



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2019

**Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park**

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

More Than Meets the Eye Exploring California Native Plants with All Our Senses



by Nicole Calhoun - gardener,
naturalist, and owner of
Artemisia Nursery

Join Nicole Calhoun of Artemisia Nursery for an exploration into the extra-visual qualities of California's native plants.

Website www.artemisiannursery.com;
[instagram@artemisia.nursery](https://www.instagram.com/artemisia.nursery);

<https://www.facebook.com/artemisia.nursery>.

Main Presentation

Sage Against the Machine - a night of California native plant songs and stories

An hour of native plant-themed music and stories about living and working with California native plants. From the punk rock-inspired 'Kill Your Lawn!' to the tragic love ballad 'Your Love is Like a Manzanita' and the toe-tapping 'Rare Plant Blues', native plant horticulturists and musicians Evan Meyer, Antonio Sanchez, and Nicole Calhoun promise to keep the

night lively and fun. Their unique collection of original songs and stories explore native plant conservation and horticultural themes in a sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking, but always entertaining fashion. A unique native plant presentation not to be missed!

Sage Against the Machine started as a piano/ guitar duo of native plant nerds who joined forces at Rancho Santa Ana



Botanic Garden in 2013. Pianist and vocalist Evan Meyer has played music professionally in New England and is currently Assistant Director of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA. Guitarist and vocalist Antonio Sanchez has been an amateur musician for over a decade, and is

currently Assistant Nursery Manager at Growing Works Nursery in Camarillo. Cellist and bassist Nicole Calhoun recently joined the band and is the owner of Artemisia Nursery in Los Angeles.

FALL WORKSHOP: The Resilient California Native Garden

September 14, 2019

9:00 am – 3:15 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
campus

298 West Arbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92103

California Native Plant Society-San Diego is excited to present a day-long workshop that includes five presentations. In this workshop the presenters will offer ways to enhance the natural resilience of native landscapes, whether you are planting for the first time or are redesigning parts of your established landscape. Whether it is planting native trees or plants to attract

designing your area to make best use of water, this workshop will assist you in looking at the larger ecological picture and being creative in your decision making.

PRESENTATIONS

- Gardening Is for The Birds — Birdscaping Your Garden Using Native Plants
 - Watering for Health, Fire Resistance, and Conservation in The California Native Landscape
 - Landscaping with Native Trees
 - Horticultural Valor in the Native Garden —Be Bold!
 - PANEL: I Will Survive-Strategies for Creating a Flourishing and Durable California Native Garden
- ❖ Muffins, coffee, snacks, & catered sandwiches are included with your ticket.
 - ❖ Select seeds and books will be available for purchase at the workshop as well as other educational materials for you to take home and enhance the day's knowledge.
 - ❖ Native plants will be available for purchase from Moosa Creek Nursery and Tree of Life Nursery from 8:00 am-1:30 pm. Representatives from the nurseries can help you select plants and we can hold your purchased plants for pickup at the end of the workshop.
 - ❖ Enjoy the outdoor campus of the venue planted with California native plants.

Visit ticket page at:

<https://brownpapertickets.com/event/4296832>

or our website at:

<https://www.cnpssd.org/events/fallworkshop2019>

for full schedule, speakers and details.



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, August 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@cnpssd.org.

Conservation Committee

August 6. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Email conservation@cnpssd.org for details. If you are interested in this kind of work, you are very, very welcome, as we always need more volunteers. **We are happy to train you**, too, and we have developed training materials. If you know of a project that needs our involvement, we also welcome you. Our goal is to protect California's native plants, and where they are threatened, whether it is by development or climate change, we speak up and advocate for them.

Termites & the Meaning of Love

First, in conservation news, a deal to solve the problem of The Preserve at Torrey Highlands fell through, so the City Council is hearing the project on Monday August 5, at 2 pm. THE VOTE WILL BE CLOSE, SO SHOWING UP MATTERS! This being the City Council, anyone who shows up and doesn't want to speak can cede their two minutes to another speaker (like me), and that's really valuable. Contact conservation@cnpssd.org if you're thinking of going.

And now for this month's parable of the termite, from Lisa Margonelli's book Underbug. Researchers interested in robotics were studying termites to use them as a model to figure out how swarms of robots could work together, so they recorded videos of small groups of 25 termites doing a simple dirt-moving task. It took them some time to figure out how to track the actions of individual termites, but when they did, they got a huge surprise. Until they tracked individual termites, they'd assumed that individual termites were all tireless, interchangeable workers, biological robots. It turned out, when they watched carefully, that out of 25 termites, only five actually did almost all of the work. Others cleaned themselves, did their own thing, or just stood around. Even termites are individuals with different interests and motivation levels.

If you've ever been active in a volunteer group, you know that the perennial problem is a shortage of people interested in helping since only 10-20% of the people who show up do all the work. It turns out that termites have the same problem. So do ants, flocks of birds, and schools of fish. Getting everybody actively helping may be harder than you think.

What's love got to do with this? If you're guessing this is a crafty appeal for more people to get active, you already figured out the subtext. That's actually not the primary purpose of this essay.

The thing that's starting to crop up in environmental discussions is the question of what people mean when they say they love the environment? It turns out that they mean many different things, that some of those things are more

about.

I can illustrate this most easily by anecdote. If you own pets and eat meat, you probably love your dog, you probably love a steak, and you almost certainly do not love eating your pet. That's the problem with the English word love: it means many different things. It can mean craving, desire, lust, addiction, attachment, compassion, and, well, love. Each of these has a different meaning.

They're not all bad, there's certainly an advantage, in many situations, to being a bit ambiguous about what we mean when we "love" the environment. This ambiguity can bring together people of very different interests to a common goal. But it can also sow a lot of confusion, even cause damage, and that's what it's doing now.

One thing that brings this up is the love of the environment espoused by some (not all!) mountain bikers, foragers, and others, including some people in CNPS. To these people, a native plant is only worthwhile if they experience it. A beautiful landscape is only beautiful when they are out in it, and it's wasted land otherwise. This is a purely utilitarian environmentalism. Plants and animals have no inherent right to exist, save for what they do for us. We love what they do, but otherwise? Who cares?

I don't disagree with these people when they claim they love the outdoors, but this is the love a carnivore has for a good steak. Unfortunately, such a consuming passion is unsustainable. Cover the entire world with trails, and the craving for new trails will not abate, even as the already-exploited lands get loved to death. Foraging wild plants in the parks merely kills them in their last strongholds.

You may believe that CNPSers are above this, but I've been guilty of it. Most of us have. It's that notion that "I'm a botanist, it's okay if I go off trail and pick this rare flower so I can photograph it or key it out." It's not the desire to go see the distant, the exotic, the beautiful, that's the problem, exactly. It's the desire to do only that, to push past the boundaries, to not care about what others experience, to "not care about the resource."

And look at the language: it's a resource, not even an organism, let alone an individual. That's a problem, especially when we don't take equal care to make sure the "resources" have what they need to continue to exist.

This kind of love is not sustainable. The conflict we have in CNPS is that in part we depend on this consuming desire to finance our group, to bring plant lovers together on garden tours and on trails. We tend to lionize it in our presentations, our tours, our shows. There's far less emphasis on all the hard work that goes into making sure "these resources" (to deny them their diversity and individuality yet again) are available to the consumers year after year.

There is good news coming up, but I want to break one more bit of bad news: this consumerist love fits very badly with

that needs to be resolved: Why do you, or any environmentalist, deserve to consume nature, but a developer does not? Or if you happen to own a country estate a bit of nature, is it good keep it for yourself for your own personal enjoyment? This is where the NIMBY problem comes from, using a consumer-style love to justify protecting something from other people ruining (or even having) your experience.

Conservation works better when it's done lovingly, but not from the standpoint of consumption. Personally, I believe that native plant species have an inherent right to exist. If you think I elevated plants to personhood, read that again: I believe SPECIES have a right to exist. It doesn't matter if I never see them, or if I have to obey a "keep out" sign to protect them. I'm willing to love them enough to try to help them have their own lives, even if they're not pretty and that love takes some work.

Is this compassion, or merely a weird, intellectual attachment? It certainly doesn't sound very passionate, does it? Where's the thrill, the pictures given at a lecture, the bragging rights?

A lot of people seem very confused by why I read and comment on EIRs even though I say I don't enjoy it. I'm guessing they think I must secretly love it, and that I'm therefore lying.

I'm not lying. Reading an EIR is a chore, less pleasant because I'm one of the few termites working on it, while everyone else stands talking about how much more important it is to consume the pleasant experiences life offers. What keeps me eating this dirt and moving it from pile to pile is the repeated choice to love the world, pure and simple, but it's not a consumptive love. And because it's a choice made every day, not one forced by passion or craving, I feel far less desire to abandon it if I'm not enjoying it.

Getting involved in conservation work doesn't require great passion, courage, or knowledge, although these help. Ultimately, it requires choosing to do what you think is the right thing and a willingness to see it through. That's all.

Anyway, that's why I think it's important to diversify the love language we use in environmentalism. We can and should still use the word love. It's also good to start to think and talk about desires, cravings, longings, attachments. And compassion too.

If this makes sense to you, you may want to think about all of the different things you mean when you say when you love native plants. Passion is fun, but the choice of compassion is important too. Given all the mounting problems we're facing, I'd only ask that you spend less time seeing the world as a resource and more time choosing to love the great diversity of plants, animals, fungi, and everything else for themselves.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

Native Gardening Committee Meeting

August 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpssd.org for location and time. Meetings address a lively array of gardening opportunities, projects, and special events. The location rotates each month amongst private homes and public spaces. They are usually preceded by a potluck dinner.

Old Town Landscape

Saturday, August 10, 9 am – 1 pm. Help remove pesky plants from the Old Town Native Landscape. Please come help us grub out unwanted weeds remaining in the Native Landscape. We may be pruning a few low-hanging branches too.

Come by train, trolley or bus to the Old Town Transit Station and cross at Taylor Street. Or if you drive, park in the “F” lot in Old Town, off Taylor and Calhoun – usually easy at that time of day. Look for us near the McCoy House Museum.

Bring water, sun protection, and a favorite hand tool if you have one, or use ours - lots to choose from.

Questions? Contact Kay at OldTownLandscape@cnpssd.org

Save the Date
Fall California Native Plant Sale
Saturday, October 12, 2019
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

CNPS-SD AWARDS AT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

Best Use of Native Plants Awards

Each year the CNPS San Diego Chapter gives awards for the Best Use of Native Plants for the garden exhibits at the San Diego County Fair, held in Del Mar. The prize recipients for this year are:

Adult Category – San Diego Horticultural Society, designed by Greg Rubin and Edmond Piffard (\$250 & CNPS membership)

Student Category – California Native Plant Club, San Dieguito High School, Elizabeth Hazard President (\$250 & CNPS membership)



Members of the California Native Plant Club, San Dieguito High School.

Honorable Mention – San Diego Botanical Garden (\$100 & CNPS Membership)

Honorable Mention – Organic Earth Care (\$100 & CNPS membership)

BOTANY

2019 Superbloom

This year's "superbloom" continued through the end of June in our local mountains. We have never seen the Lagunas this floriferous in late June. The chaparral along Sunrise Hwy was in full bloom, dominated by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*), interspersed with quite a few Weed's mariposa lilies (*Calochortus weedii* var. *weedii*), and shiny-leaf Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon trichocalyx* var. *trichocalyx*) by the roadside.

The short Kwaaymii Trail had plenty of the usually less common golden-bowl



Calochortus weedii var. *weedii* (above) & *Calochortus concolor* (right).



mariposa lilies (*Calochortus concolor*), with Mojave prickly pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*) competing for attention. One of my favorites, summer snow (*Leptosiphon floribundus* ssp. *glaber*), was at its prime, while western choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana* var.

Point Trail was outright lush, and even the slopes towards the desert were still green. Further up the road, along Lake Cuyamaca, the numbers of Cuyamaca larkspur (*Delphinium hesperium* ssp. *cuyamaca*) were stunning in many places; its blue rivaled by that of dwarf brodiaea (*Brodiaea terrestris* ssp. *kernensis*). For the way back down to I-8 we chose Viejas Grade with a spectacular display of Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), lots



Dwarf brodiaea (*Brodiaea terrestris* ssp. *kernensis*; above) Cuyamaca larkspur (*Delphinium hesperium* ssp. *cuyamaca*; right), and Conchalagua (*Zeltnera venusta*; below).



of Weed mariposa lilies, and pink added by canchalagua (*Zeltnera venusta*) accompanied by fringed spineflower (*Chorizanthe fimbriata* var. *fimbriata*).

~ Jürgen Schrenk, CNPSSD Member

Black Mountain Rare Plant Survey

Time was drifting by and the summer of rare plant surveys was getting close to the end. The season for surveys and the project financing were almost past in 2015. Margie Mulligan and I were originally supposed to visit the top of Black Mountain, northeast of Sutherland Reservoir, but other commitments prevented her doing it. So, Jim Rocks was interested and Margie made arrangements for us to contact

drive and I would meet him at his office in the Clairmont/Mission Bay area.

I drove there quite early one morning, arriving by 7:30 am. We loaded into his Honda Ridgeline 4X4 and drove out through Ramona and up Magnolia Avenue and then down into Pamo Valley. The vegetation was not completely toasted because of one interesting July rainstorm, the remnants of a tropical storm. It dropped quite a bit of rain in a number of places in San Diego County including 4 inches in Ramona where it flooded some streets.

The plant that appeared to benefit the most from the July rain was *Salsola kali* (Russian thistle). It was green and growing profusely in all of the open fields. However, the rain would have also assisted the native chaparral shrubs and oak trees during a very dry time of year. The road climbed gently up into the hills north east of Ramona and then dropped down into an oak and sycamore lined canyon, shaded by the larger trees but providing a view of a narrow valley as it lay before us.

Pamo Valley is such a beautiful closed valley. A large cattle operation apparently leases the City of San Diego land, which was once proposed as a reservoir site. It could be a closed valley anywhere; a mini-rural community surrounded by mountains.

We drove down the road farther until we came to the turn off on the east side for the road up Black Mountain. It started out low but gradually climbed and climbed. The lower part of the road passed through what was mostly open coastal sage scrub habitat. It started out with vegetation dominated by *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California buckwheat) and *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush) after leaving the grassy, grazed valley bottom. The road was not bad except for a couple of places, but we jostled our way up. There were switch backs and hairpin curves as the road worked its way around a ridge and then a straight section as it passed on the backside of the ridge. *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland sage) began to appear as the substrate changed from regular granitic rock composed of tonalite and diorite to gabbro – black granite. The soil changed to the characteristic red color as well. Gabbro is composed of high concentrations of magnesium and iron that stunts the growth of shrubs and reduces the density of the plants, but some plants such as *Salvia clevelandii* can tolerate it better than other species and appear to thrive.

As a reflection of the increased rainfall due to elevation and topographic features, the vegetation began to be dominated by *Adenstoma fasciculata* (Chamise) but it still had elements of coastal sage scrub species, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* and *Artemisia californica*. As the road climbed, the chaparral became larger though still gabbro-influenced, which results in stunted and more open chaparral than regular granitic chaparral. The road passed around another nose of a ridge and into a moist oak woodland and then over onto the west side of the ridge with an exposed vegetation that was not of

After curving around a cove of an upper drainage, with oaks and apparently a spring, the road wound around a knoll and intersected with an old gated road that extended to the north through a series of large meadows and into the back or west side of Mesa Grande. However, that was not the direction we were taking.



Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) grove.

What was most interesting is that this intersection is the site of the first pine trees we saw that day, *Pinus coulteri* (Coulter pine). There were a few moderately sized trees and a really large one that appeared to have died recently. It was covered with dead red needles, the tree having died during the first couple of months of 2015, probably due to the drought. Other *Pinus coulteri* trees on the slopes to the east of the intersection were also dead but they were quite clearly killed by the fires of 2007.

The road turned to the south and then east while continuing to climb. Thousands of trees were killed here by the Witch Fire of 2007. A few seedlings grew in these areas as well, from seeds released by fire on the semi-serotinous *Pinus coulteri* cones. The spaces between the cone scales open with the heat of a fire and then the cones release bright orange-red seeds. The major groves along the road in this area were planted as part of the Penny Pines project that for decades was supported and still is supported to encourage pine growth. Penny Pines is a Reforestation/Forest Education Program sponsored by the Garden Club Members of National Garden Clubs, Inc., working with the USDA Forest Service and State Foresters throughout the US and its territories.

A fuel break had also been maintained around these planted groves, but it did not prevent the fire from killing the trees, or in fact, many of the trees may have already been dead before the fire, having been killed by this century's drought.

The fire cleared the forest so that no adult trees now stand in the planted areas. Over the years the question has arisen about whether any pines naturally occurred on Black Mountain. When driving by, it is not so obvious if the pines were natural or planted on the slopes along the road. However, one look at a 2006 or earlier aerial photograph

showed that many of the pines were planted. Three major groves had been planted on the western slopes below the highest ridge. Most of the trees grew in that area for decades while they were not disturbed and before the recent drought set in. One planted grove had been removed after most of the trees died from the drought. It may be that the overall density of the trees was a little ambitious for the moisture and rainfall conditions that exist there.

After passing through this area, the road steeply climbed north with a sharp switchback and a hairpin curve before it reached the end of the ridge at another grove of *Pinus coulteri*. Though the weather was predicted to be hot that day, it was pleasant and cool where we were standing in the shade of old *Pinus coulteri* trees.

The presence of this last grove brings up a major question that has been in the minds of many for years since the Penny Pine program began. Were all the *Pinus coulteri* trees growing on Black Mountain planted or were there naturally occurring pines before the plantings occurred? There is too little documentation to verify if they were all planted or not. It has always been my opinion that the upper part of Black Mountain is a sky island. As such, the pines represent a period of time when pines were more widespread and connected from peak to peak. Sky islands are groves of pines and other higher elevation species and forests on higher mountains that are surrounded on the lower slopes of the mountains by chaparral and lower elevation vegetation. At the present time, we have a number of sky island peaks in San Diego County that support *Pinus coulteri*, including Corte Madera Mountain, Los Pinos Mountain, Black Mountain, Pine Mountain on the northern end of Rancho Guejito, the upper west slope of Rodriguez Mountain, Bucksnot Mountain and the San Ysidro Mountains north of Ranchita. Unfortunately, nearly all of them have been ravaged by fires in the last 20 years and the forests have become much diminished. There are technically other types of sky islands in San Diego County as well, including Whale Peak in the Pinyon Mountains in Anza-Borrego State Park and even the top of Villager Peak in the extension of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Of course, some could say that all our mountains are sky islands, with remnant forests surviving from the Pleistocene. However, the sky islands mentioned here are true islands with small isolated groves of trees.

We walked into the pines to the south to see what plants were growing here. These pines appeared to grow in a natural configuration. They were growing in random patterns along the ridge line, in shade producing groves and small clusters above the densest chaparral. There were also individual trees separated from the main cluster in locations that were far from the areas that were the focus of planting. The planted areas along the road were clearly defined. These trees were in a natural occurring pattern just as they grown on Los Pinos Mountain, Pine Mountain and, to a degree, Corte Madera Mountain. There appeared to be about 60 trees on this ridge-top location. The interesting thing is that when examining the

on the ridge top have not changed very significantly and a large proportion of them survived the fire in 2007. There may have been 20-25 percent more before the fire, but they were always sparse and scattered and the fact that they survived indicates that the fire did not burn their area.

Common representative species of the grove area included *Pinus coulteri*, *Ceanothus palmeri* (Palmer's ceanothus), *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* (Eastwood's manzanita), *Styrax officinale* (snowdrop bush) *Cordylanthus rigidus* (bird's beak), *Adenostoma fasciculata*, *Ericameria parishii* (Parish's goldenbush) and a few *Eriogonum fasciculatum*.

The *Pinus coulteri* trees here are of good size, probably predating the trees that were planted. When looking at historic Google earth images, it was clear that individuals of these trees did survive the fire of 2007. Their resistance to the fire is another indication that they were likely naturally occurring there. The County of San Diego has a set of aerial photographs from 1927. I do not recall if they cover this area, but it would be interesting to examine them to see if they grew there at that time. There are fire lookout tower remnants about a half a mile north or ¾ a mile to the north of where we parked.

We walked among the trees. In addition to the species mentioned earlier, common plants included *Crocanthemum scoparius* (Broom rush-rose) and *Hesperoyucca whipplei* (Chaparral yucca). The strong sweet minty scent of *Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata* (Felt-leaf monardella) was also present. *Ceanothus oliganthus* (Hairy ceanothus), *Diplacus clevelandii* (Cleveland's monkey flower) and *Salvia clevelandii* were also growing in the area. *Stipa coronata* (Foothill stipa), a large perennial grass, grew among the rocks.

A pale swallowtail butterfly was flying by as we walked down. I walked down slope several hundred yards toward a large old isolated tree. On the slope, *Rhus ovata* (Sugar bush) and *Hazardia squarrosa* (Sawtooth goldenbush) were growing in the strong sun of the western slope. *Ceanothus foliosus* (Wavy leaf lilac) was also growing there. It is another gabbro species with unique distribution, not rare in San Diego County, but disjunct to the north. A few individuals of the beautiful bright yellow tulip-like *Calochortus weedii* (Weed's mariposa lily) were still in flower.

Along the ridgeline, *Horkelia truncata* (Ramona horkelia) plants still had green growth. *Horkelia truncata* looks a lot like *Potentilla* (now *Drymocallis*) except it has white flowers instead of yellow and the stems and leaves have a very strong odor very close to that of *Chamaebatia australis* (Southern mountain misery). It is a greasy, musty mint scent that is unmistakable.



Horkelia truncata (Ramona horkelia).

Frangula californica (California coffeeberry) and *Pellea mucronata* (Bird's-foot fern) were growing near each other on the slope. The really nice thing was that *Pinus coulteri* seedlings were growing 2-feet tall, apparently reproducing from the adult trees that did burn in this area. Other montane species include *Symphoricarpus mollis* (Snowberry), *Wyethia ovata* (Mule ears) and *Ericameria parishii* (Parish's rabbitbrush).

However, the trees being only 2 feet tall seemed small to me since the fire had burned in 2007, 7 years before. I could have expected if they generated that year, that the trees would have been a bit taller. However, there is no guarantee that the trees germinated right away. There can be delayed germination in some trees, but not delayed too long, just a few years. Large patches of *Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata* were growing in open rocks on the ridge top.

The goal was to find the *Packera ganderi* that had been found there before, so we headed north past the former location for the old fire lookout tower. All that was left of the tower was the concrete footings and the steel bolt bases that had been cut off. There was also a cluster of species of non-native plants in the area including *Vinca* spp. (Vinca vine) that was spreading but still somewhat confined. One *Juglans* spp. (Walnut) was also growing near there.

From the north side of the peak we could see smoke rising from a fire near Aguanga in Riverside County, though it looked like it was on the back side of Palomar Mountain. The two large meadows of Rancho Guejito were visible to the west. A turkey vulture flew by while we were there. It was a warm day but where we were the air was freshened by a cool east breeze. Haze filtered the view to the west.

I headed over to the north side, down the slope below the peak. The vegetation here was a mix of *Arctostaphylos glandulosa*, *Adenostoma fasciculatum* and occasional patches of *Quercus xacutidens*, the hybrid scrub oak. The habitat seemed to be almost exactly like the habitat on Potrero Peak that supported the *Packera ganderi*. I looked around extensively at the base areas of the *Arctostaphylos* in the litter openings just like those on Potrero Peak, but this one is a bit higher in elevation. However, I did not find any of

puzzling to me. Band-tailed pigeons were perched in the trees as I walked back up onto the peak.

On the open slopes near the peak, other plants of note were *Trichostema parishii* (Mountain bluecurls) and a huge *Frazeria parryi* (Deer's ears).

We gradually drove down the road, stopping at the major intersection with the road to the north. I walked to the west and Jim Rocks walked to the east. I mentioned already that a huge pine had died near here. I walked all around that location because it was near one of the digitized points where we were looking to verify for the *Packera*. I hiked all around the top of a large knoll that had a steep cliff to the west, but to no avail. This location had a good representation of *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast live oak) as well.

We kept driving down the mountain, stopping occasionally and checking for the *Packera*. We found more *Horkelia truncata*, which for a second gave the false impression of dried *Packera*. We also tracked *Salvia clevelandii* down the mountain to a relatively low location.

An interesting coincidence was that in one portion of the road that was located in the shade of an oak woodland, with a slightly wider road so two cars could pass, we encountered another vehicle. It was a forest service Ford Expedition that was being driven by Jeff Hayes, the Cleveland National Forest Planner and riding along with him were Will Metz, the forest supervisor, and Gloria, a biologist. What are the odds of that happening on the day that we went there?

Black Mountain, or what is sometimes called Big Black Mountain, is located in the east of the foothills and west of the true mountains. It is in a transition zone and because of its unique gabbro soil, it supports unique rare plants. While we did not find the *Packera* that time, I have no doubt that it still remains on this sky island in San Diego County.

~ Tom Oberbauer



Coulter pines on the ridgetop.

OTHER SOUTH COAST RANGES ACTIVITIES

Bryophyte Chapter **Registration is now open for the** **SO BE FREE Bryophyte Foray** **March 20 – 23, 2020,** **in Lake County, CA.**

SO BE FREE 25 will be held at Saratoga Springs Retreat Center, about 105 miles north of San Francisco, CA. We'll be located in the heart of the North Coast Ranges, with a diverse flora ranging from redwoods and mixed evergreens in the lower elevations near the coast, to boreal forests and rocky crests of the higher elevation, to savannas, chaparral, and oak woodlands of the lower elevations in the interior.

Details and registration form are at:

<https://bryophyte.cnps.org/images/pdf/SBF25Announcement.pdf>

South Coast Chapter **Fire-resistant** **Native Landscape Principles** **Monday, August 5, 2019** **7:30 - 9:00 pm**

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA, 90274

Presentation by **Greg Rubin**, President and Founder of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc. Author, Licensed Landscape Contractor, and SD Horticultural Society '2018 Horticulturist of the Year.' **FREE ADMISSION.** Sponsored by the South Coast chapter of CNPS <http://sccnps.org>.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Southern California Botanists **45th Annual Symposium** **Saturday, October 5, 2019** ***New Frontiers in Botany:*** ***Discoveries and Emerging Tools***

Seaver Auditorium (645 N. College Avenue) at Pomona College in Claremont, CA. Click here for directions: [Seaver Auditorium, Claremont, CA.](#)

October 15-18, Riverside



Registration now open!

The symposium will be at the Riverside Convention Center and rooms are available at the historic Mission Inn in downtown Riverside, steps away from restaurants and entertainment. The program includes talks, posters, trainings, discussion groups and field trips on a range of topics addressing invasive plants and their management. Connect with colleagues from across the state, and get the latest updates on effective tools, relevant research, and strategic management approaches.

Join Cal-IPC for the member discount

Cal-IPC members get discounted registration to the Symposium, including discounts on training sessions and field trips. Members also receive a subscription to Cal-IPC's newsletter, Dispatch, featuring the latest on plants, projects, and policy.

Take pictures for the photo contest

Your pictures help us tell the story of restoration work. Get ready to submit your best images to our 2019 Photo Contest by taking pictures while you're in the field this spring/summer! The 2019 Photo Contest will open July 15.

The historic Mission Inn was built in 1876 and upgraded to a luxurious AAA Four Diamond award-winning hotel, featuring Spanish-Mission style architecture with modern luxury, from flying buttresses and garden oases to a modern fitness center, spa, and upscale dining. **Reserve by Sept. 14 to get a room rate with code CALIPC 2019.** Check the website for details, including area maps and more. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/>



Shiny-leaf yerba santa (*Eriodictyon trichocalyx* var. *trichocalyx*) along the Sunrise Hwy. Photo by Jürgen Schrenk.

THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

presents

A Lecture and Book Signing by

NAN STERMAN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 10:00am

The La Jolla Community Center

6811 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037

Purchase Tickets On-line at www.sdfloral.org

Ticket Price: \$25

(price does not include book)

FREE VALET PARKING

VENDORS/DOOR PRIZES

NEW MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES



Cuyamaca Larkspur (*Delphinium hesperium* ssp. *cuyamacae*) along Lake Cuyamaca. Photo by Jürgen Schrenk.

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, June 10 for the July newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar August 2019

- 8/6: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4**
- 8/7: Board Meeting, p.2**
- 8/10: Old Town Native Plant Landscape, p.4**
- 8/14: Garden Committee Mtg, p.4**
- 8/20: Chapter Meeting, p.1**
- 9/14: Fall Workshop, 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
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August 2019 Newsletter

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

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