



Spring 1996

Vol. 6 No. 1

Insignis

Newsletter of the Alta Peak Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Calendar*

- May 18-19 Foothill Wildflowers
Middle Fork Kaweah River
Jim Warner
Sequoia Natural History Assoc.
209-565-3759 \$50
- June 1 Wildflower Identification
Joanna Clines, botanist
Intermountain Nursery \$15
Prather 209-855-3113
- June 1-2 Statewide Board Meeting
Napa Chapter host 707-257-7161
- June 28-29 Kings Canyon Field Trip
Jim Shevock, botanist
LA/Santa Monica Chapter
reservations 310-472-5464
- June 29-30 Grant Grove Wildflowers
Steve Stocking
Sequoia Natural History Assoc.
209-565-3759 \$50
- July 6 Hike on Old Mineral King Rd
David Graber
Kaweah Land Trust \$10
Reservations 209-561-1124
- July 10-13 Trees and Shrubs of Sierra
Jim Warner
Sequoia Nat History Assoc.
209-565-3759 \$100
- July 19-20 Sierra Nevada Plants:
Their Uses Now and Then
Mary and Jim Gorden
Sequoia Natural History Assoc.
209-565-3759 \$75
- August 3 Upper S. Fork Kaweah River
Keith and Anore Jones
Kaweah Land Trust \$10
Reservations 209-561-1124

* Our Chapter is need of a program chair who could help to co-ordinate two to four general membership meetings a year. Will you help us to make the Chapter more active?

Native Plant Garden and Nature Trail Three Rivers Memorial Building

Work Sessions: Every Saturday, 8-10AM
Open to all interested members and persons...
come when you can... come every week.

In January and February, Peter and Carol Clum and I worked very hard removing all the rest of the Pyracantha and a few non-native trees at the entrance to the Garden. We are continuing to pull weeds and maintain the portion of the trail made last year. We rebuilt a rock wall where we had to remove some roots above the ditch and did some weeding. We are now ready to start building a foot bridge across the seasonal creek. This will be a culvert bridge with walls made from rocks on the site. This fall we will be planting redbud trees, propagated and donated by the Redbud Garden Club of Three Rivers. We will be working every Saturday from 8-10AM until the weather gets too hot. This project gives us great satisfaction and we really enjoy doing it. We hope you will join us. Enter at the lower parking lot at the Memorial Building between the pump building and the bridge and walk along the trail to the creek.

Janet Fanning

Editor's Note

We apologize for the long season with no newsletter from the Alta Peak Chapter. In our attempt to find a new editor, and because of unavoidable events, this newsletter is long overdue. We will extend the subscription time of those who subscribe only to the newsletter. The Chapter has not been in-active as you will see from various reports. We have also added a new member to our Board of Directors. The Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, except during the summer, at 7pm. This meeting is always open to any of our members. Call Janet at 561-3461 to find locations as we meet in various member's homes.

Catherine Cort

Meeting Our Earth A Teaching Event with Heyemeyohsts and Swan Storm

May 31, June 1-2

At Scicon, sponsored by the Fernald Center
Commuter fee \$160, on campus \$205-250*

We are blessed to live on this beautiful planet. Throughout the entire evolution of life on Earth our living planet has continually sustained us with her abundant resources and great giving. However, in the final days of the 20th century we face enormous planetary challenges: hunger, poverty, global warming, overpopulation, massive pollution of land, water, and air--and new, terrible diseases caused by pollution & environmental destruction. These are complex problems with deep roots. In our time the fragility of our continued existence on Earth is awakening humanity to our urgent need to learn of and respect the Natural Laws and Balance of earth. With all of the diversity of the world's people, what all humans have in common is the Living Earth that we share.

Hyemeyohsts Storm is a Northern Cheyenne Indian and German half-breed, a mixed-blood person. He was born and raised on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian reservations in Montana. In addition to being a best-selling author (*Seven Arrows*) for over 22 years and he has taught and lectured at many universities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Swan Storm is a writer and Earth Teacher who brings a deeply inspiring and powerful female presence to her Teaching. During the last decade Swan has taught many different kinds of women and men about the ancient Earth Wisdom of the Medicine Wheels and is the Executive Director of the Circle of the Earth Temple and Institute.

*Friday evening, May 31, 7-9:30pm, is introductory and can be attended separately from the weekend, fee \$25. Fernald Center, PO Box 698, Springville, CA 93265, (209) 539-3945.

"Within the Lodge was such a welcome of Beauty it actually shocked Lightningbolt. The Lodge was a dome of intricately woven flower-color and form. The walls and ceiling of the little dome had been built of thousands of leaves and hundreds of wildflowers. The little Medicine Lodge was alive with elegant Earth design. The natural soft hues of the wildflowers flowed in waves of color that blended with the leaves. Everything seemed to have always existed in the Lodge. The floor had also been transformed. Estcheemah had used four of her brightly colored Medicine Blankets to complete her Circle of Beauty. "Do not let Beauty embarrass you," Estcheemah said, "No, not at this moment. Just appreciate what you have....we must remember that everything we do or say, our every act, will be remembered forever by Sacred Mother and Father Earth. It will be Life, our Earth, who will attest to who we were while we lived."

From *Lightningbolt* by Heyemeyohsts Storm

Vernal Pool Ecosystems

June 19-21 Sacramento

CNPS is co-sponsoring this three-day conference, along with the Wildlife Society (Western Section) and the Society for Ecological Restoration, (CA Chapter). More than 40 invited speakers and panelists include scientists, managers, and planners from universities, state and federal agencies, local governments, environmental consulting firms, and conservation organizations.

Sessions will cover: (1) Vernal Pool Distribution and Characteristics; (2) Ecology, Systematic, Status and Trends of Vernal Pool Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems; (3) Conservation and Management of Vernal Pools; and (4) Vernal Pool Regulatory, Planning, and Policy issues. Registration fee for CNPS members is \$160.

For more information and registration materials contact: Mr. William Hull, Executive Secretary of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, P.O. Box 21638, Oakland, CA 94620-1638, (510) 465-4962, FAX (510) 465-1138.

Attention Springville Area

Gia Martynne, CNPS member and wildlife biologist with the Sequoia National Forest, is interested in gathering a working group of CNPS members in the Springville area. She has several possible projects in mind that include doing a field inventory for the rare plant, Springville clarkia, which blooms in late May, making use of the greenhouse on the National Forest, working on oak management, and following local conservation issues in the Tule River watershed. Call Gia at 209-539-1406(home), 539-2607(work).

Native Plants for Sale

The Alta Peak Chapter had a successful plant sale in November, 1995, with native plants provided by Intermountain Nursery in Prather. We still have these plants available, priced from \$2.25 to 3.50. Call 561-3461.

Corylus cornuta (Hazelnut)
Fraxinus dipetela (Foothill Ash)
Achillea lanulosa (Yarrow)
Calycanthus occidentalis (Spicebush)
Arabis sparsiflorus (Rockcress)
Mimulus calycinus (Pine Flat Monkey Flower)
Ceanothus integerrimus (Deerbrush)
Purshia tridentata (Antelope Brush)
Stipa nelsonii (Needlegrass)
Potentilla glandulosa (Sticky cinquefoil)
Eriogonum fasciculatum (buckwheat)
Mimulus aurantiacus (Monkey Flower)
 California Buckeye

Nursery Sources

The Cal. Dept. of Conservation has published a new edition of its guide to sources for native plants, *Nursery Sources for California Native Plants*, listing hard-to-find suppliers of some 1400 plants. More than 100 nurseries are listed. Send \$10 to: The California Department of Conservation, PO Box 2980, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Build Membership Spread the CNPS Message

We all share the goal to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. In spite of the expanding programs and efforts of CNPS, it seems to be losing ground in this very worthy goal. The current political climate has particularly threatened land acquisition and the budgets of stewardship agencies.

Even with 8,591 members, at an individual level we can increase this number and thereby reach more people giving us a stronger influence in land use decision-making levels. With your sincere help we can succeed in this effort. Please invite your friends and colleagues to join CNPS. They may share your interests and values, so valuable in achieving CNPS' goals. They might be more inclined to continue their membership through subsequent years because they are united with another member like you.

There are many people who could be interested in CNPS but who are not currently members. Perhaps you can recognize them as people who enjoy learning more about native plants and their habitats on field trips, at flower shows, and in books, people who like to grow native plants in their home gardens, people who care for our wildlands (or want to restore our damaged wildlands), people who are concerned that native habitats are being developed and are interested in preserving native habitats for their diverse wildlife values, and people who simply enjoy the beauty of California wildflowers.

We hope you will make a special effort to encourage new members. Give your friends a gift membership. We will report back to you later in the year on the success of your efforts. Thank you.

CNPS Membership Committee

CNPS Web-site Page

In March of '96, the CNPS Board of Directors adopted a new policy for the CNPS web page.

http://www.calpoly.edu/~dchippin/cnps_main.html

Included on the state page is a beginning "home page," an introduction to CNPS, a list of chapters, and links to other sources of information on the Web. Many chapters also have their own pages.

Areas that are now in place or are being developed: CNPS publications, CNPS policies and guidelines on conservation issues, Issues in State or Federal legislation, Rare Plant Program, Plant Communities Program, Kids Page -Why do plants have flowers?, Exotic Plants and Biological Pollution, CNPS News, many links to botanic and conservation sites, introduction to Cal. Plant Communities, and a photo gallery. A page on the internet provides free publicity about state and local CNPS activities to virtually everyone on the planet, while providing a "virtual community" for botanists, conservationists, and environmentalists to share information and ideas.

For further information contact :

David Chipping,
999 Pismo Ave, Los Osos, Ca. 93402
(805) 528-0362 (H)
email:dchippin@oboe.calpoly.edu

Plants in Cyberspace

There are many resources to exploit and places to explore on the internet. If you are interested in ecology, botany, plants or gardening, following are only a few of the plant-related URLs on the world web. Professional botanists and interested persons might want to check out:

California Flora Database
<http://s27w007.pswfs.gov/calflora/index.html> geographic distribution info on 6000+ plants

US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory page
<http://www.nwi.fws.gov:80/>
most recent wetlands plant lists

Cal.Department of Fish and Game
<http://spock.dfg.ca.gov/>
download sections of the Fish and Game code, search for threatened and endangered species by county, and obtain the phone numbers and email addresses of everyone at the Natural Diversity Data Base.

California botanical garden addresses and other flower-related information:
<http://rampages.onramp.net/~garylpe/ca.htm>.

Public Outreach

A new CNPS Public Outreach Committee has been formed. It's mission is to vigorously disseminate accurate information of native plant and conservation issues, primarily through the media. There are a number of ways that we can have an enormous impact on public opinion with relatively little effort in a short time. A few we can begin immediately are: monitoring the local press for inaccuracies on environmental issues and responding with letters to the editor or by writing guest editorials, developing fact sheets on key issues, and using the State office to gather and circulate Public Outreach materials with the Chapters. This is a critical time for CNPS and for all who support conservative management of natural resources. Many of our problems are based on deep, widespread misunderstandings about scientific and environmental issues in the public and the media. The only way to address misunderstandings is to get facts out to the public.

Give me a phone call at 561-3479 or email me at bbbirdz@theworks.com with any interesting or useful ideas or information.

Marilyn Messa

Legislation Report

The League of Conservation Voters recently published their annual "Report Card" and the San Joaquin republican congressmen helped give the 104th Congress the lowest score on record. "In 1995, the American people had the worst Congress on the environment since the league began keeping score 25 years ago", League president Deb Callahan said. In it's report the League gave zeros to a quarter of the House and Senate for voting against league positions on each 11 key environmental votes.

GOP lawmakers, Rep. George Randanovich of Mariposa and third-term Rep. John Doolittle of Rocklin, each earned a zero rating, while Sophomore Rep Richard Pombo of Tracey scored a lowly 8 of 100. Two Valley democrats, Rep Gary Condit of Ceres and Cal Dooley of Visalia, scored a 31. These two moderate to conservative members have joined with republicans on various efforts regarding private property rights and scaling back environmental regulations. The other votes considered critical ranged from providing money to California's new Mojave National Preserve to retaining a moratorium on the cheap sale of federal mining land. The League wanted yes on both votes.

But as an article in *Wilderness Watch* says, "We have important new partners on our work and that is perhaps the most significant-and least intended-gift of the 104th Congress. Through their zealous frontal assault on public lands and human health and safety, this Congress has done more than we might ever have done to restore environmental issues to the center of the political debate."

ESA: The House and Senate are considering legislation to scale back the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The bill would eliminate protection of a species on private land, cancel protection for populations of a species

abundant in other areas, and let federal agencies decide whether to let species go extinct. No bill has yet passed either house of Congress. But now new species have been classified as endangered or threatened since congress attached a more moratorium on such lists to a military spending bill.

An effort is being led by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) and Sam Farr (D-CA) by circulating, and so far collecting over 100 members in the House, with a "Dear Colleague" letter. It urges an end to a March 1995 moratorium on listing new species and designating new critical habitat. "Extinction is a loss for which we may never be forgiven", wrote Morella and Farr.

In the wake of the 13 month freeze on new endangered species listing, the Clinton administration was, in May, to unveil a new plan to resolve the backlog of decisions of federal protected statute on hundreds of plants and animals. The moratorium ended in last month's budget deal which gave President Clinton the power to waive it. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Mollie Beattie stated it could take a "matter of months" for her agency to catch up with the long list of animals and plants, especially given a 12% budget cut, before issuing decisions for each animal and plant.

Beattie decided that Federal biologists must ask independent scientists to send an y new or updated data they have on the risks of extinction. In some cases public comment may be reopened, she said. Under the laws, the listings are based purely on the best available science. Some members of Congress were upset by her decision saying that too much time is spent listing species and not enough time ensuring they are removed from the list to avoid continuing any economic hardships. Beattie defended the decision, saying with so much of the country's biological diversity in danger, "the demand of conservation must come first"

Legislation continued.....

Clean Water: The House passed a major scale-back on the Clean Water Act, removing federal authority to regulate wetlands, increasing the authority of the states to set water quality standards and allows extensive waivers for water quality deadlines. The legislation is pending in the Senate. Clinton pledges to veto anything resembling the House-passed bill.

Logging: A provision in a 1995 budget bill, designed to allow salvage logging of burned-over land, allowed logging to resume on held-up sales of living old growth timber in the Pacific Northwest national forests. Closer to home, timber sales are sparking a political fight as logging resumes in the Sierra National Forest. This so called "logging with laws" exempts all salvage logging of public lands from judicial review, citizen appeals and any environmental laws and regulation.

On March 14, the Senate voted to defeat an amendment introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) that would have repealed the salvage logging rider. This temporary setback means that we must now focus our efforts on stopping the swift moving and irresponsible push by the logging industry, through it's supporters in congress, to make the clearcut rider permanent law.

The most dangerous bill is S. 391, a so called "Forest health" measure introduced by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), which passed, would allow the clearcut destruction of our national forests to continue for 10 more years after the clearcut rider provisions come to an end on December 31, 1996.

Sen. Craig and the special interests that benefit from clearcutting our national forests have tried to mislead the American people to believe that the forests are sick and dying. Absolutely no credible scientific evidence supports

this hysterical fantasy. Centuries old ancient forests, with trees 200 feet into the sky, are being felled. Bulldozers are carving out new logging roads in many of our most sensitive roadless areas. Endangered species habitat, pristine watersheds and prized recreational areas are being destroyed. Now is the time to act to stop this irresponsible bill. You can make a difference with a call or letter to our Senators and ask that they oppose S.391.

CESA: Gov. Wilson's 5-year order, allowing suspension of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) during floods and other emergencies, has been ruled illegal by a Superior Court judge. Wilson issued the order in March of 1995, saying he wanted to help landowners recover from last winter's floods and prepare for future disasters. Environmental groups said it was unneeded and would harm rare animal and plant life.

Earth Friendly Books

The following (and other) publications are available from the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (310) 652-1877.

How to Control Garden Pests Without Killing Almost Everything Else, Helga and William Olkowski. Basic principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) explained for gardeners by two people who helped pioneer recycling and IPM in this country. 1977, 14pp, \$2.00

Alternative Pest Control for Lawns and Gardens, Rachel Carson Council. Practical and least toxic methods of solving problems with lawn and garden pests, general information on pesticide toxicity. IPM and lawn care. 1994. \$3.00.

Least-Toxic Ant Control, Rachel Carson Council. 1993, 1 page, \$1.00.

The Other Road to Flea Control, Dr. Diana Post. User friendly guide to IPM in pet care. \$3.00

Conservation Report

Yokohl Valley Sand Mine Proposal: This project was approved by the Board of Supervisors last summer, based on a mitigated negative declaration (MND). It allowed for the extraction of sand (gravel had been removed from the original description) from Yokohl Creek. The Concerned Citizens Coalition to Save Yokohl Valley and Badger Hill Water Company joined together to file a CEQA lawsuit against Tulare County to contest the adequacy of the MND, asking for an EIR to be done which would evaluate completely the hydrogeology issues of the project, et al. This lawsuit was settled in the CEQA mandatory pre-trial settlement conference. The litigants received \$25,000 reimbursement for legal and administrative expenses and the applicants agreed with the County to refile the project application and begin the EIR process. We have heard no word from the County that this project has filed a new application.

Dry Creek Mine Expansion (PMR 94-002 Artesia Ready Mix):

The gravel mine on Dry Creek has asked the county for an expansion to mine 85 acres of alluvial soils, creating a 62-acre lake, and a hard rock mining operation on 77 acres. This site is the location of one of 17 rare remaining Sycamore Alluvial Woodlands (SAW) over 10 acres in size on the earth. It is the 2nd largest SAW in the entire Sierra Nevada Ecoregion. The present operation has already removed 144 sycamores and 27 valley oaks. The Draft EIR has been prepared and was circulated for public comment. The mine plans to plant sycamores around the lake, to be completed at the end of the 30 year permit, and contends that this will create a SAW. There is no evidence that this will succeed and re-create the unique habitat know as SAW. CNPS has asked for minimal mitigation to be the preservation in perpetuity of the remaining SAW

upstream and downstream. It is most certain that the changes in the hydrological regime of seasonal Dry Creek becoming a lake will affect the stands upstream and downstream.

The Final EIR is now being written but the next hearing date is unknown. Dry Creek Citizens Coalition, which consists of ranchers, educators, neighbors, and members of CNPS, Sierra Club, and Audubon will review the FEIR critically to see if all the concerns presented in the DEIR process have been adequately addressed. If the FEIR is inadequate and the County approves the project, then the only continued review in the CEQA process is litigation.

The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Heritage Division did the studies that gave this high rarity rating for the SAW. Yet DFG has issued a streambed alteration agreement allowing the creation of this lake and the obliteration of the Dry Creek alluvial system at this site.

To be placed on the public mailing list or express your concerns write to:

Tulare County Planning Commission
Civic Center Rm 111
Visalia, CA 93291

Christopher Patin, DFG Region 4
1234 East Shaw Ave
Fresno, CA 93710

Please send a copy of any letter to our Chapter, PO Box 245, 3 Rivers, 93271.

I heard the old, old men say,
'Everything alters,
And one by one we drop away.'
They had hands like claws, and their knees,
Were twisted like the old thorn-trees
By the waters.
I hear the old, old men say,
'All that's beautiful drifts away
Like the waters.'

W.B. Yeats

Board of Directors		Alta Peak Chapter	
President/Treasurer	Janet Fanning	41118 Blossom Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-3461
Conservation/Newsletter	Catherine Cort	PO Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-4671
Secretary	El Freida Blond	40934 Cherokee Oaks Dr., 3 Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-3631
Historian	Gwen Warner	PO Box 71, Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-0407
Legislation/Public Outreach	Marilyn Messa	PO Box 174, Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-3479

Membership Update:

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

Transfer: Kim Kuska, Barbara Brydolf, Gary Adest **New Members:** Kathleen Seligman & family, Norma Hiestand, Laurie Jeffs, Charles Scheltz, John J. Keyzers, Susan Merrill **Renewals:** Jenny Marr, David Graber, Sequoia Nat'l History Assn., Nate Stephensen, Peter and Carol Clum, Catherine Cort, Janet Fanning, J.M. Faubian, Georgia Jeffs, Jim Sellers, Mona Selph, Harold Wood, Eleanor Foerster, James Gessner and family, Garry Kenwood, Olga & Bard McAllister, El Frieda Blond, Eli Norris, Theresa Minter-Procter, Patricia Moore, Gwen Warner, Jean Mayer, Matt Brooks, Karen and Greg Kirkpatrick, Marilyn Messa **Subscriptions:** Rachelle Ledbetter, Michael Kreps, Arline Erickson

Membership Information: If you have received a complimentary copy of this newsletter and would like to join CNPS, dues are \$20 for student, retired or limited income; \$35 individual; \$45 for a family membership. Send dues to CNPS, 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814

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