



Spring 1997

Vol.7, No.1

Insignis

Newsletter of the Alta Peak Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Calendar

- April 19 Society for Ecological
Sat Restoration (SERCAL)
10am Business Meeting and Picnic
Cutler Park, Visalia, 741-1980
- April 19 Kaweah Oaks Preserve
Sat Benefit Dinner
4pm Four Creeks Land Trust
Call 732-2852
- April 25-27 Kern Valley Bioregions Festival
Sat/Sun Weldon & Kernville, 619-376-2629
- May 17 Grouse Valley Walk
Sat Kaweah Land Trust, 561-1124
- May 10 Ecopsychology Conference
Sat Earth Trust Foundation, Malibu
9-4pm 310-456-8300
- May 16-18 Eastern Sierra Spring Sojourn
Sat/Sun Bristlecone Chapter
Big Pine, 619-873-8392
- May 31 Chapter Field Trip**
Sat State Mountain, Seq Nat Forest
8-5pm 209-539-1406
- June 19-21 Out of the Wild & into the Garden
Sat/Sun Horticulture Symposium
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gar.
Claremont, 909-625-1917
- July 5 Field Trip Sequoia Chapter
Sat Sierra National Forest
9am 278-2179
- Sep 27-28 Chapter Plant Sale**
Sat/Sun Three Rivers Arts Center
12-4 North Fork Drive, Three Rivers
561-3461

CNPS Mission Statement

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation.

The President's Notes

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Chapter Board of Directors. Gia Martynn, wildlife biologist for Sequoia National Forest, will be our liaison for the new Chapter Branch she has organized for the Springville and Porterville area. Gia has an update on the branch on page 2. Jenny Marr, plant ecologist for the Cal. Department of Water Resources, has volunteered to work on rare plant issues for the chapter. We look forward to the added input & energy of these new board members.

The chapter needs help with scheduling programs, expanding our poster sales, and helping with our September plant sale. A long-wished-for Chair is in the area of education, with someone who would be willing to plan activities that involve children. Please give some serious thought about offering your help in an active way. Just having someone to make phone calls to schedule speakers would help the present board members who have worked so hard over the last 6 years. Call me if you want to help in any way you can.

Work at the native plant garden at the Three Rivers Memorial Building has been put on hold for this spring due to the damage caused by the flooding in December and January. The trail stayed in good shape but here has been some erosion where the creek overflowed three times. In the fall we will look at the situation and discuss with the Memorial Board how best to prevent this from happening next year. Unfortunately the footbridge had to be removed due to the excess water in December. Thanks to Pete Clum for all the help. You were a dynamo.

I hope everyone has had the chance to enjoy our spring.....the wildflowers have been beautiful and plentiful. The higher elevations should continue to show us their beauty for the next few months, so get out there and enjoy them.

Keep in mind our fall plant sale. If you have specific plants you wish us to obtain, let me know and we'll add them to our order list.

We are planning an open Board meeting lunch (potluck) for early summer. We will notify everyone by postcard as soon as we have set the date. I hope everyone will come and participate and give us your ideas. Hope to see you then.

Janet Fanning

(email: gardner@theworks.com)

Tule River-Alta Peak Branch

by Gia Martynn

The Springville/Porterville area members of CNPS have organized a south county branch of the chapter. The Tule River Branch has had two meetings and last summer held one hike in Sequoia National Forest. In Oct/Nov the group has plans to help the Tule River Historical Society landscape the grounds around the Tule River Museum in Springville. They will be using native plants that were important to local Native Americans. To help contact Barbara Brydolf at 542-2680.

Other local projects include the Porterville Area Valley Oak Census. The oak census, organized by the Tule River Parkway Assoc., will attempt to locate all the valley oaks in and around the Porterville area. Trees will be measured and put into a database. Property owners will be given information on how to best care for their oaks. Four or more census days will be held beginning in the late spring through fall. If you want to volunteer, please call 209-784-8203 or the committee chair, Catherine Capone, at 783-0201.

Tule River Branch will also be participating in an Earth Day tree planting in Springville. On April 22, Earth Day, students from the Springville Union School will be planting blue oaks on the Circle J/Norris Ranch. Elli Norris, CNPS member, owns the ranch and has an established living trust which offers her ranch to the Tulare County Office of Education to be used for environmental educational activities. The tree planting activity will be from 10-2. The children will be planting approximately 50 trees, and building enclosures around some. Volunteers are needed to ensure the trees are planted properly. If you are interested in helping, call Gia Martynn at 539-2607.

There are future projects the Tule River Branch hopes to initiate:

1. Conducting rare plant censuses on local species such as Springville clarkia (*Clarkia springvillensis*) and Keck's checkerbloom (*Sidalcea keckii*).
2. Helping the US Forest Service propagate local native species for restoration projects.
3. Assisting Porterville College to develop a local herbarium. The Branch hopes to take a field trip in the Fall to see the herbarium at Porterville College. Teresa Minter-Procter, biology instructor at PC and a CNPS member, is organizing the herbarium with student assistance.

Chapter Field Trip Sat May 31

State Mountain--Sequoia Nat. Forest

Led by Caltrans biologist/botanist, Dana York, this hike will cover a very unique area with a variety of rare and endemic plants including: Hockett meadows fawn lily, purple mountain parsley, unusual larkspur, and Twisslemen's buckwheat. It is a strenuous hike, 8-19 miles at 7000-9000' elevation. Plan on a long fun-filled adventure and if you like birding, don't forget your binoculars! Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Our Place restaurant on Hwy 190 in Springville at 8am or Quaking Aspen Campground at 9am. Call Gia Martyn (209-539-1406) to sign up for the field trip or for more information.

Society for Ecological Restoration Meeting and Picnic April 19

Cutler Park Visalia 10am

Open to all interested persons and their families, this will be a joint meeting of the SERCAL California Chapter-San Joaquin Region, the San Joaquin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and the Sequoia, Alta Peak and Kern County Chapters of CNPS. Bring your own picnic meal. Cutler Park is located on the north side of Hwy 216, adjacent to the St. Johns River. Going east of Visalia on Hwy 198, take the Lovers Lane exit north, turn right on Houston Avenue. Follow on Houston which is Hwy 216 to Cutler Park. For info call Jenny Marr at 741-1980 or Steve Jauarez at 738-9754.

Kaweah Oaks Preserve Benefit Dinner April 19

The Four Creeks Land Trust is sponsoring a fun and relaxing dinner to raise funds for maintenance and improvements for the Kaweah Oaks Preserve. A guided tour begins at 4pm, a social hour at 5pm, dinner at 6pm, followed by a campfire, hayrides, and star gazing. Depending on the brightness of the moon and the brightness of the Hale-Bopp comet, excellent comet watching may be in store. Bring binoculars for bird watching in the afternoon and later star gazing. Advance tickets only at \$25, call Ernie Vierra 732-2852.

Lichen Poster

The California Lichen Society has just published a poster, 20X30 inches depicting 21 California lichen in color--\$10 (mailed). Order from: Cal Lichen Society, 1200 Brickyard Way, Point Richmond, CA 94801

Sequoia Chap. Meeting April 15

"Friends of the CSU Fresno Herbarium" is the program by Jenny Marr, plant ecologist with the Department of Water Resources, who is spearheading an effort to form a new group called Friends of the CSU Fresno Herbarium, modeled after the very successful Chico State Friends of the Herbarium group. The Fresno State herbarium gets virtually no funding each year, while the need to mount and catalogue donated plant specimens grows steadily. Rather than being a thing of the past, herbaria are more important than ever as repositories of information of distribution and abundance of California native plant heritage. Tasks to be done include: eliminating the backlog of specimens needing to be catalogued, changing the herbarium over to the new Jepson names, and ultimately getting the specimens entered into a computer database compatible with other herbaria in the state and country. The meeting will start at 7pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook, Fresno. For info call 209-261-1625.

Wildflower Weekend April 18-20

The San Luis Obispo Chapter presents their annual Spring event with wonderful outings to the sycamore cover of Reservoir Canyon, the fern-lined Cerro Alto Creek, the serpentine west Cuesta Ridge, the wind-sculptured Nipomo Dunes, and more. Meals and accommodations are provided at the Rancho El Chorro Education Center. Cost is \$75 for CNPS members. Call 805-927-5182.

Kern Valley Bioregions Festival

On April 25-27 the third annual bioregions festival will be held in Weldon and Kernville. Located at the southern edge of the Sierra Nevada, the Kern Valley is a unique place. Five of California's six bioregions merge in this region around the valley: Great Basin, Mojave Desert, Coastal Chaparral, Sierran Forest and California Grassland. The 1997 festival is expanded with new trips and events. For more info call Kernville Chamber of Commerce at 619-376-2629.

Kaweah Land Trust Walks

For more up-to-date information about KLT walks call 561-1124. All walks will meet in the parking area of the Valley Oak Credit Union in Three Rivers, unless otherwise announced. The KLT is asking for a \$10 donation from those who attend the walks. Bring water, snacks or lunch as needed.

April 19 Dave Graber, Three Rivers resident and Sequoia National Park Senior Scientist, will lead a return visit to check on the recovery of the Shepherd's Peak areas that burned last year to see the renewed vegetation and wildflower display.

May 3 A Springtime return visit to the pristine river area of the Sequoia Ranch should prove an interesting contrast with what was seen there during an outing last August. With Jim Wells serving as guide, this trip hopes to demonstrate the method used for locating and recording of unique points of interest utilizing a satellite-based global positioning system known as GPS.

May 17 An extended outing far into Grouse Valley will be led by Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist, Gail Presley, and will rendezvous with a group coming in from Springville with the Tule River Land Trust. A visit to the old Peck homestead cabin, a fire lookout tower, some areas of Kaweah brodiaea--plus seeing the views along the way--should make this a truly memorable trip. Plan to bring a lunch, and refreshments for the duration, and you'll meet some new neighbors from the next river canyon to the south. This is an outing where the conditions of various roads going in may be a determining factor in how we'll be getting there.

June 7 Jim Warner, a naturalist retired from 25 years with the NPS, will be leading an extended outing to the Garfield Grove area. Beginning at the end of South Fork Drive in Three Rivers in a hardwood forest unique to the area, it will climb considerably in elevation before reaching the giant sequoias at the trip's destination. Due to the climb and altitude this outing may also be a bit more strenuous than some of the other walks.

Wildflower Hotline: 1-818-768-3533

Theodore Payne Foundation operates a hotline with a recording (which is updated weekly) identifying the most "blooming" locations in Central & Southern California.

Wildflower Hotsheet: <http://home.earthlink.net/~caroleigh/wflower.htm>

This is not a CNPS project but it is a great service.

2nd Interface Between Ecology and Land Development in California

April 18-19 Occidental College Los Angeles
Jon E. Keeley, co-ordinator

The rapid population growth in California has intensified the inevitable conflict between land development and the preservation of natural ecosystems. Development that is sustainable requires wise use of diminishing natural resources and, where possible, restoration of damaged landscapes. Scientists, resource managers, consultants and environmentalists, concerned about the tension generated by expanding population pressure and dwindling natural resources in California, will gather to report new research, express views, and listen to alternative perspectives.

In addition to invited symposia, a poster session will be the focal point to bring all participants together for lively discussion. The presentations will form the basis of a proceedings volume to be published after the conference. Speakers include Senator Tom Hayden, Jan Scow of CNPS, Mike Evans of Tree of Life Nursery, Dan Silver of Endangered Habitats League, Peter Stine of the US Biological Survey, Michael Beck, County Supervisor of San Diego and Keynote speaker, Dr Michael Soule, speaking on "The Wildlands Project: Affirmative Response to a Creeping Crisis".

Registration is \$55 at the door, lunch available each day for an additional \$5.50. For info contact Melanie Baier-Keely at 818-794-7696, FAX 818-794-9028 (mbkeeley@juno.com).

Eco-Psychology/Activism Conference May 10 Earth Trust Foundation Malibu

This is a conference to bridge psychology, ecology and activism, defining our values and encompassing awareness of the Earth as a living system, which will include speakers: Chellis Glendinning, psychologist and author; Peter Berg, director of Planet Drum Foundation in San Francisco; John Trudell, artist, poet, actor, musician, and defender of Native American rights; and Captain Paul Watson, one of the founders of Greenpeace and president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

The meeting will be held by the Earth Trust Foundation, 20110 Rockport Way, Malibu, CA 90265, from 9-4:30pm. Fee is \$75, sliding scale fees available. Call 310-456-8300 for registration information.

Field Trip Sequoia Chap Sat May 3 Sierra National Forest

Joanna Clines, Sierra National Forest botanist will lead this walk in the Carpenteria Botanical Area walk as part of the "Celebrating Wildflowers Program" on federal lands. We will see one of California's rarest shrubs in full bloom on the Sierra National Forest, learn about its pollinators and ecology and end the day with a stroll up the road through the Black Mountain Preserver, owned by the Sierra Foothill Conservancy. To reserve a place, call Joanna at 297-0706 ext. 4938.

Eastern Sierra Spring Sojourn Bristlecone Chapter May 16-18

This weekend will include a variety of outings which will cover Sierra foothills, desert, mountains and valleys. Located at Camp Inyo, Bernasconi Education Center, just west of Big Pine (5000ft). Sleeping dorms, RV space (No hook-ups) and tent space will be available. Motels are also available in Big Pine. Fee is \$45 for CNPS member, \$80 for non-members. Send check for registration packet to Kathleen Nelson, Route 1, Box 45c, Gerkin Road, Bishop, CA 93514.

Field Trip Sequoia Chap Sat July 5 Stevenson Meadow near Shaver Lake

Starting at 9am, biologist, John Stebbins will lead a group to a privately owned meadow within the Sierra National Forest, where Southern California Edison did extensive restoration work several years ago. To reserve a place, call John 278-2179(W), 296-1076(H).

...Adaptation of the deepest self to the collective unconscious and to the id is simply adaptation to the natural world, organic and inorganic. Moreover, an individual's harmony with his or her "own deep self" requires not merely a journey to the interior but a harmonizing with the environmental world...Environmental medicine and environmental psychiatry have begun to look at actual places and things...for their effects on human disorders...ideas are blowing in from the world, the ecological psyche, the soul of the world by which the human soul is afflicted, to which the human soul is commencing to turn with fresh interest, because in this world soul the human soul has always had its home...

by James Hillman, a forward to the anthology,
Ecopscychology—Restoring the Earth/Healing the Mind
edited by Theodore Roszak, ©1995.

Sequoia Natural History Classes

To register for classes with credit card call 209-565-3759, FAX 209-565-3728. Seminars are for adults, but teenagers may attend with an adult. Write to the SNHA at HCR 89 Box 10, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9792.

Foothill Wildflowers May 3-4

Jim Warner \$65

In May, a wide variety of wild flowers carpet the foothills with color. On Saturday, an all-day hike will explore the plant diversity along Paradise Creek, a north facing tributary of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River. On Sunday, the focus will shift to the Middle Fork Trail above Buckeye Flat Campground. The aftermath of a large foothill wildfire will be explored to discover plants not seen in the area for many years. Hikes are moderate.

Pages from the Past: A Hike down the Old Colony Mill Road May 10

William Tweed \$40

Hike ten miles down the historic Colony Mill Road, built more than a century ago by a group of socialists who hoped to establish a Utopia beneath the Big Trees of Giant Forest. The Colony Mill route explores one of the least-known corners of Sequoia National Park. SNHA vans deliver you to the trailhead for the adventure and pick you up again nine hours later at the other end of the hike. In between, long-time Kaweah country resident Bill Tweed will lead you through a fascinating world where history and nature mix in unexpected ways. The hike is expected to coincide with the peak of spring wildflower season in the upper foothills zone. Hikers should be in good physical condition.

Natural & Human History of the Giant Sequoias June 16-20

Jim Warner \$155 3 units FP \$117

Headquarters for this five day field experience will be at Grant Grove. Utilizing giant sequoia groves as classroom laboratories in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest, the natural history of the giant sequoia will be examined. Biological aspects include reproduction, development, morphology and ecology. Human concerns include discovery, use and misuse, logging, etc. Day hikes along Redwood Canyon, the Congress Trail, Hume Lake and Big Stump Meadow range from easy to moderate. Evening campfire talks will be given by National Park Service naturalists.

To the Woods! Trees and Shrubs of the Sierra June 20-22

Jim Warner \$100 2 units FPU \$78

There are six or seven dozen species of trees and shrubs in the Southern Sierra. Compare this to the eastern hardwood forest which may contain the same amount in a few acres. Participants will learn to identify the trees and shrubs through the use of sketching, photography, memory cards, and basic identification techniques. The seminar will begin Thursday evening at the Lodgepole Visitors Center with an overview of tree identification. A trip by van to the foothills at Potwisha is planned for Friday. Saturday will be spent journeying into Kings Canyon. The all-day driving trips will be broken frequently by stops to examine trees and shrubs.

Grant Grove Wildflowers June 28-29

Steve Stocking \$70

In the 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 5000-7000'. On Saturday participants will be guided on easy to moderate nature walks among meadows, ridges, stream sides, forest and sequoia groves in Grant Grove, Panoramic Point, and Redwood Canyon. The evening will be spent viewing slides of wildflowers. On Sunday short easy walks will be taken from Quail Flat to Buena Vista Peak and nearby areas.

Alpine Wildflowers July 24-27

Jim Warner \$125 2 units FPU \$78

During this 3-day backpack trip, trailsides will be explored to discover and identify the Spring bloom of the forest and rocky terrain of the high sierra. Set to meet Thursday at Lodgepole Visitor Center, a review will be given of the itinerary. Early Friday, Wolverton Meadow will be explored before hiking past Pear Lake in the Tablelands to camp two nights. Saturday will include a day hike into the alpine meadows up to 11,485'. Sunday's return trip will conclude at the trailhead by late afternoon. The trip is strenuous with hikes up to 8 miles per day over steep, rocky terrain.

Vegetation is the plant cover of a region, the clothing over the land. This thin cloth is at once durable and fragile, able to repair and reproduce itself for centuries, if the environment remains stable, but subject to irreversible unraveling when environmental stresses become too severe.

by Michael Barbour, from *California's Changing Landscapes*

Earth Share of California
Your Environment
Your Community
Your Choice



Imagine your favorite flower or bird or beach. Now think what it would be like if you could never see it again. How would you feel if in years to come, you only had photographs to remind you of the wildlife and wildflowers that you see before you today? All of us want to prevent this nightmare from becoming a reality and Earth Share of California can help. And so can You.

The California Native Plant Society is a member of Earth Share of California. Earth Share is the Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment. If Earth Share is not a part of your payroll deduction plan in your workplace, please let us know. We would like to change that! Please call Halli Mason at 818-345-6749 for information.

...A watershed is a marvelous thing to consider: this process of rain falling, streams flowing, and oceans evaporating causes every molecule of water on earth to make the complete trip once every two million years. The surface is carved into watersheds—a kind of familial branching, a chart of relationship and a definition of place. The watershed is the first and last action whose boundaries, though subtly shifting, are unarguable. Races of birds, subspecies of trees, and types of hats or rain gear often go by the watershed. For the watershed, cities and dams are ephemeral and of no more account than a boulder that falls in the river or a landslide that temporarily alters the channel. The water will always be there, and it will always find its way down. As constrained and polluted as the Los Angeles River is at the moment, it can also be said that in the larger picture that river is alive and well under the city streets, running in giant culverts. It may be amused by such diversions. But we who live in terms of centuries rather than millions of years must hold the watershed and its communities together, so our children may enjoy the clear water and fresh life of this landscape we have chosen. From the tiniest rivulet at the crest of a ridge to the main trunk of a river approaching the lowlands, the river is all one place and all one land...

by Gary Synder, from *A Place in Space*, © 1995

Conservation Report

by Elsayh Cort

On February 19, 1997, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved the mining expansion permit for the Artesia Ready Mix gravel mine on Dry Creek. With this approval the BOS denied the appeal filed by the Dry Creek Citizens Coalition, Alta Peak Chapter, and Tulare County Audubon Chapter, challenging the Planning Commission's approval of the permit and the adequacy of the EIR. The BOS hearing was the last opportunity for public comment at the County level. CEQA allows for future review of this permit only if a CEQA law suit is filed. The three concerned groups filed a law suit with Tulare County, March 18, 1997, represented by Bill Yeates, an environmental attorney in Sacramento. The judicial review in this law suit can only review the written and oral administrative record that has accrued over the last two years of County public hearings.

The petitioners of the law suit maintain that the EIR is inadequate in several critical areas, including deferred studies to be used for the basis of mitigation, inadequate description of the project, failure of the County to adopt all feasible mitigation measures before approving the permit, failure to analyze all identified significant adverse environmental impacts and cumulative impacts. It is hard to condense the serious problems with this permit in language that is easily understood. CEQA mandates a pre-hearing settlement conference with all parties which is planned for April 30. The lower court will probably make a decision around September. Most likely an appeal will be filed by either side, depending on the court's decision. Allowing for an appellate decision, this permit may not be decided until some time in 1998.

The first phase of the law suit preparation legal costs has been covered by the three petitioning groups. Additional funding will be necessary to cover the next phases, including the transcription of all the public hearing tapes. **CNPS is most seriously asking for donations to help with this effort. Giving whatever you can is a way to support this important CEQA challenge to save a rare plant community and a unique watershed. Please send checks to Janet Fanning, 41118 Blossom Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271, ASAP!**

What is Sycamore Alluvial Woodland?

SAW is a rare natural plant community system that is **dominated** by the species *Platanus racemosa*, Western Sycamore, which requires intermittent flooding over broad flood plains, periodic scouring, flushing, and a naturally functioning subterranean water table which recharges in the winter and spring and draws down during the summer months. SAW occurs only in California, with approximately 2,032 acres, representing only 17 distinct areas. **10% of this rare SAW occurs in Tulare County in the Dry Creek Watershed, the largest SAW in the entire Sierra Nevada eco-region.**

W. Sycamore rarely reproduces itself by seed. It commonly produces a cluster of sprouts around the base of the parent trunk. When the original stem dies, the sprouts develop into mature stems which have the potential to produce their own sprouts. Sprouting is generally believed to be associated with various forms of disturbance such as flood, fire, age, insect, or other disease-related damage. W. Sycamore requires high soil moisture during the initial annual growth cycle. It depends upon significant reduction in the water table through the later part of the growing season. It has little tolerance for fluctuating water levels, raise the perched water table a few feet during the summer and the roots are injured due to poor aeration, eliminate the water flow too early in the year and the soil-water reservoir available to the injured root system is depleted before the growing season ends. It tends to associate in areas with a Mediterranean, hot-dry summer climate along braided depositional channels of intermittent streams which are completely dry at the surface for the majority of the year.

Platanus racemosa is the only member of the botanical family, Platanaceae, found in California, with approximately 8 other species in this family world-wide. As a non-dominant species, W. Sycamore can be found along streams throughout California. In many areas W. Sycamore is only an occasional member of other riparian forests or woodlands.

SAW has been identified a rare natural community by the Dept. of Fish & Game with limited distribution and narrow habitat requirements. CNPS ranks the Dry Creek SAW as G1: fewer than 6 viable occurrences worldwide and/or

2000 acres; S1: fewer than 6 viable occurrence statewide and/or 2000 acres; 0.1: very threatened, based on The Nature Conservancy Heritage Program Status Ranks.

References:

KASCO Environmental Consultants May '95. *Biological Assessment of the Artesia Ready Mix Concrete, Inc. site, Dry creek Mining permit Application PMR 94-002/PSR*. Report on file, Tulare County Planning.

Keeler-Wolf, T. 1996. *The Definition and Location of Sycamore Alluvial Woodland in California*. Report by the Natural Heritage Division and the Bay Delta Division of Cal. Dept. of Fish and Game for the California Dept. of the Water Resources.

Sawyer, J. O., and Keeler-Wolf, T. 1995. *A Manual of California Vegetation..* California Native Plant Society, Sacramento.

Woodward-Clyde Consultants October 1996. *Final Environmental Impact Report Dry Creek Surface Mine Project Artesia Ready Mix, Inc.* Unpublished report prepared for and on file with Tulare County Planning Department.

How long does it take to make the woods?

As long as it takes to make the world.

The woods is present as the world is, the presence of all its past, and of all its time to come.

It is always finished, it is always being made, the act of its making forever greater than the act of its destruction.

It is a part of eternity, for its end and beginning belong to the end and beginning of all things, the beginning lost in the end, the end in the beginning.

What is the way to the woods, how do you go there?

By climbing up through the six days' field, kept in all the body's years, the body's sorrow, weariness, and joy. By passing through the narrow gate on the far side of that field where the pasture grass of the body's life gives way to the high, original standing of the trees.

By coming into the shadow, the shadow of the grace of the strait way's ending, the shadow of the mercy of light.

Why must the gate be narrow?

Because you cannot pass beyond it burdened.

To come into the woods you must leave behind the six days' world, all of it, all of its plans and hopes.

You must come without weapon or tool, alone, expecting nothing, remembering nothing, into the ease of sight, the brotherhood of eye and leaf.

by Wendell Berry

from *Sabbaths*, North Point Press ©1997

“Recognitions in the Landscape”

by John Dofflemyer

(exerpted from a presentation at a recent meeting of the Audubon Society in Visalia)

Pleased to be asked to speak from my perspective in the Dry Creek watershed...I am relieved that someone cares enough to ask...I've had unrelated and disjointed quotes appear in our local newspapers, those quotes have little to do with what I've learned these past thirty months, my perspective on the Dry Creek watershed from the inside-out because I live there, or how I truly feel. I am relieved to know that, win or lose [with] this CEQA challenge, that we, the National Audubon Society, the California Native Plant Society and the Dry Creek Citizens Coalition, have accomplished something that has made sense to me for over a decade, and that I've strived for both in my writing and publishing activities, and that is to build a bridge between environmentalists and ranchers.

When I opposed the original permit to mine in 1984, I was virtually alone before the Tulare County Planning Commission except for a tall, thin, older man in a red beret speaking slowly and precisely about habitat; about where will the wildlife go if we continue to level our landscapes? I didn't know much about the public hearing process other than to get up and holler hands-on, common sense epithets about erosion, about road wear and safety. But together, Bard Mc Allister, my family, and a few interested others, managed to keep mining out of the creek and above the level of the watershed. We didn't save the 144 sycamores, or the 28 valley oaks--half of which were three to four hundred year old Heritage trees, four to five feet in diameter.

Had we known more about CEQA, had we been close, perhaps more honest and intimate in our opposition to the original permit, I am certain that we would appealed it...we probably would have prevailed in requiring an EIR for the original project. And because the sale of the property was contingent on acquiring a surface mining permit, I believe that neither the buyer nor seller would have accepted the additional expense of preparing an EIR to complete that sale...Especially when one considers that the purchase price for the property was approximately \$250,000, and the proponents claim they have spent over \$400,000...to date to expand their mining operations.

In historical perspective, the ensuing eight years after 1984, the requests by the applicant for two-year extensions of time to begin the project kept Dry Creek unchanged....in 1992, a few months before the trees went down, I was noticed by the State Reclamation Board, that a permit to excavate within and below the channel of Dry Creek was pending. Whether my letters to Sacramento foiled this attempted end-run around Tulare County's permit, I'll never know. But I was no longer deluded--the intent to mine the entire channel, above and below the creekbed, was perfectly clear (if anyone doubts the intentions of the State of California, the entire sycamore alluvial woodland on Dry Creek for another three miles upstream is mapped out as an aggregate reserve for Tulare County in a recently published study for the Department of Conservation).

Before this point in time, I had tried to get along with the applicants, tried to accept this change on Dry Creek and their right to make a living here, and even felt some sense of loyalty to them because we had worked together to get electricity up Dry Creek...but this attempt to...circumvent the County permit....was a virtual declaration of war for me. Their actions, to use rural proverb, had spoken louder than all their agreements and promises....I heard chain saws from my house...I was devastated to see the red meat of huge sycamore stumps bleed into the sand, to see thirty acres from the road, the entire creek channel covered with severed, white limbs and then watch the leaves wilt day by day in August 1992. It cut the heart out of me. Recognizing how my very body ached, surprised me.

I am relieved to tell you this: how my physical and emotional make-up was so tied to those trees as a part of my own personal landscape for over forty years. This was an important recognition for me--to understand that these landmarks, this and other idiosyncrasies in our landscapes, are the synaptic avenues, the triggers to our memories. Forty years of personal events and old stories flashed before me. And as they buried the stumps, hauled off the sycamore limbs, and smoothed up the ground in the following weeks, I knew that a part of my history, a part of my experience and knowledge was gone forever. It was a personal loss...In some sort of private ceremony, in some grief I could not fully

comprehend, I let it go...I had recognized another value in my landscape, the potential of natural landscapes for us all, and for our children as part of our heritage and history--that is in these landmarks where our stories and wisdom reside.

In October 1994, the "Intent to File an EIR" to expand this project began a process of learning and thinking CEQA--but more importantly, another process of learning about myself. A test by fire, so to speak, a philosophical tempering that the ugliness of reality fine-tunes in some kind of congruent and consistent action. I recognized that I am a Native of Dry Creek, that the land I own--that steep and rocky, unforgiving ground I run cattle on--owns me, in every sense of the word. Though certain parts of this watershed, certain land formations, have always been a basis for my spirituality, I am certainly not the same man...that I was some 30 months ago...

I could see the inevitable consequences of too much success, too much consumption and too much growth right here on Dry Creek. To watch our revised manifest destiny transform this landscape over a weekend of tree-cutting, I had all the hands-on examples I needed to know that we, in Tulare County, had locked on too long to the notion that short term cash flow will solve a rural county's growing financial problems. We were giving up our uniqueness, stealing from the future, our children's productive and psychological future, to pay for our consumption.

I don't need to tell a bunch of bird-watchers about the intrinsic worth of Nature, about how it is to lose and find yourself while observing the wild--about the relief you feel in the proof that we are connected to something greater that all the promises and legal agreements mankind might offer.

The connection with nature is exhilarating and beautiful, but it is not a luxury. Connection with nature is health; health is life. Without it we shrivel and die...With it we prosper. This is so because we are nature; we are made of dirt, rain, sunshine, minerals and gases. How we relate to the landscape within is how we relate to the landscape without. Eating disorders and erosion of the topsoil are part of the same problem. Ecological crisis is a medical syndrome writ large. The plants already know this. They have never forgotten that the fortune of one is the fortune of all, and that is why they are generous and compassionate with humankind.

by Eliot Cowan, from *Plant Spirit Medicine*, © 1995

In the beginning of this CEQA process, I was angry and indignant...But sometime during our joint opposition, I recognized that this loose coalition of environmentalists and cattlemen, in itself, was not only a unique and unusual happenstance, but there was also an unlimited dynamic of caring inherent in it. How members like Elsie Cort...of the California Native Plant Society could understand my hard, gruff bark protected something more vulnerable, that the trees in this watershed were part of me, maybe were like me, and possibly were me. How I came to understand...that if we were to win back this ground, to hold the line to further destruction to this watershed's natural resources--a biodiversity described by naturalist Larry Norris in 1987 as "unexcelled in the southern Sierra except for the large Nature Conservancy Kern River preserve in Kern County"--we had to [defend] it with reason and honest rationale. And this would take exceptional trust...

Outreaching understanding is the trust we attained. It may be why I write poetry. It may be why you watch birds--the idea is that we might actually learn something, something valuable about ourselves, something valuable for mankind's future. I think we all believe that this kind of information resides in the wild landscape. I think we all understand that the integrity of these landscapes needs to be kept intact. I think that we know that the integrity of these landscapes is a reflection of our own integrity--that allowing projects that are not well thought out, well-described, well-mitigated and permitted well enough to be enforced will change the character of a watershed. Hence our character and integrity will be changed. This wild integrity that I speak of is my ideal, an ideal which harbors that which "outreaches understanding"--and also is the essence of poetry.

We are at a veritable fork in the road in Tulare County: will we allow surface mining in our aquifers? Or is this the beginning of a larger rural coalition of farmers, ranchers and environmental concerns in Tulare County, a coalition that will demand a longer view from our political leaders?...I trust in what we have begun here because it has that wonderful potential to save our landscapes. Because we may yet outreach our pitiful understanding of Nature and the nature of ourselves.

Legislation Report

by Marilyn Messa

The last November elections produced a new Congress and State Legislature which should be more sympathetic to the protection of natural resources. The defeat, in the last Congress and Legislature, of the most virulent anti-environmental legislative agenda in our history, leaves us with a much more favorable position. We cannot let down our guard, however, since we must expect that at least some of the defeated bad proposals will be revived in some form this year.

Industry, development, and natural resource extraction interests will seek to take advantage of the final two years of Governor Wilson's term to weaken existing environmental laws and regulations. Significant administrative agency efforts to weaken environmental regulations are already underway. What the Wilson Administration has not been able to accomplish in the Legislature, it is now trying to achieve (with much less public notice) through administrative action.

CEQA For the last several years, the Wilson Adm. has been trying to "gut" CEQA by eliminating the "fair argument standard." The fair argument standard says that when there is a dispute about whether or not an action might have an impact on the environment, the government should presume that there could be such an impact, and do an environmental review, as long as there is a "fair argument," based on substantial evidence, that such an impact might occur. This standard, in other words, is designed to give maximum protection to the environment. Since the Legislature has rejected Wilson's proposals to weaken or eliminate this very important part of CEQA, the Administration is now attempting to achieve their goal by amending CEQA guidelines. The constituency for CEQA is strong, is represented in every Assembly District, and is actually bipartisan. It consists of neighborhood citizen, environmental, and environmental justice groups. These groups want CEQA to be strong because CEQA is a way to give real power to the citizens to affect the decisions that concern them. Those concerned about CEQA may well have to ask the Legislature to do what it can to prevent the Wilson Adm. from trying to negate current state law through the guideline process.

CAL. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
Expect the Endangered Species Act to be a

focus of legislative attention this year. The problem most likely to be addressed by the Legislature is the flood event which took place in January. A bond act is a most likely vehicle to pay for better flood protection. Any such bond act should include funding to set back levees to produce major flood control & environmental benefits, acquisition of land in the flood plain, and improvement of existing levees and dams. Any effort to include funding for new dams should be strongly opposed as it is by the Planning and Conservation League and many other environmental groups.

Most likely to re-surface this year is the bill by Senator Costa that would eliminate criminal liability for accidental and incidental "take" of rare and endangered species on agriculture lands and during maintenance of roads and utilities. This has strong support from the agriculture community and could be passed next time.

AB 212 Woods: This bill exempts levee repairs from CEQA review.

AB 279 Battin: Endangered Species. This bill would make protection of candidate species discretionary by the Fish and Game Commission.

AB 65 Migden: Forest Resources. This is a spot bill for Headwaters Forest, and may become a vehicle for important forestry legislation in coming weeks.

AB 187 Keely: Timber Harvest Plan appeals for counties and cities. This bill broadens that appeal process on a THP, giving any affected citizen the right to appeal. It also gives local governments jurisdiction over any appeal in their communities.

FEDERAL PROPOSED CHANGES

Takings--would require compensation to property owners for reduction of values due to environmental laws or regulations.

Forest Health--this, in effect, would codify the just expired temporary "salvage rider," exempting from environmental review the logging of burned-over timber on federal lands and severely limiting any public input.

Endangered Species Act--would eliminate species habitat protection, severely limit new listings of threatened or endangered species, and require government compensation for lost profits and personal property. National Forest Management Act "reform"--would reduce protection for rare species and habitat.

Congressional phone number:
1- 800 -962-3524

Status of Springville Clarkia

by Gia Martynn

Springville clarkia, *Clarkia springvillensis*, is an erect annual herb in the evening primrose family (Ongraceae). The species blooms in May-June. It can be found on granite soils in open sunny sites in blue oak woodlands and on roadbanks from 1200-3000' in elevation. It is an endemic species to the Springville area. Nine of ten historically reported populations are extants. Currently the US Forest Service, which manages four of the nine populations, is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a Conservation Strategy and Species Management Guide for the plants. Urbanization, overgrazing, timber operation, inadequate State regulatory mechanisms, sphinx moth predation, and roadway maintenance activities threaten this species.

On October 4, 1994, the USFWS published a proposed rule to list Springville clarkia as a threatened species. Nine other species were also included in this listing. All species occur in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. The comment period was extended numerous times and closed on June 4, 1995. In April of 1995, a moratorium on listing actions was passed by Congress and no funds could be used to make final listing determinations. Now that funding has been restored the USFWS is proceeding with final determination for these ten plant species, including the Springville clarkia. Another comment period was opened due to the length of time that had elapsed since the close of the last comment period. Comments were received through March 6, 1997.

New Butterfly Book

The book, *Common Butterflies of California*, by Bob Stewart is available at a pre-publication price. The book of 264 pages, contains 127 photographs of butterflies in their natural environments. Price before June 1, 1997, is \$14, with sales tax \$1.05, and postage \$1.50. After June 16 price will be \$19. Order from West Cost Lady Press, PO Box 1389, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

CNPS's Web Site:

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

A California Flora Database:

<http://s27w007.pswfs.gov/calflora/index.html>

Internet Directory for Botany:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/kmus/botmenu.html>

...When you go to buy a pomegranate,
pick the one that's laughing,
that has its rind cleft,
so that through its broken-open-ness
you get some information
about the seeds....

by Rumi, translated by Coleman Barks,
from *Feeling the Shoulder of the Lion*

Out of the Wild & into the Garden California's Horticulturally Significant Plants III Symposium June 19-21 Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Co-sponsored by CNPS, this symposium will cover many aspects of gardening with native plants. Presenters include Lori Hubbert, CNPS president; Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden; Rosemary Donlon, Monterey Chapter president; Suzanne Schettler, past CNPS president and owner of Greening Associates, a revegetation business; Melani Baier-Keely, horticulture consultant and author; David Fross, co-owner of Native Sons Nursery in Arroyo Grande; Phil Johnson, garden designer; Bob Perry, professor and author in Landscape Architecture; Carol Bornstein, Director of Horticulture at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; Steve Edwards, Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley; Judith Lowry, author and owner of Lerner seeds in Bolinas; and Teresa Sholars, Professor of Biology at the College of the Redwoods.

Early bird registration is \$275 per person, postmarked by May 16, 1997. After May 16, the fee is \$325 per person. For registration call 909-626-1917, FAX 909-626-7670 for VISA or MC, or write to:

Registrar, Education Department
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 N. College Avenue
Claremont, California 91711

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is a California native plant garden founded in 1917 by Susanna Bixby Bryant. It is a non profit, private institution dedicated to the conservation and cultivation of California plants through research, education and horticulture programs. The Garden is located on College Avenue north of Foothill Blvd. and east of Indian Hill Blvd. in Claremont. There is no admission fee to the Garden. Your donations are encouraged to support the Garden's mission.

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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**.

New members: Dr. & Mrs. Oliver Scow, Jr., Kim Kuska, Pamela Clark, Patrick Whitmarsh, Mr. & Mrs. James Gessner **Renewals:** El Frieda Blond, Elsie Cort, J.M. Faubion, Teresa C. Minter-Procter, Dan & Colleen Veyna, Norman Hiestand, Jenny Marr, Susan Merrill, Jim Sellers, Laurie Jeffs, Maya Ricci, Mona Selph, Janet Fanning, David Graber, Michael Neuman, Nate Stephenson, William Tweed, Robert Urtecho, and Gwen Warner.

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; or \$45 for a family membership. Send dues to CNPS 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814.

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

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