



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 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
The SD Native Bee Garden
Planting and Designing a Garden for
Native Bees by Julie Serences

How do you know it's a bee? A little solitary bee biology. What landscape design features do they need to be successful in your yard? Seasonality? Emphasis will be on specific plant and bee interactions. What bee behaviors to look for in your landscapes?



Julie Serences, Xerces Society Partner in Pollinator Conservation, is a self-taught naturalist and professional educator with over 25 years of experience teaching learners of all ages. She has given presentations to many diverse groups from the Cal EPA, to Master Gardeners, to local gardening clubs, to the Pesticide Applicators Professional Association. She has been giving talks about native bees for the Xerces Society for the last 8 years. She moved to San Diego five years ago, ripped out the lawn and started a garden for native bees.

Main Presentation
Native Bugs of the Californias
and the Plants that Love/Hate
Them

By Dr. Michael Wall

The vast diversity of native plants in Peninsular California supports an even more vast diversity of native insects and their cousins. Michael's presentation will focus on some of

the highly specialized relationships between native plants and animals, and how those relationships fuel biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Dr. Michael Wall,
Curator of Entomology

at the San Diego Natural History Museum, has been slowly learning about our region's insect diversity since arriving in San Diego in 2006. Before that, he worked at the Australian Museum after getting a PhD in Entomology at University of Connecticut. Before he saw the light, he earned both a Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Botany at Auburn University in Alabama.



FALL WORKSHOP:
The Resilient California Native
Garden

September 14, 2019
9:00 am – 3:15 pm
See p. 3

Volcan Mtn Rare Plant Survey

Sunday, September 1, 2019; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE [Unknown length]

PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Amateur botanist +, Professionals always welcome!

ACCESS: Open to all [this event only], no charge

[SEVERE WEATHER CANCELS EVENT - Temps over 95F (32C) or Storm Warnings]

Having taken August off due to the heat, I considered waiting out September as well. However, an email chain from the Volcan Mountain Foundation brought an interesting opportunity in front of us: Surveying a restricted access montane preserve.

The Volcan Mountain Nature Center and trails above it, protected by the Preserve, are about as wild as the Peninsular Range gets so close to civilization. As such, there have been few botanical surveys on the mountain. We aim to add more, starting this summer and following up over the years ahead. This field trip will focus on providing CNPS survey protocol survey data to the Foundation's records as well as other partnering organizations like the NAT, CDFW via CNDDDB, and CalFlora via iNat. We might be doing collections on the mountain where permitted.

Rare plants that may still be bloom are *Astragalus oocarpus* [1B.2], *Symphyotrichum defoliatum* [1B.2], and *Grindelia hallii* [1B.2]. For those attending that have performed or attended such surveys before, we will go over a quick training at the Nature Center before carpooling up to the survey sites. It won't all be 'work', though. We'll have time to stop by the riparian canyon under the shaded canopy of oaks, willows, and pines at Ironside Spring where the Giant Stream Orchid (*Epipactus gigantea*) grows.

This summer is globally the hottest yet on record and temps on the mountain have been above 85 F (30 C) highs consistently since July. We will delay this event into October if the weather forces a cancellation. Assuming the high stays below 95 F (35 C), we'll maintain a strategy of staying fairly close to the vehicles and coming well prepared for heat, insects, and strict evacuation coordination if a fire breaks out nearby. Please bring water, sun hats, light cool clothing, and a bandana for the sweat. Other dangerous things we might encounter are rattlesnakes and falls, so gaiters and trusty hiking boots are recommended.

The plan for the day is to meet at the Nature Center, greet the excellent Conservators for the Volcan Mountain Foundation, and have an orientation after everyone shows up. After the survey protocol training, we'll head up to Hunters Camp via carpool and begin a General Relieve' Survey, dividing duties to compile our Plant List, identify rare plants, taking macro and general vegetation photographs (very important!), and documenting conditions. If allowed, we'll

museum. We'll have lunch and decide if the weather will force a shorter day (noon). Otherwise, we'll spend the early afternoon on a shady walk back at the Nature Center.

CARPOOL: Carpool will be available for anyone who might find it convenient, especially anyone using public transit. Arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 am at the Fashion Valley Transit Center Parking Lot (West side parking area of the Fashion Valley Mall near Fashion Valley Rd). Look for a black Toyota Tundra OR Dark Gray Rav4. Spaces may fill up, so please be prepared to drive. Carpool participants should expect to return around 3:30 PM at the latest. Parking is free for 24 hrs and has roving security at Fashion Valley Transit Center, however risks are the same as parking anywhere on the street. Message the group for possible alternatives.

Detailed directions: Meet at the Volcan Mountain Nature Center, 22850 Volcan Rd., Julian, CA. <https://www.volcanmt.org/trails-maps-vmfs-volcan-mountain-nature-center>. From Julian / Wynola: take Farmer Rd north, passing Santa Ysabel East Preserve and heading up to gated split. Follow north to Nature Center via signage.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email president@cnpsd.org.

From the CNPS-SD Board - YOU can help!

Board positions and committee chairs are currently open, as are chances to co-chair activities with the team. The San Diego Chapter is one of the most robust and active in the whole State and there's a lot of very hard-working people dedicating their time to see our goals fulfilled. Whether you enjoy working with an experienced team or are content with running a committee alone, we welcome any member who wants to take a leadership role. We already know your commitment to appreciating and preserving native flora is there as a member. We look forward to seeing your special skills at play as an: excellent Board Member, affable Education leader, Native Gardening aficionado, friendly Volunteer Director, organized Event Coordinator, Sales Manager & Sponsorship go-getter, Fiduciary Accountant, Publicity/Marketing guru, experienced Vegetation Botanist, or even well-traveled Field Trips Co-Chair. Whether you are still working or retired, these are the opportunities to engage with CNPS that make for excellent resumé listings and make for a stronger environmental community as a whole. If you are interested, please contact me at president@cnpsd.org.

Finding ways to appreciate your efforts is often tough, so please send your ideas as members to any of the Board. We thrive in San Diego and Imperial Counties because of your support.

~ Justin Daniel, President & Field Trip Chair

FALL WORKSHOP: The Resilient California Native Garden

September 14, 2019

9:00 am – 3:15 pm

DESCRIPTION

Many gardeners planting California native plants for the first time are beset with challenges in getting the plants to establish themselves in the landscape. Native plants may not follow all of our standard horticultural guidelines, or, native gardens may become established but then suffer misfortunes of mortality that discourage us and leave us wondering what we did wrong.

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 birds as an important part of your ecosystem, or 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.

SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00 am Registration, Coffee and Muffins, Plant Sale

9:00 am GARDENING IS FOR THE BIRDS — BIRDSCAPING YOUR GARDEN USING NATIVE PLANTS

Teresa Everett (*California Native Gardening Specialty Presenter and Featured Gardener on the CNPS-SD Garden Tour 2018*). Learn how to create a garden that will encourage birds to use your garden year-round. Teresa will discuss the essential landscape requirements that will provide for the general bird population's needs. She will also discuss the specific preferences of our favorite local birds and how to provide them in your garden.

10:15 am WATERING FOR HEALTH, FIRE RESISTANCE, AND CONSERVATION IN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE LANDSCAPE

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'*). Discover time-tested successful methods for watering your native landscape, including new vs. established landscapes, promoting fire resistance, and ways to keep precious water on-site. Greg will touch on different approaches, including some newer methods that appear to work well with and take advantage of native ecology.

11:30 LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE TREES

Rachele Melious (*Certified Arborist and Tree San Diego*

for optimal health and longevity. She will explore some of the best native trees for our region including some of their unique characteristics and special needs.

12:30 Lunch and Plant Sale

1:30 HORTICULTURAL VALOR IN THE NATIVE GARDEN-BE BOLD!

Mike Evans (*President of Tree of Life Nursery and Winner of Southern California Horticultural Society '2019 Horticulturist of the Year'*). With the on-going disappearance of small specialty nurseries, and the simplistic, homogenous "look" apparent in current ornamental garden design, native plantings are proving to be among the only unique, truly diverse gardens being made. Now is the time to be bold! We can write garden narratives that showcase both natural gardens and good horticulture.

2:30 PANEL- I WILL SURVIVE: STRATEGIES FOR CREATING A FLOURISHING AND DURABLE CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN

Confirmed thus far:

Joan Bockman (*Founder Seaside Garden Tour in Oceanside, and Featured Gardener on the CNPS-San Diego Garden Tour 2018*)

Don Rideout (*Co-Founder and Past President, Anza-Borrego Desert Botany Society and Plant Selection Editor for Calscape.org*). Panelists will offer their long-time experience and insight in building and maintaining your garden to make it lasting, resilient, and lively. The session will close with questions for the panelists taken from the audience.



OUTREACH & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The day after our Fall Workshop on Saturday, September 14, we'll be putting some of those practices we learned back into the earth with a project that is possible due to a robust partnership between CNPS San Diego and The San Diego Audubon Society. We have teamed up to participate in a new public garden event, installing two small native plant demonstration gardens at San Diego Mesa College!

On **Sunday, September 15, from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**, CNPS members, students, teachers, and other residents of San Diego will be able to help install gardens in a quiet corner of the

agriculture, biology, ecology, liberal arts, and health / well-being, as well as the local wildlife. We expect to have a plant talk and garden planting event and if we get a large turnout, we'll kick it into a demonstration and social Q & A, sharing our stories and collective knowledge about the benefits of pollinators, amazing birds, getting better water use/quality, and saving wildlife diversity.

The generous donation of plants come from our own membership, along with a generous helping of native



milkweed from Helix Environmental to contribute to the two areas we've selected for planting. Other excellent members such as Leon Scales (our very own Outreach Chairman) have also been

fortunate enough to wrangle plants up as well. The garden will be split between a perennial shrub garden using local species like Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Sand aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*), Menzie's goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), White sage (*Salvia apiana*), and Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), along with *Dudleya* species and others. This garden will focus on year-round color and design composition, and it will provide a

nectary for birds and bees. The other garden is an excellent location for a big patch of native milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and low annuals, native



groundcovers, and bulbs like Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*). Bare areas will have a local annual wildflower seed mix known to the locality of Tecolote Canyon, with one or two patches left open for ground nesting native bees. This garden will focus on expanding insect diversity, especially for butterflies.

If you are new to the native plant world, come to learn how to landscape with natives and get the skinny on where to buy them (the CNPSSD Fall Plant Sale on October 12 is a good start!), how and what to plant, and what to expect for maintenance and having a seasonal garden.

Please arrive a little before 9:30 am at the San Diego Mesa College Nursery and Landscape Technology/Organic Garden at 3443 Marlesta Dr., San Diego CA 92111. If you bring tools or other supplies, please label them and keep track of them.

on campus must be within their very limited Visitor Parking spaces unless you like tickets. Carpooling or busing with friends is always encouraged.

If you have questions or concerns, or wish to donate anything to this cause, please contact me at president@cnpssd.org. If you wish to find out more about birds and their champions, contact Megan Flaherty, San Diego Audubon Society Restoration Manager, at flaherty@sandiegoaudubon.org.

~ Justin Daniel, President & Field Trips Chair

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

September 3. 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.

Conservation News for the Fall

The next eight months are going to be a bit of a rocky ride for everyone, as the political din of the 2020 election season drowns everything else out. Here's a round-up of major events from the last two months and what to, erm, look forward to. And more importantly, what to act on.

First off, CNPS has joined Endangered Habitats League, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Chaparral Institute, and Preserve Wild Santee in suing to decertify the County's 3-2 approval of the Otay Ranch Village 14 development, now renamed Adara. We're specifically partnering with EHL on a suit. Along with Newland Sierra, that makes two cases our society is involved in.

Second: on August 5, the San Diego City Council voted 6-3 to approve The Preserve at Torrey Highlands, a 450,000 square foot office building on the eastern edge of Del Mar Mesa. I and two other CNPSers were there, along with 52 other environmentalist speakers. We are deeply disappointed with the result. Kudos to Councilmembers Gomez, Bry, and Montgomery for voting against it, and brickbats to Ward, Campbell, and Moreno for voting for it. Protect Our Preserves (protectourpreserves.org) spearheaded the fight against The Preserve, and if you want to help them, go to their website and donate. I've been actively involved helping them. Since The Preserve property didn't have any listed plant species on it, CNPS won't litigate. That doesn't mean the project won't

fighting it, but state CNPS, the organization which actually sues, has fairly strong guidelines for when we do and do not get involved in cases. In any case, Protect Our Preserves needs your help.

Third, Safari Highlands, a really problematic development in Escondido just up the hill from the Safari Park, has a new name: Harvest Hills! It's green-washing, bright green lipstick on a real pig of a project. It appears that they plan to do a superficial document redo to establish their social credentials and tap-dance it by the (formerly?) skeptical Escondido City Council this fall without releasing a supplemental EIR. There is strong local opposition to this development. CNPSSD submitted comments back when the pig was named Safari Highlands, and we will stay involved.

Fourth, there's a swarm of ugliness coming to your County Supervisors this fall. Said ugliness includes Lilac Hills Ranch and Otay Ranch Village 13.

You may remember voting down Lilac Hills Ranch two years ago? Well, your County Development Department allowed them to pursue two applications. One got rejected by the voters, but given the way the County is acting, it's entirely possible that the supervisors will not care about widespread disgust with this project and approve the second application anyway. After all, two of the supervisors are termed out, and two of the three remaining are massively pro-development.

Otay Ranch Village 13 is just down the road from Otay Ranch Village 14. It has most of the same problems, and probably will meet most of the same fate: being voted in 4-1 or 3-2, then being litigated against. One of the major drivers for most environmental groups (other than CNPS) is that Village 13 and 14, should they be developed, would wipe out the biggest population of Quino checkerspot butterfly, probably dooming the species. There are plant issues too, which is why we will stay involved.

Both of these projects require General Plan Amendments to go through, and both rely on language aligned with the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). That document got thrown out by a judge last year, and the County is appealing. If I haven't lost count, that makes the sixth legal action they've taken, trying to get their problematic CAPs through, and so far they've lost every single one. If the appeals judge finds in favor of the plaintiffs in the environmental community, that will cause huge problems for all the GPA developments that depended on balancing their carbon budgets on carbon offsets (e.g. planting trees somewhere else in the world), since that's what's been causing all the trouble.

Then, there are elections, March 3, 2020. As a reminder, CNPS is a 501(c)(3). As such we cannot lobby for or against specific candidates, only on issues. You may personally choose to pay close attention to the environmental actions of those who you are going to vote on in the March 3 primary. Either way, I urge you to put environmental issues on your list of factors

ballot which directly affect CNPS.

The first is a referendum on the certification of the Newland Sierra EIR. Should this pass, the supervisors' decision to certify this GPA development is thrown out, and with it the project. This may end our litigation to do the same thing, which would be good.

The second is an initiative, Save Our San Diego Countryside (<https://saveoursdcountryside.org/>) that would change the rules. If this initiative passes, all development in the unincorporated county still has to go through a normal CEQA review, including a vote by the Board of Supervisors. The change is when the Supervisors pass a General Plan Amendment project, the initiative would then "require voter approval of amendments to the General Plan that increase residential density in semirural or rural areas, with certain exceptions. The voter approval requirement does not apply to minor increases in density, properties within existing village or rural village boundaries, or changes required to implement state or federal housing law, including laws related to the provision of affordable housing" (from the SOS website above).

In practical terms, the SOS initiative means that Newland Sierra, Otay Ranch Village 14, Otay Ranch Village 13, Lilac Hills Ranch, Valiano, and Harmony Grove Village South would all have to go to the voters after the Supervisors approved them, if they were coming up this went into law. And if they all lose in court, they're probably all going to get their EIRs redone and come back again. Similar measures have passed elsewhere in California and withstood legal scrutiny.

What does this mean for you? More influence, bluntly, and I strongly urge everyone who can to vote for both measures next March. The reason is simple: we live in a County where (as in most of the U.S.) special interests have a disproportionate amount of pull. The initiatives, especially SOS, take some of that away, by giving you a chance to look at the project yourself and express your opinion directly, since your representatives may be doing a very bad job of working in your interests.

I urge you to contribute to the SOS initiative now, because they're ramping up to deal with the political, um, sandstorm that's going to be headed their way in coming months.

In the longer run, the goal for the County is simply to get them to write a Climate Action Plan that actually, seriously works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to change development culture to follow the General Plan (which favors more affordable housing in villages near transit hubs, rather than million dollar homes in high fire areas in the back country), and to see if a viable North County MSCP is possible.

For the City of San Diego, the goal is to get them to actually implement that Climate Action Plan they're so proud of. Reportedly, there's only one full-time staffer assigned to the Program, which may be why it's not meeting its goals.

warming problem which is uncontrolled and getting worse. If we don't do enough, San Diego's going to become unlivable for most people due simply to water and food supply disruptions in coming decades. For the native plants and animals, some on the coast are now shut into habitat islands (aka "parks") and will need help migrating to survive at all. The inland species still have two wildlife corridors open running north. One runs through Newland Sierra, the other through Rancho Guejito, next to Safari Highlands/Harvest Hills. If these get closed by development, the wildlife this side of the mountains will have no way to migrate north to cope with the changing climate. Since plants use wildlife corridors too, this is a recipe for extinction.

If you don't want this to happen, you need to get involved. Donate, show up to register your opinion at County Supervisor meetings, or to cede time to other speakers at City Council (this basically means sitting around for a couple of hours and raising your hand once). And vote for initiatives like SOS. It's a minor drag but compared with the problems it helps to stave off, it's a truly trivial imposition.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Native Gardening Committee Meeting

September 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpsd.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, September 14, 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.

Kay and Peter were helped by 8 volunteers in August and got a ton of work done!

Questions? Contact Kay at OldTownLandscape@cnpsd.org

Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, October 12, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Balboa Park-Casa del Prado Courtyard
www.cnpsd.org/events/fallplantsale2019

Our 2019 Plant Sale is being coordinated by a committee of 8 CNPS volunteers, led by our Treasurer, **Connie di Girolamo**.

This year we will be offering members a discount of 10% on both preorders and day of sale offerings. Doors will open at 9:00 to everyone (members and non-members alike). If you are not currently an active member, you can join - taking advantage of this special pricing. Come early to the sale and get checked in! We will offer approximately 400 species. You can preorder and pick up plants on Friday before the sale (by appointment). Sale day offerings will be plentiful – selected plants will entice the collector and will serve as foundation plants for new native plant gardeners. There will be 'Ask Me' experts walking the floor who can offer advice from experienced gardeners and experts.

The Seed and Bulb committee has also been hard at work sorting, cleaning and packaging over 100 species of seed, making them available to you on plant sale day, and a great selection of books will be offered for purchase.

Pre-ordering Plants: Preorder now for easy pickup on Friday, October 11 or at the Plant Sale on October 12! The minimum order is \$150 and the pre-sale ends on Tuesday, September 10, at 6:00 pm. Visit www.cnpsd.org/preorders to place a preorder.

BOTANY

Why Plant Only Native Milkweeds

For years I have heard that the perennial Mexican milkweed (*Asclepias currassavica*) is bad for monarch butterflies, but that seemed to be like an old wives' tale since no one could explain why. Recently I found out from a friend that a protozoan parasite (*Ophryocystis electroscirrha*) hangs out in milkweeds (perhaps in the sap) and at high concentrations the protozoan kills monarch caterpillars. This interaction is natural and has probably been going on for some time. It seems that the caterpillars pick up the parasite from eating the infected milkweed leaves.

Those plants with high concentrations of the protozoan are more likely to kill monarch caterpillars or chrysalises. Since the non-native Mexican milkweed is perennial and does not die back like most of our native milkweeds, it builds up high concentrations of the protozoan. So, for this reason native milkweeds have lower concentrations of the deadly protozoan and are less likely to kill monarch caterpillars. It seems that you can reduce the protozoan population in the Mexican milkweed by cutting them back in the fall and not allowing them to store high concentrations of the protozoans over the winter. It is best to plant milkweeds that are

jascuricularis).

You can find more information at these websites:

<https://monarchhealth.wixsite.com/monarch/what-is-oe>

<https://xerces.org/2018/04/19/tropical-milkweed-a-no-grow/>

https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Oe_fact_sheet.pdf

<http://www.monarchparasites.org>

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/9446a7_73dda68a13c24d96a90e08013e096e9b.pdf

~ Gordon Pratt, High Country Conservancy

Fun with Munz's Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *munzii*), A Rare Plant

Following up on a piece I wrote last summer (Rare Plant Hunting in a Dry Year, CNPS San Diego Chapter Newsletter, August 2018), I wanted to report on one of the species mentioned, Munz's mariposa lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *munzii*, right), a California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 plant. As I related last summer, in early June 2018, Jenny Moore, at the time the staff botanist for the Cleveland National Forest, had found an interesting mariposa lily near Buckman Springs south of I-8. It certainly looked a good deal like splendid mariposa lily (*Calochortus splendens*) but something was off and she wondered if it represented a hybrid ♂ (you can see Jenny's original plant on iNaturalist, it is the only record on iNaturalist south of I-8).



I've been looking for this species in San Diego County for about seven years so when she sent me her image that clearly showed yellow hairs at the base of the petal, not white, I knew exactly what it was (interestingly, there was a parallel conversation in the comments under her iNaturalist post where the commenters had come to the same conclusion). Jenny took me to the site in the first week of July 2018. Unfortunately, the plants were not in the best condition and there were too few plants present to collect a voucher specimen. We vowed to follow-up on this rare plant in 2019.

I've been quite interested in this plant as it occurs in San Diego County. When it first was added to the San Diego plant lists, it was known from about a half dozen sites, and with the exception of two collections from the Chihuahua Valley and

collections were old. It was almost absent from the San Diego Plant Atlas. Clearly it was not an abundant plant.

Sadly, from our perspective (but not necessarily from Jenny's perspective), Jenny left the Cleveland National Forest office and moved to the northwest where the Forest Service actually manages forests. Despite a busy spring, I managed not to forget that I still intended to get a collection of Munz's mariposa lily at this site.

On a hot day at the end of June, I drove out to the site, using a key acquired from the Forest Service (largely for my research on the 22,000-acre Holy Fire in the Santa Ana Mtns) to get through the locked gate.

Already, it was pretty warm by the time I had reached the gate at 10:00. Pippin, our Corgi, thought that the only place that needed to be examined was the cool underside of the 4Runner (he is such a city boy). I slowly drove the roads, looking for openings in the redshank (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*), especially those dominated by Great Basin sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). To my delight, I found the mariposa lily, not just at the site where Jenny had taken me to last year, but another site as well. There were about 75 plants at the first site and over 200 at the destination site. In addition to recording numbers and mapping the two sites, I was able to get a proper voucher for both sites.

As it turns out, you can find one other 2019 observation for this plant in San Diego County on Calflora, where it is reported from the Pacific Crest Trail near Warner Springs. Ironically, I have looked for it in that general area for the most of the last decade without luck. Except this year. It looks like 2019 would have been a good year to canvas the back country for this plant. Ironically, I had been



At a glance, Munz's mariposa lily (left) really does look a lot like splendid mariposa lily. For decades, San Diego County plants masqueraded under this name. Munz's mariposa lily is separated from splendid mariposa lily by the presence of yellow clavate (club-shaped) and white, or very pale lavender anthers vs. dark, often

blue or purple anthers. The yellow hair character is shared with or shy mariposa lily (*Calochortus invenustus*), for which it could also be mistaken. However, shy mariposa lily will have a green stripe on the back of the petal and is often white or purple but seldom shares the pinkish-lavender color of Munz's or splendid mariposa lily. In San Diego County, shy mariposa lily is often seen in somewhat more mesic habitats,

Munz's mariposa would be farther east.

Palmer's mariposa lily (*C. p.* var. *palmeri*) shares most characteristics, except that the inflorescence is often with 1-6 stems and alternate bracts while Munz's mariposa typically has paired inflorescence branches, has opposite bracts, and does not form bulblets. The flowers are more typically white (rarely pink lavender), often smaller, and more open, sometimes almost laid out flat, the bracts are alternate in arrangement, and form bulblets at the base of the stems. Most significantly, Palmer's mariposa lily is found along streams and in wet meadows in the higher mountains from San Luis Obispo Co. to the San Bernardino Mtns. Munz's mariposa lily is found in dry habitats of the Peninsular Ranges (left).



I've told this story often but think it worth telling again. Until recently, Munz's mariposa lily, was thought to be endemic to the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County.

Jon Rebman found a mariposa lily at the top of the Sierra la Libertad in 2009. The nearest mariposa lily records were about 200 km to the north in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir Mountains. After some investigation, it appeared that the closest fit to this lily was Palmer's mariposa lily, or more specifically, the variety named after Phillip Munz. An examination of herbarium specimens showed that the taxon was more widespread in northwestern Baja California where specimens had been masquerading as splendid mariposa lily. Could this be true for San Diego County as well? This was much closer to the traditional range in Riverside County. In 2011, Jon reviewed the San Diego County collections of splendid mariposa lily and shy mariposa lily and found that some of these plants, mostly from east county, sometimes on the desert fringes, where indeed Munz's mariposa lily. Thus, the range of this rare plant actually extends from the San Jacinto Mountains at the north end of the Peninsular Ranges south to the southern Sierra San Pedro Mártir of Baja California, with an isolated site in the Sierra la Libertad, quite an upgrade from San Jacinto Mountain endemic.

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Chairperson

August

When the temperatures in the inland valleys and our local mountains soared into the 90ies, we, like many San Diegans, fled to the coast. We began with a walk into the Tijuana Estuary from the Visitor Center on Caspian Way, just south of



Imperial Beach Blvd. The trail first led through planted Baja Bush Snapdragon (*Galvezia juncea*, left) in full bloom, not a local plant but a near-native from adjacent Baja California, and then headed into the preserve with its

original vegetation. The most conspicuous flower there was San Diego Goldenbush



(*Isocoma menziesii* var. *menziesii*: right), but the humble Salt Heliotrope

(*Heliotropium curassavicum* var. *oculatum*) was also



blooming, as usual ignoring its CalFlora-assigned flowering period of May and June. A surprise, however, was that Coast Cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*: right) still sported a few flowers, which we are accustomed to seeing in June or earlier.

We continued to Imperial Beach and walked from the southern end of Seacoast Dr. along the shore towards the mouth of the Tijuana River. The high trail on the dam had the last Beach Evening Primroses (*Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*), and upon a closer look the mats of Beach-bur

(*Ambrosia chamissonis*) still revealed a few fresh inflorescences. On the beach, bees were busy visiting Sea Rockets (*Cakile maritima*, left)





and Red Sand Verbena (*Abronia maritima*, left), both of which bloom virtually year-round along the foot of the dunes. Back at the car we finally discovered the botanical highlight of the day, the uncommon Salt-marsh Bird's Beak (*Chloropyron*

maritimum, right), fairly close to the sidewalk but out of reach. All of which confirms one more time that in our area with its range of options from seashore to mountains to desert you never have to go without wildflowers, whatever the season and the temperature might be.



~ Juergen Schrenk, Member

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.](#)

Cal-IPC Symposium 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

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/>

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

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

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CNPS-SD Activities Calendar September 2019

- 9/1: Field Trip to Volcan Mtn, p.2
- 9/3: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4
- 9/4: Board Meeting, p.2
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- 9/15: Garden installation, Mesa College, p.3
- 9/17: 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): _____
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Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

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