

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

ZOOM PROGRAM

Tuesday, January 5, 2021
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Plant Rediscoveries in Baja California and Discoveries in San Diego

by Dr. Jon Rebman, Ph.D.

**Curator/Chair of Botany at the San Diego
 Natural History Museum**

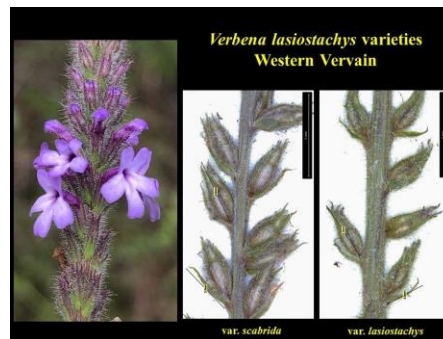
REGISTER ON ZOOM: bit.ly/CNPS-LIVE-1-5-21

CNPS programs are free for all attendees. But if you can, please consider making a donation of \$5 (or more, if desired) to support the work of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project, led by Dr. Rebman, at: cnpsd.org/sd-county-plant-atlas-donation.

Program Description: As a result of data compiled in the annotated, voucher-based *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Baja California, Mexico* published by Dr. Rebman and co-authors in 2016, the flora of the Baja California peninsula and adjacent islands includes approximately 4,400 different plants, of which 26% are endemic to the region. Consequently, this floristic publication also identified several plants in the region that are very rare, often threatened, and only known from one to very few collections. Dr. Rebman and his colleagues received a National Geographic Society grant to revisit the type localities of 15 endemic and “lost” species to try to re-discover them for science and determine if the populations are at risk. During two years of fieldwork, the team re-discovered 10 of 13 lost species.

The herbarium at the SDNHM houses approximately 280,000 plant specimens primarily collected from the Southern California and Baja California region. This collection provides a source of raw data on our native plants that can be used to study and re-evaluate them in many different ways. For example, studies on specimens collected of *Acmispon haydonii* (Haydon’s lotus) and *Verbena lasiostachys* (western vervain) have shown that our understanding of these species

is not what we had expected nor what is currently reflected in our scientific literature.



(Above) Western vervain (*Verbena lasiostachys*).

(Right) *Lippia carterae* (Verbenaceae) is rare and seriously threatened.



Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D., has been the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair/Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) since 1996. Dr. Rebman is a plant taxonomist and conducts extensive floristic research on the Baja California peninsula and in San Diego and Imperial Counties of California. He leads various field

classes and botanical expeditions each year and is actively naming new plant species from the region. His primary research interests have centered on the systematics of the Cactus family (Cactaceae) in Baja California, especially the genera *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and *Opuntia* (prickly-pears). However, he also does a lot of general floristic research and has co-published the new *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Baja California, Mexico* and the most recent edition of the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County*.

Dr. Rebman has over 25 years of field experience with surveying and documenting plants, including rare and endangered species. As a field botanist, he is a very active collector of scientific specimens with his personal collections numbering over 35,000. He is the Director of the San Diego

County Plant Atlas project (www.sdplantatlas.org) and identifies/verifies all of the new specimens (currently over 69,000) coming into the herbarium through this scientific endeavor. As the curator of the herbarium, he is in charge of this dried plant specimen collection that contains over 270,000 specimens dating back to the 1870s. Dr. Rebman published the newest edition of the *Baja California Plant Field Guide* with co-author Norman Roberts in 2012, and is working on a new bilingual, plant field guide for the Cape region of Baja California Sur.

TWO WAYS TO WATCH

1) **Zoom:** To watch the presentation on your computer or phone via Zoom you must register in advance the link below. Registration on Zoom has a capacity, so register now for the best 'seats'. You do not need a Zoom account to register or watch the presentation.

Register for the presentation: bit.ly/CNPS-LIVE-1-5-21

2) **Facebook:** If you want to watch the presentation without registration it will be live streamed to CNPS-San Diego Chapter's Facebook page beginning at 7:00 pm. There is no limit to the number of participants viewing the presentation on Facebook.

CNPS-San Diego Chapter Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/cnpssd

Questions for the presenters will be selected by a moderator from the chat and comment sections of both Zoom and Facebook.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

To all the wonderful members of CNPS,

We're now looking at a new year, filled with promises of challenge and change. You'll continue to be brought up to date with our newsletter articles and invited to join our activities as they begin to open up again over the next few months. What 2021 brings can be anticipated somewhat. With the relief of the State Wildlife Conservation Board's decision against the Rancho Jamul land swap, and the new makeup of the SD County Board of Supervisors, CNPS-SD hopes to focus on other conservation issues in more engaging ways as they are covered in the Conservation articles here. Your letters of opposition really did make a big difference in supporting land conservation in 2020 - Thank you! If we can sustain such support and engagement, there is a lot of influence in our organization that realizes our core mission and goals - one step at a time.

We hope 2021 brings the chance to work together again face to face, and allow for small gatherings again. We as committee chairs and as a Board have learned a lot over the last year, and the advantages of distancing will be part of our administrative plans going forward, too. Any member can join our committees and Board from near or afar. If you are reading this newsletter from Escondido, Oceanside, Julian, Pine Valley, Dulzura,

Borrego Springs, El Centro, or Calipatria, you are welcome to join our online meetings in real time - we need your awareness and perspectives, and leadership, too.

Speaking of leadership, I want to be the first to congratulate our new 2021 Chapter President, **Joseph Sochor**, on the role I have had the privilege and honor to lead in for the past two years. Let's support his vision together and really make the Society part of CNPS shine!

~ Justin Daniel, Vice President

HELP NEEDED

The Chapter needs 2 new positions:

- **Digital Archivist** (board materials, special events materials, some photo archiving).
- **Digital Newsletter and Announcement Communications.** These go to 3,700 people and get sent out twice per month, and do not involve the extra special event communications.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Joseph at president@cnpssd.org.

RESULTS OF BOARD ELECTION

Board elections were held online and by mail in November and member votes were tallied at the beginning of December. Five members were on the ballot, and all were elected for the 2021-2022 calendar years:

Cindy Burrascano
Torrey Neel
Andrea Rae

Leon Scales
Bobbie Stephenson

The Board currently has two open positions. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Joseph at president@cnpssd.org.

BOARD MEETING

January Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 6:30 – 9:00ish p.m. The meeting will be via Zoom. To add an issue to the agenda, or to get the link to the meeting, please email president@cnpssd.org.

December Board Meeting Summary

To conform to the directive from the CNPS office, this meeting was held via Zoom. The Chapter Board voted to approve the following items:

- To sell the chapter's mid-2013 Mac Air Laptop (hardware & software licenses in total) to Connie Di

Girolamo for \$75.

- That Connie di Girolamo, who is no longer serving on the Board, be removed from the North Park Storage lease agreement and replaced with Leon Scales.
- That Joseph Sochor be Chapter President, Justin Daniel be Vice President, Andrea Rae be Treasurer and Bobbie Stephenson be Secretary for 2021.
- That the San Diego CNPS Chapter (co)sponsor litigation to stop the construction of Otay Ranch Village 13.
- That plants left over from the Fall Plant Sale and currently being cared for by Board Member/Programs Chair Torrey Neel be given to her for disposition. The wholesale value of these plants is estimated to be \$169.00. It was noted that Torrey provided 62 plants (estimated to be worth \$248.00) to the sale.
- For the Chapter to have a 2021 Garden Tour that would be a volunteer-driven event, run mostly by the Garden Committee, if the committee is agreeable.
- That the Chapter have a Spring Plant Sale before the end of the current CNPS fiscal year (March 31, 2021).

Discussion items included:

- The statewide Chapter Council Meeting to be held online on Saturday, December 5, 2020.
- Finding 2 volunteers to help with IT for the Chapter. (See page 2 of this newsletter.)
- Two board positions remain to be filled.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary/
Newsletter Editor

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Garden Committee (GC) Meeting

Lawn to California Native Garden

Tuesday January 12, 6:30-8:00 pm

Via Zoom (You do not need a Zoom account or app to attend)



Purple Sage 'Amethyst Bluff' (Leucophyllia 'Amethyst Bluff') Photo: Christine Hoey

This month **Maya Argaman**, CNPS Horticulture Outreach Coordinator, will present a talk on "Lawn to California Native Garden". Learn more about California native plants, your regional habitat, and how those plants can create an enchanting garden. Many people have no idea what to put in place of their lawn, so Maya will discuss beautiful options for a variety of styles of California native gardens, replacement options, and the joys of reduced maintenance and increased

biodiversity. (Attendance limited to 100 participants.)

To sign up for the program, please go to: www.cnpsd.org/events.

If you are thinking of replacing your lawn with California natives, the **San Diego Water Authority** has increased their turf removal rebates of up to \$3.50 per square foot. Talk about offsetting the cost of replacing your lawn with natives! For more information, go to: [Be Water Wise Turf Replacement](#). And remember, CNPS members receive a 10% discount at Moosa Creek Nursery, Mission Hills Nursery, Village Nurseries and Tree of Life Nursery.

As we welcome in 2021, there will be pruning, planting, mulching and more to keep us busy in our native gardens. And there is nothing better than the scent of *Salvia* in the air! Did you know some *Salvia* species start blooming this month? Our featured article by Garden Committee member **Teresa Everett** does a deep dive into everything about Salvias. She has included a 'shopping list' with hyperlinks to Calscape for more detailed information about a particular salvia you may want to add to your garden.

Climate Change: According to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Southern California will be in for a dryer winter, known as 'La Niña', this season. Combined with our current drought, supplemental irrigation may be needed between long periods of no rain. **Greg Rubin**, owner of California's Own Native Landscaping, recommends using a moisture meter ([Gain Express Moisture Meter](#)) to test your soil's moisture when in doubt. **Mike Evans** from Tree of Life Nursery also has a nice article on winter watering in their December newsletter that you may find helpful ([TOL December in the Garden](#)).

FYI - January Zoom workshops/talks: What a great way to increase your native plant gardening knowledge no matter where you live! Here is what's on the calendar this month:

- **January 9:** Theodore Payne is offering a class on **Right Plant, Right Place**. Knowing native habitats can help you choose the right plants for your place. This course discusses local plant communities and their conditions, as well as how to assess the conditions of your garden site, including climate, soil, sunlight and space. A valuable class for beginners! Register at: [Theodore Payne Eventbrite](#)
- **January 30, 9 am: Winter in the Natural Garden.** Tree of life Nursery's friend and colleague, Colin Dunleavy (owner of Liveforever Landscapes), will show you some top winter blooming and seasonal interest native plants for the garden. Colin is an expert horticulturist and walks you through the care and maintenance of each plant he highlights. This winter is the final instalment of Colin's Seasons in the Natural Garden Series. Click on this link to tune in: [Tree of Life YouTube Channel](#)

Volunteer Opportunities - We are always looking for volunteers, so drop us a line at gardening@cnpsd.org if you are interested in helping with the following:

- **Native Garden Video:** The Garden Committee has the Chapter Board's support to create a native garden video of selected gardens from the 2020 cancelled garden tour. The native garden video will debut during *Native Plant Week* this April on the CNPS-SD YouTube channel. We are looking for volunteers with video, editing and postproduction experience to assist with this project. Please contact Christine Hoey for more information at 770-714-5462
- **Winter/Spring plant sale:** Several leadership positions are open, and volunteers will be needed for tagging and plant pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, contact plantsale@cnpsd.org
- **Bird Park native gardens:** We are in the beginning design phase and if you are interested in lending your design and native plant skills, send us an email to the above address. We welcome input and ideas
- **CNPS-SD Newsletter:** Write short native garden related articles for the newsletter. Click on this link to sign up [Newsletter Signup](#)

Native Plant Garden Trivia:



Photo: Wikimedia Commons: Bill Williams, 2014.

Did you know that monkey flower (*Diplacus* or *Mimulus* species), red catchfly (*Silene laciniata angustifolia*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), and currants (*Ribes*

spp.) rely on hummingbirds for pollination?

Mark your Calendars: The Garden Committee meets every other month via Zoom. After our Tuesday, Jan 12 meeting, our next meeting will be **March 9, 6:30 pm**. Meetings are open and everyone is welcome!

Happy New Year and Happy Gardening!
Christine Hoey, Nancy Levine & Judie Lincer!

A Native Plants in the EarthLab Need TLC from Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help maintain the Water Conservation Demonstration Garden (Demo Garden) at EarthLab the first Saturday of each month starting February 6. A large portion of the plantings are low-water California native plants. Learn about the Demo Garden and EarthLab at <https://groundworksandiego.org/earthlab/>. Start time will be at 9:00 am, and the work parties will wrap up by noon. The meeting location is next to Millennial Tech Middle School. We hope for around a dozen volunteers, to be able to maintain social distancing easily. We can loan tools and clean washed gloves for the day, but if you have them, bring your own pruners and gloves. Please email me if you plan to come. I will send you directions. Kay Stewart at info@kaytlarch.com.

A Salvo of *Salvia* by Teresa Everett

If you have been on any of our CNPS native garden tours or have hiked through our local hills, mesas, or valleys, you have no



(Above) A grouping of *Salvia* species. Photo: Teresa Everett

doubt seen (and smelled) California's magnificent blooming sages. If you have visited any nurseries, you have also noticed the wide variety of sages on the display tables—so many, in fact, that it can be overwhelming. How do you choose which sage is best for your garden? The following is a quick primer on the sages of California. California is home to 17 of the world's 800-plus sage species. Because several of our California species will naturally hybridize, horticulturalists have used

this reproductive malleability to create dozens of cultivars and hybrids for garden use. These horticultural varieties range from 7-foot-tall shrubs to ground-hugging forms only a few inches high. The silvers, grays, and greens of their foliage, plus the long-running show of flowers that come in a spectrum from white to pink to mauve to scarlet to purple to indigo to sky blue, make the California sages a must-have in your garden palette.

California sages are lovers of dry areas and thus thrive in low-water landscapes. They are found along our coasts, across our inland valleys, up into the Sierra Nevada foothills, and out into parts of our deserts. Most sages tolerate clay soils very well, the exceptions being the desert species. The vast majority of sages thrive in full sun, but there is a species, the hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), that will light up the shadiest section of your garden with beautiful hot pink flower spikes. Sages do very well in some of a garden's most difficult areas, such as dry, sunny slopes or rocky, clay soil.

All sage species are in the mint family (*Lamiaceae*). The scientific name of the sage genus, *Salvia*, is based on the Latin word meaning "to heal" or "to save." Sages are treasured by cultures worldwide for their medicinal and culinary uses. The common culinary sage seen in grocery stores is the Mediterranean species, *Salvia officinalis*, but all of our California sages can be used in cooking as well. Each species has its own flavor profile, with some much stronger than others. Most people like to cook with either black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) or Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*). The mild hummingbird sage adds a delicate sweetness to food or drink recipes. White sage (*Salvia apiana*) has been quite important in indigenous Californians' blessing and cleansing ceremonies. California's native peoples have also made tea from sage leaves to cure

illness and have toasted and ground seeds to make gruel. The “rediscovery” of the health benefits of chia ([Salvia columbariae](#)) seed has led to a recent resurgence in the popularity of incorporating this seed into a well-balanced diet. Honey harvested from beehives situated near areas covered with white, black, or purple sage is particularly delicate and flavorful.



Left: Western honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) on purple sage bloom (*Salvia leucophyllia*). Photo: Wikimedia Commons: Sheila Sund, 2014.

Sages are also a very important food source for California wildlife. Sages bloom from late winter until late spring and into the summer, depending on the species. The flowers contain high-quality nectar and therefore are absolute magnets for hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. After the blossoms set seed, they are also a feast for seed-loving birds, such as goldfinches, quail, sparrows, juncos, and towhees. Just remember to not deadhead all of the dried flower stalks so the birds can eat their share of seed! While sages are very attractive to birds and insects, deer and rabbits fortunately find them unappealing; the pungent odor of the leaves, which we and the birds and bees find so inviting, acts as a repellent to mammalian browsers.

In the garden, sages prefer full sun and good drainage, although hummingbird sage prefers partial to full shade. When first establishing your sages, you will need to water them every 7 to 14 days throughout their first year or so, to keep their root ball slightly moist but not wet or soggy. Once they are established (having doubled in size), you will need to ease back their watering to about once a month. If you are growing straight species, use the drier side of these suggestions and give them a break from watering in July, August, and September. The hybrids and cultivars have been developed for more refined garden tastes, and established plants can tolerate a watering every 2 to 4 weeks to keep them looking fresh. Also give the hybrids and cultivars a summer break, with sparser watering in the dormant months. Sages do not appreciate any fertilizers or soil amendments; they like our native soils just the way they are and rely on their relationship with the fungal friends on their roots and in our soils to extract all of the nutrients they require.

When researching varieties to use in your garden, pay close attention to mature size, as you should not prune more than one-third of your plant back at a time. Dead-heading sages after they flower will keep them looking neat but generally does not encourage a re-bloom. They can also be tip-pruned to keep them dense and pruned around the perimeter to limit their spread. Pruning back the plant by one-third in the plant’s quiet time (late summer) before they start pushing new growth in the fall works quite nicely as long as you do not cut into the thicker, woodier stems. Sometimes you can prune back almost 50% of the plant if it has exuberant growth from the previous spring. If

you have a many-year-old sage with a nice, established root system, but it looks like it could do with a complete makeover or be replaced with a younger, denser plant, you can try a makeover first by cutting it back to just 6 to 10 inches off the ground and letting it re-sprout. One of my favorite blogs—[Weeding Wild Suburbia](#)—has nice articles on [pruning young sages](#) and [pruning older sages](#) to learn more. (www.weedingwildsuburbia.com)

So, now that you’re ready to plant some sage, how do you select which ones to bring home from the nursery? Here is a quick rundown of some favorite sages that you will find in nurseries, along with links to plant descriptions.

But first some quick definitions:

- *Straight species*: those found naturally growing in the wild.
- *Horticultural selections*: naturally occurring variation of individual plants within a species that are brought into cultivation.
- *Hybrid*: a natural or cultivated cross between two or more species.

Straight Species and Their Horticultural Selections

White Sage

Beautiful silver-blue foliage, white flowers on tall flower stalks.

[White Sage](#) (*Salvia apiana*) - *local to San Diego County*

- 4'-8' high, 6' wide

[Compact White Sage](#) (*Salvia apiana* var. *compacta*)

- 3' high, 3' wide
- Smaller, more compact form that fits well into a home garden

Black Sage

Our most common salvia in the coastal sage shrub community. Highly aromatic and shiny dark green leaves and very pale blue flowers.

[Black Sage](#) (*Salvia mellifera*) - *local to San Diego County*

- 5' high, 5' wide
- Light blue to white flowers

[Terra Seca Black Sage](#) (*Salvia mellifera* 'Terra Seca')

- 1' high, 6' wide
- White flowers

[Jade Carpet Black Sage](#) (*Salvia mellifera* 'Jade Carpet')

- 1' high, 5' wide
- Lavender flowers

Purple Sage

Fuzzy gray-green leaves with light purple to lavender flowers. All are excellent on slopes.

[Purple Sage](#) (*Salvia leucophylla*) - *local to San Diego County*

- 5' high, 7' wide
- Light pink to lavender flowers

[Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage](#) (*Salvia leucophylla* 'Amethyst Bluff')

- 10' high, 15' wide
- Lavender flowers

[Figuroa Purple Sage](#) (*Salvia leucophylla* 'Figuroa')

- 4' high, 6' wide
- Lavender to pink flowers

[Point Sal Purple Sage](#) (*Salvia leucophylla* 'Point Sal')

- 2' tall, 8' wide
- Pinkish purple flowers

Cleveland Sage

Most aromatic of all the sages. Gray-green leaves with newer growth having reddish stems. Lilac-blue to blue-violet flowers.

[Cleveland Sage](#) (*Salvia clevelandii*) - **local to San Diego County**

- 4'-5' high, 5'-6' wide
- Light purple to lavender flowers

[Aromas Sage](#) (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Aromas')

- 4' high, 4' wide
- Lavender flowers
- Highly aromatic

[Winnifred Gilman Cleveland Sage](#) (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Winnifred Gilman')

- 3' high, 3' wide
- Electric bluish-purple flowers

[Alpine Cleveland Sage](#) (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Alpine')

- 3' high, 5' wide
- Blue flowers

San Miguel Mountain or Munz's Sage

Small, rare sage found only in south San Diego County. Petite dark green leaves and pretty blue flowers. Looks dainty but is as tough as nails. Good on slopes.

[San Miguel Mountain Sage](#) (*Salvia munzii*) - **local to San Diego County**

- 3' high, 3' wide
- Crystal blue flowers

[Emerald Cascade Munz's Sage](#) (*Salvia munzii* 'Emerald Cascade')

- 1'-2' high, 2'-3' wide
- Blue flowers

Creeping Sage

Flat, spreading sage found on dry slopes in the understory of larger chaparral shrubs, oaks, pines, or other trees. Does best with some light shade. Gray-green foliage.

[Creeping Sage](#) (*Salvia sonomensis*) - **local to San Diego County**

- 1' high, 5' wide
- Periwinkle blue to almost white flower

Hummingbird Sage

(Right) Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*). Photo: Calscape.

Shade lover that will slowly spread to form a colony. Large arrow-shaped leaves are fuzzy and have a wonderful fruity smell. Flowers appear on stalks that rise up well beyond the foliage. A perfect plant for the dry shade conditions under oaks.



[Hummingbird Sage](#) (*Salvia spathacea*) - **local to northern coastal San Diego County**

- 1' high, 3' wide
- Magenta flowers

[Powerline Pink or Giant Hummingbird Sage](#) (*Salvia spathacea* 'Powerline Pink')

- 3' high, 6' wide
- Dark pink flowers

The Desert Sages

The desert sages of California are very tough and can take extreme drought, heat, and freezing temperatures. Their feet, however, cannot handle anything but well-drained soils.

[Desert Purple Sage](#) (*Salvia dorrii*)

- 3' high, 3' wide
- Deep blue flowers

[Mojave Sage](#) (*Salvia mohavensis*)

- 2'-3' high, 2'-3' wide
- Sky blue flowers

[Mountain Desert Sage](#) (*Salvia pachyphylla*) - **local to San Diego County**

- 2' high, 3' wide
- Two-toned deep rose and blue flowers

Hybrids Groundcovers

[Bee's Bliss Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss')

- 1'-2' high, 6' wide
- Lavender-pink flowers
- Cross of Cleveland sage and purple sage (*S. clevelandii* x *S. leucophylla*)

(Below) Bee's Bliss sage (*Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss'). Photo by Teresa Everett.



[Dara's Choice Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Dara's Choice')

- 1'-2' high, 4' wide
- Lavender flowers
- Cross of black sage and creeping sage (*S. mellifera* x *S. sonomensis*)

[Rubin's Baby Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Rubin's Baby')

- 1' high, 3' wide
- Lavender flowers
- More compact than Dara's Choice
- Cross of black sage and creeping sage (*S. mellifera* x *S. sonomensis*)

[Gracias Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Gracias')

- 1' high, 6' wide
- Lavender flowers
- Cross of Cleveland sage and creeping sage (*S. clevelandii* x *S. sonomensis*)

Sub-shrubs

[Allen Chickering Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Allen Chickering')

- 5'-6' high, 5'-6' wide
- Lavender flowers, gray-green foliage
- Prolific bloomer
- Cross of Cleveland sage and purple sage (*S. clevelandii* x *S. leucophylla*)

[Whirly Blue Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Whirly Blue')

- 5' high, 5' wide
- Large, deep violet flowers
- Flowers are larger and a deeper shade of purple than Aromas and Allen Chickering
- Cross of Cleveland sage and purple sage (*S. clevelandii* x *S. leucophylla*)

[Pozo Blue Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Pozo Blue')

- 4' high, 4' wide
- Violet-blue flowers
- One of the most adaptable of sages
- Cross of Cleveland sage and purple sage (*S. clevelandii* x *S. leucophylla*)

[Celestial Blue Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Celestial Blue')

- 4'-5' high, 4'-5' wide
- Two-toned intense blue and pink flowers
- Cross of Cleveland sage and mountain desert sage (*S. clevelandii* x *S. pachyphylla*)

[Calamity Jane Mounding Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Calamity Jane')

- 3' high, 4' wide
- Light blue flowers
- Cross of black sage and purple sage (*S. mellifera* x *S. leucophylla*)

[Hybrid Desert Sage](#) (*Salvia mohavensis* hybrid)

- 3' high, 3' wide
- Cobalt blue flowers
- Cross of desert purple sage, Mojave sage, and Cleveland sage (*S. dorrii* x *S. mohavensis* x *S. clevelandii*)

[Vicki Romo Sage](#) (*Salvia* 'Vicki Romo')

- 3' high, 3' wide
- Light lavender flowers
- Cross of white sage and Cleveland sage (*S. apiana* x *S. clevelandii*)

As you can see, there is a *Salvia* species or cultivar for every gardener's taste and every garden condition in a water-wise landscape. Take this list with you when you next visit a nursery or CNPS plant sale to select the right sage for your garden. Then plant, water, and wait for the birds and pollinators to arrive!

Teresa Everett is a native garden educator and native plant enthusiast. She has been a CNPS member since 2012, a member of the Gardening Committee, and her home was on the CNPS-SD Garden Tour a few years ago. Teresa has worked for Moosa Creek Nursery as a retail sales and gardening specialist and wrote for their blog "Creekside Chat" until 2018. She has also given many presentations on native gardening at nurseries, gardening clubs and conservation organizations.

We have ACORNS for Sale!

On November 18, the CNPS-SD online store began a 2-month sale on freshly harvested local acorns for \$1.50 each. Also, a limited supply of Brodiaea and other bulbs is also offered for sale.

Order at: www.canativeseeds.com. At the link, search "Quercus" to find the acorns and search "Brodiaea" or "Triteleia" to find the bulb species.

Acorns available:

Quercus agrifolia var. *agrifolia* (coast live oak)
Quercus agrifolia var. *oxyadenia* (coastal live oak)
Quercus acutidens (Torrey's hybrid oak)
Quercus cornelius-mulleri (Muller oak)
Quercus engelmannii (Engelmann oak)
Quercus x engelmannii (Hybrid scrub oak w/ mainly *engelmannii* parentage)

Bulbs available:

Brodiaea californica 'Mixed' (California Brodiaea) - blue and pink bulbs
Brodiaea californica 'Pink Form' (California Brodiaea)
Brodiaea kinkiensis (San Clemente Island Brodiaea)
Dipterostemon capitatus (blue dicks or wild hyacinth)
Triteleia bridgesii (Bridges' Brodiaea)
Triteleia hyacinthina "Blue Form" (white Brodiaea)
Triteleia laxa (Ithuriel's spear)
Triteleia peduncularis (long rayed Brodiaea)

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Meeting

Contact conservation@cnpssd.org for information regarding the January meeting.

Trusts

Happy (?) New Year. I'm writing this on December 14, so there's a lot I don't know about, like the dinosaurs returning to forage on the beaches over Christmas, or whatever-it-was that just

happened. That attitude is 2020 in a nutshell, and hopefully pandemic humor will soon become as passé as my normal sense of humor. Joking aside, I don't expect the pandemic restrictions to ease up as rapidly as any of us might hope. Pessimistic, yes, but there's going to be a frustrating in-between time when we can super-spread a lot of misery if we try to renormalize too fast. Please stay safe and be careful, so that later on you'll be around to tell stories about what you went through.

News and the lack thereof: As I write this, the due date for filing litigation on Otay Ranch Village 13 is Friday. So, there's not much I can say on that topic.

As for Otay Ranch Village 14, there's a lot I could say, and rather more I can't. The important bits are Thank You! And It's Not Over.

Thank You goes out to each of the people who wrote and testified to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) on the property exchange between CDFW and the Village 14 developers. As you probably heard, the WCB shot that exchange down on a 5-1-1 vote, with Chuck Bonham, the head of CDFW and the WCB who signed the exchange, verbosely recusing himself. This was a key victory, and it wouldn't have been possible if so many people hadn't stepped up, ORGANIZED, and acted.

Our organization in this case was critical, because it certainly impressed the heck out of CDFW (according to what some officials said later). I know we pride ourselves on our flexible adhocism—at least I do—but it really is better when we come together and speak with coordinated voices, as we did here. This is especially true when we're dealing with developers who are no slouches at coordinating either. This is an obtuse way of saying that we're successfully upping our game. This is good, because we desperately needed to.

The It's Not Over part is what I need to explain, in as little detail as I can get away with. The gist is that the litigation to decertify the entire development is still on, so the more I say, the more trouble I get into. That said, the reason the WCB victory matters so much is that judges are not biologists. What I mean by this is that by policy, they defer to agency decisions on fields of their expertise. So, if, for example, CDFW exchanges a chunk of ecological reserve with a developer, that decision must have been a net benefit and biologically sound, because that is what the law says CDFW must do. Furthermore, CDFW has the experts, the judge is not an expert, so if they thought it was alright, the judge is not going to question it.

So, if the WCB had ruled for the developer, not only would they have cut the knees out under the whole concept of ecological reserves, which would have been a terrible statewide precedent, there would have been the little loss that it would have been that much harder to fight the legal case and decertify the Village 14 EIR.

This gets to the issue of trust, which popped up here in a couple of ways. Several members of the WCB agreed at some length that this ruling could have been a terrible precedent, and voted

against it precisely because they wanted to maintain the public trust. This is an important doctrine, but the crux was that they want the public to trust them to do the right thing, and so they did.

The counter to that argument is one Bonham raised and one board member bought into, which was that, assuming Village 14 was going to be built anyway, the exchange made it "less bad" than it was without the exchange. This is also the logic that the Supervisors who voted it in bought into.

I want to highlight this juxtaposition, of Bonham's trying to make the best of a situation perceived as bad and possibly unwinnable, while the rest of the WCB voted on principle and to avoid future harm, even at the potential risk of having a more badly designed development go in.

In doing so, the WCB is trusting us litigants to win this case, just as we trusted them to uphold the law. And now, with the exchange agreement gone, CDFW and USFWS may have to help our side fight to decertify this project. That's not a big stretch, as local staff have been against it from the beginning.

But let's look again at the WCB. I was fascinated by how odd it felt to hear a board speak about how important the public trust was. I've gotten far too used to situational ethics, finding the least bad compromise, and all that, justifying bad behavior as the least bad outcome. It was refreshing to hear someone take a moral stand.

Public trust doctrine is usually associated with coastlines, with lands that are, by common law, free to all for access. In California, the best-known public trust lands are the beaches below the high tide line. Following legal precedents that are far older than the US, these lands for free to all traverse.

It's interesting to use this idea in conjunction with ecological reserves, because it links the idea of lands that are free to all for access to the idea that conservation of nature is a public good. This is tricky, because some argue that therefore all public trust lands, including ecological reserves, should be open to the public. This notion has been voiced by some mountain biking advocates, the idea that scenery without a trail to view it from is wasted. More generally, if resources are not being used by humans, they are being wasted.

That's not what the WCB said or what CNPS policy says, but it is something that we in CNPS need to think about. We're for the idea that conserved means conserved, period. I've said it, and a number of you also testified to that. But this implies that plants and animals have value even when they're not being exploited by humans. They do not have to be used for anything, let alone consumed, to be worthwhile.

I suspect we need to parse this out, verbalize this a bit better. Probably most of us agree on some version of the central notion, so long as the details and limits are left a bit vague.

The WCB and CNPS are both adamantly against trading away conserved land for development. We basically said that conserved land being conserved is a public good, more

important than giving it to someone to make money by building houses on it. Does this mean also that we believe that the public good is served by species not going extinct? Given that a judge just ruled that, because the word "insect" is not in the California Endangered Species Act, we can't list bumblebees, do we think that preserving native pollinators is part of the public trust? We need to think about this.

This is a philosophical battle we're in. Whatever we believe, on the other side is a well-developed theory that the Market Knows Best, so everything should be monetized and developed, because that will result in the highest, best use. Proponents of this notion would say that if the public trust is important, people will pay for it.

You may personally associate odors of dyspeptic bovine excrement with such appeals to the magical Invisible Hand of the Market, but that philosophy is what developers appeal to when they look at us environmentalists and shrill that they own the land, it will be developed, and we're just stupidly standing in their way. You may well have good evidence that the market does very badly dealing with things like climate change, preserving biodiversity, or providing health care, housing, or food. But if so, it's helpful to think about what that all means to you, and to us.

After all, we've just gone through four years of plutocratic government, where truth is for suckers, power is addictive, and the fight is over who deals it and what addicts will do for their fix. If we want a system where we can trust officials to do the right thing without us suing them, we need to be able to articulate what it is we want, organize to bring it into existence, and stay organized to protect it.

That's our task, going forward. It's a lot of work to look forward to. Happy 2021.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

HABITAT RESTORATION

In mid-December we cut and treated perennial weeds eucalyptus, palm trees, pampas grass, and tamarisk in the San Dieguito River Valley. Despite the lack of rainfall over the last several weeks, we unexpectedly found water in one swale that forced us to find a roundabout route to one of our work zones. We first conjectured this might be due to pooling moisture from nightly frost and dew, but upon further consideration it likely results from a shallow water table. We imagine that water seeping to the surface mostly evaporates during warmer times of the year, drying up the swale. This is supported by recollecting that it is normally a bit muddy at those times. Such is an exciting life for the intrepid workers that we are.

Here is a vista in the Valley on a brisk morning last week (photo credit: Leslie Kuhn). The pastel colors are due to leaves of native willow, cottonwood, and western sycamore.



RELATED ACTIVITIES

San Diego Audubon Society

The San Diego Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, with approx. 110 bird counters, were able to tally 219 species, their second all-time highest tally!!! Congratulations to them from CNPSSD!!

Water Conservation Garden

The Water Conservation Garden is offering free admission the second Friday of every month starting in February 2021!

This means every person will be able to enjoy everything The Garden has to offer – no matter their ability to pay. Disadvantaged communities looking for safe opportunities to connect with nature can now visit The Garden at no charge during Free Day Friday!

Bryophytes

For information about **Chris Wagner's** virtual bryophyte programs, please contact **Chris Wagner** at mossgeek@yahoo.com.

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@cnpssd.org.

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar January 2021

- 1/5: Chapter Program via Zoom, p.1**
- 1/6: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.2**
- 1/12: Garden Committee Meeting via Zoom, 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.

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January 2021 Newsletter

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

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