

Insignis

Fall, 2003

Vol. 13, No. 4

California Native Plant Society Alta Peak Chapter Newsletter

"Preserving Native Oaks in the Landscape", September 20, 7:00 PM Three Rivers Arts Center

Jan Scow, a Registered Consulting Arborist, will discuss challenges that he faces daily in southern California as he tries to integrate the building boom and the remaining oak woodlands. Most of these principles apply all over the state, even though examples will be from 'down south'. Secondly, he will discuss the challenges of growing things under native oaks, and make recommendations for better success without jeopardizing the native oaks while trying to garden under them. There will be an opportunity for questions following the program.

Jan was raised in the central valley, and worked here for many years as a nurseryman, landscape contractor, tree pruner, and landscape gardener. During that time he learned a great deal about traditional horticulture, but little about native plants. In the early 1990's he moved to Los Angeles, got a degree in environmental studies, and began to learn about California natives and native habitat types. In the mid-1990's he began to work for CNPS and to establish a practice as a consulting arborist in the Los Angeles area.

His work as a consultant has involved him in many types of projects including, disease and pest diagnosis, hazard evaluation, restorative pruning advice, erosion control and fire risk reduction using native plants, oak tree preservation, and native plant landscape design. He has been doing this type of work for almost 10 years, and his practice is now focused primarily on tree preservation with an emphasis on native oaks.

Turn left off Hwy 198 at North Fork Drive; the junction is well marked. The Art Center is the first building on your left.

PLANT SALE.

October 4, Three Rivers Art Center, North Fork Drive, 9 AM to 4 PM

Intermountain Nursery in Prather will again provide locally grown shrubs and trees, perennials, wild grasses, and bulbs. CNPS members will be available with suggestions about how and where to plant the plants, mulching, and answers to your special questions. Books and posters will be available for your purchase. Pre-orders (enclosed form) must be received by Janet by September 29th. 561-3461.

WE NEED HELP October 3 and 4. CALL 561-3461 TO VOLUNTEER.

AUGUST FIELD TRIPS

August 16 to Packsaddle Grove.

The summer 2003 *Insignis* gave a short description of what to expect. Ghost (and other distinctive individual) Tree, chance to explore a seldom visited no-trail portion of a southern Sequoia Grove, and lunch and wanderings to Packsaddle Meadow.

Now for some more details. We will meet at the Hot Springs Resort at 9:30. Arrange your own carpools from Porterville or wherever you will be starting from. And NO GAS IN HOT SPRINGS—CLOSEST GAS IS DUCOR. From Hot Springs we will drive about 13 miles on a good paved road, then 4 miles on an FS dirt road. Where we leave the oiled surface, we can rearrange ourselves and leave some cars at that junction for those not wanting to take their cars further. We will then have about a ¼ mile somewhat steep walk, on an old (4 wheel drive needed) road into the Sequoia Grove where we will see several amazing specimen trees, hear stories about early visitors to the area, all within a roadless "wilderness" part of the Monument. Most of the grove area we will walk into is about 6500-7000 ft. elevation. Lunch will be at the Meadow. There is no way of predicting what flowers will be in bloom then. As a newly planned and very special addition to the trip, Jim VerSteege and David N. Lloyd are willing to lead those wanting to extend the trip into the nearby Deer Creek Mill Grove, the rarely visited southernmost grove, about 6000 ft. elevation. This gives us the chance to make a longer or shorter day trip. David Lloyd is gathering notes and data about Sequoia trees, and has written for Southern Sierra Messenger on the subject. He will be with Jim to give us more background about some of the trees in the area...his home is Hot Springs. I will have handouts about the two groves, and Jim will have a plant list for grasses in the area (his specialty!).

Again, we ask you to call Joan Stewart at 539-2717 for last minute details, and to confirm your intent to come (how many copies of handouts shall we prepare?).

AUGUST 24 to Onion Meadow.

To end the summer season of exploring plants in our higher backcountry area, the SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST, EXPLORE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS trip now seems feasible, with Crawford road in from the Western Divide Highway to Windy Gap open. From Windy Gap to Onion Meadow is not more than 3 miles, easy trail walking, at close to 8000 ft. elevation. This is one of the more unique collections of meadow vegetation, with a giant onion giving the place its name. Other meadows in the area provide a chance to compare, and to see different kinds of plants. Exploring the meadows won't involve more than wandering, and I expect that you can keep your feet dry.

As noted in previous announcements, let's meet at Ponderosa at 10:00, and come prepared with usual food, water, hat, whatever you need for a leisurely (cool?) day. As before, we ask that you call trip leader Joan Stewart at 539-2717 to confirm last minute details.

EVERGREEN GROUNDCOVERS

Manzanita hybrids: *Arctostaphylos*, 'Pacific Mist', 'Emerald Carpet'
Bearberry: *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Point Reyes'
Dwarf coyote bush: *Baccharis pilularis* cultivars 'Pigeon Point', 'Twin
Rimel creeper: *Ceanothus* 'Yankee Point Peaks'
Compact Oregon grape: *Mahonia aquifolium* 'Compacta'
Deer Grass: *Muhlenbergia rigens*

AROMATIC & FRAGRANT PLANTS

California Sagebrush: *Artemisia californica*
Honeysuckles: *Lonicera* species
Coyote Mint: *Monardella* species
Western mock orange: *Philadelphus lewisii*
Matilija poppy: *Romneya coulteri*
Sages: *Salvia* species
Woolly bluecurls: *Trichostema lanatum*

SHRUBS WITH PRETTY COLORS

Bush amaranth: *Carpenteria californica*
Ray Hartman ceanothus: *Ceanothus* hybrid
Western redbud: *Cercis occidentalis*
Flannelbush: *Fremontodendron* cultivars
Silver bush lupine: *Lupinus albifrons*
Western mock orange: *Philadelphus lewisii*
Flowering currants: *Ribes* species
Snowdrop bush: *Styrax officinalis*
Woolly bluecurls: *Trichostema lanatum*

DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

(not deer proof!) Protect tender/succulent parts.
Bigleaf maple: *Acer macrophyllum*
California buckeye: *Aesculus californica*
Yarrows: *Achillea*, most species
Sagebrush: *Artemisia*, most species
Western redbud: *Cercis occidentalis*
Toyon: *Heteromeles arbutifolia*
Rushes: *Juncus* species
Pines: *Pinus* species
Skunkbush, sourberry: *Rhus trilobata*
Sages: *Salvia*, most species
Elderberry: *Sambucus mexicana*
California Bay: *Umbellularia californica*

HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS

Western columbine: *Aquilegia formosa*
Manzanitas: *Arctostaphylos* species
Western redbud: *Cercis occidentalis*
Desert willow: *Chilopsis linearis*
California fuchsia: *Epilobium (Zauschneria)* species
Coral Bells: *Heuchera* species
Keyflowers: *Mimulus* species
Beardtongues: *Penstemon* species
Currants & gooseberries: *Ribes* species
Sages: *Salvia* species

|These lists have been
|taken from the August
|2000 issue of *Mimulus*.
|BERRY AND SEED PLANTS
|TO ATTRACT BIRDS and
|PLANTS THAT TOLERATE
|CLAY AND ALKALINE
|SOILS lists will be
|available at the
|plant sale. Thank you
|Kern County Chapter,
|Redbud Chapter, Orange
|County Chapter, Channe
|Islands Chapter, and
|the Santa Clara Valley
|Chapter, and the Theo-
|dore Payne Foundation
|for providing these
|lists.

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, and includes informative publications, free field trips, programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included is the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and this chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

New Membership Application

Name _____

Membership category:

Address _____

____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

City _____

____ Individual, Library, \$35

State _____ Zip _____

____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

Tel. _____

____ Supporting, \$75

I wish to affiliate with:

____ Plant Lover, \$100

____ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)

____ Patron, \$250

____ Other

____ Benefactor, \$500

Mail application and check to:

____ Other: \$1000, 2500, 5000, 10,000

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

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Insignis News, CNPS

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