

# Carpenteria



March 2017  
www.cnps-sequoia.org

CNPS SEQUOIA CHAPTER

## CHINA CREEK REPORT

--Warren Shaw

Rain threatened, but it turned out a perfect spring day with mostly sun, light breezes, birds singing, blooming orchards, green hills, everybody shedding jackets and sweatshirts by break time, etc., etc.

We devoted ourselves mainly to hunting bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) rosettes, which due, we think, to copious rainfall, are popping up early this year. We found those, as well as considerable milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), to grub out. And Hank, despite a recent by-pass surgery, climbed on his tractor and mowed the trail.



We noted, however, with great sadness, that one of the great old valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), at the northeast corner of the southeast parcel of the Park, had broken down, with almost half its massive bulk on the ground. We greatly fear the rest of the tree, now greatly out of balance, will fall soon. The break appeared solid, with no sign of heart rot or any other explanation. The tree is, we estimate, at least two hundred years old. Very sad.

On the other hand, we also noted many vigorous seedlings, some of which we had previously caged to protect from cattle, but have now outgrown their cages and no longer need protection.



Our March work party will be Saturday, March 18, from 8-12. [Please note earlier starting time. We recognize it's a bit of a double whammy since Daylight Savings Time will have just started; but, there will still be plenty of light by 8:00, and of course, there's no tardy bell; and, you're welcome whenever you can make it.] We'll be continuing to hunt down bull thistle rosettes to kill while they're easy. We'll also have a crew working on trail maintenance, replacing signs damaged by weather, and replacing some rotted and broken posts.

-*Quercus lobata*- Photos by Warren Shaw



Two of our regulars are on the injured list; two have left the area, and one is in Greece, so we're running short-handed. Sequoia Chapter has been committed to this very worthwhile restoration and public education project for thirteen years now. Please consider joining us in keeping it going.

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

# OBSERVATIONS

--Thelma Valdez

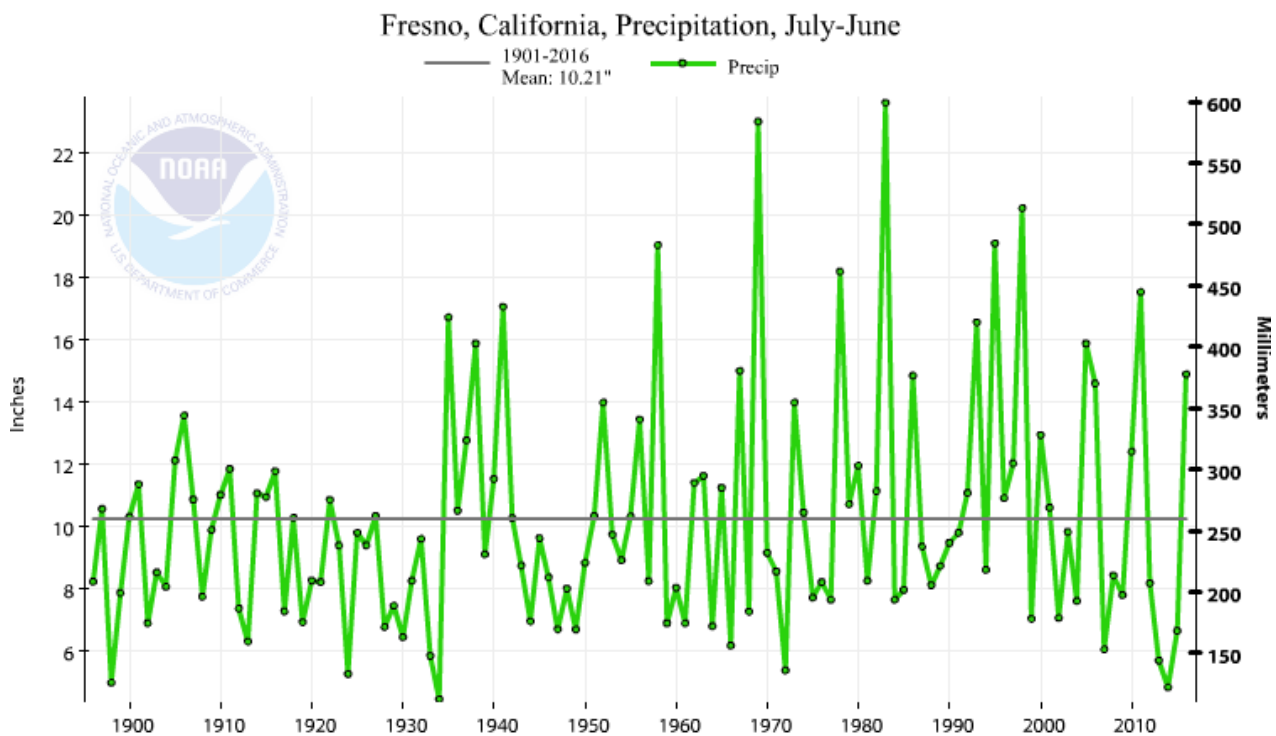
At last, plenty of rain! California native plants that survived the drought are likely to respond with an abundance of growth that comes with a wet year. We lament the devastating loss of so many trees across the state that couldn't survive the long, severe drought. One hopes that the survivors are strengthened because dry years will return, as will wet years.

I read an article recently that led me to the Climate at a Glance page on the NOAA website (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag>). I plugged in the filters for annual precipitation from July 1895 to June 2016 for the city of Fresno. You don't need to get into the details to see that dry years (58%) are followed by average to occasionally way above average wet years (42%).

Dry years always return, and they can last years, as we just experienced. A visit to the website is well worth your time.

I hope that gardeners who incorporated native plants in their home landscapes during the drought years enjoy watching their plants respond to the rain. If you've lived in the area for more than 10 years and watched native plants in the wild or planted them in your garden, you know that they are best suited to handle our climate, even as the pendulum of wet years swings wider and dry years last long.

If you're a newer native plant gardener, this winter's rain should give their roots a great foundation. Take the years as they come, help make your plants survivors, and you'll reap the rewards of a strong California landscape even during the inevitable dry years.



## GARDEN NOTES

--Jeanne Larson



-*Sisyrinchium bellum*-  
©2008 Keir Morse

My bee's bliss sage (*Salvia* cv. 'Bees Bliss') is almost in full bloom, but the storm last night and wind today have kept the bees away. This sage hybrid is troubled by powdery mildew, but it has had fewer spots of the disease this wet year, which is a surprise.

The blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) was damaged by the prolonged heat last summer and just a few plants are in bloom under the Chitalpa tree (x *Chitalpa tashkentensis* cv.). Buds fill the Powder Blue Ceanothus (*Ceanothus arboreus* cv.) shrub and will hopefully be open before the new week is over.



-*Lupinus bicolor*-  
©2015 Barry Rice



-*Gilia tricolor*- ©2015 Steve Matson

My main wildflower bed, mostly miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) and bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), has so much annual blue grass (*Poa annua*), a non-native, that I will have to collect as much seed as I can of the gilia and lupine, solarize the area this summer, and reseed in the fall.

## FIELD REPORT

--Jane Pritchard

### Stevenson Falls

On Sunday, February 26, Eileen and I drove up Jose Basin Road and down Italian Bar Road to Million Dollar Mile Road just above Powerhouse 3. The road is paved and located behind a locked gate. Just inside the gate western false rue anemone (*Enemion occidentale*) was in bloom and liveforever (*Dudleya cymosa*) plants grew on the shaded, north-facing road bank. Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* ssp.), popcorn flowers (*Plagiobothrys* ssp.), red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*), and foothill lomatium (*Lomatium utriculatum*) had started to bloom even though they were still short.



-*Enemion occidentale*-  
©2009 Barry Breckling



-*Dudleya cymosa*-  
©2009 Leigh Johnson

Water was roaring down the creek at the first bridge and was much higher than usual. Various sized waterfalls were numerous. Water fell from above the adit into a pool at the entrance and echoed back into the tunnel. Pale yellow or white *Ranunculus hystriculus* (waterfall buttercup) bloomed from top to bottom just outside the adit.

Water was falling over the bridge at Stevenson Falls. Mist wet us as we went closer. Rainbows played in the mist below the falls—sometimes well defined, sometimes washed out as the mist changed. Videos of the falls are posted on YouTube.

Jose Basin side: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKUbdSckgLE>  
Big Creek side: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOhuXiDDSIU>



-*Calandrinia menziesii*-  
Warren Shaw



## Upcoming Events and Classes in 2017

### •March 18—Identifying Lichens to Genus- Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

Location: Holt Hall Room 129 California State University, Chico



- Will focus on identifying lichens of the lower Sierra Nevada foothills to genus.
- The morning will be spent covering lichen basics such as anatomy, morphology, and reproduction of lichens.
- Lunch will be spent in the field.
- The afternoon will be in the lab for guided exploration using scopes, reference materials, chemical spot tests, vouchers, and keys.
- Previous experience with dichotomous keys will be helpful.

*Cost:* \$90 for members of Friends of the Herbarium / \$100 personal / \$125 business / \$90 for members of Friends of the Herbarium / \$40 for students (two spaces).

*Details:* Contact Tom Carlberg at [tcarlberg7@yahoo.com](mailto:tcarlberg7@yahoo.com) for information about workshop content. Contact the Biology office at (530) 898-4235 or [chatfield@csuchico.edu](mailto:chatfield@csuchico.edu) for information about workshop registration.

<http://www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/>

### •April 14-16 Plant Life of the Santa Monica Mountains

Location: UCLA La Kretz Center Field Station, Malibu, CA

- Will discuss the rare plants of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Mediterranean habitats and unique ecosystems that characterized coastal Southern California, and the evolutionary history of the key California plant lineages present in the Santa Monica Mountains.
- Several field trips will be taken to visit habitats of the area, which will be accompanied by lectures.

### April 14-16 Plant Life of the Santa Monica Mountains (continued)

- Included in the course fee is the option for participants to stay in shared dormitories or camp at a field station.
- A personal vehicle is required for field trips.
- Hiking is easy to moderate.

*Cost:* \$325/ \$355

*Details:* <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>

Map from Western Alliance for Nature



### •April 18-20—Introduction to Plant Identification-Southern CA

Location: Frazier Park & Tejon Ranch, CA

Target Audience: Workshop will be taught a beginner level and is open to anyone interested in learning or improving their knowledge of plant terminology and the characteristics of common plant families, and becoming competent at plant keying.



Photo by Nick Jensen

- A 3-day introductory workshop.
- Includes 2 days of classroom presentations and exercises and 1 full day in field on Tejon Ranch.
- Will begin with basic plant morphology.
- Will learn the specialized terminology necessary to identify plants in 15 common California plant families.
- Emphasis will be placed on common groups of plants in Southern California.
- Materials on basic plant morphology will be provided in advance.
- To earn a certificate of completion, participants will need to pass a quiz at the end of the workshop.
- Last day to register is April 10, 2017 and class is limited to 20 participants.

*Cost:* \$395 for CNPS members / \$415 for non-members.

*Details:* Contact Becky Reilly at [breilly@cnps.org](mailto:breilly@cnps.org) or (916) 447-2677 x 207

[http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/2017/0418\\_intro\\_plant\\_id.php](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/2017/0418_intro_plant_id.php)

**SEQUOIA CHAPTER OFFICERS\*  
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**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](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: April 2017**

Send newsletter corrections or suggestions to Laura Castro at [lacastror@outlook.com](mailto:lacastror@outlook.com). The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **Monday, March 27, 2017.**



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

New Member
  Renewing Member

California Native Plant Society  
 2707 K Street, Suite I  
 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

March 2017

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEQUOIA CHAPTER

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

### RARE PLANTS OF FRESNO COUNTY

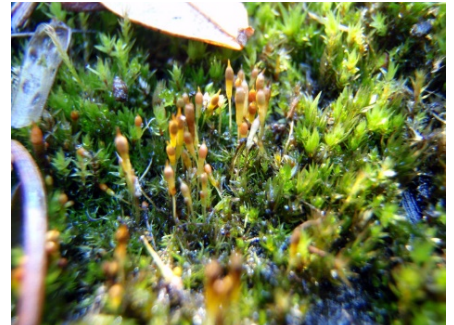
#### --Jane Pritchard

Tulare rockcress (*Boechea tularensis*), in the Brassicaceae family, derived its name from T. W. Boecher, a Danish cytogeneticist who lived from 1909 to 1983. The flowers are white to pale lavender, with the fruit appressed. It grows on rocky slopes at 2400-3200 meters in the southern high Sierra Nevada and blooms June and July. The plant is a biennial or a short-lived perennial according to Jepson, and considered a perennial by Calflora.



-*Boechea tularensis*-  
©2015 Dana York

Bolander's bruchia moss (*Bruchia bolanderi*) is a bryophyte tolerant of low water levels. It grows in water or mud at 1750-2400 meters. The sporophytes reminded the person who named the moss of a wingless locust-like insect called a pea bug or wheat weevil (Gr. *brouchos* or *broukos*), which is how the moss got its name.



-*Bruchia bolanderi*- ©2014 Scot Loring



Purple Needlegrass  
(*Stipa pulchra*)

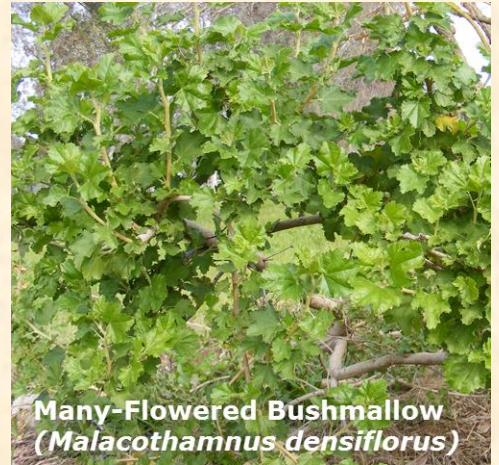


Oregon Grape  
(*Berberis aquifolium*)



Harmony Manzanita  
(*Arctostaphylos hookeri* 'Harmony')

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Sequoia Chapter  
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Many-Flowered Bushmallow  
(*Malacothamnus densiflorus*)



Golden Currant  
(*Ribes aureum*)



Blue Elderberry  
(*Sambucus mexicana*)