

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER ON-LINE PRESENTATION

The Beauty and Complexity of Evolution: A Focus on Manzanitas
By Dr. Tom Parker, SFSU

Tuesday, November 16
7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

California has nearly a hundred different species and subspecies of *Arctostaphylos* (manzanitas). This talk will attempt a few



things to provide a context for this diversity. First, we'll examine their origin in the ericaceous subfamily Arbutoideae, an early diverging group of the Ericaceae named after madrones. Within manzanitas themselves, there appear to be two different lineages, which means cousins can co-occur.

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 Zoom presentation at: bit.ly/cnpssd11-16

Or type in this web address:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Tnwki9GT_yhBoNfB_HAXA

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 participants viewing the presentation on Facebook. Previous presentations can also be viewed on the Facebook page.

CNPS-San Diego Chapter Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/cnpssd>



Dr. Parker was a Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University beginning in 1980, and is now Emeritus. He is a plant ecologist/evolutionist focusing on plant community dynamics and conservation, and an expert in the systematics and ecology of *Arctostaphylos* species. He co-authored *Arctostaphylos* treatments for the Flora of North America (2009) and for the Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California (2012). His research has been on dispersal, seed banks, seedling establishment, mycorrhizae, and other aspects of ecology and evolution in a variety of California vegetation types, especially chaparral and tidal wetlands. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters; three edited books, and co-authored one Field Guide to Manzanitas.

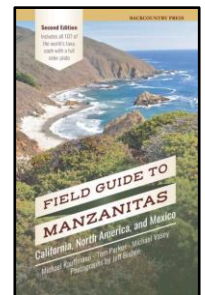
LINKS:

Link to Field Guide to Manzanitas, 2nd Edition:

<https://backcountrypress.com/book/field-guide-to-manzanitas/>

Link to Field Guide Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Field-Guide-to-Manzanitas-382176918639366/>



BOARD ELECTION

The Chapter Board of Directors weigh and make decisions that affect our many Chapter committees including budget, administrative duties, and recordkeeping, among other business. All Board members attend the monthly Board meeting on the first Wednesday evening every month via Zoom or in person if vaccinated. You are eligible if you are a current member of CNPS and have a passion for native plants and want to volunteer to support the CNPS mission and vision. If you have any questions, please reach out to vicepresident@cnpsd.org.



Voting this year among the membership will occur online via our Mailchimp email service and through the mail using the ballot inserted in this newsletter. Due to the lag in postal service, please keep in mind that ballots may take additional time to be received and may not be counted if postmarked later than **November 24**. Vote totals will be presented at the December Board Meeting. Thank you for voting!

CNPS San Diego has eleven (11) members of the Executive Board whose term of service is two (2) years. Five members are usually elected in the odd numbered years, like this year (2021); 6 are elected in even numbered years. Four current board members are running for another term, so one other board member is needed. If you are interested in being a board member, or know a CNPSSD member who is, you can write their names in on this ballot. If you are writing in another person, be sure that person is willing to serve on the board.

Use the ballot that is included in this newsletter, or vote on-line at: www.cnpssd.org/election (Note: you must use this link - you cannot get to the election ballot by going to cnpssd.org and looking for it there).

Following are brief bios for the four people on the ballot:

Bob Byrnes: I have been a member of the CNPS for nearly seven years. Having retired from laboratory research, and most recently, from a position as research programmer at UCSD, I recognized the outstanding beauty and other tangible as well as intangible qualities associated with our native plant life very quickly. Presently I am co-chair of the chapter Habitat Restoration Committee, helping lead efforts to control invasive plants in San Diego open space parks and on private properties.

Justin Daniel: CNPS has become a large part of my life over the past decade and I see the mission and the work CNPS does as necessary to protect California's native plants and by extension our imperiled wildlife. My time on the Board since 2016 has been fulfilling and challenging. Our time together has produced many great memories and supported a culture of dedication to and better understanding of San Diego and Imperial Counties' natural ecosystems. I've had the honor of acting as Chapter President for three years of these last six. I would ask only that if you've approved of the work I've put in, vote for my continued presence on the Board. My professional life involves Property

Consulting performing sustainable design assessments, including vegetation surveys.

Sheila Kirschenbaum: I joined CNPS in 2004 when I began to restore the native habitat of my San Diego backyard canyon slope. I became involved by shopping at CNPS Plant Sales, attending meetings to learn from amazing speakers at monthly programs, and in 2017 my garden was on the CNPS Garden Tour. My appreciation for the beauty and value of our local native habitats continues to grow every time I participate in a CNPS activity: botanizing on field trips, volunteering at Plant Sales, at Garden Tours, at Workshops, and with the Gardening Committee and Propagation Committee. I joined the Board last year to fill a midterm vacancy and would like to continue on the Board to support the important mission of CNPS.

Frank Landis: I have been a CNPS member for 31 years, over half my life. My mother gave me a gift membership soon after I graduated from college in 1990. From there, my interest in native plants grew, and I went on to obtain an MA and PhD in botany, focusing on plant ecology. Over the last quarter century, I have belonged to four chapters (East Bay, North Coast, LA/Santa Monica Mountains, and San Diego) and been active in three. As a CNPS member, I have given talks, led hikes, pulled weeds, run an art contest, sold plants, seeds, and books, commented on environmental documents and policies, surveyed rare plants and vegetation, given testimony in front of the Santee City Council, the San Diego City Council, County Board of Supervisors, and state Cal-Fire, represented CNPS on the County MSCP Steering Committee, the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizen's Advisory Committee, the Open Space Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the Wildlife Habitats Conservation Coalition; written the monthly conservation column and occasional rare plant columns, chaired the Conservation and Rare Plant Survey committees, represented the San Diego chapter at the state CNPS Chapter Council (where I helped draft the CNPS statement on climate change), and yes, served on the chapter Executive Committee since 2009. I am an example of how most native plant enthusiasts are made, not born, through exposure to enthusiastic, knowledgeable teachers who turn the world from an olive blur into beautiful landscapes of fascinating species. As a director, I am interested in helping run the Chapter's day-to-day activities, in reaching out to new members and educating existing members, and in furthering plant conservation efforts throughout our city, county, and state.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Don't forget CNPS San Diego Chapter on Giving Tuesday, **November 30, 2021**. Whether it's doing an act of kindness, speaking out, or donating to a favorite nonprofit (CNPS-SD), every act of generosity counts and each means more when we give together. Our mailing address is on the back of this newsletter. Thank you!!!

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

November Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 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.

October Board Meeting Summary

The board approved the following:

- To explore having a garden tour of 3-4 gardens coordinated by volunteers (the Native Gardening Committee or other volunteers).
- To have a 360° virtual tour like we did in 2021.

Other items discussed by the board included: the Chapter's upcoming board election, the Native Plant Festival, and other plant sales. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

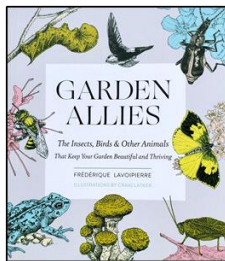
The Native Garden Committee is sponsoring two exciting events this month that you may be interested in.

NGC Webinar

Garden Allies: An Introduction to Life in the Landscape

Tuesday, November 9; 7 pm

Featuring author **Frédérique Lavoipierre**



Spend the evening with author, biologist, and sustainable landscape designer, Frédérique Lavoipierre. Her presentation is brought to life with macro photography of insects, habitat in gardens, and illustrations from her new book "Garden Allies: The Insects, Birds, and Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving." Frédérique will introduce you to conservation biological control and its benefits, life in the soil, pollinators and other flower visitors, predators and parasites, other common garden insects, spiders and other non-insect arthropods, and vertebrates.

Register at this link: [Garden Allies](https://www.cnpsd.org/events) or type in this web address: www.cnpsd.org/events.

Sign up early - space is limited to 100 attendees.

Bird Park Fundraiser: Dry Stream Bed Design 101

Featuring Greg Rubin and Leo Hernandez
California's Own Native Landscape Design

November 13, 2021

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Bird Park: 28th St. and Thorne Ave., SD

***Workshop fee: \$35**

Register at this link: [Dry Stream Bed 101](https://canativeseeds.com/product/bird-park-fundraiser-dry-creek-bed-design-101/1341)

or type in this web address: canativeseeds.com/product/bird-park-fundraiser-dry-creek-bed-design-101/1341

Space is limited to 35 people.



For over 30 years, **Greg Rubin** (left) and **Leo Hernandez** (right) have installed award winning dry stream beds in their native landscapes that have been featured



on some of CNPS-SD's Garden Tours. Learn from the masters how to create a beautiful dry stream bed that looks like it belonged there all along!



Dry stream bed installed by Greg Rubin and Leo Hernandez.

Photo: **Greg Rubin**

Spend the morning, afternoon, or the whole day: You will be provided with "hands on" training in creating a dry creek bed with on-site materials. Heavy rocks and boulders will be moved and positioned with machinery and attendees will do the rest!

Who Should Attend: Homeowners, Landscape designers/ architects, contractors, and garden clubs.

What to Bring: Pen & paper, gloves, shovels, pick axes, hats, reusable water bottle & folding chair. Please wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19. You will be asked to sign a waiver at check in.

Snacks and lunch will be provided. Bathroom facilities available nearby at Morley Field.



*All workshop proceeds will go towards the purchase of a "Friendship" bench and water feature (left) for birds and pollinators in Bird Park. Tax deductible donations can also be made at this link: [Bird Park Fundraiser](https://www.canativeseeds.com/product/donate-to-bird-park-fundraiser/1342) or type in

<https://www.canativeseeds.com/product/donate-to-bird-park-fundraiser/1342>

The CNPS Fall Native Plant Festival on October 9 was a huge success! And a big thanks to our booth volunteers, **Tish Berge, Susan Lewitt, Diane Rexin, Louise Russell, Lorri Freitas, Jim Julius, Lucy Warren** and **Paul Rodriguez!** All the native plants on the *Bloom! California* display were sold and **Native West Nursery** donated the proceeds to our chapter.




Above: NGC members, **Lucy Warren** and **Jim Julius** at the Native Plant Festival.
Photo: **Christine Hoey**


Visitors enjoyed learning how to use Calscape, and the Bumble Bee treasure hunt was a hit with children! We even had a photo op with **Chris Ward** who introduced the Dudleya protection bill that was recently signed into law.


County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program

JUST ANNOUNCED: The County of San Diego and San Diego County Water Authority have teamed up to offer new and increased rebates for water-saving landscapes and features!

With the new #WaterscapeRebateProgram, San Diego County property owners in the unincorporated area can receive rebates:

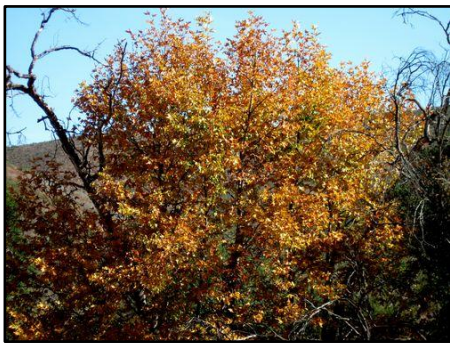
 Up to \$6 per sq. ft to replace high-water use turf with drought tolerant native plants

 \$80 per weather-based irrigation controller (WBIC) or \$60 per station

 Up to \$2,100 to capture rain through a rain barrel, cistern, garden, or other rain-saving feature

Check your eligibility and estimate your rebate today at www.Sandiegocounty.gov/watershedrebates

Fall Colors!



Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) in the fall.
Photo: Calscape

We are not only looking forward to cooler temps, but also fall colors around the county next month. If you are new to San Diego, fall colors can be enjoyed around the city as well as in the

mountains. Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) with its striking golden leaves can be seen in Balboa Park and along I-8 on your way to the mountains. Julian, Lake Cuyamaca, Palomar Mountain State Park, and Volcan Mountain are also great locations to see black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and the red leaves of western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). Want to take a hike? Scott Turner, Co-author of "Afoot and Afield in San Diego County", has come up with a list of five hikes to enjoy fall colors at SanDiego.org or <https://www.sandiego.org/articles/hiking/fall-color-hikes.aspx>

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 recruiting speakers for our group. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us at nativegardening@cnpsd.org.

Enjoy this Autumn Season! Natively Yours,
Christine Hoey and Tish Berge

Fall Plant Chores

By **Tish Berge**, CNPS Garden Ambassador

While to many an untrained eye, it may appear that San Diego doesn't experience seasons, but to the native plant gardener, we know differently. Fall is an exciting time in the garden and a wonderful opportunity to take inventory of your space. This is an ideal time to plant new plants and to prune others. Here is a list of chores for you to consider as you look out at your garden (Reference: California Native Gardening by Helen Popper):

- Sow annual wildflowers – remove weeds, wait for rain, then sow seeds
- Buy native plants – if you didn't get some native plants at the Native Plant Festival, consider visiting one of the nurseries participating in CNPS's BLOOM! California (<https://bloomcalifornia.org/nurseries/>)
- Start cool season grasses – most native grasses are cool season (<https://bloomcalifornia.org/plants/grasses/>)
- Clean – remove damaged limbs, cut back perennials, add or remove mulch (consider using the chop and drop method for mulching for maximum soil benefits)
- Plant native bulbs for spring bloom
- Plant oaks – "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." – Chinese Proverb
- Divide plants, including cool-season grasses, Irises, coral bells, and other perennials that bloom in spring
- Groom – Prune sages, cut back large established perennials (like Matilija poppy), pinch shrubs to encourage new growth, and weed around seedlings.

Happy gardening!

Members Express Gratitude for Native Plants

By Tish Berge, CNPS Garden Ambassador



Above: St. Catherine's Lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*) dried flower bouquet.

Photo: Caroline Harrod

On a sunny day at Bird Park, a group of CNPS Gardening Committee members gathered to admire the work of volunteers and share their collective interests in gardening with native plants. At that meeting, members shared why they are grateful for native plants. As we enjoy Fall and get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, there is no better time to give thanks for our hardworking California native plants.

Our members are grateful for native plants for many reasons, their resilience, beauty and role in a bigger picture.

On resilience, Holly J. shared "Native plants actually like San Diego soil the way it comes." Holly is onto something here, by planting natives you can skip that entire soil amendment section of the nursery and use your soil just the way it is. Echoing this sentiment, another member shared, "Native plants demonstrate resiliency – they can survive even in difficult settings, with little care. And they often surprise us when they bounce back after a season of dormancy." So true, most of our native gardens are looking a little haggard as we struggle with a below average rain year, but they will re-emerge when conditions are right.

So many members spoke to the beauty of native plants, not just visually, but to all our senses:

"I am grateful for black sage as the wonderful aroma relaxes my soul on my meditative walks" – Lillian S.

"I am grateful for the opportunity native plants bring me to continue discovering the beauty of the living world."

"Native plants bring a beautiful diversity of insect life to our gardens, in addition to gorgeous blooms!"

"I am grateful for the beauty of native plants, sometimes subtle, sometimes bold. I am grateful for their fragrance especially when walking through the sage and chaparral." – Louise R.

Native plants give a sense of place. They remind us how everything in life is interconnected, interdependent. One of our members shared, "A California native garden brings life and solace for bugs, birds, and humans." I know enjoying natives and the life they support brought me great solace this past year and half when oftentimes it felt like anxiety around the pandemic might swallow me whole. Armando pointed out how important native plants are, especially to urban areas,

"I'm grateful for all the life and healthy living benefits California native plants bring into our urban communities. From a Cleveland sage's amazing scent, a manzanita's stately presence, the cool shade of a sycamore, or the cheerful California poppy, what could be better for a healthy life?"

Speaking of health, Susan L. shared "Growing and supporting native plants (and eradicating invasive plants) supports biodiversity which is very important to human health and planetary health."

One member put it succinctly when they wrote, "They are the real truth, follow the history and roots." Echoing a similar sentiment, another member shared, "I am an immigrant, I have been living in California for the last 6.5 years. California has given me everything. I love each and every aspect of California's nature. Native plants are at its core. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to California's native plant propagation. It's my honor." And that support and propagation is so important as Bonnie N points out when she noted that, "I am so grateful for how our native flora supports/feeds/sustains our native fauna – insects/pollinators, which in turn feed our birds, lizards, etc." So true.

And bringing this all home to the goals of the CNPS Gardening Committee, Judie L. reminds all of us, especially during this current drought,

"(Native plants) are a low water solution to greening our environment. They are simply the RIGHT, WISE, PERFECT, LOVELY solution for gardens and green spaces."

May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and have the opportunity to take some time to enjoy the native plants in your life.

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.

Overlooked Native Plants for the Garden

Monardella viminea
(San Diego willowly mint)

By Lee Gordon

CNPS-SD Garden Committee

This is third part of a short series on some of our local native plants that are superb for our native gardens, but which are largely overlooked.



Willowly mints are already popular, judging by our chapter plant sales, but there needs to be at least one in every garden, native and otherwise! It is not because they are beautiful or striking ☹️ mind you, they are not bad looking. Instead, willowly mint is a

perennial herb that you will place next to a pathway where you can reach down and brush your hand through its leaves to enjoy their refreshing mint fragrance. Its May blooms look good, and it attract all sorts of native pollinators (another good reason we need them in every garden). Irrigated plants stay green year-round, and they bloom on and off all year long.

Willow mints are remarkably easy to grow. Their native habitat is about as harsh as it gets, creeks in hot dry canyons that run water once or twice for every blue moon. Their harsh native habitat notwithstanding, they thrive in a broad range of garden conditions. I grow them without irrigation in a hot, dry site that mimics their natural habitat, and at another site that is permanently moist. My wife, Debbie, has one in her butterfly garden that is irrigated twice a week. Willow mint will probably grow just fine in your garden. Water it well for a few months, then watch how it grows.

Willow mints can cover 10' x 10' in the wild, but they are easy to keep to whatever size you want in a garden. In fact, willow mints can form an unconventional ground cover. They grow about the same height as *Baccharis* 'Pigeon Point,' which is one of our most common ground covers. I use my hedge trimmer once or twice a year on my Pigeon Point, and you can do the same with your willow mint. I have seen plants in the wild grazed to the ground by deer, and they were back to normal again the next year.

Another remarkable fact about willow mint is that they are incredibly rare. They are at the top of the list of federally listed, and protected, rare and endangered species. Most of the world's willow mint grows on the Miramar Marine Base, or just next to it. I am part of a small team of friends who have the privilege of growing willow mints and planting them in and near their preferred habitats. Hiking to the remote locations where our mints grow is more fun than a book of E tickets at Disneyland. We love the beauty and serenity of their isolated canyons.

Willow mint may be rare in nature, but they are readily available for purchase locally.

Right: Willow mint growing in an irrigated area (1" water/month) in an organic clay topsoil. One mint planted four years ago has multiplied into at least eight.



Left: *Monardella viminea* in full bloom in San Clemente Canyon, June 2017. In the wild, the bloom season runs June-August, but in irrigated gardens they can bloom any time of the year.



Left: Willow mint next to a seasonal creek fed by the street at the top of my hill. Other than rain and this runoff, this plant gets no supplemental irrigation. The soil consists of rocks, gravel, and sand similar to their natural habitat. Eight plants planted here six years ago are still vigorous, the largest now being greater than 3' in diameter. As you can see in the photo, the summer heat has turned this plant crispy brown, just like willow mints in their native habitat. This plant will turn green again in the next rainy season, and irrigated plants stay evergreen.

Next up: *Styrax redivivus* (California snowdrop)

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Meeting

Contact conservation@cnpsd.org for meeting information.

Adara, Defensible Space, and Other Trick or Treats

I'm going to keep this one simple, because I just had my flu vaccine. So here are a few odds and ends from the October Trick or Treat bag.

One is for November. If you know and care about Wright's Field, the EIR for the adjacent Alpine County Park is out, with comments due November 15. While I think everyone involved wants some sort of park on that parcel, the current iteration looks like it's going to cause a large increase in trail usage in Wright's Field. Trails will be linked between the two, there will be a large parking lot at the new county park, and they're even counting on people going through Wright's Field to get to the park. The problem with all this is that the EIR did not analyze the impacts of adding a bunch of new traffic to Wright's Field, even though we asked the County to analyze it. One problem is that recreation does cause enough impacts that there's a whole sub-field of recreation ecology that analyzes them (the short answer is that yes, mountain biking and hiking can cause a lot of damage). The other problem is that Wright's Field is an ecological reserve, so it's supposed to house endangered species in perpetuity. We're already seeing damage to other ecological reserves from huge increases in traffic, at Del Mar Mesa and Carlsbad Highlands, to name two. If we can't protect ecological reserves, we get to the grim choice of not having any more development, or consigning any species that requires an ecological reserve to extinction. In the case of Wright's Field, I think the simpler answer is to scale down the park design and leave Wright's Field as it is. Go to <https://preservealpinsheritage.org/> for more information or if you want to get involved.

Adara, nee Otay Ranch Village 14, had its EIR decertified by a San Diego Superior Court judge on October 7. Yay! CNPS was

part of a coalition that included Endangered Habitats League, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, California Chaparral Institute, and Preserve Wild Santee. The California Attorney General's office intervened in the case, focusing on wildfire issues. I should point out that siding with the AG is unusual. More often, state CNPS is clashing with the AG's office over timber harvest plans up north. I'll get back to this.

The treat is that Judge Richard S. Whitney didn't rule narrowly. He ruled against the County and developers on six issues, including inconsistencies with San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), wildfire risks, climate change, protection of the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly, and lack of affordable housing.

Adara would have included 1,119 upscale homes, storefronts, and no affordable housing. The site, east of Chula Vista in Proctor Valley, has burned at least seven times in the last century. It contains three parcels that were originally set aside as mitigation for the development of Chula Vista years ago. They were intended to become part of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge as MSCP preserved lands, but the transaction was never completed and the parcels remained privately controlled, albeit designated as "no take" lands that could not be developed. In his ruling, Judge Whitney noted that the EIR had improperly ignored these legal complexities and wrongly asserted that the development was both allowed and consistent with the MSCP (I'm quoting from the CNPS press release on this part. Since I wrote that release...)

As another aside, CNPS is involved in litigation over Otay Ranch Village 14 (Adara), and Otay Ranch Village 13. They're not the same development, and they're not owned by the same companies. The development of Otay Ranch was planned out in the 1990s, and the original ranch was chopped into 19 "villages," most of which have been developed and are now parts of Chula Vista. The remaining unbuilt villages are 13, 14, 16 and 19 (Yes, I'm simplifying here slightly). Adara includes Villages 14, 16, and 19, but the latter two parcels are comparatively small. The Adara moniker popped up when Village 14 went before the Board of Supervisors. Whether to keep using it...?

So, why is the State Attorney General involved? To be perfectly frank, I'm not going to answer that, because CNPS is still working with them and confidentiality rules apply. I'll quote Attorney General Bonta's press release on the Adara ruling instead. "The land use decisions we make now will have consequences for years and decades to come. Today's ruling by the Superior Court affirms a critical fact: Local governments have a responsibility to address wildfire risks associated with development projects at the front end. Doing so will save dollars – and lives – down the line."

So is Adara a treat, or a trick? We won't know until we see whether they appeal or not, and then we see how that hearing goes. And then we see what happens after that. Stay tuned.

The third item in our October bag of tricks popped up on October 5, when County Fire, without fanfare, asked the Board of Supervisors to approve new rules about defensible space around homes. We made some noise about that, so they slightly revised their rules to be heard October 19, and presumably passed then (I'm writing this before the 19th, incidentally).

What's going on here is that (to simplify) homes in high fire areas were supposed to have two defensible spaces. One is out to 50 feet, and the primary goal for that is to give firefighters space to work around (and protect) homes from flames that can reach 30 to 50 feet, blown horizontally by a howling Santa Ana wind. From 50-100 feet, the goal is to have landscaping where embers blowing in on said howling wind are caught by well-hydrated plants, fizzle, and go out, instead of starting a fire that could throw more embers and catch your house on fire.

Not many people disagree with these ideas, although I'll get back to implementing them. The change is that the state has proposed a third zone from zero to five feet out from the house. What they want there is nothing ignitable, especially things that can catch your eaves on fire and burn the house from the roof down. This includes things like dead plants, trellises, and old brooms sitting next to old wooden gates attached to the house. (Guess who finally switched to iron gates around his house? And threw out a really disreputable broom?)

Problem was, County Fire proposed that the only plantings allowed within five feet of the house be less than 6 inches high—lawns in other words. That ignited Clayton Tschudy of Canyonlands and myself. We got them to change that to "sparse" (sic) "drought and fire resistant" vegetation. Now we get to figure out how native plant landscaping fits that description. Feel free to pipe your ideas to me at conservation@cnpsd.org.

Here's the complexity that makes this interesting: affordable housing. For those who have big lots in high fire areas, I don't think there's a lot of conceptual conflict over keeping the area immediately around your house non-flammable. You can still have a really nice garden 50 or 100 feet from your house. The challenge is that the County (and us environmentalists) are trying to get more affordable housing. With some exceptions, this means houses on small lots. These places don't have the luxury of a garden 100 feet from a house. They may not have the luxury of having 10 feet from the next house over. But they're still at very high fire risk. What kinds of gardens do they get to have?

This isn't a silly question. My last place was a townhome in a very high fire area. The building was fully up to code, but the HOA and various neighbors also insisted on planting overhanging pines and palm trees under the eaves, obviating all those nice, up-to-date fire safety features. Most people don't care about fire safety much (or any) of the time, for the simple reason that they want livable, enjoyable homes. Even in a high fire area like Proctor Valley, 99% of the time or more, it's not burning. Not only are most people not willing to live in a barren

fire bunker just to please fire inspectors, when they do so, they have to deal with a hot, dry, barren yard. The upshot is that unless County Fire (and the insurance companies!) step carefully, there's going to be simple, mass non-compliance with draconian defensible space rules.

Personally, I'd rather avoid that problem as much as possible. The trick for doing so is to come up with defensible space landscaping that's doable for homeowners, acceptable for fire inspectors and insurance companies, and livable. And I'll bet there's something we can do with native plants in that direction.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair & Rare Plant Survey Chair

IN THE FIELD

The New Santa Fe Valley Trail By Jürgen Schrenk



Recently, the new Santa Fe Valley Trail, connecting the San Dieguito River Park's Del Dios Gorge Trail with the Lusardi Creek Preserve, was opened to the public. The beginning of the trail took us through fields

of Menzies' Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *menziesii*).

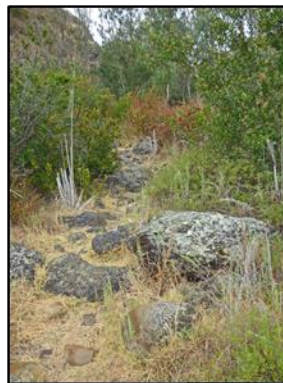


Later other flowering plants became more common: California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum* ssp. *canum*) at left and below,



Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *denudata*) at left, and

mule-fat (*Baccharis salicifolia* ssp. *salicifolia*) at right.



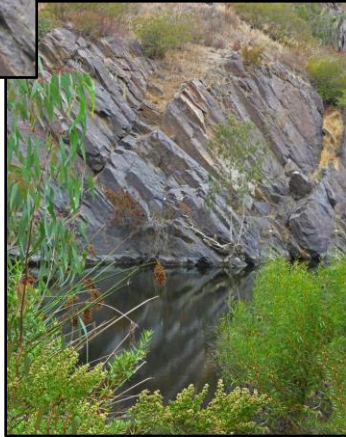
When the trail climbed the ridge (above) towards the Lusardi Preserve, the drizzle turned to rain – so we turned around and took a side trail (left).

The lady fingers (*Dudleya edulis*) on our side of the river had somewhat easier footing (right).





On the other side, coast barrel cacti (*Ferocactus viridescens*; left) were clinging to the wall down to the San Dieguito River (below).



After we got back to the main trail (left), we enjoyed the healthy California



barberry (*Berberis pinnata* ssp. *pinnata*; right) and decided to return next spring, hopefully to see more flowers.

PLANT PROTECTION

On September 28, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom, signed the CNPS-sponsored AB 223 into law, providing important new protections for California's imperiled *Dudleya* species, charismatic native succulents that grow along California's coasts and rocky habitats throughout the state. Authored by San Diego Assemblymember Chris Ward, AB 223 is part of an effort to stop rampant poaching of *Dudleya* plants by making it illegal to remove them from state and private lands without a permit or landowner permission, and by establishing penalties for those convicted of doing so. AB 223 is the first piece of California legislation that deals specifically with plant poaching.



Dudleya Do Right

More than 60% of the diversity in the genus is native to California. While ten species are listed as threatened or endangered by the state or federal governments, many more are globally rare and at risk from a variety of threats. (Our chapter's *Dudleya* mascot left).

NATIVE PLANT ARTICLES

Big Differences Found in Male and Female Jojoba Plant Sex Genes

Hot desert sex has resulted in major genetic differences between male and female jojoba plants -- one of only 6 percent of plants that require a male and female plant to reproduce. New research suggests male and female jojoba plants have diverged so much, that the jojoba plant has more novel sex genes than any other known living organism. The discovery may help researchers develop a DNA test to identify male and female jojoba plants, which cannot be distinguished from each other as seedlings - and shed light on how plants adapt to environmental stress. Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211014142007.htm>



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 November 10 for the December newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar November 2021

- 11/3: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.3
- 11/9: NGC Webinar Presentation – Garden Allies, p.3
- 11/13: NGC Dry Stream Bed Workshop Fundraiser, p.3
- 11/16: Chapter Zoom Presentation – a Manzanitas, 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
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Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

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