

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

MARCH 2006

www.cnpssd.org

(619) 685-7321

info@cnpssd.org

THE PREZ SEZ

As I write this in February for the March newsletter, I'm hoping it has rained. If it hasn't rained, look on the bright side, the invasion of *Brassica tournefortii* (Saharan Mustard) may be slowed down a bit. January was a remarkable month and January 31st will go down in native plant history as it marks the first annual "Invasive Plant Workshop" which was co-hosted by our CNPS chapter and the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SD-ASLA). You can view the "San Diego County Invasive Plant Guide" at www.sandiego-asla.org, click on invasive plants and then 'matrix.' The matrix file is a pdf document and be sure to 'click' on each individual species name as it opens up to detailed data sheet about each plant, why it is invasive and where it can be found. This "Guide" is a remarkable resource for any landscape designer, nurseryman, gardener or environmentalist as it guides you to making plant selections that won't harm our native plant habitats. Please visit and review the "San Diego County Invasive Plant Guide" at the website mentioned previously and provide feedback. It is a living document and we plan on updating it annually. I have to thank the board of the local SD-ASLA chapter for their efforts and support of this project. Also I want to mention the following Landscape Architect firms for their help in providing meeting space and printing for this effort: Integration Design Studios (Carlsbad), Schmidt Design Group (Banker's Hill) and Nowell & Associates (Hillcrest). Thanks also to the many volunteers who have worked on this project over the past two and a half years.

Carolyn

APRIL PROGRAM

Edith B. Allen, Ph. D. Professor and Natural Resources Extension Specialist, University of Calif, Riverside

Habitat loss caused by non-native invasive species which thrive on elevated levels of soil nitrogen (due to vehicle emissions, and ammonium from dairies and farmed lands) is a major restoration problem in California. Professor Allen will discuss the impact of elevated nitrogen levels on the biodiversity of native plants and on soil microbes and will discuss ways to restore such lands.

MARCH MEETING/PROGRAM

CNPS San Diego Program Tuesday March 21, 2006 – 7 PM Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104

Native Grasses for Landscaping, Restoration, and Water Quality by John DiGregoria, Range Manager, Point Reyes National Seashore, National Park Service

John will begin by presenting the ecophysiology of grasses, followed by how to effectively use native grasses in landscaping, restoration, and water quality management. The presentation will discuss how grasses and other graminoids function in plant communities and how to use them to reduce water use at home and in the natural environment.

John is an Ecologist with the National Park Service; he has an extensive background as a restoration ecologist working with a variety of plant communities from the northwest to the southwest. As a board member of the California Native Grass Association, John has instructed CNGA workshops and conferences. John is currently the president-elect for CNGA and will be co-teaching the Grass Identification workshop at Santa Rosa Plateau in April, 2006. John has a B.S in Terrestrial Ecology from Huxley College of Environmental Studies in Bellingham, Washington and a Masters of Environmental Science from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

CHAPTER CALENDER

March 8 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

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

Mar 21 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM Tuesday, Meeting at 7 p.m, Program at 7:30 p.m., Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Apr 12 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING Apr 18 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM

CHAPTER BOARD MINUTES

At our February meeting, the chapter Board of Directors voted to allocate funds for several issues:

- \$3750 toward a Border Fence lawsuit;
- \$100 for Conservation Resources Net subscription
- \$1000 for ongoing research on biological control of cape ivy (Delairea odorata);
- up to \$500 per calendar year for members who wish to attend State Chapter Council meetings.

Carrie Schneider

CHAPTER 06 BUDGET

CNPS-SD	Amount
Budget for 2006	(in dollars)
Conservation	\$300
Public Outreach	\$500
Chapter Council delegate	\$200
President	\$300
Vice President	\$300
Education	-
Horticulture	\$100
Librarian	0
Publicity	-
Hospitality	\$200
Membership	\$100
Programs	\$800
Field Trips	\$100
Plant Sale	\$500
Vegetation	\$300
Donations	-
Legislation	\$400
Newsletter	\$6,500
Total Budget for 2006	\$10,600



CROSS COUNTY POWERLINE

SDG&E is fine-tuning a proposal to build a major powerline across San Diego County. The conceptual plans show a 500-kilovolt powerline on 150-foot towers, starting in Imperial County and running north through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and across the mountains to inland North County. Two branches, each of which could carry 230 kilovolts on slightly smaller towers, would then angle toward central and northern coastal San Diego. The southerly branch is conceptually shown following the San Dieguito River Park route and on out Peñasquitos Preserve.

The visual blight, and increased fire risk, that such huge powerlines would cause to the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the River Park, and Penasquitos Preserve is very disturbing. Environmental damage would also be caused by construction and maintenance of the lines; at the time this story was submitted (Jan. 28) the study corridors ranged from two to ten miles wide. Risk to sensitive species cannot be assessed until more precise proposals are developed.

SDG&E says the line, dubbed the Sunrise Powerlink, would supply power for 650,000 customers. The power would be generated by a combination of sources, including a future natural gas plant in Mexico and solar and wind arrays.

Alternative power sources are becoming available, however. Local site-specific energy sources such as roof-top photovoltaic could eliminate or greatly reduce the need for the Powerlink. For instance, the Million Solar Rooftops Initiative will begin funding photovoltaic dispersed energy development this year.

Efficiency and conservation also will continue to reduce waste, and by 2010, when the Powerlink is proposed to be built, it could be far larger than is required.

Please contact SDG&E to get the most current information. Also, I will make every effort to post information on the CNPS List Post service, so be sure to sign up for the List Serve. (see LIST SERVE item in this newsletter).

Kay Stewart

GRAPHICS DESIGNER NEEDED

I've procured an A-frame sidewalk sign to put out for meetings and plant sales to let folks know where we are. Now all we need to do is design an inset for it. The space is 23 3/4" wide by 36" tall, and we need copies for both sides of the sign.

We' need someone with design skills to develop a design with the CNPS logo and our chapter name. If you can help us, please contact me so I can shower you with appreciation! Lisa Markovchick-Nicholls, Hospitality Chair

619 549-6592 or hospitality@cnpssd.org

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR VOLUNTEER RESTORATION PROJECTS #3 USING CONTAINER PLANTS

Container plants are great where the native seed bank has been diminished (due to grading, etc.), to get coverage faster than by seeding, or in weedy areas, where seedlings might be out-competed.

Container plants should be from seed collected in the wild or from plants grown from wild-collected seed. Never use "horticultural varieties" (*e.g. Ceanothus* "Dark Star"), which are selected from a small number of plants with a particular characteristic that meets a landscaping need. This reduces the genetic variability that may provide a better chance of some plants surviving without care in a natural environment. In large quantities, horticultural varieties may swamp the native gene pool reducing the fitness of the wild population.

How to use container plants:

- Assess your site: Figure out what should be growing on the site by visiting similar natural lands in your area, or by consulting
 other CNPS members.
- Obtain the plants: Collect seed from nearby areas and grow your own or order from commercial sources (see www.cnpssd.org / horticulture for a list of native plant nurseries).
- <u>Identify a water source</u>: Even native container plants *must* be watered when they are planted and several times afterwards. Nearby homeowners may be willing to let you use a tap, especially after you explain the purpose. Or you may fill and carry one-gallon jugs, or transport water containers to the site in a truck or ATV.
- Prepare the hole: use a 'duckbill" shovel or pickax to dig the hole, and arrange the excavated soil into a circular basin that will hold water.
- Water the hole: fill the hole and let it soak in. Do this again as many times as you can (to create a "water account" that will help the plant grow deep roots).
- Remove the plant: Be as gently as possible. Contrary to advice for typical landscape plants, don't rip into the root ball of natives.
- <u>Plant</u>: Add soil back until it's at the same level on the stem as the original level in the container. Tamp the soil around the plant with your hand or foot to eliminate air spaces around the roots. Add more water to further settle the soil around the root.
- Water some more: until you run out of time or water. Then do a rain dance a good soaking rain will save you the need to return to the site in 2-3 weeks and water the plants again.

At this point, you will appreciate your well-designed basins. If you plant in the rainy season (November – February when there's no drought!) and get a couple of good soaking rains, you won't have to water through the summer. Otherwise, you'll need to keep watering through the summer to help your plants survive.

Carrie Schneider

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Please complete this form, make out a check payable to "CNPS", and mail to: **California Native Plant Society** 2707 K Street, Ste 1 Sacramento, CA 95816 Student/Retired/Limited Income \$25 Plant Lover \$100 Individual or Library \$45 Patron \$300 Family or Group \$75 Benefactor \$600 International \$75 Mariposa Lily \$1,500 Name(s): Address: City/State/Zip: Phone #: e-mail address

San Diego Chapter: rev 2/06

AVEDA'S EARTH MONTH

For the 2nd year, CNPS and Aveda will educate thousands of Californians about native plants and endangered species during April. Last year the partnership brought \$30,000 to CNPS statewide. Your assistance will help us reach that goal again, or surpass it!

Aveda is an international personal care company selling products in hair salons, beauty spas, and Aveda stores. Their mission includes caring for the world we live in, for example helping indigenous people in South Africa grow native plants for use in their products.

During Aveda's Earth Month Campaign their clients are informed about an issue and asked for donations. Endangered species are again this year's focus, and CNPS is the southern California partner, providing information, materials, and activities to help local salons educate their clients. Halli Mason (CNPS –LA) is leading the CNPS effort, and now we need team members.

- 1. Chapter Liaison: Promote the campaign in your chapter's newsletter, website and meetings. Consider holding a chapter event for local donors and salons.
- 2. Speakers: Present materials to salon staff. Content will be supplied to you, and your first visit can be shared with an experienced team member. Inspiring salon staff is vital because they are the primary contact with client donors.
- 3. Special Events: Create special events to educate and enthuse salon staff and donors. Suggest activities to salon staff for them and their donors, such as a wildflower walk.

Last year every participating chapter received one to a few hundred dollars. Recognition for participation is planned for this year as well. *Time is of the essence. We need your help!* Contact Halli Mason (hmason@sbcglobal.net) to volunter.

VEGETATION SURVEYS FOR 2006

The CNPS Vegetation Committee will go out to various sites on the **last Saturday of each month** through June, and then on the **last Saturday of every other month** through October. In May; the survey will be on the 3rd Saturday.

Our efforts will assist the County of San Diego in accurately monitoring the effectiveness of conservation efforts on MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Plan) preserves, as well as contribute scientific data for the Manual of California Vegetation currently being revised by CNPS.

Anyone who would like to help survey is welcome to attend; the only prerequisites are an interest in preserving native habitat, attention to detail, and a patient attitude. To learn the basics, anyone who has not attended a training session can work with someone who has.

For more info, contact survey coordordinator .at lexineks@yahoo.com, or 619-729-5715 after 5pm weekdays.

Lexine

18 SCHOOL GARDENING GRANTS

From Village Garden Club of La Jolla!

The year 2005 proved to be a wonderful year for the Schoolyard Gardening Grant Program sponsored by the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. Over 30 San Diego County elementary schools applied for grants this past November. And due to the generous support of over 50% of their 380 members, eighteen elementary schools were awarded grants totaling \$4900. The following elementary schools received grants:

Alice Birney - University Heights Bay Park – Clairemont Hills The Child's Primary - Clairemont Christa McAuliffe - Oceanside Grant – Mission Hills Grant Canyon Project - Mission Hills Hanson – Ramona The Language Academy - College Area Monterey Heights - Lemon Grove Mt. Woodson – Ramona Pacific Beach – Pacific Beach Paul Ecke – Encinitas Rolando - La Mesa Sycamore Ridge – Del Mar Torrey Hills - Carmel Valley Torrey Pines – La Jolla Vista Square – Chula Vista Valley Vista - Chula Vista

Thanks go out to the many San Diego organizations that helped spread the word about the grant program this year. Due to this partnership, the club received applications from elementary schools from all parts of the County.

Please help to continue to spread the word by telling anyone interested in promoting outdoor education to look up next year's application at the club's website at www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com or contact Ruth Barnett at the email address VGCLJSchoolyardgarden@yahoo.com.

DOCENTS NEEDED

The Earth Discovery Institute (EDI) is seeking volunteer docents to guide students in environmental education at Crestridge Ecological Reserve, a 3,000-acre ecological reserve in the foothills east of El Cajon. In the past two years 3,000 students from 4th-12th grade have visited the Reserve for outdoor, hands-on activities such as native plant restoration and sustainable building construction. An ongoing time commitment of four hours per week is required. Training will be provided. Contact Cathy Chadwick at 619-749-5767 or chadgroup@aol.com.



CANYON FRIENDS AT WORK

Early February saw three urban "Friends" groups continuing their efforts to bring native plants back into the canyons that make San Diego such a wonderful place. All the groups were provided with free plants through the generous donations of RECON Native Plants and nursery manager Ryan West. Here's a recap from the tireless leaders of these groups:

Terry Weiner, Friends of University Heights Point: On February 4th, 14 volunteers arrived at the Point and spent two hours planting about 100 natives in an area that had been covered with six truck loads of sand a year ago -- a fake beach that was a set for a short-lived TV show. Park Rangers Sue Pelley and Jason Allen provided guidance (about fire-safe planting) and support (tools and drinking water). On Friday the RECON crew planted seedlings on the re-contoured, delivered the plants, watered the site, and dug most of the holes!

On Saturday, the Reeves' generously let us run their hose to our holes. Kimberly Hale and four other hard-working volunteers from the San Diego Film Commission came out and planted with us. Kimberly is going to help us with a sign for the site. We planted a mixture of coastal sage and other natives appropriate to the mesa, including three native grasses. Now we need to keep it up, with weeding parties the first Saturday of each month. Working together in a group generates a lot of energy and fun and new connections. To get involved: terryweiner@sbcglobal.net

Tersia d'Elgin, Friends of Thirty-Second Street Canyon: An area that had looked like a big vacant lot last year, with almost no native plants is visibly, and audibly, changed. On the canyon floor, mulefat and willow planted last year are already seven feet high. The upland plants are smaller, but about 80% survived. And the bees are buzzing in the buckwheat!

On Saturday, February 11th, 36 people, including Ranger Sue Pelley, students from High Tech High, University of San Diego and UCSD, put another 75 plants in the ground. We worked carefully, compensating for the drought with careful pre- and post-planting watering and lots of mulch. We still have a few more natives waiting to get in the ground, and of course, we've got to keep these wet and happy through the summer. To get involved: Tershia@aol.com.

Alberto Gobbi, Friends of Buchanan Canyon: Eric Bowlby brought a group of 12 SDSU students to help our group of seven volunteers plant one hundred natives. Last year, we planted a few laurel sumac in three-feet deep *Arundo* mulch and had about half survive and thrive, so we tried it again this year, planted the sumac in the spots where the *Arundo* was the deepest and lemonade berry where it the mulch was only a foot deep. We planted the slow-growing holly-leaf cherry and spiny red berry in more open spots along the sides of the canyon. Running hoses down from one of our group member's yard was a great help in our efforts.

Along the (dry) stream channel, we planted rushes, spikerush and taragon, hoping that these natives will replace the African nutsedge and Mexican fan palms that have invaded the streamside after we got rid of the *Arundo*. It was great to see the willows we planted last year now 15 feet tall, and the chaparral shrubs small but green. We still have a few more plants to get in the ground, and need to keep on watering, unlike last year when the rains did the work for us. We are also hoping to use more willow cutting to combat the severe down-cutting of the stream channel. We meeting the third Sunday of each month. To get involved: AGobbi@AnadysPharma.com.

From now on we will have a regular event at 9:00 on the third Sunday of every month so that it will be easier for everybody to plan ahead.

COPLEY YMCA PLANTING

Copley Y/San Diego CNPS Vegetation Education Program: The San Diego Chapter has endorsed a Native Plants for Urban Spaces program at the Copley YMCA. It will be in their enormous parking lot at 3910 Landis St. (two blocks south of University Street and just west of the I-805 freeway).

This will be a major effort at providing the community, and particularly youth and school groups, information on native plants and their ease of maintenance, hardiness, disease resistance, variety and beauty. We will be stressing education on native plants, their diversity, and the abundance of material we have to work with here in San Diego County. At least eight different areas have been designated for development with specific plant Alliances.

This will involve an area of approximate 6,000 sq. ft. in total. Community organizations and businesses will sponsor areas and we will have a big Earth Day event to bring in supporting agencies and groups in "A Day of Fun with the Natives". There will be a lot of logistics, material procurement, and site work for this undertaking.

Your ideas and help are encouraged. For more information or to volunteer call: Alan Bennett, alanbennett@hotmail.com, (619) 955-3275 cell, (619) 358-9794 home.

LOOKING AHEAD

Earth Fair 06 is scheduled for April 23. Mark your calendar and watch for more info to come later on.



Spring Native Plant Sale

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Saturday March 11, 2006 9 AM – 4 PM

At the beautiful **Tree of Life Nursery**, just north of San Diego

33201 Ortega Highway,

7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Highway (Highway 74).

Enter at the green gate on the north side of the highway.

For more information, contact Tree of Life Nursery

www.treeoflifenursery.com, or 949-728-0685

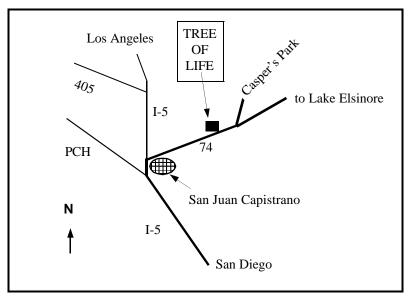
Books, posters, seeds and free advice will also be available.

CNPS members will be available to help you choose plants and give free native plant gardening advice.

Some of the proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

info@cnpssd.org, www.cnpssd.org

619-685-7321 (voice mail)



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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Friday, March 3/4 10:30am-12pm
California-Friendly Plants for Your Landscape at the
Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W,
El Cajon, CA 92019 Speaker: Carolyn Kinnon,
Horticulturalist and Licensed Pest Control Advisor
Did you know there is a native plant for every garden setting?
Learn how to appropriately select natives and other water-wise
plants for the garden. Also learn how reduce use of pesticides.
Sponsored by Solana Center. for Environmental Innovation.
To register, call 760-436-7986 x 211.

Tuesday, March 7; 7–9 pm. Bioprospecting, Bioethics, and Biodiversity. Eric Mathur, Diversa Corporation discusses how biotechnology companies use biodiversity and scientific discoveries to generate products. \$8. San Diego Nat. History Museum, Balboa Park. Class Code: P6-350-02. Register: www.sdnhm.org/education/brochure/lectures

Wednesday March 15; 8am - 3pm. Strategies for Greening our Urban Environment. This symposium will assist communities, planners and developers understand better how the natural environment affects the quality of life in our built environment. McMillin Event Center, Naval Training Center, Point Loma (www.ntcpromenade.org). Tickets: \$45 in advance / \$50 at the door.

Email: sdinfo@livablesandiego.org Call: George Driver 619.231.9960

Saturday, March 18. 9am-3pm. Water Conservation Garden Plant Sale. Local growers specializing in drought-tolerant plants will be present. Also: landscape contest information, mini-lectures on water-wise plants, and a workshop on beneficial garden insects, garden tours, home water conservation advice, and gardening tips. Activities for kids, live entertainment and refreshments. Free. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. www.thegarden.org.

Saturday April 8th from 9-11am, Dogs Go Native In Encinitas The Village Park Trail And Off-Leash Area in Encinitas has been adopted by PADZ, an Encinitas-based group advocating for off-leash recreation areas for dogs and their owners.

The trail, which has been designated a native habitat trail, is approximately one mile long, and is relatively undeveloped beyond a basic trail and access road.

Our plan is to remove invasives and to add more natives along the trail as part of the Adopt-A-Trail program. We'd love to have someone from CNPSSD join us to help us better understand what we've got and what more we can do. For more info, contact PADZ at info@padz.org

JEPSON WEEKENDS

The *Friends of the Jepson Herbarium* are pleased to offer this year's weekend workshop series. For more information or to register see http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html or phone Cynthia Perrine, Public Programs Coordinator at the Jepson Herbarium, (510) 643-7008. Unless otherwise specified, workshops are held at UC Berkeley.

March 4-5 Frontier Naturalists Afield

March 11 Tree of Life Series: Tree Thinking for Educators

March 18 - 19 Morphology and Identification

March 25 Tree of Life Series: Hominid Evolution

March 30 - April 2 Flora of San Luis Obispo County (San Luis Obispo)

CAPE IVY BIOCONTROL

To: CNPS Coastal Chapters:

I have been issuing an annual appeal to coastal chapters for contributions to further the USDA Agricultural Research Service research into controlling Cape ivy, *Delairea odorata*, through biological agents. The overwhelming portion of the research funds are provided by USDA ARS, but there are certain costs they do not fund, and these must be raised through private sources. These sources have been primarily CNPS and its members.

Two insects have now begun going through the lengthy permitting process prior to release into the wild; we hope that that permission will be granted in the not-too-distant future. They will be released in the Big Sur area. If you want more detailed information on the project and its current status, please request it.

Please make checks payable to California Invasive Plant Council or Cal-IPC, and specify that it is for the Cape ivy biocontrol fund. Mail to:

> Cal-IPC 1442-A Walnut St #462 Berkeley CA 94709

> > Jake Sigg

Copy submissions are due by the first of the month prior to month of publication. (for example, copy for inclusion in the July issue must be received by June 1).

CNPS Newsletter is published monthly. Chapter dues include a subscription to the chapter newsletter.

Second class postage paid at San Diego, CA.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

CNPS, 2707 K Street Ste. 1; Sacramento, CA 95816

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

CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS MARCH 2006 Chapter Message Phone 619-685-7321;

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