

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



May 2017
www.cnps-sequoia.org

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

How does the Clovis Botanical Garden's (CBG) native plant garden grow? With your help! We're looking for a few CNPS Sequoia Chapter members who can spend a few hours on a regular basis at CBG, helping to maintain the native plant garden. Leave a message for Thelma Valdez at 559.323.8962 if you are interested and want to learn more about what's needed.

DAY HIKES

Hike Alert! You can join Jane Pritchard when she heads out on a hike in the local foothills. Email or leave a message for her if you're interested. She will contact you with the hike details for her next outing. Email Jane at xxiii_xx@yahoo.com or call 559.765.9954.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Newsletter Reminder

The electronic version of the newsletter (sent by email) is in full color and typically includes an extra page of photos from local gardens and plants spotted during hikes. The emailed newsletter saves the costs of printing and mailing, and the full color is a real treat.

If you receive the newsletter via U.S. mail and would like to receive the emailed version in color instead, please send your email address to me and I'll be glad to make the change. Helen Shaw <helshaw@gmail.com>

Got photos?

Surely your native plants are showing some beauty this year. Feature them by sending a photo to Thelma Valdez at <yucca37tv@yahoo.com> and she'll incorporate them into the next issue.



GARDEN NOTES

-*Sisyrinchium californicum*-

--**Jeanne Larson**



©2011 Vernon Smith

My blued eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) that took such a beating from the late summer heat has bounced back with all the rain. Those seed pods that didn't get clipped have dried and have produced many seedlings. The earliest germinated seeds have produced blooming plants. Later germinators have produced about three sizes of seedlings—a survival mechanism. Yellow-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*) is also starting to bloom. It is a shorter and thinner leaved plant. Quite dainty.

The micro-climate and windy days have dried out the birds-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*). It is ready for seed collection. But, where there was a little shade and some protection from those successive windy days, the gilia are still in full bloom.

The Pacific Coast iris (PCI), which generally includes twelve to fourteen species (*Iris* spp.), are just post-bloom in my garden. As long as the PCI get afternoon shade, they can grow in sunny spots. The yellow blooming PCI are the most vigorous. These are followed by the orchid bloomers that turn white; but, my favorite is the purple bloomer with the wavy, white edges.

GARDEN OBSERVATIONS

--Thelma Valdez



-*Asclepias fascicularis*-
Photo by J. Zylstra, SBNF

Gardeners the world over have an opinion about weeding. I searched the internet for "zen of weeding" and was rewarded with numerous commentaries. In general, gardeners accept that all gardens require weeding. I thank my lucky stars that weeding in my garden is mostly a dry task with few bothersome insects, save the occasional disturbed ant colony scrambling to relocate their eggs and giving me a few chomps to remind me of the damage I just caused!

Weeding always brings surprises, such as a narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) growing where none had grown before, a handsome grasshopper that should keep an eye out for hungry scrub jays, speedy lizards (I wonder if the lizards do more than pushups in their circuit training), and, of course, the new leaves of blue curls (*Trichostemma lanceolatum*) reaching their peak during summer's heat.

This year, 23+ year old chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) is going to bloom. I grew it from seed selected from a plant along Interstate 5 near the grapevine. Like weeding, I accept this coming event. I read that the blossoms are loved by hummingbirds and bees alike. The accompanying photos are from April 29 and May 1. Blossoms should appear in a couple of weeks. Wow.



-*Hesperoyucca whipplei*- Photo by Thelma Valdez

IN YOUR GARDEN

--Bonnie Bladen



Plant some local species of milkweed plants in your garden to provide habitat for monarch butterflies! Native milkweed is the only plant that monarch butterflies want and need to lay their eggs. The caterpillar eats the leaves of the milkweed, going through five stages, or instars, before developing the chrysalis where the metamorphosis takes place.

To grow milkweed in your garden, choose a dry site that you can water for one summer. Water once a week sparingly until the end of August. After that, the plant will go dormant and will come back every spring. Do not water

after August or during the subsequent summers, and choose a spot where the sprinklers will not spray. It may take a year or two for the monarchs to find your patch of milkweed. Do not be alarmed if the leaves of your milkweed are being eaten. More than likely, a monarch caterpillar is eating them to prepare for its transformation.



Photos provided by Bonnie Bladen

Intermountain Nursery has at least two varieties of local milkweed available.

CHINA CREEK REPORT

April 2017 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

Dumb, of course, scheduling a work day the day before Easter (and we've vowed not to make THAT mistake again) but a fair-sized group of volunteers turned out anyway. It WAS a beautiful day, crisp enough for sweatshirts at 8:00am, but we were in tee-shirts by break time.

And...we did our usual spring thing—hunted and killed thistle rosettes, working in the north grazing area of the Park, where we had to watch our step because of the cow patties. We found plenty of rosettes. We also found plants large and numerous enough in the northeast corner of that area that we made a note to spray there next month.

In addition, before joining the thistle crew, a small crew finished the trail maintenance work started last month.

One happy note: all the large tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) are dead, and we found only a few root sprouts, which we will treat this fall.



And, finally, one sad note: we found another of the big old valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) had fallen—a victim, no doubt, of the rain followed by wind in the previous week. The root ball is at least ten feet tall, but there is no sign of a tap root. There is no accurate way to estimate its age, but it is, we believe, at least a hundred years old.



The May Work Party will be on Saturday, May 20, from 8am-12pm, which is quite a

ways from Mother's Day, Ramadan, or Memorial Day, but is Armed Forces Day. So, it seems very difficult to entirely avoid holidays in May, but we hope some of you can join us in the morning for the war on weeds. We'll be armed only with shovels.



Photos by Warren Shaw

FIELD REPORT

--Madeleine Mitchell



©2005 Steve Matson
-*P. arborescens* var.
minutifolius-

Paul, my husband, and I went to the Mohave Desert twice this spring. In mid-March we saw buds galore on one of our favorite plants, Johnson's indigobush or little leaved mojave indigo bush (*Psoralea arborescens* var. *minutifolius*), so we went again in early April and were in luck!

We took our little camper and stayed at our usual spot on the side of a mountain at an abandoned mine site. There, we have a great view of the surrounding area. The location is near the town of Inyo-Kern, where US 395 joins CA 14. There aren't any campgrounds, or even a road into the area. Just peace and quiet and flowers, rocks, and views.

We discovered this area when we joined the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society on a field trip to "Short Canyon", an Area of Critical Environmental Concern due to the rare plants found there. Our "usual spot" was very close to this area. The field trip was led by Maryann Henry, who has since passed. She explored and cataloged the natives in this area, many which are rare. There is a lovely memorial plaque there.



Upcoming Events and Classes in 2017

•May 17-19—Plant Identification – Part I A Beginner Look at Eight Plant Families 9:00am-5:00pm

Location: East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park, Berkeley, CA

Target Audience:
Will be taught a
beginner level and
open to anyone.



- 2.5 day workshop.
- Learn and improve your knowledge of plant terminology and the basic characteristics of dominant California plant families.
- Class includes classroom presentations and exercises, as well as time in the botanic garden.
- To earn a certificate of completion, you must pass the quiz at the end of the workshop.

Cost: \$375 CNPS members / \$395 non-members.

Details: Contact Becky Reilly at 916-447-2677x207 for information about workshop registration or go to <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

•June 7-8—Rare Plant Survey Protocols 8:00am-5:00pm

Location: Redding, CA & Hog Lake near Red Bluff, CA

Target Audience: Professional botanists, ecologists, land managers, resource specialists, academics, and conservationists.

- 2-day course.
- Included classroom and field exercises.
- Will cover, preparing for surveys, designing and conducting surveys, and reporting findings.
- Will learn survey protocols, how to use online databases, pertinent laws, and collecting techniques.

Cost: \$399 CNPS members/ \$405 non-members

Details: Contact Becky Reilly at 916-447-2677x207 for information about workshop registration or go to <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

•May 13—Creating and Caring for Your Native Garden

Location: San Juan Capistrano, CA

Target Audience: Those who have removed their lawns.

- Will learn site preparation, initial irrigation techniques, and how to create a thriving garden.
- Learn techniques for working with tricky landscape situations.

Cost: unknown

Details: <http://californianativeplants.com/may-replace-your-lawn-series/>

•June 11-16—Fungi of the Sierra Nevada

Location: Sierra Nevada Field Campus, San Francisco State University.

- Consists of an 8:00-10:00 daily lecture followed by a field trip until 3:00.
- Will be introduced to the different kinds of mushrooms and other large fungi that occur in the spring in the Sierra Nevada and will learn to identify taxa.
- Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of macro- and micromorphological features, as well as ecological roles.
- Receive 1 unit college credit.

Cost: \$348

Details: Request registration information by emailing sfsu.snfc@gmail.com (include keyword "Fungi" in subject line) or go to <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sierra/Courses.html>



•June 4-9—Outdoor Photography

Location: Sierra Nevada Field Campus, San Francisco State University.

- Day 1 will be instruction in the classroom.
- Day 2 will be instruction in the Sierra Valley.
- Day 3 you will learn the basics of Photoshop and Elements to edit previous day's photos.
- Day 4 you will apply new skills.

Cost: \$275

Details: Request registration information by emailing sfsu.snfc@gmail.com (include keyword "Outdoor Photography" in subject line), contact darby.hayes@sbcglobal.net for question about materials needed, or go to <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sierra/Courses.html>

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS*
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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.

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.

- *President** open
- *Vice-Pres.** Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com
- *Secretary** Marian Orvis 559/226-0145 (h)
mforvet@comcast.net
- *Treasurer** Thelma Valdez (see Webmaster)
- Membership** John LuValle jluvalle@mcn.org
- Field Trips** Jane Pritchard 559/765-9954
xxiii_xx@yahoo.com
- Newsletter Editor** Laura Castro 559/643-6012
lacastror@outlook.com
- Hospitality** Madeleine Mitchell 559/638-2784 (h)
madeleine43@comcast.net
- Horticulture** open
- Education** Warren Shaw (See Vice-President)
- Rare Plant** Jane Pritchard (See Field Trips)
- Plant Sale** Thelma Valdez (see Webmaster)
- Conservation** Jeanne Larson (see Treasurer)
- Directors at Large** Michele LuValle lualle@mcn.org
Belinda Gilbert belinda@sti.net
- Webmaster** Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

Next Newsletter: June 2017

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, May 26, 2017.**



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 I
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

May 2017

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

FIELD REPORT

A Perfect Day

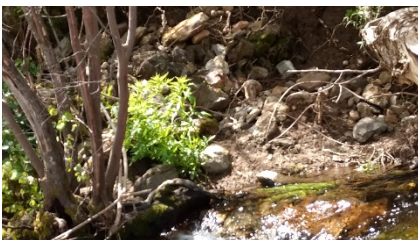
--Jane Pritchard

On April 22, we accompanied the butterflies along Big Creek, which flows into Pine Flat Reservoir. The constant sound of rushing water accompanied the beauty that surrounded us. Although poppies (*Eschscholzia* sp.) never cover the hills with gold in a rainy spring, many blossomed among the other spring flowers. Canyon dudleya, or liveforever, (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *cymosa*) was in bloom on the rock wall along the road, and some of it had taller flowering stems and darker red flowers than last year.



-*D. cymosa* ssp. *cymosa*-
©2009 Barry Breckling

Mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia* ssp. *salicifolia*) grew alongside a stream that empties into Big Creek from the west. The stream falls down the steep hill from one pool to the next. The mule fat shrub had been inundated by rapid water after rains and had few leaves and no flowers.



-*Datisca glomerata*-
Photo by Jane Pritchard

We went down to Big Creek for lunch. Water from the tributary fell out of a large culvert beneath the road and roared over bare granite into Big Creek, which changed course here. There was a good view of the creek to the east and to the south. Two clumps of Durango root (*Datisca glomerata*), one mangled and water logged, grew out of the tributary at the base of a tree. Before this year I had seen Durango root only southwest of Tollhouse Rock. A few weeks ago I saw it in a stream across the river at the gorge.

It was a perfect day.

May 2017 ❖ Sequoia Chapter CNPS



Paintbrush
(*Castilleja applegatei*)



Seep-spring Monkeyflower) seed pods
(*Mimulus guttatus*)



Yellow Pincushion
(*Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *glabriuscula*)



Blow-Wives
(*Achyrachaena mollis*)



Sky Lupine
(*Lupinus nanus*)



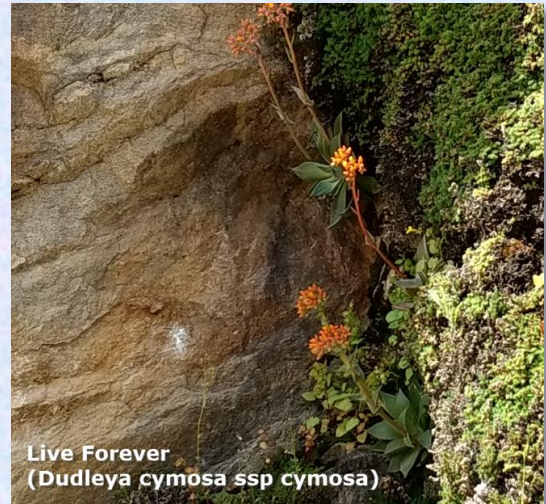
Stevenson Falls



Purple Needlegrass
(*Stipa pulchra*)



Harvest Brodiaea
(*Brodiaea elegans*)



Live Forever
(*Dudleya cymosa* ssp *cymosa*)



Desert in bloom



Albino poppies



Carpenteria
(*Carpenteria californica*)



Mohave Indigo Bush
(*Psoralea arborescens*)



April 29



May 3



May 1

Chaparral Yucca
(*Hesperoyucca whipplei*)



Swallowtail on
California Thistle
(*Cirsium occidentale*
var. *californicum*)

Anne Neal: April 22 along Big Creek: Sky Lupine, Live Forever.
April 27 on Million Dollar Road: Blow Wives, Yellow Pincushion,
Monkeyflower seed pods, California Thistle, Paintbrush,
Stevenson Falls

Madeleine Mitchell: Desert in bloom, Mohave Indigo Bush

Warren Shaw: Albino Poppies

Thelma Valdez: Needlegrass, Carpenteria, Brodiaea, Yucca