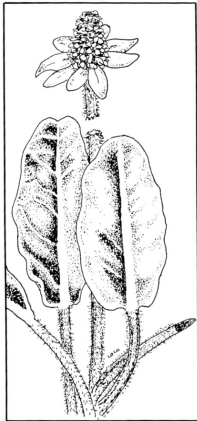




China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

The April workday was unique in that we had three young volunteers from AmeriCorps through the auspices of HandsOn Central Valley. HandsOn Central Valley coordinates the efforts of high school and college students willing to volunteer their time and youthful energy to environmental causes with Generation Green. We certainly applaud the organization and appreciate being included in their work. We also had a good crew of Sequoia chapter members to work with the youth and direct their efforts, all the while enthusiastically removing Yellow Star Thistle. It was fun to get acquainted with the volunteers and hear their perspectives on life. We felt it was great way to celebrate Earth Day and we hope for further contact with these fine young people.



Yerba Mansa

The May workday found volunteers enthusiastically hand-pulling Yellow Star Thistle from areas where the invasion was sparse enough to be encouraging. During the course of the morning's work volunteers weed-eated and cleaned up the kiosk area, admired the *Anemopsis californica* (Yerba Mansa), watched many birds, found good insect activity, including a May Fly, and generally enjoyed a morning in the park.

(Editor's note: It's good to look at old photographs sometimes, especially when in 2004 a photo showed Yellow Star Thistle over six feet tall in areas of the park. While far from eliminated, the change in the park is substantial. Yellow Star Thistle can turn a place such as this into a wasteland.)

In June we'll turn to full time Yellow Star Thistle abatement. Call us crazy but once again we hope that by fall we will eliminate every single fuzzy yellow blossom from the park so as to avoid adding even one YST seed to the already existing bank. The June workday will be Saturday, June 27 starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at noon. We hope you can bring your weapons of choice and join us in the weed wars.

We may get some help with our efforts in the near future. Through Paul Mitchell I've been in contact with Lincoln Smith, a USDA Research Entomologist, who is experimenting with a weevil from Turkey as a biological control for YST. Previous attempts at biological controls have had limited success because they used insects that ate the seed.

Yellow Star Thistle is such a prodigious seed producer that the insects simply couldn't make much headway. This "new" insect attacks the plant in the rosette stage. Wouldn't it be great if we could move on to some of the other enemies on our "Ten Most Wanted Weeds" list? We'll keep you posted.

Water-wise Plant Exchange a Big Success

On Saturday May 16 our chapter participated in the Water-Wise Plant Exchange event sponsored by the City of Fresno. The public was invited to bring drought tolerant plants to the CSUF Horticultural Greenhouse area for exchange. Master Gardeners, including Madeleine Mitchell from the Sequoia Chapter, were on hand to sort plants and identify those that were truly water-wise and those that were less so. Donors were allowed to walk the tables and select from plants brought by other donors and then had a chance to circulate among the various presentations.

In addition to our display, Tree Fresno, Clovis Botanical Garden, CSUF Horticultural, Master Gardeners, Central Valley Water Awareness Committee, City of Fresno, Takao Nursery, Design Display, and others offered water-wise information, products, and services.

The City provided tables and canopies which were set up around a nice lawn area shaded by big old trees. The area also included a demonstration garden of water-wise plants and a small cactus and succulent garden. There was also a fantastic blooming spice bush near the entrance. It was a perfect venue except perhaps for its remoteness from the primary population centers, and the event as a whole was very well organized and staffed by the City. We estimated an attendance of about 200.

We sold a few posters and gave away mostly seeds (Redbud, poppy, needlegrasses, blue-eyed grass, and more) and lots of "Using California Native Plants" brochures and other literature. And, of course, we also dispensed lots of good advice!

CNPS Plant Science Training Program Workshops

June 9-11

Introduction to the second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation

June 23-24(25)

Great Rivers of California: the American River (3rd day in Desolation Wilderness is optional)

August 12-14^t

Vegetation Rapid Assessment:

Sept 29- Oct 1

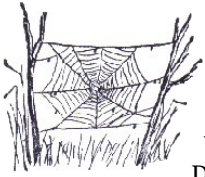
Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert

October 13-15

Vegetation Mapping

Visit <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/> for complete details.

Observations



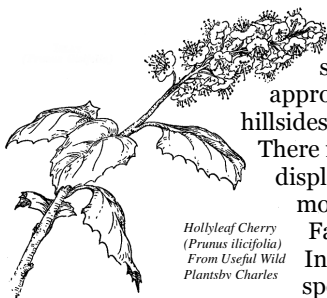
In the lower elevations of the Sequoia Chapter area where there are no foothills behind which the sun can hide, the blossoms of California Buckwheat, Desert Willows, Cleveland and White Sage, and Toyon are filled with the buzz of a wide variety of insects. Mostly it's bees and wasps and would require an entomologist to identify all the different types. An admirer can spend a lot of time watching the behavior, coloring, and patterns of each. Then a hummingbird swoops in and nearly takes out your eye in their "I'm in a hurry" way.

Carpenter bees favor the Desert Willow and Cleveland Sage while native bees are not often seen in the Desert Willow. Wasps are common on the Buckwheat and Toyon but I've not see a single wasp on the sages.

A couple of non-native plant-insect observations include European honey bees in the blossoms of prickly pear cactus blossoms. The bees appear to be overwhelmed by the amount of pollen, rolling around inside the blossom and sometimes even tolerating another bee in a single blossom.

It's worth a visit to China Creek to see the Yerba Mansa (*Anemopsis californica*). It's in full bloom right now and the spicy smell is wonderful. Visit anytime between now and the end of June for a sure view of a remarkable plant that must be seen to be believed. Simply walk up the paved area or down the beginning of the trail and you can't miss it. (If you receive the newsletter via email there are photographs of Yerba Mansa at China Creek on the last page of photographs.)

If you stop and watch a bee collecting pollen on Yerba Mansa you'll see that they tend to go round and round the blossoms in a spiral pattern. Go early and watch the swallows, listen to the hawks and ducks, and maybe catch sight of a resident coyote. Oh yes, and if you see a Yellow Star Thistle, a bull thistle, or a milk thistle, decimate it!



Hollyleaf Cherry
(*Prunus ilicifolia*)
From Useful Wild
Plantsby Charles

Warren Shaw says that in the foothills summer is rapidly approaching, with most hillsides now fairly brown. There is still a fabulous display of color though, mostly in the form of Farewell-to-Spring. In fact there are four species of *Clarkia* blooming in his immediate

area. He's also seen Mariposa Lily in numbers and in places never before seen. Harvest Brodiaea is rampant and Buckeyes are resplendent. Milkweeds, Spice Bush, Blue Penstemon, and Larkspur are also blooming prettily.

-Editor

California Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance AB 1881

The following information was taken from <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/landscape/ord/ord.cfm>. Please note that public comments are still being taken until May 26, 2009.

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance -- AB 325

In September 1990, Governor Pete Wilson signed Assembly Bill 325 directing the Department of Water Resources to adopt a [Model Local Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance](#) by January 1, 1992. A Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance was created by an advisory task force of interested stakeholders such as landscape and construction industry professionals, members of environmental protection groups, water agencies and state and local government. By January 1993, local agencies were to either adopt a Local Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, adopt the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, or make a statement that due to water availability and other factors an ordinance was not necessary. Cities and counties are required to enforce the ordinance as it applies to new and rehabilitated public and private landscapes that require a permit and on developer-installed residential landscapes. The ordinance does not apply to landscapes under 2,500 square feet, homeowner-installed residential landscapes, cemeteries, registered historical sites and ecological restoration and mined reclamation areas without permanent irrigation systems.

Destructive Mining In California Rivers (from www.FriendsOfTheRiver.org)

The California State Senate will soon vote on a bill that will protect California rivers from the ravages of suction dredge mining. Write a letter TODAY urging your State Senator to support SB670 (Wiggins), which will place a moratorium on suction dredge gold mining in rivers throughout California until the California Department of Fish and Game develops and implements regulations to protect water quality and river habitat and endangered salmon, frogs, and other species.

Background

Many people have a romantic vision of gold miners panning for gold in California rivers with their faithful burro standing nearby. In reality, many of California's most sensitive rivers are being disrupted by miners who suck gravel out of the river through large motorized dredges. Suction dredging degrades water quality and disrupts river habitat for fish, amphibians, and the insects that make up the food chain. In addition, toxic mercury used to separate out the gold from the gravel often ends up in the river, poisoning insects, fish, and anglers.

Despite existing law and a court decision that requires the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to regulate mining to protect water quality and habitat, suction dredge gold mining continues on California rivers with little state regulation. Currently, CDFG issues permits for suction dredging, with few if any limits to protect the environment. Even California's wild & scenic rivers and wild trout streams remain unprotected from suction dredge mining under the Department's current regulations! Not only is CDFG failing to protect the environment through these permits, it is costing taxpayers over a million dollars a year to administer this ineffective regulatory program.

SB670, introduced by Senator Patricia Wiggins from the North Coast region, places a moratorium on all suction dredge mining in California rivers until the Department of Fish and Game completes court-mandated river-specific regulations to protect water quality, habitat, and sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.

If passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, SB670 will protect the declining salmon runs of the Klamath River, sensitive foothill yellow-legged frogs in Sierra rivers, and even the endangered Santa Ana sucker in Southern California's San Gabriel River. It will not affect gold panning or non-motorized mining, just motorized suction dredge mining that disturbs salmon spawning beds, fish and frog habitat, and pollutes the water with sediment and mercury.

For more information, contact Steve Evans, Conservation Director of Friends of the River, at (916) 442-3155 x221, or via email at sevans@friendsoftheriver.org

Membership

Helen Shaw

If you require corrections or additions to your membership information, contact Helen Shaw at helshaw@netptc.net

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



*New Members and Membership Renewals (April & May)

Fresno : Arrendondo, Borders, Enydey, Ewell, Jones, Larson, Latimer, Paul, Poole, Shaw, Siegfried, Smith, Tung, Yorganian
Madera : Oulton, Rivers
Out of Area : Alsobrook (Las Vegas), Snyder (Davis), *Wornnle (Indiana)

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

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, and convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

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Education Co-chairs	Warren Shaw Peggy Jones	559/855-4519 (h) (see Past President)
Rare Plant	John Stebbins johnst@cvip.net	559/297-0144 (h)
Plant Sale	Marian Orvis	(see Secretary)
Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
Directors at Large	Jim Seay Verna Arnest	jaseay@comcast.net vernaj@sti.net

Rare Plants

Sidalcea keckii (Keck's Checkerbloom) grows on Sierra Foothill Conservancy's Tivy Mountain Preserve. The 1993 Jepson Manual presumed it to be extinct. Recently *Plagiobothrys myosotoides* (Forget-me-not Popcornflower) was found on the Black Mountain Preserve – the only known population in Fresno and Tulare Counties. Jepson also lists it in Santa Clara Co., Peru, and Chile.

Next Newsletter: July-August 2009



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for the July-August newsletter is Thursday, July 9.



JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RENEW

Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fremontia*; the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide and announcements of Society activities and conservation issues; and our chapter newsletter, *Carpenteria*.

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

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Address: _____

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- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student, Limited Income | \$25 |
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Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

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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

May-June 2009



CALIFORNIA NATIVE
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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

California's Buckwheats

California boasts over 110 species of native buckwheats (*Eriogonum*) ranging in form, size, colors, and textures. Buckwheats are very easy to grow and they're quite showy which makes them an excellent choice for the drought-tolerant garden in the city.

Foothill dwellers or those in the flatlands that are near any open space need to be aware that there are many invasive non-native buckwheats available. Non-natives can establish themselves in the wild and displace natives.

If using buckwheat in your garden, it's best to plant only species that are native to your area. California is a vast state and although many varieties of buckwheat are California natives they can still be invasive if planted outside of their natural geographic area.

For example, some years ago CalTrans planted buckwheat that is native to Southern California along Highway 41 north of Herndon. It has since been escaping into the wild. Even before then Cal Trans also planted non-native buckwheat along Highway 1 near Pacifica, which has since invaded the dunes of Pacifica State Beach and almost completely displaced their native buckwheat.

A good resource for identifying species native to your area is CalFlora.org. If the nursery you frequent is knowledgeable in local natives they can also give you advice.

Once buckwheat is established they need virtually no water beyond the winter rains and they look attractive even when they are not in bloom.

Buckwheats generally have gray, gray-green, or white leaves out of which emerge blossoms with hundreds of individual flowers. The flowers are arranged into dense heads and range from white (fading to pink), yellow (fading to red), or even red (fading to a deeper red).

When the flower has dried, the head turns into a bright russet against the background of the gray-green leaves and look striking throughout the summer.



California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) from *Native Plants for use in the California Landscape* by Emile L. Labadie

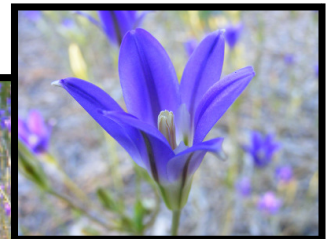
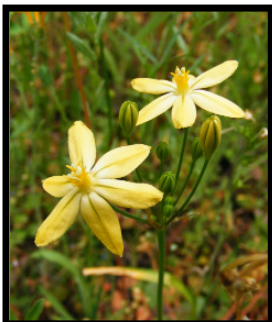


Center three photos (clockwise starting at top right)

- Canchalagua (*Centaureum muhlenbergii*)
- Fairy Lantern (*Calochortus amoenus*)
- Annual Lupine (*Lupinus sp.*)

Clockwise starting at top left

- California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
- Anemopsis (view and closeup) (*Eschscholzia californica*)
- Caterpillar Phacelia (*Phacelia Cicutaria*)
- Harvest Brodiaea (view and closeup) (*Brodiaea elegans*)
- Pretty Face (*Triteleia ixioides*)
- Chinese Houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*)
- Common Madia (*Madia elegans*)
- California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*)



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