A Preview Of The “Pinnacles Jewelflower” - an undescribed species - and other botanical rarities of Pinnacles

Though identified nearly 20 years ago as a probable new species, the “Pinnacles Jewelflower” has languished undescribed. At last, this species is in the process of being described. As an extremely rare endemic species, describing it is the first step to making sure it is preserved. Pinnacles has also been allocated funding to begin systematic surveys of this rare species. As of yet, however, we have only casual observations about the species and no idea of the sizes, number, and extent of populations. In this “preview” talk, we will look at what we know so far about this species, its characteristics, and its preferred habitat, and discuss the distribution and status of other similar species in the area. We will also cover some other interesting and unusual plants found at Pinnacles.

Because the Chapter is still observing the COVID-19 directives to avoid large gatherings of people, we’ll have a presentation using Zoom in lieu of a regular chapter meeting at the Pacific Grove Museum. You can watch the lecture at home on your computer. The Zoom link will be posted on the website, https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/ and sent a day or two in advance in an eblast. The Zoom presentation will start at 7:30 and you’ll need to login to the web link with the instructions that will be available on the Chapter website and sent in the eblast. As there is a waiting room at our Zoom meeting, please come early!

Presentation time Thursday, January 13th at 7:30pm
Elections for 2022 Officers and Directors

A nominating committee has selected and the board of the Monterey Bay Chapter has approved the following slate of officers and directors for calendar year 2022.

There will be an election on March 10th, 2022 meeting where any further nominations will be taken from the floor and then a vote.

Editor’s Note: This issue was supposed to come out weeks ago, but due to technical issues, it was delayed. Because of these issues we will not be able to hold our election in January as planned, but will do so on March 10th. I apologize for this and hope that this doesn’t cause any discomfort or dismay among our amazing membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Brian LeNeve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Pat Regan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bob Hale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Carol LeNeve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>Peigi Duvall  Brian Edwards  Rosemary Foster  Nikki Nedeff  Kenneth McIntire  Chris Stearns  Kevin Uhlinger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plant of the month, by Patrick Regan

Toyon or Christmas berry

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Most commonly known as Toyon, a name given to this plant by the local Ohlone peoples before the arrival of Europeans, this handsome shrub stands out in the Winter landscape when its other nickname become most obvious. Dangling clusters of berries, typically dark red but often orange or even yellow adorn the leathery leaved shrubs and draw the attention of gardeners, decorators and migratory birds alike. The ripening fruit (small berry sized pomes, like miniature apples) make festive winter decorations or irresistible snacks for hungry birds. It is possible to do both, for a short while at least; I have seen a flock of Cedar waxwings strip a large plant (12’ tall by 10’ wide) clean of berries in less than an hour. (It is also “edible” for people, but much more palatable when dehydrated or air dried, than when fresh.)
Heteromeles arbutifolia is a common member of many plant communities from Shasta county to Baja occurring primarily in woodlands and chaparral in Coastal and interior foothills. In coastal Monterey county it can be found in the Chaparral along Ridge tops, in the Coastal scrub at transitions to woodlands and in the Pine and oak forests.

As a landscape plant Toyon has many potential uses; as a focal point specimen, a screen between buildings (it is very adaptable to different levels of light) or as the central backbone to a large garden of diverse plant sizes and textures. Before the bright red winter berries Toyon flowers in mid to late summer with large clusters of clean white flowers that are attractive to a number of butterfly, bee and wasp species. A mature plant in full flower can be a very showy display in the heat of summer.

Like all rose family plants, there are the proverbial thorns to go with the flowers. Toyon has a few horticultural quirks. One is its propensity for being somewhat of a slow starter. It often takes a year or two before it decides to really shift into any active new growth. It will appear to just sit there doing nothing for a year or two and then just when you have become convinced it never will, it starts shooting up and out with lush new branches. After that it is a surprisingly fast grower. It also suffers some of the fungal issues that are common to the fruit bearing members of the rose family like leaf spot and fire blight. These are often cosmetic problems that can be cleaned up and avoided by removal of infected leaves and branches and maintaining good air circulation and clearance around the plants. Toyon takes pruning and even shearing well, but timing and clean tools are important. It flowers best on year old wood, so pruning and shaping is best done in early spring.

Propagation is most commonly from seed, which is best collected from ripe berries between December and February. The fruits need to be mashed to extract the seeds and then the seed can be sown directly or kept in cool moist conditions (in a zip lock bag with a little moist peat moss) for up to 8 weeks before sowing directly in a container or the ground. This is one shrub that frequently shows up (apparently) serendipitously in gardens of native plant enthusiasts (or their Neighbors!). The bright colored fruit entices many bird species to assist in the propagation process by eating the berries, “processing” the seed and “depositing” it from nearby perches, ready to germinate when sufficient light and moisture are available. Many Toyons in my gardens “planted” this way.

Cutting propagation is also possible, though slow unless sufficient bottom heat is used under your medium. Named clones are rare, but a bright yellow fruited selection named “Davis gold” is sometimes available from specialty nurseries and botanic gardens.
Helpful CNPS Information Page

CNPS is dedicated to Preserving and Protecting California Native Plants and Their Habitats

You must register for field trips online at:
www.meetup.com/The-Monterey-Bay-Area-Hiking-Group
Meeting times, locations, and more details are on Meetup.
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND LACK OF A FIELD TRIP CHAIR, MEETUP EVENTS ARE LIMITED.

The Next Publication of The Wallflower
Newsletter: February 2022

Check Out Our Websites
Monterey Bay Chapter:
https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/
State Organization: www.cnps.org

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Book Sales: *Carol LeNeve, ccleneve@att.net, 624-8497
Conservation: Donna Burch, dburch@comcast.net, 646-9357
Field Trips: Help Needed!
Horticulture: *Patrick Regan, Co-chair, patrick@reganbhc.com, 747-7756 and
*Peigi Duvall, Co-chair, 650-704-3926, peigidv@indigdesign.com
Hospitality: *Rosemary Foster, rf4mbcnps@att.net, 277-8081
Local Flora: *Jim Pittman, jimpittman22@gmail.com, 726-1768
19180, El Cerrito Way, Aromas, CA 95004
Membership: *Brian LeNeve, brian@brianleneve.com, 624-8497
Newsletter Editor: *Chris Storms cnpsmbwallflower@gmail.com
Past President: *Nikki Nedeff, nikki@ventanaview.net, 320-9463
Plant Sale: *Patrick Regan (see Horticulture)
President: * Brian LeNeve, brian@brianleneve.com, 624-8497
Programs: Daian Hennington, daian.hennington@gmail.com, 747-4529
Secretary: *Robert Hale, hale@nps.edu, 656-3108
Stewardship: Bruce Delgado, bdelgado62@gmail.com, C 277-7690, W 394-8314
Treasurer:
Vice President: *Patrick Regan (see Horticulture)
Webmaster: *Brian Edwards, brian@bcedwards.com
Wildflower Show: *Brian LeNeve (see Membership)

* Board Members

Join CNPS Today!

You may also join online at www.cnps.org
★ Print very clearly, please. ★

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Telephone
Email for Newsletter
Chapter (County) Affiliation

Individual Membership Levels:

☐ Limited Income $25  ☐ Patron $1,000
☐ Individual $50  ☐ Benefactor $2,500
☐ Plant Lover $120  There are more options online
☐ Supporter $500 including business and library.

Please mail this membership form with payment to:
Brian LeNeve, CNPS Monterey Bay Membership
PO Box 1012, Carmel, CA 93921

Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.