

Chapter Meeting Information

General Meetings. We will be having general meetings four times per year instead of the former eight. The chapter board members recognized that our membership is made up of very busy folks and monthly meetings, regardless of the quality of our speakers, are difficult for many members to routinely attend.

Although there will be fewer meetings, each meeting will be enriched by offering a native plant related workshop. Watch for details in the newsletter for the workshop that will accompany each meeting.

General meetings will be held on the same date as before, the third Tuesday of the month, and will begin at 6 p.m. The workshop du jour will go until 7 p.m. and the speaker will begin shortly after 7. Meetings will be held in the months of March, May, September, and October only.

Board Meetings. Board meetings will be held four months of the year (February, April, August, and November), also on the third Tuesday, and will alternate between two restaurants (Brooks Ranch - Chestnut & Hwy. 99, and Perko's - Bullard & Hwy. 41) starting at 6 p.m. As always, members are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings.

Location. General meetings will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 50 East Santa Ana Avenue (near Palm & Shaw). We needed to find a new meeting location because of the relocation of the Unitarian Church. We would also like to meet in Madera County for one of the four meetings because

Westminster Presbyterian 50 Santa Avenue, Fresno			Shaw
	Santa Ana		
		✕	
			Gettysburg
Fruit	Thorne		Palm

numerous Sequoia chapter members reside there. See the survey question on the next page to help us find out whether there is enough interest by members in that area to meet in one of the Madera County foothill communities.

2007 Meeting Programs

July and August No meetings during the summer months.

Sept. 18 "Future of National Parks & Wilderness in the 21st Century with William Tweed, Ph.D., Retired Chief of Interpretation for the National Parks Service

Oct. 16 "Edison Forest Management" with Terry Sandridge, Nursery Program Manager

China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

Things are more or less on hold at the park. Despite the fact that the chip spreading crew has worked hard and made a lot of progress, the pile of chips is still huge, and much of the trail remains un-mulched. We have relied on Vulcan to load the chips for us to haul and spread, but they are undergoing some kind of reorganization in their landscaping division and for the time being are unable to help us.

It is time to mow yellow star thistle and we're working to get that done as soon as possible.

At a recent chapter board meeting it was determined that it is vital we move ahead to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Fresno County, and plans were made for a preliminary meeting. We revised the chapter's vision statement for the park and agreed to explore options for hiring people to work on our weed abatement program. We also drafted plans for developing a written Weed Management Plan. So, you see, lots of thinking and planning (and hoping) but not a lot of action in recent weeks.

However, member and park neighbor Hank Urbach set up a watering station, and Thelma Valdez has been faithfully watering the deer grass we planted in the spring. Also cattle will be moved out of the park soon (if they're not already gone).

Volunteers will be working occasionally in the park during the summer. If you would be willing to have your name added to the list to be notified of activities, please call Warren Shaw at 855-4519 or email <warshaw@netptc.net>.



Button Bush at China Creek (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



CARPENTERIA
Newsletter of
The Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Summer 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For an educator, summer break isn't a break but a time to catch up on all those tasks that get put aside while school is in session. It's a time to deep clean, organize, plan, complete projects, and prepare for the next year.

Your board met on Saturday, June 23 to plan the future of our chapter. We have quite a few tasks at hand and a dedicated group willing to "think outside the box" to tailor the chapter to your needs. I appreciate the board's willingness to be open to change and to put the hours into making those changes a reality. I hope you'll be pleased with our results!

One of the changes is a reduction in the number and content of general meetings. We have had a wonderful slate of speakers but attendance at the meetings reflects the reality of modern life – busy lives that make multiple demands on our time and typically translate to light meeting attendance. We are changing to four general meetings per year made up of a workshop in the first hour and a speaker in the second.

I hope you will be pleased with this and other important changes. Of course, we encourage you to tell us what you think. E-mail me or anyone on the Board. We're here for you.

Have a great summer!

~ Peggy Jones

Why Not Goats?

Jeanne Larson, Conservation Co-chair

On the CNPS conservation e-mail this past week have been some interesting comments on use of goats for brush control as a wildfire reduction tool in the urban-wildland interface. Some contributors reminded readers that when goats have been abandoned and overgrazing has occurred on some California offshore islands, some sensitive species have been lost. (One wonders if the Great Plains might have been overgrazed had not the Native Americans reduced bison numbers for food and hides.)

Pluses have come from use of goats used to clear wildlands around the Claremont Colleges (Pomona) and the wildland adjacent to Descanso Gardens (LaCanada/Flintridge). Another report mentioned the City of Palo Alto using goats in bayland marshes and in parks.

When visitors from northern Africa visited the USDA San Joaquin Experimental Range (off Hwy41, 3 mi. S of Rd 200) Madera County, they would always ask "Where are the goats?" Studies at UC Davis Ag. Extension (where goats browsed poison oak as well as brush) showed that nannies' milk showed no change in taste or quality.

As more and more ranchettes dot our lower Sierra foothills it would seem that goatherds with their flocks could be an important adjunct for the reduction of wildfire fuel load. It could create a market for goat meat. Some of our increasingly diverse population misses goat meat at the table, although it may certainly seem strange to the beef steak crowd.

Pollinator Crisis and Native Plant Communities

Emily B. Roberson, Ph.D., Director, Native Plant Conservation Campaign

The press has recently given a good deal of attention to the decline of non-native bees and the impacts to crops that have traditionally been pollinated by human-cultivated bee colonies. Our partners at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation have released a useful fact sheet (attached) on the collapse of non-native bee colonies and its implications for agriculture - and for native pollinator and habitat conservation.

As non-native bee populations decline, the economic importance of native bees and our other diverse native pollinators has increased. The supply of food, fibers, medicines and other economically important crops depends on reliable pollination. Native pollinators in turn depend on healthy native plant habitats. So attention to the conservation and restoration of native plant communities has expanded as non-native bee colonies have collapsed. Visit www.xerces.org to read more. Congress is considering legislation to address this problem. More information is available at www.xerces.org.

Membership

April, May, June 2007

*New Members and Membership Renewals

The Sequoia chapter serves Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties.

Fresno: Buada, Borders, Christenson, Eckenrod, G&M Jones, Juarez, P Jones, Larson, McClanahan, O'Leary, Orvis, Poole, Pryor, Riedel, Rowe, Russell, *Singh, Shaw, Tenneboe, *Thorburn, Whitmore

Kings: Arroues, *Dal Cerro

Madera: Oldham, Rivers

Out of Area: Pitman (Merced), Preece (Danville), Snyder (Davis)

Thanks to all for your continuing support. Send membership corrections to Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net.

Education Update

By Peggy Jones, Education Co-chair

My classes enjoyed a year end fieldtrip to Choinumni Park, where they experienced the joys of being in the great outdoors. They enjoyed a BBQ, hiking, fishing and of course a lesson on oak woodland ecology. I had my first major injury of a student, a broken femur that required a trip in an ambulance to Valley Children's for surgical repair. The kid was such a trooper and never once was sorry he went. He may feel differently now having been in bed for four weeks and banned from skating for months. It was a tragic accident but hasn't stopped my desire to introduce my students to nature.

I have several grants in progress to purchase GPS units that will interface with ArcView, a powerful software mapping tool. We plan on mapping the oaks at China Creek and gather data several times a year to monitor their growth/health.



Blue Elderberry
(*Sambucus mexicana*)

RELATED PLANT AND FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

CNPS Field Trip to Cascadel Woods, North Fork

Saturday
July 7
1 - 4 pm
Fee: Free

Joan Joanne Freemire on a walk down Whiskey Creek to see Rawson's Flaming Trumpet (*collomia rawsoniana*), a Federal-C1, CNPS-list 1B plant in bloom. Hopefully Western Azaleas and leopard lilies will also still be blooming. Wear clothes for pushing through brush (and a cooling dip in a waterfall pool if you wish - nylon convertible pants and Teva-like sandals suggested).

RSVP at 559-877-4911 for directions to Joanne's home in this beautiful 4000' elevation shangri-la near the town of North Fork, one hour north of Fresno.

Chawanakee Unified School District Adult Education Classes

Some classes may not be held due to low enrollment. It is important to register early. Make checks payable to Chawanakee Unified School District. Call Doug Waltner 683-0808 or Joanne Freemire at 877.4911 or 683-0808 if you have any questions.

Saturday
July 21
9 am-5 pm
Fee: \$20

Botanizing the Scenic Byway with Joanne Freemire. Carpool or caravan 50 miles to High Sierra meadows, falls, and viewpoints. Dress in layers. Wear shoes that can get wet. Pack lunch, water, insect repellent and camera. Prior purchase of Sierra National Forest map at USFS Station is recommended. Meet at North Fork Elementary School with a full tank of gas.

Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops

Visit <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops> for details

Lupinus. July 20-22, 2007. This workshop will introduce participants to the different complexes of perennial lupines in California. Emphasis will be on identification of montane taxa in the field. Local field trips will be taken to key specimens in the field. An overview of the ecology and ethnobotany of lupines will also be discussed.



Blue Oak
(*Quercus douglasii*)

Newsletter



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for contributions for the September newsletter is Thursday, September 6, 2007.

E-mail newsletter recipients receive the extra page this month containing native plant photographs from early summer. With the lack of water this year early summer seems like mid to late summer for many plants. Still, those summer blooming plants are as impressive as ever and vital to birds and insects.

If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically contact Helen Shaw, Membership Chair.

We would like to publish photos you wish to share. You remain sole owner and are given credit or you can remain anonymous, as you wish. Photos will not be used for any other purpose. E-mail Thelma Valdez with photos or questions at nmtv@att.net.

Strictly Speaking: What "Restoration" Means

This article is based on remarks by William R. Jordan III, editor of Ecological Restoration/North America. It is reprinted from Volunteer Monitor, Spring 1999.

Rehabilitation, reclamation, restoration, preservation - these are sister terms describing a family of management protocols. Some closely related terms are stewardship, healing, recovery, and repair. I suggest we use them all - but let's be careful how we define them because the language we use gets projected on the landscape and ultimately shapes it.

Restoration is the narrowest of these terms, and is the most demanding. There is nothing mysterious about it, however. Everyone who speaks English knows what restoration means - it means putting something back the way it was. And not just setting the system back in place, but setting it in motion.

Once we define restoration this way, our goal is defined by history, and it is very strict, hard-edged. "Rehabilitation" is different in this respect. When we rehabilitate a system - restore certain functions or features - we are restoring selectively. In most instances, we are restoring elements we happen to value, and we are relating to nature as a resource.

Restoration, on the other hand, is a dialogue with nature as given. It is the only management paradigm that is committed specifically to the perpetuation of the landscape on its own terms. And this is a special kind of challenge. Ecologically it is a challenge because it means learning about the historic system and accurately recreating it - getting everything right in an ecological sense. And it is a challenge psychologically because it means setting aside our tastes and preferences (and even in a sense our creativity) and trying to copy nature - rattlesnakes, poison ivy, fire, and all. In this way, our relationship with the landscape becomes an exercise in humility and self-abnegation.

Restoration is important for both reasons. Ecologically it is important because it is the best strategy for preservation - for ensuring the existence of historic ecosystems in the long run. And psychologically it is important because it entails a uniquely active yet uniquely self-effacing relationship with nature.

Big Critters in Your Garden

By Joseph Oldham

This morning as I was having my coffee and discussing the plans for the day with my wife, I spied a new visitor to our garden moving along the sidewalk toward the front door. It was our first Cottontail Rabbit, and his stroll through the yard this morning created quite a bit of excitement for our children.

The Cottontail was not the first critter to visit our garden here in Yosemite Lakes Park; he was just the first of his species to pay attention to the rapidly growing native plant habitat that we have created in front of our house. The regular visitors include deer of all sizes and ages from does to fawns to bucks; raccoons; coyotes; bobcats; squirrels, both gray and ground; and even mountain lions.

The omnivores and carnivores don't create any gardening issues; they just make things interesting with their appearances. The deer, rabbits, and squirrels are another matter and require some different approaches when doing garden planning. If these animals are common in your neighborhood, the following tips may be helpful.

Deer present the greatest challenge for the garden. There are no truly "deer proof" plants, only "deer resistant" ones. Our house is located on a game trail and we have anywhere from one to twelve visiting our yard each day. Deer are browsers and do not eat in any one place for long, unlike cattle or sheep. They nibble on the plants, eating the tips of new growth, or leaves on the ends of branches. I have also noticed that they seem to have a taste for Desert Willow flowers; probably they like the sweet nectar favored by the hummingbirds. Deer tend to eat certain plants along certain paths, or "deer trails", that they travel and leave other plants alone. A good example of this behavior was a certain Western Redbud situated along the path to the small pond in our front yard that was visited daily by the herd. This particular plant was browsed continually while other redbuds only a few feet away were left alone. Once I recognized this behavior, I was able to protect specific plants that were being browsed heavily with deer netting barriers without having to set up barriers around the entire yard. Besides browsing, male deer, or bucks, can also do mechanical damage to young trees and shrubs with their antlers during the fall. This is the time when the velvet that covers the antlers as they grow is shed, and they rub the antlers on branches to sooth the itching that this shedding causes. I have had several young trees nearly killed from this antler rubbing behavior, which removed nearly all the bark of the tree. Placing a circle of small 1 inch diameter tree stakes around small oaks and sycamores is very effective in preventing this type of damage. The deer can still rub their antlers; they just use the stakes and not the young tree trunks.

Squirrels and rabbits do mostly gnawing damage to plants, but squirrels particularly can also do a lot of damage through tunnel burrowing near the trunks of trees and shrubs. I have found that deer netting is effective at stopping rabbits and squirrels from gnawing trunks and branches. I do not have a good solution for the burrowing other than to note that if you have a balanced natural habitat around your property, natural predators will be the best solution for control of the squirrel and rabbit populations. This will require that you resist the urge to use poison and chemical controls, since these will also kill the very predators that you want to help you control the squirrels.

Finally, I have learned that native plant gardening in an area where large wildlife is present requires a slightly different attitude than in an urban area. I had to recognize that the wildlife was here first and that the native plants I am growing are all part of the food web that supports life here in the foothills. I have avoided using chemical repellants and poisons because I want to have a healthy and life giving garden environment for all creatures great and small. The plants in my garden may not be perfect in that they have bites taken out of leaves and branches here and there, but the wonder of having wildlife just outside your living room window more than compensates for the loss. Having deer, rabbits, squirrels, bobcats, coyotes, and other critters is a part of the native plant gardening experience in my area and I appreciate what a wonderful experience it is!

Happy planting!

SURVEY QUESTIONS

A General Meeting Held in Madera County?

Would you like us to hold at least one general meeting during the year in Madera County? Maybe Oakhurst or North Fork?

Yes No

E-mail your answer to Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net

Should we have a Native Plant Garden Tour?

We are considering a Native Plant Home Garden tour in 2008 for members only.

Would you be interested in attending such a tour? We plan to start small with only a few homes, held the last Saturday in March.

Yes No

E-mail your answer to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net.



ROMERO—*Trichostema lanatum*.

Woolly Blue Curls
(*Trichostema lanatum*)

OBSERVATIONS

Summer in Central California has clearly arrived. It hasn't been as hot yet as some years. The operative word is "yet". But the less than average rainfall this past winter is taking its toll even with temperatures only in the 90's.

It is very dry in the foothills. The Buckeyes are nearly completely brown already. This often doesn't start until first of July. Many blue oaks are showing yellow leaves and defoliating, a drought survival function.

Native plant gardeners find that plants not yet established (generally one or two years in the ground) need a little more water this summer to ensure they can withstand future summers that follow dry winters. Even at that, however, it's still a surprise to many that a native plant gardener may have to water some plants once every 10 days this year as opposed to once every few days or (omigosh) daily for non-native plants.

California natives that bloom and produce fruit in summer are visited by a great variety of native birds and insects ~ Western Kingbirds feasting on the Blue Elderberry fruit, all manner of bee and hummingbirds on the Desert Willow blossoms, beautiful wasps and moths on the Buckwheat. Once California native plants are available, the word gets out quickly in the wild.

Higher elevations continue to bloom in early summer. It's worth taking a summer field trip (see field trip opportunities in this newsletter) to enjoy our easy access to higher elevations that surround the Great Valley.

From The New Yorker magazine:

NO COMMENT DEPARTMENT
From the San Francisco Chronicle

With California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week just around the corner (July 17-23), there are two words every Californian should know: yellow star thistle.

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The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS as tax deductible.



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

Summer 2007



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora.
For a membership brochure call Helen Shaw at 559/855-4519.
CNPS Web site: www.cnps.org.

FEATURED CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

Blue Oak

Quercus douglasii is a deciduous tree that grows from 20 to 60 feet high with blue-green leaves and almost whitish-colored bark. It is common on the dry, rocky local foothills and is sometimes called mountain oak.

Although it is fairly easy to grow in the garden, growth can be slow. It tolerates clay soil and its normal range is in areas that get an irregular 7-10 inches per year.

Blue Oaks and Valley Oaks (*Quercus lobata*) can hybridize and produce some very large "Blue Oaks".

In a year like 2007, Blue Oaks have a strategy for weathering dry years. They shed their leaves in a demonstration of their evolution to little rain and high temperatures.

Their leaves are naturally moisture conserving. On the upper side they are covered by a waxy coating that provides the bluish cast. When soil water is scarce, the photosynthetic cells adjust their internal salt content so that wilting is prevented even if their leaves lose up to 30% of their water to the atmosphere. As Warren Shaw noted in his observations of the foothills,

water has become scarce enough that the Blue Oaks are dropping their leaves in a condition called "drought deciduous."

They may look bad but they are merely dormant.

Most will not resume growth with the fall rains but wait until

spring to produce a new crop of leaves.

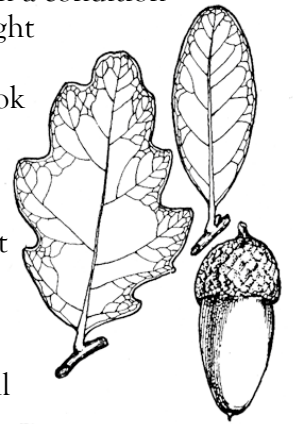


Fig. 168. *Quercus douglasii* H. & A.
Leaves, fruit, $\times \frac{3}{4}$.

Clockwise from upper left:

- *Cleveland Sage*
(*Salvia clevelandii*)
- *California Wild Rose*
(*Rosa californica*)
- *Button Bush*
(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- *Woolly Blue Curls*
(*Trichostema lanatum*)
- *Canchalagua*
(*Centaurium venustum*)
- *Desert Willow*
(*Chilopsis linearis*)
- *Blue Elderberry*
(*Sambucus mexicana*)



**SUMMER
2007**
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**SEQUOIA
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