



Insignis

Newsletter of the Alta Peak Chapter, celebrating and supporting the native plant communities in Tulare County, serving the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada Mountains and Foothills.

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Chapter Program

April 16, 2011 at 11 am

Cal Natives Nursery in Porterville

Native Plants in the Urban Garden

presented by Cathy Capone

Our Chapter program is combined with an all day open house at the Cal Natives Nursery in Porterville. As part of our recognition of California Native Plant Week, a new annual observance Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California for the third week of April, Cathy Capone will open her native plant nursery and demonstration garden in Porterville for a CNPS tour, from 10:30-3 pm. This could serve as an introduction to how our local natives look in garden settings.

The Chapter Program starts at 11 am, when Cathy will talk about how to mix native plants within an urban garden framework.

Using natives, as minimal to low water use plants, can create a wildlife friendly, low maintenance garden. Cathy will conclude her program with a guided tour of the nursery. She will be on hand all during the day to answer questions about growing and propagating native plants.

Plants and CNPS books and posters will be available for sale.

Bring a sack lunch and spend time with friends on the patio. Coffee, tea, and lemonade will be provided. Children are welcome, however, there isn't a child safe play yard, so supervision is needed. Please park on the street, as there is limited on site parking.



806 W. Westfield Ave in Porterville, phone 559-361-9164

Directions: *Traveling on Hwy 65 through Porterville, take Henderson Ave exit, turn left. Travel east on Henderson 1/4 mile, turn left on Indiana. Go 1/2 mile to the end of Indiana. Indiana stops at Westfield Avenue. House is directly across intersection, with white block fence and tall trees. Please park on the street.*

Chapter President's Report

by Joan Stewart

I write this on a cloudy, cold, December morning, just back from the December State Chapter Council Meeting. Delegates from the 33 Chapters gather in different parts of California in March, June, September, and December to share ideas and frustrations about what is happening in our areas, and to discuss and try to understand issues that involve all of us. As we regularly emphasize, this and other Chapter work, positions, responsibilities can always use "new blood", help, so please offer, volunteer, to help wherever you want. See the list of Chapter officers and committees on the last page of this, and every, issue of our Alta Peak Newsletter, the Insignis.

While at the recent State meeting (see below) and talking with delegates from other Chapters, several, seeing my Alta Peak name badge, made a point of passing along compliments on our website. Elsie does this, and I want her to know that we all know and acknowledge the value of this work for us!

The December meeting of representatives from all of the 33 chapters is traditionally held in the Bay area. This year we met at San Francisco State, with the Yerba Buena, East Bay, and Marin County chapters hosting. Conservation Program issues always loom large on the agenda, and this year a major part of our time and energy went to the issue of solar/wind energy development on desert lands in southern California. Seven major projects are being "pushed" without what we believe is proper attention to impacts on natural systems. A major criticism is that no adequate maps are available to show what grows where. Vegetation maps could be an important basis for making decisions about siting and where to put the projects.

Of potential concern to us along the foothills of the Central Valley, was the question of what constitutes "degraded" lands. Although emphasizing mechanical (plowing?) damage to agricultural lands as an example of degraded lands, the inclusion of grazing in oak woodlands as an agricultural use, opens the question of whether these grazed lands are to be treated as degraded.

While we certainly support shifts to solar and wind energy, there are good reasons to proceed carefully, to not create more problems, or damage environments unnecessarily in a rush to start getting the financial benefits that the huge companies anticipate to result from their energy generation systems. Transmission of the energy is a whole other issue and may impact our area in the future. From a state-wide perspective, right now the attention is on making the energy, not moving it.

Vegetation Mapping

Many of the issues, projects that are currently of interest to CNPS at all levels, and throughout California, depend on, draw on, and refer to maps that show what plants occur where.



Blue oak woodland in Three Rivers

This information allows a growing understanding of which types are very limited in distribution (rare) and which are widely dispersed. The State CNPS Vegetation Program has been working for many years to develop on-the-ground data to classify, then map, the groupings of plants in California. One component that has interested me has been high elevation "wet places" by whatever name they are called--fens, meadows, or?

Last summer's field trip schedule for Alta Peak members was intended to begin explorations of these mountain meadows. Late season rain, snow kept roads and trails closed well into summer months, and by the time we got in to these sites, the blossom time was often past and recognizing plants was not simple. I was able to discuss my ideas about the role our chapter might be able to play in gathering data on the different types of plant groups in these high elevation wet places, and was encouraged by program leaders to make this an Alta Peak Project!! So, our field trip schedule for 2011 will reflect this goal, and we hope many of you can join us for Meadow Wandering! We have planned some lower elevation field trips; visits to private ranches with interesting, not-often-seen plants.

This Vegetation Program developed and published a *Manual of California Vegetation* in 1995, then continued to collect data to describe, classify, sort into categories, and write keys to the associations of species that comprise our vegetation over the entire State. As was anticipated, some regions lacked plot-based data for some of the associations, and information for many was known to be incomplete. So work continued, and just this year the Second Edition of MCV was published and now is available. Simultaneously on-line text, often accompanied by data, was prepared, and now is accessible. You can access the online version of this manual at ice.ucdavis.edu/cnps.

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Chapter Field Trips

Call Joan Stewart at 539-2717 to confirm details about each field trip, where to meet at 10 am.

Sunday, March 27, 2011

Springville above PG&E Power Plant

This will be a moderately strenuous walk on a dirt road from about 3000' to nearly 4000', uphill going, downhill returning. This is the access road to the surge tank above the PG&E power plant on Hwy 190 near Springville. Small hydroelectric systems were built on most of the Sierra rivers early in the 1900's, and this walk offers a glimpse into the early history of this development. Along the way *Staphylea* (bladder pod) will be budding. This area is close to the southern end of the distribution of this shrub, and, in itself makes the trip interesting. We climb from riparian where the road crosses the river, through chaparral, into mixed oaks, and wildflowers.

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Jenkins Ranch near Springville

We are invited to wander over the trails of a private ranch between Balch Park Road, above Springville, and the North fork of the Tule River. This ranch has not been grazed for a number of years, and the present owners, Ron and Sandy Jenkins, have designed a series of interconnecting trails that display a wonderful array of wildflowers. This is a wonderful example of a private property that has been managed for the diversity and abundance of its natural vegetation and wildlife.

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Wishon Trail near Springville

By popular demand, we will repeat a trek up the Wishon Trail above the Tule River, with a chance to see *Torreya*, bleeding hearts (*Dicentra*), as well as a variety of other plants that thrive in damp shady habitats. We can make this as long or short as the group wants, on a fairly level trail, between 3000 and 4000 feet elevation.

Summer Field Trips at higher elevations will be planned for June and July, and will be featured in our next newsletter coming out in late May. An up to date field trip schedule will be posted on the Chapter website at altapeakcnps.org.

"If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it. Perhaps this is what Thoreau had in mind when he said, "the more slowly trees grow at first, the sounder they are at the core, and I think the same is true of human beings."

David Sobel, author of the book
*Beyond Ecophobia:
Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education*

Our Chapter is offering special field trips for children, inspired by the wonderful, new CNPS curriculum, "Opening the World Through Nature Journaling"

Saturday, March 5, 2011

and/or **Saturday, April 2, 2011**, from 9 am to 12 noon

Case Mountain BLM land in Three Rivers
Led by Elsay Cort, with Joan Stewart

Each child will be given a "nature sketch journal" and a pencil to document our nature walk, creating a map of their own discoveries as they hike, with thumbnail sketches to capture quick notes. They will construct a map of treasures found along a trail as we walk and stop and look.

Unlike other activities that are done in one spot, the treasure map is made along the trail while hiking and stopping in several places. We will move slowly along the trail, looking for interesting nature discoveries that the kids can map as they go, with quick sketches and inventing place names along the way.

These field trips are designed to encourage children to notice nature up close, and drawing skills are not emphasized at all. The curriculum was developed by Jack Laws, who was our enthusiastically received Chapter program speaker at the Green Faire in October of 2009, and Emily Breunig, an English and writing instructor.

This interdisciplinary combination of art, science, writing, and observation exemplifies the California Native Plant Society's goals in creating educational programs: to engage students of all ages in the incredible natural world of California, to inspire them to keen observations of the wild places in their own backyards, and to foster in them a desire to protect these unique habitats.

Reservations are required for these field trips, so we can make sure each child receives a nature journal. The age limit for these field trips are from 7-12 years. Adults are welcome to come also. We suggest that each child bring a hat, a knapsack, drinking water, and snacks or a sack lunch. They should wear long pants, or jeans and good walking shoes. Optional items could include a small magnifying glass, their favorite pencils and a portable pencil sharpener. We will have some magnifying glasses and pencil sharpeners to loan. Also, make sure that the kids have a bathroom break before we meet.

Meet at the end of Skyline Drive in Three Rivers, at the gate to the BLM property. Park on the side of the road, being careful not to block private driveways or the right of way for traffic.

Call Elsay Cort at 561-4671 to reserve for your child. The field trips will be limited to 15 children, so sign up early.

Any local artist, botanist or plant lover who would like to volunteer with the children for these outings can contact Elsay Cort. More treasure mapping field trips may be planned for the summer at higher elevations in Sequoia National Park, and in the Autumn for observing nature in other seasons.

More educational resources can be found on the CNPS website at cnps.org/cnps/education/resources.php.

California Manzanitas

By Maggie Ingalls – CNPS Jepson Chapter

Manzanita is a classic, you could say iconic, shrub of the California chaparral. There are many species, so you can find one to suit almost every garden situation. There are manzanita species growing from Southern Oregon to Baja California and from the coastal bluffs to the Sierras, almost up to 10,000 ft. Many of these species are found only in highly specific areas, growing on a particular soil type or in a certain micro climate. Some of these species are so successful in their niche that they are the dominant form of vegetation, creating “manzanita barrens”. Manzanitas often look very similar, and some of the species have many subspecies, so they can be really hard to identify. Experts are now doing genetic studies to figure all this out.

There are 2 general kinds of manzanitas, which are differentiated by how they respond to fire. One group survives the fire by making fire resistant root crowns or burls at the base of their stems. The burls or root crowns have dormant buds that will sprout after a fire, allowing the plant to regrow. These plants can survive a large number of fires. However they cannot take shade, so larger plants can out-compete them. The other type of manzanita doesn't have this adaptation to fire. But it makes seeds that can live a long time in the soil, and are stimulated by fire. What this means is that every time there is a fire, the parents of this type are killed off. The fire stimulates the seeds to germinate, and you get many new plants in the year after the fire. This type of manzanita is called an “obligate seeder”, since they depend only on making seeds to survive.

So, after a fire, the parents are dead, and other big shrubs are dead or burnt to the ground. This means there is no shade and the youngsters can prosper. Also there are no parents around to genetically swamp the youngsters. One benefit of depending solely on seeds is the ability to adapt to changing conditions. Every time there is a fire, there is a whole new generation of manzanitas, and they are all produced by sexual reproduction, so they all have new combinations of genes. This gives natural selection a lot of variety to work with. As you would expect, there are many more species in the “obligate seeder” type of manzanita than in the other type.

Many of the manzanitas that are specialized to a small area with a particular climate or set of conditions are obligate seeders. Manzanitas are thought to have evolved about 15 million years ago, in the Miocene, which was another time of global warming. Based on the fossil record, there were only a few species for most of their time on earth. But in the last 1.5 million years, the number of species has increased dramatically to the large number that we have today in the relatively small area of California. Why?

Several things happened about that time. There were shifts in the tectonic plates which rearranged the landscape of California. The whole area was folded, elevated, and criss-crossed with faults. These changes exposed new soil types, changed the depth of soil available in various areas, and created new hills and valleys. This in turn created rain shadows, and the micro climates seen on each side of a hill. For example, the north side of a hill is cooler and moister. Also this was the time period that the summer dry Mediterranean climate developed. All of these changes (particularly the dry summers) caused numerous plant groups to go extinct, leaving more room for the survivors to spread out.

During the time of the glaciers, all of these ecosystems had to move around to stay in their comfort zone. The last glaciers retreated about 10,000 years ago, but the climate has not been stable since then. There was a warm dry period 8,000 to 4,000 years ago. During this time, many chaparral species moved all the way up into the Columbia River basin. Then when the climate cooled off again, they moved back. But some plants found refuge in cooler pockets here in California. These “left behind” plants were “sculpted” by natural selection specifically for the small area that they had managed to survive in. For example, the Marin manzanita (*A. virgata*) is found only in the foggy areas of Marin County.

Another way to make new species is by hybridization between species that used to be separated geographically, but are now moving around to find new homes. For example, as you go up the coast you find 4 species which share a lot of features with hoary manzanita (*A. canescens*), one near San Luis Obispo, one on Mt. Diablo, one in the Santa Cruz mountains, and one on the volcanic soils north of the Bay area. The hoary manzanita, which is an obligate seeder, now grows in the Coast Ranges from southwest Oregon to the Santa Cruz Mountains. It also turns out that even the 2 different groups of manzanitas, the obligate seeders and the fire survivors, can sometimes hybridize. So these are some of the reasons for the wonderful selection of plants that are found in this genus.

In addition to keeping many scientists happily occupied, this is a wonderful genus of plants for the garden. They have dramatic form, highlighted by their beautiful bark. The beautiful growth habit of manzanitas comes from the way they flower at the end of their branches. Every flower marks the end of a branch, and the branch always goes off in a different direction afterwards. This produces an intricate branching pattern which can be enhanced with careful pruning. They have evergreen foliage and darling groups of dangling fragrant blossoms, shaped like upside down vases. They make pretty fruits that look like miniature apples, hence the name, which is Spanish for little apple. They generally bloom in winter and spring, but there are even some species that bloom in the fall, providing a source of nectar for hummingbirds. Most manzanitas have smooth colorful bark. The bark peels off at the end of the growing season to allow for the next

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Manzanitas *cont'd from page 4...*

season's growth. This also gets rid of any fungi or other pests growing on the bark. There are some species with shaggy or fibrous bark. Many species have beautiful new growth in warm tones of red, bronze or copper. And you can find manzanitas in almost any shape or form, for almost any landscape situation.

There are two big manzanitas that are widespread. Bigberry manzanita (*A. glauca*) is the Southern species, growing in chaparral from Mt. Diablo south into Baja California. As the name tells you, the foliage is gray. Common manzanita, or manzanita manzanita, (*A. Manzanita*) grows from Mt. Diablo north to Humboldt and Shasta counties. This large shrub is more versatile, growing in grassland, woodland and chaparral. There are 6 different subspecies of this one. The foliage color of *A. manzanita* varies from plant to plant and there are several cultivars of this species which are good in gardens.

Bearberry manzanita (*A. uva-ursi*) is the circumpolar species, growing in the Northern Polar regions around the world. In California it grows along the coast from Del Norte county to Big Sur, and there are a few populations in the Sierra Nevada. It is also found at the summits of two Guatemalan volcanoes! There are many cultivars of this plant since it makes a lovely ground cover, but it needs humid and cool conditions and acid soils either on the coast or in high mountains. Another name for this plant is kinnikinnick.

Sandmat manzanita (*A. pumila*) naturally occurs only on stabilized coastal sand dunes near Monterey. Surprisingly it has turned out to be one of the most easy-going manzanitas for the garden. It can tolerate heavy soils, it does well with and without summer water, and it forms large low-growing colonies that spread by rooting from its branches. It even takes light shade, although it prefers full sun. But it doesn't like growing in containers, so it is hard to find in nurseries.

The woolyleaf manzanitas (*A. tomentosa*) usually form an erect shrub with burls. The largest specimen is 31 ft tall! There are 9 subspecies. They all resprout from the burl after a fire. These plants range from the northwestern Bay Area down to the Channel Islands, up to about 3500 ft in elevation.

Edmunds Manzanita (*A. edmundsii*) is very rare in the wild, found only on a few coastal bluffs from Big Sur to just South of Carmel. It is another highly variable species which has supplied some desirable cultivars for the garden. One of these, 'Bert Johnson' is named after our own Bert Johnson who works at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. It is highly regarded. Selections of the Edmunds manzanita tolerate heavy soils, partial shade, extra summer water and drainage that is not perfect. But they can be killed by severe freezes. Hooker's Manzanita, (*A. hookerii*), has supplied several good groundcover selections. This rare species grows on sandstone in the Northern half of Monterey Bay, usually within sight of the ocean. One of the best selections of *A. hookeri* is Monterey

Carpet, which actually makes mounds. It is slow to get established, but very reliable.

One of my favorite manzanitas is *A. pajaroensis*. I have the lovely cultivar "Warren Roberts" in my own garden. This manzanita comes from a small area in Monterey County (around the town of Prunedale). It tends to have shaggy bark, although some plants do develop smooth trunks as they age. Many of these plants have beautiful copper new growth. Bert tells me that he has had good luck growing this manzanita in Benicia.

To see a wide selection of these beautiful plants, I recommend a visit to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Wildcat Canyon (at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Rd and South Park Dr in Berkeley). Since they are devoted to preserving and showing off California's native flora, they don't have many cultivars, but they began developing their extensive collection of manzanitas in the 1940's, so they have many beautiful mature specimens as well as rare and endangered manzanita species.

.....Reprinted from the January-February 2011 newsletter of the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter, Serving Solano County.

President's Report *cont'd from page 2*

DRECP Update

The goal of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, DRECP, is to design a nature reserve that will conserve desert plants, animals and ecosystem functions in the face of streamlined permitting of desert renewable energy projects. Yet our ability to provide the most effective conservation measures for desert ecosystems is limited by our current knowledge of the desert. A key data gap in establishing a biological baseline for a comprehensive desert conservation plan is an accurate vegetation map.

Currently there is no detailed vegetation map for the western Mojave Desert where many renewable energy projects are planned. The DRECP Independent Science Advisors report recommends that both an alliance level vegetation map and a special botanical or vegetation features map be assembled for this area, much like the one that was developed for the central Mojave in 2004. But neither state nor federal agencies can find the estimated \$3-4 million to fund the effort, and both are looking to the energy industry for help.

Over 150 vegetation alliances occur in the planning area and will need attention, especially those that are composed of native species, are endemic to the state, have limited distributions, and are essential to the well-being of other plant and animal species. How the DRECP resolves the need to fill data gaps with an expedited timeline to complete a permissible plan will be the work of the DRECP Stakeholder group and Consultant team, and will ultimately come down to decisions by state and federal lead agencies. More information about the DRECP can be found at drecp.org.

Taking the Long View: park biologists and citizen scientists working together to monitor alpine plant communities

Saturday, February 19, 2011 from 7-8 pm

Three Rivers Arts Center on North Fork Drive

*A talk by Sylvia Haultain,
for the "Sequoia Speaks Series" from the National Park Service*

Join Sequoia Park Plant Ecologist, Sylvia Haultain, for a stunning photographic tour of the plants and animals that live above treeline. She will highlight the parks' participation in the international Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) network and the newly established High Sierra monitoring sites in the Mt. Langley area. Discover an exciting new program that engages you, citizen scientists, in documenting changes in the timing of life cycle events of local plants. Your observations can contribute to our understanding of local climate change effects.

For more information, please call 559-565-4212.

Yokohl Valley Natural History

Sunday, February 20, 2011, at 2 pm

Speaker, Rob Hansen

Tulare Historical Museum
444 West Tulare Avenue, Tulare

Rob Hansen, Professor of Ecology and Biology at COS, will give a slide presentation, called "Yokohl Valley Natural History: Past and Present", that will describe the ecosystems (habitats), flora (plants), and fauna (animals) that residents and visitors can enjoy during a drive or bicycle ride through this scenic ranch land east of Visalia. The presentation will provide a sense of the regional significance of the grasslands, oak woodlands, ephemeral stream (Yokohl Creek), riparian habitat, and vernal pools that captivate so many local travelers, photographers, and landscape artists.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the natural bounty of Yokohl Valley from a fine speaker who is an expert on this special area. After enjoying the discussion and the slide show, take a drive or a bike ride through Yokohl and see it with new eyes, inspired by what you've learned about this treasure in Tulare County.

While you are at the Museum, you can enjoy the special art exhibit "Yokohl Valley Revisited" featuring the work of many talented local artists in various media exploring the beauty and diversity of the Yokohl area. Bring a friend or neighbor and introduce them to the wonders of Yokohl Valley. For more information, call 686-2074 or visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

**"Look deep into nature, and then you will
understand everything better."** *Albert Einstein*

New Tools Protect Rare and Endangered Plants

The Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants started as a deck of note cards, then became an authoritative book, and then became the highly accessible, searchable online application and primary data reference for information about the conservation status of over 2,200 of California's rare and endangered plants. Now, a decade later, the next generation of the application is ready for use. You can try out the new Online Inventory by accessing it directly at rareplants.cnps.org.

In addition to the complete technical and functional makeover, a new home page provides a fresh new look and includes information on plants that are currently in review as well as those that have been recently added, deleted, or undergone a recent change in status ranking. A much improved search function is also featured.

The update includes additional data on the number of occurrences for each rare plant along with a new customizable and easy to print map that displays rare plant locations throughout California. This new capacity is a result of the statewide *Rare Plant Treasure Hunt*, an ongoing geo-caching program of CNPS to update data on rare plants. The state office will team experienced botanists with amateurs to conduct searches for historical and new occurrences of rare plants.

Opportunities exist to contribute on many levels! If you have GIS experience, we need help preparing maps for the teams. If you are an experienced botanist or if you are good at navigating or geo-caching, we need you to help lead teams. If you know of or belong to church groups, scouting groups, clubs, or have friends that want to get out in nature and learn something, form a team and contact us. If you would like to participate at any of these levels, please send an email to treasurehunt@cnps.org.

Plant Sale Report *from Janet Fanning*

The 2010 plant sale went very well considering the economy. The number of members pre-ordering was down, but we got to talk to a lot of folks about native plants and gardening. I want to thank all of you who helped us with the setup on Friday; it went along fast and we enjoyed seeing everyone. Our next sale will be on October 1, 2011. See you then, Janet

Handmade Paper Workshop

Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10-4 pm

taught by Elsayh Cort in Three Rivers

This workshop will introduce you to making paper, using various materials including recycled paper, dried plant materials and scraps of this and that. You will learn about the process of simple paper-making, producing paper that can be used for other art projects such as collage, or simply as an artwork itself. See artsthreerivers.org for workshop details.

From our mail...

Dear Alta Peak Chapter,

My name is Erin Andersen and I am a volunteer for the ImagineU Children's Museum in Visalia. The museum provides interactive educational experiences for children of all ages through hands-on exhibits, special guest programs, and family-friendly events.

This past summer I had the pleasure of spearheading the development of a California native plant exhibit. Our committee's vision was to install a raised bed featuring various native plant species that would have been used by the Yokut tribes of the San Joaquin Valley, and to pair that display with educational activities to teach children basic plant science, Native American history, and local geography.

A critical need for our project was filled by a generous donation from your Chapter! Your group allowed us to attend your annual Native Plant Sale to select the perfect plantings for our exhibit, free of charge. On behalf of our committee and the ImagineU staff, I want to offer my sincere thanks for your donation. I know that the sale was a major fundraiser for your Chapter, and we appreciate you sparing the plants for our project.

The plants were carefully installed under the supervision of Quercus Landscaping, and we're now putting the finishing touches on exhibit graphics and hands-on activities that will tie all of the educational elements together. I expect that the entire exhibit will be complete by late January – which should be about the time you receive your newsletter!

I invite all of you to stop by the ImagineU Children's Museum, not only to see the CA Native Plants exhibit, but to experience for yourself how the museum is transforming children and their families every day. Visit www.imagineumuseum.com or call (559) 733-5975. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday and admission is \$4.

Thank you, again!

Sincerely, Erin Andersen

Volunteer, ImagineU Exhibit Committee

California Native Plant Week April 17-23, 2011

The California State Assembly and Senate have approved Resolution ACR 173 (Evans) establishing California Native Plant Week, beginning April 17-23, 2011. This measure proclaims the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week and encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

Sierra Nevada Geotourism Project

www.sierranivadageotourism.org

*Sponsored by the National Geographic Society,
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Sierra Business Council*

Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. Geotourism incorporates the concept of sustainable tourism—that destinations should remain unspoiled for future generations—while allowing for ways to protect a place's character. Geotourism also takes a principle from its ecotourism cousin—that tourism revenue should promote conservation—and extends it to culture and history as well, that is, all distinctive assets of a place. Through this website and map, we invite you to visit and experience the distinctive landscape and communities of the Sierra Nevada.

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See this newsletter in color
in a pdf file on our website.

Chapter facebook page
facebook.com/altapeak.chapter

Celebrate Wildflower Week

April 17-23, 2011



Alta Peak Chapter
Annual Native Plant Sale

October 1, 2011



Three Rivers Arts Center
North Fork Drive in Three Rivers

CNPS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email
(optional): _____

I wish to affiliate with: ____ Alta Peak Chapter

Other Chapter _____

Membership Category:

- Student/Limited income, \$25
- Individual, \$45
- Family \$75
- Plant Lover, \$100
- Patron, \$300
- Benefactor, \$600
- Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail with check to CNPS, 2707 K St., Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816, or you can join or renew automatically year after year via the website www.cnps.org and click on JOIN.

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