



# INSIGNIS

Spring 1999

Vol. 9, No. 1

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
ALTA PEAK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Please send changes of address to:  
Membership Chair, Janet Fanning, 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271  
or email [gardner@theworks.com](mailto:gardner@theworks.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

The big freeze started after the 6th of December and lasted for five days, I am told. I was basking in the warm temperatures of the Gulf coast of Florida at the time. Luckily my good neighbor turned on the bath water and left it on for five days. Upon my return I discovered my one exotic plant had turned black and my two lemon trees are probably dead. However my native garden plants and shrubs are doing fine! When a neighbor of mine was complaining about all the plants she lost, I suggested that she come to our plant sale next fall and replant with natives.

Though the temperatures say winter, the wild flowers are the promise of spring. My property is blanketed with solid masses of fiddleneck and popcorn. The leaves of the brodiaea's are everywhere, with blossoms to follow. Lupines are in full bloom and redbuds are showing color. Come join us (see Calendar, following) and discover other native plants, shrubs, and wildflowers.

— President Janet Fanning

## CALENDAR

These field trips, hikes, and programs are coordinated with TOLT (Tule Oaks Land Trust) events, with the two organizations sharing organizing and planning tasks. We hope that by combining energy and interests, the members of both groups will make new friends, while gaining a broader appreciation of needs and resources for plants in the foothill region of Tulare County. Bring snacks, or lunch, water as appropriate, and dress according to weather. For more information or to confirm meeting time, place, call Joan Stewart, 539-2717.

### APRIL 10 - HIKE

Along the Flume below the PG&E plant on Hwy 190, above Springville. We will be led by Linda Tanner, US Forest Service Botanist, and a second USFS staff to follow up on last year's pre-fire observations. The area around the Flume contains populations of the newly listed *Clarkia springvillensis*; it also is part of a larger area of prescribed burns that were carried out this past winter. We will have a chance to see re-growth, new germinations, post-fire recovery of vegetation, as well as to enjoy views and sensations that result from walking on a raised structure. All are welcome, but probably you would be uncomfortable if you have severe balance problems. Please, no small children. Meet at pullout along Highway at 10:00.

### MAY 1 - MEETING

Annual TOLT membership meeting, and wildflower exploration of the Circle J Ranch, on Yokhol Valley Road, just north of intersection with Balch Park Road. This meeting is open to all, with an agenda that will review last year's land trust projects, and look ahead to next year's goals. CNPS members are invited to come to the meeting and learn how land trusts work and about the mission of TOLT. We will then have an opportunity to wander over this 620 acre ranch, with its pond, patches of native grasses, and whatever is blooming on this date. The owner is dedicating the land to be part of the Tulare County program of science and conservation education (SCICON) which brings sixth grade classes to spend five days in our foothills.

## MAY 8 - HIKE

The main "campus" of SCICON, up the Bear Creek road off Balch Park Road, will be explored in an unusual opportunity to see the wide range of plants on the site. Just completed, a wildflower poster of the flowers of Scicon will be available for us to see (and purchase if you want one). CNPS members were consulted on the project, and it is of special interest to anyone working with local natural history. Frances Pyles is the artist. Meet at 10:00 at the visitors parking area beyond the Office.

## MAY 13 - PROGRAM

(Note, this is a Thursday evening), 7:00 at the US Forest Service offices, Grand Ave, in Porterville. Linda Tanner, Botanist for the Sequoia Forest, will offer a slide show and stories about some of the rare, sensitive plant species of the Forest. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, or others who care about our local "special" species.

## SUMMER EVENTS

And, just to let you anticipate some summer events, we are hoping to have a late May walk in the Kaweah watershed to find species of *Brodiaea*, *Triteleia*, and *Dichelostemma* for comparison. This possibly will be led by a BLM botanist, with access to sites managed by this agency. We certainly hope that *Brodiaea insignis*, the Chapter logo plant, will be found blooming, and of course there will be more than this to discover!

## LATE JUNE

Jordan Peak, perhaps seeing *Erythronium pusaterii* again? This is a repeat of last year's hike, by popular demand!

## JULY 24

Starting high, down the Nelson Trail in the Tule River watershed, led by Gary Adest. A lovely walk, through redwood groves, and along streams.

## AUGUST 7

An easy wandering through Quaking Aspen Meadow, at the top of Highway 190, headwaters of the Tule River. We have a plant list for the site from earlier trips, and will seek additions.

## WORKSHOP ON GARDENING

Alta Peak Chapter is planning another Workshop on Gardening in Three Rivers in September, date not yet scheduled. This will precede the annual CNPS Native Plant Sale, and help you plan your fall gardening activities.

## ANNUAL CNPS/TOLT PUBLIC LECTURE - OCTOBER 23

Will be held in the Springville Memorial Building. This is the third lecture bringing statewide experts to our area to show-and-tell about groups of plants of interest to the community. This year Joanna Clines, of the Sierra Forest and a leader in the State on how to manage "weed-free" lands, will come to us with the topic of invasive nuisance plants. Lecture will be Saturday evening, with a field trip to see local examples of Pest Plants earlier in the day. Mark these summer and fall dates, and watch for details in next Newsletter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OTHER ORGANIZATION'S EVENTS

May 8, U.C. Cooperative Extension is holding an Oak Field Day, on Tyler Creek Drive, near California Hot Springs. This is a 10:00-3:00 (bring your own lunch) opportunity to see and discuss examples of blue oak (*Quercus douglassii*) in sites that are part of ongoing research on management for increased vigor and regeneration of the species. Thinning and grazing are two potentially useful techniques that have been studied on these plots. Call Ron Phillips, at (661) 868-6219 for details.

Sequoia Natural History Association (559) 565-3759, offers field seminars in photography, stargazing, skiing, pathfinding, birding, and botanizing. Call for catalog and information.

SERCAL, (Society for Ecological REstoration, California) has scheduled an International Conference at the Presidio in San Francisco, 23-25 September. The theme, "Reweaving the World: Restoration, Community, and Culture", reflects the integral connections among science, community stewardship, education, and..... Information (608)262-9547.

Bristlecone CNPS Chapter, announces the fourth Sierra Spring Sojourn, Big Pine, 14-16 May. For registration package, send long SASE to Kathy Duvall, 155 Oceanview Ave, Bishop, CA 93514.

California Native Grass Association will hold its 1999 Annual Meeting (Native Grasses in Watershed Management and Restoration) on Friday, 9 April, in Napa. A grass identification workshop is offered on the preceding day.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE....

As in most of the CNPS Chapters, a few people do most of the work of keeping the Chapter formally organized and functioning. We hope that this is the year that more of you will find a niche, however small, in helping work toward our shared mission of appreciating, understanding, and conserving California's native flora. To start with, collecting and compiling text for this quarterly Newsletter could be fun for someone who "has always wanted to" try being an Editor. Someone perhaps with computer capability who feels adventuresome? Call Joan (see Board listings) to find out more.

Look at the list of Chapter responsibilities and note the various topics we try to cover. And then just offer to help the person listed, doing as much or as little as interests you. But you might find something that proves exciting, as well as useful.

## STATE CNPS NEWS

Much time at the December and March Board meetings was given over to wide-ranging discussions of two controversial topics of very basic and general significance to conservation of plant resources.

How small is too small? Large preserves are certainly better than small, and for animals a small area of habitat may be worthless for longtime persistence of a species. For plants? A single small population may be all that is left in the wild. But if we settle for a small site even though it includes a rare plant, can we then manage the site to keep it "natural"? Weeds, lack of pollinators, changed drainage patterns, and other factors may invalidate its value as a preserve. The 50+ members of your State Board, including every Chapter President, spent several hours on the topic, with no single clear answer, other than reinforcing our belief that every case needs its own special consideration.

Recently, at Rancho Santa Ana, we returned to the question of how strictly to interpret CNPS' mandate to Focus on Plants. Lawsuits to protect insects, or fish habitat also indirectly involve protection of plants, yet we have always been very careful to speak only

about issues and species for which we are qualified as 'experts'. We present our positions as based on sound science, and thus, as botanists, we understand plant science. Fish? Bugs? Several divergent points of view were expressed, stemming from the specific issue of becoming involved with a lawsuit to protect a tiger beetle that inhabits a rare form of vegetation in Central California. No agreement reached, but a provocative exchange of opinions, and the topic will come up again.

The Bulletin that you will soon receive contains reports from other CNPS program leaders, and reviews of current legislative and conservation issues in other parts of the State.

Here, in Tulare County, surface mining permits continue to be a major conservation concern for many reasons, not always involving native plants. The Dry Creek Lawsuit was reviewed by the 5th District Court of Appeals early in the year, and we 'lost'. Case not completely closed, however. At the time we write this we await further information from others involved in the case. Watch for Conservation Report in next Newsletter.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS . . .

(Since our last Newsletter): Carole Combs, Frances Pyles, Norma Svenhard, Susan Carter, Theresa Stump, Jean Loscotoff, Maria M. Jenderek, Mary Gliessman Tellez, Wayne and Jessie Lance, Martha Kalivas, Ken and Carol Savage, Patricia Valentine, Terry and Carol Manning. Transfers from other Chapters, Donald Beaver, Dr. Jon Keeley, and Sylvia Haultain.

And thanks, to all renewals.

And for Fun, finally, from the Northern Santa Barbara County sub-Chapter, we pass along the following very contemporary wisdom:

The Law will jail the man or woman  
Who steals the goose from off the Common;  
Yet lets the greater felon loose  
Who steals the Commons from the goose.



**DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATIVE FLORA**

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes informative publications, free field trips and monthly programs and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

---

---

**INSIGNIS NEWS, CNPS**

ALTA PEAK CHAPTER  
C/O ALTA PEAK CHAPTER  
P. O. Box 245  
THREE RIVERS, CA  
93271

**CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS, JANUARY 1999**

PRESIDENT: Janet Fanning ..... (559) 561-3461 h 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: gardner@theworks.com	POSTER SALES: Janet Fanning ..... (559) 561-3461 h 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: gardner@theworks.com
VICE PRESIDENT: Elsay Cort ..... (559) 561-4671 h P. O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271	HISTORIAN: Gwen Warner ..... (559) 561-0407 h P. O. Box 71, Three Rivers, CA 93271
RECORDING SECRETARY: Marilyn Messa ..... (559) 561-3479 h P. O. Box 174, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: bbbirdz@theworks.com	LEGISLATION: Marilyn Messa ..... (559) 561-3479 h P. O. Box 174, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: bbbirdz@theworks.com
TREASURER: Janet Fanning ..... (559) 561-3461 h 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: gardner@theworks.com	OUTREACH: Marilyn Messa ..... (559) 561-3479 h P. O. Box 174, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: bbbirdz@theworks.com
MEMBERSHIP: Janet Fanning ..... (559) 561-3461 h 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: gardner@theworks.com	BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Marilyn Messa ..... (559) 561-3479 h P. O. Box 174, Three Rivers, CA 93271 email: bbbirdz@theworks.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Elsah Cort ..... (559) 561-4671 h P. O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271	SPRINGVILLE LIAISON: Joan Stewart ..... (559) 539-2717 h 37759 Highway 190, Springville, CA 93265 email: tori2toli@aol.com
CONSERVATION: Elsay Cort ..... (559) 561-4671 h P. O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271	