



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

**CHAPTER MEETING**

**Casa del Prado Room 101  
Balboa Park  
February 19, 2019**

Schedule

- 6:30 pm – Natives for Novices
- 7:00 pm – Refreshments, browsing, & socializing.
- 7:30 pm - Announcements
- 7:45 pm – Main Presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

**Natives for Novices:  
Native Plant Propagation Basics  
by Amy Huie**

Amy Huey teaches Plant Propagation in the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Program. She works for Sweetwater Authority as a Watershed Caretaker. She has served as a volunteer with CNPS-SD for over ten years having served on the Plant Sale Committee, Propagation Committee, and as the Seed and Bulb Sale team leader.



**Main Presentation:  
Inspect and Manage – A Regional,  
Collaborative Approach to Monitoring  
Rare Plant Species  
in San Diego County  
by Jessie Vinje**

In 2016, 2017, and 2018, the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) and AECOM coordinated and implemented the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP) Management Strategic Plan (MSP) Inspect and Manage (IMG) regional rare plant monitoring protocol for 30 rare plant species on conserved lands in western San Diego County.

SDMMP, in collaboration with the City of San Diego, CBI, and The Nature Conservancy, developed the threats-based monitoring protocol based on existing rare plant and habitat assessment protocols. The 2016 - 2018 monitoring effort involved greater than 50 entities, including federal and state wildlife agencies, local jurisdictions, non-profit land conservancies, private landowners, military, and volunteer organizations. They trained agency staff and volunteers through workshops and site visits, assisted land managers with monitoring, and monitored 'orphan' populations.

They monitored a total of 235, 205, and 227 rare plant occurrences in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. For each occurrence, they collected data on species status, habitat attributes, and threats. Monitoring as many occurrences of a species within the same year using the same method improved their understanding of species status, threats, and management priorities. High priority occurrences will be eligible for regional management funding.

Jessie Vinje is a botanist with Conservation Biology Institute. She has over 20 years professional experience in field biology, botany and land management throughout California with a strong background in coastal and desert ecology, and natural resource management and restoration. She specializes in the flora of central and southern



California coast and coastal ranges, western and central Mojave Desert, and central and southern Sierra Nevada Mountains where she has surveyed for and located more than 120 threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species. She is a member of the San Diego Rare Plant Oversight Committee and the San Diego County Weed Management Area steering committee.



San Diego thornmint  
(*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*)

# BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, February 6, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email [president@cnpssd.org](mailto:president@cnpssd.org).

## Brief Report of January 2019 Board Meeting

Justin Daniel & Leon Scales will co-chair the Outreach Committee.

Board members who are committee chairs reported on their committees.

The Board agreed to meet on January 12, and committee chairs were invited, to review and discuss: 1) Chapter by-laws, 2) Administration duties and reporting, 3) Committee responsibilities and reports, 4) Petitioner's Policy & Affiliates, 5) Mini grant proposal by Leon Scales, and 6) our 2019 outlook on goals and issues.

# FIELD TRIPS

## Painted Gorge & Mtn Palm Springs (ABDSP)

**Sunday, February 10; 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**DIFFICULTY: MODERATE, 4 miles**

**PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to Novice, Professionals always welcome!**

**ACCESS: Open to all, no charge**

We'll be doing a two-part trip on this winter Sunday, going from an area in Imperial County that is heavily disturbed by different types of human activities to a similar ecosystem that has had the benefit of restricted land use management under the umbrella of the State Park. It'll be a first-hand account of both areas to compare and contrast different impacts and the resiliency of the desert ecosystem.

After joining up as a group, we'll make our way past the windmills and mines of Ocotillo to the Painted Gorge of western Imperial County. Painted Gorge is a popular destination for geologists, fossil hunters, snowbirds, and off roaders. From the iron-stained canyon sides, we'll poke around to mark the species and density of the life in the area, taking pictures and discussing the future of Imperial County and the Salton Sea. We'll add what we can to iNaturalist as this area is not very well documented.

Next, a short drive away is Anza Borrego Desert State Park and the extraordinarily different environments found in each canyon and on the valley floor. Mtn Palm Springs holds records of the seldom seen elephant tree (*Bursera microphylla*) and an abundance of desert life. I hope to time the hike so we have lunch in the shade of the palm oasis. One

of the first known of the western visitors to the oasis was Frank Gander, one of the most prolific plant hunters in the history of San Diego.

The desert has gotten a good bit of rain lately and is already blooming with a low carpet of annuals. I hope we'll see Parish's desert thorn (*Lycium parishii*), velvet mallow (*Horsfordia newberryi*), maybe hairy stickleaf (*Mentzelia hirsutissima*), and of course the elephant tree for the rare species. As for the other natives, there will be plenty of cactus, microphyll trees, ocotillos, and creosote for that iconic Sonoran Desert palette. There is always something new to find in places seldom trodden.

Pack a lunch and suitable gear and clothing to handle both cold or heat. The temps shouldn't get above mid 70's, but there is the possibility of getting soaked in February. Keep a cautious eye out for rattlesnakes and sidewinders, and know that the most dangerous thing we'll encounter will likely be the cholla and dehydration. For any desert trip, come prepared with plenty of water.

**VEHICLES:** We'll be driving on compacted sand roads which may or may not be graded when we go. I expect to encounter little to no serious issues but try to carpool if your vehicle can't handle soft sand.

**LOCATION:** Meet at 9 am at the Ocotillo Chevron gas station, 1071 Imperial Hwy, Ocotillo, on the south side of the Ocotillo exit from the I-8. We'll caravan to the first site from there.

**CARPOOL:** I will provide my truck (black Toyota Tundra) with three (maybe 4) seats from Fashion Valley Mall Transit Center parking area nearest Fashion Valley Rd (west end of the mall) from 7:20 to 7:30 am. Be prepared to drive if my truck fills up. Parking at the Transit Center parking lot is free for 24 hrs and is occasionally patrolled by security. The same risks apply there as to regular street parking. Donations for gas are welcome, but not required. The roundtrip is about 240 miles. Expect to return to Fashion Valley after 3:30 pm.

## Lake Morena –

### Search for *Ribes canthariforme*

**Sunday, February 24; 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**DIFFICULTY: MODERATE 3-4 miles**

**PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Novice +, Professionals always welcome!**

**ACCESS: Open to all, no charge**

**[RAIN CANCELS THIS EVENT!]**

This trip will be our first technical event geared towards identifying and discovering historical populations of a rare plant. The Moreno currant (*Ribes canthariforme*) is listed as a 1B.3 rare plant species by CNPS, partly due to its narrow distribution (El Cajon Mtn to Lake Morena, and Dulzura to Descanso) and difficulty in distinguishing from more common species like white-flowering currant (*Ribes indecorum*) and chaparral currant (*R. malvaceum*).

While I've pinned Lake Morena's dam area as the hot spot for historical populations, we may look nearby depending on trail access. Hopefully, we'll be working with the Forest Service on this one, targeting areas that may become developed in the future. If possible, we'll collect for various herbariums and also place data on CalFlora and iNaturalist. If the government shutdown persists that far into the year, we'll stick to environs about the Lake Morena County Park and that portion of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Please bring along any data collection equipment such as good macro cameras, hiking gear, and plenty of water. We should be done by lunchtime, but there's never any harm in bringing snacks! Please keep checking in on this one as details will change as the status of our permits and access will change over the next month.

**CARPOOL:** I will provide my truck (black Toyota Tundra) with three (maybe 4) seats from Fashion Valley Mall Transit Center parking area nearest Fashion Valley Rd (west end of the mall) from 7:45 to 8:00 am. Be prepared to drive if space in my truck fills up. Parking at the Transit Center parking lot is free for 24 hrs and is occasionally patrolled by security. The same risks apply there as to regular street parking. Donations for gas are welcome, but not required.

**LOCATION & DIRECTIONS:** 2550 Lake Morena Drive, Campo, CA. Take Interstate 8 east past Pine Valley. Exit Buckman Springs Rd and turn west. Follow this south to Lake Morena, turning towards the County Park on Lake Morena Dr. There will be a \$3 parking fee.

## **Algodones Dunes Camping or Day Trip - Imperial County**

**Saturday, April 6, 9:00 am to**  
**Sunday, April 7, 4:00 pm**

**DIFFICULTY:** EASY to MODERATE, < 4 miles

**PLANT KNOWLEDGE:** Beginner to any on Saturday; Professionals & CNPS/SD Botanical Society fellows on Sunday

**ACCESS:** Open to all, no charge

**[ALL WEATHER EVENT]**

For everyone who missed the Algodones Dunes trip last year, here is your chance to jump on a great repeat, with the extraordinary additions of **Steve Hartman** (CNPS Board President) and **Amy Patten** (CNPS Rare Plant Botanist). Early April will hopefully have a great bloom of Algodones Dunes sunflower (*Helianthus niveus* ssp. *tephrodes*), giant Spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida* var. *gigantea*), Pierson's milkvetch (*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *piersonii*), sand food (*Pholisma sonora*), and fairyduster (*Calliandra eriophylla*) among other rare species and extreme desert endemic species.

For Saturday, we'll meet up at the ranger station for orientation and a quick look for the odd sand food, then head over to the Osbourne Overlook to check out the dune ecosystem there. We're looking for the plants that amazingly

grow and thrive in rolling sand. Following this, we'll head over to the microphyll woodlands, where abundant water below the surface creates an open woodland of desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), and mesquites (*Prosopis* spp.). We'll have lunch under the shade of these trees before exploring a little more around the area for anything of interest. Afterwards, anyone who wants to stay to camp or stay in lodging nearby will wish our friends safe travels.

That evening, we plan overnight dry camping in the desert, with some of the best stargazing in the whole state. In addition, there will be a new moon.

Sunday, we'll meet up at the ranger station once more to get anyone who is coming out for the CNPS rare plant survey. Right now, our intended target is the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) 2B.2 as a landmark species but in addition, interesting listed species in the Hwy 78 / Ninemile Wash area like Argus blazing star (*Mentzelia puberula*), Chocolate Mtns coldenia (*Tiquilia canescens* var. *pulchella*), and sand evening primrose (*Chylismia arenaria*). We'll do iNaturalist and CalFlora observations and herbaria collections where possible. This portion of the trip is aimed at botanists specifically. We hope to finish by 4 pm to get back home before dark.

The desert can be dangerous if you are not prepared. Bring plenty of water (at least 2 gallons per person per day), sunscreen, and light fully covering clothes. Even in early April, expect the temperature to be above 90°F (32°C). Also, if driving, make sure your vehicle can handle sand, meaning high clearance. 4x4 and all-wheel drive is preferred, but not necessary. Also, be aware that sand and fine dust is everywhere and will get into everything.

**DRY CAMPING:** No services or facilities will be available at the camping location. All the food, water, etc., you bring in will need to be packed out. Remember, dig the hole before! Lanterns &/or flashlights will be needed, along with good sleeping bags and tents as it gets very cold at night. The chance to encounter scorpions overnight is high, but this is offset by the possibility of seeing kangaroo rats bounce across the campsite!

**CARPOOL:** I will offer carpool in my truck to those who want to camp. Please PM (personal message) me ahead of time. Look for a black Toyota Tundra (three extra seats), leaving from Fashion Valley Mall Transit Center parking area nearest Fashion Valley Rd (west end of the mall) from 6:45 to 7:00 am. Of course, for anyone who will day trip on Saturday only, be prepared to drive and bring along other Meetup people. Parking at the Transit Center parking lot is free for 24 hrs and is occasionally patrolled by security. That being said, the same risks apply there as to regular street parking. Donations for gas are welcome, but not required (\$20 is suggested).

**LOCATION & DIRECTIONS:** SATURDAY & SUNDAY: Meet at 9 am at the Gecko Rd Imperial Sand Dunes Cahuilla Ranger Station. From San Diego, take I-8 East to El Centro, exit 111 N,

then 78 East to Dunes. ~150 miles. From Los Angeles, take I-10 E to Indio, then 86 S to 78 E to Dunes. ~221 miles.

~ Justin Daniel, President & Field Trip Chair

## CONSERVATION

### Conservation Committee

**February 5.** Usually the first Tuesday evening of each month. Contact **Frank Landis** at [conservation@cnpsd.org](mailto:conservation@cnpsd.org) for details.

### Sprawl, Fire, Water: More Fun for 2019

To continue the theme of last month's news update, here's where we are as of the middle of January when I wrote this.

#### County Climate Action Plan

At Christmas, an appellate court judge threw out the County Climate Action Plan version 3.0. Several days later, the County appealed, on a 3-2 split decision (Supervisors Jacob and Fletcher dissenting). The appeal will go to the California Supreme Court. If this follows the previous five rulings or so, the County will lose, but this will take months to play out.

My concern is whether the County decides to pass the other batched developments from last year in the interim. They all to my knowledge depend on the CAP, so if the County approves them, they would be struck down if the judge rules against the CAP. Possibly there would be penalties for the County to presume about judicial rulings. While approving these developments now seems silly to me, there's a certain streak of doubling down in at least two of the Supervisors, so I don't know if they'll go for it or not. Depending on what the County does, we may have to step up our efforts to oppose Lilac Hills Ranch and Otay Ranch Village 14.

#### Newland Sierra

Litigation by the developer, to block the citizen referendum to repeal the County's approval of the project, failed. The referendum will be on the March 2020 ballot, along with the SOS initiative to put all County General Plan amendments that increase housing density to a vote of the people. This also means that the Newland Sierra developer will not break ground before March 2020. Without the referendum, they could conceivably start building now. The problem any developer faces is that, while they have a permit to build, if they lose that permit in court after they've broken ground, they must put it all back the way it was before the court case started. Since the Newland site holds things like oak trees and old chaparral, this will be extremely expensive.

There is also a tie-in to the CAP litigation. In the Newland Sierra case, the County and developer lawyers assert that, because the Newland EIR was written before the CAP was approved (its greenhouse gas section was based on preliminary guidance the County provided before it issued the CAP), it is not affected by the problems with the CAP. The

plaintiffs and the judge in the CAP case all noted that the language about mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in the Newland Sierra EIR appears identical to the language in the CAP that the judge rejected. However, that judge did not rule on the Newland Sierra EIR, stating due process requires that case to go forward, so that everyone got their day in court.

#### Fire News

In the wake of the last two years of horrendous fall fires and the election of a new governor, there's been a lot of talk around wildfires and wildfire safety. Hopefully it will lead to more useful action. CNPS is talking about creating more local versions of the Fire Recovery Guide that they wrote in 2017 after the Wine Country Fires, and our chapter is exploring creating a recovery guide for San Diego County. Assuming this goes forward, we'll be reaching out for fire pictures to make this guide suitable for our area.

The Wine Country Fire Recovery Guide is available as a free pdf from CNPS now. It is aimed at providing resources to help people whose land had burned figure out how to recover. Much of that advice is readily transferable down here, so if this goes ahead, hopefully it will be ready by the fall.

Also in fire news, things are getting political (e.g. <https://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/science-environment/environment-report-county-fire-marshal-is-at-the-center-of-a-political-firestorm-over-new-development/>). One of the big fights is whether homes have to have large swathes of defensible space around them to be worth saving during a fire. A related problem is the assertion that more urban, more tightly packed homes are less fire prone. While CNPS does support the concept of defensible space, it's worth noting that in both the 2018 Camp Fire and in the 2017 Tubbs Fires, densely packed neighborhoods burned. Where is defensive space necessary? This is going to be a messy discussion, and hopefully we can keep it science based and about risk reduction, not about people being safe if their homes are built to the current (2008) building code. In Paradise, only 13% of homes built since 2008 survived the fire, compared to 4% of homes built before 2008. There's still a lot more that needs to be done.

Oh, and PG&E will declare bankruptcy, due to the \$30 billion it may be on the hook for possibly causing 17 fires in northern California. We'll see if the state bails them out again.

#### Water

I hope we've gotten weeks more rain since I write this (in the rain. Yay!), but here I'm talking about the bigger water situation. If you've been following Ry Rivard's reporting in the Voice of San Diego (e.g. <https://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/science-environment/things-are-getting-crazy-on-the-colorado-river/>), you know that the managers of the Colorado River are edging closer and closer to declaring an emergency when the water elevation on Lake Mead falls to 1,075 feet. At that point, they start rationing water, and we start getting less water piped in. The smart money bets this will happen in



2020. If we see a dry year, it might happen in 2019. In any event, San Diego County did a deal years ago to use some water that would otherwise go to Imperial County, so we're currently insulated from the problem. When we stop being insulated, though, things might get bad rapidly.

One place they get bad is in where the water is needed for new sprawl developments. There have been questions all along about whether southern California water districts can actually provide water and sanitation to these big new developments. The local districts have all claimed they can, while critics who have looked at their water and sanitation accounting have raised questions. Once Colorado River water starts being rationed, the only new source of water will be desalinated ocean water or reclaimed waste water, not all of which can reach these inland developments. It's going to be messy. Will San Diego County follow LA County's lead and allow developments to proceed without guaranteed water sources? Rationally they shouldn't, but to put it politely, the County and I have different standards of rationality.

Putting this all together, I'd say that standard model, leapfrog sprawl development, is nearing its end in southern California. In between fire risk and water shortages, it looks increasingly unlikely that people will be able to build or buy a home out in the back country and drive for an hour or two to get to their jobs. Will urban infill and densification replace it or not? This affects all of us, because people are still reportedly moving to southern California. Where are they going to live? There is opposition to densification, too. People in the cities are fighting condos and apartments going in and blocking their view. Is it better that those people burn in the back country, or not? This is going to be a major political issue going forward over the coming years, as we rebuild our region to deal with 21st century realities. As we do so, we need to hold open spaces for native plants.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

## GARDENING WITH NATIVES

### Native Gardening Committee Meeting

**February 13.** The Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org) for location and time.

Save the Date!  
CNPS-SD  
2019 Spring Garden Tour  
April 13 & 14

## RARE PLANTS

### Rare Plants of Imperial County

As a member of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, you would be totally forgiven if you never realized that the chapter actually includes Imperial County. This is fairly obvious on state maps showing chapter boundaries. However, the inclusion of Imperial County in our chapter is otherwise relatively obscure. Imperial County doesn't often come up at meetings. You will generally not find Imperial County mentioned in our chapter newsletter. On the website, I noted Imperial County mentioned on the Mission Statement page but nowhere else. You seldom hear people refer to our chapter as the "San Diego and Imperial Counties chapter of CNPS". There is some effort to improve on this in 2019.

This isn't really a surprise. There are no major institutions like the San Diego Natural History Museum in Imperial County. SDSU has only a satellite campus near Calexico. I am not even sure how many chapter members actually have addresses there. Most of us see it from the I-8 and then it might seem to be just hot, barren desert and hundreds of thousands of acres of agriculture. And, of course, there is the Salton Sea and Colorado River.

That desert can be a very interesting place, at least in the cooler parts of the year and whenever rain falls (which it sometimes doesn't). There are the rugged and poorly explored Chocolate Mountains, much of which is not open to the public, dominating the east along with the Palo Verde and Cargo Muchacho Mountains. The Algodones Dunes, the largest dune system in North America, runs a southeast diagonal from the Salton Sea down into Sonora. West of the Imperial Valley is dominated by the Western Mesa and Yuha Desert, which gives way to the eastern fringes of the Peninsular Ranges at the Fish Creek, Coyote, and Jacumba Mountains. The county borders Mexico, leaving the possibility of Baja California plants, not yet known in the United States, being found here.

Aside from the stretches of human-altered agricultural land filling much of the Imperial Valley, most of Imperial County is within the Sonoran Desert. The signature ocotillo is especially common west of the Imperial Valley. But not all of Imperial County is straight desert. A tiny corner in the extreme southwest belongs to the Californian floristic province. Here a number of species more typical of San Diego County's mountains, such as California juniper, red shank, and manzanita, enter the county.

The San Diego Natural History Museum Herbarium staff, with Judy Gibson taking the lead, is currently compiling the first ever checklist for Imperial County, and this will almost certainly encourage botanists to take a closer look at the county.

The authors of the Imperial County checklist will tell you that the flora of Imperial County is still poorly known. A search of the Consortium of California Herbaria website will yield over 200,000 herbarium specimens from San Diego County. A similar search of Imperial County will yield only 20,400 specimens. In the years of collections, there is only one, 1943, deep into the Second World War, were more plants were collected in Imperial County during a year than in San Diego. In some recent years, thanks to the SD Natural History Museum's Plant Atlas, nearly as many plants have been collected in a single year as had been collected total previously in Imperial County.

While the rare plants of Imperial County get more attention than their more common counterparts, we also know a good deal less about those than we should, and there are probably more than a few yet to be found.

A search of the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants yields 89 plants. Of these, only a single species, Peirson's milk-vetch (*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii*), is on the Federal Endangered Species list as Threatened and on the State list as Endangered. There are no endemic rare plants, those found only in Imperial County and nowhere else, though giant Spanish-needle (*Palafoxia arida* var. *gigantea*) comes close, with sites otherwise reported only for Sonora, Mexico.

Typically, when searching the Inventory, there is almost always at least one rare plant listed for a county that isn't really there. Imperial County seems to have more than usual. Of the 89 listed, 13 don't appear to have solid sources. White pygmy-poppy (*Canbya candida*) is typical of these. The plant is generally found in the western Mojave Desert and surrounding mountain ranges, and to my knowledge has never been found in the Sonoran Desert. Two others are included based on herbarium specimens, but the specimens are either tagged to the wrong county or the specimen is likely mis-identified. Therefore, the diversity of CNPS plants in Imperial County appears really to be 76. Of these, as you might expect, nearly all are California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 2B, rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere. Indeed, nearly 60 of the 76 species are found in either Arizona and Baja California, Mexico, or both. Nearly 60 species (about 80 percent) are found in adjacent San Diego County, primarily at Anza Borrego.

Overall, most of Imperial County's rare plants are found in the desert regions west and east of the Imperial Valley, on the Western Mesa and Yuha Desert, or the Chocolate and Palo Verde Mountains. As for species of limited distribution, the two stand-out areas are that little piece of the Californian Floristic Province in the extreme southwest and the Algodones Dunes.

That southwest corner is extremely rugged and probably holds more rare plant surprises. Among the species found there are species that are otherwise largely known to occur only in Baja California. Some of the interesting rarities found there include southern jewel flower (*Streptanthus*

*campestris*), a CRPR 1B.3 mustard; spearleaf (*Matelea parvifolia*), a rank 2B.3 member of the dogbane family; slender-leaved ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis tenuifolia*), a rank 2B.3 member of the phlox family; sticky geraea (*Geraea viscida*) a rank 2B.2 sunflower; and Wolf's cholla (*Cylindropuntia wolfii*), a rank 4.3 cactus (right), and



one of my favorites, Orcutt's daisy (*Xylorhiza orcuttii* [left]), that I first encountered in the rugged canyons along SR 78 just inside the Imperial County line.

The Algodones Dunes form an impressive pile of sand. If you haven't seen these great dunes personally, you are likely familiar with it as a stand-

in for the dunes of the planet Tatooine in Star Wars. We can appreciate that Jabba the Hut's barge floated over those dunes. In real life, they are a mecca for off road vehicle enthusiasts, which unfortunately does impact a suite of species that are nearly endemic to the dune system. Already mentioned is the state/federally listed Peirson's milkvetch. It is found in a few other locations, but its stronghold is the Algodones Dunes. Other inhabitants of the dunes include Algodones Dunes sunflower (*Helianthus niveus* ssp. *tephroides*), CRPR 1B.2, and giant Spanish-needle, a CRPR 1B.3 sunflower.

2019 is a good year to consider Imperial County rare plants. We will likely get a checklist, and I encourage members to participate in one or more of the Imperial County field trips offered by CNPS-SD.

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist

## Related Activities

### CNPS Bryophyte Chapter

The annual foray of the Bryophyte Chapter will be **March 29 to April 1** —no joke— in San Luis Obispo. Unfortunately, we have not yet received the registrations that we expected, particularly from our younger members. So, if you think you're young, or even if you wish you were young, or even if you sympathize with the young, or even if you don't, then

please, please register today. Without people registering ahead of time, we don't know how much food to buy, among other worries. Here is a link to the flier you'll need to register: <https://bryophyte.cnps.org/images/pdf/SBF24.pdf>

**Audubon Society**  
**Love Your Wetlands Day**  
**Saturday, February 2**  
**9 am – 4 pm**

Join the San Diego Audubon Society and the UC Natural Reserve System for a celebration of our local wetlands at the 2019 Love Your Wetlands Day! This event will be held at the Kendall-Frost Marsh (2055 Pacific Beach Drive). It will entail a series of interactive and fun educational activities and talks about marsh conservation, as well as live animal presentations. This is the only day of the year that the Kendall-Frost Marsh is open to the public, so take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn more about the wilderness in your own backyard via a walk through the marsh! Contact [ikay@ucsd.edu](mailto:ikay@ucsd.edu) or [flaherty@sandiegoaudubon.org](mailto:flaherty@sandiegoaudubon.org) for more information.

**Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**  
**Grass Identification and Field Trip**  
**Sat-Sun, April 27 - 28**

Led by Travis Columbus PhD, participants will be instructed in detail on the vegetative and reproductive features of grasses (Poaceae). Aspects of anatomy, physiology, and ecology will also be addressed. Most time will be spent in the lab learning to use the identification keys in the second edition of The Jepson Manual. Special attention will be given to difficult couplets and taxa. In addition, participants will learn how to identify common genera by using diagnostic characteristics. There will be a field trip to Santa Rosa Plateau on Sunday afternoon. Please bring a bag lunch on both days. Snacks will be provided. \$300 (\$250 for RSABG members). Please register online at [www.rsabg.org](http://www.rsabg.org).

**SD Natural History Museum**  
**The State of Biodiversity Symposium**  
**Wednesday, February 6**

After the State of the Union, State of the State, and State of the City addresses, the State of Biodiversity Symposium will convene national and regional scientists and conservationists to discuss the latest science, emerging threats, and management success stories in the world of conservation. Now in its second year, this event is for the general public, conservation practitioners, and scientists to explore the status of regional conservation and biodiversity research efforts. Tickets may be purchased online at: <https://www.sdnhm.org/calendar/public-programs/nattalks-and-films/>, at the Museum, or by calling (877) 946-7797.

**Nat Talk: The State of Biodiversity**  
**Tuesday, February 12; 7 pm**

The Nat's Vice President of Science and Conservation Dr. Michael Wall will summarize the state of biodiversity in our region. Museum doors open at 5:30 PM and the talk begins at 7 PM. Food, beer, and wine will be available for purchase at the Flying Squirrel Café before the talk.

**Natural History 101:**  
**Plants of San Diego County**  
**Wednesday, February 20; 10:15 am**

Join Curator of Botany Dr. Jon Rebman as he discusses the biodiversity of plants in San Diego County. Jon will also share botanical resources such as the *San Diego County Plant Atlas* and the use of *iNaturalist* to document plant diversity. This is one in a series of talks by the Museum's curators. Tickets are \$9 for SDNHM members and \$12 for nonmembers.

**Julian Women's Club**  
**Wildflower Show, May 3-5**

Wildflowers - the Jewels of the Backcountry.  
<http://www.julianwomansclub.org/event/julian-wildflower-show/>.

**Desert Wildflowers**

At the DesertUSA website: <https://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html> you can find updates on the wildflower blooms at various desert areas, such as Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Death Valley National Park (NP), Joshua Tree NP and Mojave Desert NP, and even the deserts of other southwestern states. Anza-Borrego Desert SP also has its own website for wildflower updates that tells you exactly where the best wildflower displays are in the park: <https://www.abdnha.org/pages/03flora/reports/current.htm> or you can call 760-767-4684 for an update.

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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, July 10 for the August newsletter, etc. Please submit items to [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org)

**CNPS-SD Activities Calendar**  
**February 2019**

- 2/5: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4
- 2/6: Board Meeting, p.2
- 2/10: Painted Gorge & Mtn Palm Springs Field Trip, p.2
- 2/13: Garden Committee Mtg, p. 5
- 2/19: Chapter Meeting, p.1
- 2/24: Lake Morena–*Ribes canthariforme* Field Trip, 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

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