

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

AUGUST 2005

www.cnpssd.org

(619) 685-7321

info@cnpssd.org

CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM

August: JUST A REMINDER;

There is no meeting/program in August.

September 23:

California Native Plants for the Garden

Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture, Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, will discuss suitable native plants species and cultivars for Southern California home gardens and landscapes. This talk and his beautiful slides will inspire you to plant more natives this fall.

THE PREZ SAYS

Start a Native Plant Garden at Your School! One of the best ways for students to really appreciate and connect with their natural environment is by experiencing California native plants, the most obvious form of life they see when hiking throughout San Diego County. Our chapter is excited to continue its School Garden Grant Program for a second year by offering financial support (up to \$500) and assistance to teachers interested in exploring our region's fascinating native plant communities.

If you are interested in starting a Native Plant Garden at your school or know someone who may want to start with the help of a grant, please submit your contact information and a one-page description of your school garden dreams, how you plan on incorporating native plants into those dreams, and what you would use the money to buy to Rick, Education Chair,

naturalist@californiachaparral.com. This also applies to last year's winners who would like to request more support for a garden already started. Deadline is September 19, 2005.

Grant recipients are required to write a one-page summary of their project including what the money was used for after one year of receiving the grant. This program is open to all schools (K-12) in San Diego and Imperial Counties, public or private.

FALL PLANT SALE

Our Fall Plant Sale (October 15) is surely the biggest and most complex of Chapter activities. Members are invited to help, and here are some of the ways:

<u>Plant Sale Committee:</u> Regular meetings are at 6:30 pm, just before the monthly chapter meetings. All members interested in helping with planning or implementing the plant sale are welcome.

Home Growers: We buy many plants from native plant nurseries but member-grown plants increases our profits, enabling us to protect more native plants and their habitats. Perhaps you have some plants on your property that you can re-pot up or propagate from cuttings. If you're a novice at plant propagation, pick up one of the many books on native plant propagation (see complete list on the chapter website).

<u>Seed and Bulb Collectors</u>: If you would like to help Helen Means and Gay Dorius collect, or if you have seeds you would like to donate, please get in touch with the seed team directly, Helen Means (760-729-2824) or Gay Dorius (858-270-4093 or gdorius@nethere.com).

<u>Sale Volunteers:</u> It's not too early to sign-up! We need volunteers on Friday to help transport plants and supplies. On Saturday, we need volunteers to help:

- 7 a.m. 9 a.m.: Set-up.
- 9 a.m.-noon: Assist customers ("native garden experts"), security, book and seed sales, write sales tickets, and restock sold-out plants (new this year).
- Noon-3 p.m.: Second shift, same jobs as above.
- 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.: Plant sale breakdown and clean-up

<u>Large Orders</u>: If you plan on buying at least \$500, you are welcome to place your order in advance. Advance orders must be at least \$500. Please contact the plant sale committee as soon as possible.

To get involved in any of the activities above, e-mail us at plantsale@cnpssd.org.

Carolyn

CHAPTER MATTERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

At the July 11 meeting of the chapter Board of Director's we voted to make the following expenditures:

- up to \$300 for an additional small display for Outreach events; this will give us the ability to have long-term displays or to be represented at two events on the same weekend.
- up to \$500 for a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and other equipment for vegetation surveys
- \$500 for purchase of the new "California Native Grasses" posters; these will ultimately bring in money for the chapter.
- \$100 for our annual membership dues to the Conservation Resources Network. CRN is a consortium of land trusts and other non-profits who are working to preserve habitat throughout the County.

We also discussed our practice of taking speakers to dinner before their presentations at our monthly meetings and decided to offer the alternative of a gift certificate for our book table.

Linda Pardy, Secretary

TECOLOTE NATURE CENTER

Our chapter uses the Tecolote Nature Center on a monthly basis for our board meetings. In exchange for us using the building, they have asked for some volunteer assistance and help leading nature walks. Have fun, talk about native plants, and help pay the rent! If you're interested contact Marla Gilmore, the nature center's director at mgilmore@sandiego.gov or (858)581-9959.

Carolyn Martus

CALENDAR

August 10 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tecolote Nature Center. Take Sea World Drive/Tecolote exit from I-5. Proceed east until the road ends at the Tecolote Nature Center. Board Members, please call Carolyn Martus if you are unable to attend.

There is no Chapter meeting in August

September 13 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

September 23 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING

PROGRAM: California Native Plants for the Garden presented by Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture, Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden

FAMILY TIE

It was gratifying to get so many orders for our chapter's "Borderfields Botanical Treasures" tee shirts in response to the announcement in last month's newsletter, but one order in particular stood out. Edalee Orcutt Harwell of Ramona bought eight tee shirts as Christmas presents for her family.

The reason for this great purchase was not simply the shirt's unique and beautiful design or its high quality pre-shrunk cotton. As Ms. Harwell pointed out in a brief note with her order, she is a descendant of the namesake of Orcutt's Dudleya, one of the four plants depicted on the tee shirt because its only U.S. population would be destroyed by the triple border fence.

Charles Russell Orcutt came to San Diego in 1879 and his father opened a nursery near the ruins of the San Diego Mission. Charles first botanized with his father near Ensenada and became an outstanding botanist in his own right, collecting throughout southern California, and Baja California, as well as the mainland of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. If that weren't enough, he also found the first important deposit of tourmaline in San Diego County, and discovered 19 new species of sea shell.

A genus of grass is named after him, and Orcutt provides the specific epithet for 21 taxa in *The Jepson Manual* alone. Besides *Orcuttia californica*, species of *Brodiaea*, *Chorizanthe, Cordylanthus, Dudelya, Hazardia, Linanthus*, and *Xylorhiza* all occur in San Diego County and are, unfortunately, on CNPS List B or 2, meaning they are somewhat threatened.

If you'd like to know more about Charles Orcutt, check out: http://www.sdnhm.org/history/orcutt/ and http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/94winter/orcutt.htm#Bullard.

If your name is Brand, Shaw, of *Ornithostapylos*, why not follow Edalee's example and order now for Christmas? Or if you just would like more people to know about the threat to these species and want to help us work to protect them, send \$15 per shirt and \$5 total for shipping and handling to me at 4430 Cleveland Ave #18, San Diego 92116. Make the check out to "CNPS-San Diego".

Dave Flietner



CHAPTER MATTERS

BAYSIDE NATIVE PLANT UPDATE

Situated on a world-class site at Hospitality Point near Mission Bay, a small native plant area affords a large opportunity to increase public appreciation of our native flora and the work of our Chapter. Visitors to the adjacent Mission Bay Park Headquarters can now get a glimpse of what Ocean Beach and Mission Bay once looked like in the springtime beauty of a beach bloom.

Two handsome sandblasted/raised letter "Native Plant Area," signs now designate the area, thanks to a grant from our Chapter. The Parks and Recreation Foundation and Friends of Famosa Slough have also contributed funds towards a kiosk and interpretive signs.

Plentiful rainfall has bolstered the population of the rare beach lotus (*Lotus nuttallianus*) and its sand dune associates, but also brought a raft of weeds. Sparsely attended monthly work parties eliminated some of them. In March, 18 university students joined in for a mass uprooting. In April, a licensed volunteer spent over 20 hours spraying herbicide on garland chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*) and other invasives in addition to our manual weeding efforts.

The first Sunday of every month we will continue to restore this beautiful site. Join us Hospitality Point, in Mission Bay Park, on August 6, from 9 to 11 a.m. as we prepare the site for winter planting. For more information, please contact me at: (858) 679-5340 or **nature@utm.net**

Gary Suttle

PCT POPHIKE

David Nova, a CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge, is hiking the entire Pacific Crest Trail to raise an awareness of population growth and its impact on our natural resources. As of July 7 he had reached Independence after a gruelling desert section.

Some CNPS members might be interested in supporting this effort, seeing the link between population growth in California and native plant conservation. Local chapter members along the PCT might get media coverage or at least write letters to local papers as David Nova makes his way northward.

The link is: http://www.planned.org/site/ PageServer?pagename=pophike_whatispophike

Kay Stewart

CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL

The summer CNPS Chapter Council meeting took place the weekend of June 11th at the Sierra Friends Center outside of Grass Valley. This was one of two meetings that will celebrate CNPS' 40th Anniversary, with many members from nearby chapters coming for all or part of the weekend. There were a variety of special activities to make it a good experience for these members: displays showing the varied activities of the chapters in the northern half of the state; a horticulture "gab session" Friday night; a break-out session on Saturday; a fantastic Saturday evening of readings by poet Gary Snyder and ecologist Michael Barbour; and a Sunday morning field trip to the misnamed "Hell's Half-acre", a much larger site ablaze with heavenly wildflowers.

The CC meeting itself was decidedly more mundane, with discussion on matters such as bylaws, balloting procedures, the state budget, upcoming chapter elections, revisions to the Mission and Vision statements, and a new off-road vehicle sign policy. One crisis situation that emerged during these discussions is that no one is running to replace Carol Witham as President of the State CNPS Board of Directors.

The focus of the afternoon was the CNPS Vegetation Program. Julie Evens explained that the program's main activities are: holding public workshops (such as July's event at Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve), sampling rare plant communities, vegetation mapping, and the state classification of vegetation. Todd Keeler-Wolf discussed revisions to the *Manual of California Vegetation* and spot-lighted CNPS' comprehensive vegetation mapping in Western Riverside County. Josie Crawford discussed CNPS' multi-year, grantfunded vegetation mapping project in the Sierra foothills, where this knowledge may help guide the rapid development in the region.

The second anniversary celebration will be held in San Clemente over the weekend of September 10, with a focus on conservation issues. The Orange County chapter is working to make this meeting as enjoyable, fun, and interesting as the June meeting, and all members are encouraged to attend. Besides the special events associated with the meeting, this is a great opportunity to meet the characters from around the state that form the core of our organization.

Members in North County could provide a valuable service by offering a place to stay for a couple of nights – all the surrounding campgrounds in Orange County are booked that weekend, and many of these dedicated volunteers would appreciate avoiding San Clemente hotel costs. If you are interested in attending or would like to open your home, please contact me.

Dave Flietner

PLANTS MATTER

CAPE IVY BIO CONTROL

Our chapter, along with other CNPS chapters and Cal-IPC, has provided and continues to provide financial support for research into biological control of Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*), formerly known as German ivy (*Senecio mikanoides*). This vine native to South Africa has recently become one of the most pervasive and alarming non-native plants to invade the coastal California.

The Cape Ivy Biocontrol Project began in 1998, collecting and evaluating insects that feed on Cape ivy in its native habitat. During the first two years over 230 species of plant-injuring insects were collected from Cape ivy, with six of the most promising selected for further research. By mid-2000, three of these six insects had been dropped from further consideration, and the focus has been to gain information on the biology and life history of the remaining three insects. The caterpillars of the *Diota rostrata* moth, which sometimes spectacularly defoliate Cape ivy patches, were found to have several other hosts, and therefore would not be safe for release.

Here is a summary of last year's efforts, prepared by Dr. Joe Balciunas, the project coordinator:

We made solid progress during 2004 towards our goal of completing the host range testing of our two most promising potential biological control agents for Cape ivy. By year's end we had strong colonies of both the gall fly, *Parafreutreta regalis*, and the stem-boring moth, *Digitivalva delaireae*. By the end of 2004, we had tested more than 80 species of plants, and neither of our candidate agents was able to complete development on anything other than their Cape ivy host.

The single dark cloud has been the continuing downturn in external funds to support our Cape ivy research, especially that conducted by our cooperators in Pretoria, South Africa. While we have managed to maintain a small research effort there, our cooperators are no longer assisting us in our host range evaluations.

By mid-2005, we hope to have completed our host-specificity testing. Then, we will collate our results, and prepare a formal 'petition' seeking permission to release both of these agents in the field. Obtaining permission to release an herbivorous agent will require a complex and lengthy approval process.

submitted by Cindy Burrascano



NATIVE PLANT FLAMMABILITY

With fire season upon us once again, there is heightened interest in wildland fires and pressure to remove native vegetation. Although there is very little quantitative research on the subject, I've gained some insights into the fuel characteristics of various chaparral shrubs by asking wildland firefighters how the plants handle fire. Here's a list of common chaparral shrubs, from most to least flammable:

Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*). As expected, is highly flammable due to its fine leaf size and its often dead branches that provide an ideal mixture of oxygen and fuel.

Manzanita (*Arcostaphylos* spp.) and scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia* complex). In wildlands these shrubs burn extremely hot and are major sources of fire brands (embers) that are ignition sources for distant structures. If trimmed properly and with most leaf litter removed, they can be a low-risk choice for landscaping within the 100-foot fuel modification zone.

Ceanothus spp. and San Diego mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus minituflorus). The relatively high moisture content and thick leaves of healthy plants makes them capable of reducing the burn rate, and these plants are even considered to be "fire stops" by some firefighters. Wildland firefighters often take advantage of the time for the moisture to be removed before the plants ignite to gain some maneuvering room.

Red shanks (*Adenostoma sparsifolia*). Mature stands commonly have 100% canopy cover and therefore lack low-hanging branches and dead wood. This creates a chaparral type with dramatically different fire behavior than the crown-fire regime found in most chaparral, where all the vegetation burns. Red shanks chaparral, surprisingly, can exhibit a kind of surface-fire regime, where only the fuels on the ground burn and much of the upper canopy remains intact due to the lack of ladder fuels.

Rick Halsey

LOCAL NATIVE GARDEN CLUBS

Native plant Garden Clubs are invited to add their meeting schedule to this list of clubs in the San Diego region.

Pruning During the Dormant Season.

Buena Vista Native Plant Club (monthly meeting). Sun., Aug 21st, 2:00 p.m.

2202 South Coast Highway, Oceanside. To learn more about BVNPS click: http://www.bvaudubon.org

your club here, in next issue.

RELATED MATTERS; FIELD TRIPS, CLEANUPS, and more

NEW "GREEN" BOND ISSUES

Senate Bill 153. The California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 has passed the California Senate and is now working its way through the State Assembly. This bill would place a \$3.6 billion bond measure on the 2006 ballot. The funds would be divided into three broad categories: \$1.7 billion for neighborhood, community and regional parks and recreation areas, \$1.3 billion for state parks and wildlife protection and \$0.6 billion for water quality and coastal protection.

The \$1.7 billion for parks would include \$500 million for neighborhood, community, and regional parks (to be allocated proportional to county population), \$500 million for urban parks and recreation, and \$300 to State Conservancies, including \$10 million to the San Diego River Conservancy.

The \$1.3 billion for state parks and wildlife protection would include \$500 million to the state park system, and \$100 million for preservation of agricultural and grazing lands and oak woodlands. Most of the remaining \$800 million would go to the Wildlife Conservation Board: \$300 million for endangered species habitat, wildlife corridors, and significant natural habitats; \$250 million for forest conservation (including production and reserve forests); and \$150 million to implement or establish Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). The NCCP grants would be particularly helpful in San Diego County, with one established NCCP and three in various stages of planning.

Water Quality funding would be divided between \$200 million to the State Coastal Conservancy for grants and administrative costs, \$200 million for water pollution prevention, \$100 million to the Ocean Protection Trust Fund, and \$75 million for California River Parkways.

Dave Flietner, w/ thanks to Mike Kelley

ADVERTISING HERE

For some time, the Board has been considering the potential of using advertising in our newsletter as a means of offsetting some of the costs of printing and mailing. As a first step we have generated a rate card for ads and provided copies to several board members who may know of a possible advertiser.

As a second step, our readers are invited to help contact possible advertisers. If you know a possible advertiser, let me know and I will send you a PDF copy of our rate card. You can contact me at 858 273-5242, or by e-mail at jfh4cnpsd@cs.com.

Jim Harrison, co-editor

POSITION OPENINGS

CAMP PENDLETON

Camp Pendleton has a position opening for a Natural Resource Specialist at the GS 9 to 11 levels. The position is 20% field work, and would deal with resolving conflicts between the base's training mission and impacts upon natural resources. A Bachelor's degree in biology or related to natural resources, working knowledge of related disciplins, and communication ability are required. Familiarity with the Marine Corps is a plus, and familiarity with environmental laws, and with ecological monitoring and management is required.

For more information contact Deborah Bieber, Land Management Branch Head (760) 725-9728 or deborah.bieber@usmc.mil.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Orange County Water District is recruiting for a Habitat Restoration Manager to manage wetland restoration and endangered species recovery in the Prado Basin. Must possess a bachelor's degree in Engineering, Environmental Sciences, or other technical field, five years of environmental restoration experience, and ability to communicate with landowners, contractors and agency personnel and write reports; work weekends as needed and hike in uneven terrain for long distances. Salary ranges between \$57,000 to \$82,000. Go to www.ocwd.com to download an application.

WANTED: a few good photos and drawings

Readers are invited to send me a few graphics files which I will use to develop an end-to-end process (and get some hands-on drill) for incorporating some graphics into our newsletter. If you can, send as PDF, JPG, or MS-PUB files. Send to: jfh4cnpsd@cs.com.

FALL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS

tter June 2005

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Nature Guides (Education)

Other areas of interest:

San Diego Chapter

Plant sale

619.685.7321 ■ www.cnpssd.org

Membership Application

Memberships support education, research, conservation, school gardens and other activities related to understanding and preserving California's native flora. Members receive local chapter newsletters describing meeting speakers/presentations, field trips and other activities that provide opportunities to meet people who share your interest in native plants. In addition, members receive subscriptions to Fremontia, a quarterly journal for laypeople, and the Bulletin, a quarterly statewide newsletter, as well as early admission to our annual plant sale. Dues amounts in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS are considered tax deductible by the IRS.

Please complete this form, make check payable to "CNPS" and mail to:

California Native Plant Society 2707 K Street, Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95816 Student/Retired/Limited Income \$20 Plant Lover \$100 Individual or Library \$35 Patron \$250 Family or Group \$45 Benefactor \$500 Supporting \$75 Mariposa Lily \$1,000 This is a new Membership ___ Renewal Address: City/State/Zip: Phone #: e-mail address This is a gift from: Address: City/State/Zip Volunteer Opportunities CNPS depends on volunteers for the success of its programs and activities. If you are free to volunteer, please check the areas of interest to you. A CNPS member will contact you shortly. Outreach, public displays Plant surveys Membership Horticulture Fundraising, grant writing Letter writing Website Conservation Planning Book sales

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

RELATED MATTERS; FIELD TRIPS, CLEANUPS, and more

CHAPTER HISTORY

Does anyone have input for the following concerning Chapter History? I would especially love to hear the opinions of Bill Knerr and Andrew Wilson if you are out there in this format.

At the June 2005 Chapter Council meeting in Nevada City, the 40th Anniversary Committee asked the delegates to consider highlights of their chapter accomplishments in conservation over the last four decades of CNPS. Although not all the chapters are 40 years old, some early conservation issues may have inspired the formation of some, and we want to hear early stories as well.

We are asking you to embark on a historical treasure hunt, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of CNPS by sharing the jewels of your chapter conservation work.

This month, please review the history of native plant conservation activities in your chapter and come up with eight events or issues, two per decade, that reflect important achievements. When put together, these conservation highlights will give the Council a visual description of 40 years of CNPS conservation work, to be presented at the September 9-10 Chapter Council/Conservation meeting in San Clemente.

You can be brief; just a short description of the issue or the action that was taken. You may also provide a short paragraph describing the issue that can be referenced from the timeline, if needed. A photo or newspaper article would also be ok; you can be creative.

Cindy Burrascano

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN

A 371-unit development on Santee's Rattlesnake Mountain is being challenged in court by the Center for Biological Diversity and Preserve Wild Santee. They claim the City Council's recent approval of the project violates the City's hillside zoning and conservation elements and doesn't meet CEQA standards for biological mitigation, traffic, consideration of feasible alternatives, response to comments, and evidence for making a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

The 150-acre development would destroy 130 acres of coastal sage scrub occupied by several pairs of gnatcatchers, would cut and fill 2 million cubic yards of earth, and could undermine adoption of Santee's draft Subarea Plan of the County's MSCP.

For more information on Rattlesnake Mountain click: http://members.cox.net/savefanita/savefanita.htmlcontact.

SD COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) has completed installation of an eight-acre wetlands creation project at the northeast end of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve in Encinitas. The \$1 million project provides mitigation for water pipelines, pumping stations, and other infrastructure built in wetlands throughout the County as part of SDCWA's Emergency Storage Project.

The project included removing nonnative plants from upland agricultural and range land, creating channels, ponds, and hummocks, and seeding the site with native plants to create *Isocoma* scrub, southern willow scrub, and marsh. Temporary irrigation is being used during the plant establishment phase.

Restoration projects like this typically require five years of maintenance and monitoring to be considered completed. If you live in the area, it could be fun to watch the site progress. If you see exotics becoming established, for example, calling John Liarakos at (858) 522-6703 should prompt a swift response.

(from SDCWA press release)

CAL-IPC SYMPOSIUM 2005

California Invasive Plant Council's 14th Annual Symposium will be held October 6 – 8 at Chico State University. This annual gathering of wildland weed workers will focus on the theme of "Prevention Reinvention: Protocols, Information, and Partnerships to Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants".

Sessions will address protocols and practices for limiting weed movement, approaches to stopping exotic spread, and early detection and rapid response. Registration materials and program details will be available this summer at www.cal-ipc.org. Registration fees will be approximately \$200. A limited number of reduced-rate scholarships will be available.

Copy submissions are due by 10th of the month Please send newsletter submissions to both:

Jim Harrison at: jfh4cnpsd@cs.com

and

Dave Flietner at: flietnerd@cox.net

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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

BOARD OFFICERS

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CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AUGUST 2005

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NOTE: For mailing label and membership issues contact John Hacklander at jhacklan@qualcomm.com

(ref 4/30/05 roster)