

Insignis

Newsletter of the Proposed Alta Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Welcome to the second edition of Insignis. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. If you do not save your Insignis, we encourage you to share it with a friend or recycle it again.

Calendar of Events

All meetings will be at the Cort Gallery, Hwy 198, Three Rivers. You are encouraged to bring a chair and dress warmly. We hope to have some of our future meetings in Visalia so that we may become more accessible county-wide.

February 13, 1992
Thursday Chapter meeting, 7:30 pm, follows board meeting (open to all) at 6:30pm
"Creating a New System for Naming Plant Communities"
David Graber, Research Scientist, Sequoia National Park

March 7, 1992
Saturday Statewide CNPS Quarterly Board Meeting (open to all)
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens
1500 College Avenue, Claremont, CA

March 14, 1992
Saturday Plant Identification Workshop and Field Trip
9:00 a.m.- Noon: Plant I.D. Workshop, Cort Gallery
1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.: Field trip to the Cobbleknoll Trail, Lake Kaweah

April 19-26, 1992
1992 Youth Poster Contest Exhibit, Cort Gallery
"California's Plants: In Danger!"
Noon- 5:00 pm; closed Monday

April 23, 1992
Thursday Chapter meeting, 7:30 pm, follows board meeting (open to all) at 6:30 pm
"Learning About Local Rare Plants and Their Habitats"
Gail Presley, Wildlife Biologist, California Dept. Fish and Game

Board of Directors Report

by Catherine Cort, Chapter President

We are working well with the current seven board members, discovering and refining our areas of expertise, talent, and time. Heidi Anderson is now our conservation chair after devoting serious time and effort on the newsletter. Mike Neuman, who provided computer time for this newsletter, is concentrating more on issues involving native plant community inventory and identification, and is acting as liaison for the Army Corps Cobble Knoll brochure. John Moore is taking over native plant landscaping, and Janene Richert has come on board as poster sales chair. Cathy Cort will continue as president and edit the newsletter.

We still have a need for help in the areas of rare plant monitoring, plant sales, forest issues, and program and field trip planning. We hope that other members in Tulare County will decide to join the board. As a contributing member at the meetings, you could have a significant effect on the viability and usefulness of this new chapter. We invite anyone to attend board meetings, to share your ideas and become a real working cog in the Alta Chapter. Board meetings are at 6:30 pm, before each regular meeting.

February Meeting: Creating a New System for Naming Plant Communities

Thursday, February 13, 1992 at 7:30 pm, Cort Gallery

The program will present a challenge for all native plant supporters, experts and lay-people alike. David Graber, research scientist at Sequoia National Park, will talk about his work on a new state-wide committee formed by CNPS to create a system to describe California's native plant communities. This is part of a new approach for the protection of rare plants in California, which will allow whole communities to be saved rather than just certain plants alone.

In June, all CNPS chapters will receive instructions on how to physically describe plant communities in their own areas. Anyone can participate in this project regardless of their level of botanical knowledge. In fact, the help of many lay-people will be necessary to create this new system of classification of plant communities. The standardized system will be used by many agencies for future plant protection. This work offers each plant-loving citizen of California an opportunity to individually make a direct impact on preserving the incredibly diverse and beautiful native flora of California. The Alta Chapter invites you to roll up your sleeves and work with us to document plant communities in Tulare County.

April Meeting: Learning About Local Rare Plants and Their Habitats

Thursday, April 23, 1992 at 7:30 pm, Cort Gallery

Gail Presley, wildlife biologist, will talk about the environmental review process she follows in her position with the California Department of Fish and Game. This discussion will include the kinds of plants that are adversely impacted by urbanization and agricultural development throughout Tulare County. In Three Rivers this impact threatens the riparian habitat and certain rare plant species like the Kaweah brodiaea. In the valley, vernal pool habitats are among those that require special attention. Presley hopes to challenge our new chapter to become involved in monitoring and creating solutions for these problems, and to promote education and involvement of the general public.

This meeting will also coincide with a showing of youth posters entered in the CNPS statewide poster contest with the theme "California Plants: In Danger!" at the Cort Gallery, Three Rivers, from April 19-26 (Noon to 5, closed Monday).

CNPS Policy Statement on Tree Planting - Adopted 9/12/91

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is dedicated to the preservation of native flora, and to the restoration of that flora where it has been damaged or destroyed. Thus CNPS will often encourage the planting of trees, but not in every instance. Tree planting projects have frequently been damaging to local ecosystems, due to lack of understanding of those systems. CNPS has therefore drawn up the following policy statement, with the intent of encouraging appropriate tree planting programs, and discouraging those which are inappropriate. Persons planning a tree planting program should evaluate their program relative to this policy.

Policy

California Native Plant Society supports tree planting when the following criteria are met:

- 1) The native tree species exists, or existed, in the area chosen for planting.
- 2) The seeds or planting stock were gathered from local natural populations.
- 3) The planted species represent a range of species that are found naturally in the area.
- 4) The planted species are appropriate to the stage of plant community development at the site.
- 5) The planting will not have an adverse effect on rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species.
- 6) If the first five conditions cannot be met, but a significant ecological advantage can be claimed through the planting of a non-native species, then only non-invasive species should be used.

Our group is more than willing to assist anyone with questions concerning local tree planting projects!

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CNPS 1992 Youth Poster Contest- California Plants: In Danger!

The fifth annual CNPS youth poster contest has begun! This year's theme focuses on the threats to native flora by habitat change and loss including urbanization, agricultural practices, deforestation, recreational use, and pollution. The contest is designed to help school-aged children become aware of the beautiful and important native flora around them. It is also hoped that the children will understand how they can make a difference in conserving the state's native flora.

All children grades K through 12 are strongly encouraged to participate. These posters will appear in a special show April 19-26 at the Cort Gallery (the deadline for this show is April 1). The Alta Chapter will give special recognition to all entrants. Contact Pearl Tucker, Youth Education Coordinator, at (209) 561-3142 for information on where to submit the posters. Alta Chapter will assist in getting the posters to Sacramento for judging by the CNPS deadline of May 1, 1992.

The contest rules are as follows:

- 1) Each poster must include the contest title: "California's Plants: In Danger!" and illustrate examples of native plants that are considered to be in danger of becoming extinct. Posters may also illustrate what conditions threaten the "endangered" plants.
- 2) Any artistic medium may be used. The poster must not exceed 18" x 24" in size.
- 3) Each entry must be identified with the participant's name, grade and age, school or home address and phone number. If the contest is sponsored by a club or class, please note the name of the teacher or group leader. Use the form from the CNPS flyer or put the information on a 3" by 5" card and glue to the back of the poster. Entries without this information will not be considered by the judges.

Alta Chapter Assists Army Corps on Cobble Knoll Brochure

Keith Willis of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has asked our group to comment on the draft copy of the Cobbleknoll Trail Plant Guide he is creating. The plants we discover on our March field trip to the trail will be part of our review. We are very pleased that Keith has asked for our comments, and we hope to become a useful source of information for other groups interested in native plants.

Plant Identification Workshop

If you have ever puzzled over the identity of an interesting plant but have not known how to begin naming it, now is your chance to learn! Heidi Anderson and Mike Neuman will conduct a plant identification workshop designed for people with no previous plant identification experience. We will introduce you to basic terminology, use plant identification keys, and work through identifying various example plants. In the afternoon, our trip to the Cobbleknoll Trail will give us a chance to try our skills in the field. As our group becomes more involved in documenting and conserving the native flora in our area, it is critical that we have people willing and able to help with the field work. For this reason we strongly encourage anyone who has interest and a bit of time to attend this workshop.

There will be a \$5.00 charge for the workshop (pay in cash on March 14th) to cover the cost of handouts. Use the form on the next page to pre-register. Register soon - space is limited.

Anyone wanting to attend just the Cobbleknoll Trail field trip should meet at Slick Rock or the Cort Gallery at 12:45 p.m. and we will carpool from there. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Please dress appropriately for the field trip (a two mile hike at 700' elevation) with walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, and water; bring a sack lunch. If you have them, bring the following materials: a hand-lens or magnifying glass, a metric ruler, a notebook, and any plant identification books you may have.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Time: Saturday, March 14, 9 am - Noon
Place: Cort Gallery, 41881 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers
Registration Fee: \$5 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Number Attending: _____

What books or materials will you be bringing?

Any specific questions/topics you'd like us to address?

Bring this form to the Feb. 13 meeting or mail to: Mike Neuman
46076 Sierra Drive
Three Rivers, CA 93271
(209) 561-3501

Board of Directors - Proposed Alta Chapter

President/Newsletter: Catherine Cort (209) 561-4671
Vice President/Plant Communities: Mike Neuman (209) 561-3501
Secretary/Treasurer: Gwen Warner
Conservation: Heidi Anderson (209) 565-3350
Native Plant Landscaping: John Moore (209) 592-9187
Youth Education Coordinator: Pearl Tucker (209) 561-3142
Poster Sales: Janene Richert (209) 561-0220

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