

# Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



August 2021  
www.cnps-sequoia.org

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## CHINA CREEK REPORTS

--Warren Shaw

### June Work Party

We kind of ended up playing Russian Roulette with the weather for this event. The scheduled day was just too hot, so we postponed a week; then that too was predicted to be stinkin' hot, so we ended up meeting with those who could get away mid-week, when the high was predicted to be 93F. In fact, it was a pleasant morning with a cooling breeze.

We were, of course, a small group, but we got a surprising amount done: cutting back the willows along Smith Avenue, pulling a 30 gallon can stuffed full of yellow starthistle (YST), mowing the entire trail, and inspecting the northwest corner, where we recently removed fencing and are planning a reforestation project. (We were not surprised to find a pretty serious infestation of YST there, which we're probably going to have to spray, as much as we hate using chemicals.)

Though the next scheduled work party is tentatively set for Saturday, September 25, we agreed we would, on random days, when we had the time and energy, and the weather was decent, singly and together, check in on the Park and take care of such chores that need doing the most.

We invite everybody to visit the park, walk the trail, check out what our birds and bunnies are up to, see what's blooming, and, of course, our feelings would not be hurt if you pulled a thistle or two along the way. Have a great summer.



### July Hiatus Work

As we are on summer hiatus, there were no official work parties at the Park in July. However, various dedicated volunteers have continued to deal with weeds, especially late-sprouting YST, keeping the kiosk display current, maintaining the trail, and combating vandalism and theft.



The latter has been a problem; with several locks being broken, and the south pasture gate stolen, hardware and all. We're currently shopping for a replacement gate and are planning to weld the nuts on the hinges this time, to make theft more difficult. (Who steals a gate?!)



The most obvious blossoms in the Park now (other than YST) are *Datura*, or jimsonweed. This is an interesting plant in that the indigenous people reportedly used it for its hallucinogenic properties in coming-of-age rituals, during which new adults identified their spirit animal. They could do this safely because they knew what they were doing, but the active ingredient, Belladonna, can be toxic and even fatal if used improperly. It would be fascinating to get more authoritative information on this topic.

Our next official work party may well occur on September 25, when we'll be weeding as always, painting the kiosk, treating fig tree cut stumps, replacing the missing gate, watering new plantings, and maybe doing some more planting. We look forward to seeing you then!!

## ***BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION***

### **Meet the Newsletter Editor, Laura Castro**



I met our Vice President, Warren Shaw, far before I was a CNPS member. We crossed paths while volunteering for the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, pounding in posts and stringing up barbed wire. It was then I learned not only about the Sequoia Chapter, but about China Creek Park. I was fairly new to Fresno back then. I had moved to the Central Valley for a job with the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

I ended up devoting most of my volunteer time to China Creek starting in 2007, I think. I couldn't help it. I was drawn there, not only because it became one of my favorite little places around here, but also because of the ambiance created there by Warren and the other volunteers on work party days. In March of 2016, I filled the role of newsletter editor after Helen Shaw decided it was time to retire from the editing part of the job; but, until not so long ago, she was still reviewing the drafts and getting the newsletter ready for snail mail. (Thanks for everything, Helen!)

Although my degree is in wildlife biology, I have spent various stages of life working for non-profits and also with children. While I liked plants, I loved animals, and never thought plants would be a focus in my career until I met botanist Woody Moise at DWR. Together, we started a database and herbarium of plants that we obtained from project sites, particularly from the west and south Valley. Unfortunately, no new specimens have been acquired for quite some time; existing ones have remained in the cabinet cradled between sheets of newspaper – mostly because our funding system changed, not to mention that my then mentor and herbarium advocate, Woody, retired from DWR quite a while back. The herbarium, albeit just one small cabinet, was something I was proud of. After some failed attempts, I still hold out hope that we can get that going again someday.

## ONLINE WORKSHOPS

### •Gardening in Fire Landscapes Thursday, August 19, 7:00pm to 8:00pm

By Friends of the Chico State Herbarium, via Zoom

- Will explore ways to protect your home while supporting the integrity of wildland areas.

For more information go to:

<http://www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/fire-gardening>

### •Building resilience in a California coastal salt marsh ecosystem with a collaborative science based approach Monday, August 23, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

By Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, via Zoom

- Cutting edge drone technology was used to track a planting experiment in the Elkhorn Slough estuary.
- The project highlights the importance of a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to restoring sustainable habitat.

For more information go to:

<https://files.ctctusercontent.com/4be112ef301/f8e30eec-998a-4338-b6cf-9d950de274df.pdf?rdr=true>

### •Designing Gardens in Harmony with Nature Tuesday, September 14, 7:00pm to 8:15pm

By Members of Homegrown Habitat: Gardening with California Native Plants, via Zoom

- Features some of the best California native plants for Southern California gardens along with the equally important ideas for sustainably designing and tending these spaces.

To register for the free presentation:

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_h70zNR1S8iHcEJjn8G7ZQ?fbclid=IwAR1GXBBTKL-cPDAZmkY6YlFJp\\_uMGOLAdoiTOLmuCzgw\\_p\\_nW7KYnuA9hkoM](https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h70zNR1S8iHcEJjn8G7ZQ?fbclid=IwAR1GXBBTKL-cPDAZmkY6YlFJp_uMGOLAdoiTOLmuCzgw_p_nW7KYnuA9hkoM)

### •Cal-IPC 30-Year Anniversary Symposium, Online Tuesday, October 26 to Friday, October 29.

- Early Bird registration end August 20!
- Join session talks, discussion groups, and posters covering a wide range of topics related to invasive plant biology and management.
- Also featuring: statewide Weed management Areas Meeting, Herbicide Laws & Regulations, Early Career Panel, and Exhibitor Gallery.

For more information and fee schedule go to:

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/register/>



## PHOTO CONTEST



- Photos submitted online.
- Anyone can enter, but limited to 8 submissions per photographer.
- Photos should be in JPEG or TIFF format and at least 300 dpi. Larger files mean prettier pictures!
- Pictures Cal-IPC uses most are: Weed workers in action, smiling victory showing weeds you defeated, and before & after restoration photos.
- Winners announced on October 29 on the final day of the Cal-IPC 30-Year Anniversary Symposium.

For more information go to: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/photocontest/>

## Membership

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information contact Gavin O’Leary at [sequoia.cnps@gmail.com](mailto:sequoia.cnps@gmail.com).

The Sequoia Chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings Counties.

Thanks to new and renewing members.

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 us” or “BE A MEMBER” button. You’ll be allowed to choose the Sequoia Chapter during the process.

### Next Newsletter: September 2021



Send newsletter entries or suggestions to Laura Castro at [lacastror@outlook.com](mailto:lacastror@outlook.com).

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, August 27, 2021.**



## SEQUOIA CHAPTER CONTACTS

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**JOIN**  **THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  **RENEW**

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide news and announcements of Society activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, *Carpenteria*.

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

New Member     Renewing Member

Student, Fixed Income ..... \$25  
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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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August 2021

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

c/o Laura Castro ♦ P.O. Box 414 ♦ Fresno, CA 93708

### *NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT*



#### **Summer Thoughts**

Sequoia Chapter Members:

In the summer heat, we're all just trying to stay cool. Fortunately, we're on the end side of this hot season and looking forward to shorter days with precipitation. Our chapter had hopes of booking a hike for this summer, which didn't materialize. We're now going to aim for a fall hike. Many of you were able to make it to the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt in May. It was great to get together and see the beautiful fire-following wildflowers.

The fall plant sale is just around the corner. Considering the current increase in Covid-19 cases, we may or may not have an in-person sale. Fortunately, we have the option to resort to an online plant sale if necessary. Either way, we will have a native plant sale this fall as it's our chapter's only fundraiser. These funds support China Creek Park and will help us kick off future chapter endeavors. In the last newsletter we asked for input from you on future activities and we did hear from a few of you. One of the requested events was a local garden tour. We will aim for hosting such an event either in person or virtually in the spring of 2022.

Cheers,  
Reagen