

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

MARCH 2007

www.cnpssd.org

(916) 447-2677

info@cnpssd.org

VEEP SPEAKS

I recently went through a stack of old chapter newsletters looking for ideas for field trips. It was a revelation to see the names listed on the back of those newsletters – some are friends who have moved away, others continue as active members, but only two of the names are still active Board members today: Marty Foltyn, Hospitality Chair then, Treasurer now; and Cindy Burrascano, who was in charge of exotic pest plants and the sales table. Cindy became VP in 1995, was President from 1996 to 1998, and became Conservation Chair in 1999. I didn't even live in San Diego in 1999!

After eight years Cindy has stepped down from that position. We all owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for the many tough battles she has waged on behalf of the rare plants and vegetation types that have been threatened in so many ways over the past decade. I have been deeply involved in only one such a fight, against the Triple Border Fence, and it has sucked out a bit of my soul.

Cindy is an unusually committed advocate whose shoes will be hard to fill. Can it be done? Or are we as a chapter simply going to let the plans and projects of the developers, government agencies, and utilities go unexamined and unchallenged? I don't expect that someone with Cindy's dedication and fortitude is going to step forward. But I do believe that within this chapter we have enough members that have something to offer that collectively they can continue the good fight.

We need people who, over a long period, can:

- * spare an afternoon or two a month to attend agency meetings. Active retirees and stay-at-home parents would be perfect for this.
- * learn to critically review and comment on CEQA documents and be ready to take on projects as they come along; perhaps recent biology graduates and professionals in other fields with a basic biology background.
- * guide and review the work of those CEQA reviewers above; (independent consultants and professional biologists who can avoid conflict-of-interest problems).
- * receive and distribute documents and coordinate the effort of the rest of the team.

Such a group would do Cindy proud, without any one individual being crushed by the burden of fighting a continuous rearguard action. And Cindy will still be on the committee, so you'll have her support.

I won't pretend reading CEQA reports or attending meetings is as easy or as much fun as going on a wildflower hike. But if you have the time and critical thinking skills that we need, I ask you to consider if you value the wildflowers enough to actually do something to protect them. Send Carolyn, me, or any board member an email and we'll get you started.

Dave

MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

COMPUTER AIDED WILDFLOWER SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

by Ken Bowles Tuesday March 20, 2007 - 7 PM San Diego, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104

While assembling a portfolio of close-up digital photographs of San Diego's immensely diverse wildflowers, Ken Bowles found himself spending more time identifying the species in his photos than in all other activities combined. Therefore, Ken has used the Lucid3 software application to build a Multiple-Entry key for wildflowers of San Diego County, focusing first on the sunflower family (Asteraceae) and more recently on San Diego's other wildflower families. The key supplements the use of the standard dichotomous key in the Jepson Manual. The presentation will show how to identify several obscure species using photographs.

The Multiple-Entry keys are available for public use on Ken's website at www.kenbowles.net/sdwildflowers, http://www.kenbowles.net/sdwildflowers/>. See Ken's photos on the Plant Atlas home page - www.sdplantatlas.org.

New Feature: ID for your mystery plant. Michelle Balk will be present with her microscope and Jepson Manual, to help you with plant identification.

CLEARING IT TO THE DIRT?

Ever since the passage of Public Law 4291, whereby property owners in high-fire risk areas are required to "clear" flammable vegetation 100 feet away from any structure, there has been confusion over what exactly the law requires. Unfortunately for some it has led to the removal of all native vegetation down to mineral soil since native plants are essentially seen as the enemy (while often much more flammable ornamentals remain). This perspective has caused severe resource damage in many instances and the unnecessary removal of relatively harmless native "specimen" plants by less than honest contractors or over-exuberant inspectors.

Many of us in San Diego County have worked hard to properly educate the public about how to perform vegetation management properly and are currently trying to change the law in order to prevent the kind of landscape abuse we have witnessed across the state. As part of this effort some of us met in Sacramento this week to discuss these issues with a representative from Senator Kehoe's office, several key California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) fire chiefs, and the legislative representative from the Sierra Club. We focused on three main concerns:

- 1. The damage done to natural resources by improper and overzealous clearance contractors;
- 2. The need to address the increase in fine, flashy fuels (invasive weeds) due to improper clearance activity and their relationship to increased fire risk and impact on firefighter safety; and,
- 3. Recognition that there needs to be "appropriate" vegetative cover within the clearance zone which can include properly maintained native plant communities.

It became clear during the meeting that the CDF and Board of Forestry have been and remain sincere in trying to work out a set of regulations that can reduce fire risk without causing excessive damage to the environment. We discussed some great ideas and it appears legislation will be crafted incorporating some of these during this year's legislative session.

To this end, we are seeking information about any homeowner who may have been told to clear their property in an unreasonable manner outside CDF recommended procedures or exploited by private contractors/inspectors to do the same. This kind of information is important if we want to successfully craft the necessary changes. Fire safety is incredibly important in California. It can be achieved without resource damage if proper procedures are used. CDF and CNPS can form a useful partnership to accomplish this goal.

Please send your info to Naturalist@californiachaparral.com. Additional information about vegetation management regulations can be found at:

http://www.californiachaparral.org/bprotectingyourhome.html

Rick Halsey www.californiachaparral.org

CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

CNPS Chapter Council Meeting at Rancho Santa Anna Botanical Garden (RSABG) in Claremont (near L.A.)on Saturday March 10th

The CNPS Chapter Council meetings are held four times per year at various places throughout California. The March meeting is a great opportunity for San Diego CNPS folks to meet other CNPS members. In addition to conducting CNPS business, there will be other activities such as lectures, guided garden walks, and special events for kids. RSABG hosts the largest native plant garden in California

On Saturday evening there will also be a dinner and guest speaker, Rick Halsey will be giving a new slideshow presentation on the state of California's most unique botanical treasure, the chaparral. Sunday there will be a guided fieldtrip. The complete schedule of lectures, walks, and family activities will be available soon. If you have any interest in going or need more information, please let us know, e-mail info@cnpssd.org.

FIELD WEED COURSE

California Invasive Plant Council's Field Weed Course March 21. Paramount Ranch, Santa Monica Mtns.

Cal-IPC control courses provide practical demonstrations of weed control methods, taught by invasive weed experts with years of on-the-ground experience.

This course will focus on Northern California weeds and relevant control strategies, and well cover a spectrum of techniques including mechanical, chemical, and cultural controls, revegetation and propagation.

Register on-line or for more information, go www.cal-ipc.org Registration is \$125 /\$145 (Cal-IPC member/non-member).

Course includes lunch, snacks, a reference binder and 7.5 hours DPR continuing education credits (if applicable).

California Invasive Plant Council, web: www.cal-ipc.org ph: (510) 843-3902, email: mdozier@cal-ipc.org Melissa Dozier, Outreach Associate

CALENDAR

Mar 14 (2nd Wed) CHAPTER BOARD MEETING, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tecolote Nature Center.

Mar 20 (3rd Tue) CHAPTER MEETING & PROGRAM

7:00 p.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Copy submissions are due by the first of the month prior to month of publication.

Send copy submittals to: newsletter@cnpssd.org

MISSION GORGE

Rapid Assessments at Mission Trails Regional Park, Jan 27

Over ten years ago, the San Diego County Water Authority installed miles of water transport pipeline through the western portion of Mission Trails Regional Park. In so doing, many acres of habitat were destroyed. In some places, the mitigation for these impacts to coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats didn't appear to take hold. In these sections, the scar of the pipeline project is very evident, as the vegetation that did take hold atop the impact area is largely composed of non-native forbs and grasses.

Vegetation Surveys of Mission Trails Regional Park
There are plans underway to place new pipeline into the
existing right-of-way, so we set out to document the vegetation
on and around the current pipeline to discover for ourselves
how well the restoration effort worked. On this rather pleasant
Saturday, many of us regular contributors and several new
faces arrived to perform rapid assessments of the existing
conditions along the pipeline. SDCWA had already sampled
some of the best available examples of re-vegetation for their
reports, so we chose to survey sections not faring so well.

We sampled a rather diverse patch of coastal sage scrub at the top of a hill. This patch just barely fit into our required 400 meter square. There were a number of non-native forbs and grasses that dominated the under story, and a small patch of the dreaded artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*) present in the plot. Typical of most restoration sites, there were no native forbs in the plot, but there were a few purple needlegrass (*Nassella* sp.) present. The plot was heavily scarred with access trails and surrounded by wide service roads, which are commonplace all along the pipeline.

Two other rapid assessments were accomplished on either side of this hilltop patch of scrub. Both plots were representative of entire sections of hillside for virtually as far as the eye could see. Among the few natives found in these plots were deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*). Natives only totaled 21 percent cover in the better of these two plots. The dominant non-native grass present in all three plots was purple falsebrome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), and the dominant non-native forb in the two hillside plots was short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

We plan on returning to Mission Trails Regional Park in February to do another round of rapid assessments along the pipeline to document what nearby vegetation undisturbed by the pipeline looks like. Ultimately, we hope that the powers involved with the proposed project will be persuaded that halfmeasures will not again suffice on our public lands.

> Patrick McConnell CNPS San Diego Chapter Vegetation Committee

POWERFUL OPPOSITION

Over 400 people jammed the State Park and Recreation Commission hearing in Borrego Springs on February 8. A lot of people made the two-hour drive from the coast and back that evening, and some came from much farther, to defend Anza Borrego Desert State Park from 150' high, 500MV towers which SDG&E's proposes to build through the park and across state wilderness lands. Approximately ninety speakers signed up to speak against it, representing a deep and wide range of citizens and interests. There was not enough time to permit all of them to speak; by 9:30 pm only 45 had spoken. Many of the speakers in opposition were extraordinarily eloquent.

Around a dozen speakers supported the proposal- six of them from Chambers of Commerce at state and local levels. They, along with SDG&E spokesman Jim Avery, spoke early and left en masse after their little clique had toed the party line. After that, testimony by the many opponents covered a wide range of reasons why the great majority of people attending the meeting think the Commission is bound by their stated mission to oppose the proposal. The Park and Recreation Commission did not make a decision at the meeting on the 8th. Probably by the time you have read these words, a decision will have been made.

Around a dozen opponents clearly described how SDG&E hopes to con consumers in our region to pay for a powerline that claims to be all about renewable energy, but that would in fact transmit fossil fuel energy from Mexico to Los Angeles. Knowledgeable experts have researched this project and have concluded that San Diego's regional energy needs could be met by many other mixes that don't require this powerline. This is the reason why CNPS has joined a dozen other groups to say the only alternative that works is the "no wires" alternative. The damage our priceless parks and conservation lands would be a completely unnecessary loss.

The environmental analysis will be reviewed when it is released late this year, nevertheless, since there is no guarantee that the smart thing - the right thing - will be done by the decisionmakers.

Two high-powered efforts are accepting donations to support the opposition to this scam:

 "San Diego Smart Energy Solutions" fund, Sierra Club San Diego, 3820 Ray Street, San Diego CA 92104-3623.
 "Protect Our Communities Fund", The San Diego Foundation, 2508 Historic Decatur Rd., Ste. 200, San Diego CA 92106, c/o Emily Young.

If you want updates feel free to contact me, via e-mail at kaytaff@sbcglobal.net

Kay Stewart



San Diego Chapter

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, Limited Income \$25 Individual \$45 Family, Group or Library \$75			Plant Lover \$100 Patron \$300 Benefactor \$600 Mariposa Lily \$1,500		
	This is a	new Membership	Renewal		
Name(s):			_		
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	volunteers for the su	uccess of its programs ou. A CNPS member w Outreach, pul Horticulture	vill contact you shortly.		
Conservation Pland Nature Guides (Ed Other areas of inte	ucation)	Fundraising, o	grant writing	Book sales Plant sale	

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

Join us at our monthly meetings held the third Tuesday of every month (except August and December) at 7:00 pm in Room 104 of the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park in San Diego

March 2007

JEPSON WORKSHOPS

The *Friends of the Jepson Herbarium* are pleased to present a broad range of topics this season. Unless otherwise specified, workshops are held at UC Berkeley. See http://ucjeps.berkeley.org/edu/workshops/

March 1-4: Bryoinventory at Angelo Coast Range Reserve (Jim Shevock)

March 10: TOL – The Vertebrate Branch of the Tree of Life (M. Brandley)

March 17 – 18: Introduction to Morphology and Identification of Flowering Plants (Linda Ann Vorobik)

March 24 – 25: Basics of Botanical Illustration (Linda Ann Vorobik)

March 24 – 25 and March 31 – April 1 (2 consecutive weekends): Fifty Plant Families in the Field (Linda and Richard Beidleman). FULL, waitlist only.

PARABOTANIST TRAINING

We will offer a Parabotanist Training Session on Friday, March 16. If you have been waiting to become trained so that you can do field work and collect plants as part of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project, please check with us to verify that space is still available.

Please take a moment to look over the requirements below to be sure this is a commitment you are willing to make.

The class will take place in the BRCC center/Botany Dept. on the 3rd floor of the museum and will consist of a lecture and a demonstration of plant pressing techniques. During the first half hour you will have the opportunity to tour the herbarium, look at maps to select a grid square, and purchase supplies (plant press, field notebook etc.) if you want to.

<u>Date</u>: Friday March 16th <u>Time</u>: 8:00am to 12:30 pm Natural History Museum in Balboa Park

To become a Parabotanist, we ask your commitment to:

- Attend the mandatory training class;
- Visit your collecting area three times per year (in different seasons);
- Collect a minimum of 25 specimens per year;
- Enter your data online and then submit your specimens in a timely manner;
- Have computer access (all instructions, tools, data entry, and correspondence are online);
- Follow our procedures and instructions in order to ensure the quality of the scientific data being gathered.

Again, the class is limited in size, so please RSVP as soon as possible by emailing me: laerne@sdnhm.org or by phoning (619-255-0298) to reserve a space.

Layla Aerne, Science Project Assistant

CANYONEER HIKES

For more detailed information check the Natural History Museum web site: www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers Please note that in this listing, "\$P" means there is a parking fee, and "L" means bring a lunch

Saturday, March 3 9-11 AM, Kwaay Paay Sunday, March 4 9-10:30 AM or 9 AM-1 PM, Descanso/ Sweetwater River L

Saturday, March 10 9 AM-noon, McGinty Mountain Sunday, March 11 10-11:30 AM, Mast Park Saturday, March 17 10 AM-1 PM, Fortuna Mountain Sunday, March 18 9 AM-noon, Sweetwater River Gorge Saturday, March 24 10-11:30 AM, Rice Canyon Preserve Sunday, March 25 1-2:30 PM, Lake Miramar (Miramar Reservoir)

Saturday, March 31 10 AM-noon, Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

Saturday, March 31 10 AM-2 PM, McCain Valley L Sunday, Apr 1 9:30 AM-noon, Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary

Saturday, April 7 9-11:30 AM or 9 AM-2 PM, Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve L

Saturday, April 14 10 AM-1 PM, Chariot Creek L Sunday, April 15 10 AM-2 PM, Santa Rosa Plateau \$P, L Sunday, April 22 3-4:30 PM, Piedras Pintadas Ridge

GOT THE URGE TO PLANT?

Join the restoration planting session along the North shore of the San Diego River, West of I-5. Bring your (marked) favorite shovel or digging tool. We'll work from 9 to noon.

We will plant in the triangle area in Mission Bay Park that is bounded by the river, Sea World Drive, and Friar's Rd. We call it the Lotus Dunes area. There is plenty of parking space along the small service road that runs along the rip rap. From I-5, take the Sea World offramp. Make left turn at the stoplight that says South Shores Dr. and go about 40 ft to the service road. Turn left and proceed to our check-in area.

We suggest gloves, sturdy shoes or boots, and long pants to avoid the scratchies.

If things go as planned, we will install some vehicle/pedestrian barriers, do some seeding, and set out some baby plants. The plant selection will consist of species commonly found along the river in earlier days.

This is a joint undertaking by California Native Plant Society, SD and San Diego Audubon Society with oversight by the Mission Bay Park Rangers.

Contact for info: Jim Harrison, (858) 273-5242 or jfh4eco@cs.com

Spring Native Plant Sale

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Saturday March 3, 2007 9 AM – 4 PM

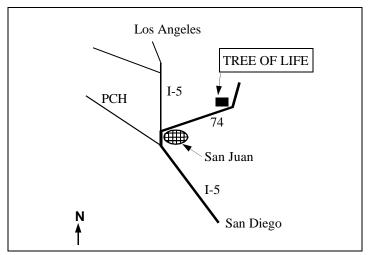
At the beautiful Tree of Life Nursery, just north of San Diego

33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA
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. Free Talk at 11:00: "Backyard Habitats with Native Plants" Free Talk at 2:00: "Butterflies and Native Plants"

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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CNPSSD FIELD TRIPS

We will be conducting two types of field trips this spring: basic field trips for the general public, and members-only field trips, which will generally be farther away and more in-depth. My thanks to the chapter members who have volunteered to lead the public field trips in our urban open space preserves this spring: Alan Bennett, Betsy Cory, Wes Hudson, Arne Johanson, Julie Kirker, and Wes Hudson. A goal of these outings is to introduce new people to common native plants and to CNPS, so invite a friend and encourage them to join.

March Public Field Trips:

Saturday, 10th, 10 a.m. – noon. Rice Canyon, Chula Vista. Meet at the parking lot on Rancho del Rey Pkwy directly across from Discovery Park (Thomas Guide 1311 A-5). From I-805, take Bonita Canyon Rd. east, turn right onto Otay Lakes Rd., go 1½ mile, and turn right onto Avenida del Rey, at the end of the street turn left on Rancho del Rey, continue 1/2 mile to the entrance. Betsy and Alan lead.

Saturday, 17th, 10 a.m. - noon. Switzer Canyon. Meet at the canyon entrance on the corner of 28th and Maple (TG 1269 D-7). From University Ave., following 28th south all the way to the end (at Maple). From the south, take Pershing Drive or 30th Street north to Redwood, take Redwood to 28th, turn south along the east side of Balboa Park to the end. Parking is on the street. Daniel and Wes lead.

Saturday 24th, 10 a.m. – noon. Crest Canyon. Meet at the intersection of San Dieguito Dr. and Racetrack View Dr. (TG 1187 G-4). Exit I-5 at Via De LaValle, go west, turn left on Jimmy Durante Blvd., take first left (0.8 mi.) onto San Dieguito Dr., continue 1/2 mile to where the road forks at Racetrack View Dr. Arne and Julie lead.

March Members Field Trip:

Saturday 24th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Enjoy the early spring desert bloom with Kay Stewart and State Park Botanist Larry Hendrickson. We will hike to areas in the Park that are threatened by the proposed Sunrise Powerlink. We plan to hike to springs near the San Felipe Hills Wilderness Study Area, break for lunch, and then go to a lower-elevation location. If we have enough 4WD vehicles, we will drive into some otherwise inaccessible sites.

We will meet in two locations: Ted Williams Pkwy Park and Ride (TG 1169 J-3) at 9 a.m. or Pacific Crest Trail parking lot on S22 several miles east of the S2-S22 junction at 10:15 a.m. For those in western SD County, exit I-15 east onto SR-56 (Ted Williams Pkwy), turn left immediately onto Rancho Carmel Drive, go north one block to the Park and Ride. We will caravan to Scissors Crossing to meet up with Larry and other members.

Bring lunch, several qts of water, sun screen and good walking shoes. Some locations may entail short bouts of challenging hiking, but there will be plenty of great spots for all levels of physical condition.for more

Dave Flietner

INTERN POSITION AVAILABLE

Nursery Intern Catalina Island -20 miles off the coast of Long Beach

POSITION TERM: June - August 2007 REPORTS TO: Native Plant Nursery Manager

SUMMARY: Assists in the maintenance and operation of the Conservancy's James H. Ackerman Native Plant Nursery. This facility is responsible for producing all plant and seed material used in the Conservancy's conservation projects.

Currently, the nursery inventory consists of 17,000 container plants representing 85 different species. This position requires a wide range of skills including horticultural abilities, technical documentation, fieldwork, equipment care, and mainteance.

COMPENSATION \$140 weekly stipend includes food allowance and incidentals. There is a \$500 completion bonus. Weekends and some evenings will be required. Platform tent/ tent cabin housing is provided with this position.

TO APPLY: Submit a one page cover letter (Word document) and application electronically by 5 PM (PST) on March 31, 2007. The cover letter should be formatted to single spaced new time roman 12-point font with one-inch margins.

For any questions about the position, contact Matthew Sutton at msutton@catalinaconservancy.org.

SD HOME & GARDEN

The 21st Annual San Diego Home and Garden show is coming to the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Friday, March 2nd through Sunday, March 4th. There will be over 500 exhibitors and the California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter (CNPSSD) needs your help to be one of those exhibitors. In exchange for helping with chapter outreach at the show (work in our information booth for about 3 hours) we will provide you with a full day pass! This pass will allow you and a guest to visit FOR FREE all the exhibits on the day you volunteer. You will have to pay for parking.

This is a great opportunity for CNPSSD because the audience is self-selected and focused on an area of greatest marketing opportunity for our efforts to promote understanding and use of native plants. No experience is necessary! If you can help, please contact Alan Bennett, (619) 955-3275 or alanbennett@hotmail.com.

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

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APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
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Open positions include CONSERVATION, EDUCATION and
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in any of these positions

NOTE: For mailing label issues contact Jim Harrison at newsletter@cnpssd.org or (858) 273-5242