



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

Protecting California's native flora since
1965

Our mission is to conserve California's native
plants and their natural habitats, and increase
understanding, appreciation, and horticultural
use of native plants.

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FROM THE EDITORS

What kind of world do we want, and how do we get there? These are the questions that drive restoration, the central theme of this issue. They are also the questions that have led the California Native Plant Society leadership to initiate an important change to this publication, which will take effect in the spring 2021 issue.

The name of this publication, *Fremontia*, has been a point of concern and discussion since last winter, when members of the CNPS leadership learned some disturbing facts about John C. Frémont, from whom dozens of North American plants, including the flannelbush plant *Fremontodendron californicum*, derive their names. According to multiple sources, including the State of California Native American Heritage Commission, Frémont was responsible for brutal massacres of Native Americans in the Sacramento Valley and Klamath Lake. As a consequence, the CNPS board of directors voted unanimously to rename *Fremontia*, a process slated for completion by the end of 2020.

The decision to rename *Fremontia*, a name that dates back to the origins of the publication in 1973, is about the people who have been—and continue to be—systematically excluded from the conservation community. It reflects the recognition that conservation science cannot achieve its full potential until all barriers to participation for Black, Brown, and Indigenous people; women; and other marginalized groups are eliminated. Many concrete steps are needed to reach that goal, and CNPS is committed to identifying and taking the actions required to be truly inclusive and representative of the incredible diversity of our state. Though more symbolic than many of the other necessary actions, finding a new name for CNPS's flagship scientific journal is an important part of that process.

Like ecological restoration, the goal of making conservation science fully inclusive is not one that can be accomplished quickly, over the course of a single season or even decades. It must begin by understanding the harm that's been done and recognizing the damage that's ongoing, including the history of how things came to be as they are now. Renaming *Fremontia* is not an attempt to rewrite that history, but to learn from it, acknowledge it, and chart a new path forward—one that not only continues this journal's tradition of native plant science but enriches it. Stay tuned for the announcement of our new name in 2021, and many great issues to come.

—Emily Underwood, CNPS publications editor, and
Liv O'Keeffe, CNPS senior director of communications and engagement

Cover: A flannelbush (*Fremontodendron californicum*) in bloom at the Devil's Punchbowl in the Angeles National Forest. (Photograph by Sean Hueber)