

# Mimulus Memo



SEPTEMBER 2023

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## EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

18 through 30 – Order plants  
from ON-LINE PLANT SALE

21 – Meeting 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Program: Camp Okihi

23 - Cactus & Oak Tree Watering  
at Nature Conservancy sites

### OCTOBER

14 - Desert Tortoise  
Preserve Cleanup

16 – Meeting 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Program: Birds, Bees,  
Flowers & Fruits

21 — Pick-Up Day,  
Plant Sale purchases

### NOVEMBER

16 – Meeting 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Program: Sand Ridge Update

### DECEMBER

21 – **No Meeting**

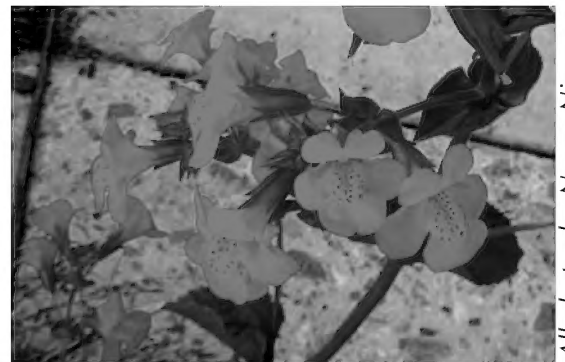
### JANUARY

## Highlights of Super Bloom 2023:

### A Photo Journal

by Nancy Nies

WHILE WALKING IN OUR NORTHEAST-BAKERSFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD in late March, Paul and I were amazed to find a **seep monkeyflower** (*Erythranthe guttata*) growing wild in what had earlier been a muddy gutter. Appropriately enough, both the species name “*guttata*” (for the flower’s droplet-shaped red spots) and the English word “gutter” (a channel for collecting and carrying off raindrops) both come from the Latin *gutta* (drop). With no fewer than two dozen delicate flowers, the monkeyflower was a harbinger of the late — but remarkable — spring to come. Since record rainfall and cool weather had been with us through March, most wildflowers bloomed later than usual. When they did, however, the results were worth the wait. For us, this spring’s botanical highlights included:



*Erythranthe guttata* (seep monkeyflower) blooming in gutter, Bakersfield.

All photos by Nancy Nies

### April 2-6: A Desert Getaway



*Phacelia campanularia* (**desert bluebells**), desert south of Barstow.

On our way to Palm Springs via the desert route, we stopped to stretch our legs and made a discovery. Around the perimeter of a rock outcropping were plants with purplish-blue flowers — *Phacelia campanularia* (**desert bluebells**). As we approached Palm Springs, we were greeted by a stunning sight. Against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains stood thousands of wind turbines, with a spectacular display of *Malacothrix glabrata* (**desert dandelion**) blanketing the sandy desert floor. We would see much more of the pale-yellow desert annual, along with the purplish-pink *Abronia villosa* (**desert sand verberna**) — in the city itself, gracing roadsides and vacant lots.



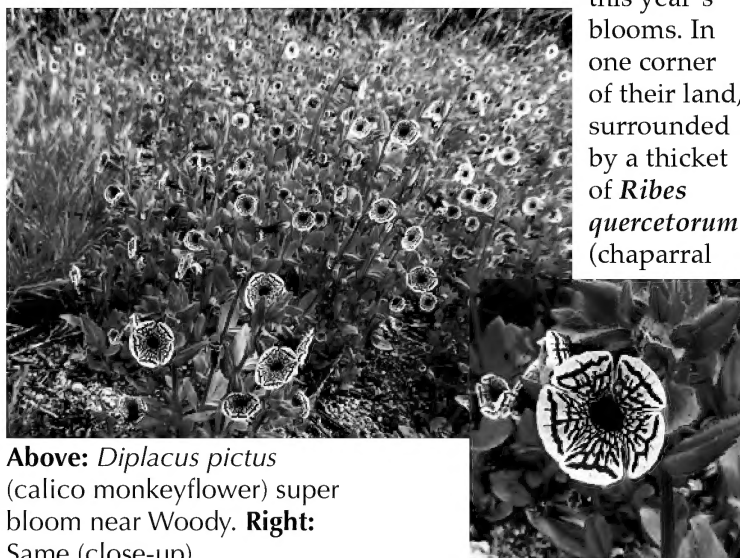
**Above:** *Malacothrix glabrata* (desert dandelion) blanketing the desert floor near Palm Springs. **Right:** *Malacothrix glabrata* (close-up).

### April 13: A Foothill Walk

On this spring morning we visited **Lucy Clark** and **Clyde Golden** to see what was blooming at their place near Woody. Here, in past years, we had seen what we had thought were impressive displays of the rare *Diplacus pictus* (calico monkeyflower), our chapter's logo flower. However, even our hosts had never seen anything to equal



*Abronia villosa* (Desert sand verbena), Palm Springs (close-up)



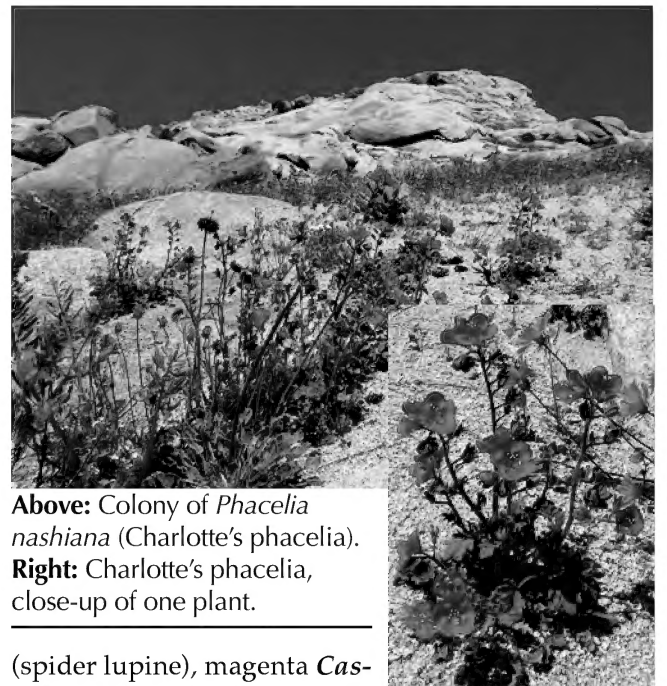
**Above:** *Diplacus pictus* (calico monkeyflower) super bloom near Woody. **Right:** Same (close-up).

this year's blooms. In one corner of their land, surrounded by a thicket of *Ribes quercetorum* (chaparral



*Castilleja exserta* (owl's clover) and *Gilia tricolor* (bird's-eye gilia), (close-up).

gooseberry), we witnessed a dense growth of *Diplacus pictus* that covered an area of roughly 150 square feet and produced hundreds of flowers. Continuing our walk, we were treated to a second thrilling sight — hillsides abloom with the blue *Lupinus benthamii*



**Above:** Colony of *Phacelia nashiana* (Charlotte's phacelia).

**Right:** Charlotte's phacelia, close-up of one plant.

(spider lupine), magenta *Castilleja exserta* (owl's clover), a lavender-tinged white *Gilia tricolor* (bird's eye gilia) — an eye-popping combination.

### April 19: A Treasure Hunt

Having been told that the "Mother Lode" of the rare *Phacelia nashiana* (Charlotte's phacelia) was to be seen this spring in the Short Canyon area, we set off to find it — and were not disappointed. Arriving at the base of a steep hillside full of poppies, phacelia, pincushion, and coreopsis, we headed for the granite outcrops far above. There, we found the large, thriv-

ing colony of Charlotte's phacelia we had heard about. Its vibrant, deep-blue flowers, sometimes ten or fifteen to a plant, stood out against the decomposed white granite, beautifully complementing the yellows and oranges of neighboring blooms. Charlotte's phacelia, however, was the star of the show.

#### April 24: An Artist's Palette

It was our first hike on the Cannell Meadow trail, which begins just north of Kernville, and it was a memorable one. Starting up the trail, we passed large numbers of *Dipterostemon capitatus* (blue dicks). With hillsides splashed with the purplish-red of *Castilleja exserta* (owl's clover), the pale lavender of *Gilia tricolor* (bird's-eye gilia), and the golden yellow of *Eschscholzia sp.* (poppies) and *Leptosyne bigelovii* (coreopsis), the landscape was like an Impressionist canvas, its various colors shimmering in the sunlight. Reaching the first pass, we were rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic view that reminded us of the Artist's Palette overlook in Death Valley. Here, however, the colors were due not to minerals, but to flowers!



Colorful panorama, Cannell Meadow trail near Kernville.

#### May 1: The Colors of the Carrizo

May Day found us among the few visitors at Carrizo Plain National Monument, where landscapes still exhibited eye-catching displays of color. First, we stopped to admire a hillside of the low-growing *Chaenactis glabriuscula* (yellow pincushion), interspersed with tall stands of the lavender-flowered *Salvia carduacea* (thistle sage) and the white *Delphinium gypsophilum* (gypsum-loving larkspur). Next we headed west, where the vivid magenta of owl's clover stood out against a vast mustard-yellow "moonscape" of fading *Lasthenia sp.* (goldfields). Exploring further, we came upon a large meadow turned bluish-lavender by *Lupinus albifrons* (silver bush lupine). Finally, driving east, we were surrounded by a landscape of bright-yellow *Monolopia lanceolata* (valley daisy), as far as the eye could see.

'll close with an image from our day in the Short Canyon area. As we were leaving, we happened upon an incredible sight — *Linanthus parryae* (sand blossoms), covering large swathes of sandy desert with both white and purple blooms. From a distance, it looked as if, in celebration of Super Bloom 2023, the desert had been strewn with Nature's own confetti! 🌸



*Salvia carduacea* (thistle sage) and *Chaenactis glabriuscula* (yellow pincushion), Carrizo Plain.



*Delphinium gypsophilum* (gypsum-loving larkspur).



**Right:** Meadow of *Lupinus albifrons* (silver bush lupine) and goldfields

**President's Message:**  
***Eriophyllum jepsonii* and**  
***E. confertiflorum* var. *laxiflorum***  
**in Kern County**

by Rich Spjut



THE ILLUSTRATION ON THE LEFT, ABOVE IS from W. L. Jepson (1925) *Manual of the Flowering Plants of California*. It shows:

- (a) "habit of plant" of *Eriophyllum confertiflorum* (DeCandolle 1833) var. *confertiflorum*,
- (b) disk flower with young fruit at base bristly at its tip, and
- (c) one ray flower of 5-6 ray flowers per flower head.

To the botanically untrained eye, each ray flower might appear to be one of 5-6 petals. but these are the **ray flowers** encircling many **disk flowers** (10 -35, JM2 – *The Jepson Manual* 2nd ed.). At the end of each leafy stem appears to be 10 flower heads tightly crowded together, each slightly elevated at the base by a very short peduncle, best seen on the far-right stem.

The illustration, above right, was extracted from Jaeger's (1940) *Desert Wildflowers* that he identified as *E. confertiflorum* var. *laxiflorum*. As one can easily see, the flower heads of var. *laxiflorum* are on longer peduncles.

Recently, I received comments through [Calflora](#) questioning my identification of *E. jepsonii* that I reported on Calflora from Cerro Noroeste (Mt. Abel) near the Ventura County line, accompanied by images of the plant in the field and the specimen I collected at that time. My report references an area south of the JM2 eflora-reported geographic range

of the species, mainly found along the Inner Coast Ranges. The comments and my rebuttal to those comments are also on Calflora, [Observation of \*Eriophyllum jepsonii\* — Calflora](#).

The following key was extracted from the JM2 eflora for those character features applied to distinguish *E. jepsonii* from *E. confertiflorum* and its varieties.

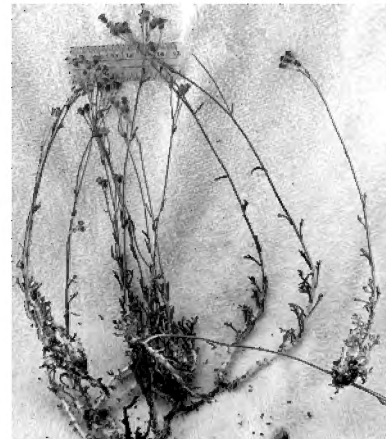
Heads 1–5; peduncle 5–10(14) cm; ray flowers 5–8, ray 6–10 mm – SnFrB, SCoRI..... *E. jepsonii*

Heads 3–30+; peduncle 0–2.5(9) cm; ray flowers (0)4–6(8), ray 2–5 mm ..... *E. confertiflorum*

Heads 10–30+; peduncle 0–1(2) cm..... var. *confertiflorum*

Heads 3–10; peduncle 0.5–2.5(9) cm.... var. *tanacetiflorum*

An image of the Mt. Abel specimen (below, top) and plant I photographed on Piute Mountain (below, bottom) are shown below. The relatively long peduncles and fewer flower heads per peduncle distinguishes *E. jepsonii* from *E. confertiflorum*. These features agree with JM2 key characters given.



In my draft the *Trees and Shrubs of Kern County*, I also recognize *E. confertiflorum* var. *laxiflorum* (Gray 1883) in Kern County. Photos of this plant can be seen on [World Botanical Associates](#) webpage, [Eriophyllum \(worldbotanical.com\)](#). This variety was also recognized by Jepson (1925) and by others while

the name has not always been accounted for in later floras. An illustration can be found in Jaeger's (1940) *Desert Wildflowers*. This variety differs in its shorter peduncles in an umbrella (umbel-like) arrangement.

*Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *tanacetiflorum*, described by Greene in 1891 as a species, is of limited geographical range in the central Sierra Nevada. The type specimen lacks ray flowers. ❁

## Cactus and Oak Workparty: Flood Damage Control & Seed Collection

by Lucy Clark

ON SEPTEMBER 1ST, 8 HARDY KERN CNPS-ERS joined 3 people from **The Nature Conservancy's Randall Preserve** staff: our friend **Rachel Mason**, her boss, our older friend, **Zach Principe**, and the new biologist, **Maria Viteri**, for an amazing day near Caliente. The Caliente Creek had flooded, and all of our oaks inside their green tubes were surrounded by grass, weeds, and MUD! These were swept by floodwater to form a miniature 'house' for each plant, and had to be removed by hand. The leaves were washed with creek water, and stone edgings were reset.

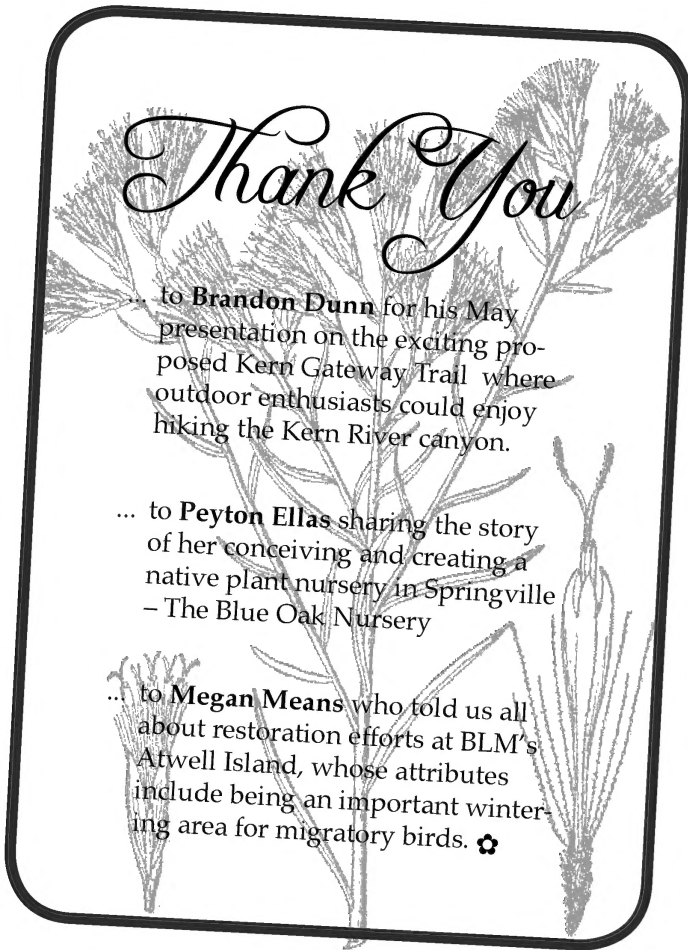
After this work, we collected seeds to be planted at Keene's **Tweedy Creek** location. **Zach, Clyde, and Lucy** collected seeds from *Encelia actoni* (**brittle-bush**), *Lepidospartum squamatum* (**scale-broom**), *Asclepias erosa* (**milkweed**), *Peritoma arborea* (**bladderpod**), and a few more species along the road. **Gene, Claudia, Bill, Fred, and Paul** searched the side of the creek for cones of *Pinus sabiniana* (**Grey Pine**), and banged them around to retrieve their seeds. I understand there were many pricked fingers!

The weather was lovely, and the signs of the flood were impressive. The fact that our little trees survived was amazing!

Next work morning is **Saturday, September 23rd**. If you want details, please contact me at [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com). We would enjoy your company and efforts! ❁



**Above:** Oaks in their green tubes, before and after cleanup. **Below:** Four of the six Grey Pine cone-collectors: Gene, Claudia, Maria — new biologist for TNC — and Bill.



... to **Brandon Dunn** for his May presentation on the exciting proposed Kern Gateway Trail where outdoor enthusiasts could enjoy hiking the Kern River canyon.

... to **Peyton Ellas** sharing the story of her conceiving and creating a native plant nursery in Springville — The Blue Oak Nursery

... to **Megan Means** who told us all about restoration efforts at BLM's Atwell Island, whose attributes include being an important wintering area for migratory birds. ❁



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CNPS is the leader for providing reliable information on California native plants and plant conservation. Comprehensive information about California's flora and vegetation communities is available throughout the state for conservation and educational purposes. CNPS's leadership influences personal ethics and actions, as well as public policy for native plant protection.

## Chapter Meetings

## upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, September 21, 2023 - 7pm

**Presenter:** Katherine Winters  
**Topic:** Camp Okihi - Restoration Plans

Thursday, October 19, 2023 - 7pm

**Presenter:** Rich Spjut,  
**Topic:** The Birds & the Bees, the Flowers & Then Here Come the Fruits

Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 7pm

**Presenter:** Greg Warrick, CNLM  
**Topic:** Sand Ridge Update

December 2023

NO MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 7pm

**ANNUAL POTLUCK,**  
**Presenter:** Courtney Matzke,  
**Topic:** Flora of Paiute Mountain

Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 7pm

**Presenter:** Tammie Meyers,  
California Water Service  
**Topic:** Water-wise Planting

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All in-person chapter meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month.

**Place:** Most 3rd Thursday meetings will be held in the Larry E Reider Bldg., 2000 K St. **Park in the parking structure east of the building and enter from doors on that side.** Front doors lock at 5 pm. Check for signs indicating in which room meeting will be.

**Meeting times: 6 –8:30 pm:**

**6 pm** - Socializing, plant ID and gardening discussion groups; bring snacks

**7 pm** - Program presentation and a short business meeting. Ideas for speakers are welcome. Contact **Paul Gipe** ([pgipe@igc.org](mailto:pgipe@igc.org)). ☀

## Upcoming Events — 2023

**Monday, September 18 to**

**Saturday, September 30, 2023**

**ON-LINE PLANT SALE**

Order your plants on chapter website and **pick up your plants October 21, 2023.** See page 7 for plant list.



**Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 9am–Noon**

**Watering Bakersfield Cactus and Valley Oaks**

**Location:** Nature Conservancy Properties near Caliente, California.

**Contact:** Lucy Clark ([lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)) for details.



**Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 9am–Noon**

**Volunteer Oak Tree Watering**

**Location:** Hot Springs Valley Wetlands

Join Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation for a maintenance day. We will be re-planting and weeding on the restoration site, clearing tumbleweeds, and removing trash. Please bring water, gloves, and a digging/ weeding tool or pitchfork for tumbleweeds. Also, if you would like, please bring a food or drink item to share.

**Directions:** Traveling southbound on Lake Isabella Blvd. turn right on Crestview Ave. (at CarQuest Auto Parts); take the next right onto Mayfair Rd., which leads to the gate to Hot Springs Valley Wetlands.

**Contact:** Kathy Dwyer ([todwyergm@gmail.com](mailto:todwyergm@gmail.com)) to let her know you are coming.



**Tuesday, October 14, 2023 - 9am–3pm**

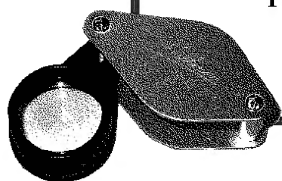
**Desert Tortoise Preserve Work Party**

**Location:** The Desert Tortoise Preserve near California City

**Contact:** Lucy Clark ([lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)) for details. ☀



Removing invasive plants at the Desert Tortoise Preserve.



## Kern CNPS Plant Sale Offerings

See photos of these plants available to order **Sept 18 through Sept. 30** at <https://cnps-kern-plant-sale.square.site/>. Plant pick-up date is **Oct. 21**

|                                           |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i>               |                  |
| Common yarrow .....                       | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> Island Pink   |                  |
| Pink yarrow .....                         | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>             |                  |
| Narrow leaf milkweed .....                | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Asclepias speciosa</i>                 |                  |
| Showy milkweed .....                      | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>             |                  |
| Santa Cruz Island morning glory ...       | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Ceanothus concha</i>                   |                  |
| CA Lilac Concha .....                     | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| .....                                     | 5 gal ..... \$25 |
| <i>Ceanothus</i> 'Wheeler Cyn             |                  |
| Wheeler Canyon California lilac.....      | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| .....                                     | 5 gal ..... \$25 |
| <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> Western redbud |                  |
| Western redbud.....                       | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| .....                                     | 5 gal ..... \$25 |
| <i>Chilopsis lineafis</i> Dark Purple     |                  |
| Desert willow dark purple .....           | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| .....                                     | 5 gal ..... \$25 |
| <i>Encelia farinosa</i> .....             |                  |
| Desert sunflower.....                     | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> .....       |                  |
| Buckwheat .....                           | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>                |                  |
| St. Cath. Lace/ Giant Buck .....          | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Festuca Idahoensis</i>                 |                  |
| Idaho fescue.....                         | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Galvezia speciosa</i>                  |                  |
| Island snapdragon.....                    | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Hereromeles arbutifolia</i>            |                  |
| Toyon.....                                | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| .....                                     | 5 gal ..... \$25 |
| <i>Isomeris arboreus</i>                  |                  |
| Bladderpod .....                          | 1gal ..... \$10  |
| <i>Iris</i> Pacific Coast Hybrid - mixed  |                  |
| Iris .....                                | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Monardella odoratissima</i>            |                  |
| Montain mint.....                         | 1 gal ..... \$10 |
| <i>Monardella villosa</i>                 |                  |
| Coyote mint.....                          | 1 gal ..... \$10 |

|                                            |                    |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>                 |                    |
| Deer grass .....                           | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>         |                    |
| Desert penstemon.....                      | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>          |                    |
| Scarlet bugler.....                        | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Quercus lobata</i>                      |                    |
| Valley oak .....                           | tree pot ..... \$8 |
| <i>Quercus douglasii</i>                   |                    |
| Blue oak .....                             | tree pot ..... \$8 |
| <i>Ribes aureum</i>                        |                    |
| Golden currant.....                        | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>                 |                    |
| Perfume currant.....                       | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Ribes sanguinum</i>                     |                    |
| Red flowering currant.....                 | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Romenya coulteri</i>                    |                    |
| Matilija poppy .....                       | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Rosa californica</i>                    |                    |
| CA rose.....                               | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Salvia Allen Chickering</i>             |                    |
| Allen Chickering sage .....                | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Salvia Bees Bliss</i>                   |                    |
| Bees Bliss sage .....                      | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Winifred Gilman |                    |
| Cleveland sage .....                       | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Salvia apiana</i>                       |                    |
| White sage .....                           | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Salvia spathacea</i>                    |                    |
| Hummingbird sage.....                      | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Sambucus mexicana</i>                   |                    |
| Mexican elderberry .....                   | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>                 |                    |
| Blue-eyed grass .....                      | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Sphaerlcea ambigua</i>                  |                    |
| Desert mallow.....                         | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Sphaeralcea</i> Matilija Red            |                    |
| Matilija red desert mallow .....           | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Sphaeralcea</i> 'Sergio's Pink          |                    |
| Pink /Orange desert mallow.....            | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Epilobium californica</i>               |                    |
| California fuchsia .....                   | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Epilobium cana</i>                      |                    |
| Cana fuchsia .....                         | 1 gal ..... \$10   |
| <i>Epilobium catalina</i>                  |                    |
| Catalina fuchsia.....                      | 1 gal ..... \$10   |



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- Council Delegate – ..... OPEN
- Field Trips – (March) Lucy Clark & Megan Means .....
- Newsletter – Dinah Campbell..... [mimulus.memo@gmail.com](mailto:mimulus.memo@gmail.com)
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- Webmaster – Paul Gipe; Dinah Campbell, Monica Tudor

The Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society currently meets the third Thursday of each month via Zoom:  
 Chapter website: [kern.cnps.org](http://kern.cnps.org)

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons – professional and amateur – with an interest in California’s native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes **Flora Magazine**, a quarterly journal with interviews, conservation updates, gardening advice. **Artemesia**, CNPS’s scientific journal and **The Mimulus Memo**, the Kern Chapter newsletter published quarterly.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at [cnps.org](http://cnps.org)  
**Membership levels:** \$25, \$50, \$120, \$500 (\$25 minimum)  
 Go Perennial at \$5/ month

To **unsubscribe/subscribe** to Kern CNPS email communications members should contact: [membership@cnps.org](mailto:membership@cnps.org) (916) 738-7604

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Mimulus  
 Memo



Inside this Issue:

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