



INSIGNIS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALTA PEAK CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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President's Message

Joan Stewart, President Alta Peak Chapter

I write this looking out over hills that exemplify mid-late summer in our foothills. Clumps of rusty brown buckeye, glistening feathery seeds on mountain mahogany, balls of white clematis seeds, softer green manzanita mounds distinct from the darker surrounding shrubs, and, going higher, cones drooping on ends of sugar pine branches. Closer to valley landscapes, yellowish-tan expanses of dead grasses under oaks, or mixed with a few bushes, all of this meaning that flowers have given way to seeds and fresh leaves to drying, not-so-green foliage.

Looking ahead, and anticipating our seasonal rainy period, it is the time to start wondering how to freshen up gardens: what we can plant to fill in corners, how to make that hedge or border, how to use the plants that grow naturally in our area. Something other than "pansies and petunias"?

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Fall Plant Sale
October 6, 2007
9 AM to 1 PM
Three Rivers Art Center
Information, volunteer
opportunities and pre-order
form enclosed...

Fall Program: Home Gardening With California Native Plants

Kay Stewart, California Licensed Landscape Architect

What are the purposes and pleasures, the challenges and choices, of home gardening with California native plants? Kay Stewart, a California licensed landscape architect who has designed several award-winning residential gardens and public demonstration gardens, will talk with the Alta Peak Chapter of California Native Plant Society about her ideas for creating thriving and successful gardens incorporating native plants at the Chapter's September meeting.

Ms. Stewart has included native plants in many of the 250-plus gardens she has designed in San Diego County in the past 25 years. Many of the gardens she has designed include a few native species, while a few gardens are planted exclusively with California's plants.

Kay's design process seeks to make of each home a special place that serves each owner's needs and tastes. Her gardens seek to complement the architectural character of the home, show the garden favorably in the neighborhood, and have healthy, thriving plants. The plant selection must respect the site's soil texture, nutrients, and water-holding capacity, the climate zone, and the unique features of the home site that create sun, shade, wind, and slopes.

Kay Stewart lived in Clovis in 1971-1972, enjoyed backpacking in the Sierra from her 20's through

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A Reminder For the Fall Program...

Our fall program will be held September 22nd at 7:00 PM at the Art Center in Three Rivers. We will welcome an expert botanist and landscape professional from southern California: Kay Stewart. Kay has prepared a program especially for this part of the state and is eager to blend her perspective with our experiences in growing native plants.

As are all of our CNPS events, the program is open to all at no charge. Mark September 22nd on your calendars and come early to enjoy refreshments and a chance to visit with friends.

... And A Native Plant Sale Reminder

On Saturday, October 6th, two weeks after our fall program, we offer our annual Native Plant Sale. It will be at same site as in the past, but will be held outside. Note the space on top of the pre-order form for offering to help. [Ed: see article page 3]

Tulare County General Plan

Although CNPS's mission is the long-term preservation of our natural vegetation in natural settings (not just in our gardens!), locally we have not had continuing issues that fall under the heading of "conservation" that need our attention.

Close to home, however, the updated Tulare County General Plan, with the draft document soon to be available, is expected to contain criteria for "new towns" that will affect plans to develop a large portion of Yokohl Valley as well as proposed developments elsewhere in Tulare County.

An EIR, the analysis of what the consequences of the General Plan will be for the environment (air, water, vegetation, wildlife, and...), will be prepared and CNPS has the opportunity to submit comments on proposed alternatives. Our organization has already taken part in TCCRG discussions on this topic; if you are interested in participating let me know.

Get Inspired!

Our underlying philosophy is that as more of us visit, see, our natural, 'wild' places, the experiences will lead (one hopes) to a deeper enjoyment and appreciation of what these places mean to us. Our mission is on the back page of this newsletter-- remind yourself of why you are part of CNPS! ❖

Upcoming CNPS Workshops

October 16-18	Vegetation Mapping Workshop
September 23	Propagating Ferns from Spores
November 7- 8	Riparian Ecology and Plant Identification for Professional Botanists

Go to <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/index.php> for more information or contact Josie Crawford, (916)447-2677, jcrawford@cnps.org

40's, and has visited Springville and visited nearby open space parks. She looks forward to discussing garden design with residents of these beautiful foothills.

Get Professional Design Assistance

Those who plan to attend the talk are invited to have a chance to receive design help for a small garden (up to 40 ft. by 40 ft.) at their homes. Two projects will be selected to be used for demonstration.

After talking about her design process, Ms. Stewart will spend 20-30 minutes illustrating how she would create a garden solution for each garden. A short question-and-answer session at the end of the program may further help the audience think about designing their own gardens.

Candidates to receive a mini-design at the meeting are asked to bring a 2 ft. by 3 ft. or larger foam-core sheet with:

- (8) 4 in. x 6 in. photos of the home and a garden site showing adjacent fences and structures
- a photo or clipping of an existing garden with native plants that the candidate likes
- an 18 in. by 24 in. or larger rough plan of the site with paths, decks, patios and building or site walls
- a list of six native plants (a tree, two shrubs, and four ferns, perennials or annuals) the candidate especially wants in the garden.

If you are interested in design help for your home or garden, please contact Kay as soon as possible by e-mail at kaytaff@sbcglobal.net or phone at (619) 234-2668. Please include your phone number(s) and times that you are available to talk. ❖

The Fall Plant Sale

Janet Fanning, Treasurer, Membership, and Sales Alta Peak Chapter

Intermountain Nursery in Prather and California Native Nursery in Porterville will provide locally grown shrubs, trees, perennial herbs, grasses, and bulbs for purchase at our annual plant sale. Knowledgeable and friendly members will be available to answer questions and provide suggestions about what, how, and where to plant. Books and posters will also be available for purchase.

The Details

The sale will be October 6th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Three Rivers Art Center, 41763 North Fork Drive, Three Rivers. To reach the Art Center from Hwy 198, turn left on North Fork Drive and cross the bridge over the Kaweah River. The Art Center is the first building on your left as you drive north

Member Pre-orders

Already have a wish list? Chapter members may pre-order plants and get a 15% discount. Make sure to fill out the enclosed form and return it with your deposit by September 22nd to Janet Fanning, 41118 Blossom Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93217.

We Need YOU to Volunteer!

Volunteers are needed on BOTH October 5th and 6th to assist with the plant sale. Volunteers are very important to have on both days of the sale. At 10:00 AM on Friday we receive the plants and price them. We then pull all of the pre-orders; after these are pulled volunteers may purchase their plants and take them home. Then plants need to be watered and the orders rechecked.

On Saturday, the books and posters arrive and the doors will be opened at 9:00 AM. 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- especially how and when to plant and how maintain the plants. After the sale any unsold plants are picked up and are returned to the sellers on Sunday.

Obviously, this is a LOT of work. We would greatly appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you at this event. **Call Janet at 561-3461 to volunteer.** ❖

New To The Plant Sale:

Azure Penstemon

(*Penstemon azureus*)

Peyton Ellas

In the Sierra Nevada, Azure Penstemon is found at elevations from about 1000-8000 ft. Like most other penstemons, it prefers good drainage and is a food source for hummingbirds. Attracted to the unique blue-green foliage (it reminds me of Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe), and wanting to plant several varieties of penstemon for their wildlife appeal, I planted eight of these fairly small penstemons in a garden just below Springville in October of 2006. The location has full sun and soil that is clay/loam. During the following spring and summer they were on twice per week drip irrigation (3 GPH for 2 hours).

Out of the eight plants, four have flourished. Two perished as soon as the weather warmed up in spring. Two others appeared to be ailing and half of each plant withered just after putting on a full display of blue/lavender blooms. Moving the drip emitter to the outskirts of their blooming stalks seems to have let them recover.

I planted six more *P. azureus* in a woodland garden in Ivanhoe in filtered shade. They are receiving moderate water, with the drip emitters placed at the edge of the plant's foliage. They have been in the ground two months and so far are robust. The foliage really looks good in this shadier setting, and I look forward to seeing how well they do through the winter, and if they bloom adequately without full sun.

Now that I've watched them in these two gardens, I think *P. azureus* would work best planted in groups or masses; single plants don't show up that well in the landscape, at least not in full sun. The azure-colored foliage shows up well in the evenings and in shade, though. Next I'm going to try them in a rock garden at about 4000 ft. elevation. Give them a try and let me know your results! ❖

Submit your comments, concerns, ideas, tips, tricks, events, articles, and reviews for inclusion in the next

Insignis. Email Erik and Monica at

alta.peak.cnps@gmail.com

PLANT SALE. October 6, 9AM to 1PM

Three Rivers Art Center, 41763 North Fork Drive

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, mulching, and answers to your special questions. Books and posters will be available for your purchase. Pre-orders (enclosed form) must be received by September 22nd. 561-3461

WE NEED HELP October 5 and 6 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 the doors are opened at 9AM. 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 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.

CNPS Membership Application

Yes, I would like to join CNPS

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number
(_____) _____

Email _____

Student /Limited Income..... \$25.00

Individual.....\$45.00

Family or Group\$45.00

Plant Lover.....\$100.00

Patron.....\$300.00

Benefactor\$500.00

Check here if you would like to affiliate with the Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County) of CNPS

Check here if you would like to affiliate with another chapter _____

Please make checks payable to CNPS:

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

For more information on membership, contact Janet Fanning. You can also apply or renew online at www.cnps.org

Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs, 2007

OFFICE	MEMBER	CONTACT
President	Joan Stewart	37759 Highway 190 Springville, CA 93265 (559) 539-2717 tori2toli@ocs.net
Vice President	Barbara Brydolf	PO Box 879 Springville, CA 93265 (559) 539-0207
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Legislation	OPEN	
Horticulture	Cathy Capone	(559) 361-9164
Membership	Janet Fanning	As above
Poster Sales	Janet Fanning	As above
Outreach	OPEN	

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 the 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 *Fremontia* and *Bulletin*, a quarterly magazine and report of activities, and this chapter newsletter.

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

PLANT SALE LIST ENCLOSED