



Insignis

Fall, 2004

Vol. 14, No. 4

California Native Plant Society

Alta Peak Chapter Newsletter

FALL PROGRAM - September 25, 7PM

"Natives Aren't Your Ordinary Garden Plants"

Speaker: Barbara Lahmann

Barbara Lahmann got her degree in horticulture at Fresno State and now teaches horticulture at Collage of the Sequoias in Visalia. She maintains the demonstration herb garden there and teaches classes such as Plant ID, Zeroscape, Interiorscape, and Landscape Maintenance. At her home in Three Rivers she raises lavender and landscapes with herbs and helps friends build their own herb gardens.

Come to our meeting on September 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Three Rivers Art Center, 41763 North Fork Drive, Three Rivers, and learn why natives are not your ordinary plants.

PLANT SALE.

October 9, Three Rivers Art Center, North Fork Drive, 9AM to 1PM

Intermountain Nursery in Prather and California Native Nursery in Porterville will provide locally grown shrubs and trees, perennials, wild grasses, and bulbs for our plant sale. 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 10th. 561-3461.

WE NEED HELP October 8 and 9 CALL 561-3461 TO VOLUNTEER.

Volunteers are very important both days of our plant sale. At 10AM on Friday we receive the plants and price them. We then pull all the preorders, after which the volunteers can purchase plants and take their orders home. The plants need to be watered and the orders rechecked. On Saturday, the books and posters arrive and at 9AM the doors are opened. At this point we need volunteers to help customers take their plants to their vehicles. We always need knowledgeable people there to answer questions about native plants and how and when to plant and how to maintain their plants. After the sale any unsold plants are picked up and are returned to the sellers on Sunday. We greatly appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you at this event.

SUMMER HIKES

This Fall issue of *Insignis* is prepared primarily to focus on the Plant Sale and associated Program and most of the space is allotted to these two events. But before we turn towards gardening activities, let's review the field trips and hikes into "wild" gardens over the past months. Two walks, one along the stream at Scicon, another to Balch Park in June, were shared with CNPS members from all over California, and participants left Tulare County marveling at the botanic richness in our backyard. Jordan Peak, again, in June, produced the expected flower display, with a whole new group of hikers joining us.

Thanks to BLM Botanist Dennis Kearns for getting us up on Case Mountain, between the Tule River and Kaweah River drainages, where groves of Giant Sequoias, understory shrubs, and lingering spring flowers gave us a chance to visit a seldom visited part of our area. Then in July, at the peak of the blooming season in higher meadows and forests, a longer-than-usual hike to the Slate Mt. Botanic Area was shared by 14. It was unclear whether toes or knees hurt the most when we got back to vehicles! But it was a glorious day, with blue sky, white clouds, three extremely rare endemic plant species (the reason the area has been designated as a special place), and gorgeous views along the way. Thanks to Fletcher and Robin of Sequoia National Forest who led this trip.

As this is written, still to come are the treks into Black Mt. Solo Peak Sequoia Groves, and an explore of Onion Meadow where we will see giant onions, several orchids, blooming corn lily, an amazing display of Fireweek (aka Willow Herb), and a host of other late summer wet-habitat species. That will wrap up the sponsored field trips for 2004. Let us know what places you want to visit next season...old favorites, new adventures, some of each?

PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

We've recently had requests for help in starting your own native plants, whether from seeds, cuttings, or by layering, and for advice about which species are suitable for which method. Cathy Capone, of California Natives Nursery in Porterville, has agreed to present a hands-on workshop on 16th October, a Saturday morning (9-12). For a per-person charge of \$15.00, she will provide material of a variety of plants that participants can practice on and take away with them for their gardens as well as handout information. She plans to attend the 25 Sept. Program in Three Rivers and can answer questions at that time, or call her at 783-0201. We remind you that removing material from public lands is poor practice if not simply illegal, and be sure you have landowner's permission when collecting on private property (Cathy's source for most of her stock).

INSIGNIS MAILING LIST

All CNPS members who ask to affiliate with the Tulare County Alta Peak Chapter when they send membership dues to the Sacramento office will receive our *Insignis* newsletter. Additionally we send complimentary copies to others for a variety of purposes. If you are not a member, or have no reason to request a complimentary copy, you can ask to simply have a "subscription", and for this we customarily ask a \$5.00 per year payment to cover copying and mailing.

We often send single copies to those on field trips who indicate interest in learning more about CNPS, but these names generally do not get onto our formal mailing list. So, if you want to receive *Insignis* on a regular basis, join as a member (see application on back page), send subscription contribution to Janet Fanning (Treasurer, also see back page), or call Joan about your Particular Situation!

NEXT?

One of the features we will begin to emphasize in 2005 is a "master" calendar...announcements of our events combined with those of local groups whose interests overlap ours. We have heard during past months from individuals who want to be part of CNPS walks, but are unable to when they conflict with Archeological, Audubon, and TR Parkway dates. We can never completely avoid such problems, but we will try to coordinate when feasible.

As a beginning, and to wrap up the 2004 outdoor season, note that the Tule River Parkway has scheduled a walk on 9 October (same day as our Plant Sale in Three Rivers), starting at 9:00 AM at the Jaye St. Park-and-Ride Lot on the south side of the River. Easy pace, no climbing, on sandy river trails. Cathy Capone will lead the walk, which is co-sponsored by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust. Bring the usual...water, snack, and sun protection. Depending on wishes of the group, we can walk from Jaye St. to Westwood and then car pool back to the start, or walk back...one way is 2 1/2 miles.

Watch local papers for date of another River Clean Up in Porterville, late October. You can call Cathy at 783-0201 if you want to be put on a phone list for notification. Update on Tule River Parkway: Jaye to Main is scheduled for construction in September, 2004. The Rails-to Trails section through Porterville is scheduled for construction next spring (April? 2005), while other projects (trailhead at Hwy 190/65) are as still waiting confirmation of permits and funding.

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 _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Tel. _____

Membership category:

____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

____ Individual, Library, \$35

____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

____ Supporting, \$75

____ Plant Lover, \$100

____ Patron, \$250

____ Benefactor, \$500

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

I wish to affiliate with:

____ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)

____ Other

Mail application and check to:

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816

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