

Carpenteria

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER



April 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 (559.323.8962) if you are interested and want to learn more about what's needed.

LED 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. <xxiii_xx@yahoo.com or 559.765.9954>

CHINA CREEK REPORT

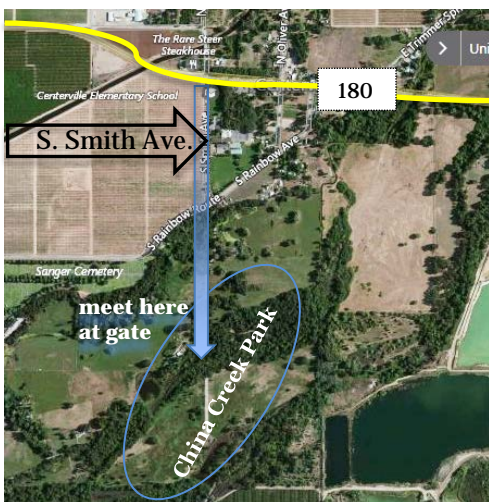
March 2017 work party

--**Warren Shaw**

Saturday, March 18, was, as promised, a classic gorgeous spring day. Also, as promised, we devoted our efforts largely to the unglamorous, but very important task of grubbing out thistle rosettes, so much easier at this stage than when they get big and viciously stickery.

A small crew also worked on maintaining the trail, replacing rotted off posts, as well as weather and vandal damaged signs. They got around most of the trail, leaving just three stations to check out in April.

Our ten o'clock coffee break was made a little special by the fact that Helen, my wife, had made Irish soda bread in honor of St. Patrick's Day. While we always enjoy her home-baked muffins, it was nice to have some variety.



After the work was over, the newly formed China Creek Steering Committee met at the Blossom Trail Cafe. We agreed to go forward with the draft Vision Statement and Long-term Plan for the time being, sure that we would be adding details as time goes on. Then, we divided up responsibilities, with Jane taking the job of updating the Park Plant List (with help from Michael and his Botany students). Hank will serve as liaison to other interested organizations, Michael is working out how our efforts can be organized more scientifically, and I am working toward a Memorandum of Understanding with Fresno County.

As to our April work party, it will be Saturday, April 15 from 8am-12pm. Please join us for another beautiful spring day at the Park.

China Creek Park is located on the west side of Centerville, 16 miles east of Fresno on Highway 180. To get there, drive east on Kings Canyon/ Highway 180, 16.5 miles to Centerville. Turn right (south) on Smith Road and drive 0.2 miles to Rainbow Drive. Continue straight, 0.5 miles down the small road to the Park gate at the end of the road.

OBSERVATIONS

Neighborhood Botanizing

--*Jeanne Larson*

My mostly daily walk, weather dependent, has shown a whole number of weeds in lawns that are different from last year, when the lawns were mostly covered with the feathery leaves of pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*) and its small, yellow, pineapple-like flowers, which are probably are the reason for the common name. For the first time in 20 some years, fine leaved red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) has shown up. There have been some stiff winds, but the corkscrew attached to the seed does not seem blown in the wind for dispersal. On the other hand, smooth cats ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*), with basal leaves flat on the ground, responds by sending up multi flower stems when mowed, producing even more seeds, which have little "umbrellas" that carry seed in the wind.



-*Matricaria discoidea*- (non-native)
©2010 Steven Thorsted



Amsinckia intermedia-
©2009 Barry Rice

One yard I have watched with interest had late summer blooming California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) last year. Those poppy plants have overwintered and I don't see buds yet; but, poppies in other yards in the area are just starting to bloom. In the foothills, television pictures show masses of gold.

Red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*) is one of the introduced brome grasses that has sharp spiky seeds, as compared to the introduced soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), which is a nutritious pasture plant. A vacant 3 acre parcel nearby is a sea of brownish red color of red brome. In prior years, the lot had been predominately a mix of grasses and common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*). The plowdown will turn under a lot of red brome seed at this parcel. It will be interesting to see what the primary species will be next year.



-*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*-
©2015 Zoya Akulova (non-native)

--*Warren Shaw*



-*Mimulus aurantiacus*-
©2008 Steve Matson

I recently had the opportunity to travel to the beautiful Big Sur area, but since Highway 1 is closed in several places, I had to go by way of Coalinga and west through Hunter Liggett, then over the Coast Range by Nacimiento-Fergusson Road. As might be imagined, the hills are incredibly lush and green, with oaks in the early stages of leafing out. Particularly impressive were blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) in the hurt-your-eyes green, pre-blue stage. And, of course there were blossoms: lupines (*Lupinus* sp.), both annual and bush, buttercups (*Ranunculus* sp.), great swaths of goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.), bright paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.), a yellow-blooming shrub I took to be bush monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), and higher up, big madrone trees (*Arbutus menziesii*)

accompanied by a scattering of coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and maples (*Acer* sp.) among the oaks. Many hills had big dense patches of something light yellow, which I suspect was oxalis. The coast itself is spectacular and wild, dispensing big surf and steep cliffs with dangerous trails. The campground where I stayed was dominated by huge Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) and was surrounded by shiny-leaved bronzy poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). It's a rugged trip, but worth the effort, and this is the time to take it.



-*Arbutus menziesii*-
© Br. Alfred Brousseau,
Saint Mary's College

OBSERVATIONS

--Thelma Valdez



-Stipa pulchra-
©2006 Brent Miller

Lots of water and some bouts of unseasonably warm weather have been a boon for non-native grasses and other weeds. Will the weeding ever end? I'm probably not the only person who has noticed fewer poppies this year. They struggle to get some sun between the fast growing exotics.

The redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) blossoms in my garden are almost done, giving way to those pretty leaves. Needle grasses in full sun are in bloom with a nice purple on the purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*) awns. Wild grape (*Vitis californica*) leaves are growing fast, and fruit has replaced the urn-style blossoms on the manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* spp.). Spring continues apace!



-Cercis occidentalis- ©2008 Matson



-Arctostaphylos spp.-
©2006 Steve Matson

FIELD REPORT

--Laura Castro

The Carrizo Plain in March

Photos by Laura Castro, 2017

I had the pleasure of visiting the Carrizo Plain on March 24, 2017 with a group of wonderful botanists and biologists. I had been there for the first time two years ago and it was quite lovely, but this year, the color on the plain and in the hidden rolls of the hills was glorious.

The phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.), with its wonderful purple coloration, except for the oddball white one in its midst, grew in large swaths. Desert candle (*Caulanthus inflatus*) stood by the roadside. Photographers were sprinkled here and there taking in the beauty with their camera lenses.



I saw plants I had never seen before, native ones, rare ones. I can't remember them all. But, what I do remember is the inspiring view after walking in a single file into the landscape to find amazing patches of pale yellow layia (*Layia heterotricha*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*) and common hillside daisy (*Monolopia lanceolata*). Of course, many other species were interspersed between them. We are lucky that our leaders knew where the lovely secret spots were that would lavish us with simple, vibrant hues and elegant flowers.



-Caulanthus inflatus-

With blogs and other websites hailing the glory of the wildflower superblooms in the desert, a visit to Anza-Borrego in the morning, when the blooms are open, may be something to think about now before the heat abounds and the flowers are subdued.

For a plant list for the Carrizo Plains National Monument and the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserves, go here: https://www.blm.gov/nlcs_web/sites/style/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/bakersfield/carrizo.Par.59974.File.dat/PlantList2012.pdf

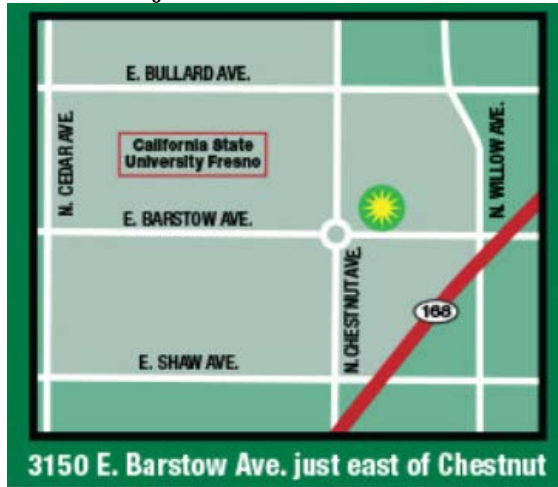


Upcoming Events and Classes in 2017

•April 22—Ninth Annual Water-Wise Plant Give and Take Event!

8:00am-12:00pm

Location: Fresno State Horticulture Greenhouses, 3150 E. Barstow Ave., just east of Chestnut Ave. in Fresno.



- Receive something special if you bring water-wise plants, cuttings, bulbs, seeds, or trees from your garden for the free plant table.
- Super plant sale in the Fresno State Nursery.
- Free Workshops held in the Fresno State Nursery classrooms and in Tree Fresno's new demonstration garden.
- Tour the beautiful iris garden.
- Scott Miller, owner of Gazebo Gardens Nursery, will be a guest speaker at the Madden Library at 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Cost: FREE

Details: Call (559) 621-5480 or go to <http://www.fresnostate.edu/jcast/news/news-2016-17/2017-04-22-water-wise-plant-exchange-flyer.html>

•April 22—Open House at the Herbaria 9:00am-4:00pm

Location: 1001 Valley Life Science Building, UC Berkeley

Target Audience: Welcomes students, kids, and the community to explore and enjoy over 400 exciting events on CalDay.

- The Herbaria will offer tours of the collection, a wildflower display, plant mounting activities, and many other opportunities to interact with the collections and staff.

Cost: All events are FREE

Details: Call (510) 643-7008

•April 24—Calflora Training 8:00am-4:00pm

Location: Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95117

Target Audience: Professional and student botanists, ecologists, Calflora Professional Users, land and resource managers, restoration volunteers, and conservationists.

- Much of the class will take place in the meeting room, but will also collect plant data on the way to and along the Guadalupe River Trail.
- Will discuss mapping and collecting data in the field using Calflora apps for Android and iOS devices to create history stacks to track changes and monitor populations over time.

Cost: \$45 for Calflora Professional Subscribers / \$60 for other users.

Details: Contact Cynthia Pwell at cpowell@calflora.org with any questions.

•April 29 & 30—12th Annual Cambria Wildflower Show

12:00pm-5:00pm Saturday, 10:00am-4:00pm Sunday

Location: Cambria Veterans Memorial Building, 1000 Main Street

- The purpose of the show is to enhance the enjoyment of wildflowers by educating through viewing.
- Go see a display of fresh wildflowers collected from the Monterey County line to the Morro Bay Estuary and from the coastal bluffs to the ridge of the Santa Lucia Mountains.
- Edible, medicinal, rare and endangered, invasive, and poisonous plants will be identified.
- Botanists will be on-hand to answer your questions.

Cost: Entry donation of \$3.00 is requested / Students are free

Details: Call (805) 927-2202, email at ffrpcambria@sbcglobal.net, or go to <http://www.ffrpcambria.org/calendar.html>

•May 4—Making Low-Water Look Lush: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Location: Folsom Community Center, Activities Room, 52 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA

- Water Conservation Workshop.
- Will describe how to choose and install truly low water plants that satisfy aesthetics and ecosystem services.
- Will discuss difference between drought tolerance and low water use.
- Will explore current UC research in California natives and newly introduced low water plants and their establishment.
- Space is limited. Must reserve your seat.

Cost: FREE

Details: Reserve seat by calling 916-355-7252 or emailing at waterconservation@folsom.ca.us

**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.

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- *Vice-Pres.** Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
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- 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 luvalle@mcn.org
Belinda Gilbert belinda@sti.net
- Webmaster** Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

Next Newsletter: May 2017

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Tuesday, April 25, 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

April 2017

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

RARE PLANTS OF FRESNO COUNTY

--Jane Pritchard

-*Bulbostylis capillaris*-



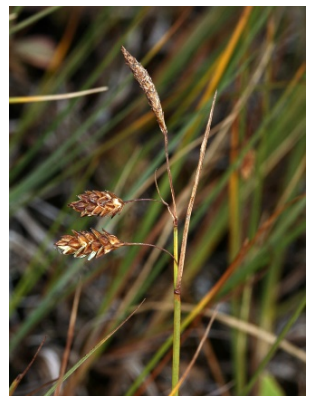
© 2011 Ryan Batten

Thread-leaved beakseed (*Bulbostylis capillaris*), in the Cyperaceae family, is named for its bulb-like style. It is an annual grass-like herb found on open, damp or dry, sand to gravel areas at 300 to 2200 meters elevation in the high Cascade Ranges, northern Sierra Nevada foothills, and high Sierra Nevada. It blooms from June through August.



-*Bulbostylis capillaris*-
©2003 Steve Matson

Mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), also in the Cyperaceae family, grows in sphagnum bogs at 1200 to 2700 meters elevation in the high Sierra Nevada. It is a perennial grass-like herb that blooms from July through September. The genus name *Carex* in Latin means cutter; thus, these plants get their name because of their sharp leaves and three sided stem edges. And, limus means mud in Latin. The plant forms an important component of peat.



-*Carex limosa*-
©2009 Steve Matson



Mountain Mahogany
(*Cercocarpus betuloides*)



Western Redbud
(*Cercis occidentalis*)



Turkey Tail fungus
(*Polyporus versicolor*)



A back garden in Fresno.
Birds-eye Gilia and California Poppies

Photo credits

Madeleine Mitchell:
Valley Violet
Ceanothus,
Brandegee's Sage

Aaron Turner: Turkey
Tail fungus, Western
Redbud

Thelma Valdez:
Mountain Mahogany,
Whiteleaf Manzanita,
Purple Needlegrass,
Valley Oak

Warren Shaw: Back
garden



Whiteleaf Manzanita
(*Arctostaphylos viscida*)



Purple Needlegrass
(*Stipa pulchra*)



Brandegee's Sage
(*Salvia brandegeei*)



Valley Violet Ceanothus
(*Ceanothus maritimus*
'Valley Violet')



Valley Oak
(*Quercus lobata*)