



# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## San Diego Chapter Newsletter

### NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

June was a busy month for the NGC! We were able to meet, following state COVID guidelines, in small groups for several events. We had a great time reconnecting with fellow old and new NGC members.

#### Balboa Park Adopt-A-Plots

While we are waiting on Balboa Park approval for the Bird Park Adopt-A-Plot Landscape Design plans, our very productive volunteer members met at Bird Park on 4 different Saturdays to remove invasive weeds in the wing section. We had a great time reconnecting with fellow old and new NGC members. The plots look 100% better and the existing native shrubs and trees are thriving. The rest of the plots in the wing section are heavily infested with weeds and the local community is interested in working on them. If you are interested in working on this public garden, please sign up [here](#). Novice to experienced native gardeners are welcome!



Above: Bird Park Workgroup.  
Photo Christine Hoey



Left: CNPS-SD Adopt-A-Plot at Zoro Canyon in Balboa Park. Photo: Christine Hoey

Did you know that the NGC has another Adopt-A-Plot garden at Balboa Park? The native gardens were designed by NGC

members **Debbie Gordon** and **Allison McGee** and this one is located behind Zoro Gardens at the edge of **Zoro Canyon**. Follow the sidewalk to the parking lot behind the San Diego History Museum and our Adopt-A-Plot is located on the left side

and in the triangle with the 3 boulders. Native plants include bladder pod (*Peritoma arborea*), Baccharis 'Pigeon Point', several varieties of buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.) and sage (*Salvia* spp.), bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Catalina ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus*) and more.

#### Hügelkultur Workshop

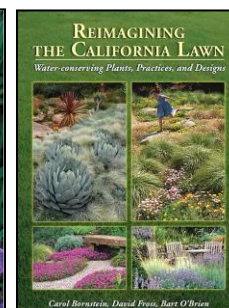
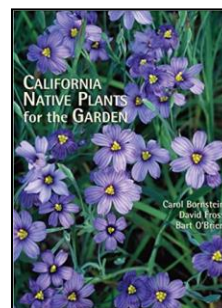
NGC members attended a Hügelkultur hands-on workshop at the home of **Lee & Debbie Gordon**. (Editor's note: A Hügelkultur is a centuries-old, traditional way of building a garden bed from rotten wood and plant debris.) Led by **Alden Hough** from *Sky Permaculture*, attendees used logs, branches, leaf compost and soil the owners had collected on their property. Debbie has designed a plan using California native plants on and around the hügelkulturs that will be planted this fall. We can't wait to see the finished project!

#### Save the Date: September 14, 7 pm for a Zoom Webinar with Carol Bornstein. Sponsored by NGC.



**Carol Bornstein**, renowned horticulturist and co-author of *California Native Plants for the Garden* and *Reimagining the California Lawn*, will present "Designing Gardens in Harmony with Nature." Landscape professionals and home gardeners have the

power to make a difference in conserving or restoring biodiversity by creating habitat for wildlife in urban areas. This presentation



features some of the best California native plants for Southern California gardens along with equally important ideas for sustainably designing and tending these spaces. Carol's

presentation will also be recorded and available on the CNPS San Diego YouTube Channel and Facebook page for *one month*. To register for this webinar, go to [cnpssd.org/events](https://cnpssd.org/events)

The **Sweetwater Authority 2021 WaterSmart Landscape Award** goes to NGC members **Paul and Bernice Rodriguez!** “I am so thankful to San Diego CNPS for all the knowledge we gained through attending various workshops and interacting



with members and presenters. We could not have had the success without you all, thank you!” Thank you, Paul and

Bernice, for creating another beautiful habitat with California natives! (Above photo by Paul Rodriguez.)

Here is the link to the contest site and more photos: <https://landscapecontest.com/winners/sweetwater-2021/>

## July in the Native Garden

Established natives require deep watering once a month and overhead sprinkling to wash off dusty leaves. Remember to water in the cool hours of the day and overhead water in the late afternoon. Some natives, like Flannel Bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*), can't tolerate any summer water. Calscape is a great resource look up water requirements for your native garden.



Left: Flannel Bush Flower (*Fremontodendron californicum*), California Botanical Garden. Photo: Christine Hoey

Who says spring is the only time native plants bloom? Some of the summer super stars include buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), Catalina silver-lace (*Eriophyllum nevinii*), Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), warm season grasses and sunflowers. This month's article, **Summer Focus**, by **Susan Krzywicki**, landscape designer of *Native Gardens...Green Living* and NGC member, highlights her observations of additional native summer bloomers.

## Upcoming Events

Now that California has reopened, we are hoping for more in-person outdoor get togethers over the summer. If you are interested in joining the Native Garden Committee, contact us at [nativegardening@cnpssd.org](mailto:nativegardening@cnpssd.org). Experienced and novice gardeners are welcome!

## We Need You!

The Native Garden Committee is always looking for diverse, talented, and creative volunteers with good leadership skills to help with the newsletter, planning engaging native gardening activities and more. Join our fun team by contact us at [nativegardening@cnpssd.org](mailto:nativegardening@cnpssd.org).

*The Native Garden Committee will be taking a break from Zoom presentations over the summer but will resume in September. Keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements in this newsletter.*

*Enjoy your summer and stay natively cool!  
Christine Hoey, Nancy Levine & Judie Lincer*

## Summer Focus By Susan Krzywicki

As we pull into mid-summer, the garden focus is diffused over a wide array of plant activity. Bees are buzzing, some plants quiet down, and you can start to look forward to what the fall plantings will be. Time to look around and note seasonal differences, places that need refreshing, and holes that develop. Besides the reliable bloom of our [Cleveland sages](#) (*Salvia clevelandii*), here are some other garden choices local to our area. (Visit the links provided for each of the plant species to see photos and photos and more information.)



## Early Summer Observations

### Full Sun



The [California fuchsia](#) (*Epilobium canum*) are beginning to look great and may even be starting to bloom. Photo: Calscape.



I have seen some nicely blooming [matilija poppy](#) (*Romneya coulteri*), in several gardens along my travels in San Diego. Photo: Bobbie Stephenson.

Look for modest blooms starting on [soap plants](#) (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*). The lowest ones on the stalk should be opening each afternoon.



[Desert willow](#) (*Chilopsis linearis*), a Mojave favorite is really exploding with blooms now.

[Great Valley gumweed](#) (*Grindelia camporum*) could be covered with pollinators about now.

[Bladder pod](#) (*Peritoma arborea*) seems to bloom all year unless it has an excess of seed pods.

[Blue flax](#) (*Linum lewisii*) is a little-known local with bright blue flowers that open during daylight, and close at night. It is more of a mountain plant, if you'd like to give it a try.

## Full Sun, Part Shade

[Sawtooth Goldenbush](#) (*Hazardia squarrosa*) blooms nicely.

[Goldenrod](#) (*Solidago californica*) isn't blooming yet in my garden but I expect to see stalks of golden color in August.

Goldenbushes ([Ericameria palmeri](#) and [Isocoma menziesii](#)) are looking really good!



The Monardellas include [coyote mint](#) (*Monardella villosa*; left) and [hummingbird or red mint](#) (*Monardella macrantha*) are blooming too. Coyote mint is slightly out of San Diego County, and hummingbird or red mint is prevalent in east county.

[Monkeyflower species](#) (*Mimulus*) have already been blooming since early May.

The [Pacific aster](#) (*Symphotrichum chilense*) has lavender-blue flowers now, in part sun locations.

The [Channel Islands tree poppy](#) (*Dendromecon hartfordii*) seems to always be in bloom.

## Shade



[Coral bells](#) (*Heuchera maxima*) put out tall stalks of delicate bloom - in filtered shade. While from the Channel Islands, it is the rare shade plant that delivers color in dry summer.

## Plants That Love a Good Heatwave

[Manzanita](#) (*Arctostaphylos*) and [toyon](#) (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) all prove reliable during late summer heat, even if they are not in bloom.

The Anza-Borrego [Baja Fairy Duster](#) (*Calliandra eriophylla*) is also going to stand up to heat!

[Indian Mallow](#) (*Abutilon palmeri*) gives an impressive display of unique gold cup-shaped blooms.



The buckwheats shine at this time of year. [Eriogonum fasciculatum](#), and [E. umbellatum](#) (left) should all be doing well. [E. arborescens](#) and [E. giganteum](#), although from mostly off-shore, are often found in our gardens and bloom nicely right now.

[Desert Globemallow](#) (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*): strong reddish-apricot blooms, and nice grey-green leaves.

## Full Sun, Part Shade



Members of the genus [Rhamnus](#): buckthorns, coffee berries, and redberries; as well as [sugar sumac](#) (*Rhus ovata*; left) can take the heat and stay leafy green.

[Elegant tarplant](#) (*Madia elegans*), are flowering profusely with little or no supplemental water.

[Coast Brittlebush](#) (*Encelia californica*) is in bloom and may not need any supplemental water, depending on your conditions. Don't remove the dead flower heads: goldfinches and others love munching on the seeds.

# CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

## July Board Meeting

**Wednesday, July 7, 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@cnpsd.org](mailto:president@cnpsd.org).

## June Board Meeting Summary

The board approved:

- A mini-grant application from the Escondido Creek Conservancy for up to \$500.
- Appointment of Sheila Kirschenbaum as the tenth member of the Board for the rest of this calendar year.

Other items discussed by the board included: the Chapter's annual report that was submitted to CNPS staff on time; the annual Fall Plant Sale and possibly a workshop; the Coast Walk Mini-grant application that was introduced last month; a Chapter volunteer drive and re-opening/re-engagement campaign; WaiverSign, a software designed for creating and signing online waivers, that CNPS staff would like chapters to consider using; rare plant surveys; and books that were given to the Baja Chapter for resale. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

## NATIVE PLANT SPECIES STORIES

### Deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*)

By Kendra Saad

*Acmispon glaber* is one of the cheeriest and elegant native plants. Commonly known as deerweed, it has thin, bright green, gently arching, knee-high stems that are covered in small, bicolor yellow-red flowers for several months of the year. It looks delicate, but it is built tough. Its stems barely move when hefty bumblebees visit. The Kumeyaay used *Acmispon glaber* stems to make walls for their structures.

I first fell in love with *Acmispon glaber* at the San Diego Botanic Garden's Native Plants, Native People Garden. It's in a secluded valley that is often free of other visitors, so it's a great place to stroll and meditate.

*Acmispon glaber* is not readily available from nurseries, so I was super excited when I found seeds sold through CNPS-SD two years ago.

The package recommended hot water treatment and/or liquid smoke. I put them in hot water, and then, since I didn't have liquid smoke, I set them on fire in a metal bucket. I painstakingly planted the tiny seeds on a sloped garden in between *Salvia* spp. and *Rhus integrifolia* (lemonade berry) seedlings. I watered and watched them all winter. Nothing came up. I figured some birds must have enjoyed a smoky snack!

The next fall, however, I was weeding in an entirely different garden, separated by our house and a driveway, and I saw here and there the tell-tale tender green stalks and tiny leaves of the *Acmispon glaber*! I carefully weeded around them and watched them grow. And then in February, their sunny yellow and red flowers popped open. They have slowly spread west to other parts of my garden, but not one on the slope. It still baffles me today!

Here (right) is a photo with two *Acmispon glaber* (foreground and background) in my garden along with an *Artemisia* species.



Below: a closeup of the flowers (CalFlora © 2019 Diane Etchison)



### California Threadtorch (*Castilleja minor* ssp. *spiralis*)

Julie Schneider Ljubenkov painted this image of a California threadtorch (*Castilleja minor* ssp. *spiralis*) she found near the



headwaters of the San Luis Rey River in Cleveland National Forest near Indian Flats Campground. The California threadtorch also occurs in Hellhole Canyon County Park in Valley Center and she painted a California threadtorch portrait for that location in response to a call for an exhibition at the California Center for the Arts called "Finding

Heaven in Hellhole." She sent a note to the CNPS-SD discussion group that said, "CNPS and all members: please feel free to reprint or use the image. While the original is for sale, my goal in painting these is preservation, education, and appreciation. We need to show the world what beautiful wildflowers we have here in CA and San Diego County." Thank you, Julie!

## CONSERVATION

### Conservation Committee Meeting

Contact [conservation@cnpsd.org](mailto:conservation@cnpsd.org) for information regarding the July meeting.

### Converging Crises

"Unprecedented changes in climate and biodiversity, driven by human activities, have combined and increasingly threaten nature, human lives, livelihoods and well-being around the world. Biodiversity loss and climate change are both driven by human economic activities and mutually reinforce each other. Neither will be successfully resolved unless both are tackled together. This is the message of a workshop report, published today by 50 of the world's leading biodiversity and climate experts."

This showed up in my mailbox a couple of days ago, and you can read it yourself at <https://www.ipbes.net/events/launch-ipbes-ippcc-co-sponsored-workshop-report-biodiversity-and-climate-change>. While I'm still digesting the report, I've got the deadline from this column to make. So...

Here's the background. My standard rap about the biodiversity crisis is that, while San Diego hasn't had any species go extinct since the California Golden Bear, we're on the precipice edge of extinction with a large number of species. These include most notably the Quino checkerspot butterfly (notable because that's a major fight in the litigation over Otay Ranch Villages 13 and 14). This precipice is also heavily populated by vernal pool plants,

beach plants, coastal canyon plants, border plants, and old-growth specialists, most of which have lost well over 90 percent of their historic habitat and are getting destroyed by weeds and human impacts from recreation and carelessness. They're not necessarily living where they are best adapted anymore, they're living where they haven't been eliminated yet.

The other part of my standard rap is that extinction is (was) thought to be caused by three factors, in decreasing order: habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change. I've also added the prediction that later in the century, these all converge into one problem, which a lot of people ignored for no particular reason.

And that brings us back to the report above, which was generated by the first-ever joint workshop of experts from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

As a reminder, the IPCC is the Nobel Prize-winning group that issues the climate change assessments, of which the sixth is due out shortly. They are very much the mainstream/conservative end of the climate science spectrum. The IPBES is their biodiversity counterpart.

They are not doomsayers. Per the new paper, "The evidence is clear: a sustainable global future for people and nature is still achievable, but it requires transformative change with rapid and far-reaching actions of a type never before attempted, building on ambitious emissions reductions."

However, they warn that narrowly focused actions to combat climate change can harm nature and vice versa. Fortunately, there are many actions that can benefit both climate and nature. These include:

- "Stopping the loss and degradation of carbon- and species-rich ecosystems on land and in the ocean." In San Diego, these ecosystems include everything from eelgrass beds to salt marshes, freshwater marshes, riparian thickets and forests, old chaparral, montane forests, and undisturbed desert soils with their vegetation. Granted we don't have rainforests in San Diego, but every bit preserved is necessary. And local actions can be monitored better. We should not stop there, as indirect actions to stop deforestation from intact forests elsewhere is crucial. Deforestation globally is a major source of both species loss and GHG emissions.
- "Restoring carbon- and species-rich ecosystems." The authors have evidence that restoration is "among the cheapest and quickest nature-based climate mitigation measures to implement." Given that restoration is not quick, this says quite a lot about how slow other methods are. In San Diego, people in the county need to focus more on invasive species removal—weeding—than we do. San Diego County hosts a large inventory of indifferently successful restoration projects where a bunch of stuff from nurseries were planted, watered, weeded for three years and abandoned, with no penalty for failing to meet goals.

This indifference has to stop, although it is unclear what can be done to force the bad actors to clean up their games. It is also unclear what it will take to get local municipalities to invest in weeding, even though it's often a more cost-effective form of restoration than outplanting is.

- "Increasing sustainable agricultural and forestry practices." In San Diego this is controversial, since the Farm Bureau is currently pushing for farmers to be allowed to do whatever without oversight, while simultaneously promising to get the ag industry into carbon sequestration big time. We've been down that road with how many industries now? I'm all for expanding no-till farming, and for some other measures that keep carbon out of the air by getting it into the soil. That said, I've seen too many carbon offset games played to believe in anything less than enforced trust but verify protocols.
- To the degree that native plant agriculture is profitable, I would like to see it expand. This includes things like growing white sage for smudges (to stop it being poached) and growing wildflower meadows as seed sources for native plant nurseries. And, of course, it means growing the market for native plants, and growing the nurseries that provide these plants. Not big solutions, but they may be useful for restoring degraded and marginal lands that would currently support one cow every ten acres or less.
- "Enhancing and better-targeting conservation actions, coordinated with and supported by strong climate adaptation and innovation." This is a verbose way of saying "30x30," which is the global movement Newsom's administration is embracing. 30x30 (for the few that haven't heard) is the idea of having thirty percent of the Earth conserved by 2030, or having 30% of California conserved by 2030 in our case. This is probably doable, depending on what counts as conserved.
- Conservation becomes problematic when unlimited recreation is seen as a legitimate use of conserved lands. There is now a whole subfield of recreation ecology that looks at recreational impacts to conserved lands, and they can get pretty substantial. Grim, even. And while mountain bikes are the leading non-motorized problem, hikers don't lag far behind. Unfortunately, recreation is not impact neutral, and we all need to learn to give plants and animals the spaces they need to survive, for the sake of our own survival and peace of mind.
- "Eliminating subsidies that support local and national activities harmful to biodiversity." They cite examples such as excessive harvest of timber, wildlife, or fish, overuse of fertilizer, and so forth. Again, this is a good idea, but working smarter with fewer resources is rarely peoples' preferred alternative. Reducing consumption, loss, and waste is a perennial idea and need, but I'm cynical enough to think we need some drastically new ways to do this, given how (not) well attempts to date have worked.



Parallel to this is the notion that environmental education needs to be about more than what humans are doing wrong, it needs to constantly find ways to make it good to do the right thing. Many people want to be good, live good lives, and it turns out that conspicuous consumption is not a particularly good life for the consumed. What is? If you're creative, think of this as a challenge...

The report also goes into various ideas for curbing climate change that cause problems for biodiversity. These include massive subsidies for biofuels, massive tree plantations where no trees currently grow, and/or of exotic species, and increasing irrigation to deal with increasing drought. The last two are certainly problems in California, and I'm certainly concerned that some bright bulb will want to plant eucalyptus in place of coastal sage scrub to increase carbon sequestration (eucs don't last long enough to make it worthwhile). Irrigation is a more insidious problem, as water districts tend to have real trouble saying no to more customers.

Since San Diego County is working on a comprehensive update of its native plant landscaping ordinances, this report arrives at a good time. County efforts to deal with climate change and biodiversity loss are siloed to say the least (different people, different departments, different measures, not talking with each other...). Treating climate change and the 6th Extinction as facets of a single, existential crisis may be the tool needed to get people to work together on it. I can hope anyway.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Chair & Rare Plant Survey Chair

## CNPS-SD HELPS WITH RARE PLANT SURVEYS

by **Justin Daniel**, Vice President  
(Photos by the author except where noted.)

With vaccinations allowing more contact outdoors and a workload a year behind, it's been a busy time a few of us to help some of our fantastic environmental conservancy organizations around San Diego County by assisting them in their rare plant surveys. The following are glimpses into some of the recent surveys. Come along for the ride and reach out to support our partners, too!

### **Teofulio Summit - San Felipe Valley with the Volcan Mtn Foundation (VMF)**

VMF acquired a large undeveloped parcel near Teofulio Summit at the top of San Felipe Valley a few years ago. You might remember last year's July newsletter blurb on the rare plant we found and documented there: *Hulsea californica* (San Diego alpinegold; right). This year, the dryness has



resulted in no emergent *Hulsea californica* on the slope where this biennial species grew so large last year, but we did find a number of them clustered on the crest near profusely blooming *Penstemon spectabilis* (showy penstemon) and *Penstemon clevelandii* (left: Cleveland's beardtongue in the field; inset from Calflora © 2014 RT Hawke). Plenty of bloom from

the *Leptosiphon parviflorus* (variable linanthus) and *Acmispon glaber* var. *breviolatus* (short winged deerweed) had the Acmon blues (*Icaricia acmon*) and other butterflies quite happy as well. Shown here (right) is as good a shot as could be managed of a Golden Hairstreak Butterfly (*Habrodais grunus*) on the cup leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus perplexans*; right). We added what we could find to the growing plant list for this special property - now conserved thanks to VMF's donors and directors.



This survey had an excellent group of CNPS and VMF members and friends, but it was the botanists who forged ahead through thick redshank (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*) and cup leaf Ceanothus chaparral to the top of the parcel. Many of you guys will recognize



**Fred Roberts**, our rare plant botanist, on the left and **Larry Hendricksen**, Anza-Borrego State Park Botanist, next to Valerie Cournoyer, VMF Conservation Stewardship Committee Chair. Apologies for not naming the other guys in the picture - space is limited and reserved for plant names!

## Del Dios Highlands - Lake Hodges

The new Executive Director of the San Dieguito Valley River Conservancy (SDRVC) reached out recently about collaborating on surveys for a new acquisition of 117 acres sporting varieties of coastal sage scrub, mixed ceanothus chaparral, shady oak woodlands, scrub oak riparian zones, and, unfortunately, patches of tough to remove invasive species. Some very rare and special



plant species thrive there and we headed out with our Habitat Restoration Committee all-star **Arne Johanson** (left) to get our heads around this beautiful and challenging preserve. While we offer a fond and cheerful

farewell to ex-ED Johnathan Applebaum, new Director Emily Kochert has stepped into some big shoes to help manage a huge and complex watershed. Arne, Bob Byrnes, and the Habitat Restoration Committee volunteers have already been helping target the invasive fountain grass (*Pennisetum* spp.), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and other weeds found here.

The plant list we've just begun to record here is long... nearly 200 species with nearly all of those being native plant species found in a single day. Rare plants now protected from



development are the Encinitas baccharis (*Baccharis vanessae*), white coast ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) that is dominant in parts of the chaparral, San Diego sagewort (*Artemisia palmeri*), southern mountain misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), and lots of ashy spikemoss (*Selaginella cinerascens*). With more surveys and assistance (especially with future rains), we'll find many more rare species hiding in the dense growth.

## Mauro Preserve - Oceanside / Vista

For this survey, **Fred Roberts** and I accepted an invitation from Buena Vista Audubon to their Preserve parcel adjoining Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary. CNPS-SD has been involved in focused surveys for threadleaf brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) in the distinct populations found on the property for a few years now. When threadleaf brodiaea was first found on the parcel, it was covered by



thick mustard and non-native grass patches, eking out an existence competing with non-native annuals atop. Our 2019 count resulted in about 1,300+ scapes (inflorescence stalks or



Above: Searching among the dried grasses and wild mustard. Right: Threadleaf brodiaea scape.

An informal estimate counted thousands more that didn't flower, but for official counting methods, the team stuck with tallying up the flowering stalks (see photo at right). Much of the increase is very likely due to Audubon's effective restoration methods that knocked down the mustards and fennel, reduced the grasses substantially, and then implemented measures that keep out rampaging motorcycles. With the disturbances reduced, we even chanced across a few small flowered morning glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), another rare plant growing among the *Brodiaea filifolia*!



Now it looks bare from afar (left), but within a few years, this parcel will be returned to a native state. Plans include native grassland conversion and pioneering coastal sage scrub to cover the gentle slopes.



## HABITAT RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The committee has spent time at Lusardi Creek, treating invasive plants growing high on hillsides. We expect the native plants positioned yet higher on the hilltops to spread their seed down slope to replace existing seed banks for invasives. Natives such as black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) have thrived on the heights, as disturbances have been minimized due to their inaccessibility.

In fields closer to and adjoining the creek, results of our efforts of years past are visible. We are seeing large numberings of colorful flowering plants like chaparral bush mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*) and evening primrose (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hookeri*). These last areas are nearly in maintenance mode, during which little work needs to be performed to keep them invasive-free.

Below is a photograph of a *Cylindropuntia* species (possibly



coastal cholla, *Cylindropuntia prolifera*) at Rancho Santa Fe.

~ Bob Byrnes, Habitat Restoration Co-chair



Photo: Bob Byrnes

## PLANT SCIENCE

### New model describes the (scaling) laws of the jungle

Underneath the apparent messiness of forests lurk extraordinary regularities, governed by the biological mechanisms that drive universal forces of growth, death, and competition. For more info, see:

[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210419094010.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210419094010.htm)

### Ancient Alliance: Symbiotic relationship between California oaks and mutualist fungi appears to provide a buffer for climate change

Researchers recently sought to understand how climate change might affect fungal communities in woodland soil in a future California. To get a sense of how warming could affect California's woodland soil fungal community, the team sampled soils at sites along an arid (dry) to mesic (moderately moist) climactic gradient at the Tejon Ranch in the Tehachapi mountains. Read a summary at:

<https://www.news.ucsb.edu/2020/020119/ancient-alliance>

### Common plants and pollinators act as anchors for ecosystems

'Generalist' plants and pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity and may also serve as buffers against some impacts of climate change, finds new research. The findings provide valuable insights for prioritizing the conservation of species that contribute to the strength of ecological communities. Read more at:

[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210419084256.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210419084256.htm)

## CNPS IN VOGUE

### Saving the Super Bloom: Why California's Wildflowers Are Under Siege

This article features CNPS's Nick Jensen and many photographs by him and other photographers:

<https://www.vogue.com/article/saving-the-super-bloom-why-californias-wildflowers-are-under-siege>

## IN THE FIELD

### When the Low Desert Is Too Hot By Jürgen Schrenk

...the high desert is usually still quite pleasant! We chose the Cactus Spring Trail in the Santa Rosa Wilderness as our destination, since we had not visited it for many years but had favorable memories of its scenic beauty.

At the trailhead we were welcomed by hedgehog cacti (*Echinocereus engelmannii*) in full bloom.



And the trail itself was as pretty and varied as we remembered (here with chaparral yucca, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*). Other cacti by the wayside included desert prickly pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*),







Mojave Prickly Pear (*O. polyacantha* var. *erinacea*), absent from Anza-Borrego) and beavertail (*O. basilaris*). This area obviously has not seen precipitation for a long time; so we were quite happy when the trail took us down into Horsethief Canyon, which actually had a trickle of running water

and fresh green vegetation like narrowleaf goldenbush (*Ericameria linearifolia*), woolly Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), and a local specialty, San Jacinto beardtongue (*Penstemon clevelandii* var. *conatus*), shown at the right. The highlight for us, however, was a number of giant Parry's Nolin (*N. parryi*); just look at Ruth for comparison. Since the temperature by



(*Lasthenia* sp.) and company.

then had climbed to 81°F/27°C, we decided to turn around without continuing on to Cactus Spring and stopped instead for a while on SR-371 during our drive back, to enjoy the goldfields

## California Blooming

In this exhibition at the San Diego Natural History Museum, conservation photographers Nita Winter and Rob Badger offer a spectacular view of California's extraordinary wildflowers.



You may remember they gave a presentation to CNPS-SD recently. [https://www.sdnhm.org/exhibitions/california-blooming/?mc\\_cid=a0e28e3855&mc\\_eid=472f3e3683](https://www.sdnhm.org/exhibitions/california-blooming/?mc_cid=a0e28e3855&mc_eid=472f3e3683)

## Cal-IPC 30-Year Anniversary Symposium (online) October 26-29, 2021

Register now! Early bird rates end August 20.

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/>

## USFWS 5-Year Review of Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating 5-year reviews of 76 species of wildlife and plants in California and Nevada. They request that any new information be submitted by July 19, 2021. Additional information is in the announcement:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/05/20/2021-10667/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-initiation-of-5-year-status-reviews-of-76-species-in>

For species in the Carlsbad Office area of responsibility, comments and information can be sent to [fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov](mailto:fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov).

## Seeking Community Feedback

The Los Penasquitos Citizens Advisory Committee is asking visitors of northern San Diego open space preserves to help with a survey. The brief survey focuses on these San Diego City open spaces, Black Mountain, Lusardi Canyon Open Space, Carmel Mountain, Del Mar Mesa, and Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Less than 10 minutes to complete. All responses will be anonymous and will help guide visitor education, outreach programs, maintenance, and to protect the preserves. Click this link to begin if you would like to participate in the survey:

<https://forms.gle/jytyTZMrKRKuK1n89>

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter; that is June 10 for the August newsletter, etc. Please submit items to [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org)

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### The Water Conservation Garden Free Day: Second Friday of the Month Friday, July 9; 9 am – 4 pm

We all need something to look forward to... Enjoy a **FREE DAY** at The Garden the 2nd Friday of each month!

### California Wildlands Grassroots Fund

The California Wildlands Grassroots Fund supports the efforts of activists working to preserve California's wildlands. The fund focuses on small nonprofit organizations and individuals who show an ability and commitment to conserve California's natural landscapes. **Application Deadlines are quarterly: next is August 15.** Learn more at: <https://rosefdn.org/calwildlands>

### ESA 2021 Vital Connections in Ecology August 1-6, Long Beach, California

For information visit [www.esa.org/longbeach](http://www.esa.org/longbeach)

### CNPS-SD Activities Calendar July 2021

7/7: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.

## 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



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July 2021 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

*CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO*

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### **CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE**

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

### **Email DISCUSSION GROUP**

Craig Denson, Moderator  
To join, email: CNPSSanDiegoDiscuss+subscribe@groups.io

### **RARE PLANT BOTANIST**

Fred Roberts.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org  
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