

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes informative publications, free field trips and monthly programs and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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

Nonprofit Organization

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CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS –DECEMBER 2004

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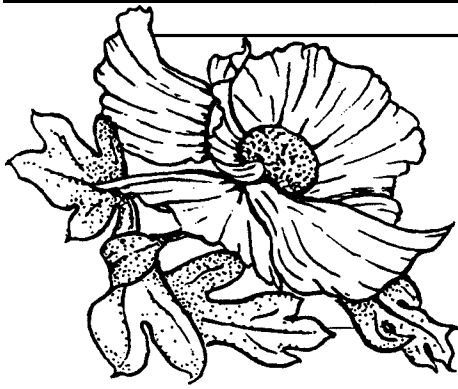
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NOTE: For mailing label and membership issues contact
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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

DECEMBER 2004

Published twelve times per year

CALENDAR

No Chapter Meeting and no Board Meeting in December.

January 12, 2004. CHAPTER BOARD MEETING. Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 P.M., Tecolote Nature Center. Take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote exit from I-5. Proceed east until the road ends at the Tecolote Nature Center. Board Members, please call Carrie Schneider if you are unable to attend.

January 18, 2004. OCTOBER 2005 PLANT SALE MEETING. 6 p.m., Room 104, just before the chapter meeting.

Thank You, Joan!

We thank Joan Stewart for all her years as Plant Sale Coordinator. Joan has spent countless hours organizing and leading the chapter's annual plant sales, our only money making event of each year. Through her tireless efforts the chapter has increased awareness of native plants and provided an outlet where our members and friends can purchase high quality native plants for their home, school, or restoration projects.

Next year the plant sale will be organized by the Plant Sale Committee. The committee will meet each month at 6 p.m. on the same day as the chapter meeting and in the same room. So, if you're interested in helping plan and organize the plant sale, please come to our first meeting on January 18. No botanical experience is needed. Administrative and organizational skills would be very helpful. If you can't make it to the meeting but have an interest in

helping plan our only fundraiser, the fall plant sale, please contact Carolyn Martus.

January 18, 2004. CHAPTER MEETING.
Tuesday, Meeting 7:00 pm, Program 7:30 pm
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

"Who Speaks for the Shrubland? Fire, Politics, Money, and Emotions are Threatening San Diego Forests with Extinction" by Kurt Schasker.

Kurt Schasker, a retired brush management contractor, will discuss his experiences working in the wildland-urban interface. He has contracted with public and private property owners who were creating firebreaks around structures and has worked directly with inspectors, firefighters, property owners, property managers, and home owner associations.

After 10+ years managing brush, Kurt will argue that our current pre-fire defense procedures are dysfunctional and in critical need of overhaul. He will offer the opinion that homeowner insurance carriers ought to police the brush management process. Government would then be responsible for regulating insurance company power, protecting individual property owner's rights, and defending the environment.

His experience in the Los Angeles area has shown that as good as firefighting agencies are at fighting fire, they are equally weak in the area of brush management enforcement. As a result, laws are enforced sporadically, if at all. In addition, brush management laws are largely created through the fire fighting agencies, and these laws are

frequently not grounded in good science.

As a result of firefighting agency oversight of the brush management system, our native chaparral habitats are falling to the chainsaw in the name of fire safety. This need not be. Our local habitats ought to be protected by the government, not destroyed as a result of their regulations. Kurt feels that society puts too much blame on wildlands as the source of the fire problem, and not enough blame on the character and nature of the urban environment. More focus and attention should be given to preparing the urban environment to withstand firestorms, and less attention on ways to alter the native landscape.

Kurt will describe flaws in the brush management system, both in practice and in law, offer examples of his experience with these flaws, and finally, offer solutions.

HABITAT RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

Grant School Native Planting

Saturday, December 4, 2004. 8:00 am to noon. Grant School is located in Mission Hills. You can see the native plant site as you drive east up Washington Street from I-5 toward Mission Hills Hillcrest. The site is part of a canyon.

RECON has donated about 200 native plants to Grant School, and Grant School is the recipient of past CNPS School grants for native plants.

Kindergarten teacher Dave Martocchio has been managing the restoration of the 3-acre school grounds for about three years. He recruited a good group of neighborhood volunteers. The original plantings are doing well, but they are lonely. They need companion plants and those plants need your help getting planted. It's more than the neighborhood volunteers can do on their own.

Place: The back side of Grant School, which is accessible through Pioneer Park at the corner of Washington Place and Randolph Street.

Directions: Travel east on Washington Street from I-5 or west on Washington from Route 163. Turn north on Goldfinch. Turn left on Ft. Stockton. Drive a few blocks, then turn left on Randolph. You will run into Washington Place; Pioneer Park will be in front of you, and Grant School will be on the left.

Walk through the children's playground in Pioneer Park toward the cemetery. Turn left after you pass the old barn on your left. Walk along the top of the canyon to the East and start looking for the volunteer group ahead or below. (This sounds complicated but it is really easy to find. Just head for the slope behind the school.)

Bring a trowel or shovel tool if you want, but we have quite a few in our tool shed. The site is steep, but there is a trail with giant steps through it. The school playground was once the site of a central commissary for San Diego Schools. Glass and ceramic shards were pushed into the canyon when the school site was graded flat, years ago. So, it's not the best place for little kids to dig or play unattended.

The students, teachers, parents, and community members are, and will be, contributing their resources to making the canyon a place where the woodland, chaparral, desert, and riparian species of plants found in San Diego will be represented to provide a living history of the land, plants, and animals that the Kumeyaay lived with before 1769, and a laboratory where teachers, with parents and community members, can educate children in numerous areas of the social studies and science content areas.

Dave P. Martocchio via e-mail at davemartocchio@yahoo.com or at Grant Elementary School (619-293-4420) or in the evening (858-272-6055).

Nuttall's Lotus Habitat Restoration

December 11, 2004. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mission Bay. One of the few known U.S. populations of Nuttall's lotus (*Lotus nuttallianus*), an annual coastal dune species, is in San Diego's Mission Bay Park. Please join us to help protect this Nuttall's lotus population from highway iceplant invasion. We will remove iceplant from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 11th in east Mission Bay Park. Meet at 9 a.m. on Pacific Highway just east of the Sea World Drive/Pacific Highway intersection. Parking is available on either side of Pacific Highway; northern side has a section with low curb. Take a break from your holiday preparations, bring a pair of gardening gloves and join us! For more information or a site map, please contact Melanie Johnson at (619) 533-6300 or msjohnson@sandiego.gov.

Recurring Restoration Events

Ruffin Canyon (Serra Mesa). Every Tuesday between 9:30AM and Noon and the first Saturday of

every month 9 A.M. to Noon. Contact Glenn Torbett at 858-565-7347.

Shepherd Canyon (Tierra Santa). First Saturday of every month, 9 A.M. to Noon. Contact Roberta Froome at 858-627-0682 or -0681.

Grant Elementary School (Mission Hills). First Saturday of each month from 8:00am -12:00pm to work on restoring a canyon on the school property to native vegetation. Contact davemartocchio@yahoo.com or call 858-272-6055.

Bayside Native Plant Area (Mission Bay Park, Hospitality Point). First Sunday of every month, 9 A.M to 11 A.M. Contact Gary Suttle at nature@utm.net or 858-6795340.

Florida Canyon (Balboa Park). Third Saturday of every month, 8 A.M. – Noon. Contact Carole Rukstelis (619 235-1123) or crukstelis@sandiego.gov
Switzer Canyon (North Park). Third Sunday of every month, 9 AM to Noon. Contact Carrie Schneider at 619-282-3645.

Fallbrook. Fallbrook Land Conservancy's Invasive Plant Team meets on the last Saturday of the month at 8:00am until about 11:00am on one of their seven Preserves to work on invasive plants or revegetation. For more information call the Fallbrook Land Conservancy at (760) 728-0889 or Mike Peters at (760) 728-0532. For more info see www.sdccc.org/flc

Lake Murray Shoreline. Contact Eric Bowlby at 619-284-9399.

Cottonwood Creek (Encinitas). Contact Brad Roth, Project Manager, 760-436-2632.

Santa Cruz Island. Help us control invasive trees and plants on Santa Cruz Island. Spots available on 4- and 5-day trips throughout the year. Lodging at the University of California's Island Reserve Field Station & boat transportation to and from the island is provided. Small (\$20) fee to pay for dinners. We work a long day, but time is set aside for some sightseeing and relaxation. Contact Ken Owen, 805-448-5726, islands@rain.org; or David Chang, 805-681-5600, dchang@co.santa-barbara.ca.us. See www.channelislandsrestoration.com/sci.

To have your event listed here, contact Carrie Schneider.

CHAPTER POSITIONS

Darren Smith has volunteered to set up field trips. Thanks, Darren!!

Positions to Fill, Seeking Volunteers

Please send an e-mail to info@cnpsd.org or just introduce yourself to one of the board members.

Vegetation Chairperson. No botanical experience necessary; organizational skills required. The Vegetation Chair, working closely with Conservation Chair Cindy Burrascano, may represent the Chapter in a number of ways, such as coordinating local botanical surveys to sample locally or statewide rare vegetation types, or in a region that is biologically interesting and needs more information; arranging a local vegetation sampling workshop with help from the state CNPS Vegetation Program, so that they and the Chapter are trained on CNPS's standard sampling methods; providing background information on vegetation so the Conservation Chairperson can make decisions and respond to regional or local management or development plans; or highlighting a certain plant community in the monthly newsletters. Please see the Vegetation link on the CNPS homepage, which provides more information (<http://www.cnps.org/vegetation/vegindex.htm>). You may read about the importance of vegetation by clicking on "The Sampler" newsletter, and find out how you may be able to assist the Chapter in representing vegetation for conservation.

Public Outreach, Publicity, Hospitality and a **Board Member** (who may or may not be a chairperson). Please contact Carrie Schneider (info@cnpsd.org) or another board member.

2004 PLANT SALE

One last time, "Let me count the ways"...that our members helped, supported, and shared friendship on the Plant Sale Day. As in past years, the list of individual names is long, and probably imperfect, so singling out a few is not easy. Again, Bertha McKinley came south to spend a week in my home to help meet demands of chore-lists. Cindy Burrascano and Margaret Filius took on the responsibility for set-up, and it went more smoothly than ever!! Cindy marshalled her write-up team and this routine also went better than last year---we abandoned the attempt to keep buyers in "orderly" (?) lines. Dave Flietner, Dave W., and Don Hohimer watched over traffic moving in and out and generally oversaw security. Helen Means, Lynne Thomas and Sue Marchetti,

with experienced crew, sold bulbs, seeds, books, and answered an amazing assortment of questions at the central sales tables. Marty and cashiers dealt with financial issues and assumed the responsibility of handling checks and cash. Sectional Plant Advisors Sue, Mel Howe, Bertha, Don Miller, George Yackey, Karen Smith, Vince Scheidt, and Shannon Allen provided expert recommendations to buyers unsure of what would meet their particular needs. Bruce Hanson introduced our new Grass Section and was the purveyor of plant material donated from RECON.

And the list goes on--you know who you were--I have your names here on the desk beside me, some of you new to the Sale this year, and many who have been with us in past years. I want to acknowledge the support of Park Ranger Kim DuClos; pick-up and delivery work from Lew, Mel, and Sharon; and new signs produced by Linda Pardy. Bruce in preceding weeks worked with growers (Tree of Life, Las Pilitas, RECON) to organize what plants would be available. Early morning, barely daylight, brought Renetta and Sara, then a long stream of others to put tables, signholders, and eventually the plants themselves into position. Finally, the last few on clean-up crew shared good bye hugs. This was my final year of coordinating the San Diego CNPS plant sale, and it was a good ending. Thanks, to those named here, and those unnamed but fondly remembered.

-- Joan Stewart, Plant Sale Coordinator

RARE PLANTS

Federal Register Notices

November 9, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 216)] 12-Month Finding for a Petition to List *Cymopterus deserticola* (desert cymopterus) as Endangered.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announced a 12-month finding for a petition to list *Cymopterus deserticola* (desert cymopterus) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). After reviewing the available scientific and commercial information, they found that listing the species as threatened or endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range is not warranted at this time. They ask the public to submit any new information that becomes available concerning the status of, or threats to, the species to help them monitor the status of this species. The complete file for this finding is available for inspection, by appointment, during

normal business hours, at the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. Please submit any new information, materials, comments, or questions concerning this species to that address. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section above) (telephone at 805/644-1766; facsimile 805/644-3958).

GROWING NATIVE NEWSLETTER

The Growing Native Newsletter has been reborn!

Here is a message from Louise Lacey:

For the last year I have been sneaking around behind the scenes reorganizing ten years' worth of 59 issues of Growing Native Newsletter into different formats so that I can make their information available to you at a significantly lower price and with less effort and money on my part. It's great news so far as I am concerned, because I have missed you!

You will need a computer. (If you don't have one, visit your library, or ask a friend for help.) Go to: www.growingnative.com.

Here are the first four:

1. A combination of "The Basics of Growing California Native Plants," and "The Plant Communities of California." They include everything you really need to know to grow California native plants successfully.
2. One hundred and seventy-five perennials, 115 for dry gardens, and 60 for moist or wet.
3. One hundred and fifty shrubs, about half evergreen and half deciduous.
4. Wildlife and inspiration true stories, my own and others.

Each segment will be from 40 - 75 pages, and each will cost less than \$15. I am doing the writing, editing and typesetting; you are doing the printing. There are no postage or shipping charges.

Pay as directed, and the material will come out shortly onto your screen as a PDF. When you are ready, the segments will start printing out on your own printer. Make sure you have enough paper in it! If you don't want to use a credit card, simply print out the order page, fill in what you want and send it with your check to my address below, adding \$3.85 for priority mail for each segment. I will cover the cost of the paper and the toner. It is still a great deal.

Question? Call or email me. And thank you!

Louise Lacey
Growing Native, P. O. Box 489, Berkeley CA 94701
(831) 427-1818, LadyLFAB@earthlink.net

The Holly and the Ivy; (and the Mistletoe, and the Christmas Tree, and the Poinsettia)

HOLLY, IVY & GREENERY

In Northern Europe, when ghosts and demons could be heard howling in the winter winds, boughs of holly, believed to have magical powers since they remained green through the harsh winter, were often placed over the doors of homes to drive evil away. Greenery was also brought indoors to freshen the air and brighten the mood during the long, dreary winter.

MISTLETOE

Mistletoe was used by Druid priests 200 years B.C. in their winter celebrations. They revered the plant since it had no roots yet remained green during the cold months of winter. The ancient Celts believed mistletoe to have magical healing powers and used it as an antidote for poison, infertility, and to ward off evil spirits. The plant was also seen as a symbol of peace, and it is said that among Romans, enemies who met under mistletoe would lay down their weapons and embrace. Scandinavians associated the plant with Frigga, their goddess of love. Those who kissed under the mistletoe had the promise of happiness and good luck in the following year.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Late in the Middle Ages, Germans and Scandinavians placed evergreen trees inside their homes or just outside their doors to show their hope in the forthcoming spring. Our modern Christmas tree evolved from these early traditions. It is held that Protestant reformer Martin Luther first adorned trees with light. While coming home one December evening, the beauty of the stars shining through the branches of a fir inspired him to recreate the effect by placing candles on the branches of a small fir tree inside his home. The Christmas Tree was taken to England by King George I from his native Germany. The famous *Illustrated News* etching in 1848, with the Royal Family gathered around a Christmas tree in Windsor Castle, popularized the tree throughout Victorian England. The Christmas tree tradition most likely came to the United States with German

immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Christmas tree market was born in 1851 when Catskill farmer Mark Carr hauled two ox sleds of evergreens into New York City and sold them all. By 1900, one in five American families had a Christmas tree, and 20 years later, the custom was nearly universal.

Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), first collected in the western U.S. and sent it back to the Royal Horticultural Society by the Scottish botanist David Douglas, accounts for about 35 percent of the trees sold for Christmas.

POINSETTIA

The poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), was discovered in its native habitat, the moist subtropical mountains of southern Mexico, and brought to the U.S. by Joel R. Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico and an accomplished amateur botanist, in 1828. Mr. Poinsett grew it on his plantation in South Carolina. The poinsettia is in the Euphorbiaceae (spurge family). "Pulcherrima" means "most beautiful" or "very beautiful".

The poinsettia was cultivated by the Aztecs of Mexico. They were highly prized by Kings Netzahualcyotl and Montezuma but could not be grown in their capital, which is now Mexico City. Perhaps the first holiday use was during the 17th century. Because it had brilliant color and bloomed during the winter holiday season, Franciscan priests near Taxco, Mexico began to use the flowers in the Fiesta of Santa Pesebre, a nativity procession. Poinsett introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1828, and in 1900 Albert Ecke started to grow them on a commercial scale. The early poinsettia varieties were leggy, easily lost their colored bracts, and tended to fade quickly outside of the controlled environment of the greenhouse. That changed in 1963 when poinsettia breeding yielded the first commercial-quality cultivars that grew best as potted plants, had larger flowers, and were easier to dwarf (so they aren't top heavy). During the 1960s Paul Ecke Jr. creatively marketed the poinsettia through the media to ensure its popularity during the holiday season.

-- Bobbie Stephenson

RELATED ACTIVITIES

San Diego Natural History Museum

Museum activities featuring native plants or plant communities are listed here. The activity is FREE

unless a cost is listed. The Museum has many more activities than are listed here. For more information, visit their website at www.sdnhm.org or call 619-255-0203.

Through October 2005 *New regional exhibition—Earth, Wind & WILDFIRE!* Both fire and people are powerful forces that shape the ecosystem. Through objects, videos, photographs, and interactives, experience the beauty of southern California and examine the complex relationship between fire and people. Take a close look at ways to best manage wildlands based on sound science. Connect with the unique diversity of this region and find hope in the regenerative forces of nature, visible in this innovative exhibition on the one-year anniversary of the 2003 southern California fires.

Saturday, December 4; 1–2:30 p.m. *Guided nature hike—Tecolote Canyon Natural Park.* Observe seasonal changes of natural vegetation in the park on this easy walk. Visit the nature center to see informative exhibits about the canyon. (Directions: from I-5 exit east on SeaWorld Dr./Tecolote Rd. and follow it past the ball fields. Park in the Nature or Recreation Center lots.)

Sunday, December 5; 9–11 a.m. *Guided nature hike—Sycamore Canyon.* This 321-acre preserve is located in a valley framed by hills covered with native plant communities. (Directions: from I-15 exit east on Poway Rd. then after 5 miles, right on Garden Rd. Turn right on Sycamore Canyon Rd. for 2.3 miles until you reach the parking lot.)

Saturday, December 11; 1–2:30 p.m. *Guided nature hike—San Elijo Lagoon* This is an easy walk along the lagoon, except for a few steep steps down a small hill at the trailhead. See native plants and search for water birds at the marsh habitat and estuary. (Directions: from I-5 exit west on Lomas Santa Fe Dr. Turn right (north) onto Rios Ave. Continue until the end of the road and park. No facilities.)

Saturday, December 18; 1–2:30 p.m. *Guided nature hike—Lake Hodges.* Hike through a variety of terrains, past a waterfall, and learn about Native American uses for plants. (Directions: take I-15 to the West Bernardo Dr./Pomerado Rd. exit. Turn left onto West Bernardo Dr. Within a half mile, there is a turnoff into a dirt parking lot on the right side. Meet at the signed Bernardo Bay Natural Area.)

Tuesday, December 21; 6–7:30 a.m. *Guided nature hike—Cowles Mountain Winter Solstice.* Ascend Cowles Mountain through native coastal sage scrub in near-darkness to watch the sunrise on the first day of winter at a Kumeyaay solstice observatory, about

halfway up the mountain. (Directions: from I-8 exit north on College Ave. then turn right (east) onto Navajo Rd. Drive 2.5 miles to Golfcrest Dr. Turn left on Golfcrest Dr. and park. Meet near the northeast corner of Golfcrest Dr. and Navajo Rd. No facilities.)

San Diego 2005 Bird Festival

February 9-13, 2005. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, San Diego, CA 92109. The San Diego Bird Festival's goal is to get people outside in search of many different species of birds, and having fun along the way with great people. This is the ninth year for the San Diego Bird Festival.

San Diego County has beautiful foothills, oak woodlands, and desert dunes. In addition, our coastal location has several suburban lakes, riparian streams, and salt marshes. These varied plant communities attract many species of birds.

The Exhibit Fair returns again this year, with ample opportunity to test out those binoculars or scopes you have been eyeing, and to compare the different makes, models, and costs. Art, photos, and birding-related gear abound at the Fair on both Saturday and Sunday.

For more information visit www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org, contact info@sandiegonaturefestivals.org, or call (619) 516-0139. Nature Festivals of San Diego County, P.O. Box 120426 Chula Vista, CA 91912-3526

Newsletter submissions are due by the 10th of the month

Please send newsletter submissions to Jim Harrison at JFH4ECO@CS.com

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