

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

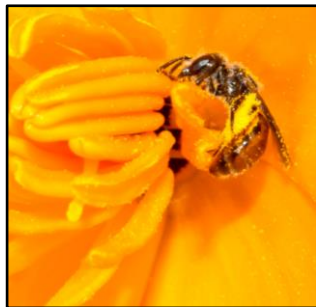
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park

March 20, 2018

**Presentation:
California Native Bees
and their Pollen Plants
by Hartmut Wisch**

This program will be an illustrated talk that will explore the great diversity of bees that have co-evolved with California's native flora. Approximately 1,600 bee species are known to be native to California. Some bees are generalists pollinating a variety of flowers from different plant families, others are more specialized. This informative talk featuring beautiful images of our native bees will cover the six recognized families of bees (Anthophila) extant in California.

Hartmut Wisch is a retired naturalist-guide. After leading European visitors through natural areas of the U.S. and Canadian West for 35 years, Hartmut discovered a love for macro photography. His principal interests are insects, mostly our native bees. He has taken several bee identification classes with Robbin Thorp, is a member of the Lorquin Entomological Society, and a contributing editor at Bugguide (hosted by Iowa State U. Entomology).



Pre-meeting Presentation:

**Living in the (landscape) Matrix:
pollinator-native plant relationships
in southern California
by Annika Nabors**

Annika has studied plant-pollinator relationships, insect taxonomy, and landscape-level diversity associated with chaparral and coastal sage scrub. She received her master's in biology from UC San Diego. Formerly a field entomologist at the San Diego Natural History Museum, she now works as a research assistant at UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Meeting Schedule

- 6:30 pm – Pre-meeting presentation.**
- 7:00 pm – Refreshments, browsing, & socializing.**
- 7:30 pm - Announcements**
- 7:45 pm – Presentation by Hartmut Wisch.**

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

FIELD TRIPS

**Otay Mountain Truck Trail
Sunday, March 4, 9 am to 1 pm**

- MODERATE hiking, MODERATE to EASY off-road driving.
- PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to some expert terms.

Location: Otay Mt. Truck Trail - Pio Pico Entrance;
14615 Otay Lakes Rd · Dulzura, CA.

Directions: FROM I-805 or SR-125 South, exit Telegraph Canyon Rd and head east (left). Telegraph Canyon Rd becomes Otay Lakes Rd and keep going up and around Lower Otay Lake and into the canyon. Look for the Pio Pico / Coyote Canyon Cafe. Meet behind the cafe.

In the southernmost part of our State, so close to Baja, rising above the houses of EastLake and East TJ - lies a bastion of chaparral covered slopes that is home to hundreds of native plant species, over 50 of which have been classified as rare. We'll head up in our 4-wheel-drive vehicles to stop for many short hikes into the chaparral to find a motley assortment of native California flora. Otay Mountain doesn't just have its own rare endemics, but also is within the loop of Northern Baja species that aren't really known to come any further north into the U.S. If you've been up there before and have special knowledge about the wilderness area, come enlighten everyone! Anyone who has experience with Baja species that occur on both sides of the border is certainly welcome - Baja members of CNPS, perhaps?

We'll carpool in 4-wheel-drive vehicles from Pio Pico / Coyote Canyon Cafe off Otay Lakes Rd, through the public access gate to the truck trail, and head up from the riparian woodland scrub in Cedar Canyon to coastal sage scrub and up into the thick chaparral at the mountain top. From the top, we'll see panoramic views of Tijuana and Baja and the "new border wall" in Otay Mesa to South Bay and inland into Dulzura. Or fog. That's possible, too. Along the way, we'll see if we can identify the vegetation, including hopefully Otay Ceanothus (*Ceanothus otayensis*), Tecate cypress (*Hesperocyparis forbesii*), Otay Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos otayensis*), southern mountain misery (*Chamabatia australis*), Munz's sage (*Salvia munzii*), and maybe if we're very lucky, the Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *ocellatum*). There will be native plants aplenty.

If you have a truck or SUV, please volunteer space for other people - this is not a location where we can hike from Pio Pico comfortably. There are a few turnouts and wide areas along the gravel road used primarily by Border Patrol. Be courteous to these guys and they don't mind botanists on the mountain. The mini-hikes won't stray far from the road. 4-wheel drive shouldn't be needed unless it rains heavily in the days before the trip. Heavy rain the day of the trip will cancel the trip. Upon leaving the mountain around lunch time, the reviews for Coyote Canyon Cafe are all good!

CARPOOL: As usual, carpooling can be arranged at the Fashion Valley mall transit center from 8:05 to 8:15 am. Park near Fashion Valley Rd at the West Entrance to the mall or come on the bus or trolley. Parking is free at Fashion Valley all day, but it is a private lot, so please

patronize the businesses there and be aware that there are risks to parking there like at any mall.

Bring cameras, binoculars, a 4x4 vehicle w/seating (should you have one), the usual gear for health and safety, State ID and/or valid immigration/travel documentation (one can never be too sure these days).

RECON Native Plant Nursery Tour March 18, Sunday, 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: 1755 Saturn Boulevard · San Diego, CA

Directions: From SAN DIEGO take I-5 South, exit Palm Ave & go west. Get into left turn lane, turn south onto Saturn Blvd. RECON is on east side of the road, near the River. From OTAY MESA: Go west on SR-905 until end on Tocayo. Right on Hollister, left on Leon, left on Saturn.

Note: This is a guided tour - some areas may not be ADA accessible as this is not a public access nursery.

This is another nursery tour, this time set within the start of Spring where we'll be treated to an inside look at the commercial operations at the RECON Native Plant Nursery. Patrick and the staff of the employee-owned company have graciously given us access. For anyone who missed the Moosa Creek Nursery tour, this is your chance to see how the professionals get their native plants to grow in pots so well! For everyone that attended the Moosa Creek tour last November, this is a great opportunity to compare and contrast methodologies.

RECON grows landscape quality wholesale native plants and have retail plant sales on special occasions. They also specialize in raising restoration plants for yet-to-be-improved areas. RECON also has offices in downtown San Diego housing San Diego's premier environmental (including biology) consulting firm that provides development surveys and sustainable strategies for smart growth. RECON has assisted in the formation of local and regional Habitat Conservation Plans and provides environmental studies in California and Arizona. Their expertise in rare and vegetation community foundation plants has benefited San Diego since 1972. The tour will be guided by staff at the nursery. Bear in mind that some information and areas may be proprietary, so ask permission before taking any photographs or notes.

Joseph Sochor will get everyone together for this trip, so look for him at the carpool site and at the nursery entrance before going in. **CARPOOL:** 8:20 to 8:30 am at the Fashion Valley Mall transit station, nearest the

Fashion Valley Rd entry. The location is free to park, though the property is private so park at your own risk. Return time will depend on the tour length, but estimated return time is about noon.

Bring your questions and curiosity. This isn't like our normal hikes, but good shoes and sunscreen are still recommended. If carpooling, the recommended donation to drivers is about \$5 as the roundtrip from Fashion Valley to San Ysidro is about 35 miles.

Torrey Pines Reserve Extension March 25, Sunday, 8:30 am to noon

- EASY to MODERATE Hike.
- No Parking fees or passes required.
- PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to Expert.

Location: 13570 Mira Montana Dr., Del Mar, CA.

Directions: From I-5: Exit Del Mar Heights Rd and go west towards the coast. Shortly up the hill, turn south (left) onto Mercado Dr. and then another left onto Cordero Dr. Follow to end and turn right onto Mira Montana Dr. Drive to parking area at the end of the road.

For those of you who went to Torrey Pines Extension last September, we covered the Red Ridge Trail and went down along the Margaret Fleming Nature Trail, finding many late bloomers and rare species along the way. This trip will take the same route to another lookout, this time with spring annuals and more blooming perennials. For everyone who might be experiencing this less traveled walk for the first time, this is certainly the best time of year to do it. Along Red Ridge, there's a large patch of scarlet larkspur (*Delphinium cardinale*) that should be in wondrous bloom, along with two Ceanothus species (*C. tomentosus* & *C. verrucosus*), Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*), sages (*Salvia* spp.), monkeyflowers (*Diplaucus/Mimulus* spp.), and California encelia (*Encelia californica*). Annuals we're hoping to find are snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* sp.), phacelias, California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), hooked pincushion (*Navarettia hamata* ssp. *leptantha*) and sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*), among many others.

Torrey Pines Extension is a very special place that represents a patch of wildland that the whole area once was - southern maritime chaparral, coastal sage scrub, Torrey pines woodland and coast riparian wash with a huge variety of rare and common native plant species. Spring brings nesting birds, and I've found California gnatcatcher here along with hawks, doves, warblers,

quail, hummingbirds, wrens and cedar waxwings, to name a few. Seldom seen wildlife such as San Diego horned lizard are here, too, living within the protected habitat. While the hike will be focused on plants, we can't skip over the ecology and sensitivity of the environment as we experience this special place.

The hike aims to provide a few opportunities to return separately or continue on, so you can schedule a full day after a short hike with us in the morning or stick it out and get even more species on your checklist. Given that Torrey Pines State Reserve is so close, it's a great follow up to your visit, as is the San Diego Botanical Garden (formerly Quail Botanical Garden) in Encinitas. Only severe weather will prevent this hike.

CARPPOOL: No carpool will be offered on this trip due to the central location and ample parking of the site. If you would like to take the trolley or bus to fashion valley mall transit center, I'm happy to provide a ride. Please RSVP **Justin Daniel**, Field Trip Chair, for time and details.

Bring water, hats, sunscreen, suitable hiking shoes, camera, plant ID materials, and personal needs.

April Field Trips

Check <https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/> for more info as it becomes available about the following field trips or to learn about any changes to the trips. Or contact Justin Daniel at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org.

April 1: Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary. LEAD: Phil Lambert (open to another lead).

April 8: Santa Rosa Plateau, Wildomar. LEAD: Ranger as assigned.

April 15: Guatay Mtn. LEAD: Forest Service Botanist Jenny Moore.

April 22: Algodones Dunes, Imperial County. LEAD: Larry Hendrickson.

April 29: Del Mar Mesa, Encinitas. LEAD: Frank Landis.

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email president@cnpsd.org.

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Native Garden Tour “Native Gardens for Beauty & Sustainability”

April 14 & 15, 2018

This year's tour includes coastal gardens, from Cardiff to Oceanside, and Inland gardens from Vista to Escondido. If you participate as a volunteer, you will receive one free ticket for a 4-hour shift (a \$25 value) and 2 free tickets for an 8-hour shift (a \$50 value).

Volunteers will be asked to greet people who are coming to view the gardens and share your enthusiasm for using native plants in landscaping. Knowledge about native plants is not necessary to be a docent. Friendliness, enthusiasm and an interest in talking with others are desired skills.

Each volunteer must participate in ONE 2-hour training, UNLESS you have participated in the training and been a docent for our Garden Tour before, then training is optional. We will tour a few native gardens and will be treated to lunch the day of your training. The training will be a good opportunity to view some of the gardens and meet the owners and get to know your fellow docents.

The two tentative dates for these informative trainings are: Saturday, March 31 for Inland gardens, and Saturday, April 7th for Coastal Gardens. You need choose only ONE date for training which will be 2-3 hours.

Questions? Email Nancy Levine, Volunteer Coordinator, at tourvolunteers@cnpsd.org .



Greg Rubin, native horticulturalist and owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design (<http://calown.com/>), has been named Horticulturist of the Year by the San Diego Horticultural Society.
Congratulations Greg!

Native Gardening Committee Meeting

March 14. The Chapter's Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpsd.org for location and time.

Native Plant Landscape in Old Town State Historic Park

Help Tend the Native Plant Landscape in Old Town State Park

March 10, Saturday. 9:30 a.m. to noon

The ten-year-old Old Town Native Plant Landscape supports trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials that lived in this coastal region when Europeans arrived in 1769. Most of the species of plants are useful for humans, as well as native wildlife.

In March the care for the Old Town Landscape includes some light arborist work, reducing foliage on branch tips to prevent tree branches from breaking. We'll also do some careful weeding around herbaceous annuals, cacti, and shrubby plants.

We have found techniques that work, and we'll be glad to teach you, if you volunteer to help us do the work!

The Native Plant Landscape is located at the far west end of Old Town, where Taylor and Congress Streets meet, across from the Trolley/Bus/Train depot. Park in the lot at the corner of Calhoun and Taylor Streets. Bring water or other favorite hydration and have sun protection. Bring garden gloves and your favorite weeding tools or share ours.

After we finish our tasks, whoever wants to will go to a local restaurant for no-host lunch and socializing.

Questions? Contact Kay or Peter at oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org

~ Kay Stewart

Update on the Ocean Beach Elementary School Ethnobotany Garden

The Ocean Beach Elementary School Ethnobotany Garden is happy to celebrate its first anniversary. The plants for the garden were provided by the San Diego Chapter of the CNPS, through the efforts of CNPSSD board member Cindy Burrascano in collaboration with school parent and Academic Achievers committee co-chair Deirdre Encarnación Slaughter. Planting, watering, weeding, and upkeep is done primarily by parent volunteer Brian Slaughter with help from interested students, especially their first-grade daughter Lillianne.

The goal of the garden is two-fold. First is to raise awareness of the benefits of native plants, especially their drought tolerance, through the message that the plants in the garden are adapted to the local climate, need very little water, and are very aesthetically pleasing. Second is an academic approach through the science of ethnobotany, with the hope of engaging students with nature and the outside world around them. Through signage in the garden and classroom lessons, students are taught that these plants are native to San Diego and can be useful for food, tool making, and medicine. Mrs. Encarnación Slaughter, a writer in the fields of anthropology and archaeology, shares with students the uses of representative plant species that the Kumeyaay have developed over thousands of years.

Students are encouraged through their ethnobotany garden to learn more about growing native plants at home by visiting the www.cnpssd.org online, and to learn more about the Kumeyaay and their use of plants by reading *Delfina Cuero* or *Indians of the Oaks*. The faculty, staff, students, and families would like to thank the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society for their support, without which this garden would not exist, and we look forward to future collaboration and watching our garden grow.

~ Deirdre Encarnación Slaughter

Kumeyaay Plant Names and Uses at Ocean Beach Elementary Ethnobotany Garden

The plants in this garden are native to San Diego and can be useful for food, tool making, and medicine. The plants that grow here are adapted to the climate and need very little water. If you'd like to learn more about growing native plants at home, visit the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society online at

www.cnpssd.org. To learn more about the Kumeyaay and their use of plants, go to www.nativeplantsandpeople.com, and read *Delfina Cuero* or *Indians of the Oaks*.

Common Name	Kumeyaay Name	Uses
Buckwheat	Hamil	F, T, M
White sage	Pestaay	F, T, M
California sagebrush	Kuchash	F, T, M
Coyote brush	Sa'mall Kwsi'yaay	F, T, M
California rose	Kwa'ak	F, T, M
Dudleya	Millykumaay	F, M
California sunflower	Nahekwi	--
Monkeyflower	--	F, M
Blue-eyed grass	Michkal	M
Bladderpod	'Epshash	F
Purple sage	--	F, M

F=Food T=Tools M=Medicine

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

March 6. Usually the first Tuesday evening of each month. Contact **Frank Landis** at conservation@cnpssd.org for details.

Holed is Beautiful

This was inspired by the opening plenary talk by Dr. Doug Tallamy at the 2018 CNPS Conservation Talk. If you were there, hopefully this will look vaguely familiar.

If you don't want to read this column, here's the gist: ecosystem ecology. If you like birds in your yard, most of our birds get their protein from invertebrates, which depend ultimately on plants. Therefore, if you want more birds breeding successfully in your neighborhood, you need to grow more bird food, and that means...having more native plants in your yard. But it's not quite that simple. Here's why:

The basic biology may actually surprise people: many, perhaps most, birds need more protein than they get from plants. The adults may get by on seeds (at least when seeds are available), but their chicks need bugs to get the protein they need to reach maturity. Dr. Tallamy even had a heart-breaking picture of a failed chickadee nest with dead chicks surrounded by birdseed from nearby feeders. In the absence of bugs, the chickadee parents had tried in desperation to feed their chicks bird seed. It didn't work.

There is a mismatch between our invertebrate fauna

and much of our garden flora. Suburban gardens are hodgepodes of plants, bought mostly because they're cheap, pretty, often easy to grow (too often a euphemism for invasive). Few of them are native to where they are sold. As a result, few of the native insects can eat them. This is good if you want a pretty garden, bad if you want anything like a functioning garden ecosystem that supports young birds. Without insects eating the plants, there isn't enough for the chicks to feed on.

Yes, yards are problem spaces for insects, and we make them so deliberately. We may douse our yards with insecticides to make the plants look better, smooth edges, glossy green leaves, the whole thing. Ginkgo trees are notorious in this regard. They've grown only in gardens for something like 2,000 years, and while they're the poster bonsais for garden conservation, it appears that all the insects that specialized in eating them have gone, leaving a few generalists like the omnivorous looper to munch on them. I could go on, but if you've got a well-pesticided yard that's full of ginkgos and their less-munched fellow travelers, it's unlikely that you have many birds in your garden, and those that are there are clinging to your bird feeders for dear life.

You might object and point to the aphids smothering your milkweed, but that's kind of missing the point. Birds, apparently, like bigger prey, especially caterpillars and spiders. Forcing them to eat aphids is sort of like me forcing you to eat a diet of peas picked off the table without a spoon—it may be nutritious, but peas are really small and not a complete diet, and that makes them inefficient to gather and insufficient to live on.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, this is just a fancy way of saying that we should all plant butterfly gardens, right? No, it isn't. Tallamy's saying we should plant caterpillar gardens. There are two differences between planting for butterflies and for caterpillars. First, butterfly gardens tend to focus on the flowers that adult butterflies feed on, less on the food plants for the caterpillars. Can't have one without the other. The bigger problem is that something over 90% of caterpillars are from moths, not butterflies. Most lepidopterans are moths, and butterflies are better thought of as showy, day-flying moths. While it's easy to get a list of food plants for butterflies in San Diego (one is offered for sale at every chapter meeting), there's much less information on moth caterpillar food plants.

Still, there is some data, and it suggests California's a little weird. In the eastern U.S., oaks (*Quercus*) are by

far the best host trees for insect species. In California, oaks appear to be #2 after willows (*Salix*). Still, if you have willows and oaks in your yard, you've apparently got a lot of bases covered.

But wait, you hypothetically stammer. Willows get riddled by Kuroshio Shot Hole Borers, while oaks get decimated by Gold Spotted Oak Borers, and OMG, that's going to cost a fortune to take out those big, old, dead trees, and chip them down to tiny shreds...I can't. Well, this is sort of true, especially the shredding to <1" being expensive part. However, Gold Spotted Oak Borers attack big, old oaks, so planting young oaks is a good thing. They give the insects a home, get some acorns produced, and by the time they get totally Bored in a few decades, you'll probably not be living there anyway. Moreover, if you cut down your infected big oak or willow before the beetles kill it, there's a good chance it will coppice sprout new shoots from its roots and give you another 40 years before the beetles return. And you might be able to control the infestation in the meantime. So don't give up on these trees.

But we're CNPS. The California NATIVE PLANT Society. Why don't we leave the birds to Audubon? Here's the question: what's going to pollinate your native plants? It's not just the butterflies and honeybees. They're the showy ones. Most of the pollination crew consists of tiny native bees, flies, and moths. Give them a place too, even if you can't see them.

Despite me trying to convince you that holed is beautiful, there is that final objection: you're in it for the plants, not to turn the garden you created with your blood, sweat, and hard-earned cash into sustainably produced, locally sourced baby food for the birds. Why would you want to see ragged edges and holed leaves on your ceanothus, let alone your oaks?

As Dr. Tallamy put it, there's a twelve-step program for that. If you take 12 steps back, you won't be able to see the holes. You don't even need a sponsor, just an awareness that little holes are hard to see. As he (the professional entomologist) found out, it's hard for humans to see even a small fraction of the insects the birds routinely find. You're missing most of the damage any way. Don't worry about the rest.

More to the point, this goes along with the idea of planting more natives, more native species rather than just largely clonal cultivars, and planting species from the south as a form of climate migration. In this scenario, you don't need to just migrate the plants, you need to help the insects that eat them, the spiders that eat those insects, and the birds that eat them all,

because plants depend on ecosystems, not just gardeners.

So, it looks we've got complicated mission for our gardens: find out what caterpillars from San Diego and Tijuana eat and plant the foods they need, all to support them and their predators. Get your friends and neighbors to follow suit. This is all to keep the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees in our increasingly simplified landscape, and perhaps to help them move a bit north, too. Oh, and ignore any leaf holes they leave behind. Holed leaves are beautiful, if you see them as part of the process of making more songbirds.

~ Frank Landis, SD Conservation Chair



Xylococcus bicolor (Mission manzanita)



Lathyrus vestitus var. *alefeldii* (San Diego pea)
El Monte County Park; photos by Dr. W. Jürgen Schrenk.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

How to Make the Best Native Plant Choices for San Diego County

By Susan Krzywicki

Sat, March 17; 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Moosa Creek Nursery, 27201 Cool Water Ranch Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

For reservations, call 760-749-3216.

- What the basic plant communities in San Diego County look like - characteristics and key species
- Beautiful combinations for color and enjoyment
- Birds, bees and butterflies that use these plants
- Installation and design tips and techniques

Susan Krzywicki is a California native plant landscape designer in San Diego County. She was the first California Native Plant Society Horticulture Program Director. She worked extensively across the state to promote the projects that spearhead California's oldest and most recognized native plant gardening program. Susan started as chair of the San Diego Chapter Gardening Committee which inaugurated the popular San Diego Native Garden Tour and the Native Garden Symposium, encouraging homeowners to experience the strategic benefits of low water use, habitat creation, and our unique ecological heritage.

Lunch will be served! (Vegetarian options available). It can be cool at the nursery; please dress for the weather and wear closed toed shoes for easy access through the nursery.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, July 10 for the August newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar March 2018

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- 3/6: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.5
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- 3/10: Old Town Landscape Work Party, p.4
- 3/14: Garden Committee Mtg, p. 4
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- 3/20: Chapter Meeting, p.1
- 3/25: Field Trip - Torrey Pines Reserve Extension, p.2

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500
Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

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March 2018 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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