October Work Party
--Warren Shaw

A goodly crew of willing workers gathered at the Park on Saturday, October 13 to tackle a variety of chores. One pair worked hard to remove cages from seedling Valley oaks that had either outgrown the cages or had died. Chris treated Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) sprouts in the north grazing area, where she sought and flagged seedlings (finding only one). And, while weeding wasn’t at the top of the list, Kat and Matt gathered a couple of bags of thistle plants gone to seed. In addition, we drove the trail and repaired or replaced signs as needed, noting that the Sycamore station sign had been flattened — presumably by a mosquito abatement vehicle; the sign is on the list to be replaced in November. Jane made some progress on the plant list, and Hank made preparations to mow the trail.

We also discussed the practical questions of reopening a trail in the sanctuary, like how we’ll get around or over the wet parts and how we’ll avoid disturbing the many raptors nesting there. There are no definitive answers yet, but we’re thinking.

It was a beautiful and productive fall day in the Park; just a bit chilly at 8:00, but warm enough to produce a little perspiration (at least for those doing hard labor) by noon.

The November work party will occur on Saturday, November 17 from 9am–12pm, and will conclude with our annual “Thank You” lunch at the Blossom Trail Cafe, with lunch paid for by the Chapter for all who have supported the China Creek Project in any way during 2018. Please plan on joining us, even if you can’t make the work party.
Upcoming Classes and Events

UC Adult Education Classes, Fresno
Location: Garden of the Sun, 1750 N. Winery, Fresno, CA 93703

• November 10, Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning, 9:30am–11:00am
  o Aesthetic pruning incorporates visual art and design principles to the pruning of small trees and shrubs in the landscape
  o You will learn how aesthetic pruning can be applied to your home garden
  Cost: Free
  Information and registration: https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/files/288796.pdf

• November 28, Fundamentals of Espalier, 9:30am–11:30am
  o Espalier is the horticultural and ancient agricultural practice of controlling woody plant growth for the production of fruit, by pruning and tying branches to a frame.
  o You will learn the basic plant physiology underlying successful espalier techniques
  o You will learn how to set up a frame for your espalier, how to select a young tree and to start it properly, and how to prune for shape in successive years.
  Cost: Free
  Information and registration: https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/files/288796.pdf

• December 1, Annual Wreaths and Swags, 9:30am–12:30pm
  o Learn a variety of techniques for holiday wreaths and swag construction using fresh, live, locally gathered materials.
  o All materials are supplied.
  o Bring hand pruner and wire nipper.
  o Class is limited to 15 people and pre-registration is required.
  Cost: $25 materials fee
  Information and registration: https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/files/288796.pdf
  Call 559241-7515 to confirm space is available.

UC Adult Education Classes, Merced
Location: UC Cooperative Extension, 2145 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced CA 95431

• November 17, Composting, 10:00am–12:00pm
  o Learn how to grow your soil!
  o Learn about the benefits of worm composting.
  Cost: Unknown
  Information: https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgmerced/Community_Outreach_Workshops_-_Talks/
  Call 209-385-7403 to reserve your place.

Northern California Botanists Symposium
Location: California State University Chico

• January 14–15, 2019 and optional workshops January 16
  o Presentations include sessions on Vegetation Mapping and Monitoring, Importance of Herbaria in Research, Management and Conservation, Fire and Vegetation, Challenges and Solutions for Conserving Cryptic Diversity, Native Plant Conservation, Lightning Talks, Now the Good News, and New Discoveries.
  o You do not need to attend the Symposium to register for the post-symposium workshops.
  Cost: 2 days—$185 members/$215 non-members/$50 students; 1 day—$100 members; $120 non-members
  Registration: http://www.norcalbotanists.org/symposia/symposium2019_registration.htm

Grassland Research Awards for Student Scholarship (GRASS)
• submit by January 31, 2019
  o California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) is accepting applications for GRASS. CNGA will fund up to four $500 awards per year.
  o Students from any accredited college or university doing research in native grassland ecosystems within California may apply for a research scholarship.
  o Funds can be used to support fieldwork, small equipment purchases, visits to herbaria, materials, and books.
  Information: https://cnga.org/GRASS-Scholarships
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.

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 and click on the JOIN button.

Next Newsletter: January 2019
Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is Friday, December 21, 2018.

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and Committee Chairs

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JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Renew
Membership includes the quarterly CNPS journal, *Fromontia*; 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: __________________________
Address: ________________________
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Make your check payable to “CNPS” and mail with this form to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

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

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.
A big thank you to everyone who helped with the plant sale and who purchased plants during this year's plant sale. If you volunteered and are reading this, know that we couldn't have a plant sale without you. You are especially appreciated.

Another important note of appreciation goes to the Clovis Botanical Garden for partnering with us to make water-wise plants available to our local communities. The Garden continues to grow in size, maturity, and beauty and we are thankful that we can bring California native plants to the overall plant offering. The California Native Plant section of the garden is still new and settling in, but is an important part of Clovis Botanical Garden's effort to demonstrate how natives can thrive in our area.

Every year we see an increase in the number of customers who already know what a California native plant is and who are looking to add more to their gardens. It's great to listen to a customer talking about their native plant experiences to another customer who may be new to native plants. It's very much about education as California natives have usually started their above-ground dormancy; and folks have to learn that their purchased native plants will become majestic if it lands in a garden spot that approximates its native world. Successes turn into garden conversations, and those can turn into more homeowners adding California natives to their gardens.

--Thelma Valdez