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## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ALTA PEAK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Please send changes of address to Membership Chair, Janet Fanning,  
41118 Blossom Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joan Stewart

Here it is, the end of summer. The annual Native-Plant-Garden program is in a couple of weeks, and then, the Plant Sale.

There are many connections between growing plants in our gardens, looking at them in other gardens or landscaped places, and wondering, 'where did they come from?'--- a CNPS Plant Sale, a nursery, a friend who shared a bulb, seeds, a cutting, or a gift pot. Perhaps this is enough for many purposes. But the unchanging mission in the 40 years of CNPS as an organization, is to increase understanding (and enjoyment!) of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. The interests that draw us together may originate in experiences with natural history---maybe deeply personal, maybe through classroom activities, in the formal study of botany or ecology, in photography, drawing, hiking, and, gardening.

Another parallel that many of us can draw between our lives and our feeling about natural places is that all need nurturing. We care for ourselves, our kids, household members that may or may not be family, friends, communities, for others who share some kind of concern, belief, or who simply care about us. I often feel that this sense of nurturing is part of why I feel so intensely about the hillsides, the canyons, the high meadows, and the forests, all here in Tulare County. To nurture is to "let go". Isn't what we want most for our kids that they can let go of us and stand on their own, to leave them free, after giving that which is ours to give? And, this is what I want for our wild places. Let them be, insofar as we have the choice, not to inflict our own needs, demands, on their separate "bodies". To let these integrated and mutually co-evolved systems have the chance to freely grow, reproduce, to continue naturally, influenced by what comes month-by-month, year after year, to meet disturbances and change with inherent

adaptive potentials, because I care, because I need to know that these places, these 'wild gardens' will be there tomorrow, to expand our own ego-locked horizons.

One can argue a multitude of "reasons" for conservation of natural resources, broadly understood. But as the year winds to an end, the buckeye fruits fall, evaporating frost sheds a shimmer of mist over the field in the morning, evening comes early, and gardens need no care for the next few months, I can look beyond, and know that wild gardens are where my garden begins.

### PROGRAM--Native Plant Gardens

Don't forget to mark your calendar as you turn into September, for the CNPS program on Saturday evening, the 24th, at 7:00, at the Art Center in Three Rivers. From Hwy 198, turn left on North Fork Drive, cross the Kaweah River, and the Center is the first building on your left as you drive north. Dan Songster calls his talk "**The Right Plant in the Right Place**". He is the co-director of the Golden West College Native Garden, the head grounds man there, is active on the CNPS State Horticulture Committee, is the former president of the Orange County Chapter, and as practical and experienced as any native plant expert in California. We are grateful for his willingness to come up our way for this evening. The meeting is open to all, at no charge, as are all our CNPS programs.

### PLANT SALE

Also at the Three Rivers Art Center on the following Saturday, **Oct. 1**, the annual **Plant Sale**, beginning at 10 AM. Our "Sales Table" will offer information about using native plants in residential or commercial landscaping. Many of the handouts are yours to take and use. Donations are welcome to help with copying costs. Examples of handout subjects:

*Substituting native for non-native plants.....*

Some native plants that don't like summer water.....

Some native plants that will take summer water.....

"Advice" on summer watering of natives.....

After you get them home.....

## Calendar of Events-Sept.-Dec.

### **WILDPLACES & RIVER RIDGE INSTITUTE**

to hold "**STARFEAST VI**" on **SEPT. 24**

The public is invited to "STARFEAST VI", an annual dinner, dance, and stargazing party at River Ridge Ranch in Springville, CA. The event will be held on Saturday, September 24, beginning at 5:30 PM at the Pavilion at River Ridge Ranch, 37794 Balch Park Road, Springville.

Local band "Awaken the Cracken" will provide live music entertainment. The Porterville-based band specializes in jazz and blues-based rock originals. Also performing will be local artist Marianne.

During the evening, the Academy-Award winning animated film "The Man Who Planted Trees" will be shown on a large outdoor screen. Members of the Tule River Astronomers will be on hand to assist the public with star and planet viewing.

The event will also be the annual appreciation party for members and volunteers of WildPlaces. **Complimentary** tickets for them may be obtained by calling WildPlaces, 539-5263, at the office at 35549 Hwy 190, Springville, or e-mail [info@wildplaces.net](mailto:info@wildplaces.net).

Cost of tickets for all others is **\$25**. Tickets may be purchased from WildPlaces, River Ridge, or at Atherton Properties, 35543 Hwy 190, Springville. Tickets may also be available at the door the night of the event. Proceeds from the event will benefit River Ridge Institute and WildPlaces. Dinner is included in the price of admission and the event will feature a no-host bar.

**WildPlaces** is an ecological restoration and education non-profit group and **River Ridge Institute** is the non-profit (501C3) arm of River Ridge Ranch.

For more information, contact Mehmet McMillan at WildPlaces, or Gary Adest at River Ridge, 539-0207, [info@river-ridge.net](mailto:info@river-ridge.net).

★★★★★★★★★★

**Audubon**...no more Tulare County Field Trips this year, but remember the three Christmas Bird Counts in December: Kaweah, Sequoia, and Springville areas. Kim Kuska can answer questions at 783-2486, or contact the Society office at P.O. Box 4402, Visalia, 93278.

**Intermountain Nursery** is offering Propagation of **CA Native Plants** (\$15.00)

on Saturday, October 15, and a workshop on **Fall Composting** on Nov. 5, 9:30-1:00 (\$10:00), both at the Prather nursery. Details? (559) 855-3113.

### **Tule River Parkway Association**

monthly meetings, 5:30-7:00 PM, office of Dr. Don Stover, 526 W. Putnam, Porterville; for information, call Cathy Capone, 783-0201, evenings. The next meeting is Oct. 8.

**Sequoia Riverlands Trust** offers walks and workdays, mostly at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve. Contact Jane Caputo at [jane@sequoiariverlands.org](mailto:jane@sequoiariverlands.org)

Carol Ziegler at the Tule River Ranger District office near Springville can tell you about what is going on in the

**Sequoia National Forest**. Be sure to check their website for up-to-date reports on Forest/Monument events and conditions. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/>

### **Rancho Santa Anna Botanical Gardens**

has set up a **native plant gardening hotline**, both phone or e-mail, where you can get all your questions answered. See this web-link for more info: <http://www.rsabg.org/hort>

**Help needed:** On Saturday, October 8, from noon to 6 PM, the City of Porterville, along with many other organizations, is sponsoring a Community Festival. Booths, along Hackett Street between Morton and Cleveland, will celebrate the history of Porterville, and showcase what local non-profit and service organizations have to offer. The theme is the historical impact these groups have had within the community. **CNPS** will share a booth with the Tule River Parkway Association, and we will need volunteers to be there. "Boothing" at events such as this is a great outreach opportunity to talk about what CNPS means, why we are here, and to attract new members. There is certainly the potential to reach a diverse group of people. Alta Peak Chapter has an attractive "professional" tabletop display to stimulate interest and questions. If you can spend part of the afternoon with us, please call Joan at 539-2717.

### **CNPS POSTERS**

Last spring we announced the arrival of the newest CNPS posters... Four - 12" x 18" designs; three of **native grasses**, one of **nonnative grasses**. Text on the back of each describes the anatomy

of a grass, grasses in general, native grasslands, and the effects of invasive nonnative species. These can be hung, with or without framing, and laminated sets can be used as placemats or educational tools. They are lovely, scientific, educational, and available at the Plant Sale, or by calling Janet Fanning. Unlaminated posters are \$13.00 (includes tax) for CNPS members, and \$16.00 for non-members. Laminated are more... check with Janet. Buying them through the chapter is less expensive than ordering them from the State office in Sacramento.

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### WEEDS?

A member in the San Diego Chapter, involved in helping understand how best to manage the "urban/wild land interface" when fire breaks out, noticed that the current California statute concerning protection around structures implies that "native plant species" as a category are problems, and should be removed when maintaining fuel breaks and in local weed abatement actions. This CNPS member contacted a local legislator, leading to the introduction of SB 502 (Kehoe) which "is moving through the legislature without opposition." The bill simply removes the bias against native plants.

And speaking of weeds, in the past CNPS has been part of county and regional groups working to identify, map, and manage/control the spread of invasive weeds in wild lands. Of major concern are non-native species that move into natural systems that lack the insects or other organisms that compete with or damage the invading species, and presently much time, money, and work goes into attempts to limit the extent of these invasions. If anyone is interested in this particular effort, contact Joan.

Statewide, CNPS continues to be deeply involved in local issues that have the potential to damage, destroy, or obliterate natural vegetation within habitats and ecosystems that harbor wildlife. Our Chapter receives newsletters from chapters from North Coast to San Diego, from Mt. Lassen, Bristlecone, Mojave, and all points in between. If you have an interest in some particular area, call Joan and she'll try to answer questions and share the information we have.

State quarterly meetings provide another means of talking with Chapter delegates, learning what is going on, how and where other Chapters are directing their time and energy. The December meeting is on the UC campus at Berkeley. Contact Joan for specific details.

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## REFLECTIONS OF THIS PAST SUMMER

Looking backward to the past summer--yes, it was hot, and with a stretched-out spring rainy season, there were mosquitoes in and around the meadows. But, it was also the summer that followed The Glorious Spring of '05, a season of wildflower displays in California that attracted national and international attention, that produced fields of color that were unbelievable even to old timers.

Due to late-season snowfall in higher elevations, trails and roads were not cleared on the more 'normal' schedule. We never did make it to Jordan Peak, even after two postponements. Post-fire recovery on slopes above Hwy. 190, amazed us with hillsides literally covered with *Chlorogalum*, soap plant. Where did it come from? Long-buried tubers? Seeds? And this was just one species. *Adenostoma* seedlings sprinkled the blackened soil surface, while old burned stumps sprouted new green foliage. Some of us went back on later dates, simply to repeat the delight in seeing what our chaparral does after being burned.

Dogwoods bloomed, as they are supposed to, in late May and we walked along the upper stretch of Balch Park Road, surrounded by blossoms that fluttered in the gentle spring breeze, down below the roadside in the draws and drainages.

Fletcher Linton led a group into and through the Alder Creek grove of Giant Sequoias, talking about the biology of the trees as an individual species, and their role in the greater coniferous forest.

By late July, with several weeks of heat blasting leaves and flowers even at higher elevations, several walks into meadows were arranged by phone contacts, and these demonstrated how the flora of these habitats accommodate such temperatures. Finally, a by-now small group of hikers reached the top of Mule Peak, only days after the lookout there had finally been staffed. No startling discovery...just a good walk through our Sierra forest, a chance to renew familiarity with all those "common" shrubs that make up the undergrowth beneath the firs and pines.

Our attention now turns closer to home, with planning, planting, and caring for native plant species in our yards and gardens.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The California Native Plant Society is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with a host of activities. Founded in the Bay Area, the Society now has a membership of nearly 10,000 in 32

chapters around the state, most of which will be holding or participating in special events this year.

With over 6,200 native species and subspecies of plants, California leads the nation not only in the sheer number of native plants, but also in the number of plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered. The Society's respected *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* provides information on over 2,000 such species. With so many species found here and nowhere else, Conservation International has named most of California as one of the world's 34 hotspots of biodiversity. Communities of these plants make up the habitat on which the state's animals rely for food and shelter.

But California's native plants face a number of threats, including rapid urbanization, the proliferation of off-road vehicles, and competition for habitat from non-native plants.

The California Native Plant Society works to increase the appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of the state's native plants by encouraging their horticultural use, by publishing books such as *California's Wild Gardens*, through advocating protection of native plants and natural habitats, and by providing science-based information on the distribution of plants and vegetation types in the state.

*Happy Anniversary*



**Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs 2005**

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**New Membership Application**

Name _____	Membership Category _____
Address _____	___ Student, Retired, Limited income - \$20
City _____	___ Individual, Library - \$35
State _____ Zip _____	___ Household, Family, Group - \$45
Tele. _____	___ Supporting - \$75
<b>I wish to affiliate with:</b>	___ Plant Lover - \$100
___ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)	___ Patron - \$250
___ Other _____	___ Benefactor - \$500
<b>Mail application and check to:</b>	___ Other - \$1000, \$2500, \$5000, \$10,000
Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816	

**Insignis News, CNPS**

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