



October Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.
Caring for Native Plants in Your Garden

Well, it's October and you're ready to plant those native plants purchased at the plant sale in September. Or maybe you're wondering what to do about the natives you planted in the last couple of years that got much larger than you expected? Oh, you also have some plants that didn't do very well and you'd like to talk with someone about what might have gone wrong?

We've got you covered! Come to October's meeting and sit in the round (well, around the rectangle) with us to talk about caring for native plants in your yard. We'll discuss the various ways to successfully get your natives established, talk about maintenance tasks as we head into fall and winter, and generally get into the virtual dirt of California native plant gardening. Join us!

			Shaw
	Santa Ana		
		✕	
			Gettysburg
Fruit	Thorne	Palm	

Meeting Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 50 East Santa Ana Avenue (near Palm & Shaw).

General Meetings: March, May, September, October
Board Meetings: November, January, February, April

Poster Sale !

Looking for a Christmas gift for nature loving friends and family? We will have Sierra Wildflower posters for \$10.50 (includes tax), at the October meeting.



Valley Oak
(Quercus lobata)



China Creek Update

Warren Shaw

Our September workday in the park was a perfect early fall day; asters blooming and wild roses starting to show clusters of fat, bright red hips. Regrettably, yellow star thistle was also (still) blooming, with discouraging abundance and persistence. We hacked away at it, but realized we're not going to realize our goal of going into the winter without a single yellow blossom showing -- maybe next year.

We also spent a little time looking at our draft "Ten Most Wanted (weed) List," with a view to getting our efforts organized into a formal Weed Management Plan -- much more work to be done on this.



"Adopt-an-Area" is a new concept to consider. This would involve dividing the park into areas of various sizes, in hopes we could get individuals, couples and groups to take responsibility for each. We would continue regular workdays and abatement activities, but adopters could work their areas at times (and in ways) convenient to them. Please give this some thought.

Upcoming Workday. October workday is scheduled for Sat. 10-25 from 9-12. Weeds, trail maintenance, and general cleanup will be our foci. We hope you can join us.

Plant Sale Report

The plant sale was a success from a number of perspectives. The most important aspect of the sale is reaching out and getting native plants into local gardens. We did that in a big way by getting 500 plants into the hands of new and returning gardeners. The Clovis Botanical Garden does not sell natives at this sale but the plants sold by CBG are water-wise and appropriate to our climate. Together we got 900 plants out into local gardens! Now that's an accomplishment to be proud of!

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who helped to make this a success: Marian & Frank Orvis, Jim Seay, Jeanne Larson, Helen & Warren Shaw, Sally & sons, Bonnie & Ray Laclergue, Nye Morton & Thelma Valdez, Jane Pritchard, Howard Latimer, and Anne Betancourt. Additional thanks to the Clovis Botanical Garden and all their volunteers for being our partner in this effort to spread the word about the wonderful world of California native plants.

Of course, this is our biggest fundraiser of the year so the dollars are important, too. Our net proceeds to the chapter's coffers were \$917.35, a respectable figure. And although 500 native plants is a lot, consider that the population of Fresno and Clovis alone is nearly 500,000. It means we have a lot of work yet to do!

So here's a challenge - look at your own landscape. How many natives have you incorporated? Can you change a little more of your garden to make it more native? Can you become an advocate for native plants and talk about them with your neighbors, friends, and family? Spread the word starting now and throughout the year. When it's time for next year's plant sale, maybe we'll be able to boast a doubling of the number of plants into the hands of local gardeners. Dream a little

Designing a "Nature Window"

Joseph Oldham

When we moved into our home in Yosemite Lakes Park in 2005, I decided to only use California native plants in the landscape. As I selected the plants to use and where to plant them, one feature of the house, a large, south-facing bay window in the living room, offered both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge was to plant a small tree and shrubs to provide shade in the summer and allow sunlight to enter the room in the winter. The opportunity was to create a nature-viewing site where birds, reptiles, and mammals could be viewed from the comfort of the living room.

My decision as to which plants to use was based, at the time, on my desire for flowers, fragrance, and shade potential. Information on what specific wildlife would be attracted by these plants was really not available, only that the plants were beneficial to wildlife. The plants that I chose for the area in front of the window were Desert Willow, Cleveland Sage, California Fuchsia, Sulfur Buckwheat, and "Eve Case"

Coffeeferry; all drought-tolerant California natives that have either beautiful flowers, fragrant leaves, or berries.

Now, three years later, the trees and shrubs are growing well and we are visited daily by a steady stream of insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals attracted to the plants in front of the window. The nature show that they put on rivals any that can be seen on television. In fact, any time visitors come over they are amazed at the diversity of creatures that visit our home!

What I have done is to create conditions that encourage wildlife to come close and anyone that gardens with native plants can do the same. The exciting part is that it is so easy to do. The plants to all the work and all you have to do is sit back and enjoy the show!

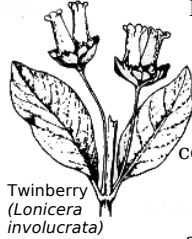
This fall as you prepare to plant new additions in your garden or revise an existing landscape, take a look at the view from your favorite window. Imagine what it would be like to be able to see all manner of creatures just outside within easy viewing distance without binoculars. Then go to your local California native plant nursery and buy some plants that will suit that location and set up your own "nature window". I promise you that the plants won't let you down and the wildlife in your neighborhood will thank you for your efforts by visiting you regularly! Happy planting!



Foothill Ash
(*Fraxinus latifolia*)

Observations

In the foothills blue oaks are continuing, very slowly, to defoliate. Acorns are few, but some are very large, a puzzle. The little rain washed the dust off, so everything is a little brighter -- especially the Buckeyes, still covered with intensely russet leaves and pale "nuts." A few Twinberry vines have bright red berries, and Sycamores are beginning to turn.



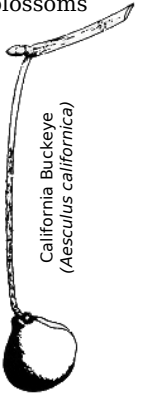
Twinberry
(*Lonicera involucrata*)

Jeanne's grey fuchsia almost died from too much water when her automatic sprinkler didn't turn off. One received more sun, so it dried out sooner, and is now blooming but the stems have a lot of brown leaves. It will be interesting to see what comes back, if at all, from the cut back of the really dry branches.

My own California Fuchsia seem to be on a schedule of heavy bloom in mid-October. Year after year the early, few blossoms of late September fool me into thinking that maybe something's wrong because there are so few. Then mid-October arrives and they're a blaze of color.

The end of hot weather for most California natives seems to reflect what I see in the behavior of people who live here and spend enough time outside to actually experience our climate. Our hot weather is nearly over; we're anticipating slightly cooler temperatures even if we're not really looking for winter weather. At the slightest change from 100 degree days to just 95 degrees, we start to perk up. Some persons (and some plants) really perk up when the highs only reach 80. Others (like Blue Curls) lament the passing of the hot weather and start to plan for cooler times even as the bees collect the pollen from the last of the lavender-blue blossoms.

This cyclical adjustment of our clothing and our activities are modern human reactions to the change of seasons. More similar to plant and other animal reactions than sometimes meets the eye. Sometimes we compare ourselves to animals; brave as a lion, quiet as a mouse. This is easier because of great similarities among all animals. But which California native plant are you most like? Think about it.



California Buckeye
(*Aesculus californica*)

The CNPS Conservation Conference Silent Auction Committee

The CNPS Conservation Conference Silent Auction Committee seeks donations to help raise money for CNPS' conservation programs. The silent auction, drawing, and live auction will take place January 18. What can you contribute? There are no restrictions! Just think about what you might like to buy--artwork, books, photos, seeds, garden tools, anything nice!. Perhaps you belong to a wine club and can provide a superb limited reserve bottle. Maybe a book signed by Ledyard Stebbins himself? What about an annual pass to our national parks and forests?

Other ideas: a gift basket full of items produced locally in your region, a week or weekend in a vacation home, airline tickets, camera, or binoculars, a garden design by a landscaper, garden services, a lovely vase or pot, a quilt with a plant theme.

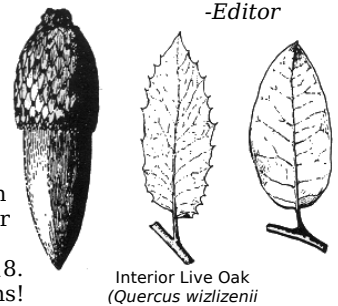
Please contact Rachel Hutchinson if you have questions or donations. Phone: 559-304-0445 or rahutchinson@gmail.com.



The CNPS 2009 Native Plant Conservation Conference. Strategies and Solutions. January 17-19, 2009
Sacramento Convention Center and Sheraton Grand Hotel

This conference aims to bring together over 1,000 scientists, conservationists, university students, public policymakers, professional and amateur botanists, and local and regional land-use planners from all regions of the state and beyond to share and learn about the latest developments in conservation science and public policy. This will be the largest of its kind devoted to California botany and landscape conservation. Its purpose is to identify and promote strategies and solutions to California's conservation challenges and to celebrate its diversity.

You can find out more about donation ideas and the Conference at the CNPS Web site www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009.



Interior Live Oak
(*Quercus wizlizenii*)

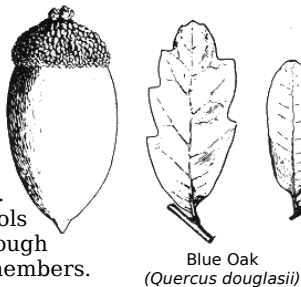
-Editor

Coffeeferry
(*Rhamnus californica*)

Related Events - Within Reach

Oct. 18. Landscaping with Native Grasses. A class with Bob Hornback, 9 am to 12 pm, Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley. Fee 45; pre-registration required. www.nativeplants.org

Oct. 19. Oaks of the Sierra. Chuck Peck of Sierra Foothill Conservancy will show you at least seven (maybe 8) of the oaks that grow in the Sierra foothills. Meet at 9 am at the Park & Ride where Auberry Road leaves Highway 168, just up the road from Intermountain Nursery. Arrive early so we can arrange for carpools and set off on time to on our Journey through the Oaks. \$10 SFC members; \$15 non-members.



Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times. Save these dates:

March 28, 2009 - Lafayette Community Center, Lafayette
 March 29, 2009 - Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley
 Co-sponsored by Pacific Horticulture, the California Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden .

We are pleased to present a 2-day program of talks and workshops exploring the possibilities for creating beautiful waterwise gardens with plants native to California.

For more information, please visit
www.nativeplants.org
www.cnps.org
www.pacifichorticulture.org

Membership

Helen Shaw

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

*New Members and Membership Renewals

Madera : Bredon, *Gilbert

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

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Conservation Co-chairs	Jeanne Larson Joseph Oldham	(see Treasurer) (see Horticulture)
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Newsletter



Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Thelma Valdez at nmtv@att.net. The deadline for the November newsletter is Thursday, November 6.



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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:

New Member Renewing Member

- Student, Limited Income..... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group, or Library..... \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

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

October 2008



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.

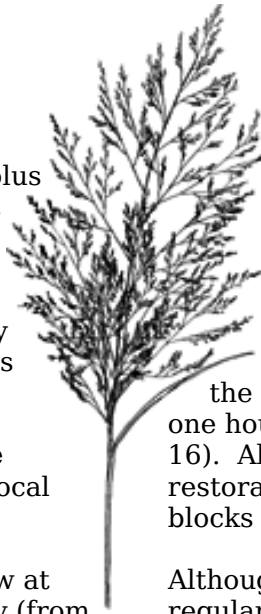
FEATURED CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

Alkalai Sacaton

The botanical name of this grass is *Sporobolus airoides*. It is a very tough bunchgrass that produces delicate plumes at the end of summer.

It is native to both alkalai sinks and vernal moist valley bottoms. For the gardener, it is a showy two to three foot grass that is compatible with Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), but looks great on its own also. The foliage remains delicate and is a beautiful focal point throughout the winter.

You can see this grass in the alkalai meadow at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve in Tulare County (from the Road 182 parking lot, the first plant community encountered is the alkali meadow.)



Visit www.kaweahoaks.com for more information on the Kaweah Oaks Preserve.

In April 2002, Students of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) and from Central High School of Fresno worked to restore native grasses on the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (about one hour south and west of Modesto on State Road 16). Alkalai sacaton figured highly in this restoration project and there are now contiguous blocks of alkali sacaton and saltgrass.

Although it looks best with occasional, or even regular irrigation, it is drought tolerant once established. The plumes are beautiful in dried arrangements.

"I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journeywork of the stars." --Walt Whitman