



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 23, Number 3

September 2013

Chapter Events Calendar

Native Plant Garden Design Clinic

Saturday, September 14, from 9 am to 12 pm
facilitated by *Melanie Keeley and Cathy Capone*
pre-registration required, call 559-799-7438
CNPS members \$10, non-members \$25
Held at the Three Rivers Arts Center

Native Plant Garden Design Clinic

Saturday, September 28, from 9 am to 12 pm
facilitated by *Melanie Keeley and Cathy Capone*
pre-registration required, call 559-361-9164
CNPS members \$10, non-members \$25
Held at Cal Natives Nursery in Porterville

Annual Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 5, from 9:30 am to 3 pm
CNPS members allowed in early at 9 am
Open to everyone. Held at the Three Rivers Arts Center

Fall Program and Chapter Member Meeting

Friday, November 8, from 7-9 pm
"Introduction to Phenology - The Science of the Seasons"
presented by *Ann Huber*
Open to everyone. Held at the Three Rivers Arts Center

Chapter Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 13 at 10 am
At the home of Joy Semple in Springville
Open to all Chapter members

Native Plant Garden Design Clinics

Held from 9-12 noon, choose from two dates, either
September 14 in Three Rivers or September 28 in Porterville
facilitated by both *Melanie Keeley and Cathy Capone*

Growing plants in our extreme climate is challenging and our native plants are proven survivors! Having a simple planting plan with compatible plant selections will help make your landscape a beautiful success. To help you plan your own garden, the Chapter is offering a DIY native plant landscape design clinic. This workshop is a great opportunity to make progress beautifying your surroundings while creating bird and butterfly habitat in a natural and sustainable way. With a plan in place, you can break down the landscaping process into manageable steps or phases.

Melanie and Cathy will teach you a basic palette of native plants, and then you will combine them for compatibility and longest possible flowering. (Note: Many of these plants will be available for purchase at our native plant sale on October 5 and on site at Cal Natives Nursery for the Porterville Clinic). We will also have relevant reference books and posters available to purchase during each class.

Bring the following items (as best you can):

- photos of the existing landscape
- rough sketch of area to be landscaped, with a directional "North Arrow", dimensions, noting sun and shade exposure and special features or concerns
- soil sample (1/4 cup)
- CNPS Members: bring your Plant Sale Pre-Order Form (included in this newsletter) for assistance in choosing plants for your garden (for September 14 clinic only)

We will supply:

- native plant and landscape design expertise
- graph paper and pencils
- beverages and snacks

Pre-registration is required for clinics. Class size is limited.

To register for September 14, call 559-799-7438.

To register for September 28, call 559-361-9164.

CNPS members \$10, non-members \$25

*Melanie Keeley is Restoration Horticulturalist for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.
Cathy Capone is owner of Cal Natives Nursery in Porterville.*

Encourage a friend
to join CNPS!

easy to join online
see "join cnps" button at

cnps.org



President's Message

from Melanie Keeley

This time of year, as the summer passes and the days begin to grow shorter, I inevitably start thinking about adding to our native garden. I notice gaps in my landscape, consider new and different species I would like to try growing. Even though the heat is still sweltering, now is the time to start making planting plans to be ready for cooler planting weather. Fortunately, the Chapter brings the plants to you! Our Native Plant Sale is just around the corner on October 5.

To also help you determine the best plants for your garden, we will be offering what I am calling DIY, BwH! (Do-It-Yourself, But with Help!), Native Plant Landscape Design Clinics, in Three Rivers and Porterville in September. This is a great opportunity to make progress, beautifying your surroundings while creating habitat in a natural and sustainable way. Growing plants in our extreme climate is challenging and native plants are proven survivors! Having a simple planting plan with compatible plant selections will help make your landscape a beautiful success. And breaking the process down into manageable steps or phases can make what may seem an overwhelming task – much easier! We will have experts on hand to discuss your site-specific issues. We hope you will join us and tell your friends!

The Alta Peak Chapter wants to build our plant-loving membership! We offer our members educational workshops, talks and authority-escorted field trips, newsletters, educational grants. Most importantly, CNPS offers the opportunity to support a great organization that invests their resources into programs to increase the appreciation and conservation of native plants and habitats. At our gatherings, we will have membership packets available to you to take to disseminate to those interested in promoting our goals.

Whether to learn about current Alta Peak Chapter activities, learn about plants, get membership information – take a look at our beautiful web presence. With our website at altapeakcnps.org and our new facebook page, we can connect more efficiently and expediently. Please “like” our page found at [facebook.com/altapeakchapterCNPS](https://www.facebook.com/altapeakchapterCNPS). My sincere thanks go to Elsay Cort, who has combined her creative talents, tech-wizardry with her passion for native plants to bring the chapter into the 21st Century with style!

Other upcoming offerings include our Fall Program, happening in November, with Ann Huber discussing Plant Phenology, a national project and movement to, as she so eloquently describes, “...track the pulse of the planet.”

Also, we are excited that our Chapter is soon to offer grants to students and projects that focus on local native plants, under the direction of Betty Avalos, our Education Chair.

As you can see, our chapter is enthused and we've got many projects in process. I want to publicly acknowledge all of the hard work and dedication of the Alta Peak Chapter Board members. Thanks go to Joan, Janet, Elsay, Betty, Cathy, Ann and Sylvia! You are much appreciated!

“You get used to the overall look of a wild garden, which is very different from a manicured garden. If something does die, you don't mourn it—there's not a great big hole left because there's so much richness, so much variety, so much more life overall.”
~ Sara Stein

Conservation Report

from Joan Stewart

A quiet summer, if you discount excessive weather!! The Sequoia National Forest (USFS) plan is creaking along with a couple of public meetings to discuss the various decisions that have been incorporated and conflict remains. Recreation, horses, motorized vehicles, hikers, wildlife, vegetation, fire, logging (“extractive”), cattle/sheep use of meadows, water (how much, where, for?) are the issues in question. There are no easy answers, and someone or some group will always object. I obtained a notebook full of the “assessment” information that has been compiled for 31 topics, with many sections covering 50-100 pages. The staff has put tremendous effort into the planning process. Whatever the final decisions are, they have not been made without consideration of what is affected. The Sequoia National Monument Plan has been finished.

Regarding Tulare County, well, nothing has come up that has needed significant attention. Development continues and water is an ongoing tug-of-war. Foothill projects are mostly on hold for one or another reason.

Fire issues need a separate paragraph, as throughout the state, nation, it is the subject of many headlines. Cal Fire came up with a set of regulations about brush clearance that were drastic, and brush primarily meant chaparral in their usage. Much was written, shared about what the effects of the proposed actions would have meant. Many CNPS Chapters, particularly in southern California, became active in arguing against the proposals. Underlying the situation is the practice, allowed by zoning and use requirements in most cases, of building homes, structures miles away from each other, then expecting these to be protected from natural disasters, like fire in this case. The story is not over, and so far our foothills have been OK, other than smoke from the north.

Water issues included meadows that were mostly so dry in June that field trips were cancelled. Back country riders and hikers report on dried up springs that have always been sources for themselves and animals. Rivers are slow or essentially dry in several instances. Lakes are drawn down and not “pretty”! What the next couple of months will bring is on everyone's mind. In Springville area we are watching wells as some have had to be deepened.

But, these conservation issues are not CNPS action items for right now. They are just part of the world we live in with our work to “conserve and protect native vegetation”. When the final Sequoia National Forest and Monument Plans are released, we will probably hear of lawsuits, media attention. CNPS accepts that these are perhaps the best that can be hoped for under the circumstances.

Note from newsletter editor...

Welcome to an updated newsletter format, hopefully reflecting the new surge of enthusiasm and direction for our small CNPS Chapter. I apologize for the pitiful photo quality that appeared in our last newsletter. I am now creating the newsletter via inDesign. For this issue I gave myself a break from the photos, to keep it simpler and only four pages, since we are including the plant sale pre-order form. I welcome your input and suggestions for future issues.

...Elsah Cort

Fall Chapter Program

Friday, November 8, from 7-9 pm

“Introduction to Phenology — The Science of the Seasons”

presented by Ann Huber

Phenology, or *nature's calendar*, is the study of life cycle changes in plants and animals. This program will provide an overview of phenology—how tracking seasonal events like leafing and flowering in native plants help researchers study the effects of climate change and how you can get involved with monitoring at Sequoia National Park or in your own backyard!

Ann Huber is a plant ecologist who lives in Three Rivers. She recently served as Coordinator for the California Phenology Project at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI), and served as lead author for the rare plants chapter of SEKI's Natural Resources Condition Assessment.

Programs are open to everyone. Held at the Three Rivers Arts Center on North Fork Drive.

Education Report

from Betty Avalos

The Chapter Board is pleased to announce that it has established a fledgling Grant Project Program and will be accepting applications for grants to promote projects and research that will increase appreciation and understanding of native plants and natural areas of Tulare County, the Central Valley and the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains and Foothills.

Two grants, between \$250 and \$500 each, will be awarded each year, based on the project's itemized proposed budget.

The Chapter is especially interested in supporting the efforts of K-12, as well as college students and their professors. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- relevance of the project to native plant education, conservation or restoration
- a focus on native plants, and their habitats, of Tulare County, the Central Valley and the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains and Foothills
- a combination of academic background, work experience, and personal commitment needed to successfully complete the proposed project, or to participate in a profession that seeks to further the mission and goals of CNPS
- feasibility of successfully completing the proposed project

Proposal applications should not exceed three pages in length and should be submitted in the following format:

1. title page with the project's title and applicant contact info
2. statement of applicant's qualifications
3. project objectives
4. methods employed to implement the project
5. description of the expected final product and its duration

In addition, the proposals should include an itemized proposed budget and letters of support for the project.

Applicants who are awarded grants will provide a progress report to the Alta Peak Chapter at the end of the first year. They will be asked to give a talk about their project at a chapter meeting, or to write a brief explanation of their work for this newsletter.

2014 Grant Proposals are due by January 31, 2014.
Notification of grant awards will be given by April 1, 2014.

*For more information, please contact
 Betty Avalos, Education Chair at bvalalos@hotmail.com.*

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*Our members are invited to join
 the Board of Directors and
 “share the good stuff”
 about California native plants
 for all of Tulare County!*

altapeakcnps.org
facebook.com/altapeakchapterCNPS

Annual Chapter Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 5 from 9:30 am – 3 pm

Three Rivers Arts Center on North Fork Drive

The Alta Peak Chapter is giving CNPS members several perks this year, including the option to pre-order plants, by the earlybird deadline of September 16, for a 10% discount on your entire plant purchase. We also are giving members a 30 minute head start on plant sale day, **doors open for members only at 9 am**. The doors will open to the general public starting at 9:30 am. The plant sale will be held inside the Three Rivers Arts Center building this year, instead of in the backyard (only pre-ordered plants will be found in the back.) In addition to a great selection of California native plants from Cal Natives Nursery and Inter-mountain Nursery, we'll be offering a wide variety of inspiring books on topics related to native plants, wildlife and habitat gardening, natural history, regional plant identification....so, stop, shop and enjoy our book sale on Saturday as well. Volunteer horticultural experts will be on hand for questions and to give helpful advice. **We need volunteers to help, on Friday, October 4, at 10 am to unload and set up plants, and on Saturday during the sale itself. Please call Melanie, at 559-799-7438, to join the volunteer list.**

Pre-Order Plant Sale Form included in this newsletter.

Mail by September 16 earlybird deadline.

For more information, call Janet Fanning at 559-561-3461.

Cathy Capone, the Chapter Horticulture Chair, has produced several local native plant ID info posters for primary and intermediate level students. These posters will soon be available on the chapter website for teachers or others to download. The posters include color photos of the plant, with a brief description and plant names. The list will be added to, as new posters are developed. So far, the plants include Blue Elderberry, California Wild Fuchsia, Deergass, Cottonwood, Redbud and Valley Oak. If you develop a poster or educational native plant materials, please consider sharing them with the Chapter. To have documents emailed to you, email: cathycauponemail@gmail.com

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CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

