free. Give and take of drought-resistant plants. < <http://www.fresno.gov> >

Earth Fair/Open House May 22 Ahwahnee Middle School, Fresno. Invitation details on pg. 3

Classes and Demonstrations (year round) Intermountain Nursery upcoming: Landscaping with natives; Garden Irrigation; Birds of Prey; Botanical Drawing; Worm Raising. < Intermountainnursery.com >

Natural Resources Science Camp June 17-22 A week-long camp experience for college-bound students with an interest in natural resources, rangeland and wildlife management, forestry
< rangelands.org/casrm >

MARCH '12 CHINA CREEK REPORT

Warren Shaw

Special thanks to those who braved the elements, AND gave up the St.Patrick's Day parade, AS WELL as NCAA basketball, Saturday morning. I'm sure we'll all be adequately rewarded in Heaven.

The weather wasn't actually so terrible; we did have light rain for the first half hour or so, but then it let up, and we even saw the sun a bit. We worked mainly in the southwest part of the Park and did manage to find some patches of Yellow Star Thistle. We dug what we could find, and Hank has promised to spray those areas and one other patch with a light solution of Milestone, our selective herbicide.

Walking over some of the rest of that area was encouraging since we found very little YST. The recent soaking rain may well germinate much more seed--time will tell. For the moment we feel cautiously optimistic that we're beginning to make significant progress on the infestation.

We've known for some time that some kind of bird research was underway at the Park. But, by chance, on the 17th we encountered Erika Walther, a grad student from San Francisco University. She is studying avian malaria, and in order to do this is trapping birds and drawing blood samples for evaluation. So far she has trapped 41 species in the Park, with the most recent an orange crowned warbler. She has also installed a number of nesting boxes in the Park with the intention of taking samples from the nestlings.

She said in an email, "It was wonderful to ... meet some local people who are working to keep it (China Creek) wild, native and beautiful." Nice to be appreciated.

Our April work party will be Saturday, April 21. We're expecting beautiful spring weather, and hope to have enough folks so we can have one team working on the trail and another hand digging and/or spot spraying evil weeds. If you don't get the monthly invitation/reminder to join the work party and would like to do so, contact me at warshaw@netptc.net

Observations and Updates



From Jane Pritchard--Clovis

White Red Maids

A profusion of red maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*) grow on the canal in Clovis behind the gym at Shaw & Willow. The canal goes east from Willow and curves north to Barstow. Thursday (March 29) there were at least 10 plants identical to red maids except the flowers were white. Weeden says the flowers are "rarely white." I must have read that many, many times but do you think I remembered it? Helen and Warren just gave me a great digital camera so I went back the next day to take pictures. The flowers were already closed before 5 PM. They don't open until around noon. No books I looked at say anything about this, although they do tell me that *Calandrinia ciliata* is now in the Montiaceae family.

Black Mountain Update

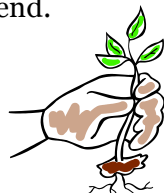
On March 31 I returned to Black Mountain. More brush piles have been burned, there are ruts in the road, and more hillside has fallen into the ditch. Having recovered from the initial shock, I noticed that usually the only elderberry plants left standing were the ones actually tagged with ribbons to leave. All the other elderberry plants in that clump had been cut off about 2" above the ground. Elderberries are supposed to be protected because they provide habitat for the long-horned elderberry beetle. I set the camera for close-ups thinking that would do the trick to photograph some flowers. Backgrounds were in focus, and the flowers were fuzzy. So there are no flower pictures from me in this issue. Next I'll try the more complicated manual settings.

Note: Jane welcomes any interested hikers to join her. Her phone number and email address are on pg. 3

From Marian Orvis--Fresno

Our Sequoia chapter was represented at the Spring event at Clovis Botanical Garden on March 31st. Weather wise, the rain gods took pity on us and waited until we left. No pity from the wind gods however. Not an overwhelming crowd, but I was pleased to see young families with small children attend.

Our next generation with water-wise interest. We noted that Thelma's presentation on gardening with natives was very well attended.



From Thelma Valdez--Clovis

Spring is always a bit much for me. Every plant and beast seem to be talking all at once. Beautiful as it is, I like spring in small doses. I look forward to summer because it's the dormant season for Mediterranean climates. I appreciate the quiet of dormancy after a raucous spring. Thankfully, it's only a few months away. Here are a few facts that some may know, others may not:

- Mediterranean climates make up 2% of the world's total land area but they contain 16% of the world's plant species.
- There are only five places in the world with Mediterranean climates: California, Chile, South Africa, Australia, and the Mediterranean Basin.
- Think about that. California's climate has nothing in common with the rest of the country. Nada.

Remember that when you look at books about gardening. The only other place in this side of the world that is similar is a tiny bit of Chile.

- The Sequoia Chapter's area covers from a couple of hundred feet above sea level to 14,000 feet. We live in an amazing place. Who needs plants from any other place?

From Jeanne Larson--Fresno

My bees sure like the lavender in my back yard more than the native Bee Balm in front.

My first dove (nested in a basket under cover on back porch) has fledged and left the nest.

From The Foothills

Lee Ellis in Oakhurst reports that, in addition to their usual popcorn flowers and fiddlenecks, they have two populations of orchid (*Piperia transversa*). She is concerned about her Indian Warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*) that seems not to have bloomed and she hopes it survived. The good news is that her *Carpenteria* seems still to be happy.

The St. Patrick's Day cold storm did more than usual damage in Watts Valley. Warren Shaw speculates that the fact it came after trees had leafed contributed to obvious breakage under the layer of heavy wet snow. Some oaks seem to have exploded.

Membership

Thelma Valdez

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Thelma Valdez at nmtv@unwiredbb.com
The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.



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Thanks to *New and Renewing Members

Fresno County: Bennett, Daley, *Fabionar, Larson, Poole, Pritchard, Martin, McClanahan, Stebbins
Madera County: Hughes, Rivers

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.



An Invitation

Ahwahnee Middle School invites all to their first Earth Fair/Open House Tuesday, April 14th 5:30-7:30 PM. Our chapter will have an information table, at the invitation of this magnet school (Environmental Studies) 1127 E. Escalon, Fresno.

<ahwahneonline.com> Science teacher, Ms. Kast
mlkast@fresno.k12.ca.us



Sequoia Chapter, CNPS thanks Derrel's for their support

➔ **Next Newsletter May/June 2012** ⬅

Send newsletter corrections, contributions or suggestions to Helen Shaw helshaw@netptc.net The deadline for the newsletter is Friday, May 4.



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
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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 2012



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

Madeleine Mitchell

This month, I'll share a recent experience while working at China Creek. I had gone to look for yellow star thistle near the pond where I'd found a big patch last summer. What I found was several small oak trees that appeared to have been cut down. Since we've had our share of graffiti and other damage during the time we've been working there, I thought it had been a deliberate act, by either the fisherman who also litter, or vandals. Then, I took a closer look and found what looked like teeth marks, almost severing the trunk. I've never seen or heard a beaver there, but it certainly looked like the local wildlife had been having a party. I never found a mound where they live, but the pond is large and I didn't walk around it.

While in Scotland 6 months ago, at a nature preserve I saw signs of a family of beavers, with the same markings. The landowner is reintroducing beaver as studies show they are good for the lochs and the ecosystem. They had been eradicated in the last century.





Clockwise from top

- Manzanita's little apples
- California poppy
- Valley oak – new leaf
- China Creek oak & nest box
- Redbud
- Cattle at China Creek
- Watts Valley, March 17



MARCH 2012
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