

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

September 19, 2023

In-person meeting

Casa del Prado Rm 101, Balboa Park

6:30 Natives for Novices

7:30 Announcements & Presentation

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Natives for Novices
Plant Sale Plants

For the upcoming Plant Sale, we'll go over a few of the hundreds of plant species we've ordered and answer any questions from the audience. The plants that will be available changes year to year and some are harder to get than others. We'll discuss the ones that are only available every once in a blue moon and how to incorporate them into the garden. **Justin Daniel**, Chapter President, independent biological consultant, Propagation Co-chair, and native plant gardener is coordinating the Fall 2023 Plant Sale.

Presentation

A Year at a Restored Seasonal Vernal Pool Complex
by Lee Gordon & Justin Daniel

In September of 2022, **Vince Scheidt** and **Lee Gordon** came across a badly damaged vernal pool complex in San Diego and put a careful plan into action. Month by month, the Mira Mesa pools that remain regrow from trash heap back into a glorious tapestry of color that changes from heavy earth tones to the deep green in winter. The animals return and the thirty odd pools fill with water from cool winter rains. Experience the process and journey of recovery as carpets of blue are overtaken with purple and yellow and pink, all thanks to the help of our amazing members! We unveil a new activity that brings together all the different committees and disciplines of the Chapter into an online web page where any one can experience these months without damaging what has been so

well restored. **Lee Gordon** and **Justin Daniel** will show off the resiliency and rarity of San Diego's hardpan vernal pool endemic species and provide a rare opportunity to participate in monitoring and studying this complex.



From this...



to this...



to this!

(More photos on p. 4)

Lee Gordon has a PhD in Oceanography (he's now retired) and is well known as a propagation expert and rare plants defender near his home in Scripps Ranch/Poway.

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

September Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 – 9:00ish pm via Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, or to get the link to the meeting, please email president@cnpsd.org.

July Board Meeting Summary

The Chapter Board approved the following:

- Quarterly Treasurer's Report.
- To support the CNPS Word Press website option for our Chapter website.
- The contract language for a Website Administrator and a Social Media Coordinator.
- Donation of \$80 of books to the SD River Park Foundation for use in a raffle at their upcoming 22nd Anniversary celebration.
- Acquisition of a new computer and associated sound equipment to enable sharing Chapter meetings to non-attendees via Zoom or a delayed YouTube posting of meeting.

Other items discussed by the board included the need for volunteer help on several chapter committees; board vacancies; the lease for the Arjons vernal pool property; the fall plant sale; and possible fall workshop.

Committee Reports:

- Propagation – 19 people attended the July 9 event.
- Conservation – **Leslie Kuhn** has agreed to be Co-Chair of the committee.
- Field Trips – 20 people attended the Cedar Creek trip.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

~ **Cindy Burrascano**, Chapter Secretary

August Board Meeting Summary

The Chapter Board approved the following:

- Obtaining a debit card to simplify chapter purchases.
- The remaining money from the Del Mar Fair awards to be earmarked for the Native Gardening Committee.
- After review of all the applications that were received, that Emily Sluiman be offered the Social Media Coordinator contract and Tim Cart be offered the Website Administrator contract.

Special Events were discussed:

- The CNPS Chapter Council meeting that will be hosted by the San Diego Chapter on the first weekend of December 2023.
- The 2023 Fall Plant Sale.
- Potential workshops for identifying plants.
- Spring 2024 garden tour.

Committee changes: **Justin Daniel** is the current Chapter Council representative; **Bobbie Stephenson** will help the Personnel Committee; **Kendra Saad** will tentatively help with

Membership; and **Erika Daniel** is helping with Audio-Visual resources and Hospitality.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Newsletter Editor

PUBLIC OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Elfin Forest - Harmony Grove Fire Safe Council's Wildfire Safety Fair Saturday, September 9; 11 am – 2 pm

Join us in our booth for the inaugural **Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Fire Safe Council's Wildfire Safety Fair** on Saturday, September 9 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Harmony Grove Community Park. Food trucks will be on hand.

CNPS San Diego has been invited to participate, as we have unique knowledge of drought tolerant, firewise native landscapes. If you have a specific interest in the issue of "firescaping" and are available to help at our booth, email **Sherry Ashbaugh**, Public Outreach Chair at publicoutreach@cnpsd.org to confirm your attendance.

The fair will draw from the communities of Elfin Forest, Harmony Grove and Eden Valley comprising approximately 1,500 homes. These communities lie in a very high fire hazard zone with a history of wildfires. The Village of Harmony Grove is a young planned residential development of approximately 750 homes, with many residents who have no experience living in a high fire area.

PROPAGATION COMMITTEE

Hands-on Propagating of California Native Plants

Sunday, September 10; ~ 10 am

Monday, September 25; ~ 10 am

Tecolote Nature Center

5180 Tecolote Rd, San Diego, CA 92110

Come out to Tecolote Nature Center (TNC) where the native plant nursery cultivates new native plants to improve our city canyons. At each meeting, learn and share each other's experiences and apply seasonal growing techniques and knowledge, including experimentation and mini workshops with seed treatments, plant identification, nursery protocols, plant health, irrigation and much more.

Please sign up for a City of San Diego volunteering profile at <http://bttr.im/76n00> and sign into the "Garden / Nursery Group" while helping out at the Nursery. If you want more information or to join the Propagation committee email list, please contact propagation@cnpsd.org.

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

Potluck Meeting

September 12; 4:30 - 7:30 pm

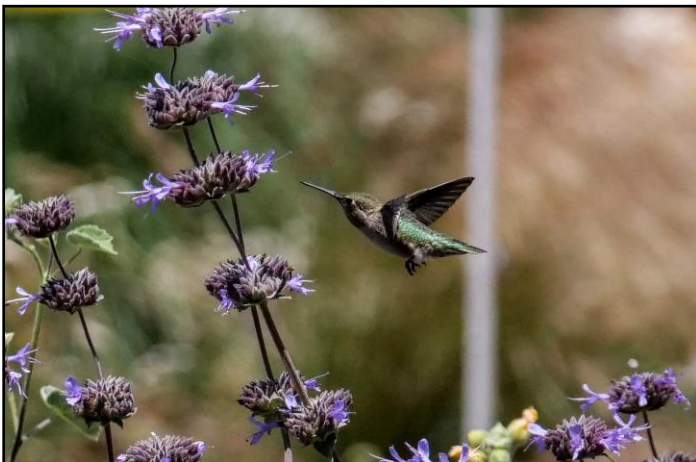
**Pt. Loma Native Garden Tour &
“Be Water Wise Program”
with Debby Dunn**

The August meeting at Moosa Creek Nursery included a nursery tour and a fascinating presentation by **Lucy Warren** about “**Insects in the World Around Us**”. September’s meeting will take us to the coast with a tour of the Pt. Loma Native Garden at 4:30 pm followed by a potluck meeting and presentation at the home of Christine Hoey.

Debby Dunn from the **San Diego County Water Authority** will present an educational and entertaining talk about the Water Authority’s various WaterSmart programs. She will focus on the various rebates available and how you can save water and money planting a beautiful water wise garden.

Bring a potluck dish to share and meet up with old and new friends! This meeting is open to everyone interested in gardening with native plants and carpooling is encouraged.

Please RSVP at this link: [September GC Meeting](#)



Salvia ‘Poza Blue’ with Anna’s Hummingbird. Photo: **Silke Gathmann**

Fall Planning Events

Co-Chairs **Silke Gathmann** and **Christine Hoey** are not only busy planning next year’s garden tour, but we are also working on offering more native garden maintenance workshops and nursery tours, developing native plant education materials, and more. If you would like to be part of the planning team, we would love to have you!

Contact us at gardening@cnpsd.org

Calling all Native Gardens in Poway & Coastal San Diego!

We Can’t Wait to See *Your Garden* on
the
2024 CNPS-SD Native Garden Tour!

Applications are being accepted now through October 30th. If you live in Poway or Coastal San Diego and your garden is planted with 60% or more California native plants, please apply at this link: [2024 Native Garden Tour](#)

Look What’s New at Bird Park!



New Bird Park Redwood Bench. Photo: **Christine Hoey**

We hate to waste good wood, so **Leo Hernandez** took the redwood logs home from our exhibit at the Del Mar Fair and turned them into a very nice reflecting bench for Bird Park. The bench sits under the shade of the non-native Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) with a view into our Adopt-A-Plot native garden. It has already become popular with park visitors.

We are hoping to be able to plant our next “feather” plot this fall. Interested in joining the Bird Park Workgroup? It is a great way to learn about native plants and how to maintain them!

Sign up at: [Bird Park Workgroup](#)

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 committee 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!

Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann
Native Garden Committee Co-chairs

VERNAL POOL CLEANUP PHOTOS



Thank you to everyone who helped!!!



HABITAT RESTORATION



A cluster of native canchalagua (*Zeltnera venusta*) at the Miramar Vernal Pool Preserve taken in June 2023 (photo credit: **Bob Byrnes**; inset: Calflora). This plant had a very good year

everywhere, but it seemed most outstanding at the Vernal Pool Preserve.

RECENT RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

The positional transmitter of statoliths unveiled: It keeps plants from getting lazy

Plants orient their organs in response to the gravity vector, with roots growing towards gravity and shoots growing in the opposite direction. The movement of statoliths responding to the inclination relative to the gravity vector is employed for gravity sensing in both plants and animals. However, in plants, the statolith takes the form of a high-density organelle, known as an amyloplast, which settles toward gravity within the gravity sensing cell. Despite the significance of this gravity sensing mechanism, the exact process behind it has eluded scientists for over a century. But now...

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/08/230810141032.htm>

Tropical trees use social distancing to maintain biodiversity

Scientists have been working to better understand what determines species diversity. Tropical forests can harbor hundreds of species of trees in one square mile. Researchers reveal key factors in the spatial distribution of adult trees.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/08/230803141706.htm>

Butterflies can remember where things are over sizeable spaces

Spatial learning is known in insects, but much of the research has focused on ant and bee species that live socially in a communal nest. This study provides the first direct evidence of spatial learning in butterflies or moths, and suggests that complex learning skills, such as the use of spatial information, may be more common in insects than previously thought. *Heliconius* butterflies are capable of spatial learning, scientists have discovered. The results provide the first experimental evidence of spatial learning in any butterfly or moth species.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/08/230807122003.htm>

Spurge purge: Plant fossils reveal ancient South America-to-Asia 'escape route'

The spurge family, Euphorbiaceae, comprises more than 6,000 species, found mostly in the tropics but also in deserts and cold temperate zones. The family includes economically valuable plants like the rubber tree, castor oil plant, poinsettia and cassava. Newly identified fossils found in Argentina suggest that a group of spurges originated there but took a trip of their own tens of millions of years ago.

<https://phys.org/news/2023-07-spurge-purge-fossils-reveal-ancient.html>

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Landscaping with California Native Plants

**A class by Susan Krzywicki
at Miracosta College**

Class will be 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday September 30 and October 7, 2023.



Create a sense of place and habitat using California's own heritage which will ultimately benefit your purse, your home and the planet. We will focus on 20 native California plant species, their uses, care and maintenance without chemicals or additives. Students will design a landscape and supplemental irrigation system through lecture and hands-on design sessions.

\$69.00; Class ID: 2220005

Register at:

<https://commed.miracosta.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=1023655>

Early Bird Discount! Register for this class before September 16 and receive a \$10 discount off your class fee.

California State Parks Foundation Volunteer Opportunities!

Silver Strand State Beach

Saturday, September 2, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Help pull and remove invasive iceplant (*Carpobrotus* sp.) to enhance coastal strand habitat on the Silver Strand SB bayside! Volunteers will use hand tools to complete this work to make space for beach evening-primrose and other native dune plants to grow.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

Saturday, September 9, 8:00 – 11:00 am

Help with ongoing maintenance of popular areas of the park by removing non-native plants, picking up trash, and creating fire buffer zones! We will focus on a few different areas of the park and will split into groups to complete these projects to make sure the park is visitor ready.

Palomar Mountain State Park

Help improve the park's self-guided programs! We will be replacing posts along the Doane Valley Nature Trail that coincide with the trail's self-guided booklet. Tasks include hauling the new posts to the trail and digging holes.

Registration for these events is required to make sure you receive important meeting location details. Sign up on the calendar of events: <https://volunteer.calparks.org/>

Theodore Payne Foundation

Visit the Theodore Payne Foundation website for a list of classes:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/theodore-payne-foundation-6606817237>

Southern California Botanists

49th Annual Symposium!

I'll Take My Plants Rare

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Pomona College, Seaver Auditorium

<https://socalbot.org/symposia/>

SCB supports botanical research by its members through grants given on an annual basis. Completed grant proposals must be turned in by Friday, November 17, 2023. For more info visit: <https://socalbot.org/grants/>

CNPS Bryophyte Chapter

2024 Spring Foray

March 29 - April 1, 2024 — Santa Rita Mountains, south of Tucson, Arizona.

<https://bryophyte.cnps.org/>

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 September 10 for the October newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar September 2023

- 9/9: Public Outreach Event, p.2**
- 9/12: Native Garden Committee Mtg, p.1**
- 9/10: Propagation Mtg, p.2**
- 9/13: Board Meeting, via Zoom, p.3**
- 9/19: Chapter Meeting, in person, p.1**
- 9/25: Propagation Mtg, p.2**

<https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/>)

Please check www.cnpsd.org for activities that may have been scheduled after this newsletter was prepared.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<https://www.cnps.org/membership>

___ Student/Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$50; ___ Plant Lover \$120; ___ Supporter \$500; ___ Patron \$1,000; ___ Benefactor \$2,500; ___ Perennial Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at \$5/mo. provide much needed predictable income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see <https://www.cnps.org/membership> to sign up for this membership level.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

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September 2023 Newsletter

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

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youtube.com/cnpsd.org

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One position open

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Justin Daniel.....chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

Email DISCUSSION GROUP

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

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

Christina Clark.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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.....conservation@cnpsd.org

E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

FIELD TRIPS: John Caffery & Karen Parkefieldtrips@cnpsd.org

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