

Insignis

Newsletter of the Alta Peak Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Summer is coming, and while our calendar may be light, we wanted to update you on several projects we're working on, particularly the Native Plant Garden and Nature Trail we're planning for the Three Rivers Memorial Building. The Fall issue of **Insignis** will be devoted to native plant landscaping, so write us now and tell us what you'd like to read about!

Calendar of Events

Chapter Activities - Details in the fall **Insignis**!

October 15 General Membership Meeting
Saturday Native Plant Landscaping
7 pm Bart O'Brien, Rancho Santa Ana
Botanic Garden, Claremont

Statewide Meetings - All members welcome!

June 11-12 CNPS Statewide Board Meeting
Sat. & Sun. Point Reyes National Seashore

Sept. 10-11 CNPS Statewide Board Meeting
Sat. & Sun. Monterey

Chapter Board Meetings - Members welcome!

August 11 Gwen Warner's home, 42261 Mynatt
Thursday, 7 pm Drive, Three Rivers, 561-0407

September 15 Janet Fanning's home, 41118 Blossom
Thursday, 7 pm Drive, Three Rivers, 561-3461

Summer Events - Details inside.

June 18 Understanding Native Plants
July 16 Bert Wilson, Las Pilitas Nursery
August 27 Santa Margarita

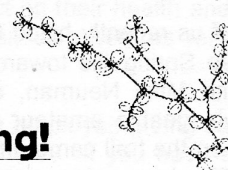
July 9-10 Grant Grove Wildflowers
Sequoia Natural History Association

July 14-17 Alpine Wildflowers Backpack
Sequoia Natural History Association

July 23 Annual Meeting of the San Joaquin
Saturday Valley Bioregion Task Force
9:30 - 5 Cort Gallery, Three Rivers

July 31 - Aug. 20 Golden Trout Workshop
Golden Trout Wilderness, Sequoia N.F.

Chamaesyce hooveri



Message From The President: We've Had a Busy Spring!

In March, the Alta Peak Chapter of CNPS made a proposal to the Three Rivers Memorial District Board of Directors. We had a dream of turning the one and a half acres behind the parking lot at the Memorial Building into a native plant nature trail and garden. The Memorial Board gave us the go ahead to monitor the property for the next year and come back to them with a map for their approval.

We started work the next week. In teams of three, under the direction of Mike Neuman, members of the Alta Peak Board, along with members Pete and Carol Clum, crawled under, over, around, and through trees, rocks, poison oak, and anything else in our way, and measured and plotted every tree (well, almost every tree- poison oak, you know!) on the property to come up with a basic map. We will continue to monitor the site throughout the spring and summer for new species. Anyone interested in joining us in walking this property, please call me for dates and times at 561-3461. We have identified 114 species (77 native, 37 exotic). We key the new plants we find using the Jepson Manual so that we can add them to our growing list. There will be more information about this project in the fall **Insignis**. Meanwhile, join us!

In February we had a wonderful program at the general membership meeting about environmental management by Native Americans, and how the use of fire was so important to them in their gathering. We had about forty in attendance and we thank Dr. Kat Anderson for a very informative talk.

On March 12th, eight of us went to college, and under the tutelage of Dr. Robert Urtecho we had an introduction to basic botany. He showed us the geographic diversity of California; we looked into microscopes and saw the real beauty of flowers, grasses, and fruits. We toured the native garden and greenhouse and brought home clippings. We learned some of the terminology, and from the handouts we took home we are able to continue learning at our own native garden project. Thank you, Dr. Urtecho, for your enthusiasm and energy and for sending us on this road to learning.

In early April, a group of twelve went to three different homes for our native backyard landscapes walk. Except in the wild, we usually see native plants in one gallon cans and it was especially interesting (*Busy Spring continued, page 2*)

...Busy Spring (continued)

to see full grown specimens at David Graber's house... there is hope for us all. Thank you, David, for sharing your garden and your plants with us. At my house, Ithurriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) was in full bloom along with a field of pretty face (*Triteleia ixioides* ssp. *anilina*), both of the lily family (Jepson). We also looked in the large swale behind the house and found species not appearing anywhere else on the property. We walked the property at Pete and Carol Clum's new place to identify the plants and trees growing there. Thank you, Mike, for your leadership.

Earth Day was spent at COS where we set up our booth, sold many books and posters, and got to visit with many interesting people. We had the most volunteers at our booth and I want to thank them all for helping out.

The Cobbleknoll Trail walk here in Three Rivers was led by Mike Neuman, assisted by Keith Willis from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Keith and Mike have had their heads together for about a year or two developing a self-guided tour book of this walk and hopefully it will be ready next spring along with identification signs. This is a nice walk and we all had a good time and learned a lot. Thanks, guys. Alta Peak Chapter has been asked to sponsor this trail but we have declined because of our need to focus our energy on our other projects, but we will continue our role of advisor.

Eighteen of us recently hiked from the Doyle Springs trailhead above Springville toward Balch Park. Led by Joan Stewart and Mike Neuman, and accompanied by some very knowledgeable amateur botanists, every plant, tree, and shrub on the trail came under intense scrutiny and discussion. Thank you, Joan and Mike. It was a great day... and weren't the dogwoods beautiful!

We want to thank all the people who came along with us this spring. Your support is greatly appreciated and we enjoyed spending time with you. Hope to see you again on the trail.

-Janet Fanning

Golden Trout Workshops

Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra from July 31 - August 20, 1994. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered, with visiting guest naturalists at some sessions. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. For details, write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (909) 793-7897. If you are interested, reservations should be made as soon as possible.

Vote YES on Prop. 180 June 7!

Proposition 180 is the CALPAW 94 initiative that will be approved or rejected by voters on June 7. CNPS has \$26.5 million in projects that will benefit native plants and their habitats throughout the state. Your support is crucial.

Our area of California is known for its weak support of environmental issues (out of the record 750,000 signatures qualifying this proposition for the ballot, Tulare County contributed only 2,000). The Fresno Bee has not endorsed this proposition, printing a recent editorial that was inaccurate and misleading about the actual cost to taxpayers to implement these projects. Even the CALPAW headquarters told our chapter president they did not want publicity in this area because it might cause more reactionary "no" votes.

You can help pass Prop. 180 by encouraging people you know to vote "YES". Here are some selling points to use:

1. Over the 20 year period of this measure the population of California is expected to double. This means it will cost each taxpayer around \$60 total, or 20-40¢ per person each month to pay for the bonds issued for Prop. 180.
2. Spending on land is unlike much of the state's spending. Land remains a capital, as well as a natural, asset for California citizens. Studies show that open space and parks are key to area values, and quality of life is critical for this state's economic growth.
3. Tulare County has \$11.5 million designated for three areas, Allensworth State Historic Park, Exeter Rocky Hill, and Tulare County agricultural land. Other regional projects could benefit our county through \$200 million in statewide competitive grant funding.
4. This is a general obligation bond act. The state will sell bonds only on the approval of the governor and the treasurer, and only if their sale will not impair the state's financial stability. Prop. 180 does not require or impose a tax increase. In contrast to the state's annual budgeting process, Prop. 180 provides an orderly, predictable funding source for park and wildlife projects, and allows rational planning into the next century.

It is most likely this measure will be supported by urban areas who tend to appreciate open space and natural areas more because they live in such unnatural areas. Those of us who live in rural areas or small towns with the Sierra Nevada in our backyards often take these valuable and vanishing areas for granted. Show your support and concern by voting "YES" on Prop. 180 and getting four other people to join you.

Landscaping Classes

**June 18, July 16,
or August 27
8:30 - 4:30**

**Understanding Native Plants
Las Pilitas Nursery
Santa Margarita, CA 93453**

Instructor: Bert Wilson

The class will present an overview of landscape ecology, including plant communities, native plant strategies, combining natives and non-natives in landscapes, manipulating your landscaping to control weeds, mulching, and understanding the effects of watering, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, etc. Two Alta Peak Chapter members have already signed up for the August class. The course fee is \$50 per person or \$80 per couple, which includes lunch.

If you can't attend, you may wish to purchase their 80 page manual on California native plants, their ecology, and landscaping guidelines. The manual is divided into easy and advanced sections, with cultural information and descriptions of ~900 species and varieties based on 20 years of experience in growing, landscaping and restoration using only California natives. The manual is documented with 500 references, but contains no pictures. (Ed.note: the \$6 condensed version is difficult to read, and it is available in larger type for \$20). Las Pilitas Nursery is open to the public Sat 9-5, open wholesale Mon-Fri 8-6, call (805) 438-5992.

San Joaquin Valley Bioregion Task Force Meeting

**Saturday, July 23
9:30 am - 5 pm**

**Cort Gallery
Three Rivers**

The San Joaquin Valley Bioregion Task Force is sponsored by the Institute for Ecological Health. Various environmental groups and the scientific community have dedicated this task force to preserving natural habitat and agricultural land. The geographical boundaries of the task force range from the west slope of the Sierra Nevada to the east slope of the Inner Coast Range, and from Stockton to the Grapevine. Cort Gallery will host their first annual meeting. The agenda will include training on effective activism from the Marin Environmental Forum. Attorney Elizabeth Scott-Graham from the American Farmland Trust will discuss how agricultural land can be used as wildlife corridors between larger natural areas. The Task Force will also discuss their interagency effort to map critical habitats within the bioregion. Presentations will be held between 10 am and 3 pm, and 3 pm to 5 pm is set aside for networking and socializing. Bring something to share at the potluck lunch, your own drinks (no alcohol) and place setting (something reusable or recyclable- the gallery has no trash pickup). A tax-deductible donation of \$5 will be collected at the door. For information on the San Joaquin Valley Task Force contact Joanie Weber, 52750 Badger Road, Pinehurst, CA, 93641, 336-2683.

Sequoia Natural History Association Summer Seminars

July 9-10

Grant Grove Wildflowers

Leader: Steve Stocking

In early summer, the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park provides a spectacular display of wildflowers. This field session will study the flowering plants of the diverse plant communities located between 5000' and 7000'. On Saturday, participants will be guided on easy to moderate nature walks to meadows, ridges, stream sides, forests and sequoia groves in Grant Grove, Panoramic Point, and Redwood Canyon. The evening will be spent viewing wildflower slides. Then on Sunday, short easy walks will be taken from Quail Flat to Buena Vista and nearby areas. Participants will learn how to identify the wildflowers of the area and recognize general plant family characteristics. Course fee: \$50.

July 14-17

Alpine Wildflowers Backpack

Leader: Jim Warner

June, July, and August find spring in progress higher and higher in elevation in the Sierra Nevada. Wildflowers typical of spring are found blooming even into October at 11,000' elevation. During this three-day backpack trip, we will explore the trailsides to discover and identify these bits of color that punctuate the forest and rocky terrain of the High Sierra. Thursday evening, we'll meet in the Lodgepole Visitor Center to review our itinerary. Early Friday, we will explore a bit of Wolverton Meadow, and then hike past Pear Lake into the Tablelands where we will camp both nights. Saturday, we'll day-hike into the alpine meadows up to 11,485' and Sunday return past the lakes, arriving at the trailhead by late afternoon. The trip is for backpackers who enjoy group traveling and who want to learn more about alpine wildflowers. Participants are responsible for their own gear and food. The trip is strenuous with hikes up to 8 miles per day over steep and rocky terrain. Course fee: \$105.

For information about these sessions and more, contact the Sequoia Natural History Association, Ash Mtn Box 10, Three Rivers, CA 93271, 209-565-3759.

Statewide Board Meetings

CNPS holds quarterly meetings with officers and interested members of all thirty-two chapters. Each meeting is hosted by a different chapter; the next two meetings are at Point Reyes National Seashore (June) and Monterey (September). The meetings include in-depth discussions of CNPS activities throughout the state, including rare plant inventory, conservation, publications, fundraising, etc. All members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Janet Fanning at 561-3461.

Nature Trail & Native Plant Garden

Alta Peak Chapter has begun to develop a nature trail and native plant garden on 1½ acres of land adjacent to the Three Rivers Memorial Building. The site consists of blue oak and interior live oak woodland, with a seasonal stream running through it. We hope that a nature trail and native plant garden on this site will:

1. Foster appreciation of California native plants and promote their use as attractive, water-wise, and appropriate plants in private and public landscaping;
2. Provide an attractive and useful addition to the community in the form of a pleasant walking trail for local residents and visitors;
3. Enhance the surrounding landscaping and the commercial use of the Memorial Building;
4. Create an educational resource for identifying and learning about California native plants as part of a larger diverse natural community;
5. Provide the community with hands-on experience in native plant landscaping and gardening techniques.

This is expected to be a five year project, and we hope to involve the entire community, including (in addition to CNPS members) the Senior League, Redbud Garden Club, Three Rivers Union School, Three Rivers Women's Club, Tulare County Audubon Society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, Sierra Club, Sequoia National Park, Sequoia Natural History Association, Kaweah Land Trust, Three Rivers Municipal Advisory Council, Tulare County Board of Supervisors and Planning Department, and *anybody else we can think of*.

This spring, we've been working to inventory and map the existing vegetation on the site. We have compiled a species list that currently contains 114 plant species, including 77 native and 37 non-native species. We'll continue to monitor the site this summer to see what else comes up.

In future months and years, subject to the approval of the Memorial Board, we will be designing the trail and garden, removing some non-native species, building the trail and planting sections of the garden, and developing interpretive displays and brochures to assist the public in learning about the site while they enjoy it.

It is our hope that the community will embrace this project, and take advantage of this opportunity to "show off" some of the best of the natural beauty of Three Rivers to residents and visitors alike. We believe that only through appreciation can come the desire to preserve natural landscapes here and elsewhere.

If you wish to get involved in this project, please don't hesitate to call Janet Fanning at 561-3461.

CNPS Releases 5th Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants

California has more species of native plants than any other state. More than 1/3 of the plants species native to California are found nowhere else on earth. Almost a quarter of the plant species found in North America are native to California.

Unfortunately, the brand-new 5th edition of CNPS's *Inventory of the Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* demonstrates that California's native plants are declining. The *Inventory* lists 852 species, subspecies, and varieties that are "rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere". An additional 272 kinds of plants are "rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere". Counting other plants which are not yet considered threatened, but whose declining populations are of concern, a total of 1742 types of native plants are included in the 1994 *Inventory*. The *Inventory* was first published in 1974; each subsequent edition has included more plants of concern.

In Tulare County, 52 species, subspecies, or varieties of plants are "rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere", and 5 are "rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere". An additional 54 species, subspecies, or varieties are not yet considered threatened, but are of limited distribution or require additional information. Many of these have not yet been listed under CESA and remain unprotected. The list of 52 rare, threatened, or endangered species includes local plants such as the Kaweah brodiaea, (*Brodiaea insignis*), mouse buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* var. *murinum*), spiny-sealed button-celery (*Eryngium spinosepalum*), Madera linanthus (*Linanthus serrulatus*), Norris' monkeyflower (*Mimulus norrisii*), San Joaquin adobe sunburst (*Pseudobahia peirsonii*), and Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*). Of these, all but Norris' monkeyflower are endangered in part or all of their ranges. All are extremely limited in distribution. (Pictures of some are scattered throughout this newsletter).

More plants are becoming endangered in California in spite of current protection efforts. Since the last *Inventory*, published in 1988, 310 rare and endangered plants have been added. Some of these plants are newly discovered and only recently described by scientists. Many plants have been added because habitat conditions have worsened or vanished due to increasing interaction with human activities. "Already 95% of wetlands and 99% of grasslands in the Central Valley have been converted to agriculture or developed, taking a number of plant species with them," said CNPS botanist Mark Skinner. The *Inventory* notes that 34 species of plants once found in California are now believed extinct. Causes of extinction include competition by introduced plants not native to California, urbanization, agricultural activities, and wetland conversion.

Endangered Species Action Alert!

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is our state's most important law for the protection of plants, animals and their dwindling habitat. There are 73 species of native California wildlife and 215 species of native plants which are listed and protected as "rare", "threatened" and "endangered" with extinction under CESA.

The opponents of endangered species protection are very well organized this year, and have at least three bills which may substantially weaken CESA. These bills include: AB 3052 sponsored by Cruz Bustamante (D-Fresno), SB 2091 sponsored by Ken Maddy (R-Fresno) with the support of Governor Pete Wilson, and SB 1621 (McCorquodale), which is sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

The environmental community is looking to Senator Gary Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to defend CESA in 1994 via his SB 1549. SB 1549 will:

- ♦ Establish clear mandates and goals for multi-species protection efforts.
- ♦ Define how CESA protects habitat and plants.
- ♦ Require progress on recovery plans for species listed under CESA.
- ♦ Establish uniform standards for "incidental take" of listed species.
- ♦ Provide incentives to private landowners to protect habitat and species.
- ♦ Restructure habitat planning in California.

At the hearings of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee on May 10, SB 1549 and SB 1621 were "double joined," so that both bills must pass for either to become law. The authors are urging Senator Maddy to double join SB 2091 to the others. Senator Hart believes that this is the best chance for meaningful CESA reform, and the best way to ensure that CESA is not weakened.

YOUR LETTERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Please mail letters and FAX's of support for SB 1549 as soon as possible to your state senator and assembly representative (listed in the blue section of your Yellow Pages) and to:

Senator Mike Thompson, Chairman
Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee
Room 2205, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-5441 FAX (916) 323-2232

Copies of the Inventory (as well as any other CNPS publication) can be ordered by calling Janet Fanning. Ordering from the local chapter will save you shipping costs and helps support chapter activities. We'll pick your order up at the quarterly meetings in June, September, December, and March. Call before June 8 to receive your order the week of June 13.

Grazing Monitors Needed

The effects of grazing on plant communities in most National Forests and Bureau of Land Management lands have long distressed CNPS members. Last December, a group of California grazing activists launched a statewide effort to monitor the condition and management of publicly owned rangelands. The group named itself the California Grazing Reform Alliance (CalGRA). Their goal is to create a statewide databank of evidence of grazing abuses and a united voice for rangeland reform in California.

Cal GRA plans to force action by the agencies and legislators by systematically documenting grazing damage throughout California. Volunteers are needed from all parts of the state to participate in coordinated monitoring of federally owned rangelands. CalGRA will train volunteers to use simple photographic and other monitoring techniques to document damage to soils, riparian areas and plant communities, and violations of environmental laws. CalGRA will meet with the state directors of the Forest Service and the BLM twice a year to present monitoring results and discuss needed reforms. The goal is simply to force the agencies to implement the laws, policies, and regulations that are already on the books. Enforcement of existing law will go a long way towards halting and reversing the damage that is being done to rangeland ecosystems.

YOU CAN HELP. CNPS members can be particularly helpful to this effort because of their knowledge of native plants. People who understand native plant communities and who may be able to identify sensitive, threatened or endangered species will be very useful. Don't be intimidated though, novices and experts alike will be welcomed, and training will be provided.

CalGRA hosted its first training workshop in Truckee on May 21 and 22. This workshop demonstrated simple, standard techniques to effectively monitor grazing impacts. Experts from the BLM, the Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, the University of California, and CalGRA provided information on relevant laws and regulations, monitoring techniques, and the impacts of grazing to plant communities, wildlife, soil, and water. Additional training workshops will be held in the future.

If you are interested in participating in the monitoring effort please contact Emily Roberson or CalGRA. This summer will be the first season of the project, but it is planned to continue as long as it is needed. Even if you can't commit time this year, put your name on the mailing list for another grazing season. Contact:

Emily Roberson,
Public Lands Planner,
CNPS
1722 J St., Suite 17
Sacramento, CA 95814
(510) 649-0460

California Grazing
Reform Alliance
1673 Fruitvale Rd.
Lincoln, CA 95648

Landscaping With Natives: Grasses and Oaks - What's the Connection?

Why are California oaks not regenerating? With their large, readily germinating seeds, why are oaks all over California having such difficulty in establishing young seedlings?

Livestock? Cattle and sheep eat both acorns and seedlings. Yet at field station test plots in Yuba County and Mendocino County, where livestock have been excluded for 20 years, few seedlings have appeared. Wildlife? Deer, wild pigs, ground squirrels, gophers, woodpeckers, grasshoppers, and caterpillars all have demonstrated an appetite for either acorns or seedlings. Land management? In many places, changes due to extensive grazing, fire suppression, and land clearing have created habitat no longer hospitable to seed germination and perhaps lead to more acorn and seed eating animals.

While all these factors have been observed to interfere with oak regeneration, there is another key factor now felt to limit an oak seedling's chances at successful establishment. The golden grasslands now associated with California are the result of a widespread vegetation change that has occurred over the last 100 to 200 years. Arriving as seed with the European newcomers (both humans and livestock), annual grasses from Mediterranean regions with climates similar to California out-competed the native perennial bunchgrasses that were the existing groundcover in the oak grasslands. The introduced grasses were better able to survive the arid California climate and the heavy grazing practices that were then practiced.

The exotic annual grasses, now a familiar part of the California landscape, germinate with the rains, grow rapidly, bloom and go to seed in the spring before dying. They rapidly deplete the soil moisture and limit any chances for newly germinated oak seedlings to find adequate soil moisture to survive the summer's drought. On the other hand, the perennial bunchgrass plant communities were characterized by clumps of deep rooted perennial grasses that had open spaces in between, providing protected spots for oak seedlings and a myriad of other perennial and annual plants such as wildflowers and low growing herbaceous plants.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in the native perennial grasses for a variety of uses, including landscaping, agricultural cover crops, highway plantings, and wildlife habitat. Two possible uses of perennial native grasses in the landscape are as scattered accent plants among native evergreens like manzanita, ceanothus, and coyote bush in a shrub border, or as small groundcover areas in which the bunchgrass clumps may be spaced one to three feet apart. With their nodding seed heads that develop in late spring, both California fescue (*Festuca californica*) and various needlegrasses (*Stipa* spp.) have adapted well to my Exeter homesite, as evidenced by their re-seeding in the landscape. Other suggested grasses to try

are blue wildrye (*Elymus glauca*), a tall, coarse grass with silver blue foliage and deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), which forms dense clumps three feet tall and wide and is commonly used in Indian basketry.

Any attempt to restore the native perennial grasses will face stiff competition from the introduced, and now naturalized annuals as well as broadleaf "weeds". Direct seeding cannot compete with the faster growing European weeds in winter and spring. However, around my home, where I exercise some weed control by mowing, hoeing, or herbicides, I have several species of native *Stipa* and *Festuca* spreading by self-sowing. A better means of planting bunchgrasses is to obtain seed for planting in early summer. Several sources are listed below.

Seed can be direct sown or stratified in damp sand in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for two to four weeks for improved germination. The seed/sand mix is then sown in a flat in a semi-shaded area and kept from drying out. The seedlings should then be planted out to the field or transplanted to small pots for growing until moving to the field. By using peat pots, the little grass plants can be planted out without disturbing the roots. I would suggest waiting until October or the onset of the rainy season before planting out the young seedlings to ensure best chances at survival.

Sources for seed (and information):

Larner Seeds (mail order)
PO Box 407
Bolinas, CA 94924

The Redwood City Seed Company (mail order)
PO Box 361
Redwood City, CA 94064

ConservaSeed (wholesale)
PO Box 455
Rio Vista, CA 94571

Places To See Native Grasses

The best place to see native bunchgrasses is the Jepson Prairie in Solano County, near Fairfield. This area also has extensive vernal pools and would be ideally visited March - May.

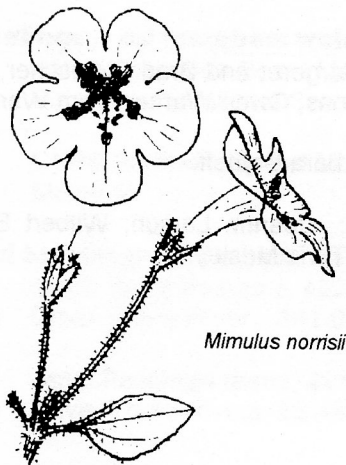
It is possible to find bunchgrass plants still in this area. I have found needlegrass (*Stipa* sp.) plants growing in the foothills around Lemon Cove, among rocks on slopes where they have apparently escaped grazing. In the fall, look for small green clumps of grass that green up before the annual grasses get started; in the spring, the bunchgrasses tend to stay green later after the annual grasses have turned brown. Probably the best time to "key" out or identify a grass plant is late spring when bloom or seeds are present.

-John Moore, Native Plant Landscaping Chair

Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants

Jeanine De Hart, a longtime chapter member of the San Diego Chapter and owner of Weber Native Plant Nursery, shares her secrets in this new booklet. She writes from experience- choosing to include a wide variety of species, but only those that she has grown with proven success. She shares her enthusiasm and encourages experimentation. From gathering and cleaning of seed, to seed treatment and germination, the information is clear, concise, and maybe best of all, an inspiration to the novice grower.

The booklet costs \$6.00 (including tax and shipping) from Jeanine De Hart, Consulting Horticulturalist, 237 Seeman Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024.



Mimulus norrisii

Growing Native

The bimonthly newsletter of the Growing Native Research Institute, *Growing Native* provides a fund of information on uses, cultivation, and sources of native plants. Each issue focuses on a specific group of plants and usually includes personal experiences of people involved with native plants in one way or another. For example, the September/October, 1993 issue features Sierra perennials and shrubs and includes an interesting piece on seed collecting and processing. The November/December, 1993, issue covers plants for dry shade. In addition to its many interesting articles, this is "a woman-owned small business" with "no employees, no 800 number, no fax, no Visa or Mastercard charges, no POs or invoiced receivables, no sale or trade of mailing list, no bar-code, no ISBN number, and no microfilm copies in Michigan!"

Annual subscription, \$30, includes newsletter.

Louise Lacy, Editor and Publisher

Growing Native

PO Box 489

Berkeley, CA 94701

(510) 232-9865

Earth Share- A Payroll Deduction Plan

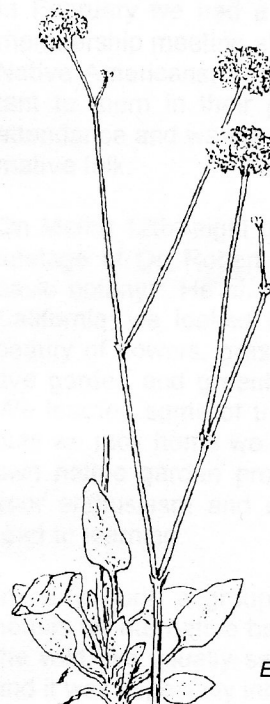
With things like acid rain, water pollution and the destruction of our parks and forests, it's impossible not to be concerned about the future of our planet. That's the reason Earth Share of California was created. It's an umbrella organization of over 75 different environmental causes-- everything from protecting the ozone to providing shelter for disabled wildlife. All these efforts are supported by the Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment. This program encourages everyone from CEO's to baby-sitters to donate a small portion of their paycheck to the environment. One of the ways CNPS receives funds is through the fundraising efforts of Earth Share of California (formerly the Environmental Federation). Last year, Earth Share raised over \$2.3 million for its 82 member environmental groups-- a 21% increase from the year before!

How does Earth Share do it? By organizing and running workplace donation campaigns. Employees in participating corporations and federal, state, county, and city agencies can support the environment through payroll deductions. They can make a general contribution to Earth Share, which then divides up the money among the 82 member groups, or employees may choose to designate to one or more of the groups.

The fact that contributions to Earth Share have been increasing every year shows that employees really care about the environment's effect on their health and welfare. As a CNPS member, you can also help us raise money through Earth Share.

Does your workplace have an employee giving campaign? If so, does it include Earth Share? If you have answered

no to one or both of these questions, please urge your company to have Earth Share as a contribution option for its employees. Workplace campaigns are easy and cost-effective. It's a great way for employers to support their employees' interests, and to show their commitment to the environment. Some of the campaigns that Earth Share participates in include: Safeway Stores, Kaiser Permanente, Levi Strauss, Charles Schwab & Co., Santa Clara County and Patagonia. To find out more about how you can help CNPS with its fundraising, please call Earth Share at either 415-882-9330 or 800-368-1819.



Eriogonum nudum var. murinum

Board of Directors - Alta Peak Chapter

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

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.

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Membership Update

Thanks to the following people for showing their support of the Alta Peak Chapter by joining, renewing their membership, or subscribing to **Insignis**.

New members: Robert Hansen, Jackie King, James Vincent.

Renewals: Margeret and Brad Bloetscher, Patricia Moore, David J. Parsons, Gwen Warner, Tom Warner.

Transfer: Barbara Brydolf.

Subscriptions: Jeanne Larson, Wilbert E. McHenry, Jr., and Don and Teriz Mosley.