



INSIGNIS

SUMMER 2001

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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*

CALENDAR Soon, very soon (which is why this issue of *Insignis* is being mailed under intense deadline pressure!!)----

30 JUNE--ROCK GARDEN SPECIAL

in our Backyard.

Jordan Peak, a short one mile walk from trail head, over 1,000 foot elevation gain (short steep portions of trail), and in shady red fir forest. At the top an unbelievably lovely display of flowers that bloom in alpine rocky habitats. I've scouted out the trip twice now in last week; it was so full of peak-season blooms that I had to return. Meet 10:00 AM at turnoff to North Road at end of Hwy 190 ("Golden Trout Wilderness Packtrain"). Pull off side of North Road just after junction; we will car pool from there. Drive is 24 miles from Giffords, in Springville, 50 minutes driving time, depending on.....

If you miss us at the junction gathering, continue on North Road (oiled) for about 5 miles, go left toward "Clicks Creek/Summit Trailhead" for about 1.2 miles, then right at next Y (Clicks Creek again) for 1.5 miles, then left ('Jordan Lookout') for about 1 mile to trail head.

14 JULY--CRESCENT MEADOW,

in Sequoia National Park.

This is a trip that we scheduled earlier. At the time we are

sending this newsletter, the leader (a SNP Botanist) cannot be definitely confirmed. Call (539-2717) after 1 July to be sure we haven't had to cancel the trip. Assuming we will go, we will meet at the Ash Mountain Visitors' Center (about 6 miles east of Three Rivers) at 9:30 AM. The drive up Hwy 198 to trailhead takes about an hour. This repeats a very popular walk we had several years ago, Special Plants in a Special place. Perhaps insect-eating species, orchids, plus ??? . The trailhead and meadow are both about 7000, and the walk is level and easy. A good chance to explore a Sierra Meadow.

18 AUGUST--DOWN AND UP FREEMAN CREEK TRAIL

through what has been described as the "best" of the easily accessible giant redwood groves (and the one chosen to show to President Bush #1). At the top of the drainage we pass through Columbine, Corn Lily (should be in full bloom by then) and other mountain meadow plants.

We can go down as far and for as long as we as a group want; remember that the return trip is uphill! This will be a cool, leisurely saunter through a mixed conifer forest, with red and white fir, pines, and Sequoia-dendron. A good chance to review the ecology of these trees.

Next *Insignis* will be in late August and will include a list of the plants we expect to offer at the Plant Sale on 6 October. Remember, pre-orders will receive a discount.

The *Insignis* will give additional details about the 15 September program at Three Rivers Art Center. This is titled "The Secret to Success -Growing Native Plants in Central California Gardens". Ellen Zagory, horticulturist at the UC Davis Arboretum has accepted our invitation to provide this program. Mark the date now, and you won't be sorry!

20 AUGUST-ALTA PEAK BOARD MEETING

Each and every member of our Chapter is welcome to come to all Chapter Board meetings. On **August 20, at 1:00 PM**, the agenda will focus on planning for Fall-Winter programs, and on the October Plant Sale. We meet at her home in Three Rivers and it is a lot of fun. We share news on what is going on in our various small communities (what the deer nibble in our gardens, how to get rid of gophers and squirrels, and other such interesting topics), besides conducting serious business!

Join us if you want to suggest how CNPS in Tulare County can better reach out to others who share our interests. A basic change under the new Bylaws will be the establishment of a Chapters' Council to do the issue-based work presently attempted by the entire Board. One of the topics that was brought up at our June Alta Peak Board meeting was the idea of getting together with Kern, Sequoia (Fresno Co.), and perhaps the two more northern

foothill Chapters, to develop a statement that describes just how our region is or isn't similar to other parts of California...our concerns, our strengths, our weaknesses.

The north coast chapters are united in their concern about timber harvest practices. Representatives from Southern California speak of development pressure on open space. Central coast chapters refer to increasing urban sprawl and vineyards. So what binds us together with other eastern San Joaquin Valley groups?

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Based on adequate bank accounts, the Alta Peak Board at the June meeting voted to help buy a new copy machine. Cost (\$300) will be divided with another Three Rivers organization. It will be set up at Janet's home (as is the one we now have which is about to quit) allowing her to duplicate our newsletter at no extra cost to the Chapter.

We also voted to donate \$100 to the Phantom Tree Expedition which is planning to either find and verify or not a giant Sequoia that has been reported since 1888 in the area south of Homer's Nose. A very important part of the work of the searchers will be to gather some preliminary data about the vegetation in this remote and mostly unexplored portion of Sequoia National Park. Joan Stewart, active with the CNPS Vegetation Program, will work with the other participants to record information using both the NPS Rapid Assessment forms, and the CNPS RA Data sheets. Many of the local newspapers have carried stories about the July

trip, noting the role that CNPS has assumed in learning more about the plants in this part of the County.

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE TULARE COUNTY

At the June State meeting in Sacramento, the Board accepted new Bylaws for the organization. Under the old bylaws, adopted early in the history of CNPS, every individual who pays dues is a voting member. Because of this, every member now must be given a chance to vote yes or no on the resolution (accepted by the Board) to change the Bylaws. This is a legal requirement for a non-profit group such as ours. State officers and your Board recognize that most members are not interested in this topic, and probably will not vote at all. Nevertheless, the Board recommends a "yes" vote, and hopes at least some of you will respond when the mailing from Sacramento arrives.

BACK TO ALTA PEAK NEWS

Field Trip Report:

Our Tour of Tulare County Vernal Pools, in April emphasized the great changes in these habitats that take place from year to year, and from site to site. Rain this year in early spring was scarce, and the lush growth that can occur in wetter years was lacking. Yet each place showed us certain characteristic vernal pool species, so overall we were able to recognize most of the predictable plants, but in much smaller populations. Sometimes only single flowers provided examples of what other years might have been dense broad rings around the edges. Leader Rob Hansen shared a great deal of

related natural history about these foothill ecosystems, and we are grateful to him for being with us.

CNPS POSTERS

We have some of the older Spring Wildflower posters with pale grey border, for \$5.00. New ones are \$9.00; we also have Sierra Wildflowers at \$9.00. The older ones use pre-1993 Latin nomenclature. Illustrations are the same, as are common names and many of the binomials. If technically correct Latin names are unimportant to you, this is a chance to get several for yourself, family, and displays at businesses.

Call Janet Fanning if you're near the Three Rivers area or Joan Stewart for the Springville area.

OPPORTUNITY

Tulare County is currently updating its General Plan. This is the document that will guide and shape how our County will look in the coming years. Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Seismic Safety, Noise, Scenic Highways, Safety, Urban Boundaries, Recreation, Water and Liquid Waste Management, Aviation, and Public Buildings are elements to be considered for adoption.

What will this mean for the places, the native special or common plants, that we care about and grow, and for our landscapes, both public and private? Your community may have open hearings on some or all of these topics. It's a chance for you to tell others what you would prefer to see and hear in coming years.

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 is 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 _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Tel. _____

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, \$1000

Mail application and check to:

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

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