



CARPENTERIA

Newsletter of the Sequoia Chapter
California Native Plant Society

April 2005

CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 19. 7:00 p.m.
“Desert Wildflowers 2005” with John Stebbins, Botanist

If you haven't had a chance to visit the deserts this spring, you'll feel like you have after seeing John Stebbins' show of photographs. If you HAVE been to the deserts and took photographs you would like to share, bring them along! As time permits we will have a show and tell. If bringing photos, please supply them on a CD only; we'll supply the laptop and projector.

Meeting and speaker at 7:00 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (S of Ashlan Avenue). The public is welcome!

Future Meeting Programs

Tuesday	California's Oaks
May 17	Pam Muick, Executive Director CNPS

June-July-August No meetings

China Creek Update

By Warren Shaw

Exciting Times at China Creek! In response to our appeal for funds to help with the work of developing an interpretive trail and preparing an area for a short-term weed abatement grazing experiment, members donated over \$1300. Thank you to all!

Peggy Jones, education Chair, wrote and presented a proposal to the Sanger Environmental Fund and was informed that we received a grant of \$1000!

In addition great strides have been made at the park. **Vulcan materials** crews have completed fence repairs and provided labor to build protective rings around 30 seedling oaks. A small crew of hardworking **volunteers** got posts set at most of the stations on the interpretive trail and, with the help of neighboring landowner, **Hank Urbach**, made a start on clearing the oak forest loop section..

Communications with Steve McDonald, prominent area cattleman, Charles Janiel, Superintendent of Fresno County Parks and Grounds, and John Buada of Vulcan, Vulcan Material rep all point to a probable beginning this spring for our long-proposed weed abatement grazing trial. Sanger High's construction Class under Mr. Robert Juarez has finished numbers for the trail stations, so we're ready to number the posts.

A new challenge has developed in the form of beavers that keep plugging the outlet of the north pond (perceiving it as a leak in their dam). This floods our trail route, so we have to come up with some way to discourage them. All this sounds pretty exhausting now, but won't it be great if we can do it?

We email those who've signed up as "willing to be notified". If you're not on this list and would be interested, please call Warren Shaw, 559/855-4519 or email at <warshaw@netptc.net>.)

(China Creek, an undeveloped Fresno County Park near Centerville on the Kings River, is a Sequoia Chapter restoration and educational project area.)



**China Creek
Opening Celebration!**
Friday April 22nd at 3:30

We're going to have a ribbon-cutting! Peggy Jones is working hard to gather a group of people representing local government and educational agencies as well as neighbors, media, and supporters for this traditional Earth Day event.

Please try to attend. We promise it will be short on speeches and long on fun. (Since we'll be offering refreshments, it would be helpful if members brought cookies, fruit or snacks.)

If any of you have media connections, we would be grateful for any help getting the event covered. To get to the park, take Kings Canyon to Smith (on the west side of Centerville). Take Smith south to the park entrance. We hope to see you there!

Workday, Workday, Workday!!

Saturday, April 16.

This is our last China Creek workday before the opening ceremony. We have much work to do. There is an old saying, "many hands make light work." In this case many hands could make it possible for this big project to succeed. Please try to be there.

We'll work from 9 - 3. Please join us for all or part of the day. Bring the usual: hat, gloves, water, lunch, rubber boots, garden tools, etc. Be sure to include a mosquito repellent--they're already active.

Got dirt? Intermountain Nursery will bring a selection of natives in 2 1/4 inch pots to the April Meeting. Plants are ready to set out or transfer to gallons for fall planting. Do you have a specific plant in mind? Contact Bonnie Bladen at 855-3113, fax 855-8809, or e-mail <Bonnie@IntermountainNursery.com >

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The response to our appeal for donations to support the China Creek project has been extremely gratifying—over \$1300 at this writing. This response, Education Chair Peggy Jones' grant writing success, and all the work donated by Vulcan materials (see China Creek update) should cover our financial needs to complete work on the grazing trial area and the interpretive trail in good style.

Those of us who have devoted so much time over the years to this effort feel vindicated by your support. There is, however, a great deal of work yet to be done and the time grows short.

Our last chapter workday before the opening ceremony will be Saturday April 16th. I know this is very short notice, but I hope we can pull together to make the trail a credit to the chapter and a benefit to both the plant community and the human community.

-- Warren Shaw

CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

I had the pleasure of attending the Chapter Council Meeting on March 5 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. A great deal of business is handled during the meeting and I was impressed with the delegates' level of intensity and dedication. I learned how important and challenging is the work of monitoring of legislation and involvement in state assembly bills.

Of the 32 statewide chapters, a number have the same situation as the Sequoia Chapter – a small membership of which a small percentage of individuals are active. Recruitment of new, younger members is a challenge for many organizations such as ours. However, note that the statewide total of volunteer hours for 2004 is the equivalent of 42 full-time employees!

These quarterly meetings are open to all members and if you can ever attend one it will be well worth the effort. The next meeting is June 11-12 hosted by the Redbud and Lassen Chapters. It will be held at the Sierra Friends Center just outside Grass Valley. There will be space for sub-meetings and space to display each chapter's activity.

- Thelma Valdez

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

As always, the Fresno Home and Garden Show brings good exposure to CNPS and our Chapter. The booth space was in a different area this year and our corner booth gave excellent visibility from all directions.

Big kudos to the following volunteers who braved the Show this year. The booth wouldn't have survived without your assistance (or if you had expected to receive money for your time!)



Verna Arnst, Joanne Dean-Freemire, Paul and Madeleine Mitchell, Thelma Valdez, Flora Valdez, Jeanne Larson, Marian and Frank Orvis, and Rose Rowe. Thank you to Jeanne Larson is for her time at the "Teach The River" Symposium.



Paul Mitchell "holding down the fort".

WEEDS — CANCERS OF THE PLANT WORLD

This is an excerpt from an article by Charles Blair in the *Obispoensis*, the newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS. Dr. Blair is a retired surgeon.

The comparison of invasive exotic Plants with cancers is not meant to trivialize the impact of cancer, but to emphasize the real threat these aliens pose to agricultural, horticultural, and native plant communities. As a surgeon, I have spent much of my career dealing with many cancers.

During that career, I found using the behavior of weeds very useful in explaining how cancers act, and in discussing the various available treatments. Now that I have retired from active practice, I find the cancer analogy equally effective in discussing the destructive behavior of invasive exotic plants and animals in ecosystems.

The rapid, invasive growth of weeds, especially their roots, depletes the soil of the nutrients necessary for the health of the host plant communities. In much the same way, widespread cancers drain the patients' resources. Both, by their sheer bulk, can also interfere with vital functions. The pattern of invasion of weeds, bacteria, viruses, and cancer is also similar. Much of the damage that invasive weeds cause is in the soil. The depletion of desert water by Tamarisk is an all too familiar example.

Control strategies for both weeds and cancer also have many parallels. Maintaining healthy, intact ecosystems, discouraging the introduction of invasive exotics, and early removal can help prevent major invasions or infestations. With major infestation, manual removal often needs to be supplemented by chemical control. In widespread cancers, measures such as chemotherapy or radiation are often needed. In neither situation should chemicals or drugs be seen as substitutes for adequate initial care and maintenance of overall health.

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

Fletcher Linton took meeting attendees on a tour of the Sequoia National Forest with a wealth of history and photographs.

The Sierra brings to mind many superlatives and the southern Sierra's Sequoia National Forest, in particular, contains a wide range of altitudes, rainfall, geology, and plant life within less than 50 miles as the crow flies.

Fletcher's lively and informative tour led us through photographic hikes from the Kings River foothills to the high Sierra, and then southward to the Tehachapi Mountains through desert influenced flora. He combined a bird's eye view of the terrain with closeup photos of beautiful flowers that require one to slow down and look carefully at the earth's treasures.

As a special treat, members stayed on to see photographs of his March trip to Anza Borrego. We just can't get enough of those desert wildflowers!



"In wildness is the preservation of the world."

- Henry David Thoreau

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Chawanakee Unified School District

Spring 2005 Classes - Chawanakee Adult School

Classes are \$10. For information, call Luba at 645-1137 x2. Pack water and a snack; dress in layers; wear hiking shoes.

Saturday May 14 1-5 p.m. **Big Sandy Granite Caves – San Joaquin River Gorge.** A fairly level 4-mile round trip trail leads us along the river to rare granite caves, sculpted by the waters of Big Sandy Creek. Dress for warm weather. Meet at North Fork School.

Saturday April 16 10-3 p.m. **Horseshoe Bend – A Wildflower Walk.** See the best wildflowers near North Fork. A relatively easy though rocky trail leads 4 miles round trip through colorful meadows to the San Joaquin River. Meet at North Fork School.

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Classes

Classes require early reservations (\$10/person, \$20/family). Space is limited. Bring lunch and water for daytime classes. Visit <www.sierrafoothill.org> for more information, registration, and changes/additions or call 559/855-3473.

Saturday May 21 or June 18 **Wildflowers of Grand Bluffs.** Enjoy the cool mountain air at 6000 ft. while taking a moderate hike with Bonnie Bladen and John Stebbens (May 21) or Bonnie and Chuck Peck (June 18). 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hikes

Hikes are free, led by experienced volunteers, not limited in size, and begin at 9:00 a.m. Call for meeting points, weather information, and possible cancellations.

Saturday April 16 **Miller Summit.** 4-6 miles round trip. You may continue along the ridge if you wish.

Special Events

Saturday April 23 **An Evening of Science, Sights, Sounds, and Supper at McKenzie Preserve.** Led by Geologist Craig Poole and Biologist Rodney Olsen, this hike/class includes the geology and ecology of Table Mountain. Hike to the summit followed by a picnic and moon rise. Flashlights & hiking boots! \$35. 5-9:30 pm.

Sunday May 8 **Black Mountain Open House.** See the abundant wildflowers and especially *Carpenteria californica* in full bloom. 2 mile invigorating but not too difficult walk with optional mile along the ridge.

Saturday June 11 **Wildflower Walk & Lunch at Grand Bluffs.** A moderately paced hike with Botanist Joanna Clines to view and identify the wildflowers at 6000 ft. at Grand Bluffs Demonstration Forest. Enjoy a prepared lunch. \$35. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

China Creek Nature Walk (Sunday, April 24, 1:30 pm)

El Río Reyes Trust and California Native Plant Society are planning a nature walk at China Creek Park, a 120 acre undeveloped Fresno County park, located south of Centerville.

Bring a snack, water, hat, camera, binoculars, and wear appreciate clothing and shoes/boots for hiking. Take Highway 180 to Centerville and turn west on Rainbow Avenue drive till you see the China Creek Nature walk sign. If questions call Connie at 559-638-9617 or <conniekrahn@elrioreyestrust.org >

California Native Grasslands Association

For information call 530.759.8458 or email <admin@cnga.org >

15th Anniversary Conference

April 14-16, 2005. Woodland, California

This year's conference will focus on what has worked in native grass restoration and what ideas may have changed in the past 15 years. The technical session is Friday, April 15, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Tuition-based educational workshops are on Thursday, April 14 and field trips are on Saturday, April 16.

Presenters of the technical session, workshops, and field trips include many highly respected individuals in the fields of restoration, grasslands, range management, landscape architecture, and weed science. Call for space availability.

Monitoring for Planned Grazing of California's Native Grasslands: A Day in the Field

Wednesday, April 27, 2005, 8 am-5 pm
Fatjo Ranch, Pacheco State Park

Workshop participants will learn about developing social, economic, and resource goals for the management of a grassland. The ranch has a diversity of native grasses, including purple needlegrass, pine bluegrass, California brome, California oniongrass, and creeping wildrye.

In the field, biological monitoring will be discussed and demonstrated. Participants will work in small groups to conduct biological monitoring and visit parts of the ranch where grazing livestock have been excluded for a number of years. Monitoring will be conducted on ungrazed sites for comparison. The results will allow us to discuss future strategies for grazing management to achieve the defined goals.

Enrollment is limited. Lunch and course materials provided.

Identifying and Appreciating the Native and Naturalized Grasses of California

May 18 & 19, 2005, 8 am-4:30 pm
Point Reyes Station and Point Reyes National Seashore

Learning to identify grasses leads to a deeper understanding of our California environment. The primary goal is to learn the basic skills of identifying grasses. A valuable class syllabus binder and a basic key will be provided. Enrollment is limited. Reservations are accepted on a first-paid, first-confirmed basis.

Sierra Spring Sojourn (May 13-15, 2005)

The Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS holds their 8th Biennial Sierra Spring Sojourn at the Bernasconi Center in Big Pine. It includes field trips and evening programs focusing on the flora of the White Mountains, Owens Valley and the eastern Sierra Nevada. Registration packs are available by email. Contact Sherryl Taylor at staylor@npgcable.com. To receive the pack by mail, send an SASE to Sherryl Taylor at P.O. Box 1638, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or call 760-924-8742.

Volunteer's Corner

- **CNPS Sequoia Chapter Native Plant Sale**, typically in September. We need a volunteer to coordinate our chapter's Native Plant Sale. Interested? Contact Warren Shaw 559/855-4519 or email at <warshaw@netptc.net>
- A joint "**River Walk**" with El Rio Reyes Trust. Sunday, April 24, 1:30 pm. Contact Warren Shaw if you would like to help.
- **China Creek Workday** (last workday before opening ceremony) scheduled for Saturday, April 16th. There is a lot of work to be done before then. There is an old saying, "many hands make light work." In this case many hands could make it possible for this big project to succeed. Please try to be there.

We'll work from 9 - 3. Please join us for all or part of the day. Bring the usual: hat, gloves, water, lunch, rubber boots, garden tools, etc. Be sure to include a mosquito repellent--they're already active.

- **Selma Earth Day**. Saturday, April 23 at Lincoln Park. The Sequoia Chapter will have a table at this event. If interested in helping, contact Peggy Jones <autumn_aspen@hotmail.com >

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

You can have an impact and the time is now. Please take the time to make your views known about the importance of protecting the Endangered Species Act. It is under assault and needs your help. An important thing to remember about the ESA is that it also identifies the "canary in the coal mine." It isn't a single plant or animal that is the issue; it's the larger picture that is implicated when many single plants or animals become endangered. Loosening protection for endangered species has huge implications. Here are a few ways you can help:

- The Endangered Species Coalition is circulating a sign-on pledge to show broad public and official support for the federal Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act Legacy Pledge is a simple statement of support for the federal Endangered Species Act and the species and habitats it protects. If you have not yet signed the pledge, consider signing it. Over 5,000 people have signed ESA Legacy Pledge. You can read it, sign it, and review background information at the Endangered Species Coalition website:

< <http://www.stopextinction.org/petitions/Petition.cfm?petitionID=8> >

- April is Earth Month at Aveda. This year's Earth Month focuses on protection of Imperiled Plants. Aveda hopes to raise \$1 million for plant protection groups worldwide. They also are circulating a petition that will be sent to President Bush and to the United Nations and hope to collect as many as 1 million signatures for the U.S. and U.N. petitions! The petition to President Bush demands a strong and fully funded Endangered Species Act so that our imperiled plants can be saved from extinction.

Go to the Aveda website and sign the petition to President Bush electronically. Gather signatures from your organizations, friends, family, coworkers - and anyone else you can think of. The petition can be signed online during April at < www.aveda.com/templates/petitions/usa.tmp!?ngextredir=1 >

- Dianne Feinstein is a little squishy on the ESA so handwritten letters to her as well as to Richard Pombo can go a long way. Visit < www.saaveesa.org >. Contact information for your Senators and House Representatives can be obtained online at < www.congress.org >.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CNPS!!

2005 is the California Native Plant Society's 40th anniversary! In a very short time it has become a respected and important organization. Throughout 2005, Fremontia, the CNPS journal, will feature local CNPS chapter histories.

OBSERVATIONS

In the foothills blue oaks are in full leaf—bright green—not yet "blue." Buckeyes have started their erect "candles" and should be blooming gloriously by the end of the month. Many hillsides are frosted with popcorn, gilded with fiddleneck and poppies, or blue-violet with annual lupine. Many other early blossoms are still going strong, and golden brodiaea and grass nut blooms are appearing in increasing numbers. Snake lilies are beginning their annual climb though not yet showing much color. And we recently spotted some patches of Chinese Houses and just saw our first Globe Lilies.

As for the Mitchell's Reedley garden, the Fremontodendrum (Fremontia) planted last fall is blooming with huge yellow blooms!! What a treat! Madeleine also enjoys all the cultivars from the genus Heuchera. She has several new ones this year, all beginning to bloom, along with the "Bleeding Hearts".

Have you noticed the weeds and non-native grasses? Everything this year seems to be "extra large," including the Foxtail, Ripgut Brome, Wild Oat, and various Filaree. Although non-native, they possess a beauty of their own...but not enough beauty to keep me from pulling them wholesale from the still-wet earth.

Many of the small blooms that cover the foothills also make their way to the lower elevations to the West and are everywhere – Popcorn Flower, Fiddleneck, Sky Lupine, Blue Dicks, and a treat this year: Owl's Clover (Castilleja lineariloba) in large patches.

The Needlegrasses are taller than I ever imagined they could get and there is hardly a more beautiful sight than the late afternoon sun glinting off the awns of these grasses as they gently sway in the breeze. Imagine what the grasslands must have looked like 100 years ago.



-- Editor

For Foothill Residents...

Scarecrows mounted throughout a deer-plagued garden have proven a clever solution for preventing deer damage. Large gourds containing solar-powered radios were used for the heads of the scarecrows; the radios were set to the local station for National Public Radio. The constant drone of the NPR programming proved effective in keeping deer away. (From Fine Gardening 78:14)

Sierra Foothill Conservancy Job Opening

Associate Director (Full Time/Exempt Director). Some responsibilities include: identifying and developing grant funding opportunities, administer grant projects, work with the Board and its Fundraising Committee on fundraising activities, administer the SFC volunteer program, represent the official positions at meetings or forums, and assist the Executive Director in all matters pertaining to the administration of SFC.

B.A./B.S. in public or business administration, nonprofit management, environmental or any life science or related field. Seven years experience in land trust management or administration can substitute for a university degree. 5 combined years (paid/volunteer) experience with an environmental or nonprofit organization and major responsibilities for grant writing and administration.

Interested parties may send a resume to PO Box 529, Prather, CA, 93651 or call Chuck Peck at (559) 855-3473.

Newsletter



Send your perspectives, thoughts, poetry, or drawings to me. Have you visited a great Web site recently? How are those native plants you planted last fall doing with our wonderful winter rains? Would you like to see more of /less of a topic? Do you know of hikes or other activities in your area?

The Observations section also welcomes your input. The Sequoia Chapter covers a wide range of climates and topography. And you don't have to be a gardener to appreciate California's incredible plant diversity. Indeed, gardeners should be sure to get out and learn from nature.

Send newsletter contributions, corrections, or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at <nmtv@att.net>. The next newsletter will be the May issue. Contributions are due by Friday, May 6.

SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS* AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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:

- Student/Retired/Limited Income.....\$20
- Individual or Library\$35
- Family or Group\$45
- Supporting\$75
- Plant Lover\$100
- Patron\$250
- Benefactor\$500
- Bristlecone\$1000

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

April 2005



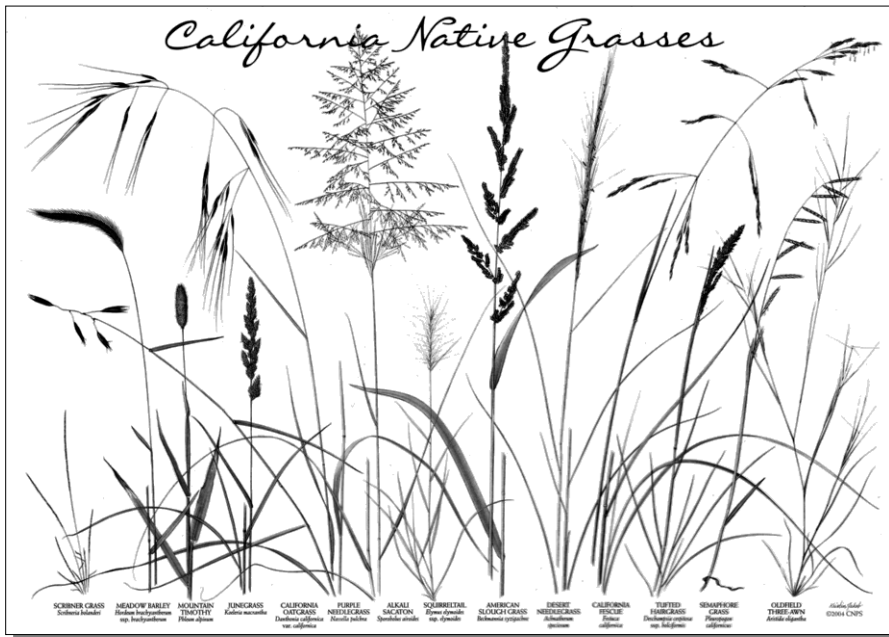
CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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 PLANT



This month we feature California's native grasses by showing one of the beautiful color four-series posters now available for purchase from CNPS. They are approximately 12" x 18". Three of the four are of California natives and one of non-natives.

The artwork is beautiful and the posters are suitable for hanging. Or you can laminate them and use them as place mats or educational tools.

On the back of each is information on grasses: the anatomy of a grass, grasses in general, California's native grasslands, and the effects of invasive non-native grasses.

You can purchase these at the April and May chapter meetings. They are \$12.95 (includes tax) for CNPS members and \$16.18 (includes tax) for non-members.

During the April Chapter Meeting (Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.) we will be having a little *Spring Plant Sale*. You can plant the 2-1/2" plants in gallon pots and then put them in the ground this Fall or if you move quickly, you can plant them in the ground before April turns hot. Be prepared to provide some supplemental water to get them established and you can be quite successful in your native planting. See details on the front page of this newsletter, and see you on the 19th!