



INSIGNIS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALTA PEAK CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Vol 18 No 1
January 2008

Volume 18, Number 1

President's Message

Joan Stewart, President Alta Peak Chapter

The first opening buds on species in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) can be found along roadsides, and a Springville neighbor "thinks" some red maids are almost in bloom. So, "if winter comes can spring be far behind?"

February Program

As I look up at whitened skyline to the east, I picture high elevation meadows gathering water, waiting for us in the spring and summer field season. Reviewing the hydrology and botany of these peculiar habitats, our February Program will bring Sylvia Haultain to the Memorial Bldg. in Springville to introduce this unique aspect of the southern Sierra. Our hope is that rain, both the amount and when it comes, will support the development of lush and diverse plant life in these meadows. Our 2008 Field Trip schedule is designed to explore, compare, and enjoy several of them.

Spring Field Trips

Both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the Sequoia Monument and National Forest are involved in restoration projects on meadows that have been damaged and impacted in different ways. These will be mentioned in Sylvia's talk, and then later field trips to two (one in the Park, one in the Monument) will be led by the respective ecologists. Dates for the field trips are not yet final; the next Insignis will have details.

2007 Annual Report

The inserted page is copy of the 2007 Annual Report that each Chapter is asked to submit to the State CNPS office. These are compiled and distributed, and make very interesting reading. What are the

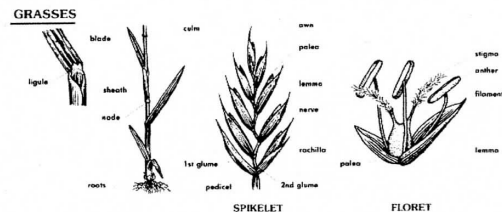
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Volunteers Make Fall Plant Sale A Success

Janet Fanning, Treasurer Alta Peak Chapter

The weather was very cooperative this year for our annual native plant sale, which was held the first weekend in October. We had ten people working in cool weather with the setup on Friday and six people helping with the actual sale on Saturday. I want to personally thank you all and give a special thanks to Melanie Keeley and David Graber for sharing their knowledge.

Every year our order increases and it's a joy to know that so many people are using natives on their property in Three Rivers and other communities. I look forward to seeing you all at the next plant sale in October. ❖



Contribute to the Insignis

By email: alta.peak.cnps@gmail.com
By mail: PO Box 499, Three Rivers, CA 93271

The next issue of the Insignis will mail in April. Please have your feedback and contributions to us by March 22nd for inclusion in Volume 18, Number 2

struggles we all share? What makes some chapters different from others? If you have considered becoming more active in Alta Peak work, you might take on one of the presently unfilled Board positions, or volunteer to do something new and exciting. Read through the collection of this year's and past years' annual reports; it might give you ideas. Call me if interested.

CNPS Chapter Representation

Each quarter (in March, June, September, and December), representatives from all 33 chapters meet together in sites scattered over the state to discuss, decide, and share botanical and related topics that draw us into the organization. We hear reports on legislation of concern (Vern always has intriguing comments about what goes on in Sacramento), about the plant science programs (Rare Plants and Vegetation, aka plant communities), review finances and other business items. We also learn about opportunities to incorporate different horticultural, educational, outreach activities into our efforts. Want to be part of these gatherings?

Plant Science Workshops

Our staff and volunteers have scheduled a series of plant science Training Workshops, the first of which consider vernal pools and vegetation mapping. These are open to anyone... call the Sacramento office for details and refer to the calendar for dates. I also have additional information.

Kudos

I personally don't always hear details of community projects in Three Rivers that CNPS is part of, so I was especially pleased to receive a note that thanked CNPS for its role in planning and developing a project at the Post Office. The first sentence in this 'message' calls attention to buds, blooms, and flowers that tell us seeds are soaking up recent showers. Stems are rising from last year's debris, and in flowers yellow, pink, and orange petals are unfolding. Yes, I know it's all about sex (reproduction), but we delight in looking ahead to wildflower springtime in our hills. If you have a particular favorite, maybe you can include a column of your personal discoveries in the next Insignis?❖

Winter Program Details

The Gems of the Sierra--Mountain Meadows in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Sylvia Haultain

John Muir called them the "gems of the Sierra", and we'd be hard pressed to disagree as the high mountain meadows and fens of the southern Sierra Nevada are home to a fantastic array of plants and animals. What better way to spend a winter evening than enjoying a photographic tour of some of the meadows of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and the wonderful plants that grow there.

National Park Service Plant Ecologist Sylvia Haultain will discuss the ecology of mountain meadows, emphasizing the vascular plants and setting the stage for a series of field trips planned for this upcoming summer. From the famous Crescent Meadow in Giant Forest to small, unnamed jewels beneath the Sierran crest, this presentation will paint a picture of the rich meadow communities and why they have fascinated botanists for decades. ❖

WHEN:

Friday, February 15, 2008

Social Activities begin at 6:30 pm

Program begins at 7:00 pm.

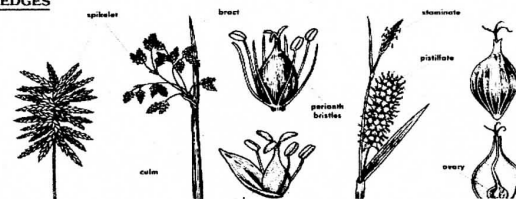
WHERE:

Springville Memorial Building,
35944 Highway 190, Springville, CA

WHO:

You, your friends, your neighbors, and anyone else that wants to come. It's free and it's fun!

PLATE 12.
SEDGES



Feedback, Please

Do you want Insignis posted to the CNPS website? This was one of our goals as newsletter editors; we'll do it if Alta Peak members want to have access to the newsletter online. Email your preference to

GEMS OF THE SIERRA

Guest Speaker: Sylvia Haultain



**Friday, February 15, 2008
6:30 PM (Featured Speaker at 7:00PM)
Springville Memorial Building
35944 Hwy 190, Springville**

**A fun-filled, free evening
discussing the ecology of the
beautiful meadows of Sequoia and
Kings Canyon National Parks and
Sequoia NF and Monument**

Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Program: Sylvia Haultain

February 15, 2008

6:30 pm Social

7:00 pm Program

Springville Memorial Building

This is a free Alta Peak Chapter program, so bring friends and neighbors!

***Sequoia Riverlands Trust:**

Explore Lewis Hill's Rare Wildflowers

March 1, 2008 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Guided walk with Sequoia National Forest Botanist, Fletcher Linton, to Lewis Hill Preserve near Porterville to view the threatened *Fritillaria striata* (striped adobe lily).

***Sequoia Riverland Trust:**

Native Basketweaving at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve

Saturday, April 19th 10:30 - 3:30 pm

Join SRT and the California Indian Basketweavers Association to learn more about native plants and their traditional uses, and to watch basketry and acorn processing demonstrations.

* These programs require a fee, please visit SRT's website for more information.

Rare Plants of Western San Diego County CNPS Workshop

March 4-5, 2008

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center, Oceanside and several field locations

Vegetation Rapid Assessment CNPS Workshop

Mar 25-27, 2008

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford

Plant Profile: *Mimulus norrisii*

Erik Frenzel, Newsletter Coeditor

Some of the outstanding geological features of our area are the marble outcrops sporting sparse and distinctive vegetation, including *Yucca whipplei* and *Selaginella watsonii*. Like serpentine, marble is a metamorphic rock (formed from limestone) and also has a distinctive chemistry. This may be one reason that it supports marble endemic species such as the Kaweah Monkeyflower, *Mimulus norrisii*.



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Formally described in 1985, Kaweah Monkeyflower is known from fewer than ten occurrences in crevices on marble outcrops in the Kaweah and Kings River drainages. It is this limited distribution that puts it on CNPS LIST 1B: "rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere". Fortunately, the rugged locations where it grows are not as threatened as other habitats in our area.

It is a rather small annual (generally less than 6 in/15 cm) that has hairy foliage. The flower tube is yellow and the base of each lobe has one large, central, maroon-purple blotch. Perhaps its most amazing adaptation is that its flowers grow away from the light by a curving of the pedicels, presumably to deposit its seeds in the same crevice where the parent has been successful, a particularly useful innovation for the exposed, rocky habitats it occupies. Together, the curved pedicel and dark blotches at the base of the corolla lobes distinguish it from the more widespread *Mimulus floribunda*.

As you're out and about near marble this spring, keep your eyes open for these great local endemics. If you're really observant, maybe you'll discover something new to science as Larry Norris did. ❖

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 _____

Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs, 2008

OFFICE	MEMBER	CONTACT
President	Joan Stewart	37759 Highway 190 Springville, CA 93265 (559) 539-2717
Vice President	Barbara Brydolf	PO Box 879 Springville, CA 93265 (559) 539-0207
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Historian	Gwen Warner	42261 Mynatt Three Rivers, CA 93271 (559) 561-0407
Newsletter	Monica Rinne Erik Frenzel	PO Box 499 Three Rivers, CA 93271 (559) 561-4841
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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c/o Janet Fanning
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