



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.

Volume 22, Number 1

January 2012

Winter Chapter Program

Southern Chile: Wildflowers and Agriculture from Maria Ulloa
Page 1

Native Plant Sale

October 6, 2012
Page 8



President's Report

Joan tells us what's up with our Chapter...
Page 1

Winter Garden Care

Timely suggestions for your native garden from Cathy Capone
Page 3

Oak Trees of the Sierra Nevada

Appreciating our natural oak heritage from Melanie Keeley
Page 4-6

New Jepson Manual

Check out their eFlora
Page 7

New Board Member

Welcome Betty Avalos, new Education Chair
Page 7

Join CNPS

Membership form
Page 8

Contact Information

Join our Chapter Board of Directors.
Page 7



Winter Chapter Program

January 27, 2012 at 7 pm

"A Cross Cultural Walk in Southern Chile: Agriculture and Wildflowers"

Presenter Maria Ulloa

Forest Planner for the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument in Porterville

Conference Room in the Student Center, Porterville College

Directions: take the College exit off of Hwy 190, after entering into the College, park towards the western end of the lot, and there will be a sign to the Student Center building.

Originally from Vegas de Itata, province of Concepcion in southern Chile, for the last 30 plus years Ulloa has travelled back and forth to visit her family. Each trip has been an opportunity to explore the countryside and its beautiful native flora and fauna. Most photographs have been taken from Concepcion to Punta Arenas and Santiago to Valparaiso.

Continental Chile is isolated biologically on the north by the Atacama Desert, to the east by the Andes, to the west by the Pacific Ocean, and Antarctica to the south. Chile has 7 distinct climates that contain diverse vegetation types, including hyper arid desert, summer-dry scrublands (chaparral), the dry cold

cont'd on page 2

Chapter President's Report

by Joan Stewart

The October Native Plant Sale and Chapter Program at the Three Rivers Arts Center was another success story for Alta Peak Chapter, with all the support from our volunteers and community participation. Yes, sales and profit were somewhat down from other years, but this same is reported from throughout the State, and is simply a symptom of the times. We already are anticipating next year's sale, considering what plant material can be locally propagated. Cal Natives in Porterville (with our own Horticulture Chair, Cathy Capone) is collecting from some of the species that were requested in past years, and so far not available.

The Cal Fire Station Native Plant Garden (via the Redbud Garden Club) in Three Rivers was described at the June Chapter Council meeting, where delegates from chapters gathered to share what CNPS was doing in all areas of the state. Elsie described the landscaping project at the local fire station, and many of those attending followed up with questions and conversations with her later in the day.

The December Chapter Council meeting in Carmel again brought together delegates/presidents from most of our chapters. A topic that is attracting local attention, the

cont'd on page 2

Winter Program, *cont'd from page 1*

Puna of the high Andes, temperate rainforest in the Lakes Region, and Patagonian steppe in the Austral Region (Strait of Magellan). The Chilean flora includes about 5,082 species of vascular plants. Of these, 2,561 are endemic to Chile. High endemism is due to the presence of habitats with distinctively different conditions where plants cannot migrate from one location to another and are forced to evolve independently within that particular habitat.

More about Maria Ulloa: She has a B.S. in Agronomy and Soils from Washington State University, and postgraduate education in Botany from California State University, Chico. She has 25 years of experience with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management mostly as a Botanist. She has worked on the Clearwater, Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity, and Siskiyou National Forests and the Colorado Plateau of Southeastern Utah for the Utah State Office of the BLM. She has been on the Sequoia National Forest for the last two years. Her favorite activities are botanizing and hiking. She says, "It takes me a long time to reach my destination if wildflowers are visible."



Volcan Osorno in southern Chile
photo © Maria Ulloa

President's Message, *cont'd from page 1*

proposed change in agricultural lands from Williamson Act-covered to development for energy generation, was mentioned and several chapters (e.g. Sacramento and Bay Area) were extremely interested in learning more. If you have references to media reports or anything else on this topic, please let me know, or forward the information. One chapter President passed a note to me saying "We want to publish material on our chapter website to educate our members and non-members on the issues and what's happening on renewable energy projects all over the State."

Of interest to us here, this message was sent from the State Conservation Program Director: "Following from our discussion of energy projects at our recent Chapter Council meetings in (beautiful) Carmel, I'm broadcasting a renewable energy-related email alert generated by the Solar Done Right group to demand that local, state, and federal governments change course from the current industrialization of public lands, to the increased deployment of distributed energy generation and the development of policies to facilitate the latter. Increased development of distributed ("rooftop" etc.) energy generation and increased energy-efficiency measures can reduce our reliance on having to build large-scale wind and solar facilities on intact habitats to meet our renewable energy goals, AND reduce the need for additional transmission lines necessary for these remote, large facilities. Therefore, more distributed energy generation and energy use efficiency measures can equate to fewer impacts to intact native plant communities—in the desert and elsewhere throughout CA. That is the clear nexus between the Call to Action below, and plant conservation. I will be adding CNPS's name to the sign-on list on behalf of the state office. Please consider doing the same in your Chapters, and as individuals. [See the home page of solaradoneright.org to sign their petition and get more information].

The upcoming CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference in January in San Diego was extensively reviewed at the Chapter Council meeting. Anyone from around here who is interested in attending any of the sessions, or in visiting that city at that time, contact me for a copy of the Preliminary Program with information about all the sessions. One of our Springville members submitted art work that has been accepted for display for the art exhibition.

Other agenda items that may be of interest to some of our local plant people involved the inclusion of our southern Sierra area in the ongoing effort to map and understand the vegetation of the state. The leaders of this program recognize that "Sierra", so often focussed on the areas north of us, does not necessarily describe what we know from our wanderings in low-high elevation natural areas.

Conservation focus for the present continues to be on desert
cont'd on page 6

Winter Care for Native Gardens

by Cathy Capone

This list of garden activities is designed for gardens in Sunset zones 7, 8, and 9. If you garden in zone 1 you will need to modify the timeline of the activities. For those who are not familiar with these zone labels zone 7, 8 and 9 are the central valley and foothills. If you garden in an area where snow stays on the ground for a week or more you are likely in zone 1.

Garden planting plan

- Now that the plants are growing slowly and weeds are less of a problem, it is a great time to look carefully at your garden.
- Look for plants that have outgrown the space you planned for them. You might decide to prune a plant that has overgrown the space provided or if the plant is desirable you might consider removing plants that are crowding your favorites.
- Look for areas where you need additional plants. When planning think about the conditions of water, sunlight, space and soil. Make a new years resolution to plant compatible plants for the conditions.
- Look at plants that are not thriving. Failure to thrive can be caused by water issues either too much or too little and many times plants do not thrive because they get too much or too little sunlight.
- If you decide to buy additional plants write yourself a note about what the current or planned conditions will be. When you go to a nursery having a list of conditions helps you find what you need instead of being tempted by what is currently in bloom.

Propagation-hard wood cuttings: Winter is one of the best times to take hard wood cuttings. These are cuttings of chopstick sized wood or greater where the cutting would snap instead of bend or fold. Cut healthy straight branches and bring them to your potting area. You are most likely to be successful if you use sterilized soil or non-organic soil. There are many good rooting hormones on the market. I have been using Dyna-Gro products for two years now and they have been better than other products that I have tried. I use Dyna-Gro Liquid K-L-N rooting concentrate and/or Root-Gel. The Root-Gel is very easy to use and although it is expensive per ounce it goes a long way because you only dip the bottom tip of the cutting in the product. Prepare your containers and planting medium. Be sure to clean completely any tools or pots that you reuse, the pathogens from the prior use will make it very hard for a new plant to thrive. Make cuttings three to six inches long and immediately dip in rooting gel. Create a planting hole with a clean tool slightly larger in diameter than your cutting. Carefully put the cutting in the hole so that you do not rub off the gel. When you have put several cuttings in your container lightly press the soil around the cuttings and water them in thoroughly. Keep the soil moist not wet for most cuttings and allow for air circulation. Even native plants that live in dry summer soils want damp soil when rooting.

Propagation-rooted cuttings: This is a great time for rooted cuttings and plant division. Rooted cuttings are free new plants that your garden has ready for you to use or share. Look at branches that touch the ground or shoots coming out of the ground away from the parent plant. Once you find a plant that self roots, carefully pull at potential branches to see if they have rooted. Cut the stem between the parent plant and the rooted section. Lift the rooted cutting by digging under it at least three inches with a shovel blade. Lift the new plant with the shovel. Do not pull on the stem. Have the new planting site prepared or put the rooted cutting on a piece of cardboard to minimize root damage. Trim extra leaf or stem area and plant it at the same soil depth. Water in the new plant and be sure to give the new plant more water in the spring and through the first summer than you give to the established plants. Plant division propagation is suited to clumping plants like carex, muhlenbergia, and stipa. These are all grass type plants others that grow in this multi-stemmed, independently rooted form can be divided. I find it easiest to dig up the whole clump that will be divided and then cut the clump apart with a shovel, knife, or hand clippers. Then follow the same steps. Cut any extra stem or leaf surfaces. Plant at the same depth, water in and treat the division to extra water until next fall.

Now for the not so fun stuff:

- Install irrigation systems while the soil is easier to dig.
- Keep on top of the weeds now and you will have a cleaner garden in the spring.
- Trim plants to fit the space allowed and improve shape. This is the best time to trim most plants. If you have a spring flowering plant such as redbud consider waiting until after the bloom and before the summer heat to trim.
- Plant anything that you bought in the fall. Get it out of the container and into the ground now! (Wait if it is a frost tender plant like citrus.)

Most important on my list to stop and observe your garden universe. Pull out a chair and sit for a while. Invite a friend to see the little beauties of a winter garden, berries, new grassy growth, the scent of the salvias, the crunch of leaves underfoot, and new fern fronds breaking the surface. By the time you read this I hope your garden has gotten a good rain or two. If not, be sure to water your garden in the winter during an extended dry spell like this last December. This is a very important time for our natives. They need the winter rains to thrive during the spring and summer.

President's Message, cont'd from page 2

Insignis should be able to suggest tentative dates and destinations with June for Jordan Peak to start with, then the each-one-different high 'meadows' for their unbelievably different arrays of wildflowers. We would love to expand our Field trip Committee (which is essentially me for now) would welcome additional members. We need your help in planning, leading, and learning about the wealth of potential places we can visit together.

Oak Trees of the Sierra Nevada

by Melanie Baer-Keeley

Among the Sierra Nevada foothills' most scenic and defining – if not enduring landscapes are its golden savannas, peppered with majestic oaks. For thousands of years, California's magnificent oaks have lent character, beauty, comfort, and inspiration in addition to food and shelter to the residents of this state. They increase the value of our land; enrich the soils and protect the watershed. Over 5000 species of wildlife have evolved complex associations with oak species, depending either directly or indirectly upon oaks and acorns for survival.

While our expansive state holds almost 8 million acres of oak woodlands, over 1 million acres were lost between 1943 and 1973. With the destruction of California's hardwood forests, we ultimately lose unquantifiable benefits. Currently, the Valley Oak (*Q. lobata*), and the Blue Oak (*Q. douglasii*), two of the state's most statuesque oaks are seriously threatened because of population related pressures. Not only are mature oak trees dying or being removed in staggering numbers, they have been unable to regenerate due to urbanization, agricultural conversion, flood control, grazing of livestock and rodents, competition with exotic weeds and fire suppression practices. With oaks at the center of an intricate web of life in both historical and contemporary societies, this loss has critical implications.

The vast tangle of wild species that are directly linked with these trees are consequently threatened with the loss of oak acreage. Bear and deer need to consume massive quantities of acorns during the fall months in order to survive the winter, as do rodents and birds. Thousands of species of insects dwell in and around oak trees, additionally providing food for insectivorous birds, rodents, reptiles and amphibians. Because so many organisms depend on this genus, their populations will correspondingly decline.

From an historic human perspective, the predictable availability of acorns as a food source offered profound stimulus for social change. Nomadic societies became sedentary, hunters turned to gatherers. Because of the widespread availability, oak trees and fruits grew in importance in all realms of the lives of Early Americans; dietary, medicinal, ceremonial. Views on division of labor, ownership of natural objects, migration patterns, and settlement patterns were all affected by the abundance of acorns.

DEFINITIONS & DESCRIPTIONS

The genus "*Quercus*" literally means "fine tree." Oaks are characterized by thick, sometimes corky bark, lobed or entire leaves, catkins, wind pollination, hard wood. They are long-lived to 200 or 300 years and as much as 600 years. Further divided, the genus *Quercus* may be separated into one of three lineages; "White Oaks," "Black Oaks" and "Intermediate

Oaks" depending upon one or two year acorn ripening, type of acorn cap, leaf shape and spininess, wood and bark type.

In this state dwell eighteen species of oaks; half are shrubs and half are trees. In the Sierra Nevada, there are seven oaks, with four oaks that are deciduous (either winter-deciduous or drought deciduous): *Q. douglasii* or "Blue Oak", *Q. lobata* or "Valley Oak", *Q. kelloggii* or "Black Oak", and *Q. garryana* and two that are evergreen (*Q. wislizenii* or Interior Live Oak, *Q. chrysolepis* or "Canyon Live Oak". Oaks occur either in "gallery forests" wherein branches and leaves overlap, in "woodlands" where leaves do not overlap thereby allowing more sunlight with lower soil moisture levels, or "savannas" where trees remain far apart, scattered throughout grasslands.

Adapted to fire, some species and seedlings survive either by crown sprouting or by sprouting from adventitious buds under bark. Oak trees are not considered a fire hazard, in fact, it is thought that due to high water content, evergreen oaks may resist and slow the progression of fire. In fire prone areas, however, it is essential that flammable dry weeds be cut down, dead wood be cut out and the canopy should generally be pruned up off the ground.

In the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the following tree oaks grace our hills:

***Quercus chrysolepis*, "Canyon Live Oak" or "Maul Oak"**
Leathery, evergreen dark green undulating leaves atop with light green or gold undersides support substantial, wide-at-the-top long acorns. Found growing from sea level to 9000', the canyon oak has the broadest elevational range of any of the oaks of California. It is adaptable not only to elevation, but to varied moisture and soil conditions including steep inclines with rocky, impoverished soils. Grows up to 70' in height and can be either shrubby as well as arborescent.

***Quercus douglasii*, "Blue Oak"** Dull, blue-gray, wavy-edged leaves can vary from un-lobed to lobed. Acorns are approximately 1" long and tapered. Bark is gray and checkered. This oak dominates California's central and northern foothills regions, from Kern County northward. In her book, *An Island Called California*, Elna Bakker describes the Blue Oak to be "...one of the more drought-adapted deciduous oaks and tolerant of hardships in general." This adaptation is successful in part due to its ability to be drought-deciduous. In addition, this is one of the oaks that will germinate with the fall rains rather than waiting until springtime. Smaller in stature than other oaks, it grows to 60'. It occurs in about 40 of Calif's 57 counties, growing to an elevation of 3500'. Blue oak is widely found in association with *Pinus sabiniana* also known as the "Gray Pine" and *Aesculus californica* "California Buckeye." However, mysteriously, in the Kaweah River drainage, conspicuously lacking in this trio is the Gray Pine.

***Quercus garryana*, "Oregon Oak"** Leaves are similar, but more shallowly lobed than the Valley Oak, with upper sides

cont'd on page 5

cont'd from page 4

dark green and undersides lighter. Acorns are wide with a small cap. In the northern end of its range, from British Columbia into Northern California, its ultimate height is to 80' tall. However, in the southern Sierra Nevada, it remains shrubby in character. Found from 1,000 to 4,000' elevations and can be found growing side by side with Black and Canyon Live Oaks in assorted soil substrates.

***Quercus kelloggii*, "Black Oak"** Stunning in all seasons, shiny and sharply lobed leaves conspicuously unfurl bright pink, maturing to dark green, then changing to brilliant yellow autumnal colors. Acorns are thick to 1 1/2" and are considered by many Early Americans to be the tastiest and best textured of the oaks. Bark is dark brown and when wet, black, hence its name. Black Oak's color complements the state's mountainous evergreen forests from 2000' - 6000' in elevation.

***Quercus lobata*, "Valley Oak" "Roble" or "White Oak"** Leaves have rounded lobes 2 - 4". This is the largest oak in North America, reaching to 100' heights. It is also something of a phenomenon surviving to a venerable 600 years of age. Its stout acorns are also the largest at 2". Bark is deeply fissured in a checkerboard. Elna Bakker characterizes the craggy Valley oak as "...the most impressive local tree...for its sheer size and patriarchal demeanor." "...A deciduous species, in wintertime it looks as though it had finally succumbed to insect infestation or drought. But after a month or so of springtime warmth, it leafs into great spreading crowns that bless the hot interior valleys with cool dense shade." With the Blue Oaks, the habitat of Valley Oaks has been one of the most disrupted by agriculture and development, unfortunately occupying the same fertile bottomland. Valley Oak grows in elevational ranges from 200' to 4000'.

***Quercus wislizenii*, "Interior Live Oak"** Flat, deep green, entire leathery leaves with lighter undersides form the interior counterpart to the *Quercus agrifolia*, the Coast Live Oak. Acorns are similar to those of the Coast Live Oak, but the cup covers almost 1/2 of the seed. This species is tolerant of hotter, drier, colder conditions than the Coast live oak. It grows up to 5000', developing a broad, dense canopy up to 100' in height.

CULTURE

Understanding the life cycle of an oak and its general anatomy facilitates caring for a mature specimen as well as for cultivating newly planted specimens. In nature, acorns drop from oaks during October and November. In some cases (some scrub oaks) some acorns will begin their growth viviparously, that is, while they remain on the tree. Others will germinate once they fall to

the ground, if fortune finds them in a hospitable environment. Some acorns will not germinate until the warm, moist conditions of spring occur. Once germination is initiated, a long, deep taproot is sent into the ground for anchorage and to ensure availability of critical moisture. Vegetative growth then begins to sustain energy that goes into developing a horizontal network of roots that will conduct most of the water and nutrient uptake. Most of these roots are concentrated in the top three feet of soil and within the dripline of the canopy, although they do spread well beyond the canopy. In later maturity, vertical roots called "sinkers" drop from the lateral root system to further anchor the tree. By the time summer's heat and drought begins, hopefully, the sapling is well-established enough to endure. At this time, its metabolism slows, entering into a rest period in which water use is reduced. Fall's cooler temperatures and higher humidity signal growth to begin again.

These cycles should be maintained to keep tree vigorous. It is especially important to continue these natural regimes in the case of mature oaks; juvenile trees are a little more accepting of additional care and watering. However, in the case of extended drought, if the health of a specimen is in doubt, or when establishing a young tree, it may be necessary to water. Do so deeply for a day or two, only outside of the 10' margin from trunk. Then water to extend natural rainy periods, into May & June or beginning again in October. No water should be given in California's hottest months, July and August. Retain natural leaf mulches over entire canopy area. Ideally, no new landscaping should occur under an oak canopy at all. However, in the real world, it happens. From the trunk outward, leave un-tampered, a ten foot radius. Areas beyond that to the edge of the canopy (aka the tree's dripline) should be sparingly landscaped (if at all) with compatible, oak root fungus resistant plants.

Pruning should be kept to a minimum by removing dead, damaged, diseased or hazardous branches no more than 20% at a time. Prune winter-dormant species during the winter and evergreen species during their summer-semi-dormancy. Lightly fertilize tree only if in poor health in the late winter or early spring.

OAK PATHOGENS

Armillaria mellea, (Oak root fungus), and *Phytophthora* spp, (Crown rot) *Ceratocystis fagacearum* (Oak wilt disease) are some significant pathogens that lead to mortality in oak trees. And while the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, (Sudden Oak Death), has resulted in the death of tens of thousands of California oaks

cont'd on page 7

"Lean closer, I want to tell you this. We are at odds with the land because we are at odds with our minds. We are at odds with our minds because we are at odds with the land. The land supports the chaotic profusion of life that we fear. We dominate the land so that we can control life and therefore the complexity of our minds. We fear life because we fear our minds and don't want to choose how to go about living here. We fear being responsible for our choices and so try to eliminate them. We want a list of rules, a list of formulations that will guarantee that we are doing the right thing, a list that will make sense of life."

from *The Great Western Divide: A History of Crow, Coyote, Chaos and God* by John Spivey

Oaks, *cont'd from page 5*

in coastal California, SOD has every potential of spreading in the Sierra Nevada.

The growth of each of these fungi is accelerated by summertime watering, and thrives in warm, moist, poorly aerated soils. The best way to prevent fungal pathogens is by keeping trees healthy and vigorous by maintaining the status quo of care. If you notice a decline in vigor of your oak trees along with disease symptoms such as bark cankers, leaf spots, twig dieback, unnatural oozing, consult a certified arborist to determine the cause and, as a first step, alter cultural practices:

- Remove any cultivated understory plants that require irrigation
- Remove accumulated soil down to natural trunk flare
- Discontinue watering under the oak canopy
- Make certain water drains away from trunk

Also, because there is such an overwhelming number of pathogens, both insect and fungi that survive on oaks, please refer to a local certified arborist and/or the United States Department of Agriculture publication that is free on-line. "A Field Guide to Insects and Diseases of California Oaks", by Tedmund J. Swiecki and Elizabeth A. Bernhardt, fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr197/psw_gtr197.pdf
Published: July 2006

NOTE: It is imperative to realize that insect and diseases are often distributed through movement of fire wood. To reduce the spread of these organisms, wood should not be transported from one location to another. So, it is strongly recommended that you "buy it where you burn it" and "don't move firewood" in an effort to keep devastating diseases such as sudden oak death, and other forest pests from spreading to new forests.

OAK TREE ORDINANCES

The demise of oak woodland habitats has been curbed thanks to city ordinances, but enforcement of these ordinances is often difficult or ineffectual. The ordinances vary to such a great degree that each city's guidelines must be reviewed before performing *any* task on or around any oak tree, including pruning, landscaping or removing an oak tree, or performing any type of construction nearby. Each city's "Tree Ordinance Summaries" address issues such as species protected, "heritage criteria," pruning standards, permit requirements, root zone protection, canopy retention standards, mitigation requirements, and penalties for violation of any of the above. Some municipalities protect all oaks, some only act to preserve exclusively their definition of "heritage" oaks. If a protected oak is removed or destroyed without permit, the penalties for removal of that oak can range from none--to revoking building permits, filing misdemeanor charges, and/or imposing fines and jail time. Mitigation stipulations also vary widely from city to city also. Despite these regulations and the conservation efforts of local activist groups, the loss of oak trees is simply not keeping pace with regeneration.

CONCLUSION

With consideration given the heritage we have received, not only of ancient trees, but the web of life surrounding and depending upon these trees, it is pertinent that we restore the oak habitat to a sustainable system, meaning that we replace what we have taken and that we take no more than can be replaced. In so doing, we may protect biodiversity and the myriad ecosystem inter-relationships.

While at one time natural resources such as the oak trees of California seemed plentiful and exploitation of these resources went un-controlled, now, we clearly recognize these resources are finite, and irreplaceable once lost. As many times as we have enjoyed the breath-taking beauty of California's oak-enriched environment, is as many times as we should have thought to replant and foster its successors.

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

areas under consideration for energy development and transmission. All Chapters stressed that in this program, as in all our work, it is the volunteers who make CNPS what it is, or what it can be. Locally planned, studied, worked for projects are how we accomplish our mission. This is not to say that the State office staff doesn't play crucial roles, but it is ultimately up to us to be involved in what we care about. Increasing membership, retaining members, is important, but on the ground involvement is what gets things done!

The State Horticulture Program is becoming more organized to recognize the importance of gardening to many of the members. Large urban areas rely on seeing native plants in gardens, public or private. We are so fortunate here in Tulare County to have so much natural vegetation to explore, but nevertheless many of us also care a great deal about being able to have native species close to our homes.

Other business was reviewed—newly elected officers introduced, budget concerns cited, more information offered about resources available to chapters for various purposes. The next quarterly Chapter Council meeting will be March at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens, Los Angeles. If interested in driving down and attending all or part of the sessions, or simply enjoying wandering through this garden, contact me.

And after winter, Spring comes, and this means the beginning of field trips, hiking into our own back country as the snows disappear and trails and roads open. Last year this didn't happen as most of the day trips were cancelled. Let's hope this year the storms come earlier rather than later. The next Insignis should be able to suggest tentative dates and destinations with June for Jordan Peak to start with, then the each-one-different high 'meadows' for their unbelievably different arrays of wildflowers. We would love to expand our Field trip Committee (which is essentially me for now) would welcome additional members. We need your help in planning, leading, and learning about the wealth of potential places we can visit together.

2nd Edition of Jepson Manual Coming This Month

You can pre-order it for 20% off at ucpress.edu, the University of California Press

The second edition of *The Jepson Manual* thoroughly updates this acclaimed work, the single most comprehensive resource on California's amazingly diverse flora. The second edition includes treatments of many newly described or discovered taxa and recently introduced plants, and reflects major improvements to plant taxonomy from phylogenetic studies. Nearly two-thirds of the 7,600 species, subspecies, and varieties the volume describes are now illustrated with diagnostic drawings. Geographic distributions, elevation ranges, flowering times, nomenclature, and the status of non-natives and native taxa of special concern have all been updated throughout. This edition also allows for identification of 240 alien taxa that are not fully naturalized but sometimes encountered. A new chapter on geologic, climatic, and vegetation history of California is also featured.

See the new Jepson eFlora at ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html

This online version currently parallels *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition*. Currently, the online treatments differ from what will appear in the book because they:

- contain additional notes and synonyms
- contain additional taxa (e.g., waifs, agricultural weeds)
- contain spelled-out synonyms
- contain expanded abbreviations
- contain direct links to the [Consortium of California Herbaria](#)
- contain direct links to the [Online Interchange for California Floristics](#)

"To the thoughtless a flower is often a trivial being,—beautiful perhaps, and worthy of a passing glance,—but that is all. But to the mind open to the great truths of the universe, it takes on a deeper significance. Such a mind sees in its often humble beginnings the genesis of things far-reaching and mighty. Two thousand years ago one grain of the shower of pollen wafted upon the wind and falling upon a minute undeveloped cone, quickened a seed there into life, and this dropping into the soil pushed up a tiny thread of green, which, after the quiet process of ages, you now behold in the giant Sequoia which tosses its branches aloft, swept by the winds of heaven."

from *The Wildflowers of California* by Mary Elizabeth Parsons



Welcome to New Board Member

We welcome Betty Avalos to the Alta Peak Chapter Board of Directors. She will be our Education Chair and is researching for how to implement a scholarship/grant program for the chapter. She is a retired K-12 teacher and administrator. She specialized in bilingual-cross-cultural education, English as a second language, and cultural diversity training. Her husband is a retired high school history and Chicano studies teacher. She says they moved to Three Rivers in July, 2010 "because of its beautiful environment and proximity to the Sierras."

Alta Peak Chapter Board of Directors



President, Conservation

Joan Stewart
559-539-2717
tori2toli@ocsnet.net

Vice President, Newsletter Editor

Elsah Cort
559-561-4671
elsahc@dishmail.net

Treasurer, Membership, Plant Sale

Janet Fanning
559-561-3461
janetfanning@att.net

Secretary

Joy Semple
559-539-7927
jdsemp@springvillewireless.com

Outreach

Melanie Keeley
559-799-7438
mbaerkeeley@gmail.com

Horticulture

Cathy Capone
559-783-0201
ccapone@lycos.com

Education

Betty Avalos
559-561-3211
elizabeth.avalos@rocketmail.com

Hospitality

Theresa Stump
559-539-3124

Website: altapeakcnps.org

See newsletter in color in a pdf file here.

Chapter facebook page:

facebook.com/altapeak.chapter

**Alta Peak Chapter
Annual Native Plant Sale**

October 6, 2012



**Three Rivers Arts Center
North Fork Drive in Three Rivers**

**(Held in conjunction with
the Three Rivers Green Faire)**

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 cnps.org and click on JOIN.

Elsah Cort, Editor
PO Box 245
Three Rivers, CA 93271