



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

December 18, 2018
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park

Holiday Potluck!

Bring something delicious to share--preferably finger food. Your Hospitality Committee will provide the usual coffee/tea, utensils, cups, napkins and plates. **Come and make merry with us!**

6:30 pm – Potluck, refreshments, browsing, & socializing.

7:15 pm - Announcements

7:30 pm – Main Presentation

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Main Presentation
Ferns of Southern and
Baja California
by Jon Rebman

With approximately 50 different fern and fern ally taxa documented to occur in San Diego County, this group is well represented locally, but not well known. Come join Dr. Jon Rebman, Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum, as he presents this fern diversity and goes into depth on many of the taxa that grow in our region. He will also be showing various ferns that might possibly occur in our County but have not yet been discovered here.

Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D., has been the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair/Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) since 1996. As plant taxonomist he conducts extensive floristic research on the Baja California peninsula and in San Diego and



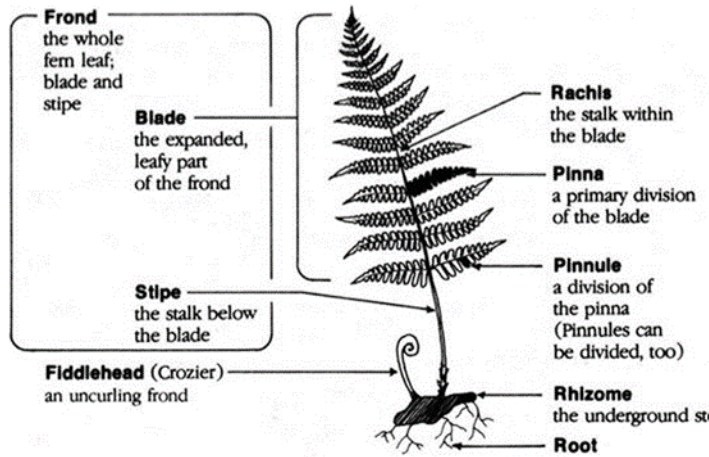
Imperial Counties of California. He leads various field classes and botanical expeditions each year and is actively naming new plant species from the region. His primary research interests have centered on the systematics of the Cactus family in Baja California, especially the

genera *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and *Opuntia* (prickly-pears). However, Dr. Rebman also does a lot of general floristic research and he has co-published the new Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Baja California, Mexico and the most recent edition of the Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County. He has over 25 years of field experience with surveying and documenting plants including rare and endangered species. As a field botanist, he is a very active collector of scientific specimens with his personal collections numbering over 35,000. He is the director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project (www.sdplantatlas.org) and identifies/verifies all of the new specimens (currently over 69,000) coming into the herbarium through this scientific endeavor. As the curator of the SD Herbarium at the SDNHM, he is in charge of this dried plant specimen collection that contains over 270,000 specimens dating back to the 1870s. Dr. Rebman published the newest edition of the Baja California Plant Field Guide with co-author Norman Roberts in 2012, and is working on a new bilingual plant field guide for the Cape region of Baja California Sur.

Dr. Rebman has been with the SDNHM for over 20 years, working on floristics of Baja California and San

Diego and Imperial Counties. He has so far discovered about fifteen plants new to science, and, in addition to other projects, he is working on a publication of Ferns and Lycophytes of San Diego County.

Parts of a Fern



Ranch. Follow sign. From the north, take Gopher Canyon Rd east to Old Castle or Lilac Rd. and turn south at Valley Center.

Carpool: For this trip, we will meet at 9:00 to 9:15 am at the Fashion Valley Transit Center at Fashion Valley mall nearest Fashion Valley Rd. Parking is free for 24 hours and occasionally monitored by roving security. Be prepared to drive, as I have 2-3 spaces available in my truck.

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair
fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 5, 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@cnpssd.org.

FIELD TRIP

Moosa Creek Nursery
Saturday, December 8, 2018,
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

This year we've got another late fall/early winter tour of Moosa Creek Nursery in Valley Center, where all the magic happens for many the native plants you can find at many retail nurseries (Walter Andersen, Mission Hills nursery, City Farmers, more) from San Diego to LA. Last year, owners Su & Hank Kraus showed our group extraordinary access to the grounds - from the seed shed, greenhouses, potting/cloning areas, soil/mulch mix, and main nursery grounds. Locations and methods to be seen will be up to the tour guide.

Whether you are looking for insight on getting your seedlings/cuttings to root or just trying to improve your native plant landscape, this tour is an amazing opportunity to learn some tricks of the trade. This is a rare opportunity to access a for-profit business that has really positively impacted the environment and our communities. Get a preview at www.moosacreeknursery.com and look for where you can purchase Moosa Creek native plants.

Location: Moosa Creek Nursery, 27201 Cool Water Ranch Rd., Valley Center.

Directions: From San Diego, take I-15 north to Bear Valley Parkway and go east. Bear Valley Parkway becomes Valley Center Rd. In Valley Center, turn east onto Woods Valley Rd & then north on Cool Water

CNPS-SD EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Board elections were held in November. Six members ran for 6 positions. Two board members were newly elected and four board members were re-elected for the 2019-2020 calendar years:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Elected: | Re-elected: |
| Maggie Loy | Cindy Burrascano |
| Leon Scales | Josue Campos |
| | Torrey Neel |
| | Bobbie Stephenson |

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Gardening Committee Meeting

December 12. The Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpssd.org for location and time.

Native Plant Landscape Old Town State Historic Park

No work party until further notice. Kay or Peter at: OldTownLandscape@cnpssd.org

New CNPS-SD Workshop: Create Habitat and Give Back to Nature with California Native Plants

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Tickets will go on sale December 6 at:

cnpsd.org/events/winterworkshop2019

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- The Relationships between Native Plants and Wildlife - Why Do We Garden for Habitat?
- Bringing San Diego Habitats Home to the Garden
- Creating Habitat with California Native Plants and Permaculture Principles
- California Native Gardens for Birds

LOCATION: Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park, Joan and Irwin Jacobs Theater

COST: \$45 per ticket in advance, \$50 per ticket at door, \$25 student ticket (maximum 10)

LUNCH: Participants can purchase lunch at six nearby park venues or bring their own lunch to picnic in the park.

PARKING: Free in the park.

Free admission for workshop participants to the Museum of Photographic Arts exhibits.

This workshop is being organized by CNPS-SD members Torrey Neel, Judie Lincer, and Joseph Sochor in conjunction with the CNPS-SD Garden Committee.

October Plant Sale Report

What a successful plant sale we had at Balboa Park on October 13th! Thank you to the CNPS San Diego members and the many other customers who made the day a great get-together, a celebration of native plants and a huge financial success!

Highlights included:

- Record sales! More than 5,100 plants (300 species) and seeds and books were sold to hundreds of customers. We hope that many of our new customers will return again and again to learn more about native gardening through our workshops and learn more about native gardening.
- Members received a 10% discount on all plants purchased.
- More than 70 members and friends volunteered to help – from tagging plants at the nurseries, to helpful and friendly experts offering assistance, to ticket writers and cashiers making sales. The fashion highlight was their eye-catching lime green aprons.

A shout out to all volunteers: Thank you for making it the best sale ever!

- A special thank you to empresario Connie di Girolamo, motivator and master of logistics.
- 47 members took advantage of the presale (about 1/3 of all the sales for the weekend)! They were able to pick up their plants on Friday afternoon, avoiding the Saturday morning rush.
- After expenses, more than \$15,000 was added to our Chapter treasury – a most significant fundraising event.
- Weather was perfect and included an overnight sprinkle to refresh our plants.

If you have suggestions – or complaints, of any size – please send an email to plantsale@cnpsd.org so we can plan for the 2019 Plant Sale, making it even better! We will begin next year's planning effort in January. Let us know if you would like to help!



CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Mtg

Contact **Frank Landis** at conservation@cnpssd.org for details about December's meeting.

The Electrical Grid Knot in California

Until a few minutes ago (this would be a month ago, for you), I thought I was writing the last appeal for dealing with Otay Ranch Village 14, Lilac Hills Village Ranch, Warner Springs, and nauseum. Fortunately, the County decided to not to go ahead with the last grand General Plan Amendment. Yay(!)(?), but that might be a while.

Anyway, since I spent a few days up in the Santa Monica Mountains with my mom, ready to help her evacuate if necessary (it wasn't), I've got a few thoughts about this little problem we have with electrical utilities.

The problem we've got is that electrical utility companies like PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric) and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) seem to be responsible for some big fires. SDG&E, as we know, is still trying to get its ratepayers to cover some of the costs of the 2007 Cedar Fire, which it has been held responsible for. Southern California Edison's (SCE) equipment may have sparked both the Woolsey Fire and the Thomas Fire, while PG&E is implicated as the cause of the Camp Fire, as well as 16 of the 18 fires that hit the Wine Country last fall. Note that, aside from the Cedar Fire, this is all speculation based on news reporting around the incidents. There are official reports and lawsuits still pending, and they'll settle questions of official responsibility sometime in the future.

But doesn't climate change cause fires? Not exactly, at least here in California. To have a fire, you need fuel, air, and an ignition source. The air's here all the time, while ignitions generally get caused either by lightning, which is very rare in places like southern California, or human fire-starting, which is extremely common. What climate change provides is the fuel, in the form of vegetation dry enough to burn, thanks to long stretches of drought.

So that's one side of the problem, that electrical grids seem to be causing fires through accident, negligence, or whatever.

There's another side to the problem, though, which is that we need the electrical grid to deal with climate change. The problem here is that in California we are actively moving towards 100% renewable energy, which seems to mean 100% electricity. While there's plenty of vacant roof

space in cities, quite a lot of it is north-facing, flimsy, or otherwise inappropriate for solar panels, less still for big wind turbines. Because of this, we do and will need solar and wind generation plants outside of cities, plus wires to move the electricity around.

Then there's the third part of the puzzle, who pays for it all, grid upgrading and disaster tolls alike? SDG&E, PG&E, and SCE are all ultimately owned by investors, although Sempra Energy owns SDG&E and Edison International owns SCE. Doing a bit of googling, it turns out that all three companies are largely owned by financial companies, and that the biggest investors in all three are Vanguard, and Blackrock, both of whom own between 7 and 9 percent of each company. T. Rowe Price comes in third on PG&E and Sempra, owning a bit over 5 percent of each. Know anyone who has an investment with any of these companies?

This ownership cuts two ways. First, if we punish the shareholders for the sins of the power companies, it appears that ultimately that ownership is invested in popular 401K funds across the country. The responsibility has been shared and diluted enormously, making many of us unknowingly complicit in owning this mess. The owners are certainly a bigger pool than the ratepayers, but there is an overlap between the two groups. Worse, perhaps, the institutional investors don't appear to own enough stock to drive power company policy. We couldn't simply launch a campaign to get Vanguard to divest itself from these power companies unless they clean up their act, for example. It's not that simple.

And that's why it's a knot. Or perhaps it's better to say that there are no easy solutions. We're the problem, as some of us are also inadvertent owners of the companies that keep our refrigerators running but also torch homes. As Californians fighting climate change, we also need the electrical grid to exist to have any hope of transitioning to an entirely electrical society. So we need the electrical grid to get to 100% renewable power, but at the same time, it's becoming our biggest fire hazard. What to do, what to do...

One solution is what SDG&E did this last red flag alert, when they cut off electricity to tens of thousands of people in the San Diego back country. I suspect this will become the norm. Unfortunately, what many of those people did during the last power outage was to fire up petroleum-powered generators. Since those generators don't have fancy air filters and converters on their exhaust, this is really polluting, fairly inefficient, and does little to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

A better solution might be for everyone to have solar

panels on the roof and a house battery in the garage. That's what I'm building up towards, certainly. Unfortunately, a battery and panel assembly costs more than ten times what buying a cheap Honda generator does, so while getting a battery is important, it's not a panacea. Solar panels and house batteries are also more vulnerable to fire than a small generator is, since they are not portable. And not everyone can afford them, or even own their own roof or have a roof that can support panels. Ironically, much of the affordable housing I'm also lobbying for probably can't power itself through onsite solar panels. In advocating for affordable housing to deal with sprawl, am I also lobbying for a sparking electrical grid that ignites megafires?

Another part of the solution is to underground electrical cables, which is an ongoing process. Undergrounding cables is probably cheaper than \$17 billion in costs for the Wine Country fires, but it's far from free. Who pays for undergrounding? Is it on the ratepayers or the investors, like everything else? Can it be done fast enough to make a difference?

The only good news in this event is that PG&E went bankrupt in 2001, and the electricity still flowed. Moreover, PG&E has been convicted, fined, and lost litigation for most of \$2 billion dollars due to the San Bruno pipeline explosion, and the electricity is still flowing. While I'd really like to get to a state where the electricity flows and we don't worry about, say, 83% of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area burning again(!) because of some preventable electrical malfunction, I do have to acknowledge that the power grid companies seem to have a lot of ruin left in them, to misquote Adam Smith. We don't have to worry about the grid going away any time soon, no matter who owns it. And in the meantime, I hope that a lot of very smart people will figure out how to make this whole kludge of a problem a little less sparky.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

Grass Crossword Puzzle

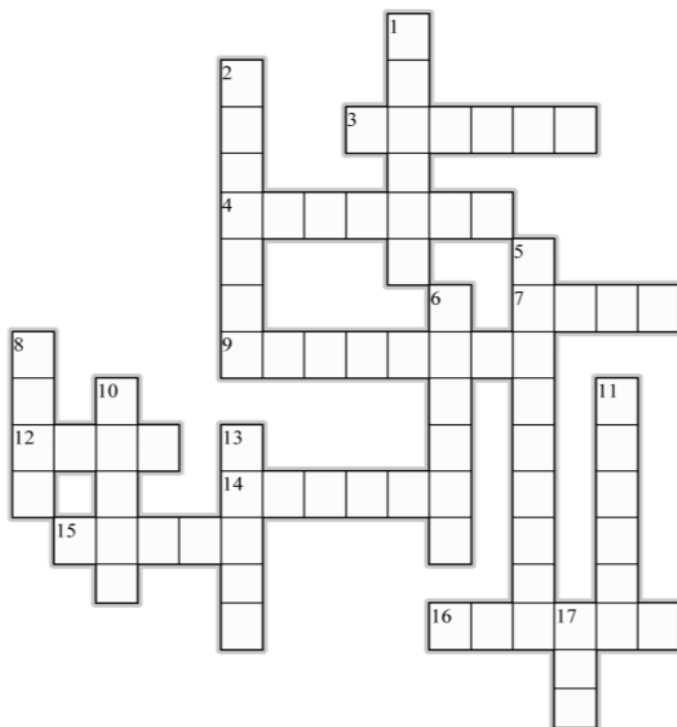
Across

3. The outer side of a grass leaf at the junction of the sheath and blade, often lighter colored than the surrounding tissue
4. A creeping underground stem
7. The joint of a culm (the "knees" of a grass stem)
9. The basic unit of a grass inflorescence consisting of 2 glumes and 2 or more florets
12. The sheath and blade of a grass
14. An outgrowth from the leaf sheath. Because they vary in size, shape, and texture, they are used in the identification process.

15. The lower of two bracts surrounding the grass flower (see *palea*)
16. The basal portion of the leaf that surrounds a grass stem

Down

1. Stems that lie upon the ground and root at the nodes or at least bend over and root at the tip
2. A type of root form
5. The culm (stem) segment between two nodes
6. A pair of bracts at the base of a spikelet
8. A grass stem, usually hollow except at the ordinarily swollen nodes
10. The uppermost of two bracts surrounding the grass flower (see *lemma*)
11. Individual flowers bracted by a lemma and palea
13. The laterally expanded portion of a grass leaf
17. A bristle-like appendage, usually a continuation of the mid-nerve of the lemma or the glume



Email Addresses: If you are not receiving our email communications, or you would like to update your address, please send updated information to membership@cnpsd.org.

CNPS Workshops for 2019

Details and registration for each of the following workshops will be posted at www.cnps.org/workshops.

Rare Plant Survey Protocols

March 6-7, Imperial Beach

Taught by Heath Bartosh & Aaron Sims, with a guest lecture from Katie Gross

\$395 CNPS Members, \$425 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn to use the best available science to prepare for and conduct rare plant surveys and report your findings. This training includes one day learning concepts in the classroom, followed by one day in the field in southern San Diego County getting hands-on experience surveying rare plants.

Vegetation Mapping

March 19-21, Kentfield

Taught by Julie Evens, Todd Keeler-Wolf, & John Menke
\$665 CNPS Members, \$695 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn techniques for fine-scale vegetation mapping including vegetation sampling, classification, and photo interpretation through hands-on exercises in the computer lab and field in Marin County. You will get experience creating a vegetation map using GIS, collecting reconnaissance samples, practicing techniques of photo interpretation, delineation, and attribution, and validating a vegetation map through accuracy assessment.

Measuring & Monitoring Plant Populations April 24-26, San Luis Obispo

Taught by Charley Knight

\$435 CNPS Members, \$455 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn about of plant population monitoring for adaptive management through classroom and field exercises. Topics include principles of sampling and several sampling designs, field techniques for measuring vegetation, analysis of monitoring data, presentation of results, and development of good management objectives.

Intro to Plant Identification

June 4-6, Oxnard

Taught by Sandy Namoff & Nick Jensen

\$395 CNPS Members, \$415 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn to identify plants in 15 common families, which account for over 5,000 taxa – more than 70% of the plant diversity in CA! This workshop will include two days in the classroom learning plant parts, terminology, and how to use a dichotomous key, as well as a full day in the field getting hands-on experience in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé

July 23-25, Truckee

Taught by Jennifer Buck-Diaz & Jaime Ratchford

\$375 CNPS Members, \$395 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn to sample vegetation, focusing on collecting data using the CNPS-CDFW combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method. Instructors will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification, and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

Pygmy Forest Flora & Ecology Vegetation, natural history, and classification of the rare Mendocino cypress woodland

August 12-15, Fort Bragg

Taught by Teresa Sholars

\$395 CNPS Members, \$415 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn about the ecology and floristics of the pygmy forest as well as the process to identify and classify rare plant communities using CNPS/CDFW protocols. This workshop includes an introductory lecture followed by 3 days in the field visiting all 6+ associations developed over the last 4 years of mapping the pygmy forest and its associated oligotrophic communities.

CEQA Impact Assessment

October 1-3, Berkeley

Taught by David Magney

\$375 CNPS Members, \$395 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn to read and analyze the biological resources section of an Environmental Impact Report or Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This workshop will provide guidance on how to accurately assess the impact of a project, and submit critical, scientifically-based comments in response to CEQA documents.

Mitigation Measures & Monitoring

Fall (dates TBA), Sacramento

Taught by David Magney

\$375 CNPS Members, \$395 Non-Members

In this workshop, you will learn the framework for mitigation and mitigation monitoring for botanical resources, based primarily on CEQA impact assessments. Topics will include which mitigation measures need to be monitored and why, various monitoring methods, and thresholds of significance and success. This workshop will focus on botanical resource issues, however non-botanical biological monitoring will also be discussed, particularly for those resources related to habitat, or methods often used.



Related Activities

Anza Borrego Desert Botany Society

The Botany Society is a volunteer organization that assists Park staff to preserve, document and interpret the Park's flora. New Botany Society members must complete the Botany Certification Course – a 12-week series of classroom sessions and outdoor hands-on field trips on Mondays (usually 9 am to 3 pm) January through March. The next course begins **January 7, 2019**.

<http://www.anzaborregobotany.org/join-us>

Introduction to Bryophytes

Save the date: **Brent Mishler** and **Ken Kellman** will teach their legendary weekend workshop "Introduction to Bryophytes" on **March 2-3, 2019**, in the Jepson Herbarium Public Programs series. This time they will include material on the cryptobiotic crust soil community that brings together bryophytes, lichens, and algae. Details on how to sign up will be forthcoming <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/>. Visit the CNPS Bryophyte Chapter website at: <https://bryophyte.cnps.org/index.php>.

Save the date! SO BE FREE 24

This event will be held at Rancho El Chorro, near San Luis Obispo, **March 29 to April 1, 2019**. Registration details are coming soon. This should be a fantastic foray. Trips for beginners will be really good and involve almost no driving. Ephemerals are likely to be found in considerable variety. More advanced bryologists will (we hope) have rare access to Los Padres National Forest at a variety of elevations. Microscopes have been promised, coming with the Cal Poly students. It is time to get super excited.

Field Botany Course

Dr. Michael G. Simpson, Dr. Lluvia Flores-Rentería, Scott McMillan, Margaret Mulligan, Tom Oberbauer, Dr. Jon Rebman, and Dr. Sula Vanderplank will be teaching Field Botany of San Diego County spring 2019, through the College of Extended Studies at SDSU. Course details and a first version syllabus are at: <http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/plants/fieldbotany/index.htm>

This course is designed for the serious amateur botanist, environmental consultant, or employee of an environmental government organization to acquire the basic knowledge and skills of plant taxonomy, native

plant identification, and plant community assessment. The primary objectives of this course are both to learn the native and naturalized vascular plant species of our area (primarily our county) and to learn how to know these plants. Thus, the basic training will go beyond simply memorizing names and will encompass the four components of taxonomy: description, identification, nomenclature, and classification.

Registration for the class opened October 3. The class is NC 0301, and runs from Jan 26 - May 11, 2019. A link to this information, including a tentative schedule as well as the list of instructors, can be found here:

<http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/plants/fieldbotany/index.htm>

The link to sign up for the class is here:

<https://ces.sdsu.edu/science-computers-technology/field-botany-san-diego>

Contact Dr. Michael Simpson (msimpson@sdsu.edu) for further information.



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, December 10 for the January newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar December 2018

- 12/8: Field Trip to Moosa Creek Nursery, p.1
- 12/5: Board Meeting, p.2
- 12/12: Garden Committee Mtg, p. 4
- 12/18: Chapter Meeting, p.1

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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December 2018 Newsletter

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

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