

# INSIGNIS

Spring 2000

Vol. 10, 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 . . .

Your responses on the enclosed Questionnaire will help CNPS leaders plan the focus and priorities for the next five years. What direction shall we take? Strengthen chapters, or increase outside funding in order to increase staff and state efforts? The back of the questionnaire copies two articles from recent CNPS Bulletins, demonstrating two very different ideas about the scope of CNPS. Read them, and comment. Send your thoughts and filled-in Questionnaire **before 2** March to Janet Fanning. She will speak for Alta Peak Chapter at the Strategic Planning session that is scheduled for the 3-4 March State Board Meeting at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens (LA area, if anyone else is interested in being there.)

Now, back to local affairs. Due to our successful fall plant sale we are adding some 'new' books to our inventory.

Complete Garden Guide to the Native Shrubs of California, by Glenn Keator

Seed Propagation of Native California Plants, by Dara E. Emery

Discover California Wildflowers, by MaryRuth Casebeer.

We have purchased An Illustrated Manual of California Shrubs by Howard E. McMinn for use by the chapter and as a reference book at plant sales. All of these will be available at the 19 May Program, (see below) at Porterville College. We also have replenished our supply of laminated and paper posters.

Susan Carter, of Springville, attended the School Garden Workshop last spring in the Bay Area. This was a weekend event, offered at no cost to members involved in this important project of the Education Program. If others of you want to learn more

about available materials, how to plan a native plant garden in your school, or simply to talk about ideas, call Susan at 539-0409. (Note: a reference book has been written for southern California and is helpful here. Copies can be purchased from the state CNPS office for \$15 plus tax and shipping.)

Welcome, New Members: Richard Haubrich, Debby Main, Chris Schlossin, George Sherburne, and a thank you to all those who renewed memberships. We need you here!

— President Janet Fanning

### CONSERVATION:

Probably the most active topic recently is a very positive report about our participation in Tulare County's Weed Management Area Task Force. Tulare County is one of the first to establish a coordinating group to identify and consider how to manage the most serious invasive weed pests, both in agricultural and rangelands, and in wildlands. It brings together landowners and managers (private, city, county, state, and federal) for the purpose of combining action and expertise in combatting these noxious weeds. A color brochure ("the dirty dozen") is being produced, and will soon be available for distribution. Several of the members of this group are CNPS members, although they represent various other interests.

We also have several representatives on the Watershed Council that are considering long-range planning for the Kaweah and Tule River watersheds. More about this as their discussions move from gathering information to drafting reports and plans.

## ABOUT OUR SPECIAL TULARE COUNTY SPECIAL PLANTS

We had wanted to begin a series in this newsletter about species that are in some way special to our area. These might be rare (and protected) flowers, species that just barely extend into the County from either the north or south and therefore are locally special, or perhaps simply more common plants that are particularly interesting. Because of the extra information inserted in this issue about our Long-Range Strategic Planning work, we will wait until the next (June?) INSIGNIS. But we insert here a paraphrase of some ideas proposed by Ann Dennis, State Vice President for Rare Plants, talking about 'regional rarity' of plants.

What next for Rare Plants? Perhaps alter the emphasis toward the protection of state-wide rare plants, recognizing we have for too long ignored the unusual. As an illustration of this concept, consider the Big Leaf Maple, very, very common in the Klamath and northern Sierra, uncommon and only occasionally seen in our area, and found only in tiny patches in the mountains of southern California. Under the old paradigm, southern trees would get no attention, since the species is not rare at the scale of the entire State. Under the new proposed paradigm, southern trees are considered very valuable, representing genetic variants on a theme that may be critical to the long term survival of the species particularly regarding changed climate and attack from pathogens. This is an important concept. Have you suggestions for other species, from our central/southern Sierra foothill/mountain perspective, that might be 'regionally rare' or important?

Let us know (when you send in the Questionnaire....) about your opinions.

## CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

### 11 MARCH, WALK TO "HERMIT'S CABIN", AT SCICON,

Tulare County's Science and Conservation school camp, above Springville. Rick Mitchell, director of the several different programs that are based here, will lead a walk through riparian vegetation, and up

through woodland and chaparral to one of the places that all the 6th grade campers visit for local history. This is a Tule Oaks Land Trust-planned walk, but CNPS members are welcome. Call Elli Norris, 5392482 for details and directions.

### 8 APRIL, FIELD TRIP CO-SPONSORED WITH TOLT, "ABOUT SMALL HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS".

Mike Boni, of SCE, will meet us at 9:00 at the Springville power plant about 1.5 miles beyond the white barn, on Hwy 190. He will verbally trace the course of water as it comes from the Tule River, over the hills, down Mt. Lumreau, into the generating plant, and back to the river, while actually pointing out the various parts of the system and explaining how they work. He will then lead us, by car, up Hwy 190 about 5 miles to where the water is diverted from the Wishon Fork (aka North Fork of the Middle Fork). None of this will involve very much walking. Then, for those who want to climb to the top of Mt. Lumreau to see the flume, forebay, and penstock up close, and of course to look for wildflowers and hillside wild gardens along the way, we will return to the SCE power plant, take lunches, water, and walk up a steep dirt road. Please no small children or pets. This is a two part field trip..100 years of local history, some amazing facts about how the system was constructed, followed by a moderately strenuous hike. Join us for one or both parts. Please call Joan Stewart at 539-2717 to confirm date. April 8 is tentative, but possibly could change.

### PROGRAM, 19 MAY

We are excited that Kat Anderson, NRCS/UCDavis, has agreed to present some of her ecological work with native plants in an evening program co-sponsored with TOLT. This will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Porterville College. Her title: "Preserving the Renewal Capacity of the Land--pre-European Plant Cultivation in the southern Sierra". She will talk about how native Americans in our area managed plant resources, bulbs, grasses, trees, for sustainable use of the material they needed. Kat needs no introduction to those who have read or heard of her work, but for those who have not, come and enjoy! Program is free, but donations will be accepted to help

defray cost of evening. Anyone interested in carpooling from Three Rivers, call 561-3461.

**17 JUNE, DAVE DULITZ,**

Forest Manager at Mt. Home State Forest, will lead (by popular demand) another of his leisurely and enthralling walks along a forest trail to Bogus Meadow. There will be surprises (more than "just" plants) here, and depending on weather between now and then, who knows what will be in bloom along the way. We suggest that you bring snacks, (lunch?) in case we end up spending some time in the meadows. Watch local newspapers for when and where to meet, or call Joan (539-2717) or Elli (539-2482) sometime later this spring.

Looking ahead, we will again hike down a portion of the Nelson Trail on 29 July, along the higher (and cooler) stretches of the Tule River canyon;

**12 AUGUST, A CLIMB TO JORDAN PEAK,**

to see how different the vegetation is at this time, compared with what we have seen on springtime hikes in other years. Details of this, and more, plant exploring hikes in summer *INSIGNIS*.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OTHER ORGANIZATION'S EVENTS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Field Seminars 2000.

FOOTHILLS WILDFLOWERS, Saturday April 16, with Jim Warner, fee \$45.

MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWERS, Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25, Steve Stocking, \$65

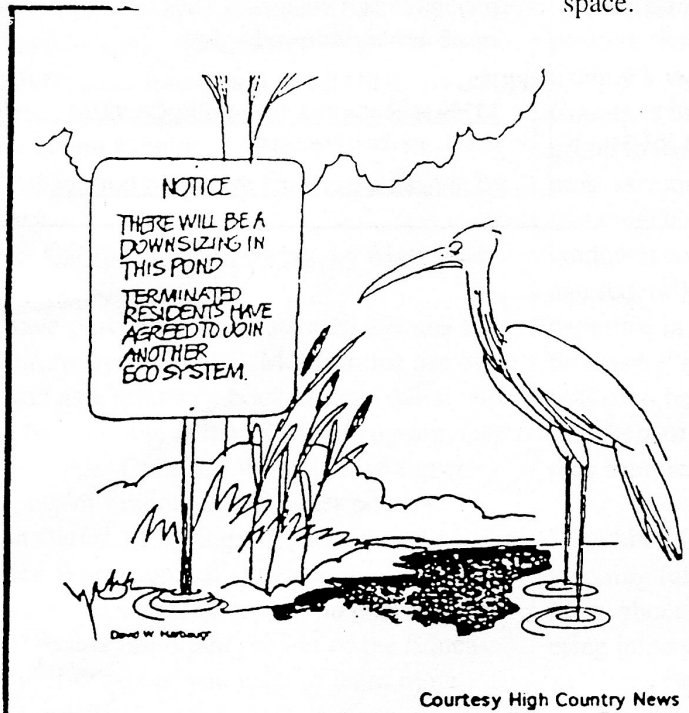
Call (559) 565-3759; write SNHA, HCR 89 Box 10, Three Rivers, CA 93271, or email: a-seqnh@inreach.com for reservation.

Jepson Herbarium Public Programs.

We list only two that may interest our local Alta Peak CNPS members. Mimulus: Central Sierra, June 2-4; Sierran Wildflowers: Sketching with Watercolors. August 3-6.

There are other meetings, conferences, or workshops that might be of interest to CNPS members. Many are announced in the State Bulletin; for more information about the ones we mention here, or others, call one of the Alta Peak officers.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE--CNPS recommends Yes on Propositions 12 and 13. These, taken together, amount to a referendum on wildlife and open space.



"Man changes the conditions to suit the things. Nature changes the things to suit the conditions. She adapts the plant or animal to its environment."

—John Burroughs



**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.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to affiliate with:**  
 Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership category:**

- Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
- Individual, Library, \$35
- Household, Family, or Group, \$45
- Supporting, \$75
- Plant lover, \$100
- Patron, \$250
- Benefactor, \$500
- Life, \$1,000

**Mail application and check to:**

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 1722 J St., Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814

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

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*Field Trips - - -*

**INSIGNIS NEWS, CNPS**  
 ALTA PEAK CHAPTER  
 C/O ALTA PEAK CHAPTER  
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 THREE RIVERS, CA 93271

**DATED QUESTIONNAIRE  
 PLEASE RESPOND**