

Carpenteria

California Native Plant Society
SEQUOIA CHAPTER



July/August 2016
www.cnps-sequoia.org

OBSERVATIONS

NATIVE "WEEDS"

--**Thelma Valdez** (pictures by Thelma Valdez)

I'm always interested in the foundation of nearly everything in life. When it comes to California native plants, these are often annuals that are given common names with the word "weed" in them -- dove weed, tarweed, vinegarweed, spikeweed, fireweed, pineapple weed, and on and on. The website *Calflora.org* lists 79 species of annuals native to Fresno, Madera, and Kings Counties with the word "weed" in their common name. Twenty of them have the word "tarweed" in their names. Are you surprised?

-bluecurls plant-



What someone calls a plant tells you more about the person than the plant. The names *Hemizonia* or *Madia* (tarweeds) are noble names for noble plants that epitomize summer. Long ago I learned that the common name for my favorite summer annual is vinegarweed. Now that's a travesty. Later, Paul Mitchell told me he called it bluecurls. Yes! I sing the praises of bluecurls whenever I can. It's like a race horse with a cute common name and an incredibly noble botanical name: *Trichostema lanceolatum*.

-bluecurls blossom-



Bluecurls and its frequent companion turkey-mullein (*Croton setigerus*)—yes, dove weed—thrive in our summers. They are tough, beautiful, and require no maintenance. They produce blossoms loved by pollinators and seed loved by finches and doves. It doesn't get much better than that.

CAMP 72 ROAD

--**Jane Pritchard**

Camp 72 Road, designated 8S02, is about 200 feet above the Balsam Forebay trailhead on the same side of the road. It is protected by a locked Edison gate. I have never encountered a vehicle on it. The road is fairly level, mostly shaded, and lined with many different species of flowers. There is a phenomenal flower crop this year. Large hazelnuts have already formed on the bushes. After a mile or more, Edison structures become visible down the valley. The final part of the hike is above Big Creek close enough to hear the generators.



©2007 Steve Matson

-waterfall buttercup-

In about 3.5 miles, the road dead ends at an adit. I expected the adit to look the same as the one on the way to Stevenson Falls above Powerhouse 3 —large with water falling and echoing in the chamber and with waterfall buttercup (*Ranunculus hystriolicus*) growing along the sides. What a letdown. It was small with a solid metal door covering the entrance. I shined my headlight through a 3x4 inch hole in the door. The light was just absorbed by the darkness.

On the way to the adit, a large boulder and some smaller pieces of rock had fallen into the road. It's possible we missed the rock blocking the road on the way back, but I prefer to think someone came in and removed it.

CHINA CREEK REPORT

May 2016 Work Party

--Warren Shaw

“I came to slay some thistles!” Paul said as he sat down sleepily to put his shoes on, and slay them he did. So did the rest of us. We worked again in the southeast part of the Park, knowing the cattle hadn’t been there because of problems with fences. Unhappily, the plants, both yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) are now starting to bloom, so we have to haul them out to the pavement to prevent their seeds from reaching soil and eventually germinating. This makes the process more time-consuming and tedious, but the crew of stalwarts who had arrived in the cool of the morning persisted into the heat of mid-day, and we ended up with an impressive addition to the pile at the end of the road. (We keep wishing one of our wandering vandals would drop a match or a cigarette butt in that pile, but it never seems to happen.)



© Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College

At break time, in the shade of the valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), we discussed the need for and the nature of a long-term plan for the Park and our work there. We concluded that we do need one, but are not quite sure how to go about it. One thing we did decide was that we need to form a steering committee of some kind, but didn’t get very far with the specifics. This discussion will continue.

Our July work party will be Saturday, July 16, from 8am-12pm. We’d love to have you join us in both the work and the discussion.

China Creek Park is located on the west side of Centerville, 16 miles east of Fresno off 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 on Smith Road down the small road 0.5 miles to the Park gate at the end of the road.

For more information call (559-451-1256) or email <warshaw1955@gmail.com>.

AN EDUCATION ON FLORA

Excerpts from: Early Uses of California Plants by Edward K. Balls, University of California Press, 1962

“Mexican Tea, Squaw Tea (*Ephedra*)”

“Of the seven species of Mexican Tea which are to be found in California, only one grows west of the Sierra Nevada. They all seem to have been used, without distinction, for the same purposes. The names Desert Tea and Mormon Tea are almost as common for these plants as Mexican Tea. The Indians, Mexicans, and Spanish settlers all brewed a pleasant refreshing drink by steeping the stems, either green or dried, in boiling water. The length of time in brewing depended on the strength of the tea required.

This tea was also used as a tonic for kidney ailments, to purify the blood, and for colds, stomach disorders, and ulcers. The dried stems were ground to powder and used on open sores or mixed with resin from the Pinyon Pine and used as a salve. For burns the powder was slightly moistened and used as a poultice.



©The World Botanical Associates
-*Ephedra aspera*-

In a number of areas, the local *Ephedra* was used in combination with other plants: Cushion Gila, *Ipomopsis congesta*; Scarlet Gila, *Ipomopsis Aggregata*; Antelope Bush, *Purshia tridentata*; or the scraped bark of Mountain Mahogany, *Cercocarpus ledifolius*. An early record tells that the Panamint Indians roasted and ground seeds of *Ephedra nevadensis* to make a bitter bread.”

(We do not recommend using any of these recipes—they are informational only.)

“Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*)”

© 2008 Keir Morse

-*Arctostaphylos viscida* ssp. *viscida*-



“Over the greater part of montane California there is often a heavy covering of Manzanita. Most of the forty-three species in the state were used for food in the early days. The berries were gathered green by the Spanish settlers to make a soft drink or a jelly. The Indians usually collected only the ripe fruit, beating it into their baskets as they did the seeds of grasses. Several of the Indian tribes celebrated the ripening of the Manzanita harvest with a fig feast and dance.

Often the berries were eaten fresh. Large quantities were dried and stored for winter use. The pulp, which is dry and sweetish when ripe, was easily reduced to a fine powder and separated from the seeds and skins to make a favorite drink. Mixed with water it was allowed to stand for a few hours before use. In other tribes the whole berries, slightly crushed, were put into water and left to stand. The seeds and pulp were then strained out through a basket strainer.

The dry, rather wooden seeds were beaten to a fine flour and made into mush or shaped into thin cakes which were baked in hot ashes. At times the meal was eaten dry, in pinches, like pinole. The green fruit is very acid but is said to be good to quench thirst. The leaves of two or three species are mentioned as being mixed with smoking tobacco. This was probably only done after the arrival of the white settlers. It is not at all clear that it was done earlier.

A wash or lotion made from leaves was used as a cure for the inflammation caused by Poison Oak, *Rhus diversiloba*. A tonic made from leaves was used to cure severe colds, but was too strong to be taken internally. Boiled down to a yellowish-brown extract it was used as a wash for body and head, to stop certain types of headache. The Concow Indian women chewed the leaves into a thick pad and put the mass as a poultice on sores.

The wood was used in making the Indian huts. Two V-forked sticks were selected for carrying bundled wood or fuel. The Karok Indians made spoons from this wood (this was undoubtedly after the arrival of the white settlers), sticks for scraping Acorn soup off the sides of the cooking baskets, reels for string, and tobacco pipes. The wood pipes were sometimes soaked in eel or bear grease to prevent splitting, having first been boiled in water with the heartwood removed.”

(We do not recommend using any of these recipes—they are informational only.)

OBSERVATIONS

Remembering Spring in March

--Helen Shaw

The Shaws celebrated the arrival of spring with an excursion into the foothills east of Fresno to check on the wildflower display, said to be even better than last year’s spectacular bloom.

Our drive covered most of the same area as last year’s: Watts Valley Road to Trimmer above Pine Flat Dam and on to the upper Kings River, where we spent the night.

After a leisurely morning we packed things away and continued our drive upriver toward Balch Camp, turning around at the Bailey Bridge about 3 miles from Balch. On both days we saw dozens of species of wildflowers and whole hillsides covered with poppies—every south-facing slope was covered with intense orange. On the road toward Balch we saw a lot of redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) as well as bush lupine (*Lupinus* sp.), annual lupine and blue dick (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). In shadier areas we saw buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), a few shooting star (*Primula* sp.), and several snake lilies (*Dichelostemma volubile*). Added to the widespread popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys* sp.) and fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.) were patches of butter and eggs (*Linaria* sp.—not native), phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.), gold fields (*Lasthenia* sp.), and baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*). Our plant list used every line on a legal pad.

We returned by way of Burrough Valley to check on its abundant redbud, finding that it had already peaked (lower elevation). After a mandatory stop in Prather at our favorite lunch place, we headed back home, knowing that we had been privileged to see another glorious display.



©1988 Gary A. Monroe
-*Phacelia fremontii*-



-bluedick- ©2015 Barry Breckling



Upcoming Events and Classes

•July 19-21 three day course—Vegetation Rapid Assessment / Relevé

Location: UC White Mountain Research Center's Crooked Creek Station outside of Bishop, CA

- Participants should have an initial understanding of the subject matter and basic plant identification skills.
- Combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling.
- Focus is on collecting data using the CNPS-CDFW combined vegetation rapid assesment/relevé method.

Details:

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/2016/0719_rapid_assessment_releve.php

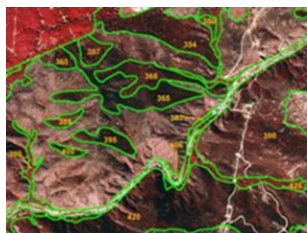


Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé workshop in Yosemite National Park, June 2015.

•August 1-3 three day course—Vegetation Mapping

Location: UC Berkeley GIF Lab, Berkeley, CA & field sites in Marin County, CA

- Participants should have an initial understanding of the subject matter and of GIS.
- Combination of field and computer exercises.
- Will learn techniques for fine-scale vegetation mapping.
- Participants will practice creating a vegetation map using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and techniques of photo interpretation, delineation, and attribution, collect reconnaissance samples to support the 2nd edition of A Manual of California Vegetation classification, and validate a vegetation map through accuracy assessment.



Details:

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/2016/0801_veg_map.php

•July 16th 9:30am—Aquaponics for Beginners -FREE

Location: UC White Mountain Research Center's Crooked Creek Station outside of Bishop, CA

- Learn the latest about a combination of fish & plant production using aquaculture and hydroponics using

Details: <http://intermountainnursery.com/classes.htm>

•July 30-31 Rare and Endemic Flora of the Sierra Nevada Mountains -FREE

Location: Patterson Mountain

Chris Winchell will lead hikes on Patterson Mountain located between Shaver Lake and Wishon Reservoir off of McKinley Grove Road.

- Will explore the habitats that CNPS Rare Plant Ranked and Forest Service Sensitive Species plants occur in, taking into account the unique ecological associations and adaptations that each of these species share.
- Trip will occur between 7,000 and 8,000 feet elevation, largely focusing on meadow habitats.
- Meadow types, how they work, and the threats facing them will be covered.

Saturday will be guided and will consist of at least four vehicle stops with short to moderate hikes at each stop.

- Please bring your own water, snacks, hiking gear, etc.
- Vehicles will travel on unmaintained roads. Carpooling for those without enough clearance may be available.
- You may return home on Saturday after the hike or stay overnight to participate both days.

Saturday night camping will likely be in an unmaintained campground near target species.

- You are responsible for your own hiking gear, camping gear, food, etc.
- Camping sites are first come, first serve.
- No facilities.
- No fees.

Sunday travel will primarily be on foot.

- Some locations will require minimal walking (a stroll, if you will).
- Other locations may be more difficult (hiking on slopes and outcrops).

Details:

Meet at the Park & Ride at the bottom of the four-lane on Hwy 168 at 8:00 AM on Saturday, July 30.

For questions or a list of target plants contact Jane Pritchard at <xxiii_xx@yahoo.com>.

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: September 2016

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Saturday, August 27th.**



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 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
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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

July/August 2016

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

GARDEN NOTES

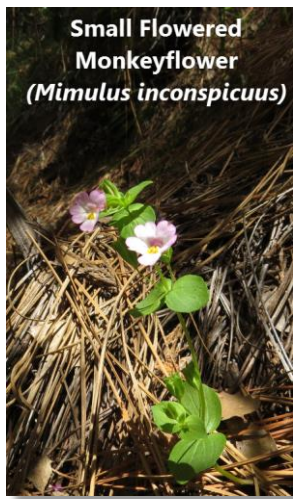
--**Madeleine Mitchell** (Picture by Madeleine Mitchell)

One of the first natives in my front waterwise-native garden over 20 years ago was desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*). Jeanne Larson gave it to me when I joined the Discovery Center, the non-profit science education center here in Fresno, CA. My garden faces south so over the years the tree grew into the street and had to be pruned back when in full bloom. PG&E hired workers who would tag it every year or so because of its potential interference with the overhead power lines. I assured them it would never get taller than 20 feet. I hated doing this so had it cut down about 10 years ago. I didn't have the stump ground out, as that would have cost even more. It has sprouted for years, and I've sprayed the small new growth with weed killer but it's the most persistent plant I've ever tried to get rid of. So this year, I've let it sprout and the thin branches are at 90 degrees again and in bloom. It's so pretty, and there isn't anything else that is so bright and pink. The carpenter bees love it, too.



I also let my white sage (*Salvia apiana*) bloom this year. The flower spikes are way over my head and have turned a lavender/plum color. I've included a photo, but didn't show the heavy duty twine holding it out of the street. I have other plants in bloom, of course, such as the sunflower named after Bob Winters—several came up, so bright yellow. I have several colors of yarrow (*Eriophyllum* sp.) in addition to the white one (*Achillea millefolium*) (the yarrow need to be dead headed). I pulled lots of CA poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) out when they got leggy. I just broke them off near the base and they have begun blooming again. Strange as it seems, they are yellow now not orange. The mallow is still huge, over 5-foot tall and round. It grows right into the new Salvia "Winifred Gilman", which is an electric blue. This week the coyote mint (*Monardella* sp.) has begun to bloom and it's a light lavender.

I've been hand watering once a week for those few plants not on the drip/spray. The hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*) needs more water than most salvias. I planted a sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*) last fall, which takes little to no water once established.



Small Flowered
Monkeyflower
(*Mimulus inconspicuus*)



Bride's Bonnet
(*Clintonia uniflora*)



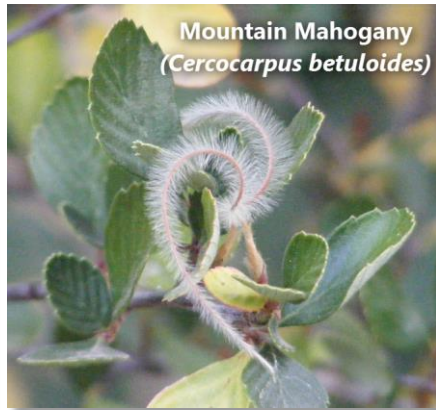
Mountain Pride
(*Penstemon newberryi*)



True Baby Star
(*Leptosiphon bicolor*)



Mountain piperia
(*Piperia transversa*)



Mountain Mahogany
(*Cercocarpus betuloides*)



Child's Blue Eyed Mary
(*Collinsia childii*)



Coyote Mint
(*Monardella villosa*)

**July 2016
Sequoia Chapter
CNPS**



Shuteye Peak Fawn Lily
(*Erythronium pluriflorum*)



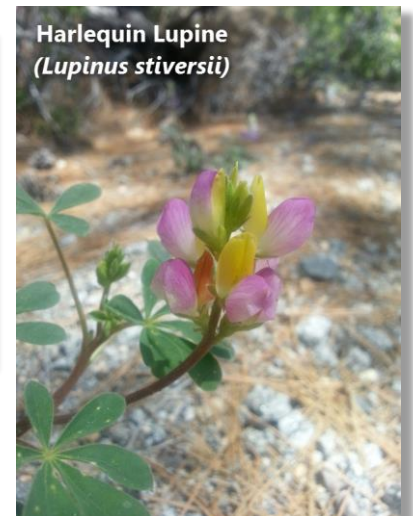
Mustang Clover
(*Leptosiphon montanus*)



Diamond Clarkia
(*Clarkia rhomboidea*)



Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily
(*Calochortus leichtlinii*)



Harlequin Lupine
(*Lupinus stiversii*)

Tom Zimoski: Bride's Bonnet
JoungMin Sur: Harlequin Lupine, True Baby Star
Madeleine Mitchell: Coyote Mint
Thelma Valdez: Mountain Mahogany
Eileen Bennett: Small Flowered Monkey Flower, Diamong Clarkia, Child's Blue Eyed Mary, Shuteye Peak Fawn Lily, Mountain piperia, Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily