

We need your  
logo here!

# Insignis

Proposed  
Newsletter of the Alta Chapter  
California Native Plant Society

Welcome to our first edition of Insignis! This quarterly newsletter is a publication of the proposed Alta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and is designed to share information between members. We encourage you to submit articles and share your expertise and interests with others. Also, please suggest topics you would like to see covered in Insignis. We hope Insignis will become a valuable resource for you all.  
-Heidi Anderson, Editor

## We Need Your Logo Design Ideas!

Please share your artistic design skills by creating a logo for our proposed chapter and newsletter. The design must be a representation of our unofficial chapter's signature species, the Kaweah Brodiaea, *Brodiaea insignis* (thus the name of our newsletter). We will be compiling photos and other information about the Kaweah Brodiaea which we hope to have available at the next meeting, September 5. This should help interested artists with their design. If you are unable to attend, call for more information at 565-3350.

Thank You!

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### Status of Our Proposed Chapter

We are not an official chapter of California Native Plant Society, yet. At present when you join, you become a member of the Sequoia Chapter based in Fresno. The CNPS headquarters in Sacramento has expressed concern regarding the formation of our chapter. Will we be a strong enough chapter, will our initial enthusiasm last, and can we sustain a truly active membership? If the answer to these questions is no, we may become a sub-chapter of the Sequoia Chapter.

We will be assessing ourselves in the next six to seven months. Our goal is to present a formal written request to become the Alta Chapter at the quarterly CNPS board meeting in the spring of 1992. As a member can you strengthen our assessment? Where can you say yes to the following?

1. Can you attend meetings?
2. Can you become a board member?
3. Can you present a program at our meetings?
4. Can you coordinate a special project that interests you? i.e. conservation, plant watch, rare plant monitoring, landscaping, plant sales, educational programs for kids, organize or lead field trips, maintain and gather information for the library, etc.
5. Can you contribute items for the newsletter?
6. Can you be an enthusiastic student learning about native plants or share your knowledge and expertise?
7. Can you be an active volunteer in whatever capacity and with whatever time you can share?

California Native Plant Society is a true volunteer organization. The success of each chapter is directly related to the voluntary participation of its members. We



ask you to say "yes" to what you are willing to do, and not to feel obligated or pressured to do what you cannot. Maybe all you can do is become a paid member and attend some of the meetings.

Our true goal is to gather in our common interest in the preservation and appreciation of the widely diverse California Native Plant Community. We hope each of you will become an active member in this gathering, and will bring a friend.

-Cathy Cort, President

### Meetings

Regular meetings will be held every other month on the first Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Cort Gallery, 4188 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Please bring a chair to these meetings if possible. Board of Directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. preceding the regular meeting.

Meeting Schedule: September 5, 1991  
November 7, 1991  
January 2, 1992  
March 5, 1992  
May 7, 1992  
Summer Break  
September 3, 1992  
November 5, 1992

### CNPS Quarterly Meeting

The Santa Monica Chapter will host the next CNPS Quarterly Meeting September 7-8, 1991 at Towsley Canyon Park, Newhall, CA. Towsley Canyon is said to be a beautiful park. It was purchased by the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy to stop landfill plans for the area, and to become part of the future Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park. As well as being botanically interesting, the park forms the major wildlife corridor between the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. Don Mulally, the major proponent for the Santa Clarita Woodlands, will give an on-site geography lesson of the area. The meeting will be held at the Towsley Canyon Lodge and a meal package is being offered for \$25.00 for the weekend. The lodge is air conditioned and we will have access to a swimming pool. Lodging may be available at the lodge or nearby hotels. For more information or directions to Newhall, call Jo Kitz, 818-348-5910, or Halli Mason, 818-345-6749. For information on registration, meals, or lodging, call Margaret Huffman, 213-454-4279. Cathy Cort and Heidi Anderson will be attending the meeting and we encourage everyone to participate.

### Program for September 5, 1991 Meeting

"Why Use Native Plants?" presented by John Moore of the Dry Creek Nursery in Mehrten Valley near Exeter. Moore started his nursery one and a half years ago specializing in "water-wise" perennials, herbs, California natives, and mediterranean plants. He has designed and implemented native landscaping in his own yard and with friends for the past five years. An east coast transplant himself, Moore arrived in California 15 years ago and received a degree in ornamental horticulture from Cal Poly. Moore describes his surprise at seeing east coast trees, like birch, being used in landscaping here when there was such a wide variety of native trees more appropriate. He promotes the use of natives because they are already adapted and suitable for California conditions reflecting climate, rainfall

and even insect impact. Moore feels natives represent California aesthetically in landscape design.

Moore's program will include a slide show of types of California natives you can expect to find in the nursery trade. He will provide a handout with detailed and technical information on these plants. Moore will also present his own personal ideas of design he has developed for utilizing native plants. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Cort Gallery, Highway 198, 4188 Sierra Dr., Three Rivers. Please bring a chair.

-Cathy Cort

SPECIALIZING IN "WATER-WISE" PERENNIALS HERBS  
CALIFORNIA NATIVES AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANTS

## DRY CREEK NURSERY

31393 DAHLEM DRIVE  
EXETER, CA 93221



JOHN & NAN MOORE

(209) 592-9187

DISPLAY GARDEN / DESIGN / CONSULTATION

### Naming the Proposed Alta Chapter

What to name the proposed new chapter? Something with imagination and local flavor. Kaweah? Local all right, but locally overused. I stared blankly into space, hoping for inspiration. And there it was, on the horizon- Alta Peak. The most prominent peak visible from Three Rivers, Alta Peak stands at 11,204 feet within Sequoia National Park, above the giant forest of *Sequoia gigantea* and the granite dome of Moro Rock (not to be confused with Morro Rock at Morro Bay on the coast).

Alta Peak takes its name from Alta Meadow, which lies on its southern flank. Alta Meadow, in turn, was named in 1876 by W.B. Wallace, Tom Witt, and N.B. Witt. They camped in Alta Meadow, "and gave it its name because it was higher than any meadow in the vicinity." The people of Three Rivers applied the name of the meadow to the peak, "the most conspicuous crag eastward from Giant Forest, as seen from Three Rivers."

Alta Peak is a landmark of great significance for the people of Three Rivers. It stands over the Kaweah River drainage, collecting the winter snows and promising the coolness of the mountains long after the foothills have browned in the searing heat of summer.

-Mike Neuman

Thank you very much to Mike for coming up with such an excellent name!

Please remember your news items are more than welcome! Please let us all know about good nurseries you have visited, good books you have read, or any up-coming events which may be of interest to members. Insignis will try to keep you informed of CNPS functions as we get the information. If you have any personal success stories about propagating natives please share them! We plan to supply you with propagation information we dig up as well. I am very interested to know what you want to read about so we can meet our goal of being a good informational resource. I look forward to hearing from you all!

**Board of Directors-Proposed Alta Chapter**

**Presidents:** Catherine Cort, 209-561-4671, P.O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271

**Vice President:**

**Secretary/Membership:** Are you interested?

**Treasurer:**

**Editor-Newsletter:** Heidi Anderson, 209-565-3350, Box 61 Ash Mountain, Three Rivers, CA 93271 (Send your newsletter items here!)

**Directors At Large:**

**Rare Plant Monitoring Coordinator-** Beth Hubert, 209-565-3341, ext. 274, Box 404 Ash Mountain, Three Rivers, CA 93271

**Native Plant Landscaping-** Mike Neuman, 209-561-3501, 46076 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271

**National Park Service Nursery Liaison-** Joyce Lapp, 406-888-5441, c/o Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936

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c/o Heidi Anderson  
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