



# 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 2**

**June 2012**

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## Summer Program/Field Trip

**June 30, 2012 10am to 2 pm**

**"Native Plant Restoration in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks"**

*Presenter Melanie Baer-Keeley  
 Restoration Horticulturist for the National Parks*



*The Nursery in the Park, photo by Melanie Keeley*

*Directions: take Hwy 198 to Three Rivers, meet in the parking lot of the Three Rivers Memorial Building on the right hand side of the highway at 9:30 am. Please bring your Park Pass if you have one. We will carpool to the Ash Mountain Visitors Center, a short distance past the Park entrance station.*

Melanie will lead a tour of the Ash Mountain Native Plant Restoration Nursery facilities and give a talk on restoration projects within the Parks. Bring a sack lunch, water and hat for lunch along the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River.

The nursery is at an elevation of about 1700', and the tour involves a short, slow, mild walk on roads and gravel (not handicapped accessible). For lunch along the river, we will walk down a gentle 1/4 mile zig-zag trail that drops down about 300 feet. Most any ambulatory individual can make this short walk, taken at one's own pace.

## Summer Field Trips

Led by Joan Stewart

Call 559.539.2717 for more information.

### Saturday, June 16 from 10am to 3 pm

Meet east of Springville, where Hwy 190 ends at Quaking Aspen, and drive along North Road for some distance to trailhead parking.

Traditionally we go up Jordan Peak in June. Last year we never got there because of all the late storms that left snow on roads and trails well into summer. Jordan Peak is where we see the rare Fawn Lily (*Erythronium*), found only here in Tulare County. There are also two species of *Fritillaria*, another exotic-looking lily, along the trail, making this a hike that draws plant-people from other parts of the state and the world. Many other delicate or robust plant species are here, making this a favorite place to explore each year, weather permitting. The hike up from the parking area is not long, but a little steep in places. We will be climbing from about 8000 ft to the top at 9000 ft. As always, we will go as far as we choose and we won't hurry!

### Sunday, July 1 from 10am to 3pm

Call Joan to confirm where to meet for this field trip.

Another early summer hike takes us back to the Wishon Fork, leaving the road into Wishon Campground to walk the trail up along the canyon as far as we choose to go. There is a locked gate just beyond a pull-off area where we can leave cars. The special plant here is the *Torreya*, California Nutmeg, a shrub in the Yew family that is uncommon. Along the trail we cross several drainages, where we can expect to see two violets, dogwoods, with nearly 100 species on the plant list for this walk. It is almost entirely shady, with very few moderately steep stretches, where switch-backs let us climb to higher levels. We will be walking on trail from perhaps 4000 ft elevation to 5500 ft. As with most of our plant walks, we go only as far, for as long, as the group chooses.

## Why Grow Natives?

[cnps.org/cnps/grownative/why\\_native.php](http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative/why_native.php)

The CNPS website has a wonderful section, at the above website page, to help you grow natives in your home garden. You can join the Discussion Board and ask specific questions. Go to the Native Plant Resources page at [cnps.org/cnps/grownative/resources.php](http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative/resources.php) and click on discussion boards.

Read the very informative article called "Have Space, Dirt, Water - Now What?" by Nancy Heuler, MLA. You will find it on the "getting started" page. Nancy says, "As any gardener knows, gardens aren't a static creation; plants grow, creating shade where there was sun, volunteers may appear, plants change with the seasons and sometimes even die. It's all part of the adventure and it never gets boring. With a good foundation, modifications can be made for many years to come without sacrificing aesthetic harmony and balance."

## Rare Plant Treasure Hunt

July 14- 15

### Slate Mountain Area in Sequoia NF

Starts at 12 noon on Saturday

Danny Slakey, CNPS Rare Plant Program Assistant  
and Fletcher Linton, Sequoia National Forest

Email [dslakey@cnps.org](mailto:dslakey@cnps.org) to RSVP and to reserve a spot.

The Alta Peak Chapter and Giant Sequoia National Monument are teaming up to gather data on the rare plants of Slate Mountain and the Needles this summer. These rare plant hotspots are home to some unique Tulare County endemic plants, like the Kaweah fawn lily (*Erythronium pusaterii*), Twisselmann's buckwheat (*Eriogonum twisselmannii*), purple mountain parsley (*Oreonana purpurascens*), and the new to science, only known from one location, Shevock's Rock Cress (*Boechera shevockii*). Participants can expect a fun weekend of hiking, botanizing and learning how to document and map rare plants. Both beginner and expert botanists are welcome.

From the National Forest website: "An unusually large variety of very rare wild plants are concentrated on the rocky outcrops and crevices along the 9000' high ridge of Slate Mountain. Most of these rare plants are found only in a few places in Tulare County. Typically these plants appear briefly after the snow melts flowering for a couple of months in the spring and summer." More information on this rare plant hotspot is available at [fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/pacificsouthwest/SlateMountain/index.shtml](http://fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/pacificsouthwest/SlateMountain/index.shtml)

Rare Plant Treasure Hunters are welcome to come out for a single day or camp and stay for the whole weekend. We have a group campsite at the Quaking Aspen Campground in the Sequoia NF for the nights of July 13 and 14. Those camping on Friday July 13 can join a Saturday morning plant search, or you can join the trip starting on Saturday at noon.



Kaweah Fawn Lilly, *Erythronium pusaterii*  
(photo by John Game)

## Coming in the Fall

### Chapter Fall Program on September 15, 2012 at 7 pm

*Bart O'Brien, Special Projects Director of Ranch Santa Ana Botanic Garden*

We don't have the details on this presentation yet, but it will be about native plant landscaping and gardening. We are grateful that Bart is coming to our neck of the woods to share his wonderful expertise about growing native plants. The program will be held at the Three Rivers Arts Center on North Fork Drive.

### Three Rivers Environmental Weekend on October 6-7

*Green Faire, held with the Native Plant Sale*

*Saturday, October 6, 2012*

Alta Peak Chapter will be hosting the Green Faire this year. Booths are available for environmental and nature organizations for no fee to share information about their organizations and activities. Artists are also invited to have a booth, for the nominal fee of \$10, to exhibit any work that is inspired by nature, uses recycled materials, or other environmentally associated work. Call Elsie Cort at 559-561-4671 to reserve a space. Deadline for booth reservations is September 3.



*Eagle Peak on Case Mountain, painting by Mona Fox Selph*

Mona will also be organizing the Green Home Tour for Sunday, October 7. If you want to help plan this event, please call 559-561-4676.

## President's Message

*by Joan Stewart*

The County continues to prepare final documents for the Updated General Plan that will be definitive in setting land use patterns for coming years. Our fundamental concern is new growth being permitted, accepted, in outlying areas, in presently undeveloped places, versus "encouraged" as infill, within existing urban boundaries. Yokohl Valley is a neighborhood concern. If you see the Fresno Bee, you may have noticed in recent weeks the reports, articles, editorials about the Fresno City General Plan, with the City Council passing (5-2 vote) an alternative that "wisely pushes development back toward the city center...putting brakes on sprawl". And several days after this report, "Fresno has started on the smart growth path before, only to return to its traditional stretch-and-abandon formula". So....we wonder just what we will be confronted with in coming months for Tulare County. CNPS is on record as supporting alternatives that help to preserve and connect natural habitats, patches of ecosystems intact.

Our Chapter board meetings have tended to be via email or "round-robin" communications recently....but if anyone has an issue, question that needs to be discussed, reviewed, acted upon, call me, or any of the Board members listed in this Insignis, and we'll try to work together, furthering our CNPS Mission!!

## Alta Peak Chapter Board of Directors



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**Website:** [altapeakcnps.org](http://altapeakcnps.org)

See newsletter in color in a pdf file here.

**Chapter facebook page:**

[facebook.com/altapeak.chapter](https://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](http://cnps.org) and click on JOIN.

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