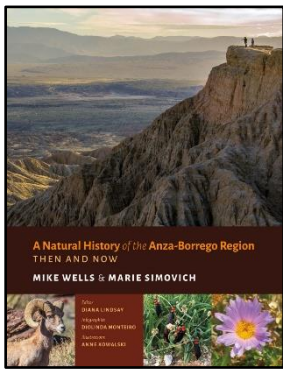


CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER PRESENTATION

A Natural History of the Anza-Borrego Region Then and Now
By Michael L. Wells Ph.D.
Tuesday, August 24; 7 pm



The recently published, *A Natural History of the Anza-Borrego Region Then and Now* by **Mike Wells** and **Marie Simovich** evolved from a course taught at the University of San Diego by the authors over a 16-year period. It tells the story of how the desert landscape evolved over time and how the organisms that inhabit the desert have adapted to the conditions of heat, aridity and high soil salinity found there. To

adapt to these conditions organisms have taken many different evolutionary pathways resulting in amazing biological diversity. The most interesting and typical examples of these adaptations will be presented along with sample illustrations taken from the book. The infographics in the book were created by Diolinda Monteiro and the fine illustrations by Anne Kowalski. The book was recently awarded a gold medal for Contributions to Publishing by the Commonwealth Club's California Book Awards. This award is given to "innovative or essential book projects, which celebrate and showcase California and its richness".

TWO WAYS TO WATCH

1) Zoom: To watch the presentation on your computer or phone via Zoom you must register in advance at this link. 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:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JKtwJWZAT_O_1_1-h_VtmA

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 7:00pm. There is no limit to participants viewing the presentation on Facebook.

CNPS-San Diego Chapter Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/cnpssd](https://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.

Purchase the book at:

<https://www.shop.theabf.org/products/a-natural-history-of-the-anza-borrego-region-then-and-now-authors-marie-simovichmike-wells>

Proceeds from this book support the Anza-Borrego Foundation. Book photo courtesy of the publisher.

Michael L. Wells completed a 34-year career with California State Parks in 2010. His first permanent assignment in 1977 was Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, where he served as a state park ranger. Over the next three decades he enjoyed assignments all over California, serving as a ranger, resource ecologist, and park superintendent. His final assignment was district superintendent of the Colorado Desert District, which includes ABDSP. Mike has a PhD in physical geography from a joint program with San Diego State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

Native Garden Committee Meeting
Brunch/Potluck
Sunday, August 15; 9 - 11 am
Bird Park (near 28th St and Thorn St.)

It has been way too long since we have been able to gather as a group! That being said, we are pleased and excited to announce our first in person NGC meeting outdoors at Bird Park (next to the children's playground). Bring a chair, your favorite brunch food to share and enjoy catching up with old and new members. We will be taking a tour of Bird Park and our "Adopt A Plots" as well as talking about future native garden committee activities and events. The meeting is open to all novice and experienced gardeners and we look forward to seeing you there! Coffee and tea will be provided.

Our next Zoom meeting will be a chapter event on **September 14** with **Carol Bornstein**. See this newsletter for more information about Carol's presentation and link to register.

Below: Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).
Photo Credit: Calscape.



This month's featured article "Plant Highlight from Bloom! California" by NGC member Tish Berge, highlights the many benefits of the Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) also known as an "aviary on a stick". The Toyon is one of 11 native plants included on the CNPS BLOOM! CALIFORNIA campaign to boost the sale of California natives. Take a look at what other natives made it on the list in Tish's article.

Garden Tours 2021: There seems to be a mix of who is doing a "virtual garden tour" vs. in person tours this year. If you haven't seen our chapter virtual 360 native garden tour, they are still available for viewing on the chapter website at: <https://www.cnpssd.org/360-tours>.

A recent garden tour, the "Vistas and Verandahs: Ocean Beach Garden Tour" on June 26, 2021 was sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association. NGC member and co-chair, Christine Hoey's home was the only native garden featured on the tour. Her garden was installed in 2018 by Greg Rubin with additional natives added by Christine. "We had so many positive comments and questions about the benefits of landscaping with natives." Big favorites were the Island Bush Poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*) and the Winnifred Gilman Sage (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Winnifred Gilman'), photos below.



Photo credit:
Christine Hoey



Upcoming Fall Garden Tour: The UCCE Master Gardener San Diego Program is hosting a fall garden tour in Carlsbad on September 18, 2021. Their last garden tour in 2019 did include several gardens with California natives. Tickets go on sale August 1 at <https://www.mastergardenersd.org/>

NGC Leadership Update: We are sad to announce that **Judie Lincer** is resigning her co-chair position due to other external work commitments. Judie will be greatly missed, and Tish Berge will be taking her place. Tish is one of the San Diego CNPS Garden Ambassadors and an active NGC member whose talents will be a great addition to the team!

The Native Garden Committee is open to anyone interested in learning more about gardening with native plants. We are a fun group of friendly folks who are all passionate about natives, especially growing them in gardens! If you are interested in joining us, drop us a line at nativegardening@cnpssd.org.

Plant Highlight from "Bloom! California" By Tish Berge, CNPS Garden Ambassador

Native plants have had a special place in my heart and my garden for years. If you are reading this, I'm guessing the same is true for you. Just like you, I've used our plant sales and driven extra miles to those specialty nurseries that carry native plants. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is working to make native plants more accessible to you and me, as well as to the mainstream gardener who may not know much about native plants.

CNPS has recently launched a statewide campaign to boost the sale of California native specialty crop plants by 20% in volume over the next 3 years. The campaign — Bloom! California: Native Plants for a Bright Tomorrow — is funded by a Specialty Crop Block Grant and is the first project of its kind in the state. For more information, see BLOOM! CALIFORNIA for the announcement that came out during California Native Plant Week and <https://bloomcalifornia.org/> for the website with more information on how to participate. Bloom! California is in phase 1 and is recruiting partners who own, operate, manage, or work for a California-based nursery or retailer. If you know someone who fits that category, please share this information with them!

This article highlights one of the 11 plants that are part of Bloom! California. CNPS worked with a stakeholder group of nurseries, growers, scientists, and landscape experts to select native plants from the specialty crop list that meet the following criteria:

- Consumer-friendly (good grower supply and successful in-home landscapes)
- Strong opportunity to increase sales broadly
- Variety of species that do well across various California locations
- Low risk to wild plant populations (disease or genetics)
- High habitat value

Here are the 11 plant species and cultivars: Ornamental Grasses, Mints, Iris, Currants, Clarkia, Manzanita, Yarrow, Sage, Phacelia, Toyon, and Oaks. Each of these plants contributes differently to the garden from both an aesthetic perspective and a wildlife and habitat perspective.

Let's start with Toyon, or *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, a great foundational evergreen. My first memory of Toyon was talking with Greg Rubin, who said that putting a Toyon in your yard is like having an "aviary on a stick," and boy was he right! Flocks of Cedar Waxwings descend on these shrubs and clean out the berries – they are such a beautiful and sleek bird. We've enjoyed seeing a wide variety of birds use this plant for food and cover.



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) on a Toyon branch (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Photo credit: **Tish Berge**

Gardeningknowhow.com says Toyon is "Los Angeles's official native plant – adaptable, easy-to-grow and works well as a specimen shrub, in a privacy hedge or as a container plant. With its deep roots and drought tolerance, toyon is also used for erosion control and slope stabilization." For more information, see What Is Toyon: Learn About Toyon Plant Care and Information Toyon at:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/shrubs/toyon/toyon-plant-care.htm>

According to CalScape (calscape.org), an online database developed by CNPS to help Californians restore nature and save water one garden at a time, Toyon supports a great variety of wildlife. Bees are attracted to its flowers, birds and coyotes enjoy its berries, and the plant hosts at least 4 confirmed butterflies and moths. For more information, see [https://calscape.org/Heteromeles-arbutifolia-\(Toyon\)](https://calscape.org/Heteromeles-arbutifolia-(Toyon)).

It likes full sun to part shade. In my garden, I have it on south-facing and west-facing hillsides, and it does equally well in each location. As far as moisture, it has a low moisture need. And the best part: it is tolerant of a wide variety of soils (fast, medium, or slow draining)—so if you don't already have one, there's a strong likelihood that it will do just fine in your yard wherever you put it. It flowers in summer and produces its berries in fall/winter, which is why it is sometimes referred to as the Christmasberry or California Holly. This evergreen shrub will grow to about 15 feet tall and 15 feet wide.



In this photo (left) are two Toyons. The larger one on the left was planted in 2010, and the smaller to the right was planted later to add more privacy. For scale, the bird bath is about 3 feet tall. The understory of the Toyon is *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*.

Photo credit: **Tish Berge**

Some lessons learned from my journey with Toyons. Yes, they really grow up to 15 feet wide. I planted one Toyon about 10 feet from the house and have had to trim the branches that tried to arch over and touch my roof (it's on a hill). Those berries are beautiful, but the birds don't get them all. So be prepared for dried berries to litter the space around your Toyon. Evergreen doesn't mean that it doesn't drop leaves. This shrub will create its own mulch over time with dried leaves (and some of those berries). The dried berries look like large peppercorns, and the dried leaves have a color that is best described as reddish-orange brown. Remember, the best mulch for your native plant is leaf litter that it and its companion plants produce, so if you can resist the temptation to rake, you will be rewarded with a healthier plant and garden. As an added bonus, leaf litter also provides habitat. For a great article from Becca Rodomsky-Bish on the many benefits of leaf litter, see <https://content.yardmap.org/learn/leaf-litter/>.

Speaking of colors, while weeding with the CNPS-SD Bird Park Workgroup, I learned from a fellow volunteer that there is a species of toyon that has yellow berries. It's called *Heteromeles arbutifolia* 'Davis Gold'; it is a cultivar of the native Toyon, appears to have the same characteristics as the red-berried version, and grows as a large shrub or multi-trunk small tree, with perhaps a shorter width than height. For more information, see:

[https://theodorepayne.org/nativeplantdatabase/index.php?title=Heteromeles arbutifolia %27Davis Gold%27](https://theodorepayne.org/nativeplantdatabase/index.php?title=Heteromeles%20arbutifolia%20%27Davis%20Gold%27). Based on a quick internet search, it looks like you can get it at several Southern California native plant nurseries. I suspect that the color of the berries may attract different birds, but this cultivar is likely another "aviary on a stick."

For more inspiration from CNPS Garden Ambassadors, visit <https://www.cnps.org/tag/garden-ambassadors>.

Tish Berge has been a CNPS member since the early 2000's when she got her very first native plant, a Catalina Cherry. She likes natives because they are drought tolerant and attract wildlife. She recommends workshops, tours, and patience to new gardeners.

RARE PLANTS

Know Your Rare Plants: Cliff Spurge (*Euphorbia misera*)



Cliff spurge, a member of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae), is a 1.0 to 1.5 meter (3-4.5 feet) tall shrub that has rubbery, soft stems, and a tangled rounded or somewhat sprawling form. The branches are naked in the dry season but have leaves with a rounded to oval outline in the spring, that are folded upward and mostly less than 1.5 cm long.



Like all members of the genus, cliff spurge has a unique flower-like inflorescence at the tip of the branches called a cyathium.



The cyathium (right) consists of a 2-3 mm tall bell-shaped involucre (fused bracts) and a central stalked female flower surrounded by 30-40 male flowers. The central female flower develops the characteristic three-lobed capsule of the spurge family that appears to hang like a club from the flower. There are five white appendages that look like petals, each with a maroon, sometimes yellow-margined gland at the base. The leaves and branches exude a milky acrid sap when ruptured or cut, which can be a little messy if pressing the plant. Cliff spurge is not likely to be confused with any other native shrub in San Diego County.

Cliff spurge is found mostly along the immediate coast in coastal bluff scrub along bluff margins and coastal mesas from Corona Del Mar in Orange County south into Baja California, Mexico, where it is widespread, and a few outposts along the Gulf of California coast of Sonora. It also occurs on Santa Cruz, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente Islands. An odd disjunct site is also known at White Water Canyon in the Coachella Valley of Riverside County. This far inland site is hardly the only inland site where this plant occurs. In central Baja California's Vizcaíno Desert, cliff spurge is a common desert shrub right across the

peninsula from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of California and found at elevations over 400 meters (1,300 feet).

In San Diego County, cliff spurge is somewhat spotty, found primarily along sea bluffs at Carlsbad, Del Mar, Torrey Pines, Border Fields, and especially Point Loma. In extreme southern San Diego County, a cluster of sites is also found along the western margins of Otay Mesa about 10 kilometers (about 6 miles) inland. In our area, the plant is found from sea level to about 160 meters (520 feet) elevation.

The Type specimen has been housed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in England for about 180 years. If you know anything about the trials that specimens went through to get from a hillside to an herbarium cabinet in the 1700s and 1800s, it is a wonder any specimens actually made it to a museum. This collection was obtained "between San Diego and San Quintin", Mexico, by Richard Brinsley Hinds, a naturalist and a Royal Navy surgeon assigned to the *HMS Sulphur* as it conducted a hydrographic expedition.

The collection is sometimes attributed to the year 1841 as indicated in the Kew database. However, Hinds most likely came across the plant in the fall of 1839. A passage written in the 1844 paper *The Botany of the Voyage of the H.M.S. Sulphur*, states "we had the good fortune to touch rapidly at several places on the coast of Lower, or New California, during October and November 1839." The *HMS Sulphur* proceeded south along the western coast of Mexico from there, and evidently struck westward across the Pacific from San Blas, Mexico, on December 21, 1839. The *H.M.S. Sulphur* would later gain some fame for its participation in the first Opium War in 1840 and 1841 on the coast of China. A little adventure never stops a good botanist. Hinds continued to collect plants even as he may have had to patch up a few sailors along the way. He was collecting plants at Hong Kong in January and February 1841 just before heading home to England.

The Consortium of California Herbaria credits Daniel Cleveland with the first definite collection of cliff spurge at San Diego about thirty years after Hinds passed through the region, in April 1875. Over the next thirty-five years (1875-1910) other collectors contributing to the knowledge of cliff spurge included Marcus E. Jones, C.G. Pringle, John Lemmon, Katherine and Townsend Brandegee, Helen A. Sheldon, LeRoy Abrams, and N.K. Most of these early collections were made on Point Loma. The species is well represented in California herbaria today.

The 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s were a time of furious coastal development and expansion of recreational activities along the California coast, especially in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. With its mostly narrow coastal distribution and preference for seaside bluffs, a favored location for high-end residential and commercial development, large and "showy" cliff spurge earned a slot in the earliest California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Inventory, published in 1974, under Appendix II, plants not rare but mostly of limited distribution (if you are unfamiliar with the early CNPS Rare Plant Inventories, they are posted individually on the CNPS website at the bottom

of the CNPS Inventory of Rare Plants page. That original 1974 edition looks primitive compared to the later printed versions and positively antiquated by the digital form).

Evidently, there was some disagreement as to how rare or threatened cliff spurge really was. In the 1980 edition of the Inventory, it earned only a “Considered but Rejected” tag but by the 3rd edition of the Inventory in 1984, cliff spurge found its home as a CNPS List 2 species and it has remained there ever since. Cliff spurge is not a covered species under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) but it is a covered species under the City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan, the only element of the north county MHCP yet completed.

~ **Fred M. Roberts**, Rare Plant Botanist

Update on the Locally Rare Rank

CNPS is getting serious about the Locally Rare Plant (LRP) rank. If you haven't seen it, CNPS now has a web page devoted to Locally Rare Plants (check it out by going to cnps.org, go to “our work” and then “rare plant science” and then “locally rare plants”). The web page includes a general discussion about the subject focusing on three topics: What are locally rare species, Peripheral populations as refugia, and Legal protection. Additionally, the web page includes a link to several papers, provides example Local Rare Plant lists for four counties (Alameda, Contra Costa (as “Rare, unusual, and significant Plants – you can only access their description page at this point, to see the actual list requires registration), Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties), and a white paper.

Dave Magney has also established a state level committee on the topic. It was off to a slow start, its first meeting taking place some five years ago but in the last year we have conducted two meetings and a third is proposed for August. The committee's main purpose is to come up with guidelines to help CNPS chapters and others for what factors determine which species qualify as LR (locally rare) and what methodology should be used to get there.

The LRP concept has largely been proposed to afford some level of conservation status to plant species that while broadly distributed across the state, are scarce at the local level. Ideally, CNPS hopes these species will have a place in future CEQA reviews and local jurisdictional conservation mechanisms. The simplest subunit below the state is a County, but a National Forest, mountain range, or municipality could also be an example of a relevant local level. Different people have come to the table with somewhat different ideas on exactly what an LRP should be and how to arrive at a candidate list. That a species should be relatively uncommon in the local area is a given, but even that is not sharply defined. During our committee meetings plants with populations of five or ten have both been offered as a cut-off for what could be considered an LRP. Others have sought more flexibility to allow for other circumstances than just scarcity. And there is the question, just because a

species is known from just a couple sites within a county, should it automatically be placed on the locally rare list?

In Ventura County, the current LRP list also includes plants listed in the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory, but the East Bay chapter does not include officially ranked plants in their “rare, unique, and unusual” plant database, rather maintaining it separately. Everyone on the committee agrees that science should be a driving element and that LRP lists should be as scientifically defensible as possible, especially if CEQA becomes a mechanism of conservation, but the ideas on how to get there and by what means varies. How robust should the list be? Should all sites have a physical voucher? What is the roll of Calflora and iNaturalist observations then? In floristics, botanists often use verified physical voucher specimens as evidence that a species occurs within a region. Photographic observations generally are not considered equivalent. Do we need that same level of robust data for conservation? After all, as many as 70 percent of CNDDDB records lack a physical voucher and yet CNDDDB is critical to plant conservation in the state of California.

Some counties have turned to modeling. Others are still doing analog research, largely relying on local botanical experts. Modeling has a lot of support in some regions of the state, but it can be time consuming, expensive, and requires expertise not often available to the average chapter.

Stay tuned. There is no formal process in San Diego County at this time to create an LRP candidate list but with resources like the San Diego Plant Atlas, the chapter is in a pretty good position to put together a candidate list. I don't think we will need any sort of modeling to tell us if a plant belongs on the list or not. Certainly, any plant species with a handful of locations only known west of the I-15 would almost get a guaranteed seat at the table.

~ **Fred M. Roberts**, Rare Plant Botanist

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

August Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 4, 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.

July Board Meeting Summary

Items discussed by the board included: Upcoming events (see them described in “Letter from the Chapter President” on page 6); the role of chapter in relationship to the main CNPS organization and CNPS Executive Board; new chapter volunteer positions; and that CNPS may hire another SoCal conservation analyst. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

Letter from the Chapter President

Dear Members and Followers of CNPS-SD,

Last weekend the board of the San Diego chapter and a number of committee chairs met to discuss bringing back chapter activities and events that had been suppressed by the pandemic. Miraculous vaccines have allowed social intercourse to open up again and, as a science-based organization, we laud those scientists who have devoted their work to finding these solutions.

I will very simply list here what is now re-opened, what activities we are looking to resume pending permissions or volunteers to head the committees, and what events are being planned. More details and contacts can be found on our website under the Activities tab and on the Volunteer page: cnpsd.org/volunteer

OPEN NOW

Habitat Restoration Committee: The committee continued invasive plant removal throughout the pandemic as this was classified as an essential work. Contact them for training.

Native Garden Committee: Planting projects, educational sessions, committee meetings. The committee may continue to plan some online presentations, too.

Propagation Committee: Outdoor propagation sessions and online meetings and presentations.

Rare Plant Survey Committee: Periodic Rare Plant Treasure Hunts after the hot months are in the works. Contact rareplants@cnpsd.org to be notified.

PENDING

Field Trips Committee: The chapter seeks a two-person team to schedule and manage field trips on a monthly basis. See the volunteer webpage cnpsd.org/volunteer

Programs Committee: Programs will plan in-person chapter meeting presentations when use of Balboa Park indoor rooms is confirmed. We are hoping that is in October. Balboa Park has been seriously understaffed both during the pandemic and post-vaccine, and that is part of the delay in reopening the facilities.

ONLINE

Conservation Committee: As a way of supporting the CNPS carbon-neutral pledge, the committee will continue to meet online.

Programs Committee: Programs will be hosting Zoom presentations in August and September (see cnpsd.org/events). The committee may continue to host periodic online presentations after in-person chapter meetings resume (to be decided).

EVENTS

Native Plant Festival: Planning is beginning for the chapter's first Native Plant Festival, a fundraiser featuring all chapter-

grown plants, vendors and artists, and county-wide allied organizations. The date, pending confirmation from Balboa Park, is Saturday, October 9. Stay tuned for details on this exciting event that promises wonderful public exposure for California native plants.

Plant Sales: Several sales events have been discussed including a sizable floor sale held in conjunction with Mission Trails Regional Park in November. And *possibly* an all pickup sale next January or February. Overall, there will be smaller and more frequent sales events. In the meantime, you can purchase California native plants year-round from these nurseries in Southern California: cnpsd.org/where-to-buy-native-plants-in-southern-california

Garden Tour: Several smaller 'mini-tours' with educational opportunities have been discussed for next year. Stay tuned.

Workshops: No all-day workshop is currently planned; however, the Native Garden Committee is planning some educational opportunities at gardens in the county.

There is no need to reiterate how difficult the past 16 months have been both in addressing the pandemic and finding a way to live together within a social contract again. Despite the challenges, here's hoping you will venture out to find your California native plant mojo or energy with us soon.

Cheers,

Joseph Sochor, CNPS-SD President

CNPS In a Nutshell

Over the years, I've heard a fair amount of confusion about just how CNPS as an organization is structured. In some cases, this has led to some angst. What follows is a brief overview of the way our organization works.

CNPS as a whole is a binational, non-profit organization, very much an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization). Our membership covers California and Baja California Norte. CNPS is a non-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors, who employ an executive director and a staff to perform various functions.

The Board of Directors is what runs CNPS, according to the state of California. They or the Executive Director are responsible for budgeting, hiring and firing, signing contracts, litigating, and dealing with the responsibilities of a non-profit corporation. For instance, when California started handing down mandates on how to deal with Covid19 last year, those went to the state office, who then told the chapters to carry them out. Some people blamed the chapter boards for these policies, but the chapters are not in charge of these functions, the state office is.

CNPS has five major statewide programs: rare plants, vegetation, conservation, education, and native plant gardening.

As an organization, CNPS is considered an expert on native plants and native vegetation. The two programs that handle

these, rare plants and vegetation, focus most on plant science of the five programs. What this means in practice is that we work very closely with CDFW to create and maintain the lists of sensitive plant species, formerly known as the CNPS lists and now known as the California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) lists. We also work closely with CDFW and others to describe and map the vegetation of California.

With our science-based conservation program, we are considered major advocates for native plants within California, much as Audubon is considered a major advocate for birds. While anyone can advocate on issues in a democracy, groups that are known subject experts get listened to a bit more carefully, and are often asked to help shape policy. Our focus on native plants limits what CNPS conservation can do. While we may advocate on other issues that touch native plants, such as wildfires, climate change, or development, we are plant advocates first and foremost. For example, CNPS may litigate to protect a population of rare plants. However, we do not have legal standing to litigate to stop a housing development in a high fire area if no rare plants are being threatened by the development.

The other two statewide programs are native plant education and gardening. These are the most familiar programs to most members, as they encompass activities such as presentations, seminars, hikes, gardening with native plants, and plant sales. On the state level, they are also responsible for CalScape and for creating and curating a large body of educational material, much of which is available free at cnps.org.

Below the CNPS Board of Directors and the statewide programs are the chapters. They're organized sort of by county. Los Angeles has three chapters within it, but most chapters cover one or more counties. The San Diego Chapter covers San Diego and Imperial Counties, and the Baja chapter covers their state. There is one specialty chapter which covers bryophytes throughout California. The methods of bryology (the study of liverworts, hornworts, and mosses) are sufficiently different that they work better as a separate group united by interest, rather than organized by region.

Running each chapter are the chapter boards (properly chapter executive committees) who are responsible for activities within each chapter. They are also responsible for carrying out the five CNPS programs within each chapter, depending on local needs and available expertise. This can get complicated, as you might expect. One example is that CNPSSD currently does not have an active vegetation program. Our area was mapped a few years ago, and currently there's little need to remap our vegetation.

Each chapter is different, because native plant issues vary enormously between the southern coastal urban chapters, the desert chapters, those of the central and northern California coasts, the Bay Area, the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, northeast California, and the Sierran forests. Each chapter has different plants and different needs, and we work better as a diverse confederacy with fundamental common structures like

the five statewide programs adapted by each chapter to local needs.

Finally, to close the loop, the chapters each send a delegate to the CNPS Chapter Council. This body meets quarterly, and its function is to set CNPS policies in areas not covered by corporate law. The Chapter Council is how we deal with the vast diversity of CNPS chapter issues across the state—we get together, talk about them, argue them out, and ideally come up with ways to deal with them, although the debates often take years to sort out. Every CNPS member is welcome to attend a chapter council meeting, and CNPS members can even speak up at them. The only thing they cannot do is vote on an issue—that is what the delegates are for. The delegates are supposed to represent the chapter's will on issues, but they are also free to vote their conscience on issues that come up where they do not have guidance from their chapter board. This is how, for instance, they can approve the minutes and set the agenda.

Finally, the Chapter Boards can nominate people for recognition or even fellowships, and the Chapter Council vote on these nominations if they pass through the nominating committee. In general, fellowships are given for extraordinary work at the chapter level and more often for the organization as a whole.

That's CNPS in a nutshell. We're a bit complex, but I hope this makes some sense.

~ Frank Landis, CNPS-SD Chapter Council Delegate

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Meeting

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

I Can Dream, Can't I?

A short August daydream, for once. I thought I'd contemplate what San Diego might look like in 2035 if we actually manage to decarbonize our county in the next 14 years, as the Board of Supervisors hopes to do.

That means, as a start, few or no fossil-fuel powered cars. Every vehicle on the road will be electric. There will be more mass transit. The coaster train will run through a new tunnel that goes under Del Mar and out through...um, to be determined, but the old rail bed will be parkland crumbling onto the beach below.

New multi-story residential buildings will be going up throughout the existing urban areas, and the hot views (literally—it's going to be hotter) will be from the penthouses. There will be fights over shading and solar panels, and everybody will be an expert on how big their solar panels need to be to power cars, and jealous of anyone casting shade.

We will be experimenting with urbanizing native trees. Perhaps we will find out that Torrey pines grow great in parts of Barrio

Logan, and these beautiful San Diegans will start to signify the region as a whole, not just the wealthy coastal enclaves. Do we even know where they'll grow in the city, or have we always just assumed?

We will all be in the business of rescuing oaks from shothole borers. There will be a massive program on to plant coast live oaks wherever they will grow. We know that most will die when they get big enough to support the boring beetles, but in the meantime, they will house and feed multitudes of birds. As the beetles hit, we'll find which oaks resist them the best. We'll use the acorns of the resistant oaks to provide the next generation of coast live oaks, and thereby help them become more resistant, generation by generation, people and trees growing their futures together.

We'll make our cities more permeable to wildlife by native gardening. But the new gardens will be less about big suburban and rural spreads, and more about pocket gardens that support not just monarchs, but insects of all kinds, from steel-blue cricket hunting wasps to the little moths whose caterpillars are baby food for songbirds. Bug will be desirable, and yellow "bug lights" will be normal.

In the canyons, Canyonlands and CNPS will have persuaded city stormwater divisions to start using gabions and willows to manage stormwater flows, rather than just concrete channels, and the beaches downstream will be a bit cleaner. There may even be talk of reintroducing beavers to San Diego, where they used to live 150 years ago. They would really rewild the creeks.

Further afield, some farmers will be growing white sage and buckwheat on their dry slopes, to meet the demand for honey, honeybees for their remaining orchards, and sage smudges for the worldwide market. Some farmers will have restored wildflower meadows and chaparral. They will make money by sequestering carbon in the soil, and also by supplying native seeds to the still-growing native plant horticulture industry.

Further out still, the houses will be more fire-hardened, with water tanks, under eave sprinklers, and three-zone landscaping the norm. CalFire and the environmental community will have a working détente around the landscaping in the high fire zones, based on tested standards for creating and caring for ignition-resistant landscaping. Which will be mostly native plants.

Sound like fun? I hope so. It also sounds like a lot of work. But if you notice, there's a lot for everyone to do. Gardening with natives in small urban spaces, figuring out where trees will grow in the cities, solving the fire issues. Helping farmers to make the farming natives profitable.

And how to do this all while eliminating our emissions of greenhouse gases? It's a tall order. It would have been better if we'd started 20 years ago. But we still have a few years. If we all get working, there's less for any one person to do. I can dream. Can you?

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

NATIVE PLANT ARTICLES & BOOKS

Adding These 13 Plants, Not Bird Feeders, Could Save the Birds

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/lifestyle/home-and-garden/story/2021-05-29/put-away-your-bird-feeders-the-best-way-to-help-birds-is-by-building-habitat>

Using California Native Grasses in Garden Design

<https://cnga.org/Grasslands-Journal>

Garden Allies: The Insects, Birds, and Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving

Frédérique Lavoipierre has written a new book based on her 10-year series of articles for Pacific Horticulture magazine. She was the director of education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and is a writer for Pacific Horticulture. The book comes out in August, but you can buy an advance copy through Amazon at: <https://www.amazon.com/Garden-Allies-Discover-Beautiful-Thriving/dp/1643260081>.

IN THE FIELD

San Elijo Ecological Reserve By Jürgen Schrenk



The San Elijo Ecological Reserve is close enough to the coast for pleasant temperatures even during a heat wave. We picked the La Orilla Trail from El Camino Real, since we haven't been there for years. It begins by

crossing a jungle of Desert Wild Grape (*Vitis girdiana*) with a few flowering California Rose bushes (*Rosa californica*). Then the trail took us along a marsh bordered by 8 ft-tall tule (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) overshadowing clusters of



Lanceleaf Liveforever (*Dudleya lanceolata*; right), several still in bloom. The native vegetation reached from tall Torrey Pines (*Pinus torreyana*) to tiny Spreading Alkaliweed (*Cressa truxillensis*; below) and everything in between. In the distance, some Solana Beach landmarks were visible and



representatives of the Lagoon's birdlife: Snowy and Great Egrets, Great Blue Heron and American Avocet.



After an expansive restoration area with not always native plants (This Chinese Houses species may be *Collinsia grandiflora*, at right, from up north) we turned around at Tern Point and from afar watched the Monarch approving the planted Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis vel aff.*; far right) at the trailhead.



Left: Tern Point

RELATED ACTIVITIES

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>

Food2Soil



Want to build more healthy living compost? Food2Soil is looking for composters to join our network of Soil Farmers. Soil Farmers are ambassadors for food waste reduction, living soil and climate action in their neighborhoods. Soil Farmers

earn an income by receiving food scraps from their neighbors and processing it into nutrient rich compost. Join Food2Soil and learn the art and science of composting while connecting with your neighbors, advocating for climate change, building a green business, and working outdoors. Dig deep and get your hands dirty! Check out our website (<https://www.food2soil.net/soil-farmer.html>) for more information on how to get started.

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/>

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CNPS-SD Activities Calendar August 2021

- 8/4: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.5
- 8/14: NGC Zoom Presentation, p.2
- 8/15: NGC Meeting/Brunch/Potluck, p.1
- 8/24: Chapter Zoom Presentation, p.1

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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Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

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