

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park

6:30 pm – Amy Hueie; propagation.

7:00 pm – Browsing & Socializing

7:30 pm – Brief Business Meeting

7:45 pm – Main Presentation



Amy Hueie teaches Plant Propagation in the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Program.

Main Presentation

**SAGING the WORLD:
Indigenous Wisdom & the
Cultivation of White Sage**
by Rose Ramirez and Deborah Small

"A fire went through our family's sage gathering ground, and maybe five acres of white sage just burned to the ground. I was upset, but my uncle said, 'It's good—the world just needed saging off.'" — Tima Lotah Link, Shmuwich Chumash

California Indians have been using white sage for food, medicine and ceremony for thousands of years. This region is the epicenter for white sage, as well as black sage, Cleveland sage, hummingbird sage, thistle sage, and chia.

The commercialization of white sage has become international in scope. Walmart, Etsy, and Amazon all market smudge sticks, sage bundles, and "cleansing" kits with abalone shells and feathers, fueling a growing controversy around cultural appropriation.

Much of the white sage for the international market is unscrupulously foraged. Tongva educator Craig Torres tells us: "If we don't fight to protect the plants and to protect the land, they're no longer there for us. The connection to who we are as a people has everything to do with the plants."

Acjachemen educator Heidi Lucero grows sage: "If you live in California, there's no need to wild gather. Grow your own! The climate is perfect. Save your \$10 on a sage bundle and buy a plant that gives you sage all year long."

We hope you'll join us in cultivating white sage in your gardens or nurturing the plants in containers on your decks, porches, and windowsills. You'll attract bees, butterflies, birds, and other beneficial insects. You'll better understand how the health and well-being of our species is inextricably connected with the plants that sustain us.

You'll be creating a more resilient future. You'll be Saging the World.



White Sage (*Salvia apiana*). Photo from Tree of Life Nursery website.

Rose has a BA in American Studies and an MA in Public History. She is a photographer, filmmaker and California Indian basket weaver. She has worked with Native artists and documents California Indian culture and has written a number of articles on this subject. She has lectured on photography, ethnobotany and basket weaving. She and her husband, Joe Moreno, have been



working with the California Indian communities south of the border for almost twenty years.

Deborah Small is an artist, photographer, and Professor Emerita at California State University San Marcos. She is a member of the Chia Cafe Collective, and she was instrumental in helping to produce their publication, *Cooking the Native Way*. Her collaborative public art as well as her individual and collaborative exhibitions have been shown internationally.



Rose and Deborah's most recent book is the *Ethnobotany Project: Contemporary Uses of Native Plants of Southern California and Northern Baja California Indians*, first published in 2016, and re-published in English and Spanish by the Malki Museum Press in 2018.

In 2010 they published *Edible, Medicinal, Material, Ceremonial: Contemporary Ethnobotany of Southern California Indians*, available as a free download at: <https://deborahsmall.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/ethnobotany-calendar-2010.pdf>.

Contact information:

<https://deborahsmall.wordpress.com>

<https://roseramirez.wordpress.com>

They will be signing and selling their books. CNPSSD will be selling white sage seed and small white sage plants.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 – 9:00ish 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.

DAVE BITTNER WILDLIFE RESEARCHER

CNPS-SD mourns the passing of **Dave Bittner**, director of the Wildlife Research Institute in Julian and founder of Hawk Watch in Ramona, who died unexpectedly in January. He fell while rappelling down a cliff to refresh memory cards and batteries in a motion-activated remote camera placed at a critically threatened Golden Eagle nest in Bandy Canyon and could not be resuscitated by paramedics. His life was dedicated to protecting wildlife, particularly Golden Eagles, and their habitat, and to educating people about wildlife. Hawk Watch, which occurs every Saturday

in January and February each year, will continue as scheduled on Saturdays through February. Visit <https://www.wildlife-research.org/> to learn more about Dave's Golden Eagle research and Hawk Watch or to donate to the Dave Bittner Eagle Research Fund so his work can continue.

FIELD TRIP

Truckhaven Rocks – Salton Sea

Saturday, February 22, 2020

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE to HARD: 3 miles

PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Novice +, Professionals always welcome!

ACCESS: Open to all, no charge

[SEVERE WEATHER CANCELS EVENT - Temps over 90°F (32°C) or Storm Warnings]

This will be one of our deep desert series trips, starting out from a relatively obscure corner of San Diego County and heading into a location once littered with broken Jeeps and desert camping circles. Truckhaven Rocks is an odd mixed riser of sandstone boulders, cut with eroded caves and Chuckawalla nooks.

It should be just the start to an amazing 'Superbloom' in and around the Borrego Valley, with this low elevation location sporting some rare species like the Orcutt's woody aster (*Xylorhiza orcutti*). This spit of the SE desert portion of the Santa Rosa Mtns is often overlooked by all but the most resilient and tenacious of botanists. We hope to add to a botanical inventory compiled by **Tom Chester**, whom has botanized the area very well over the past year.

Given the amount of people that show and the amount of interesting things to come across, we may pack up and head down closer to the Salton Sea searching in the turnouts and desert washes for Salton milk vetch (*Astragalus crotalariae*), velvet mallow (*Horsfordia newberryi*), and Pierson's pincushion (*Chaenactis carphoclinia* var. *piersonii*). A bloom to include dozens of desert plants just beginning to open up for a short, colorful spring season is expected.

A Reader article from the Canyoneers can be viewed at:

<https://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2015/apr/22/roam-truckhaven-rocks/#>.

If driving, make sure your vehicle can handle sand and gravel on rutted dirt roads. 4x4 and all-wheel drive is not necessary (unless there's a flood) but do expect to get the car dirty on Ted Kipf Road. If an advisory is up for Ted Kipf Road, we'll carpool from the ranger station.

CARPPOOL: Carpool will be available for anyone who might find it convenient, especially anyone using public transit. Arrive between 7:35 and 7:50 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 a Dark Gray Rav4. Spaces may fill up, so please be prepared to drive. Carpool participants should expect to return around 4 to 4:30 pm. 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.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at Arroyo Salado Campground on S-22 in Borrego Springs. To get there, head towards Borrego Springs as if headed towards the Borrego Valley airport. On Palm Canyon Dr (S22), head East out of town towards Salton Sea another 16 miles. Turn at a small camping sign that says Arroyo Salado Camp where we will meet.

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair

TREE PLANTING

The Urban Forestry Council (<http://sdrufc.com/>) is asking for any groups or individuals that have an interest in a public space, like a street, school, park, or private commercial or city owned lot (that is not being used effectively), to spearhead tree planting projects. CNPS can take on a role in coordinating and facilitating such projects to promote integration of native plants and trees into our urban landscape. These projects are particularly needed in low income areas where residents are looking for funding and guidance in using trees for engaging civic beautification, shade cover, and community pride. Any ideas are entertained as long as there is a reliable volunteer base to work on the project. Request info from afege@aol.com, president@cnpsd.org, and/or gardening@cnpsd.org.

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Gardening Committee Meeting

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

California Native Garden Tour

**The Artful California Native Garden
Saturday, April 4, 2020
9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

The CNPS San Diego Chapter presents its eighth annual Garden Tour, The Artful California Native Garden: A Native Garden and Art Tour in East County. Spend the day exploring and learning from these gardens that illustrate habitat plants, dry streambed bioswales, adjacent natural areas, pool-to-pond conversions, water catchment devices, slope gardens, charming water features, bridges, sculptures and more. Enjoy meeting artists in many of the gardens who will be creating

and selling their California native garden themed artwork and crafts. Be inspired this Spring!

LOCATION

Mount Helix/La Mesa, Allied Gardens, Lakeside, Blossom Valley and other East County areas

GARDENS

- Entry to 12 private residential gardens staffed with interpretive docents, owners, and designers.
- 4 additional FYI (For Your Inspiration) viewing gardens on the route.
- Instructional presentations and plantings.
- At The Water Conservation Garden check-in hub: Planting demos and guided tours.

TICKETS

- Tickets sales began Thursday, January 30. Tour tickets are \$30 through February 29, \$35 beginning March 1, and \$40 at door.
- All participants buying online before March 28 will have a tour booklet mailed to their address within the week preceding the Tour and can begin the tour at any garden location during Tour weekend.

For questions, please contact **Judie Lincer** or **Christine Hoey** at gardentour@cnpsd.org or at 619-277-1490. For tickets and further information, please visit: <http://cnpsd.org/events>.

Old Town Landscape

Work parties at the Old Town Landscape are suspended until further notice. For info, contact Peter or Kay at OldTownLandscape@cnpsd.org.

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

February 4. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Email conservation@cnpsd.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 Column

More 2020 Politics: The February Edition

YES on A, NO on B in the March 3 Election

It's only two more months, less if you're a mail-in voter who will see your ballot about the same time you read this.

Hopefully you know the drill. Vote YES on Measure A, for SOS, aka Save Our San Diego. Vote NO on Measure B, against Newland Sierra. These are part of the same package, to strongly encourage county supervisors to follow the General Plan, realizing that if they do not, their decisions will face the voters.

To do a bit more ad debunking...if you've watched the TV recently, it's hard to avoid ads for and against Measure B, because both sides have deep pockets. One ad states that the General Plan allows more retail space than Fashion Valley, with the implication that Newland Sierra is more sensible.

It isn't.

Supervisor Desmond inserted that language when he rewrote the ballot measure in November. His version says, "The existing General Plan allows 99 homes and up to 2,000,000 square feet of commercial with open space. General Plan Amendment PDS2015-GPA-15-001 would authorize up to 2,199 homes and 1,777,684 square feet of commercial. The approved Newland Sierra Project includes a planned community of 2,135 homes, a school site, 81,000 square feet of retail, 36 acres of parks and 1,209 acres of open space."

Now let's do a reality check. First, if you've driven up I-15 and paid attention to the area north of Deer Springs Road, you know where this "up to 2,000,000 square feet of commercial space" is. It's the area on the west side of the highway, north of the gas station. There's about a block of paved road, then it's undisturbed chaparral and sage scrub on a very steep slope. That's their business park.

That very steep slope is why their claim is bogus. Yes, it's zoned commercial, but it's almost impossible to build most of it. The part that *might* be possible to build is the 81,000 square feet Newland got, although people reading the plan thought that was optimistic too.

The implied threat is bogus too. If Newland Sierra loses on Measure B, they have to start from scratch again. They don't get a consolation prize that allows them to build a commercial space up the slope if they don't get their houses, they're going to start all over again. From scratch. For the fourth time.

Newland has been doing this for a long time, finding an investor who's new to the area, selling them on the Merriam Mountains, then trying to get it through. Last time the Supervisors voted them down, and the two times before that they didn't even finish the EIR. Hopefully, you'll vote yes on A and no on B along with everyone else, so that Newland gets the idea that they'll have to face the voters every time they find an eager new investor who wants to build a huge project in that area.

As an aside, I learned that Supervisor Fletcher is not fond of the actions of long-ago California Governor Hiram Johnson. While the supervisor and I agree on many things, I think in this case I respectfully disagree. Gov. Johnson wasn't a paragon (for one thing, he was a rabid isolationist), but as the progressive Republican (!) governor back in 1910, he was

instrumental in creating the initiative, the referendum, and the recall. While he is best known for saying "the first casualty when war comes is truth," I think the appropriate quote for the present moment is "I do not by any means believe the initiative, the referendum, and the recall are the panacea for all our political ills, yet they do give to the electorate the power of action when desired, and they do place in the hands of the people the means by which they may protect themselves." That's what Measure A and Measure B do.

Rock Out for Conservation

SAS/Stop All Sprawl (formerly Sierrans Against Sprawl) supports Measure A and opposes Measure B. If you want to get a free yard sign, they're the people to talk to, and if you want to donate money to pay for yard signs in other peoples' yards, again they're the people to go to.

They're hosting a benefit concert to raise money. It's February 16, starting at 6 pm, at the California Center for the Performing Arts in Escondido. The headliners are the Spin Doctors, with special guests Tim Flannery with Jeff Berkley and Mike Keneally and Back to the Garden. Tickets start at \$35.00.

You can get tickets, garden signs, and donate at the SAS website (<https://www.stopsprawl.org/>).

The National Environmental Protection Act, Proposed to be Gutted by the Current Trump White House

It's a normal thing now: the nastiest stuff always gets released either on a Friday afternoon or around the holidays. If you're one of the people who want to be an environmental activist, but also want to go away on the weekends and holidays, be aware that the other side has figured this out, and they're making your vigilance that much harder by acting when you're paying less attention.

Latest case in point: the Trump administration is proposing to gut NEPA, the National Environmental Protection Act that is the federal counterpart to CEQA. It's a set of proposed regulations for how the Act will be administered and enforced. Since I'm writing this on January 12, I only know the details I've read in the papers. Fortunately, comments are due March 20, so I've got a little time.

PLEASE register your opinion as well. This is a case where the number of people commenting against the change is more important than who is making the comments. And you can comment online at the link below. At the very least, please tell them that NEPA's worked better since 1978 than the new version they are proposing now, and that you very strongly urge them leaving it precisely the way it is.

You can find the proposed changes at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/10/2019-28106/update-to-the-regulations-implementing-the-procedural-provisions-of-the-national-environmental>. There you can also find directions to comment, either in a letter or online.

Please comment. Your voice matters in this.

Lilac Hills Ranch, Otay Village 13, and Harvest Hills Coming Soon

Nothing new has emerged since January. If you want to get involved in this, involved meaning contacting either your supervisor (Lilac and Otay), your Escondido City Councilmember (Harvest Hills), or showing up at a meeting to speak or cede time, let me know at conservation@cnpssd.org

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

BOTANIZING

Desert Superbloom Reprise

We may all recall the superbloom of 2017. Rainfall was about 23% above normal, not a huge amount, but above normal. It was only the fourth season above normal in the previous 19 years. It was a great wildflower season for the desert and coast but not so great for the mountains. 2018 was one of the driest seasons on record with 3.34 inches at Lindbergh Field, or 32% of normal. Fortunately, this year, 2019-2020, has had a great start and we hope that it keeps up.

The 2018-2019 rainfall season actually started in October 2018 for the eastern end of Anza Borrego and Ocotillo Wells in the far eastern part of San Diego County where the average seasonal rainfall is less than three inches. Some tropical moisture came up and deposited rain in the eastern part of the County as well as far down Baja California, which is important for discussion later. There was talk of an El Nino year being possible and some forecasts indicated that we should watch out after November.

Well, things started a bit slowly until December 6. On that day, Lindberg field had more than an inch and a half of rain from thunderstorms. Flooding occurred in Mission Valley and some places received more rain than that in a very short time. Interestingly, where I live in Point Loma, less than two miles from Lindbergh Field, we received only a half an inch, nice but not special.

Further on in the season a series of storms came dropping moderate amounts of rain, but the totals seemed to take a very long time to rack up. While off and on storms in December 2018 and January 2019 may not have had a large impact on the rainfall totals, they did affect the vegetation.

Though not directly related to wildflowers, a photographer friend, Richard Herrmann, mentioned that he had been in Borrego Palm Canyon and had seen bighorn sheep, rams and females. I had been hoping to see bighorn sheep for decades, probably looking for them on 15 different occasions. People would tell me, "we saw them by the parking lot yesterday" but when I went, they were nowhere to be seen.

I had not figured on much the January day that I went with Richard as we walked up the alternate Palm Canyon trail. Annual plants were already prolific and green. The rainfall

there seemed to really favor annual plant growth. Popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha* spp.) were green and already flowering. We first saw a group of bighorn sheep females and one younger ram. Then, after literally sitting down for a while, they headed down toward the main canyon trail. In total, there were 20 or more with two veritable old rams, many females, the aforementioned young ram, and numerous young males and a few very young lambs. They were oblivious to people and chowed down on Ocotillo leaves, as well as any greenery available and there was quite a bit of it. At that time in January, I had heard that the flowers resulting from the fall rain east of Borrego Valley were already starting to bloom.

The next time I headed for Anza Borrego was February 11. I presented a talk about the 2017 superbloom to the Anza Borrego Desert Botanical Society. They were prepping for the superbloom which they expected to be coming. In 2017, the town was overrun. For 2019, they planned to be better prepared and were training volunteers for information locations.

After the talk, I drove out east of Clark Dry Lake on the road to the Salton Sea and saw large patches of Sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*; below). There were purple, maroon carpets of the species covering acres of sandy slopes.



A few days later, the Valentine's Day atmospheric river came to San Diego County. On Palomar Mountain, more than 10 inches of rain fell in one day and in Borrego Palm Canyon more than 3 inches fell. While the deserts had already expected to have a superbloom, that rain and other additional rain just added more precious water to the already flourishing desert plants.

In March, I had heard reports that flowers were appearing in various parts of the desert but that Henderson Canyon on the northern end of the valley where traditionally there have been extensive flowering areas, was not doing very well. People had mentioned that the eastern part of the Henderson Canyon area and large swaths of desert east of Borrego Springs were invaded by Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*). I know part of the reason Henderson Canyon has had limited mustard and good native wildflowers over the years was due to people in the community removing the mustard by hand.

However, people sent me photos of Bigelow’s monkeyflower (*Diplacus bigelovii*) growing in nice pink patches. While it did not seem like the flowers were going to be as good as 2017 based on reports, I thought I had to go see for myself. I left early one morning knowing that a chance of showers would occur later in that afternoon.

The sky was cloudy as I passed the Lake Henshaw turnoff. The hills were very green as I passed Hot Springs Mountain and headed for Ranchita. Driving down into Borrego Valley, the Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) along the side of the road was beginning to flower but those on the slopes did not appear ready to flower.



A breeze was blowing and the sky created a subdued tone as it was nearly entirely covered with alto cirrus ice crystal clouds, except for openings to the south where light shone through the clouds. Past the Clark Lake, the slopes still had coverage of sand verbena with a few Desert sunflowers (*Geraea canescens*; above) but it was possibly a bit past the sand verbena’s prime already. I walked out on to the hill north of the road and down a draw. Painted Lady butterflies flew when I walked near. The temperature was too cool and the wind just a bit strong for them to be flying but they leapt up from the ground as I approached them. It is well known that Painted lady butterfly explosions result from early rain in central and southern Baja California, that tropical rain mentioned earlier, which provides an early start for the native host plants. As the populations of larvae swell and then pupate, adult butterflies begin a leapfrog northward migration where they reproduce along the way.



(left) White-lined sphinx moth larvae were also quite common on the Evening primroses (*Oenothera deltoides*). They are large black and red caterpillars with smooth skin and a red spine.

On the way back to Borrego Valley along that east end road, I stopped where open clusters of Evening primrose were spread over a large area.

The sky was still partly overcast with cirrus clouds, and the breeze was still blowing. It was overcast but not dark. I decided to check Henderson Canyon Road in spite of what I had been told about the mustard and lack of flowers. The area closest to the turn off was affected by Sahara mustard, the tall green leafy-based annual plant with small yellow flowers. When it becomes established, it becomes prevalent and out competes the native wildflowers. However, as I drove a bit farther, the cover of Evening primrose became greater until it dominated the vegetation on both sides of the road. Its flowers created white carpets with seemingly large tissue paper flowers spread over acres of land. On the south side of the road, they grew amid little dune hills and cracked mud depressions. On the north side of the road, they formed an extensive flow of flowers. Also, on the south side of the road many *Cryptantha* flowers grew; however, they were rapidly being consumed by slender, fuzzy Painted Lady butterfly larvae.

The Desert sunflower stood taller than the Evening primrose and the blowing wind ruffled the *Oenothera* petals. The Desert sunflower appeared to be marching forward with the taller slender plants moving toward me as the wind flowed out of Coyote Canyon.

The high clouds were fading and the sun shone more brightly. The number of Sphinx Moth and Painted Lady larvae was high. Adult painted lady butterflies flew over a large creosote bush (*Larria tridentata*) shrub that was in full flower. They appeared to be floating around the shrub.

I walked back to the car and crossed to the north side of the road where the flowers were deeper and denser. I walked farther as the flowers shifted to more sunflowers and then to a mix of the Evening primrose and the sunflowers. I was past the area of influence of people walking out into the flower field. Nearby, a family had launched a drone but it did not fly far from the edge of the road. The conditions were very beautiful, and it was an uplifting environment. Eventually I felt that I had seen and photographed enough of the blooming flowers.

I drove out on the road to Coyote Canyon. Along Di Giorgio Road grew large patches of bright lemon-yellow Desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*) with Purple mat (*Nama demissa*) (right). At the end of the pavement, it was clear that the



overall number of annual plants was very high. It almost seemed that the number and density of annual flowers was greater than it was in 2017.

I stopped several times to photograph the flowers and the light-dappled hills to the southwest. Patches of yellow Desert poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*) were visible on the slopes of the mountains. Desert pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*), with white pincushion-like flowers, and purple Arizona lupine (*Lupinus arizonica*), were also very common and widespread. The white flowers of California chicory (*Rafinesquia californica*) were also prevalent, especially in the shrub areas. All were blowing in the wind.

I was walking back to my 20-year old vehicle when I ran into several people I used to work with at AECOM. I drove out as the light rose higher and had planned to see what flowers were blooming in Palm Canyon. As I approached the entrance to the State park, I was stopped by an emergency vehicle and they closed the entrance for several hours. I turned around and headed toward Hell Hole Canyon. Two years ago, Hell Hole Canyon was quite good with wildflowers. I thought I would look for monkeyflowers and others that had been described to me as being present in Palm Canyon.

I began walking up the wide valley after parking at the trailhead. It immediately became clear that the annuals were doing very well there and were very dense. I encountered



patches of bright yellow Woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*; above), in slightly lower areas. I came across some purple and



pink patches of Purple mat (*Nama demissa*) and also Desert star (*Monoptilon bellioides*) with its white flowers in inflorescences the size of a quarter and with the flowers sitting directly on the ground. A little farther up the valley I came across patches of the bright pink-red Bigelow's monkeyflower (*Diplacus bigelovii*; left) with stems about 6 to 10 inches tall

and growing in dense patches. The wind continued to ruffle the flowers. Some patches were mixes of flowers with the bright pink monkeyflowers, the deep yellow and low growing Woolly daisy, and the taller yellow Desert poppy. The Brittlebush shrubs (*Encelia farinosa*; below), were not flowering as much as two years ago; however, the ground cover Desert dandelion was extensive.



Back in the car and driving up the grade, the light was beautiful and I was fascinated by the nearby hills. As I passed Ranchita, the sky to the west was cloudy and clearly dropping rain near Lake Henshaw. It appeared the storm was on its way to Santa Ysabel.

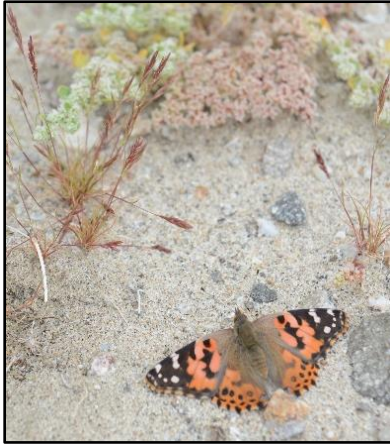
The area was covered in green, but I did not see any sign of poppies that I had seen flowering there in past seasons. I stopped at the Julian Pie Company for a piece of cherry pie since Dudley's bakery was closed that day. I pulled into the parking lot in Santa Ysabel after passing by the green hills with still barren Black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*) near Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation and Morrettis Ranch.

I sat in my car for a little while and could see the cloud patterns shifting around. A low cloud base came blowing from the northwest bringing a band of fog down to the surface as the clouds moved overhead. Later, as I drove west on the highway, the clouds again came down near the ground and dropped a significant rain for a short duration. The clouds showered off and on for a while as I entered Ramona. The streets were wet and as I passed Mount Woodson, I saw an ominous wall of clouds to the south that later dropped heavy rain in the Lakeside area.

A week later, I decided to try again to make up for my photos that were over exposed. I headed out early again, leaving at 7 am. No rain was predicted, but the sky was still cloudy. The greenery during the drive through fog and traffic and up SR-67 past Mount Woodson and Iron Mountain, through Ramona and out the windy road past Witch Creek and Santa Theresa Valley, was stunning in the morning light. Then I dropped down into the valley with Santa Ysabel. I was watching the hills in the darker crest north of Ranchita, looking for the pines on the ridges. I could tell as I drove down through Culp Valley that flowering had advanced. I could see

that the Brittlebush was flowering more than the week before, but they were not as flowerful as they were in 2017.

I drove on down into Borrego Valley and back to Henderson Canyon. The sun was shining more that day but there was no breeze. I went to the southern side of the road first. The Popcorn flowers were nearly gone by being devoured by the Painted Lady larvae. The ground was covered with caterpillar poop, but the fuzzy larvae were much less prevalent. The ones that I did see were on the move, traveling quickly across the ground. However, there were still plenty of adults flying around the Creosote bushes.



(left) Painted Lady butterfly with Common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*) and Popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* sp.).

The flowers on the north side were also more advanced than they had been the week earlier. However, a greater number of Desert sunflower were in flower. The wind was not blowing so the plants were not moving as they were the previous week, but the sky was brighter. It was still beautiful. I eventually drove back out onto Di Giorgio Road and into the mouth of Coyote Canyon. I stopped to photograph the Desert dandelion and the hills to the southwest in the San Ysidro Mountains. The flowers were very tall and dense. The Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) was still not blooming but some of the cacti were beginning.

I drove back out and headed toward Hell Hole Canyon again. The small annual flowers (*Diplacus* spp. and *Eriophyllum* spp.), were not quite as sharp but the *Encelia* was in better flower and more yellow than before. The Desert dandelion seemed more dense in contrast to the other annuals and the Desert pincushion was also very common, making white dots in the spaces around the Desert dandelions that filled all of the space between the shrubs with a bright yellow carpet. I came across some people who had been in Palm Canyon earlier that morning and they had seen Bighorn sheep down next to the trail. It must have been interesting to see the flowering Brittlebushes and the Bighorn sheep together.

At Santa Ysabel, the landscape with the oaks in the distance was all dark green. Spring in the deserts and mountains is awesome during years that have good rainfall. During November and December 2019, we had a good start to the current rainfall season. That rain will cause some wildflowers,

but how good the season becomes will depend on rain at the end of January, and during February and early March.

~ Tom Oberbauer

Desert Wildflower Updates

No one knows how good the desert flowers will be this season, but we are off to a good start with the rains we had in November and December. You can check this website - <https://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html> - to find out where the flowers are blooming. It gives updates on most of the desert areas in the southwest, and in California it includes:

- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
- Death Valley National Park
- Joshua Tree National Park
- Mojave National Preserve/Amboy/Rt 66
- Southern California
- Carrizo Plains
- Diamond Lake & Lake Elsinore Walker Canyon

OTHER CNPS ACTIVITIES

Orange County Chapter Field Trip El Moro Canyon, Crystal Cove Sunday, February 23

Leaders: **Rachel Whitt** and **Lana Nguyen** (CA State Parks biologist).

Along with Laguna Canyon and Aliso Canyon, El Moro Canyon comprises one of the major coastal watersheds of The San Joaquin Hills. Oriented perpendicular to the coast and cutting about three miles into the foothills it offers a range of plants typical of the coastal foothills. In order to avoid too much up and down, we will likely head straight up the canyon, looking at the plants of the coastal sage scrub and grassland areas along the way, while doing our best to avoid the weekend mountain bikers. Small areas of riparian and chaparral will offer variety.

Meet at 8 am at the day-use lot within the “Moro Canyon” parking area, which is located on the inland side of PCH (Pacific Coast Highway), behind El Moro School. Once in the main lot, be sure to proceed to the “day-use” lot, to the right, not the front parking lot. Open to all. A State Parks Entrance fee or pass is required for entry.

Physical Difficulty: Moderate. Bring hat, sunscreen, camera, wildflower book/notepad, water and hiking shoes/boots. Water and restrooms near the parking/start area only. Plant Intensity: moderate. Time: Approx. 3-4 hours, depending on the group.

CNPS 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/>

California Native Plant Week
April 11-19, 2020

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Moosa Creek Nursery

**No Soggy Bottoms! - The Wise
Water Workshop**

Saturday, March 14, 10am-noon

27201 Cool Water Ranch Road

Valley Center, CA 92082

Greg Rubin will provide tips on irrigating natives from start to finish.

**Oceanside California Native
Plant Garden Tour**

Sunday, March 29, 2 pm

Come see over 18 Native Plant Gardens in the Historic Seaside Neighborhood of Downtown Oceanside! Plant experts and neighborhood locals will lead a 1.5-mile walking tour to see these wonderful front yard gardens. **Meet at 2 pm, Sunday, March 29 in the St. Mary School parking lot at 515 Wisconsin Ave.** The guided walk is free. Kids will be selling lemonade and cookies along the route. St. Mary School is one block east of the 101 Cafe near Coast Highway and Wisconsin St. The Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association and Buena Vista Audubon Society sponsor our 2020, 18th Annual Tour. More info is at: 760-439-2473, <https://BVAudubon.org>, or <https://OCNA101.org>.



California Encelia (*Encelia californica*) and bee in a tour garden.

**California Society for
Ecological Restoration
(SERCAL) Conference**

April 29 – May 1, 2020; <http://www.sercal.org/>

Habitat restoration experts across California are gathering to share their experiences and knowledge on a gamut of restoration activities happening in our backyards. From large-scale dam removals to small-scale community restoration, collective efforts are helping California landscapes regain connectivity and ecosystem function, while advancing the science, art, and practice of ecological restoration in a rapidly changing state.

The 27th Annual SERCAL conference will be held at **Palo Corona Regional Park & Discovery Center in Carmel Valley (Monterey)**. The annual conference provides a congenial environment for professionals, students, and enthusiasts to invigorate their work through technical presentations, poster presentations, fieldtrips, and sponsorships.



A California native plant garden.

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

**CNPS-SD Activities Calendar
February 2020**

- 2/4: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4**
- 2/5: Board Meeting, p.2**
- 2/12: Gardening Committee Meeting, p.3**
- 2/18: Chapter Meeting, p.1**
- 2/22: Truckhaven Rocks Field Trip, p.2**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<https://www.cnps.org/membership>

___ Student/Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$50; ___ Plant Lover \$120; ___ Supporter \$500; ___ Patron \$1,000;
___ Benefactor \$2,500; ___ Perennial Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at \$5/mo provide much needed predictable
income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see
<https://www.cnps.org/membership> to sign up for this membership level.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

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

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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



February 2020 Newsletter

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2686
San Diego, CA

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

www.cnpsd.org info@cnpsd.org facebook.com/cnpsd instagram.com/cnpsd twitter.com/cnpsd

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Justin Danielpresident@cnpsd.org
VICE PRES: Joseph Sochor.....vicepresident@cnpsd.org
SECRETARY: Bobbie Stephenson.....secretary@cnpsd.org
TREASURER: Connie di Girolamo.....treasurer@cnpsd.org
Cindy Burrascano..... (858) 342-5246; booksales@cnpsd.org
Bob Byrnes.....bob.byrnes@cnpsd.org
Josué Campos.....josue.campos@cnpsd.org
Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpsd.org
Torrey Neel.....programs@cnpsd.org
Maggie Loy.....maggie.loy@cnpsd.org
Leon Scales.....leon.scales@cnpsd.org

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Frank Landis.....chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

Fred Roberts.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org
(760) 712-7604

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpsd.org
(858) 342-5246
CONSERVATION: Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpsd.org
(310) 883-8569
EDUCATION: OPEN
FIELD TRIPS: Justin Daniel.....fieldtrips@cnpsd.org
HOSPITALITY: Kye Ok Kim.....hospitality@cnpsd.org
INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson (858) 759-4769 &
Bob Byrnes.....invasiveplants@cnpsd.org
LEGISLATION: Peter St. Clair.....legislation@cnpsd.org

LIBRARIAN: Maggie Loy.....librarian@cnpsd.org
MEMBERSHIP: Connie di Girolamo.....membership@cnpsd.org
NATIVES FOR NOVICES: Torrey Neel
.....nativesfornovices@cnpsd.org
NATIVE GARDENING: Judie Lincer, Joseph Sochor & Vincent
Bellino, co-chairs.....gardening@cnpsd.org
GARDEN TOUR: Judie Lincer, Christine Hoey...tour@cnpsd.org
WORKSHOPS.....workshop@cnpsd.org
HABITAT RESTORATION: Arne Johanson..... (858) 759-4769 &
Bob Byrnes.....habitatrestoration@cnpsd.org
MEDIA: Joseph Sochor.....media@cnpsd.org
NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpsd.org
(619) 269-0055
OLD TOWN NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE: Peter St. Clair and
Kay Stewart.....OldTownLandscape@cnpsd.org
PLANT SALE-FALL: Connie di Girolamo.....plantsale@cnpsd.org
POSTER SALES: OPEN.....postersales@cnpsd.org
PROGRAMS: Torrey Neel.....programs@cnpsd.org
PROPAGATION: Amy Huie.....propagation@cnpsd.org
PUBLICITY: OPEN.....publicity@cnpsd.org
PUBLIC OUTREACH: Leon Scales &
Justin Daniel.....publicoutreach@cnpsd.org
RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Josué Campos.....
.....raresurvey@cnpsd.org
SEEDS & BULBS: Cindy Hazuka.....seedsandbulbs@cnpsd.org
SPONSORSHIPS: Justin Daniel.....sponsorship@cnpsd.org
VEGETATION: OPEN.....vegetation@cnpsd.org
WEBSITE: [Joseph Sochor.....webmaster@cnpsd.org](https://www.cnpsd.org)
WORKSHOP – FALL.....workshop@cnpsd.org
WORKSHOP – WINTER: Naomi Wentworth.....
.....winterworkshop@cnpsd.org

