

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

### CHAPTER MEETING

**February 20, 2024**

**In-person**

**Casa del Prado Rm 101, Balboa Park**

**7:00 Browsing & Socializing**

**7:30 Meeting and Presentation**

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

### Presentation

**Suburbia:**

**A Native Plant's Worst Nightmare!**

**By Greg Rubin**

Here's the situation: A lot of people are jumping onto the native plant bandwagon (which is a good thing!), but without the understanding of what it takes to keep them alive in a suburban landscape. There are significant issues inherent in a developed city environment that are simply not natural. The good news is



that there are means to overcome these challenges. Learn what it will take to enable your native landscape to thrive.

Greg Rubin, a long time CNPS member, is President and Founder of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc. and is a licensed landscape contractor who has been working with

California native plants since 1985. His company has designed over 700 native landscapes in Southern California, including residential, commercial, and institutional landscapes that cover an array of garden styles while providing year round appeal, low maintenance, water efficiency, rich habitat, and fire-resistance. Greg is co-author of a new book with Lucy Warren, "The California Native Landscape: the Homeowners' Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance."

### CNPS-SD NATIVE GARDEN TOUR



Join us in celebrating the beauty and diversity of San Diego's native gardens. You will enjoy exploring a vibrant palette of 30 different landscape designs in the Poway area and Coastal San Diego - each garden teeming with native plants and the wildlife they attract.

Our 2024 theme is 'Planting Animals', highlighting the ties between native plants and the animals that rely on them. Planting California natives is the starting point for the web of life connected to our gardens. This includes us, too!

### **2 Days, 9 Cities**

**Saturday April 6, 9 am - 4 pm:** Rancho Bernardo, Poway, Miramar Ranch North and Scripps Ranch

**Sunday April 7, 9 am - 4 pm:** La Jolla, N. Clairemont, University City, Del Mar and Solana Beach

### **Tour Highlights**

**\*Special Fundraising Event: "In Balance with Nature"**

**Private Poway Tour of the Arnold Estate**

We offer a rare opportunity to explore a 19-acre private nature preserve and botanic garden at the top of Green Valley in Poway. Take a hike with our expert native

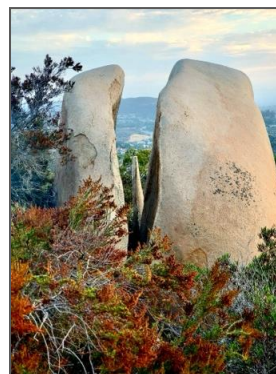


Photo by Christine Hoey

plant guides through multiple microclimates featuring over 100 native plant species in this undisturbed coastal chaparral.

Afterwards, savor light hors d'oeuvres and beverages in the botanical portion of the garden with an extensive collection of plants from around the world. Enjoy breathtaking vistas and the sunset, mingling with esteemed native plant experts from San Diego County.

*\*All proceeds from ticket sales will support CNPS San Diego's dedicated efforts in restoring and preserving the open spaces of San Diego.*

**Space is limited! For more information and tickets, go to <https://www.cnpsd.org/native-garden-tour-2024> .**

## **Planting Animals**

Native plants and animals have evolved together in a dance of give and take. In some cases, survival of one species depends on the survival of the other. When we plant natives, we are also planting the animals that depend on them, and together they help maintain a healthy biodiversity in our neighborhoods.

Sometimes the dramas between species are hidden from view. To help tell their stories, we have selected six ambassador plant-animal pairs from six different San Diego County habitats to examine in detail. Chloe Van Loon will explore these special relationships, crafting short stories that will bring them to life. We will be releasing these stories in the upcoming weeks to inspire as many people as possible to consider these pairs when designing their own gardens. We will also provide lists of companion plants for each pair. Planting these will help establish a more complete habitat in your home garden.

It's a fact that native plants attract more wildlife. We encourage you to plant as many as possible and to be on the lookout for your own plant-animal stories!

## **Here is our first story:** **Blossoms and Butterflies:** **The Everlasting Connection of California Buckwheat and Behr's Metalmark** by Chloe Van Loon

Some relationships in nature are lifelong, and that's precisely the scenario between the California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and the Behr's metalmark butterfly (*Apodemia virgulti*) in our coastal sage scrub ecosystems.

In spring, the dainty pink and white flowers of the California buckwheat start to bloom — just what the adult Behr's metalmark is looking for. The frilly dense flower clusters are the perfect perch for a nectar meal. Like the buckwheat, Behr's is a striking and easily recognizable butterfly. You can tell you're looking at



Artwork by Carly Lake

a Behr's by the black and brick-red patches dotted with charming white spots.

After emerging from an egg that was laid in groups on lower leaves, the caterpillar begins eating the young leaves. Feeding occurs under the cover of darkness to avoid predators. During the day, the caterpillar rests inside shelters of leaves tied together with silk. In the winter, it hibernates inside various parts of the plant. As you can see, gardens and nature preserves with California buckwheat create a lifelong home for this delightful insect. Eventually, this buckwheat species transitions into a captivating red rust color, a favorite spot for hibernating Behr's metalmark caterpillars. When the plant finally sheds its dried flowers and a significant portion of its small blade-like leaves each dry season, this plant material becomes a natural mulch. If you're looking to attract Behr's metalmark to your garden, consider planting a couple of California buckwheat specimens. It might just become their new hangout spot.

## **Additional Animals**

### **Acmon Blue Butterfly (*Icaricia acmon*)**

The Acmon Blue loves the sweet nectar of California buckwheat but will feed on a variety of buckwehats and other native plants as an adult and larvae.

### **Native Bees (*Andrena* spp.)**

California buckwheat is a great source of food for andrena 'miner' bees during the hot and dry months. Andrenas are native solitary bees who dig underground nests.

### **Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)**

For the common western fence lizard, California buckwheat provides a dense but navigable tangle of foliage to escape the sun's rays, and to hide from lurking predators.

For more stories and the plant list check out our website: <https://www.cnpsd.org/native-garden-tour-2024>

*Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann*  
*Garden Tour Co-chairs*

## **NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE**

### **Native Garden Committee Meeting** **Bird Park Meadow Design** **with Greg Rubin** **Saturday, February 10** **10 am - noon**

The El Niño rains finally arrived which made weeding at Bird Park fairly easy last month. Now, our attention will turn to crafting our next feather plot originally intended to be a native meadow. Join us for our first meeting this year at Bird Park for a native garden meadow design charrette led by **Greg Rubin** of *California's Own Native Landscape Design*. This meeting is open to everyone interested in native gardening.

**Where:** Bird Park is located on 28<sup>th</sup> St. near Thorn St. next to the children's swings.

When: Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 12 pm  
What to bring: Hat, folding chair, pen & paper, reusable water bottle



Photos by Christine Hoey



# WaterSmart Landscape Contest

2024

<https://landscapecontest.com/>

Are you converting your landscape to California native plants and living in one of the 12 San Diego County water agency areas? Then enter the **2024 WaterSmart Landscape Contest\***! Its goal is to showcase residential water-saving landscaping ideas, inspiring others to consider their own projects. Each agency awards a \$250 gift certificate and public recognition. Removing turf as part of your makeover? Then be sure to take advantage of the turf removal rebates and other rebates at <https://www.sdcwa.org/your-water/conservation/> for added savings. The deadline to enter is May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Apply at the link above.

\*Previously known as the California-Friendly Landscape Contest

## Calling All Garden Tour Volunteers!



Photo by Silke Gathmann

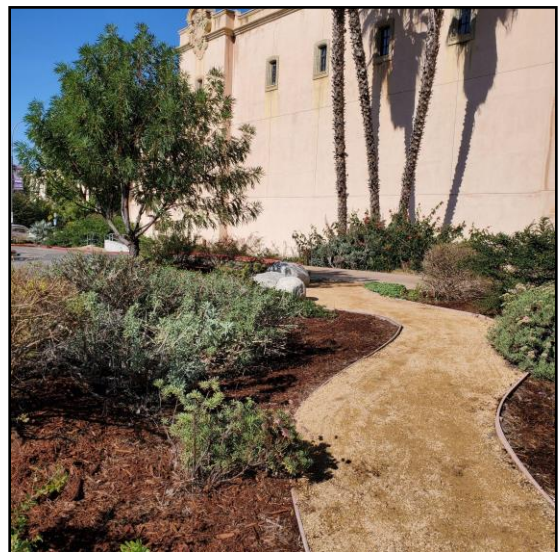
Be a part of this year's garden tour by volunteering! We need garden docents to assist with a variety of tasks to make this a wonderful experience for visitors. The perks include making new friends, garden previews, complimentary tour tickets and more.

**Interested? Volunteer here:**  
[Garden Tour Docent Sign Up](#)

Questions? Feel free to contact MJ Brovold at [gardentourvolunteer@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardentourvolunteer@cnpsd.org)

## **Balboa Park Adopt-A-Plots Update (Zoro Canyon & Bird Park)**

Our workgroup members are constantly thanked for the work we do in our Adopt-A-Plots. One passerby said it was a 'breath of fresh air' every time she walks past the garden. The new plantings at **Zoro Canyon** are settling in nicely. We will be adding more plants in strategic areas along the canyon edge.



Balboa Park Zoro Canyon Adopt-A-Plot. Photo by C Hoey

The city irrigation department is almost finished designing a new irrigation system for the whole wing section of **Bird Park**. No start date yet, but there is plenty of maintenance for us to do. Our redwood bench under the *Schinus molle* (Peruvian pepper tree) continues to be a popular resting spot for visitors enjoying the wild lilacs and manzanitas starting their late winter

blooms. We continue prepping our next two plots with hopes of planting soon. Come join us for some outdoor fresh air in the native garden! Sign up at this link: [Balboa Park Workgroup](#)

The garden committee welcomes all novice and experienced native gardeners. 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. If you love gardening with California native plants and would like to join the Garden Committee (GC), click on this link: <https://forms.gle/L356FhDbvrWCWzmd8> We would love to see you!

*Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann  
Garden Committee Co-chairs*

## CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

### February Board Meeting

**Wednesday, February 14, 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](mailto:president@cnpsd.org).

### January Board Meeting Summary

The Board approved the following:

- The quarterly report presented by the Treasurer.

The Board discussed: The SDSU Extension field botany course scholarships that CNPSSD offers, shared calendars, the chapter's website update, upcoming native landscape plantings at MCAS Miramar, finding chairpersons to lead some of our committees, the Spring Garden Tour, the Fall Plant Sale, the March chapter council meeting to be held in San Pedro, the City Nature Challenge, the upcoming field trip to the Algodones Dunes, and the year's outreach calendar.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

### Tuesday, February 6: 6 pm, via Zoom

Send a request for the link to [conservation@cnpsd.org](mailto:conservation@cnpsd.org).

## PROPAGATION COMMITTEE

### Friday, February 16: 10 am – 1 pm

Potting up for summer / planting out

### Saturday, March 02: 10 am-1 pm

Plant Identification workshop 01

**Tecolote Nature Center  
5180 Tecolote Rd  
San Diego, CA 92110**

Sign up for updates and Committee announcements by emailing [propagation@cnpsd.org](mailto:propagation@cnpsd.org) and requesting to be added to the contact list.

## OUTREACH NEWS

### Volunteer Opportunities with San Diego Chapter Public Outreach

Start 2024 off right by volunteering at our upcoming public outreach booths, to share your love for and knowledge of native plants! Join the fun of the Public Outreach Committee at [publicoutreach@cnpsd.org](mailto:publicoutreach@cnpsd.org) to receive info and updates on the events the committee will be participating in this year.

This year, we will participate again in two events in February with partner organizations we worked with last year; we also have another repeat event coming up in early March, as well as a new event with an organization we hope to partner with in the future.

First on the schedule is the USCD Kendall Frost Marsh Preserve hosting the **Love Your Wetlands Day** on Saturday, Feb 3. As with last year, this festival will include volunteer activities along with information booths of local environmental organizations. Learn more at: <https://rewildmissionbay.org/>. Set up will begin around 7:30 am. We need volunteers to help with booth set up and break down, as well as staffing the booth during the scheduled event time from 9am-3pm.

On Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, we will participate in the **Bird Friendly Home and Garden Fair** again during the 2024 Bird Festival at the Marina Village Conference Center at Mission Bay. The San Diego Audubon Society's Bird Festival runs from February 21-25; you can find info at:

<https://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birding/san-diego-bird-festival/>. The fair runs from 8 am to 2 pm. Educational presentations are part of the fair schedule, so you can volunteer for a few hours and also catch some of those activities.

The third event, **Family Nature Day**, will be held March 2 at Mount Helix Park in La Mesa. The park foundation web site is: <https://www.mthelixpark.org/family-nature-day>. Adult learning lectures and activities for the kids are on the schedule. Our booth will be staffed from 9 am to 3 pm, and we need help with booth set up and break down.

On March 9, we will travel to North County for our first event at the **Golden Door Spa**. This event will be a class/lecture for attendees who are interested in learning about native plants. The class will begin at 10 am, and will last about an hour. Other details for this event are still being firmed up, so stay tuned if you can assist.

To confirm your participation in the above events, email me at [sherry.ashbaugh@cnpsd.org](mailto:sherry.ashbaugh@cnpsd.org) and include the events you can help with. Here's to starting off another great year for native plants!

~ **Sherry Ashbaugh**, Public Outreach Committee Chair

# Love Your Wetlands Day 2024

Saturday, February 3, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve

CNPS-SD is participating in this free event.

Visit the CNPS-SD Meet-Up site for more info:

<https://www.meetup.com/san-diego-county-native-plant-discoverers-meetup/events/298321367/>

Join the Friends of Rose Creek, S.D. Audubon and many other organizations at this celebration of wetlands and marshes. There will be information booths, and hikes, bird watching and other family friendly activities. Registration is required. This is a great opportunity to learn more about wetlands and what is being done to preserve and enhance Kendall-Frost Marsh.

Porta potties will be available. Bring lunch, snack, H2O, and sunscreen or other sun protection. Dogs are not allowed in the marsh.

## City Nature Challenge

CNPSSD will participate in the 2024 CNC that will take place April 26-29. This annual event encourages people to get outdoors and enjoy nature by photographing all types of organisms and posting them on sites such as iNaturalist. It's a friendly competition between cities in terms of total number of posts, number of participants and number of species. CNPSSD can make a significant contribution, and all members are urged to get involved. Here is a link to an iNaturalist page that has been set up specifically for San Diego County: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-san-diego-county> More detailed information will be provided in the March and April newsletters. In the meantime, questions can be directed to Don Rideout ([don@rideouts.net](mailto:don@rideouts.net))

### Volunteering via Ballot

In November, someone filled out a ballot checking off that they wanted to get more involved in Public Outreach and they hand wrote in "wanting involvement with native horticulture" but didn't include their contact information. If you are that person, please contact me at [cindyburrascano@cnpsd.org](mailto:cindyburrascano@cnpsd.org) or 619.609.8977 with your name and contact information and I will forward the info to the appropriate committees.

## IN THE FIELD

### Cedar Creek Falls & Mildred Falls

By Tom Oberbauer

(Photos by the author)

I mentioned in an earlier article that two weeks in January 2023 was a period of amazingly great rainfall in San Diego County, with 20 inches on Palomar Mountain and 18 inches at Cuyamaca Lake.



Snow on Cuyamaca Mountain.

Though I had visited Cedar Creek Falls back in February or March 1998, I had made up my mind that early 2023 was going to be a good season to view the larger waterfalls in San Diego County and the next ones I wanted to see were Cedar Creek Falls, along with Mildred Falls that is on the way down from the north.

January 27, 2023, was a cool morning when I left San Diego by 5:30 am in the dark to drive up through Ramona and Santa Ysabel, and turn onto Pine Hills Road to head down to a place called The Saddle. It took a full half hour to traverse the north end of Eagle Peak Road through Pine Hills. The road is dirt for a good distance and deteriorates as one drives farther south until it is just a cut on a steep hillside before getting to The Saddle.

I parked the car at 7:30 am after it was light enough to start walking. The sun was shining and the air felt moist from all of the rain that had been falling. The trail that follows the old road continues after passing through a swing gate and arcs west. After a relatively short distance, Mildred Falls (below) came into view. I remembered Mildred Falls from long ago and on this day it was flowing nicely. It is difficult to determine how tall it is, but it seems to be approximately 300+ feet based on rock climber sites.

I stopped to take some current photos of Mildred Falls but my main goal was to get to Cedar Creek Falls to take some photos before other people arrived.

I should mention that online I had ordered a Forest Service permit to visit the falls. If you want to control the number of people visiting a location, that is the way to do it, with a person checking the permits at the trail head. However, the northern trail at The Saddle is not well visited. I had my permit in my pack in case someone wanted to check it later.

The path from the north traveled on the side of an extremely steep slope where you are directly over the San Diego River. The sound of the water carried a long distance.



Cedar Creek Falls in January.

The light rising over the leafless riparian area in the bottom of a green, sloped, deep canyon (below) was striking.



Unfortunately, a large part of the green color was Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), which covered vast areas. However, along the trail, there were a number of different vegetation types and a variety of species.

*Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy), below, and *Lupinus hirsutissimus* (Nettle lupine) were in flower this early in the season.



The small bluish-white flowered *Gilia angelensis* (Grassland gilia), *Dipterostemon capitatus* (Wild hyacinth), and a *Datura* (Jimson weed) species were also in flower. As I proceeded, I could see the riparian habitat with *Salix* species (Willows), and *Populus fremontii* (Fremont cottonwood). Shrubs along the way

were *Encelia californica* (California encelia), below, which were flowering in the canyon, and *Senegalia* spp., the desert acacia with hooked spines, grew in areas near the canyon bottom.



The main trail continued and intersected with the trail from San Diego Country Estates but that trail to the falls requires three major stream crossings and the streams carry quite a bit of water when the falls are flowing well. There is an alternate trail from the north that can be accessed before the two main trails intersect. That trail is a little trickier but it goes to the top of the falls and can also be used to get to the bottom without wading through water. Hiking that trail would involve carrying spare water shoes, a way to keep your cloths from getting wet, and probably a walking stick to avoid slipping on the rocks in the 2.5+ feet deep water that is flowing at a rapid rate. I don't like to risk slipping with camera gear into a rushing stream of water. After I found the trail to the top, I climbed up passing *Mirabilis californica* (Four o'clock), *Keckiella antirrhinoides* (Yellow bush penstemon) that seems to be growing many places that I explore these days, *Marah macrocarpa* (Wild cucumber), *Gutierrezia* (Matchweed) that was not flowering yet, and *Opuntia littoralis* (Coast prickly-pear).

However, from the top of the hill above the trail, there is a stretch of cross-country trail traversing very steep slopes. In the past, a semi trail existed but for the past several years, the water did not flow to any extent so no one came that way, I presume, leaving the vegetation to grow up and the route to become obscured during the low rainfall seasons.

I went on over to the top of the falls and climbed around a bit, far above, being sure not to get near the edge of the cliffs. I saw a couple of people were already below even though the sun had not yet hit the falls. I found the trail down to the bottom of the falls. It had eroded into a very steep, deep gully from all those years of erosion since I was last there. It did have a hard rock bottom on most of it, however.

I saw *Encelia californica* was there in flower as well. I did not realize that the species went this far inland. *Dudleya pulverulenta* (Chalk lettuce) and *Prunus ilicifolia* (Hollyleaf cherry) were also present.

*Jepsonia*, below, was growing on the sloping areas with mosses and liverworts, its round leaves the only thing that indicated its presence.



The tiny white flowers would appear later in the fall on these rhizomatous perennial plants that can live longer than anyone might think.

The falls were roaring with heavy flow. However, they were not so full that I could sit directly in front of them on a moraine-like rock line. It was not a good place to set up video, because the mist was heavy and covered the lens with spray (below). It was still a magical situation to think that this was San Diego County.

People were arriving with wet shoes tied over their shoulders after crossing the water three times to get there. I sat and ate my early lunch and appreciated the 90-foot drop of solid white water. I climbed around on some nearby hills in an attempt to get good shots, being careful not to climb on any cliffs, which is against the rules.



I headed back up the gully. An Orange-tip butterfly (*Anthocharis cardamines*) was present and some *Astragalus* that looked like *A. deanei* (Dean's milkvetch), left.

After I got up to the top again, I walked down closer to the falls' lip and took more photos. Then, I headed back up the trail cross country. The sun was out now so the golden *Eschscholzia californica* and the dark purple *Phacelia parryi* (Parry's phacelia), below, and *Lupinus hirsutissimus*, left, looked more open and bright.



I stopped at the Mildred Falls view (left) after walking quite a way up. It was still at least three quarters of a mile away, but clearly visible with a telephoto lens and even the iPhone telephoto picked up good flow action on it. There are other ways to get close to the top of those falls as well, cross country, but the flow was good enough and the view is better across the way to observe the entire length of the water drop.

Time went by and storms kept coming through February 2023. The falls were getting even more water and I decided that I wanted to see Cedar Creek Falls again. On a day in March, I started out similarly going down Eagle Peak Road early to get to the parking at The Saddle by 7 or 7:30 am. This time, ice and snow were on the road through Pine Hills. I passed at least one car that had slid off the main two-lane highway on the way. I was worried about the road, but it all worked out.



I walked down early the same way again and came down from the top. However, the water flow was surprisingly quite a bit heavier (left) than it was even in January after the big storms.

The rocks I had sat on in January were now submerged. The water was raging down and creating wind blasts, and mist was flying everywhere (below).

In fact, so much water was flowing that it was not possible to stand directly in front of the falls. I had to stand to the side where some rocks protruded into the view. The sound and the water volume were simply incredible. I hiked back up to the top of the flow to the eroded gully once again.





Cedar Creek Falls from above.



Cedar Creek valley above the falls.

The way back was similar as before but even more of the wildflowers were now showing with patches of *Eschscholzia californica* and *Lupinus hirsutissimus*. The sound of the roaring San Diego River was as loud as ever and the riparian trees were beginning to put out leaves.

The waterfalls in San Diego County are special features that, while ephemeral, are worth examining when they are flowing. The early spring of 2023 was a tremendous season to view them.

Note: To obtain a Cleveland National Forest permit to visit Cedar Creek Falls, see <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/234735>.

## HABITAT RESTORATION

During an email discussion with Arne Johanson, I googled "nature based regeneration bradley method." The results dealt primarily with childbirth (!), but one of the hits was:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bush\\_regeneration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bush_regeneration)

The page discussed successful habitat restoration in Australia, referred to as "bush regeneration". On the website one of the groups that was reported to be using bush regeneration is CNPSSD. We're known internationally!

~ **Bob Byrnes**, Habitat Restoration Committee Co-chair

## RECENT RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS\*

### The Endangered Species Act is turning 50. Has it succeeded?

The law has kept many species from dying out — but few have made it off the 'endangered' list.

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/endangered-species-act-50-anniversary-success>

### The consequences of winter climate change for plant performance

With continually increasing summer temperatures and intense heat waves, it can be easy to neglect the ecological effects of winter climate change. However, shifts in the climate during winter can have profound consequences for eco-evolutionary dynamics in extratropical latitudes and high-elevation locales.

<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ajb2.16252>

### Nuclear and chloroplast DNA phylogeography reveals high genetic diversity and postglacial range expansion in *Quercus mexicana*

Recent studies on the evolution of the genus *Quercus* (Fagaceae) in the Americas have highlighted the importance of climate, geology, and ecology to understand diversity patterns and macroevolutionary processes in megadiverse regions such as the Mexican and Central American mountains. Such advances also provide a context for testing specific phylogeographic hypotheses, which may further contribute to the understanding of diversification processes in this genus.

<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ajb2.16251>

\* These are articles that anyone can access on-line without being a member of an organization or having a subscription. If you have a link to any such article about California native plants or issues that might apply to them, please email it to [newsletter@cnpssd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpssd.org).

## OTHER CNPS ACTIVITIES

### CNPS Workshops

For information and registration, visit:

<https://www.cnpssd.org/education/workshops>

### CNPS Orange County Chapter Public Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Plant Stories Trapped in Tar:

### Paleobotany at the La Brea Tar Pits

Explore the ancient ecosystems of the Los Angeles Basin. Meeting Begins 7:30 pm (speaker pre chat at 7:10). For more information about the presentation, see:



<https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2023/12/20/2023-february-15-meeting-plant-stories-trapped-in-tar/>

To attend the meeting via Zoom register at:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUlcOyurzMuH9bJFhb9JgtlTXarhKDsFlot#/registration>

## **CNPS Bryophyte Chapter**

Bryophyte Chapter Monthly Meetings will now be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm PST on Zoom. Visit the website for more info: <https://chapters.cnps.org/bryophyte/>

**SO BE FREE 28**

**March 29, 2024 @ 4:00 pm –**

**April 1, 2024 @ 10:00 am**

Join the Bryophyte Chapter for their annual foray and meeting, SO BE FREE, to be held this year in the Santa Rita Mountains, south of Tucson, AZ. The main focus is on mosses, liverworts and hornworts, but they welcome experts on other groups as well. They will have field trips to a variety of habitats, plus evening slide shows, as well as keying sessions with microscopes, and a workshop for beginners.

Details and registration here:

<https://chapters.cnps.org/bryophyte/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2023/11/Flyer-SOBEFREE-2024.pdf>

## **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

### **California State Parks**



### **VOLUNTEER WITH CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION**

Silver Strand State Beach

First Saturday of Every Month!

January 6, February 3, March 2

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Help pull and remove invasive iceplant (Carpobrotus) to enhance coastal strand habitat on the Silver Strand State Beach bayside! Lunch will be provided.

Ages 12 and older welcome (minors must be accompanied by an adult and bring a signed waiver).

Learn more and register online to reserve your spot and receive important workday details: [calparks.org/volunteer](http://calparks.org/volunteer).



## **Desert Wildflower Hotlines**

### **DesertUSA**

The influence of Hurricane Hilary in August 2023, which brought substantial rain and flooding to Southern California desert regions, and the recent rains during the last week of January this year, has set the stage for potential floral abundance. Check their wildflower hotline to see where plants are blooming:

<https://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html>

For more info about what months certain plants bloom during a year visit their blog at:

<https://www.desertusa.com/dusablog/desert-wildflowers-season/>

### **Anza-Borrego Desert**

<https://borregowildflowers.org/pages/blooming.html>

## **Native Plant Week**

**April 13 – 20, 2024**

Did you know that California has more native plant species than any other state in the nation? To honor California's incredible plant life, the California State Legislature designated the third week of April to be California Native Plant Week.

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

## **CNPS-SD Activities Calendar February 2024**

- 2/3:** CNPS-SD at Love Your Wetlands Day, p.4 & 5
- 2/6:** Conservation Committee, via Zoom, p.4
- 2/10:** Native Gardening Committee Meeting, p.2
- 2/14:** Board Meeting, via Zoom, p.4
- 2/16:** Propagation Committee, in person p.4
- 2/20:** Chapter Meeting, in person, p.1
- 2/25:** CNPS-SD at Bird Friendly Home & Garden Fair, p.4
- 3/2:** Propagation Committee, p.4
- 3/2:** CNPS-SD at Family Nature Day at Mount Helix Park, p.4

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

Please check [www.cnpsd.org](http://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.

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February 2024 Newsletter

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

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