**Appeal for Volunteers**

How does the Clovis Botanical Garden’s (CBG) native plant garden grow? With your help! We’re looking for a few CNPS Sequoia Chapter members who can spend a few hours on a regular basis at CBG, helping to maintain the native plant garden. To learn more, leave a message for Thelma Valdez at 559.323.8962.

**Day Hikes**

Hike Alert! You can join Jane Pritchard when she heads out on a hike in the local foothills. Email or leave a message for her if you’re interested at xxiii_xx@yahoo.com or call 559.765.9954. She will contact you with the hike details for her next outing.

**Announcements**

**Letters to the Editor**

Have you had some native plant experiences you would like to share, or do you have plant questions you’d like to ask? If so, please send a letter to the editor <lacastror@outlook.com>.

**2017 Annual Plant Sale**

The plant sale is Saturday, October 21 from 8 am to 1 pm. Can you help us make it a success by volunteering a little of your time? Please send an email or leave a message for Thelma Valdez if you can help: yucca37tv@yahoo.com or 559.323.8962.

We need the following:

- Cashiers (during the VIP pre-sale event and the day of the sale). Must have an iPhone and be willing to add the square reader app
- Plant holding area (during the day of the sale)
- General help sprucing up the Botanical Garden before the events (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – daytime – sandwich lunch provided)
- Setup of native plant area (Friday morning and early afternoon)
- California native plant reference folks (during the sale, help customers and share your knowledge of gardening with natives)
- Breakdown (Saturday after the sale for a couple of hours)

Many thanks!
Upcoming Events and Classes in 2017

• October 3-5—Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Releve

Location: UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab & Reserve, Bodega Bay, CA

- Will combine lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling.
- Will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

Cost: $375 Members / $395 Non-members
Cost with meals and lodging: $640 Members / $660 Non-members

Details:
or call Becky Reilly, CNPS Events Coordinator, at 916-447-2677 x207

A More Unusual Year Than Usual
--Jane Pritchard

From July 14 to August 6, I was at Blayney Meadows on the south fork of the San Joaquin River 4 miles upstream from Florence Lake. Sanger Creek flows less than 50 feet south of the big house. The river is about 200 yards past that. This year no land was visible between the creek and the bridge over the river. I expected to see an alligator swimming among the trees. People living/camping across the river had to wade in knee high water at night. The water had come into the houses; all was discarded that couldn’t be dried out. The first session of the Road Scholar program couldn’t go south of the house to go to Warm Lake or the hot springs.

We went higher up on the hills to the north and east. Beautiful cascades of melted ice ran down the mountains across the river. Wright’s buckwheat (Eriogonum wrightii) and Sierra lotus (Acmispon nevadensis var. nevadensis), usually in full bloom even in late July, was mostly dried up. Other plants in areas that had flooded had not bloomed in late July. Some land washed away. Many areas were covered with flowers, some only rarely seen. California cone flower (Rudbeckia californica) cones were less than an inch high in late July. They can grow to 2 inches tall.

On August 1, we went out to Whitebark Vista OHV trail toward Mount Givens’ breathtaking scenery at the cliff edge, but it drops off to China even away from the edge, hearing the words “drop off” gave me the cringies. (Also, smoke was very strong from the fires and I still feel the effects.) Whitebark pines (Pinus albicaulis) grew along the edge. Their purple-brown cones are torn apart by mammals so never can be found. Bolander’s milk vetch (Astragalus bolanderi) and small-leaf creambush (Holodiscus discolor var. microphyllus) blooms were starting to fade. A yellow buckwheat (Eriogonum sp.) and squirrel tail grass (Elymus elymoides var. californicus) were both fresh; most of the squirrel tail heads were still unopened. Entire heads of squirreltail fall off and are blown along like tumbleweeds to scatter the seeds.

On August 18, we hiked to the Twin Lakes via Potter’s Pass. In 20 years there has never been such a fantastic profusion of flowers. I planned to take pictures on the return trip. When we left the lake, somehow my flash was turned on so all the flowers came out white. When I caught up with Eileen so she could figure out how to turn the flash off, it started raining and continued until we were past all the flowers.

July & August 2017 Work Parties
--Warren Shaw

The day of our July work party dawned bright and hot—as predicted. In preparation for these conditions we had planned to do the shadiest jobs possible and to operate on our new “summer” (continued on page 4)
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: October 2017
Send newsletter suggestions to Laura Castro at lacastror@outlook.com. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is Monday, September 25, 2017.

Sequoia Chapter Officers*

and Committee Chairs

*President open

*Vice-Pres. Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com

*Secretary Marian Orvis 559/226-0145 (h)
mforvet@comcast.net

*Treasurer Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

•Membership John LuValle jluvalle@mcn.org

•Field Trips Jane Pritchard 559/765-9954
xxiii_xx@yahoo.com

•Newsletter Editor Laura Castro 559/643-6012
lacastror@outlook.com

•Hospitality Madeleine Mitchell 559/638-2784 (h)
madeleine43@comcast.net

•Horticulture open

•Education Warren Shaw 559/451-1256 (h)
warshaw1955@gmail.com

•Rare Plant Jane Pritchard 559/765-9954
xxiii_xx@yahoo.com

•Plant Sale Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

•Conservation Jeanne Larson 559/243-0815 (h)
jrjlars@aol.com

•Directors at Large Michele LuValle jluvalle@mcn.org
Belinda Gilbert belinda@sti.net

•Webmaster Thelma Valdez 559/323-8962 (h)
yucca37tv@yahoo.com

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: _______

I wish to affiliate with the Sequoia Chapter.

[ ] New Member  [ ] Renewing Member

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

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.
CHINA CREEK REPORT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

schedule: starting promptly at 8:00, working straight through until 11:00; then taking our break under the big oaks by the gate before heading home.

To that end, we elected to work on pruning back the overhanging willows along Smith Avenue where it approaches the Park gate, and at the berm at the north pond, which needs to be kept clear enough for Hank to cross with his tractor for mowing and spraying. Both jobs needed doing, especially the berm, and both involved working mostly in the shade (though dragging and stacking the trimmings is still a laborious and sweaty process).

We also sprayed some small patches of yellow starthistle (YST; Centaurea solstitialis) but managed to finish everything BEFORE eleven and retire to the oaks early.

August was also predicted to be hot, and we had heard from Hank that he had sprayed the remaining YST in the southeast and southwest areas of the Park, so we decided to concentrate on the north area. There we found that previous spraying by cattleman Steve McDonald’s crew had been pretty effective, though we did find some bullthistle (Cirsium vulgare) and a few YST plants to dig and haul to the pavement.

In addition, we pushed over and cut some of the tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima) we had previously killed, noting many root sprouts that we’ll need to start treating as soon as the weather cools a bit.

Nonetheless, we were once again able to finish early and take refuge in the shade, but were disappointed to find that the homemade muffins, usually provided during breaks, had been inadvertently left home, resulting in a near-mutiny.
September 2017  ❖  Sequoia Chapter CNPS

High altitude
7,000 to 10,000+ feet

- Holly Leaf Cherry (Prunus ilicifolia)
- Blue Curls (Trichostema lanceolatum)
- Red Cone Galls on Valley Oak (Andricus kingi on Quercus lobata)
- White Bark Vista to Mt. Givens; 10,000+
  feet: Buckwheat, Pine
- Blayney Meadows, 7800': Blue-eyed Grass
- Upper Twin Lake, 9,000': Little Elephant’s Head, Monument Plant, Corn Lily, Orchid, Wintergreen
- Rock Creek, 7,000': Pearly Everlasting, Paintbrush, Sneezeweed, Pussy Paws

Low altitude

- Jane Pritchard, Aaron Turner:
  - Pearly Everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea)
  - Great Red Paintbrush (Castilleja miniata subsp miniata)
  - Mexican Manzanita (Arctostaphylos pungens)
  - Narrow Leaf Milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis)
  - Annual Fireweed (Epilobium brachycarpum)
  - Mexican Manzanita (Arctostaphylos pungens)
  - Thelma Valdez: Blue Curls, Narrow Leaf Milkweed, Annual Fireweed, Red Cone Galls, Holly Leaf Cherry, Quail Saltbush, Mexican Manzanita

- Thelma Valdez:
  - Blue Curls, Narrow Leaf Milkweed, Annual Fireweed, Red Cone Galls, Holly Leaf Cherry, Quail Saltbush, Mexican Manzanita