

# Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society — Kern County Chapter  
September-October 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again this summer I have been grateful to live in Kern

County! I am talking native plants, not heat and smoke. All we have to do to see our natives is to go higher up on the Greenhorn or up the Johnsondale Road, and there are old friends, or something we have never seen! That last requires a stop by the side of the road, and the bringing out of the tomes, either Twissleman-Moe's *Flora of Kern County* or the *Jepson Manual*, or both. Then we enjoy the Big Search for the genus and species, take the photographs, and have a new friend.

At the beginning of August as we returned from Reno, we decided to come home by way of the Sherman Pass Road. It was spectacular, as it had recently rained. As usual, we saw plants we knew, and those we did not. It was those that we didn't know that caused that little excursion to last about 8 hours, and we had to eat a bag of chips for dinner on the road in the dark! I am hoping each of you had the opportunity to enjoy getting out and finding some plants to learn about during this last blooming period.

Next comes our gardening season, with a September program on gardening for birds, our October plant sale, then planting our finds in our yards and gardens. I hope to see you at the events we are planning to ready us for the fall and winter. Please join us!

LUCY CLARK

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robin Hayes  
Jason Kang

## KERN CNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Lucy Clark
Vice President	Debby Kroeger
Treasurer	Harris Morris
Secretary	Laura Stockton

### Committee Chairs

Field trip Chairs	Yvonne Turkal Don Turkal
Newsletter Chairs	Stephen Cooley Linda Cooley
Membership Chairs	Linda Cooley Clyde Golden
Plant Sale Chairs	Debby Kroeger Bonnie East
Program Chairs	OPEN
Hospitality	Sasha Honig
Publicity	Debby Kroeger
Web Master	Stephen Cooley
Plant Identification	Denis Kearns
Conservation	OPEN
Rare Plants	OPEN
Plant Communities	Mary Warters

### DID YOU KNOW

that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

Click on the JOIN button

## JEPSON MANUAL

In the Mimulus Memo 2007 fall edition I (Yvonne Turkal) mentioned that the Jepson Manual was to be revised and printed by 2009. I recently contacted Staci, the Herbarium at the University of California; Berkeley for an update and her response is below.

Dear Yvonne,

We have already completed a good number of treatments for the new Manual and those are posted here: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepsonmanual/review/>

We are really encouraging people to log on, use the treatments, and alert us to any possible errors. New treatments appear approximately every two weeks.

We are also currently searching for a scientific editor to help us complete the editing of the hundreds of treatments that have been turned in from authors around the world. It's proven to be difficult to find the right person for the position and this is currently our biggest obstacle. Interested candidates should contact Staci Markos ([smarkos@berkeley.edu](mailto:smarkos@berkeley.edu)). Until we get someone in the position, it's hard to give an accurate estimate for date of completion. The revision of the new Manual is such a big job -- volunteers are always welcome!

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## CONSERVATION ACTION

There is still time (until September 30<sup>th</sup>) to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the *Bitter Creek Grasslands Management and Restoration Plan*. E-mail Refuge Manager Mike Stockton at [mike\\_stockton@fws.gov](mailto:mike_stockton@fws.gov).

Kern CNPS is supporting Alternative D, which provides the managers a complement of techniques to restore the land to a native grasslands habitat. The techniques include managed seasonal grazing, prescribed burns, mowing or mechanical removal of vegetation, and herbicides. An additional important part of Alternative D is scientific monitoring and research on each of these techniques, research which can be used in the future there and in similar habitats.

Since the Bitter Creek NWR was designed for the California condor and other threatened and endangered species, the hoped for outcome will provide a more appropriate habitat. After Lois Henry's hit piece, threatening smoke everywhere, all the time, and in support of two cattle ranchers, we need to provide the refuge with support in its mission to provide a refuge, rather than grazing land for ranchers. Our point is that the land should be managed for the survival of native plants and animals, not cattle.

Go to [www.fws.gov/hoppermountain/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/hoppermountain/index.html) for all of the alternatives. Please get your e-mail in by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- LUCY CLARK

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Hello Everyone:

I am sad to announce that I will be leaving CNPS early next year. August 4th my husband, Jeff Jorgenson, will begin working with the Division of Scientific Authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, DC. While the news of his promotion has made our family very happy, the realization that I will be leaving CNPS makes me very sad. I enjoy working with you and have grown very fond of CNPS.

I am, however, not saying goodbye yet. I have decided to continue to work for CNPS until January 2009, so that I will be here through the CNPS Conservation Conference. I hope that my staying with CNPS until then will facilitate a smoother transition. I am already working with the CNPS Board of Directors to start the search for a new executive director and will soon advertise my position. I hope you can help us spread the word. We will undoubtedly keep you informed of the progress.

Sincerely yours, Amanda Jorgenson

## MEMBER MEETINGS

### Saturday, September 20- Gardening for the Birds

10am to 12pm

Trinity United Methodist Church basement

Corner of Niles and King (1 block east of Baker), Bakersfield

Frequent Kern River Preserve presenters, Marya Miller and Terri Gallion will offer a program dedicated to helping birds by providing food, water, and shelter in your garden, patio, or deck. Both are active in the Kern River Valley Gardening Club, and with growing natives. An array of appropriate native plants will be available for your perusal. Start your list for the October plant sale. Refreshments will be served. Bring your friends!

### Tuesday, October 21- Habitat Restoration, Is There Really Such a Thing?

6pm Learn to Key Native Plants/Socializing

7pm Program

Kern County Supt. of Schools, Corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and L Streets, Bakersfield

Long time CNPS local member and professional botanist Marcia H. Wolfe will share her extensive experience in habitat restoration throughout the West. From national parks and mines, to oil fields and canals, Marcia can draw on a long career in trying to repair man-made damage for the benefit of native habitats and the critters that use them. She will let us in on how projects are researched, designed, implemented, and monitored.

Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!

Notice our new location, please.

## NATIVE PLANT EVENTS

### KERN CNPS NATIVE PLANT SALE October 11

This year's annual native plant sale will be **Saturday, October 11, 2008, 9am – 2pm** at the Environmental Studies Area on the CSUB campus.

Plan on reserving some time to help with our club's annual plant Sale. There is always something you can do to help. This is a great way for the public to become more aware of the Kern Chapter of the CNPS. So, come out to Cal State to buy some plants and stay awhile to support our club!

Remember, proceeds from the sale help with restoration and clean-up projects around Bakersfield and provide scholarships to science fair winners in the botany category.

### Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times

March 28, 2009 - Lafayette Community Center, Lafayette

March 29, 2009 - Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley

Co-sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture*, CNPS and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

We are pleased to present a 2-day program of talks and workshops exploring the possibilities for creating beautiful waterwise gardens with plants native to California.

For more information, please visit

[www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org) [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) [www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org)

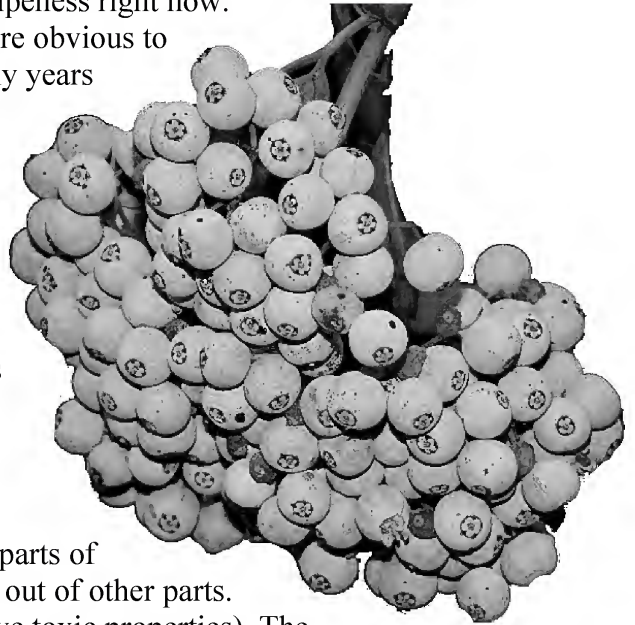
## Elderberry Likes Sun, Water

by **Marya Miller** (from The Kern River Courier)

Blue elderberries (*Sambucus mexicana*) are near their peak of ripeness right now. I like to write about plants during their peaks when they are more obvious to casual observers. This is a rewrite of an article I wrote too many years ago.

Elderberry is an attractive, useful and versatile plant. It grows along streams and in forest openings throughout much of California. This deciduous shrub typically grows to be 25 feet tall, blooms with clusters of tiny white flowers in the spring and early summer and produces bunches of purple berries after that. It can be seen many places in the Kern River Valley and is most obvious now in all its “purpleness.”

From ancient times the berries have been an important food source for many people. They are rich in vitamin A with fair amounts of potassium and calcium. Native Americans also use parts of the plant for medicinal purposes and make musical instruments out of other parts. (Warning: the unripe berries and other parts of the plant can have toxic properties). The berries are also an important food source for lots of species of wildlife – from bears to birds.



Elderberry does well in cultivation; it likes lots of sun and some water. We planted ours near our pond where it gets some seepage. Though it is considered a shrub because of its' multi-trunk growth habit it takes well to pruning so can be shaped into a small tree. It can be grown from seed or from cuttings. We purchased ours from the California Native Plant Society plant sale and it is now healthy looking and 10 feet tall. We did not get a good berry crop this year, however; perhaps it needs some supplemental irrigation.

## Home, Home Outside the Range Climate Change May Force California Endemic Plants to Migrate or Die

sources: [Los Angeles Times](#), [Reuters](#)

Climate change is expected to significantly affect California's endemic plants over the next century as temperatures rise and rainfall patterns change, according to a new study published in the journal *PLoS One*. Up to two-thirds of the state's unique plants could be wiped out in their current ranges by century's end and will have to move to cooler areas in order to survive -- either northward or higher in elevation. "In some of these cases, for example when a plant grows near the top of a mountain, there's nowhere to go," said researcher Katharine Hayhoe. About half of the plant species that are unique to the contiguous United States live only in California, so the predicted native-plant crisis there is significant. "In nearly every scenario we explored, biodiversity suffers -- especially if the flora can't disperse fast enough to keep pace with climate change," said ecologist Scott Loarie. By the end of the century, the study predicts that the Central Valley may become the primary habitat for Sonoran Desert plants, and even the giant coast redwoods may be forced farther north.

**Submitted by Yvonne Turkal**



# Emily Diggles & the Lake Isabella Boulevard Landscape

by Richard Cayia Rowe

(and the Kern River Valley Garden Group)



Our group's core committee voted to support founding member Emily Diggles and her wonderful Lake Isabella Boulevard Improvement Project. Half of our income from raffles, donations (maybe book & plant sales in the future) will be devoted to providing much-needed supplies to support this fine example of the use of Native and water-conserving plants in our valley's largest hamlet, Lake Isabella. By the way, half so far was about \$60.

Emily can be seen many mornings each week personally tending the Lake Isabella Boulevard Improvement Project. – a lot to do for a grandmother who will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on Saturday, July 26, 2008. She has some helpers (including the KRV Garden Group president Shirley Real) but would welcome more!

For more on this, go to:

∩ [http://krvr.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=121&Itemid=1](http://krvr.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=121&Itemid=1)

∩ Lake Isabella Boulevard Improvement Project Plant List

Text & photos (21 pages in a PDF file) showing the plants that were used with photos & information on each of them.

∩ Lake Isabella Boulevard Improvement Project Construction Drawing

A page from the Lake Isabella Boulevard Improvement Project construction drawings showing how the trees were planted.



# **GARDENING for BIRDS**

The **Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society** invites all bird lovers (you!) to a program dedicated to helping birds by providing food, water, and shelter in your garden, patio, and deck. Frequent Kern River Preserve presenter **Marya Miller**, and **Teri Gallion** will share their expertise with us.

**September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
Corner of Niles and King,  
1 block east of Baker  
Basement**

**Refreshments will be served.**

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CNPS – Kern County Chapter

% Stephen Cooley, Editor

[MimulusMemo@bak.rr.com](mailto:MimulusMemo@bak.rr.com)

## **INTERNET EDITION**

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.