

California Native Plant Society

Sacramento Valley Chapter
Stockton Sub-chapter

Fall/Winter 2005



Photo by Bob Stahmer

Old Man's Whiskers
Prairie Smoke
Geum triflorum

For Stockton sub-chapter information about any events, trips, memberships, article/photo submissions and other issues please contact either:

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Carson Pass Wildflower Extravaganza

by Dr. Mark Brunell

The late July wildflower hike at Carson Pass took place on a beautiful day with a large crowd in attendance. At the trailhead our group gathered interest from several hikers, and a few of them tagged along to hear about the plant life on the trail. We started with the identification of the dominant conifer species, especially Lodgepole, Whitebark, and Western White Pines, and moved into shrubs and then herbs. Several shrub species were in flower, including two Currant species, Roundleaf Snowberry, Small-leaf Cream Bush, and Bitter Cherry. In the drier sites along the trail, several flowering herbaceous species were in great abundance, highlighted by four lupine species, Brewer's Golden Aster, Davis' Knotweed, Toothed Owl's Clover, two Penstemon species, Sierra Onion, Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily, Subalpine fleabane, three species of buckwheat, Scarlet Gilia, Douglas' Campion, Mules Ears and King's Sandwort. The moist meadows were adorned with masses of whites, yellows, purples, and reds, against vivid green foliage and a deep blue sky. Dominant meadow species included the Western Columbine, two Indian Paintbrush species, at least two Larkspur species, Gray's Lovage, at least two Cinquefoil species, Monument Plant and Corn Lily. Our group also visited a shady streamside habitat dominated by Corn Lily, Subalpine Fleabane, Willow herb, Bigleaf Lupine, Larger Mountain Monkeyflower, Water-leaf Phacelia, Meadow Rue and Arrowleaf Groundsel. We also visited Frog Lake for a lunch and swim break and saw the Missouri Iris and Old Man's Whiskers in fruit. The group reached Lake Winnemucca in the afternoon and took a rest on the rocky shoreline, where Red Heather was growing in abundance. Slightly further down the trail, we saw Labrador Tea and Cusick's Speedwell, and then for a finale of color we enjoyed the lovely Sierra Primrose. On the way back to the parking lot, Martha and David took an alternate route adjacent to Frog Lake, and on the descent discovered a Mountain Ash in flower. The outing was a fantastic flower over-load and we all look forward to repeating it next year.

(for species list see Page 2)

For further instigths by Dr. Brunell and member photos of the Carson Pass outing and flora, please join us for our 1st 2006 meeting (yet to be scheduled)...

Our next meeting (Dec. 16) will focus on a recap of this past season's memories thru sharing of photos and stories from members' native plant adventures this past season. A Holiday potluck at 6:30 will precede the 7:30 meeting. All are welcome to attend the entire evening or just part at Bob's beginning at 6:30. If interested in attending this final event for 2005, please RSVP to Bob and get directions... (209) 943-2277.



Photo by Bob Stahmer

Crimson columbine
Aquilegia formosa

Don't plant pest species!
... see page 4



**Holiday Meeting
& Potluck Dec. 16
(209) 943-2277**



Ferns

Dryopteridaceae
Cystopteris fragilis, Fragile Fern

Conifers

Pinaceae
Abies magnifica, California Red Fir
Pinus albicaulis, White Bark Pine
Pinus contorta subsp. *murrayana*, Lodgepole Pine
Pinus monticola, Western White Pine
Tsuga mertensiana, Mountain Hemlock

Flowering Plants, Dicots

Apiaceae
Angelica breweri, Brewer's Angelica
Ligusticum grayi, Gray's Lovage
Osmorhiza occidentalis, Western Sweetroot

Asteraceae
Aster breweri, Brewer's Golden Aster
Crepis acuminata, Longleaf Hawksbeard
Erigeron peregrinus ssp. *callianthemus*, Subalpine Fleabane
Eriophyllum lanatum, Common Woolly Sunflower
Senecio triangularis, Arrowleaf Groundsel
Wyethia mollis, Mules ears

Boraginaceae
Hackelia micrantha, Jessica Sticktight

Brassicaceae
Arabis platysperma, Pioneer Rockcress
Erysimum capitatum, Wallflower

Caprifoliaceae
Sambucus racemosa, Red Elderberry
Symphoricarpos rotundifolius, Roundleaf Snowberry

Caryophyllaceae
Arenaria kingii, King's Sandwort
Silene douglasii, Douglas' Campion

Ericaceae
Ledum glandulosum, Labrador Tea
Phyllodoce breweri, Red Heather

Fabaceae
Lupinus arbustus, Spurred Lupine
Lupinus breweri, Brewer's Lupine
Lupinus polyphyllus, Bigleaf Lupine

Gentianaceae
Swertia radiata, Monument Plant

Grossulariaceae
Ribes cereum, Wax Currant
Ribes montigenum, Mountain Gooseberry

Hydrophyllaceae
Phacelia hydrophylloides, Water-leaf Phacelia

Lamiaceae
Agastache urticifolia, Giant Hyssop
Monardella odoratissima, Mountain Pennyroyal

Linaceae
Linum lewisii, Blue Flax

Onagraceae
Epilobium sp., Willow herb

Polemoniaceae
Ipomopsis aggregata, Scarlet Gilia
Phlox diffusa, Spreading Phlox

Polygonaceae
Eriogonum incanum, Frosted Buckwheat
Eriogonum nudum, Naked Buckwheat
Eriogonum umbellatum var. *polyanthum*, Sulphur-flower Buckwheat
Polygonum davisae, Davis' Knotweed

Portulacaceae
Calyptidium umbellatum, Pussypaws

Primulaceae
Primula suffrutescens, Sierra Primrose

Ranunculaceae
Aquilegia formosa, Western Columbine
Delphinium nuttallianum, Meadow Larkspur
Thalictrum fendleri, Meadow Rue

Rosaceae
Geum triflorum, Old Man's Whiskers
Holodiscus microphyllus, Small-leaf Creambush
Potentilla glandulosa, Sticky Cinquefoil
Potentilla gracilis, Slender Cinquefoil
Prunus emarginata, Bitter Cherry
Sorbus californica, Mountain Ash

Rubiaceae
Kelloggia galioides, Kelloggia

Scrophulariaceae
Castilleja miniata, Giant Red Indian Paintbrush
Castilleja nana, Dwarf Alpine Indian Paintbrush
Mimulus tilingii, Larger Mountain Monkeyflower
Orthocarpus cuspidatus, Toothed Owl's-clover
Pedicularis groenlandica, Elephant Heads
Penstemon heterodoxus var. *heterodoxus*, Sierra Beardtongue
Penstemon newberryi, Mountain Pride
Veronica cusickii, Cusick's Speedwell

Flowering Plants, Monocots

Iridaceae
Iris missouriensis

Liliaceae
Allium campanulatum, Sierra Onion
Calchortus leichtlinii, Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily
Smilacina racemosa, False Solomon's Seal
Triteleia ixiodes, Golden Stars
Veratrum californicum, Corn Lily

Poaceae
Melica stricta, Rock Melic
Phleum alpinum, Mountain Timothy

Western Redbud - *Cercis occidentalis*

by David Marraccini

The Western Redbud is a California native legume. Being a legume, it helps return nitrogen to the soil. It is also a very attractive and drought-tolerant species, making it ideal for use in Central Valley gardens. In addition, it is used extensively in plantings along roads and freeways.

The Western Redbud has many attributes that make it a great specimen for use in landscaping. The beautiful flowers usually bloom in the early spring from February to April. The flower masses cover the stems next to the inconspicuous immature leaves. The flowers are red to dark pink in color. Some people use the word magenta to describe the color. The definition of magenta is a "wine rose color". Occasionally, a rare specimen will have white flowers. The Western Redbud is therefore an excellent plant for bringing early spring color to the landscape.

The cordate (heart-shaped) to reniform (kidney-shaped) leaves usually begin expanding in mid-February. The flowers are still persistent at this time. When the leaves first emerge they are a shiny bronze-copper color. Later the leaves will turn bright green, then mature and take on a bluish green cast on the upper surfaces while the lower surfaces remain light green. Western Redbud is also a great fall color shrub. Leaves turn light yellow in the fall but in higher elevations will range from red to yellow in color.

In landscaping, the Western Redbud makes a great hedge or specimen shrub ranging, on average, from 2-16 feet tall and 4-8 feet wide. It grows in partial shade to full sun. It requires summer watering but once established the Western Redbud is drought-tolerant. The Western Redbud grows in the California inner and outer coast range mountains as well as the Sierra Foothills up to an elevation of 4,000 feet. It can also be found growing in the valleys of California along rivers and streams as well as in the grasslands. It can be found in the oak woodlands of the foothills. It is adapted to dry conditions. You will find Western Redbud growing in sandy loams and clay soils. Although drought-tolerant, it does respond well to some summer watering. This can be seen in the specimens at Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton native plant garden which receive some summer watering. The leaves grow quite large in size and the plants are very robust.

The Native Californians used the Western Redbud for basketry. They used the stems and twigs in both the "twined" and "coiled" form baskets. Each fall, parts of the redbud shrub were pruned to encourage the growth of straight new shoots for harvest the following spring. "The whole stem served as the red base for some coiled baskets and the split peeled shoot provided long white wrapping strands". The native people used the bark, soaked in water overnight and simmered the following day to provide a rose to tan color dye for their baskets.

Currently people use the flowers, which have a mild sweet/acid flavor, in salads for flavor and color.

The Western Redbud has an eastern counterpart that grows in the hardwood forests. People who have lived in or traveled to the eastern United States often find the eastern redbud blooming in the spring, bringing color to those forests.

Suggestions for 2006 trips & expeditions are now being accepted. Please send any and all correspondence to vbromper@aol.com so we can plan for the best season yet.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO FEATURE "LIVING ROOF"!

Did you know that the new California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park will feature a "living" roof which will be the nation's largest of this type. Nine species of plants (five wildflowers) out of the original 35 tested over two years survived the test period. All plants in the trial are native species from a 25-mile radius from the location. The roof will cover two and a half acres. The plants must survive the challenging climate and must be able to survive without irrigation. The diverse chosen species range from wild strawberry to stonecrop.



Photo by Bob Stahmer

List from a pamphlet by Cal-IPC (California Invasive Plant Council)

When considering plants for your landscaping needs please don't plant the following which have a habit of escaping and becoming pests in our California wildlands...

Iceplant (Hottentot fig) *Carpobrotus edulis*

Periwinkle *Vinca major*

English Ivy (Algerian Ivy) *Hedera helix*, *H. canariensis*

Licorice plant *Helichrysum petiolare*

Scarlet Wisteria (Rattlebox) *Sesbania punicea*

Broom (Scotch, French or Portuguese) *Cytisus scoparius*, *Genista monspessulana*, *Spartium junceum*, *Cytisus striatus*

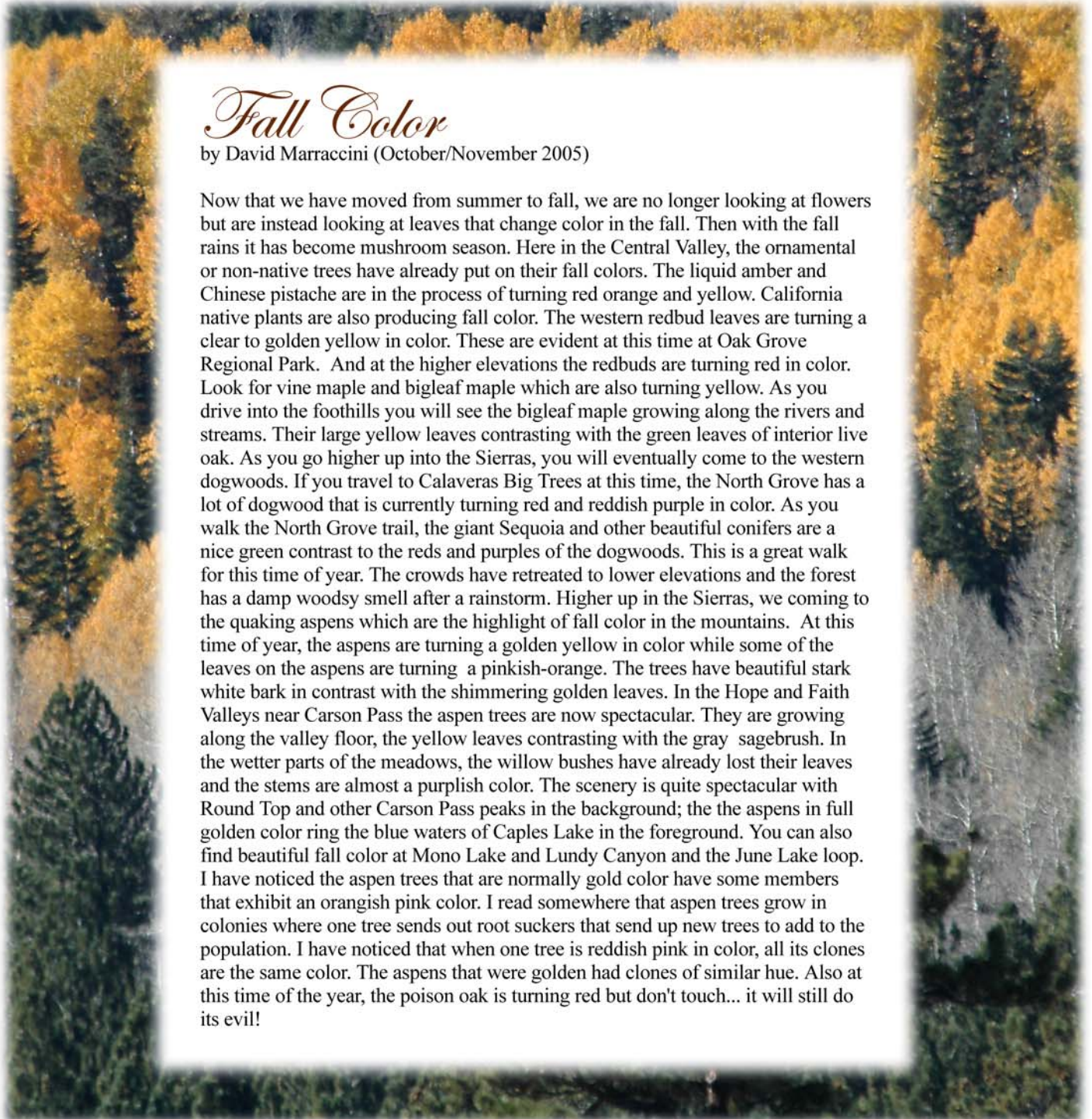
Pampasgrass *Cortaderia selloana*



Fall Color

by David Marraccini (October/November 2005)

Now that we have moved from summer to fall, we are no longer looking at flowers but are instead looking at leaves that change color in the fall. Then with the fall rains it has become mushroom season. Here in the Central Valley, the ornamental or non-native trees have already put on their fall colors. The liquid amber and Chinese pistache are in the process of turning red orange and yellow. California native plants are also producing fall color. The western redbud leaves are turning a clear to golden yellow in color. These are evident at this time at Oak Grove Regional Park. And at the higher elevations the redbuds are turning red in color. Look for vine maple and bigleaf maple which are also turning yellow. As you drive into the foothills you will see the bigleaf maple growing along the rivers and streams. Their large yellow leaves contrasting with the green leaves of interior live oak. As you go higher up into the Sierras, you will eventually come to the western dogwoods. If you travel to Calaveras Big Trees at this time, the North Grove has a lot of dogwood that is currently turning red and reddish purple in color. As you walk the North Grove trail, the giant Sequoia and other beautiful conifers are a nice green contrast to the reds and purples of the dogwoods. This is a great walk for this time of year. The crowds have retreated to lower elevations and the forest has a damp woodsy smell after a rainstorm. Higher up in the Sierras, we coming to the quaking aspens which are the highlight of fall color in the mountains. At this time of year, the aspens are turning a golden yellow in color while some of the leaves on the aspens are turning a pinkish-orange. The trees have beautiful stark white bark in contrast with the shimmering golden leaves. In the Hope and Faith Valleys near Carson Pass the aspen trees are now spectacular. They are growing along the valley floor, the yellow leaves contrasting with the gray sagebrush. In the wetter parts of the meadows, the willow bushes have already lost their leaves and the stems are almost a purplish color. The scenery is quite spectacular with Round Top and other Carson Pass peaks in the background; the the aspens in full golden color ring the blue waters of Caples Lake in the foreground. You can also find beautiful fall color at Mono Lake and Lundy Canyon and the June Lake loop. I have noticed the aspen trees that are normally gold color have some members that exhibit an orangish pink color. I read somewhere that aspen trees grow in colonies where one tree sends out root suckers that send up new trees to add to the population. I have noticed that when one tree is reddish pink in color, all its clones are the same color. The aspens that were golden had clones of similar hue. Also at this time of the year, the poison oak is turning red but don't touch... it will still do its evil!





MONO BASIN

KALEIDOSCOPE

OF COLOR

Photos & Text by Martha Mallery

By mid-October the aspen groves have turned to rivers of gold cascading down the canyons toward Mono Lake...



...where ivory-colored tufa towers like kings and queens with regal retinues stand sentinel in the azure waters...



...till evening when the setting sun bids a flaming farewell to the day and pinkens all that is left behind on earth.

California Native Plant Society

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(and Stockton subchapter at no additional cost!)
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