

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

### **NO CHAPTER MEETING IN AUGUST**

**Next Meeting:  
September 20, 2022**

### **NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE**

#### **Potluck Meeting & Garden Tour Tuesday, August 9**

Our next meeting in August will be in Point Loma starting with a tour at 4 pm at the **Point Loma Native Garden** located at **2275 Mendocino Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107**. This lovely mature California native garden is a secret gem and part of the City of San Diego and the San Diego River Park Foundation. This garden is not to be missed!

The NGC potluck meeting will follow beginning at **5:30 pm** outdoors at the home of **Holly McMillan** in Point Loma. Bring a dish to share and catch up with members. Members are also welcome to bring native plants to exchange.



Suisun gumplant  
(*Grindelia x paludosa*)  
Photo: Christine Hoey

Do you have garden space and a green thumb? **Lee Gordon** is looking for volunteers who will grow flats of willow mints for the upcoming wet season. The intent is to have some diversity in where we grow them, so if one group does poorly, another will do well. **Kevin Celniker** and Lee Gordon will get the plants started, and you will get them in small pots and grow them to planting size. We will grow individual plants in

2" pots, and groups of 4 or 9 plants in 4" pots. You will get them in September and keep them until we plant them in December or January. Lee will review the process and answer questions at the meeting.

Please sign up for the meeting for planning at this link: [NGC August Meeting Signup](#). We welcome new members, and our meetings are open to anyone interested in gardening with native plants. (NGC continued on p. 2)

### **CNPS-SD FALL PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, October 15, 2022  
8 am – 3 pm**

**Casa Del Prado Theater Courtyard  
1700 Village Place  
Balboa Park, San Diego**

Open to the Public; CNPS Member Discounts; [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org)

#### **HUNDREDS OF NATIVE PLANT SPECIES & CULTIVARS:**

Shade trees, water wise shrubs, seasonal flowers, native bunch grasses, cacti & succulents, and bee-friendly groundcovers ready for planting in the ground or in patio pots.

#### **OPEN AIR MARKET:**

Local & State Sourced seeds & bulbs,  
Botanical art, shirts, hats, bags,  
Books, posters, and more!

There will be a holding area and curb side loading, and ADVICE from native plant experts.

Supplies are limited while they last. Pre-order available to a limited number of members for large orders - check your email for developments.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

To volunteer, contact [volunteer@cnpsd.org](mailto:volunteer@cnpsd.org).  
Volunteer perks include automatic pre-order availability and more.

# July Zoom Talk “Fire Resistant Native Landscaping”



**Greg Rubin**, Owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design.

If you missed our excellent and timely July Zoom meeting presentation “Fire Resistant Native Landscaping is NOT an Oxymoron!” featuring Greg Rubin, you can view it now on our [CNPS San Diego YouTube](#) channel. This timely talk is relevant to anyone living in a fire prone area of San Diego. Learn what native landscaping measures you can take to make your home more fire resistant.

## Bird Park Update

The Design Workgroup met in early July at Bird Park for a design meeting. The site was evaluated for existing natives and site topography, which will be worked into the plan for feather #5. **Greg Rubin** facilitated the design charette, and with everyone’s input, Greg will create a landscape plan in CAD to submit to Balboa Park for approval.



Photo: **Silke Gathmann**

Our timeline is to install the next feather sometime this fall. In the meantime, maintenance on our existing two Adopt-A-Plots continues. If you are new to natives, this is a great opportunity to volunteer and learn about the maintenance piece of native gardening for “hands on” experience! Other volunteer opportunities include:

- Site prep for future plot (weeding, removing non-native plants, etc.).
- Native plant installation sometime this fall.

**A huge thanks goes to our wonderful Bird Park Volunteers and all the work that they do!** If you are interested in volunteering for Bird Park, sign up at this link: [Bird Park Workgroup](#)



Bird Park Blooms.  
Photo: **Silke Gathmann**

## What’s blooming now in Bird Park:

California fuchsias (*Epilobium canum*), seaside daisies (*Erigeron WR*), ‘Poza Blue’ sage (*Salvia ‘Poza Blue’*), desert mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*), narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and more. The monarchs are especially frisky right now! Come on over and see how this native garden is growing near Thorne St. and 28th St, San Diego, 92104.

## Open Call for the 2023 Spring Native Garden Tour



Photo: **Christine Hoey**

Share your native garden journey on the **2023 Spring Native Garden Tour**. We are looking for beautiful gardens planted with at least 70% California natives located in San Diego County. Applications are being accepted **now through September 30th, 2022**. Applications will be reviewed, and garden visits scheduled as they are received. [Apply Here](#)

We are especially interested in *native gardens located near each other*. Do you know a neighbor or friend with a native garden? Please encourage them to apply as well! Accepted garden owners will be notified in October. Photo (right): **Christine Hoey**.



## Volunteer Opportunities:

**2023 Native Garden Tour:** We are looking to bring together a team of 4 *creative volunteers* to assist with planning and directing the 2023 garden tour. Experience with Google Drive is a plus! Hours vary and will include remote and in-person meetings and garden visits. Contact Christine Hoey at [christine.hoey@cnpsd.org](mailto:christine.hoey@cnpsd.org) for more information.

If you love gardening with California native plants and would like to join the Native Garden Committee (NGC), sign up here: [Join NGC](#). A separate monthly email is sent out to members with meeting announcements, volunteer activities, workshops and early bird sign-ups that don't always make it into the Chapter newsletter. We would love to see you!

*Natively yours,  
Christine Hoey*

## CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

### August 10, 2022 Board Meeting

**Wednesday, August 10, 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).

### July 13, 2022, Board Meeting Summary

The board approved the following:

- Final minutes of the May board meeting that had to be revised.
- Minutes of the June 8 board meeting.
- Minutes of the special board meeting on July 6.
- The 1Q 22 Quarterly Budget report.
- A letter of apology from the board to the former chapter webmaster.
- Election of Justin Daniel as chapter president, Bobbie Stephenson as vice president and Cindy Burrascano as secretary.
- Sending \$500 from the habitat restoration budget to Cal-IPC to support their symposium.
- That the Native Gardening Committee move forward in planning for a garden tour in spring 2023.

Other items discussed by the board included: Resignations of Torrey Neel and Sheila Kirschenbaum from the board; resignation of Leon Scales from the chapter presidency; updating the chapter's Executive Board Handbook; a grant proposal from the Urban Corps; the fall 2022 plant sale; the spring 2023 garden tour; and the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which is this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

## CONSERVATION

### Conservation Committee Meeting

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

### Natural Evil

Nothing like commenting on yet another EIR for yet another long-simmering project to make me think about evil and other moral hazards. Up front I'll admit that, while I was raised Christian, I'm not now a part of any religious group. While I'm going to be discussing a well-known Christian moral issue, it's not to promote a Christian worldview. Rather, it's more to highlight what happens when people fail to understand the scale at which Earth's processes operate. I'll end by suggesting that, if there is a moral or ethical issue, it actually lies elsewhere. And yes, this relates to native plants and CNPS activities.

The problem of natural evil, so far as I understand it, is phrased in Christian terms as "if God is good, why do bad things like earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and storms hurt good people?" In the past, natural disasters were often seen as divine punishment for mortal failings. While this gets captured in the Biblical Flood story, it's also apparent in the myth of Atlantis and elsewhere. The idea that the spirit world punishes human moral transgressions through disasters appears to be ancient and widespread, not limited to any of the monotheistic traditions.

The problem is that natural disasters happen to good people as well as bad people, which raises the question of why any good god would harm good people. As you can imagine, this can devolve into all sorts of inquisitorial thinking, with some trying to demonstrate that the good people weren't actually good and deserved what they got. That kind of thinking is still alive and well today, especially around climate change and environmental justice.

But let's take a different tack entirely. I'll start with a neutral scenario: getting on a commercial plane while the engines are cycling up. Ever boarded up the stairs from the runway, rather than from a boarding ramp? If so, you know that the plane engines are cordoned off, in large part because they're quite dangerous, whether they're propellers or jets. None of us want to get sucked into a jet intake, hit by jet wash, or walk into a whirling propeller. Does the fact that these things are lethally dangerous make them naturally evil? No, because even if we're not aware of the risks, those responsible for the planes keep us away from dangers they know about.

When we talk about a god making a habitable planet, we tend to think that it's all magic, that the creator could have made it any way they wanted. Therefore, if any part of it is dangerous, it's intentionally dangerous, and thus we get into the problem of evil performed by a good Creator.

But what if a habitable planet has to be dangerous to remain habitable? What if the Earth's systems are like those plane



engines, so powerful that they can kill someone who's in the wrong place at the wrong time? With the maturation of Earth sciences over the last century, this is a view that is gaining currency.

Let's explore this idea. Here I'll tip my hat to Dr. Lucy Jones of CalTech, whose work helped organize my thoughts on this. I'll look at three of our least favorite natural evils: wildfires, storms, and earthquakes.

As I'm periodically reminded when I reuse parts of old EIR comment letters, a large wildfire releases about as much energy as a medium-sized hurricane, a magnitude seven earthquake, or over 6,000 Hiroshima-size atomic bombs. This isn't a fair comparison, because with nuclear weapons the energy release is very rapid, earthquakes take seconds to minutes to release their energy, while storms and wildfires take days to months to release theirs. That's why civilization would end with a nuclear war, while a giant wildfire or hurricane is "merely" a multi-billion-dollar disaster.

But we need to look at why these things happen. Wildfires happen fundamentally because we live on a planet where photosynthesis both puts oxygen into the air and stores solar energy in the form of carbohydrates, which can in turn be rapidly oxidized into fuel. It turns out that it's possible for Earth to be so oxygen-poor that wildfires won't burn, which equates to an atmospheric oxygen concentration of less than about 17%. Oxygen concentrations are currently around 23%, and, so far as I know, the last time Earth's oxygen dipped toward 17% was at the end of the Permian, during the biggest mass extinction event recorded. Maybe at the end of the Cretaceous soon after the asteroid strike? Anyway, if the air is fit for humans to breathe, there's enough oxygen in it to support a fire. We can't exist without fire being possible. No particular fire is inevitable, but we cannot eliminate the threat of wildfires without eliminating ourselves.

You can guess where this is going with the water cycle and the weather. On average, Earth receives about a medium-sized hurricane's worth of energy from the sun every second. About half gets reflected, and half gets absorbed and helps keep the ocean from freezing, the atmosphere from liquefying, and plants growing. But that's a lot of energy kicking around, trying to make entropy somehow. The thing is, Earth's atmosphere naturally gets full of bands, swirls, and gyres. It also sloshes, in concert with the ocean. All of this means that occasionally a few seconds' worth of captured global sunlight gets spun up into a hurricane, occasionally long-term atmospheric and oceanic sloshing patterns make a drought, and occasionally there are atmospheric rivers that carry more water than the Amazon away from the ocean and dump it on the first land they come to. We can't exist on this planet without a rapidly circulating, enormous atmosphere moving lots of water around.

Earthquakes...have you got the pattern yet? It's starting to look like there's more water in the Earth's crust than there is in the oceans, and this water does two important things: it keeps the ocean level relatively constant (sort of the way a vernal pool

watershed works, by horizontal seepage, only a bit bigger), and the water softens Earth's tectonic plates, helping them move. This movement is essential for life. Essential nutrients tend to get eroded from the land and washed into the ocean, settling in abyssal sediments where the rest of us can't go. The subduction of oceanic plates takes all this stuff, melts it, and helps the resulting magma move up into the crust again as rock formations, or blows it out volcanoes. Without things like carbon and phosphorus being recycled by plate tectonics and volcanoes, multicellular life would not exist on Earth. We can't exist without earthquakes and volcanoes, any more than we can exist without a stormy, well-oxygenated atmosphere that occasionally produces droughts, floods, and fire weather.

This is a partial answer to the natural evil problem: it's a misperception of the scale of the forces required to keep the planet habitable. If we fall foul of them, of course we suffer, but we cannot live without these titanic systems, any more than a plane can lift off without engines.

Things become problematic when human actions enter the picture, usually in some combination of three ethical problems: people knowingly putting others in harm's way without giving them a choice in the matter; people refusing to do risk analyses, so that they cannot claim they knowingly put others in harm's way; and people being given risk information and ignoring it. I suspect you can think of environmental examples of all three behaviors without trying too hard.

That's my answer to the problem of natural evil. It's not about how perversely destructive natural systems are, it's about how titanic the systems we depend on are, and sometimes about the problem of people putting others at risk for profit.

The nice thing about native plants is that they've evolved to deal with these forces for far longer than civilization has existed. In many hazardous spots, it's probably better to leave them to deal, rather than removing the plants, building something, and enticing others to take the risks of occupying that spot.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

## IN THE FIELD

### Mount Woodson

April 2022

By Jürgen Schrenk

Mount Woodson is a well-known landmark in our area that we have never visited in spring – so we decided to change that. The eastern ascent makes use of the paved maintenance road to the microwave towers on the summit, and offers a nice but steep selection of views as well as a representative sampling of our characteristic chaparral flora.



We began our hike (left) just off SR-67, with very tall golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*; below), and were soon confronted

with great views of Iron Mountain (below). Masses of bush monkeyflowers



(*Mimulus aurantiacus*) were in full bloom (left), with (below) a sprinkle of slender sunflower (*Helianthus gracilentus*),



heartleaf keckiella (*Keckiella cordifolia*),



cardinal catchfly (*Silene laciniata*),



numerous Ramona horkelia (*H. truncata*), below, (inset Calscape, © Keir Morse) and many others thrown in.



Views ranged from the boulders above the trail,



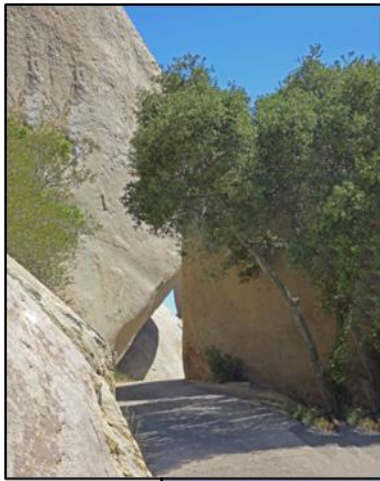
to the valleys,



and mountains in the distance.

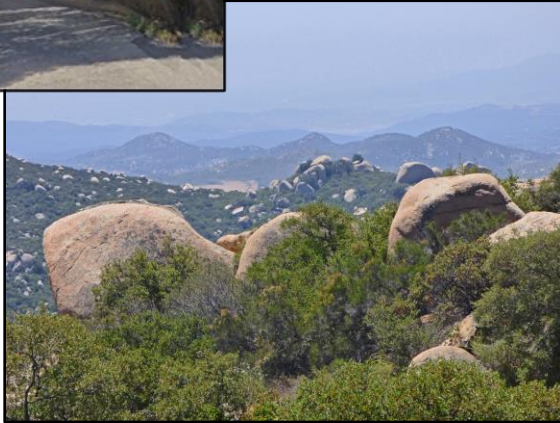






Towards the top, the road turned more interesting,

the views became wilder,



More accents were provided by shrubs; (below) spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*),



and even trailside "art".



We did not spend much time on the cluttered summit,



and more flowers added color, like (left) silver lotus (*Acmispon argophyllus*), and (below) woolly Indian paintbrush, (*Castilleja foliolosa*).



but rather searched for orchids on the way back down, like Alaska rein orchid (*Piperia unalascensis*), at left showing its habit, and right showing its flowers. By the way, this inconspicuous little plant has experienced quite a history, from *Habenaria*



to *Platanthera* and now to *Piperia*. Whether this is going to be its final place is far from certain; it may even end up lumped together with two closely related species.

## RELATED PUBLISHED ARTICLES

### What is a pond?

This study provides first data-driven definition of a pond. Nearly everyone can identify a pond, but what, exactly, distinguishes it from a lake or a wetland? A new study offers the first data-driven, functional definition of a pond and evidence of ponds' distinct ecological function, which could have broad implications for science and policy.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/07/220705194136.htm>

### Citizen scientists from 200 years ago and today help shed light on climate change trends

Citizen science observations across two centuries reveal a dramatic, climate-driven shift to earlier leaf out and flowering, which varies across settings, species and functional groups. Plants in urban areas, insect pollinated trees, and early-season species show the greatest rate of advancement overall. This unprecedented comparison of historic-modern network observations illustrates how long-term monitoring and citizen science efforts are invaluable for ecological forecasting and discovery.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/07/220706153105.htm>

### Proof Mendel discovered the laws of inheritance decades ahead of his time

Gregor Mendel, the Moravian monk, was indeed decades ahead of his time and truly deserves the title of 'founder of genetics.' So concludes an international team of scientists as the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mendel approaches on 20 July, 2022.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/07/220711143236.htm>

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### Mission Trails Regional Park NATURE! Embraced and Reimagined July 30-Sept 9, 2022



This exhibit at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center will feature two local artists, Jessica Ballenger and Vivian Fung. The exhibition will include photographs and mixed media works, inspired by nature and "dreamy" landscapes. Both artists' works shapeshift nature's offerings into bright, euphoric images. Admission to the Visitor Center is free, and it's open daily from 9 am-5 pm.

## A Chance to Highlight Native Plant Species?

### City of Solana Beach: CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Solana Beach Public Arts Commission is seeking out artists to propose conceptualized art wrap designs for utility and traffic signal boxes around the city. The program aims to wrap seven (7) utility and traffic signal boxes at six (6) different locations within their community. If chosen, the artist will receive a \$450 stipend for each box art wrap design selected. All proposals must be received by the city no later than Monday, August 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Please visit the City's Utility Box Wrap Program webpage at <https://www.cityofsolanabeach.org/en/community/explore-solana-beach/public-art/utility-box-wrap-program> for more info.

## Theodore Payne Foundation On-line Native Plant Classes in August 2022

- Thursday, August 4, 5:00 pm PDT – **Celebrating Seed: Gathering, Processing and Storing Native Seed.** TPF Member \$25, Non-member \$35.
- Friday, August 5, 10:00 am PDT – **California Native Seeds: Adaptations and Propagation.** TPF Member \$30, Non-member \$35.
- Tuesday, August 9, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm PDT – **Right Plant, Right Place.** TPF Member \$25, Non-member \$35.
- Friday, August 12, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm PDT – **California Native Plant Irrigation.** TPF Member \$25, Non-member \$35.

For more info on these and other classes, and ticket purchase, see <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/theodore-payne-foundation-6606817237>.

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 August 10 for the September newsletter, etc. Please submit items to [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org)

## CNPS-SD Activities Calendar August 2022

**8/9: NGC Meeting & Presentation, in person, p.1**

**8/10: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.3**

Check the CNPS-SD website for activities and/or events that may have been scheduled after this newsletter was completed: <https://www.cnpsd.org/events>



## 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



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

### August 2022 Newsletter

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

[www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org) [info@cnpsd.org](mailto:info@cnpsd.org) [facebook.com/cnpsd](https://facebook.com/cnpsd) [instagram.com/cnpsd](https://instagram.com/cnpsd) [twitter.com/cnpsd](https://twitter.com/cnpsd)  
[youtube.com/cnpsd.org](https://youtube.com/cnpsd.org)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESIDENT: Justin Daniel.....president@cnpsd.org  
VICE PRES: Bobbie Stephenson.....vicepresident@cnpsd.org  
TREASURER: Andrea Rae.....treasurer@cnpsd.org  
SECRETARY: Cindy Burrascano.....secretary@cnpsd.org  
Bob Byrnes.....bob.byrnes@cnpsd.org  
Christina Clark.....christina.clark@cnpsd.org  
Christine Hoey.....christine.hoey@cnpsd.org  
Frank Landis.....frank.landis@cnpsd.org  
Leon Scales.....leon.scales@cnpsd.org

#### **CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE**

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

#### **Email DISCUSSION GROUP**

Craig Denson, Moderator

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

#### **RARE PLANT BOTANIST**

Open.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org

#### **APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpsd.org

CONSERVATION: Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpsd.org  
(310) 883-8569

#### **E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Kendra Saad.....announcements@cnpsd.org

FIELD TRIPS: OPEN.....fieldtrips@cnpsd.org

GARDEN TOUR: .....tour@cnpsd.org

HABITAT RESTORATION: Arne Johanson..... (858) 759-4769 &

Bob Byrnes.....habitatrestoration@cnpsd.org

HOSPITALITY: Kye Ok Kim.....hospitality@cnpsd.org

INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson .....(858) 759-4769 &

Bob Byrnes.....invasiveplants@cnpsd.org

LIBRARIAN: Open.....librarian@cnpsd.org

MEDIA: Open.....media@cnpsd.org

MEMBERSHIP: Bonnie Nickel &

Jasmine Duran.....membership@cnpsd.org

NATIVES FOR NOVICES: Open.....nativesformovices@cnpsd.org

NATIVE GARDENING: Christine Hoey

.....nativegardening@cnpsd.org

NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpsd.org

(619) 269-0055

ON-LINE ARCHIVING: Birda Hussey Nichols

ON-LINE INQUIRIES: Don Rideout.....info@cnpsd.org

PERSONNEL: Justin Daniel .....personnel@cnpsd.org

PLANT SALES: .....plantsale@cnpsd.org

POSTER SALES: Open.....postersales@cnpsd.org

PROGRAMS: Kendra Saad.....programs@cnpsd.org

PROPAGATION: Amy Huie.....propagation@cnpsd.org

PUBLICITY: OPEN.....publicity@cnpsd.org

PUBLIC OUTREACH: OPEN.....publicoutreach@cnpsd.org

RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Frank Landis & Justin

Daniel.....rarsurveyS@cnpsd.org

SEEDS & BULBS: Cindy Hazuka.....seedsandbulbs@cnpsd.org

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:

Jasmine Duran.....volunteer@cnpsd.org

WEBMASTER: Open.....webmaster@cnpsd.org