

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



February 2019
www.cnps-sequoia.org

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CHINA CREEK REPORT

January 2019 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

They just kept coming; was it the perfect weather, the prospect of a day exploring the Sanctuary, Kat and Brooke's publicity efforts paying off, or just a happy coincidence? In any case, we had a wonderful turnout for our January work party, including some folks we hadn't met before.

The walk into the fenced area we call the Sanctuary, once designated a Fresno State bird study area and the most pristine part of the Park, was lovely. The central meadow, surrounded by low, wet areas thick with berry vines and willows, was spectacular. The grass was just ankle high and bright green. The trunk of the big old Valley oak, which has been lying on its side quite healthy and happy for decades, was covered in fresh moss, and birdsong filled the air. Our mission was to consider the possibility of adding a trail into and around this area to our system.



Some questions:

1. How do we make this beautiful little section of the Park accessible without destroying it?
2. How do we avoid disrupting the nesting that occurs here?
3. How do we route a trail that allows people to get in and out without getting their feet wet?
4. How do we designate a trail without using chemicals or importing "alien" materials?

These were all things we discussed in our after-break meeting, and while we came up with ideas for some, we realize we still have a lot of research and work to do. All agreed, however, that such a trail was a good idea.

Our February work party will be Saturday, February 16, from 8am-12pm (note, we're back on "summer" hours). We'll be starting to look for thistle rosettes (we saw some in January), flagging and caging seedlings in the north area, replacing some trail signs, and redoing the kiosk, which, for some reason, was stripped of all of our informational material by somebody (Anybody have any extra posters or other relevant materials to spare?).



We sure do hope you can be there.

Upcoming Classes and Events

•February 9, Education Docent Training Sycamore Island Trips - Madera Unified School District 6th Grade Saturday, 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Bait Shop at Sycamore Island, 39664
Avenue 7 ½, Madera, CA 93636

- Looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help run River Field Trip Education Programs.
- Are you interested in bringing youth together with nature by becoming an Education Docent?
- Training will introduce education docents to the 6th grade field trips that take place at Sycamore Island Monday-Fridays between February and April of each year.
- Participants will be trained on trip activities including Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Exploration, Photo Scavenger Hunt/Nature Walk, Team Building Games/Activities, and Canoeing.
- Will practice loading and unloading the canoe trailer and canoeing on the water.

Cost: Free

Information and registration:

<http://riverparkway.org/index.php/component/civicrm/?task=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=995>

•February 16, Irrigation in the Home Garden Saturday, 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Clovis Botanical Garden at 945 N. Clovis Avenue just north of Alluvial Avenue at Dry Creek Park

Sponsor: Cooperative Extension Fresno County

- Learn about the benefits of drip irrigation.
- Different types of drip irrigation will be discussed.
- Tour of the Clovis Botanical Garden highlighting the benefits and challenges of adding drip irrigation to your garden.

Cost: Free

Information and registration:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/Gardening_Classes/

•February 23, The Blue Planet – Science Saturday, 10:00am–11:30am

Location: Clovis Botanical Garden at 945 N. Clovis Avenue just north of Alluvial Avenue at Dry Creek Park

- Hands on Learning Stations.
- Science Experiments.
- Games.
- All ages event.

Cost: \$10 per family

To RSVP or for more information:

<https://clovisbotanicalgarden.org/events>

Contacts: Allyson Smith - allysonshaidnagle@gmail.com
or Robin Locktov - drdman2010@aol.com

•March 2 or 3, Introduction to Beekeeping Saturday or Sunday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728

- One day class. Same content presented each day.
- Class sizes are limited so sign up now!

Cost: Late registration \$65 (after February 22)

Information and registration:

<http://cvbeekeepers.info/>



•March 16, 2019, Spring Into Your Garden Festival Saturday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Clovis Botanical Garden at 945 N. Clovis Avenue just north of Alluvial Avenue at Dry Creek Park

- Listen to expert gardening presentations.
- Purchase low-water landscape plants.
- Talk with UCCE Master Gardeners.
- Take a walking tour of the botanical garden.
- Family-friendly exhibitors and vendors, including local authors and artists.
- Enjoy a full breakfast cooked by Kiwanis Club of Old Town Clovis.
- Members Only shopping 8:30-9:00.
- Memberships can be purchased at the gate - \$20.

Cost to Enter: \$5.00 donation/Free to CBG members and children

Cost of Breakfast: \$6.00/Age 5 and under free

Information: 559-298-3091



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.

Next Newsletter: March 2019

Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, February 22, 2019.**



Sequoia Chapter Officers* and Committee Chairs

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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: _____

- Student, Limited Income..... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

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

February 2019

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

PLANT OF THE DAY

--Thelma Valdez



A beautiful manzanita that I planted just over 4 years ago looks better and stronger every year. It is *Arctostaphylos* 'Lester Rowntree', and its blooms began emerging a couple of weeks ago. Its leaves are blue-green and its bark is red-brown; it has dark pink flowers. It's the earliest blooming manzanita I have. It prefers well drained soil, so I placed it in one of my less heavy clay areas. I give it a couple of deep soaks in late summer and the fifth season, and it gets some shade in the late summer afternoons. If you're wonder what the fifth season is, the fifth season is

"that time between summer and fall when no rain has fallen for three to five months and none is expected... when plants are in a holding pattern...", according to Judith

Larner Lowry



It's slow growing, but I appreciate slow and steady. Most really good things do take time, and I'm OK with probably not being around when it reaches its eventual 6' height. Two or three stems had blooms after the first year — yay! And now it's covered with them.



This manzanita is named for Lester Rowntree because she collected its seed, which eventually made its way to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. They introduced it for gardens in 1982. Not familiar with Lester Rowntree? Her book "Hardy Californians" was republished and is readily available. She's been a fascinating and important figure in the world of California native plants long before most of us appreciated them.