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California Native Plant Society

Our general membership meetings are open to everyone. We invite you to bring your family and friends. The meetings have their best value in the exchange and sharing of ideas; we hope you will be able to participate in this exchange and share in the enrichment.

## Calendar of Events

- Sept. 11,12 CNPS Statewide Board Meeting & Annual Conservation Conference  
Sat. & Sun. Rancho El Chorro, San Luis Obispo
- Sept. 17-19 CNPS Strategic Planning Workshop  
Fri. - Sun. CNPS State Office, Sacramento
- Sept 25 **General Membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner**  
Saturday, 6 pm "Residential Landscaping with California Native Plants"  
Dan Veyna, Landscape Architect  
Cort Gallery, 41881 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers
- Oct. 2,3 Plant Sale, East Bay Chapter (largest plant sale in CNPS)  
Sat. & Sun. Merritt College Horticultural Area, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland
- Oct. 9,10 Plant Sale, Kern County Chapter  
Sat. & Sun. California Living Museum, 14000 Alfred Harrell Hwy, Bakersfield
- Oct. 14 Chapter Board Meeting  
Thursday, 7 pm Elfrieda Blond's home, 40934 Cherokee Oaks, Three Rivers, 561-3631
- Oct. 23 **General Membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner**  
Saturday, 6 pm "Forest Management"  
Dan and Linda Utt, Tulare River Conservancy  
Cort Gallery, 41881 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers
- Nov. 11 Chapter Board Meeting  
Thursday, 7 pm Elfrieda Blond's home, 40934 Cherokee Oaks, Three Rivers, 561-3631
- Nov. 26-28 Chapter Booth at Le Petit Noel  
Fri. - Sun. 10-5 Posters and books for sale  
Cort Gallery, 41881 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers
- Dec. 4-5 CNPS Statewide Board Meeting  
Sat. & Sun. UC Faculty Club, Berkeley
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## **General Membership Meeting (September 25)**

Our program will be on "Residential Landscaping with California Native Plants", given by Dan Veyna. Dan is a member of our chapter and a landscape architect with his own company, Jardin, a professional design/build service in Visalia. He will bring many sample plants and tell us how to properly use natives using design principles with practical applications. His ideas will be useful for both easy and difficult sites. The plant samples will be available for sale, so that homeowners can take advantage of the season (fall is the best time to plant natives!). This will be an excellent time for asking questions and sharing your own experience with growing natives. Dan's company, Jardin, will also place orders for plants for future delivery. Jardin is located at 31134 Road 132, Visalia, 625-5699.

For the potluck, bring a chair, a place setting, and a dish to share. Dinner is at 6 pm, and the program begins at 7 pm at Cort Gallery in Three Rivers.

## **Conservation Conference (September 11-12)**

The annual Conservation Conference is open to all members of CNPS, and will be held in conjunction with the statewide board meeting in San Luis Obispo. The agenda promises to be very interesting, concentrating on conservation education. Topics include a vision for CNPS education, combining activism and education to achieve conservation goals, using video media as an education tool, and public outreach.

Other conservation issues will be discussed, including a review of the progress and implications of the plant communities program, a regulatory update of CEQA and the Endangered Species Act, plant conservation on private lands with emphasis on Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP), and a special report by CNPS botanist Mark Skinner on a numerical and ecological analysis of California's endangered flora. There will also be a round table discussion of conservation issues of concern to local chapters which will provide a perspective on how other chapters are dealing with conservation challenges in their areas.

## **Strategic Planning Workshop (September 17-19)**

Representatives from all CNPS chapters will be working together at this weekend workshop to develop a consensus "vision statement" for guidance and inspiration of the future work of the organization. The workshop will be orchestrated by the Association and Society Management Company. The following are questions this group is using to assist members in thinking about their own visions for CNPS:

1. What will the California Native Plant Society be like when it achieves your vision?
2. What values (and behaviors) are most important to you as a native plant advocate?
3. How does your vision represent the interests of (1) Californians in general? (2) The next generation of Californians? (3) The general member of the Society?
4. What place does each person in your local chapter have in your vision for your Society?
5. Do you see any obstacles to the achievement of your vision for the Society? (Please be as specific as possible?)

If you are interested or inclined you may send your responses to these questions to:

ASM, Inc. (Attn: Roger Duerksen)  
347 Main St.  
Placerville, CA 95667

## **General Membership Meeting (October 23)**

A program on "Forest Management" will be given by Dan and Linda Utt of the Tule River Conservancy. Using slides to illustrate their presentation, the Utts will discuss issues of past, present, and future management of Sequoia National Forest, including problems with tree regeneration in clear cut areas and the status of HR 2153, the Giant Sequoia Preservation Act.

Bring a dish to share, a place setting, and a chair for the potluck at 6 pm. The program begins at 7 pm at the Cort Gallery in Three Rivers.

## **The Sequoia Alliance**

Report by Janet Fanning

A meeting of the Sequoia Alliance was held on June 17, 1993, in Porterville. This was the first time I had attended a conservation meeting outside of CNPS and it was exciting. On May 19, 1993, Representative George E Brown, Jr., introduced to the House of Representatives, H.R. 2153, a bill to designate the Giant Sequoia Preservation Act of 1993. This meeting was a follow-up to this action and was conducted by Larry Lassek, a facilitator of the Sequoia Alliance, and attended by members of the Sierra Club, Back Country Horsemen of California, Audubon Society, Concerned Citizens of the Paiute, Friends of the Creeks, Sierra Nevada Trout, Tule River Conservancy, and others. The purpose of this bill is to protect ALL the Giant Sequoias permanently and preserve the ecosystem in our ancient forests where these big trees grow. This movement was started in 1985 by a small group in the Porterville area. The group hopes that Senator Boxer will introduce this bill in the Senate this Fall. There was an eight page article about this bill with a map of the proposed area of the preserve in the August issue of Sunset magazine.

## **Big Tree Falls in Giant Forest**

Another of the forest monarchs in Sequoia National Park has fallen, Superintendent J. Thomas Ritter announced. The unnamed giant sequoia tree which fell had a diameter of about 8 feet when measured five feet above the ground; it was nearly 200 feet tall. It stood adjacent to the Giant Forest Lodge cabin complex and was approximately 500 to 750 years old. The tree fell almost without warning at 7:34 am on Saturday, August 7. Witnesses report that it began with loud popping noises as the tree's roots started to break; within a few seconds the twenty-story-tall trunk began its fatal plunge. As it came down the sequoia destroyed several other trees in its path, scattering their broken pieces across the landscape. The top of the shattered giant, and much of the debris it generated as it fell, came to rest in a parking lot of Giant Forest Lodge. No injuries resulted from the collapse, and there was very little damage.

"The collapse of Big Trees is a natural event in this forest," Superintendent Ritter stated. "This is the second large sequoia to fall near the Lodge in two years. Both times we've been very fortunate that the trees have not damaged visitor cabins. All big sequoias fall eventually and trees that grow in wet locations, like the one that fell, are particularly at risk. We noted for some time that this tree had developed a lean. If it had been pointed at cabins, we would have had to close those facilities." By the end of the decade all visitor's lodging will be relocated from Giant Forest to a new complex eight miles north at Wuksachi Village.

## **Landscaping With Natives: Oaks**

by John Moore, Native Plant Landscaping

Golden hills, grass-covered, punctuated by the dark green of scattered oak trees... the picture of classic California. Surprisingly diverse, the sixteen species of oak trees found in the state are found in a number of plant communities from sea level up to elevations of 8000+ feet. While mature specimen oak trees are appreciated for the spectacular contribution they make to our environment, the utilization of oaks in our contemporary landscapes is typically overlooked.

This article will describe five species a local traveler would encounter on a trip from the Valley floor up into the mountains. (Please note that elevations listed are for the areas of Fresno and Tulare Counties. Further north in the state, these same oak species occur at lower elevations.) Oak propagation (acorn collection) will be discussed.

In last issue's discussion of riparian plants and their propagation, no mention was given to the majestic Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*). Formerly occurring in dense forests in the Central Valley, in areas flooded periodically by the broad flowing rivers, the Valley Oak can also be found along creeks and rivers in the foothills (usually below 2000' elevation, although in the Tehachapi area up to 5600'). Young trees tend to be narrow and upright in form; with age, the Valley Oak becomes vase-shaped and spreading, reaching heights of seventy feet.

As one enters the foothill areas, two different oak species are noticeable on the dry hillsides. The Interior Live Oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) is an evergreen tree, generally wider than tall, with dark green to yellowish green color. A contrast is provided by the Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*) with which it is often associated at lower elevations. The Blue Oak, which is deciduous, losing its leaves in the winter months, received its name for the characteristic blue-green color of the foliage in the summer months. These two oak species are common on the grassy slopes of the foothills up to 2500' to 3500', often being found in close association with each other.

Another evergreen oak species found on rocky canyon walls and along creeks from 3000' elevation and above is the Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). This oak can be distinguished from other evergreen oaks by the fine yellow fuzz on the underside of the leaf and on the acorn cup. Another trait is that the Canyon Live Oak tends to form several trunks from the base, creating a spreading, rounded habit.

The California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) is found at mid-elevations from the chaparral up into the yellow pine forest (at elevations 3500' to 7500' locally). This deciduous species was named for its dark colored bark; the foliage is actually very colorful with the pink, rosy new growth that unfolds in late spring to make large glossy green leaves that turn shades of yellow and orange in the fall.

It is unlikely that any one plants an oak tree expecting to have a stately specimen in their yard within a few years. Yet many of our native oaks respond, under cultivation, with moderate to fast growth. Valley Oaks can put on two to four feet of growth per year. I have observed young Interior Live Oaks grow two to three feet a year with some regular attention (periodic deep watering and no weed competition).

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Oak trees are easy to grow, as their large seeds, acorns, are easy to handle and germinate. This summer while out hiking, fishing, etc., it would be a good idea to observe oak trees, identify oak species, and scout out source trees for acorn collection this fall. Some years there is a light set of acorns; some trees may never have much of a crop.

Once the acorns are ripe, you will have lots of competition from birds, rodents, as well as large mammals, all of which relish the acorns as a food source. The key to recognize when the acorns are ready to collect is when the cap can be separated from the seed without tearing the seed coat. While it is possible to collect acorns off the ground, I have had better luck picking off the tree. It may be possible if the trees are tall to shake limbs, using a long pole, causing the ripe acorns to fall onto a tarp for collection. It is a good idea to separate damaged acorns; by placing your collected acorns in a bucket of water and discarding the bad ones which will float to the top. Caps should be removed from the acorns prior to storage.

For good viability and germination, it is necessary to maintain the collected acorns with a high moisture content. Polyethylene bags, such as those with the "zip-lock" tops, function well in this capacity. For long term storage, adding a sterile, moisture-retaining medium such as perlite or vermiculite would be a good idea. The sealed, labeled bag should be kept in the refrigerator until planting.

Next time: OAKS (continued). We'll look at direct-seeding versus container planting, tips for successful field establishment, and consider the unsolved puzzle of oak regeneration: Why, with seeds so easily germinated, are there so few young oak trees evident ?



## **Field Trip to Kern Co. Chapter Native Plant Sale (Oct. 9)**

Some local chapter members are planning to car pool to this plant sale on Saturday, October 9. If you are interested in coming, call Cathy Cort at 561-4671 for details.

The plant sale will be held at the California Living Museum, 14000 Alfred Harrell Highway in Bakersfield. Directions from Tulare County are: Highway 99 south, exit at 178 east, turn left at Kern Canyon Road (look for sign to Hart Park), turn left at Alfred Harrell Highway, watch for sign to California Living Museum on the right.

Hours of the plant sale are Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

## **CalPAW '94**

CalPAW '94 is the California Parks and Wildlife Initiative, a citizen initiative bond measure which would provide nearly \$2 billion to acquire and enhance parkland, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, coastal areas, river habitat and other resources. This initiative will be placed on the June 1994 ballot by volunteers collecting the signatures of 650,000 registered voters.

This initiative has money assigned to Tulare County totaling \$11 million. Designated Tulare County projects include Allensworth State Historic Park (\$5 million), Exeter Rocky Hill (\$4.5 million), and Tulare County Ag Land (\$2 million). Per capita allocations have money going to the cities of Dinuba, Lindsay, Exeter, Porterville, Visalia, Farmersville, Tulare, and Woodlake, as well as Tulare County itself. There is \$190 million in statewide grant funding that could be used to develop projects in our area.

CalPAW '94 is a general obligation bond act much like scores of other bond measures approved by California voters in the past. This means that the state will sell bonds, which will be sold only on the approval of the Governor and the Treasurer, and only if their sale will not impair the financial stability of the state. CalPAW '94 does not in any way require or impose a tax increase. Based on the current population of California, paying off the bonds over a twenty year period would cost each Californian less than 50¢ per month, paid out of existing general funds, not new taxes.

Nine out of ten state bond acts have passed in the last thirty years. The 1988 CalPAW Initiative passed with 65% approval. Current polling shows that more than 60% of the voters would support the new bond act. It is interesting to note that the first bond act was passed in 1928 during the Depression, and launched the state park system. Those bonds were sold throughout the Depression and laid the foundation for the one industry in California that is not lagging during this recession- tourism- an industry that directly relates to the life and livelihood of our county.

Our area of California has not received a great deal of money from past bond acts, mainly because a large number of voters' signatures have not been placed on initiative petitions. Our chapter is committed to change this trend. We have enclosed one petition form with this newsletter. We ask that you gather 8-9 signatures in addition to your own. You must get the signatures of Tulare County registered voters only. Please send the form back to us, even if it isn't completed, by September 25, or you may bring it with you to our member's meeting that day. (As we go to press, Janet Fanning has already gathered 150 signatures over Labor Day weekend at the Village Market in Three Rivers. Way to go, Janet!)

## **Chapter Booth at Le Petit Noel (November 26-28)**

Janet Fanning is organizing the chapter booth for Cort Gallery's annual Christmas art sale, Le Petit Noel. We need volunteers to help sit the booth, and welcome donations of botanical arts and crafts and native plants for chapter fund-raising.

Consider a trip to the booth for your Christmas gift-giving. We have a variety of books and all of the CNPS wildflower posters (listed on page 7).

Call Janet for more information (561-3461).

## **New CNPS Publication**

A new book has been published by CNPS, California's Changing Landscapes: Diversity and Conservation of California Vegetation, by Michael Barbour, Bruce Pavlik, Frank Drysdale, and Susan Lindstrom. This is a beautifully written and illustrated book, offering a very informative review of the past, present, and future of California's landscape, which is continually under pressure from mankind. Michael Barbour states:

"We started to write this book in 1982, ten years before publication. In that time, the population of California rose fifty percent, from twenty million to thirty million. The multiple demands on our state's land increased just as steeply: demands for living space, farm and pasture space, and wood products such as lumber and fuel. California's population is expected to double-- to sixty million-- in the twenty years between 1992 and 2012. It is time to step away from this pace, to take a measure of what we have, to compare it with what we once had, and to decide what we want for the future.

This book is a guide for that step-away process. We write about the vegetation that clothes the landscapes of California: its diversity and conservation. The intimate relationships between people, vegetation, and the landscape are of vital importance to us because we are embedded in that vegetation. Although we may not be conscious of it daily, the quality of our lives is as intimately affected by vegetation now as it was more than 12,000 years ago when Native Americans first came to this unique and diverse slice of earth. This book describes the landscapes and plant resources which were once here, how they came to be consumed, what has replaced them, and what might remain in the future. The quality of that future will be enhanced if the remaining natural vegetation of California is protected and its disjointed portions are restored. We hope that reading this book will stimulate you to help realize that kind of future."

## **Publications for Sale by Alta Peak Chapter**

Title/Author	Retail	CNPS Members
California's Changing Landscapes, Diversity and Conservation of California Vegetation, by Michael Barbour, Bruce Pavlik, Frank Drysdale, and Susan Lindstrom	24.95	19.95
Common Riparian Plants of California, by the Editor of Fremontia, Phyllis M. Faber and Robert F. Holland	18.00	16.00
Native Plants for your Garden, a CNPS special publication	14.00	10.00
Living With A River, handout for Alta Peak Chapter Riparian Conference, Spring 1993	14.00	10.00
Oaks of California, by Bruce M. Pavlik et al.	19.95	15.95
Compatible Plants Under and Around Oaks, published by the California Oak Foundation	10.00	9.00
Day Hiking Sequoia by Steve Sorensen	12.95	11.00
Day Hiking Kings Canyon by Steve Sorensen	12.95	11.00
A Simplified Key to the Major Families of California's Flowering Plants, by Steven Hartman	4.00	3.00
Conservation and management of Rare and Endangered Plants, proceedings from a CNPS conference, edited by Thomas S. Elias	24.95	19.95
The Jepson manual, edited by James C. Hitchman	65.00	55.00
We will take orders with a deposit of 25.00		
CNPS Posters: Spring, Coastal, Shrubs, Sierra, Desert	Laminated Paper	9.00 6.00

## **Board of Directors - Alta Peak Chapter**

President/Newsletter Co-Editor	Catherine Cort	P.O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271	(209) 561-4671
Vice President/Newsletter Co-Editor	Mike Neuman	46076 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271	(209) 561-3501
Secretary/Membership/Historian	Gwen Warner	P.O. Box 71, Three Rivers, CA 93271	(209) 561-0407
Treasurer/Poster Sales	Janet Fanning	41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271	(209) 561-3461
Native Plant Landscaping	John Moore	31393 Dahlem Drive, Exeter, CA 93221	(209) 592-9187
Special Projects	Elfrieda Blond	40934 Cherokee Oaks Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271	(209) 561-3631

## **Membership Information**

If you have received a complimentary copy of this newsletter and would like to join CNPS, dues are \$18 for student, retired, or limited income, \$25 individual, or \$35 for a family membership, paid to CNPS, 1722 J. St. Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814. Be sure to indicate that you wish to be affiliated with the Alta Peak Chapter.

If you wish to receive this newsletter without joining CNPS, send \$5 for a one year subscription to Alta Peak Chapter, CNPS, P.O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

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 c/o Alta Peak Chapter  
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 Three Rivers, CA 93271