



INSIGNIS

Fall 2006
Vol. 16, No. 5

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
ALTA PEAK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

President's Message....Summer will be fading as this *Insignis* gets sent out. It's been hot, yes, and buds, flowers in many of the places we wanted to explore, "fried" early in the season. Our area's vegetation has managed to make it through long hot summers in the past, and will flourish, again, as the months roll around into our winter rainy months. This anticipated wet and cool time is also the time for rejuvenating or expanding our gardens or surrounding landscapes where native species have been utilized.

As is our tradition, the **FALL PROGRAM, 7:00 Friday, 29 September**, in Three Rivers at the Art Center, has been planned to appeal to people trying to propagate or include native plants in landscapes, gardens. In past years we have brought speakers, gardeners, writers, from outside Tulare County to pass along ideas, to show examples, to respond to our questions, based on their special experience and knowledge about use of native plants in landscaping in other parts of California. It has been suggested that locally there has accumulated considerable experience in growing natives, and to acknowledge and draw on this, we will offer a **Home-Grown Panel**, each of the participant/experts with a particular background or skill in using natives in our area.

Each will introduce remarks by showing some pictures of the kinds of gardens they have worked with, then share what they have learned about what works here, in our Tulare County. And of course, all followed by a question/comment/answer session, with time before and after the program for informal discussions amongst all of those attending.

Cathy Capone has recently begun a native plant nursery in Porterville in her large 'backyard'. Initially she simply was propagating species that were needed for mitigation/restoration projects. Drawing on a background in horticulture in the San Francisco Bay Area, learning about the native flora of this area, adding new species continually, her interests expanded into a nursery business. Transitioning from using commercially available 'garden' plants around her home, to propagating and growing plants native to Tulare County has proved to be a labor of love. The nursery also provides field trip opportunities for high school and college students, who come to learn, then practice, basic propagation or plant care techniques. To help customers choose material for their sites, she has developed an adjacent demonstration garden.

Cathy is active in other native-plant-based community efforts. As president of the Tule River Parkway Association and as a commissioner with the City of Porterville Parks and Leisure Services Commission she advocates for the value of native vegetation and increased public access to quality recreation area including the Tule River within Porterville.

Pam Clark, also long time Porterville resident, has nurtured a native plant garden around her home for many years. The natives are part of a working landscape,

providing food, air-conditioning, home remedies and bee forage. Crown jewel of her 1/3 acre city lot is a mature valley oak.

For the last 20 years, horticulturist Melanie Baer-Keeley has specialized in the cultivation and propagation of California native plants. Through her work, she has written and illustrated articles, instructed classes and landscaped with them in order to advance public awareness, appreciation and ultimately conservation of these unique plants. She is currently horticulturist at Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks.

Linda Franson has been a driving force in her effort to beautify the Three Rivers community with native plant demonstration gardens. She is knowledgeable and experienced in growing and landscaping with California Native Plants. Her low-care acre-sized garden, she says, has taught her most about natives that work and don't work in our challenging climate.

So, check your Calendar as you turn into September, and mark this evening CNPS program on the 29th, Friday, 7:00, at the Art Center in Three Rivers. From Hwy 198, turn left on North Fork Drive, and the Center is the first building on your left as you drive north. As are all CNPS programs, open to all, and no charge. Come early, enjoy refreshments, and visit with your friends, neighbors, fellow native plant enthusiasts.

7th October

PLANT SALE. Again, as in past years, 9 AM-1 PM, Three Rivers Art Center, 41763 North Fork Drive. Directions to get there, above, in paragraph about the 29 September Program. A Pre-order form is enclosed in this Newsletter. Please, as before, mark your needs, and send it back to Janet Fanning ASAP, with check. And as always, members can take a 15% discount off all the indicated prices. In addition to plants provided by Intermountain Nursery in Prather, we will have 'member grown' material, so expect Surprises, new and different species.

Books, including the new *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*, in a bilingual format (Spanish and English on facing pages) and those previously offered in case you missed them before, as well as the five CNPS Wildflower Posters (Grass "Poster" place mats were new last year) will be at our Sales Table, along with information about CNPS and membership applications.

Our "Sales Table" will also offer other forms of information about using native plants in residential or commercial landscaping. Many of the handouts are yours to take and use; donations to help with copying costs are welcome. Examples:

- 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.....'

Volunteers, as always, make our Plant Sale fun, and provide important support for our Tulare County CNPS Chapter. The Pre Order Form has space on the top of first page to offer your help, either / both, Friday, the day before the Sale when plants are delivered) and Saturday, Sale Day. If you are not preordering, simply send your name and contact information to Janet at the address shown at the heading of this Insignis.

October 6, 7

Each day of the Sale brings different tasks. On Friday, the day before the Saturday sale, plants are delivered to our Sale Site at the Art Center, more or less soon after 10:00. We sort, price, and pull out the plants needed to fill pre-orders. Those helping on Friday may also select and pay for (after preorder material is separated) plants they want to purchase. Everything is watered and tidied before we leave. Saturday we set up the book/poster table, arrange the hand-out and membership information on tables, and are prepared to "open" at 9 AM. Now is when we need many hands, wagons, carts, to help customers carry plants to their vehicles. And during this same period, several hours until about noon or just after, we welcome everyone with local experience to answer inquiries about what works where. You know your neighborhood, what soils we are dealing with, and the peculiarities of foothill weather. There are always interested people to whom growing natives is a new challenge, and they are grateful to have someone to talk with. As you can guess, help with "clean-up" chores early afternoon is greatly appreciated!! And, last but not important, we'll probably (?) need a couple of vehicles to return unsold plants on Sunday.

CONSERVATION. There haven't been major "conservation" issues in recent years to engage CNPS in our role as providing information and comment on plans to develop or change land use patterns in Tulare County (Alta Peak Chapter boundaries are the County). Now two, three if we reach out to Earlimart, large residential developments are before us, and although at the time I write this none has submitted specific plans, and therefore what we know comes from "conceptual" information, it is likely that they will involve impacts or at least effects on natural plant resources. A residential, with planned central recreational facilities, development on Sequoia Ranch, just east of Springville is consistent with existing zoning, and therefore does not need an amendment to General Plan to move ahead. A larger development, in Yokohl Valley that has been well publicized since last spring, will require either provision in the new updated County General Plan that is currently under preparation, for new growth to be directed to other than existing urban centers (call them new towns, or new communities), or an amendment after the Plan is adopted. (The Earlimart Project is not in immediate area; anyone interested can contact me). CNPS is participating in ongoing meetings with other groups, organizations, and individuals to keep abreast of progress of the County planning process. We will take advantage of the required public comment period to respond to the Draft EIR for the Plan which is expected this fall, and to identify issues/concerns that we may wish to learn more about. Help welcome.

Gleaned From Newsletters from Other Chapters: **Blank Space here.**

Anyone interested in skimming through accumulated Newsletters from the 31 other California Chapters? Noting odds and ends, items that might interest our Tulare members? This is something that could be very satisfying for one of you with some slight "editorial" background, or simply an eye for what might catch local attention. Call Joan if this sounds like something you would like to try!

SAMPLE-- here is something that caught my eye, that relates to our Plant Sale: "The city of Flagstaff, Arizona, is offering a \$500 rebate to homeowners who remove at least 1,500 square feet of grass and replace it with rock or native plants that need little water. According to federal statistics, the average homeowner uses about 72 gallons of water a year on each square foot of grass."

Insignis News, CNPS
 Alta Peak Chapter
 c/o Janet Fanning
 41118 Blossom Drive
 Three Rivers, CA 93271

California Native Plant Society

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 are 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 _____	___ Individual \$45
City _____	___ Family \$75
State _____ Zip _____	___ Group, library, agency, business \$75
Tele phone _____	___ Student, Limited Income, \$25

I wish to affiliate with:
 ___ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County)
 ___ Other _____

Mail application and check to:
 California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street
 Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816

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