



An excellent California native gardening resource

**CNPS**  
*California Native Plant Society*

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Do you garden with California natives? Do you know someone who wants to understand how to start? Are you ready to ditch your lawn or know someone who wants to? A visit to the gardening pages of the [cnps.org](http://cnps.org) website is worth your time. Go to [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and click the Gardening link.

Rather than write yet another tome on gardening with California native plants, they've organized many relevant angles and questions into a logical outline. Each topic contains important points with links to well-vetted references that provide more detail. For example, plant lists takes you to a page with links to plant lists for different areas of California, as provided by the CNPS chapters in that area. The link takes you directly to the website page containing the plant list. (Yes, Sequoia chapter's website contains plant lists and they've linked to that page.)

The Gardening Blog is worth a scan. Trying to deal with weeds? Maybe you just want some natives in pots in your patio. There's information on all that and a lot more. Pay a visit and pass it on!

### Is something Missing?

Those who receive the digital edition of the newsletter will notice something missing from this issue—the photo page at the end of the newsletter. Thelma Valdez started the photo page in 2007, when she was editing the newsletter and she has generously continued that task pretty much ever since, relying on contributions from the membership and on her five acres, largely devoted to natives. Over the years, she has had to rely more and more on her own yard for photo material and, after nearly eight years, has finally decided a hiatus is preferable to re-runs (or re-re-runs!). As our garden plants begin to wake up and we are able to be out and about in Spring weather, here is a reminder to all of us: take some photos of plants you encounter and share them. Meanwhile, Thelma will stand by to resume the photo page. Send photos to Thelma <[yucca37tv@yahoo.com](mailto:yucca37tv@yahoo.com)>

### Native gardeners in Homeowners Associations are no longer outlaws

The governor signed AB 2104 in September 2014. It means that "...homeowner association residents can now replace their lawns with native plants, without fear of reprisal." Two other related bills, AB 2100 and SB 992 also address fines for stopping or reducing landscape watering.

Read the entire article by Susan Krzywicki here: <http://grownatives.cnps.org/2014/09/30/native-gardeners-in-homeowners-associations-are-no-longer-outlaws/>

Susan Krzywicki is the Horticulture Program Director for CNPS.



## CHINA CREEK REPORT- JANUARY

--Warren Shaw [warshaw1955@gmail.com](mailto:warshaw1955@gmail.com)

It was foggy and chilly, as it had been for weeks, so it was a bit surprising we had a good turnout of folks ready to get the China Creek work year off to a good start.

We got other surprises too, First, though we had expected to spend most of our time and energy, just cleaning up – since we hadn't been in the Park since November, '14, we found vast numbers of thistle rosettes already up. Fortunately, having taken note of the fact that the winter in general had been unusually mild, we were prepared with hoes and shovels and able to begin work immediately on those nasty invasives.

The other surprise was that there was no trash to pick up – even at the ponds. Either the fishermen are getting neater, or the weather has been so unpleasant they've been staying home. We'd like to think it's the former. (We know, of course, that Madeleine and Hank have been keeping the area around the gate picked up.)

So, we laid waste to many thistle plants, arranged with Hank to spray some extra thick patches, and built cages around 7 Valley Oak seedlings to protect them from the cattle which will be moving in soon to help us with our weeds; though short, it was a good, productive day.

The February work party will be Saturday, 2-17, from 9-12 (the last of our "winter hours" until November). This is prime thistle abatement season, while they're in the rosette stage, and we need all the help we can muster to deal with them while they're easy. Please join us if you can. .

To get to the Park, take 180/Kings Canyon east across Academy to Smith or Oliver. Turn south about 1/4 mi. past the school to Rainbow and Smith. Continue south on Smith about 1/4 mi. to the Park gate.

## Field Report

--Jane Pritchard

### The Rare *Lewisia disepala*

On January 26 Eileen, Peg, and I saw one plant of *Lewisia disepala* in bloom. It was overcast and late afternoon so the flowers were more closed than the photos on Calflora. When we left, they had noticeably closed even more. A green rosette of fleshy, club-like leaves had several rose pink flowers. The 5 to 9 petals were round tipped and slightly over 1 cm long. A 3-lobed stigma was surrounded by fuzzy yellow anthers. Several other plants had flower buds. The common name is Yosemite bitter root.

The plants grow in depressions on the quarry on Petersen Road, a favorite place for ORVs. One plant had a tire track right over it. Five plants covered with buds that were seen in a separate area on January 17 had vanished into thin air leaving no sign of plants or soil disturbance – quite a mystery. That area is marked by a circle of large boulders in an attempt to keep out ORVs.

### Invasive Klamathweed (*Hypericum perforatum*)

While walking on the dirt road at the east base of Tollhouse Rock last spring, I encountered a plant covered with beautiful yellow flowers with many long stamens. The flower resembled *Montzelia* (blazing star) but there was a profusion of green leaves. Finally I realized it was St. John's wort, an erect perennial 1-4 feet tall and native to Europe. Tiny translucent black and clear oil glands on the foliage and flowers contain hypericin, a fluorescent red pigment that is the antidepressant in St. John's wort remedies.

Klamathweed has naturalized in California in disturbed places including the Chowchilla area and Finegold. It is toxic to livestock and can cause photosensitization, central nervous system depression, spontaneous abortion, and death. Noxious plants become predominant in overgrazed areas because cattle avoid them. Cattle do eat klamathweed when no other food is available. Klamathweed has a taproot and does not hold soil well to prevent erosion.



## California-Laurel, -Bay, -Peppernut (*Umbellularia californica*)

Marian Orvis

from: "Early Uses of California Plants" by Edward K. Balls, 1962 Interesting but "recipes" may be outdated

The thin-shelled nuts of the California-Laurel, -Bay, or- Peppernut were used in some quantity and often stored for winter use. When needed, the nuts were parched or roasted in the ashes of a fire, then cracked and eaten. There is record also of their having been ground and shaped into small cakes after roasting and used as "bread". The bitter quality was dispersed by the roasting.

The oily, pungent leaves were used in many ways medicinally. Headache was cured by placing a piece of the leaf inside the nostril or by binding a number of leaves on the forehead or under the hat. For chronic stomach ailments a large quantity of the leaves was bound round the body and left for several days. A tea made from the leaves was taken as a cure for stomach pains and headache. To cure rheumatism the Bay leaves were used in a hot bath or in the steam bath. The oil caused the skin to smart and made a thorough rubbing necessary. The white settlers adapted this by combining the oil from this leaf with lard and rubbing the body with the ointment. The leaves were used in the Indian houses as a repellent for fleas. When colds were common, boughs of the Laurel would be put on the fire, and the smudge produced was allowed to "fumigate" the house.

# Membership

John & Michele LuValle

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact John LuValle at [jluvalle@mcn.org](mailto: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](http://www.cnps.org) and click on the JOIN button.

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### Next Newsletter: March 2015

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Helen Shaw [helshaw@gmail.com](mailto:helshaw@gmail.com). The deadline for the March newsletter is Friday, Mar. 6



Sequoia Chapter, CNPS  
Thanks Derrel's



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Student, Limited Income.....\$25
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

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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

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February 2015



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### MADELEINE'S MUSINGS

*Madeleine Mitchell*



For the last four years, I've been involved in a project dealing with invasive plants. The organization is PlantRight and, as a Master Gardener for Fresno County, I participate in a Spring Survey of nurseries and "Big Box" stores looking for the plants listed as invasive to California. These plants are not California Natives of course, but other plants like Pampas Grass that are ruining the habitat for our true native plants.

"PlantRight was founded in 2005 to address the ongoing sale of invasive garden plants in California in an environmentally sound and economically viable manner."

More than half of the invasive plants were originally introduced through nurseries, and PlantRight saw the need to prevent those plants from being sold. In reviewing the website to write this I find that Jon Reelhorn, owner of our local Belmont Nursery, is now on the Steering Committee along with many others. The website is [plantright.org](http://plantright.org).

Last year I found Nassella or Stipa tenuissima, (Mexican Needle Grass) unlabeled in a nursery in Clovis and Vinca major (Periwinkle) in Kerman. Some years I didn't find any suspect plants.

In our area the Scotch and French Brooms, Chinese Tallow Tree, Yellow Flag Iris and Water Hyacinth are all listed. PlantRight has "retired" Arundo donax and Tamarix ramosissima, Blue Gum eucalyptus, Russian Olive, Scarlet wisteria and three other broom genera as they are no longer sold...but they still exist along with Pampas grass which generates hundreds of seeds each year.