Chapter President’s Message
by Melanie Keeley

I’m still a little giddy over the encouraging response to our recent presentation of Alta Peak Chapter’s Do It Yourself Native Plant Landscaping Clinic [held on August 26]. This is the third (or is it fourth?) class that Cathy Capone and I have taught. One of the parts of the class that I particularly enjoy is hearing from the class members about how they arrived at the point that they decided that they wanted a native garden. Some were adjusting gardening habits from other parts of the nation to better suit this arid climate. Several were Master Gardeners who wanted to convert portions of their gardens to native plants, as well as to learn more to be able to teach others about them. An avid hiker in the group, who recognized the beauty of the natural landscape from mountain trails, wanted to bring that rustic character to her home. Each student in the class recognized what too many people don’t — that native plants succeed here. These plants are survivors; they belong here, both aesthetically and physiologically. They are needed here, creating habitat and providing food for the varied wildlife dependent on them.

Please consider this as you peruse the plants from our upcoming annual fall native plant sale coming on October 7. Enjoy the memories, the beauty, the habitat and the hardiness of bringing native plants into your personal landscapes.

Annual Native Plant Sale
Saturday, October 7, 2017
10 - 3 pm (CNPS members only from 9-10)
Three Rivers Arts Center
Go east on HWY 198, turn left at Anne Lang’s Emporium. Look for first building on the left on North Fork Drive.

Please follow directions for partial payment on the form, then send to Alta Peak CNPS, PO Box 217, Three Rivers, CA 93271.
Plant pick up will be on the day of the fall plant sale Saturday, October 7, 2017. Chapter Members are allowed to pre-order plants at a 10% discount and receive a 20% discount on books at the plant sale, as well. We appreciate your support!
Landscape design is a process in which a plan is developed which will guide the gardener in selection and placement of plants along with landscape elements such as hardscape, irrigation, art and structures. Landscape plans are useful whether you plan to add, replace, or supplement part or all of your garden. My intention is that this article will be self-contained with resources listed at the end. Future articles will cover other aspects of landscape design.

Unity creates harmony in the garden. A simple way to begin a design plan with unity in mind is to create a garden with a theme. Consider the groupings of plants that grow together in undisturbed natural landscapes. There are benefits to selecting your theme from nature. One is that these groupings of plants remind us of natural environments we have visited, therefore we see them as a unit. Another is that they, in general, will have very similar water needs and so can be irrigated on similar schedules. Lastly when you want to widen your plant palate, you can retain unity by staying with plants that occur naturally in the selected theme location.

The following lists are suggestions of plants that can become the backbone of a themed garden based on native plant zones. There are many other plants in each of these native plant groupings. This list is only a starting point. Unity in the garden will be enhanced by repetition and groupings of key plants. Multiples in odd number groups 3, 5, 9 give a more natural and pleasing effect.

**Foothill Dry Hillside Theme**
- *Quercus douglasii*, blue oak
- *Cercis occidentalis*, redbud
- *Cercocarpus betuloides*, mountain mahogany
- *Penstemon spp*, penstemon
- *Zauschneria spp* (AKA *Epilobium spp*), Fushcia

**Foothill Creekside Theme**
- *Platanus racemosa*, western sycamore
- *Rhamnus spp*, redberry, coffeeberry
- *Muhlenbergia rigens*, deer grass
- *Mimulus aurantiacus*, sticky monkeyflower
- *Rosa californica*, wild rose

**Lower Elevation and Valley Stream Theme**
- *Alnus rhombifolia*, white alder
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, buttonwillow
- *Vitis californica*, wild grape
- *Lupinus spp*, lupines
- *Artemisia douglasiana*, mugwort

There are many other theme groupings of native plants. Think about some of your favorite natural outdoor locations. When designing a theme around a favorite location, onsite observations will give you more insight into what plants occur there and what other elements of the landscape may be key to your theme. When revisiting these locations note what native plants grow near each other. Note the environmental conditions, i.e. look at the amount of sun each plant gets, any slope and the orientation (north, south, east, west) of slope. Consider water availability indicators. How close are the plants to a water source? Are they in a drainage where they get more water than others in the area? Or, are they in an exposed dry area? If your garden will be at a significantly different elevation than your theme favorite location, you need to consider the differences between the plant zones and how to provide modifications in your garden which will allow out-of-zone plants to thrive.

There are many other categories of themes. A natural fit with the native plant pallet is habitat-themed gardens, such as butterfly, pollinator, or bird gardens. A habitat garden welcomes these visitors back and will provide the gardener with years of wonder not only at the plants but also at the animals that find refuge in these small patches of native habitat. Your plant pallet will vary depending on the animal that you want to attract.

**Birds**
- *Arctostaphylos spp*, manzanita - food
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia* toyon, - food
- *Rhamnus spp*, redberry and coffeeberry - food
- *Sambucus mexicana*, elderberry - food
- *Quercus spp*, oak - nesting and food

**Hummingbirds**
- *Aquilegia formosa*, western columbine
- *Lonicer spp*, honeysuckle
- *Mimulus aurantiacus*, sticky monkeyflower
- *Isomeris arborea*, bladderpod
- *Salvia spp*, Sage

**Butterfly and Moth**
- *Achillea millefolium*, yarrow - many species
- *Aesculus californica*, buckeye - echo blue, spring azure
- *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, CA buckwheat – many species
- *Salvia spp*, sage - many species
- *Zauschneria spp* (AKA *Epilobium spp*), fushcia - giant swallowtail, CA dogface, white-lined sphinx moth
- *Asclepias spp*, milkweed – many species

Unity can be expressed in other elements in the garden, such as hardscape, rocks, garden décor, art and the character of elements such as height, size, texture and color scheme. As with plants, keeping the garden elements in the same theme will help you to create a more harmonious, natural, and sophisticated design.

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**Encourage your friends and family to join the California Native Plant Society.**

cnps.org
CNPS lobbying and a phone call from one CNPS member to one legislator when a vote was needed on the issue. SB249 will now be able to work its way toward passage.

Legislation is critical to our mission and CNPS recently has been given a $72,000 anonymous donation to work on legislation. Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director, is working on the desert solar issue and conservation areas in the deserts, in addition to working on legislation.

Dan also reported that the Board tripled the budget for rare plants. The money will allow CNPS to hire two new plant scientists. One of the rare plant projects is an effort to de-list plants which are on the 1A list presumed-to-be-extinct list. You can read more about this can be found on the cnps.org website under the Conservation tab.

Interesting to note, CNPS has between 8-10,000 members but 21,000 members in the CNPS native plant ID facebook group.

The Conservation Conference is only 7 months away. The deadline for abstracts and posters was July 10. The organizers are planning pre-conference workshops and field trips which start Tuesday, January 30. The early registration for the conference starts in July, 2017, and runs until the end of October. The link can be found in the right-side column of cnps.org, the State website.

Steve Hartman, the President of the Board of Directors, reported on many aspects of fundraising and how the Board is allocating resources. The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the budget for 2017-2018. This budget provides for CNPS to spend more on rare plants than ever before. We are projected to bring in 3 million dollars in 2017-2018 and spend 3.1 million dollars. There is money held over from last fiscal year because staff was budgeted for and not hired immediately. In the past, each of these three fund sources provided a third of our funds—membership, services, and donations. Donations have increased significantly and this allows our income to grow in one year from 1.9 million to a projected 3 million dollars.

There are two new matching donation opportunities. One of them is $25,000 for conservation and the other is $7,500 for the Bakersfield Important Plant Area. Consider helping one of these critical areas and your donation will be matched by one of these anonymous donors. The donation link is available under the Conservation tab. You can read more about this can be found on the cnps.org website. Follow the link and select unrestricted donation. Then, add either Bakersfield IPA match or Conservation match to the comment section after selecting your amount. Thank you for your help.

David Prior, Orange County delegate and Chapter Council Representative to the Board, spoke on the topic of chemophobia. This is a label given via the current push by some in the public to block glyphosate, Roundup, from being used in any amount within a political jurisdiction. One of the groups pushing this is called Mothers Across America. CNPS has an herbicide policy which was written and approved in 2005. The proposed policy is to use the funds as donation to a research organization. One example is the Desert Botanical Garden, which can be found at desertbotanicalgarden.org. This organization is working to find a replacement for glyphosate.

Executive Director, Dan Gluesenkamp, reported that the state staff members are focused and energized by new staff additions over the last year and the change in the direction of conservation at the federal government level. At the state level, CNPS is supporting SB49, 50 and 249. SB49 would add to California listing any plants which are delisted at the federal level. There is talk of California being different than other parts of the country and having a responsibility to show how conservation can be done. SB50 provides a mechanism for the state of California to have the first right of refusal on any California land that the federal government is selling. SB249 is a bill which would extend and redirect, partly to conservation, any off-road vehicle fees collected. The fees for off road vehicles are sun-setting in the 2018. SB249 has been taken out of the legislation suspend file. This was accomplished with CNPS lobbying and a phone call from one CNPS member to one legislator when a vote was needed on the issue. SB249 will now be able to work its way toward passage.

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Chapter Council cont’d from pg 3

2008. The concern within CNPS is that a total ban on use of glyphosate would ban its use in restoration and open space areas, in addition to the ban in populated areas. David Prior and others are concerned that this effort to ban glyphosate could rapidly spread over the state pushed by those afraid of any use of the chemical, regardless of target plants or safe use protocols. David proposes that we update our policy and include current references so that CNPS is better prepared to answer the concerns of the public and bring science-based information to the discussion. David stated that over 25% of our chapters currently have some interaction with this effort to designate an area as a non-toxic city. The breakout report included the following points: CNPS needs to use a positive approach, i.e., we are for biodiversity and we benefit the public discourse by bringing science to the table. Bill will produce and distribute talking points for anti herbicide position. It is important to find common ground with those who are afraid of toxics and are going too far because they have been told that any use is unsafe. Proposed policy wording will be brought back to the September Chapter Council meeting.

Chapter Council addressed the request to have a climate change policy or position. We had addressed this issue at the last Chapter Council meeting and sent the item to committee. We charged the committee to bring wording for a policy or position statement to the June meeting and they did. The position was discussed, amended, and passed as amended. Then, the Council held a discussion of the next step. The Council passed two motions: to approve the Climate Ad Hoc Committee continue its work and also convene an expert committee to draft a climate change policy.

The Phytophthora Committee reports that information on Phytophthora is available on the website. The CNPS has available $25,000 for CNPS chapter nurseries. This money is available in matching funds to assist chapters in modifying their propagation nurseries.

This is the second Council meeting at which we discussed the request for a Mountain Bike Chapter. We also discussed the need for guidelines for non-geographic chapter proposals.

The next Chapter Council meeting will be held on September 8-10 in the Sebastopol area. The Chapter Council is a link between each chapter and the state organization and, much like the legislative branch of the federal government, has a critical role in steering CNPS. Guests are always welcome to attend the Chapter Council meetings.

With National Monuments under consideration for closing or shrinking by federal administration, Glen Hostein, Chapter Council representative from Sacramento Valley, announced that the Department of the Interior has a formal public comment period for National Monuments as a whole. Please see the text below taken from a Department of the Interior web page. Glen reported that President Trump is pushing to shrink the size of National Monuments.

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today announced the first ever formal public comment period for members of the public to officially weigh in on monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Department released a list of monuments under review under the President’s Executive Order 13792, issued April 26, 2017. A public comment period is not required for monument designations under the Antiquities Act; however, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and President Trump both strongly believe that local input is a critical component of federal land management.

Urgent call for public comments to protect our national monuments!

Comments may be submitted online after May 12 at regulations.gov by entering “DOI-2017-0002” in the search bar and clicking “search,” or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Calling All Alta Peak Chapter Members!

This month, we gratefully welcome Martha Widmann as the Chapter Historian. This position has not been filled for many years, so Martha will be working on updating our archival papers and scrapbooks. Martha, a fine artist and long-time resident of Three Rivers, recently converted her front yard into a native plant garden (see photo in June 2017 Insignis). She says she learned so much with this inspiring and ongoing process.

Some changes in Board positions are coming up in 2018. The Chapter will be looking for someone to help as treasurer, as our present one, Barbara Brydolf, will be assuming the position of president. Melanie Keeley, who has superbly acted as the president for the last five years, will continue working more on conservation and horticulture issues.

We want you! We know you are strongly committed to the mission of this society, which is “…to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.” Now is the time to show that commitment. Giving back to this worthy organization can be very satisfying work. Please consider joining the Board of Directors. Positions currently open: Membership, Legislation, Conservation, Programs and Field Trips. Or, if you have special talents to share with us, please contact Melanie for ways to participate.

Next Chapter Board Meeting on October 22, 2017, at 9 am Cathy Capone’s home in Porterville.

Call 559-361-9164 for directions. Chapter members are welcome to come to Board meetings.
Conservation News

The Status of the Giant Sequoia National Monument

by Barbara Brydolf

The status of the Giant Sequoia National Monument is under review by the Department of the Interior, and now, by the White House.

As a result of Executive Order 13792 by Donald Trump on April 26 of this year, Ryan Zinke and the Department of the Interior have conducted a review of Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM) and 26 other monuments, with the intent of making "boundary adjustments" to shrink their size. The reason given for this review was that monument designations: “create barriers to achieving energy independence, restrict public access to and use of federal lands, burden state, tribal, and local governments, and otherwise curtail economic growth,” even though none of these claims is true. Established by Bill Clinton in the year 2000, GSNM was created by presidential decree under the Antiquities Act of 1906, as have numerous other national monuments. Until now, these declarations have never been challenged, and the legality of such a move has been questioned.

Giant Sequoia National Monument consists of 328,000 acres that lie on both sides of Sequoia and King’s Canyon National Parks. A large fraction of the giant sequoias are protected by the parks, but the majority of groves lie outside park boundaries in the monument. The Department of the Interior is proposing to shrink the GSNM so that only the groves containing the giants themselves are protected, not the larger watersheds.

In a contentious meeting, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 2 to send a letter of support for shrinking the GSNM, citing fire, drought, and bark beetle infestations as reasons, although the US Forest Service, which administers the monument, has the power to act on these factors. Porterville’s City Council considered, but declined to send a similar letter. According to the Department of the Interior, it has received 1.3 million comments, over 90% of which oppose reducing protection for the monuments.

As of August 25, 2017, Ryan Zinke’s recommendations on twenty-seven monuments have been delivered to the White House. It is not known what those recommendations are, nor what action the President will take.

Wildflower on Alta Peak

(by Denise Griego)

I have climbed Alta Peak in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park five times over a thirty year period. This is the first year I have found the Western pasqueflower (Anemone occidentalis) in bloom. It was at 11,000 feet on August 17, 2017. The plant grows in mountainous regions of the west, flowering soon after the snows melt. I usually just see the silky plumed seed heads. Possibly the 2016 heavy snowfall and precipitation helped with a later bloom.

I have spent the last several days with Navajo leaders in Southern Utah. Elders and younger leaders. Much of our conversations have been about the racial and political chasm in Utah regarding Mormons and Native people…When I brought up my anger, Willie Grayeyes said, “We have to turn our focus to healing.” I am grappling with what this means -- how do we move from anger to healing -- and what are the steps to find our way forward toward a shared sense of humanity. The tribes keep reiterating that Bears Ears [National Monument] is all about healing. It’s also a fight, alongside the fate of 26 other national monuments. Secretary Zinke will [soon] give his recommendation of his review of these monuments …Where is the common ground when views are so different; one point of view that sees the land for our taking, to be used, developed, and made for human consumption; another point of view that sees the land as Mother Earth with all non-human creatures as individuals with their own gifts and powers to be honored and respected?

—Terry Tempest Williams, on the challenge to save the national monument in her Utah neighborhood via facebook.com/terrytempestwilliams
CNPS Conservation Conference

Coming soon! Enroll now! February 1-3, 2018
Los Angeles Airport Marriott, 5855 West Century Blvd

by Melanie Keeley

Every three years, the CNPS Conservation Conference brings together scientists, practitioners, leaders, and enthusiasts from across California. This event will continue to be the largest of its kind in California. All of us share the vital and valuable goals of conserving and restoring our native flora and habitats: every conference is an opportunity to connect with active nature-minded individuals and organizations, learn about what works, and refocus our efforts. The Friday dinner keynote is called “Restoring Nature’s Relationships” by speaker is Doug Tallamy, an entomologist who examines fascinating insect/plant interactions and the importance of creating connective habit in your own garden. “Specialized relationships between animals and plants are the norm in nature rather than the exception. Plants that evolved in concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. Tallamy will explain why this is so, why specialized food relationships determine the stability and complexity of the local food webs that support animal diversity, why our yards and gardens are essential parts of the ecosystems that sustain us, how we can use our residential landscapes to connect the isolated habitat fragments around us and produce valuable ecosystem services, and what we can do to make our landscapes living ecosystems once again.”

Managing landscapes in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.

Also, there will be many fantastic pre-conference workshop events held on January 30 and 31, as well as exploratory off-site field trips to locally important botanical hotspots.

Some pre-conference workshop topics:

- Botany Kick-Start—Bob Allen, Adjunct Professor of Biology, Santiago Canyon College
- Habitat Gardening: Pollinators, Beneficials, and the Soil Foodweb—Frédérique Lavoipierre, Director of Education, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
- The Natural Landscape: Creating Beautiful Gardens at Home and in the Community—Mike Evans, President, Tree of Life Nursery; Jodie Cook, Owner, Jodie Cook Garden Design; Kristen Wernick, Outreach Coordinator, CNPS
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 101—Greg Suba, Conservation Program Director, CNPS; David Magney, Rare Plant Program Manager, CNPS
- Field Data Collection Using the ESRI Collector App for Mobile—Jaime Ratchford, Associate Vegetation Ecologist, CNPS
- Macro Photography and the Meet Your Neighbors International Project—Lech Naumovich, Conservation Photographer
- Introduction to Botanical Art Techniques—Gilly Shaefner, Botanical Artists Guild of Southern California & American Society of Botanical Artists
- Legislative Action: Understanding the Process for Making Law—Vern Goehring, Legislative Advisor, Natural Solutions for Advocacy
- Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: An Introduction and How-to”—Catherine Curley, Assistant Botanist & Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Coordinator, California Native Plant Society
- Using GIS to Create Habitat Suitability Maps for Restoration and Reintroduction of At-risk Plant Species—Erin Questad, Assistant Professor, CalPoly Pomona
- Seed Collection and Production for Restoration—Jutta C. Burger, Managing Director, Science and Stewardship, Irvine Ranch Conservancy; Matt Garambone, Plant Materials Coordinator, Irvine Ranch Conservancy; Rachel Lambert, Seed Farm

Additionally, the Conservation Conference’s headlining topics and leaders are:

- California’s Changing Climate: Translocation, Transplantation, Assisted Migration—Arlee Montalvo
- Chaparral—Rick Halsey, Jon Keeley
- Citizen Science—Rachel Meyer
- Emerging Tools in Conservation Science—Greg Suba
- Fire and Native Plants—Marti Witter
- Grasslands and Prairies—Michele Hammond, Jennifer Buck-Diaz
- Horticulture as Part of Conservation—Brett Hall
- Invasive Plants—Steve Schoenig
- Managing Lands for Native Plant Conservation—Andrea Williams
- Marketing for Motivation: Imagery, Storytelling, and Talking Points—Liv O’Keeffe
- Oaks and Oaks-Rangelands—Tom Gaman
- Pathogens and Pests—Janell Hillman, Sabrina Drill
- Plant Science—Matt Ritter, Jen Yost, Nishi Rajakaruna, Dena Grossenbacher
- Plants and Pollinators—Graciela Hinshaw
- Rare Natural Communities—Diana Hickson, Jaime Ratchford
- Rare Plants—Aaron Sims, Nick Jensen
- Restoration—Lech Naumovich, Edith Allen
- Threats and Opportunities for Coastal Conservation—Michael Vasey
- Vegetation Classification, Mapping, and Monitoring—Julie Evans, Todd Keeler-Wolf

Find out more and register now for the pre-conference workshop before they sell out! Take advantage of the savings by registering for early bird discounts. Learn about the important work of the California Native Plants Society.

Details here: conference.cnps.org

Altà Peak Chapter ❖ Online Resources

website: altapeakcnps.org
facebook page: facebook.com/altapeakchapterCNPS
email: altapeakchapter@gmail.com
Fire-follower Plant Spotted
Poodle-dog Bush follows the Rough Fire of 2015 in Sequoia National Forest
by Denise Griego

Poodle-dog bush is a California native plant and a common fire follower. This attractive plant has reached very high densities in recently burned areas, and is an important early colonizer that can help these areas recover. Look but don’t touch (or smell or collect) though, because this plant can cause serious allergic reactions for some people.

A member of the forget-me-not family (Boraginaceae), the poodle-dog bush, Eriodictyon parryii (AKA Turricula parryi), is a subshrub (with flexible, slightly woody stems) commonly found in disturbed areas, but rarely seen under undisturbed conditions. It can grow almost 10 feet tall and has purple bell-shaped flowers. It grows in recently burned areas of several vegetation types including forest, oak woodland, chaparral, and even riparian areas. However, it is relatively short-lived and will decrease in numbers two to five years after the fires as other native shrubs and trees recover.

Contact with this plant can cause severe skin irritation with swelling, itching and raised blisters similar to those caused by poison oak. It’s best to avoid it, but if you need to be in infested areas make sure to wear long pants and sleeves and to wash clothes and gear soon after contact. Rinse skin with cool water as soon as possible. It can take from 12 to 36 hours for the rash to appear, and symptoms can persist for up to two weeks. If symptoms do appear, cool compresses, calamine lotion or over-the-counter hydrocortisone creams may provide some relief. Fluid from the blisters will not spread the rash, but it’s best to refrain from scratching if possible, as open sores can be prone to other skin infections.

Poodle-dog bush Eriodictyon parryii on the road into Kings Canyon, June 2017
photo © Elsah Cort

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Name: ______________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________
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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 — click on JOIN.