



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

March 2009

www.cnpsd.org

CNPS (916) 447-2677

info@cnpsd.org

PREZ SEZ

I had to laugh. "Congratulations on taking over as president" started the email from a CNPS volunteer. "Taking over" hardly seems to describe what I've been doing the last few weeks, I thought. It's not like the chapter is a tall tree, with a single central branch (the leader, in horticultural terms) growing above all the rest. We are more like a shrub, with branches reaching out in all directions. If you'll indulge the analogy, some of these branches are vigorous, with lots of productive side shoots. Others branches support only a single active growing tip, and some are stunted, with little or no new growth. I see my role as President as encouraging the entire plant to be fruitful, with healthy shoots blooming in all directions.

My email correspondent was probably bemused by my response to her simple request for someone to assist her. I had been tempted to say, "Sure, you can just put me down for that," but instead gave her about five ways to ask other members to get involved in this activity. It will be more work for her in the short run, but I hope she'll be able to find someone who will enjoy sharing the responsibility and making even more happen in that area.

For you axillary buds, resting quiescent along the stem, I hope you will find in this newsletter one thing you can do to bud forth just a bit, giving a couple hours in the next month to make this organism healthier. If you can't find anything to suit you, send me an email or give me a call and I promise we'll find something valuable for you to do.

Dave Flietner

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

at

TREE OF LIFE NURSERY

MARCH 7, 2009

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS!

CNPS MEETING PROGRAM

March 17, 2009 - 7pm

Nature as the Enemy: A discussion of proposals to masticate, burn, and graze native plant communities in the name of "fire safety."

Presented by Richard W. Halsey

Rather than dealing comprehensively with wildfire risk, many local governments are promoting vegetation "clearance" strategies that seriously compromise protected wildlands, challenge the integrity of habitat conservation plans, and increase the spread of invasive species. Some San Diego County officials have expressed the desire to exempt such vegetation "treatments" from the California Environmental Quality Act. Under the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act, millions of dollars are spent to "treat acres" rather than dealing with fire risk where it would be most effective, immediately around and within human communities. Please join us as we discuss threats posed to California's native plant communities by misguided fuel treatment projects and what you can do to help protect San Diego County's native plants from unwise land use policies.

San Diego, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104

For a Balboa Park map see www.balboapark.org/nav.html

CNPS-San Diego Monthly Programs

Chapter meetings are open to the public; there is no charge. Our programs are the 3rd Tuesday of the month, excluding August and December.

7:00-7:30 PM is a time for discussion, camaraderie, and visiting the book sales table. The program starts at 7:30 PM. Come early and browse our books. Stay after the program for conversation and refreshments.

We meet in Balboa Park, in the Casa del Prado, Room 101 or Room 104, which can be reached by car from Village Place off of Park Boulevard (served by the #7 bus). The Casa del Prado is immediately west of the Natural History Museum. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

7-7:30 pm: Mystery plants identified! Bring your unknown plant and we will help you learn to identify it.

POLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

For all of the turmoil surrounding local, state and federal budgeting and the economy, 2007-2008 sessions of Congress and the California Legislature made significant progress on key environmental issues.

--Tax credits for solar and alternative energy were extended.

--California Senator Barbara Boxer's committee on public works and the environment will hold hearings on a bill to re-establish protection for "isolated wetlands", which, for us, include vernal pools

--The Farm Bill included money for conservation

--The Energy Bill included a new 35 mpg automobile fuel efficiency standard to be met by 2020. Today's requirement for each auto manufacturer's "fleet" is 25 mpg - equal to a 1927 Model T Ford.

Among our Congressional delegation, Sen. Feinstein achieved a score of 87 (out of 100) from the League of Conservation Voters for legislative action in 2007-2008. Sen. Boxer, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, scored 80. Representative Susan Davis (San Diego) scored 95. Bob Filner (South Bay) 90. Brian Bilbray (North County beach areas) 25. Duncan Hunter (East County) 5 and Darryl Issa (North County) 0.

At the State level, Gov. Schwarzenegger's commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions (AB 32, signed in 2006), is being implemented by Senate Bill 375 (Darryl Steinberg, Sacramento).

This bill gives the Air Resources Board the authority to set emissions targets, and requires local governments in metropolitan areas adopt land use plans under a "Sustainable Community Strategy."

If plans are adopted, regions get a bigger share of State transportation funding.

In addition, rules for approval of affordable housing and infill projects are greatly streamlined.

The overall goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990's level by the year 2020.

Legislators and the Governor hope this will be done by limiting sprawl, putting development near public transportation and encouraging mixed use.

Sen. Steinberg's SB 732 was also signed into law. It creates a Strategic Growth Council to help oversee air and water quality and implement AB 32 and Proposition 84, a water resources initiative and bond approved by voters in 2006. No dams or environmentally damaging flood control projects were authorized under Prop 84.

Throughout the state, developers as well as public agencies are engaged in "Green Building". Generally, these new design and building concepts decrease waste during construction as well as energy usage after construction. A "Green Building" is becoming a "must-have" item for

governments, businesses, non-profits and many homeowners.

On the local level, a great deal of effort has been expended by environmental organizations, including CNPS-San Diego, to make communities safer from wildfire.

State Senator Kehoe's SB 1595 was signed into law. CNPS members assisted the Senator and Deanna Spehn, her legislative assistant, in drafting this bill. It re-defines "Defensible Space", the first 100 feet from a home, and requirements for managing that space in a manner designed to reduce wildfire risk. For the first time, attention is focused on the house, as well as the landscape.

Before Sen. Kehoe's bill passed, public agencies tended to adopt a "one size fits all" approach to safety--and that was to clear-cut native plants. Scientists and many fire-officials, especially at the state level, oppose this approach. While a great deal more research is needed, evidence from the 2007 fires is that well designed, well located and well built homes, surrounded by 100' of well maintained, partially irrigated landscape--including fire-resistant native plants, survive wildfire vastly more frequently than wooden hillside homes surrounded by flammable, largely non-native vegetation. Efforts have been met with resistance by fearful homeowners and some fire departments who have influenced the Board of Supervisors and local city councils. We hope that with support from CalFire and other state agencies, and evidence from the 2007 fires, that local officials and private citizens will be persuaded that the best way to reduce wildfire risk is to take steps to make homes less likely to burn. This includes fire resistant roof, eaves, vents, decks and fences--and yards free of flammable materials, dead and dying wood, and debris. Many native plants resist fire--especially when lightly irrigated and thinned.

The San Diego City Council elected three new members to a Council of eight from District 1 (La Jolla), 3 (Mid City) and 7 (Tierrasanta and vicinity). The candidates all said they are in favor of "brush management". CNPS will work with them to expand their knowledge of this issue and others related to native plant conservation. Unfortunately, the County Board of Supervisors continues to press for prescribed burning, wholesale removal of native plants, and other destructive mechanisms for reducing fire risk. CNPS and members have spoken and written, but to no avail. Please contact your Supervisor (www.sdcounty.ca.gov/general/bos.html) to discuss the issues. CNPS believes the best way to prevent wildfire loss is for homeowners to make their houses and yards safe. It is not to eliminate native vegetation. The result of such elimination is the rapid growth of non native annual weeds. They are more flammable than most of the native plants that the Supervisors want to eliminate.

Peter St.Clair—Vice President and Legislative Chair -
Legislation@cnpsd.org

MONTHLY WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden

2nd Saturday of each month

March 14, Saturday, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Bring work gloves, your favorite weeding tool, a sun hat and sun screen. There is shade, refreshments and bathrooms on site. The native plant garden is at the northwest end of Old Town State Park. It is on Taylor St. across Congress St. from the trolley station. There is often free parking available in the lot at the corner of Taylor St. and Calhoun St. Enter off Calhoun Street behind the former CalTrans HQ. We meet near the McCoy House, a large two story reconstructed Victorian home.

Point Loma Plant Garden -Work Party first Saturday and third Sunday of each month

March 7 and 15, 9-11 AM: Wear sunscreen and bring a hat and water. All tools and supplies are provided. No facilities on site. For more information contact - San Diego River Park Foundation

Richard Dhu Richard@sandiegoriver.org

619-297-7380

<http://sandiegoriver.org/plnpg/php>

MONTHLY CNPS-SD EVENTS

Tecolote Canyon Walk - First Sunday of each month

March 1, 9 - 11 AM: Learn about the plants in Tecolote Canyon. Meet at Tecolote Nature Center at 9 AM. Take I-5 to Sea World/Décolleté Rd and proceed east on Tecolote past all the ball fields to the very end of Tecolote Rd. Comfortable walking shoes and sun protection are recommended. Rain will cancel.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING CLASS AT THE SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Gardening to Save the Planet

Instructor: Paul Maschka

Learn about the negative impact to our environment caused by industrial agriculture. This class will empower a gardener to save the planet one yard at a time.

Tuesday, March 3; 6:30–8:30 PM

Member \$25; Nonmember \$33

For details and to register visit <http://tickets.sdnhm.org> or call (619) 255-0203.

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

AT

TREE OF LIFE NURSERY

SATURDAY MARCH 7TH

9AM—4 PM

The spring plant sale will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at the Tree of Life Nursery, **33201 Ortega Highway**, 7 miles East of San Juan Capistrano. The nursery is located in a grove of large trees and specializes in growing California Native Plants. There are many areas planted with Native Plants where visitors can stroll among many varieties in an environment that preserves the look and feel of a native landscape with the look of a park. The buildings reflect an early California heritage with construction of straw structures that have been plastered inside and out. The nursery has a large selection of plants in several sizes and extensive growing fields nearby.

Last year nine members worked at the sale to provide assistance and information. We have enjoyed a close working relationship with the owners and staff and have been commended for our skill and professional attitude. You are welcome to join with the members who have volunteered for an enjoyable day at one of the very best California Native Plant nurseries. Come join us.

Posters, books and free advice will also be available. Some of the proceeds from the sale will be donated to the San Diego Chapter of CNPS. For more information visit www.treeoflifenuresery.com or call

(949) 728-0685 .

WELCOME TO TOM BELTRAN—OUR NEW CNPS-SD CHAIRPERSON

Tom moved to San Diego 30 years ago from Northern California to attend San Diego State. Although he is not a professional in the field of botany, he is an avid outdoorsman. There he developed a deep appreciation for California natives, land use issues, and conservation. Tom has been a regular attendee of regional planning advisory group meetings. He believes that active participation in public planning by organizations such as CNPS is necessary for ensuring that current land use policies and environmental laws are followed and enforced. He is currently the CNPS San Diego representative on the MSCP East steering committee and a member of the CNPS San Diego conservation committee. Tom and his wife, Rose, live in northern San Diego county.

2009 FIELD TRIPS FOR CNPS MEMBERS*

Sunday March 15 - 9 AM to 4 PM

Plum Canyon Wild Flower Walk in Anza Borrego Desert State Park

Larry Hendrickson, botanist and field trip leader

We will explore several miles of Plum Canyon from sunny alluvial lowlands on upstream into a shady tributary canyon. Meet 9:00 AM at the intersection of State HWY 78 and County HWY S -2 (San Felipe Road) (Thomas Guide 410 A-11). S-2 joins 78 for several hundred yards at this junction. Larry will be parked on the west side of S-2, just south of 78. From there we will caravan to the trailhead.

The hike will be moderately long though slow! Bring several quarts of water and lunch, and wear long pants, good walking shoes, and have good sun protection. Binoculars are a plus. After the hike, we will spend a half hour or so removing the invasive Saharan mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) at the trailhead. Bring hoes, or other weeding tools and gloves if you would like to help.

If you want to caravan from the San Diego coastal area meet at 7:30 am at the Park'n'Ride at Sabre Springs in Poway. From I-15 go east on Poway Road, left on Sabre Springs Road, then left into the shopping center driveway, and turn into the right-hand parking lot (Thomas Guide 1189 H-6).

RSVP to Kay at kaytaff@sbcglobal.net. Provide a cell phone number and please say if you plan to meet at S-2 in the desert OR at the Sabre Springs Park'n'Ride.

Sunday March 22 - 9 AM to 12 Noon Torrey Pines State Reserve Revisited

Margaret Fillius, field trip leader

Margaret Fillius, author of 'Native Plants, Torrey Pines State Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations' will be our guide for the second month in a row, since the February trip filled up so fast. Meet 9 AM at the adobe visitor center/book store on the mesa in the heart of the reserve. Parking is \$8/car to park in the Reserve parking lots. Comfortable walking shoes and sun protection are musts, and water and binoculars are a bonus. Bring a copy of Margaret's fine book and the author will autograph it for you.

To ride-share meet at 8:15 AM at Denny's Restaurant on Friar's Road just east of 163. RSVP to Kay at kaytaff@sbcglobal.net and please share your cell phone number and if you plan to ride share or meet at the preserve.

The group size cannot exceed twelve, so please RSVP soon to hold your spot! This is a member's only field trip; you can join the day of the trip at your membership rate.

*****Mark your calendar for future field trips*****

- April 5: Oak Woodlands and Unusual Chaparral in South Alpine
 - April 19: (tentative) Viejas Mountain Natives on Gabbro and Other Curiosities
 - April 26: Santa Ysabel Forest and Meadows Six Years After the Cedars Fire
- Other field trips are being planned for May and June.

* **These field trips are for CNPS members:** be advised, we will use botanical terminology – maybe frequently! You can join CNPS the day of the field trip.

PUBLIC FIELD TRIPS SPRING 2009

Spring 2009 is looking to be the perfect season to introduce your friends and neighbors to the native beauties in their own backyards. Every Saturday for 2 ½ months our volunteer team will be sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge about our common native plants with the general public. These are short walks in moderate terrain suitable for able-bodied folks from 7 to 70. These hikes will feature Latin-free zones and touching, smelling, maybe even eating.

March 7, 10:00 am to noon. Crest Canyon. Arne Johanson and Adrienne Heinzelman lead. Meet at the intersection of San Dieguito Dr. and Racetrack View Dr. (Thomas Guide 1187, G4). Exit I-5 at Via De La Valle, 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.

March 14, 10 am to noon. Manzanita Canyon. David Di Donato and J R Sundberg lead. Meet at the Azalea Park parking lot (Thomas Guide 1269- H7). From University Ave. turn south on 43rd St.; just after 43rd joins Fairmount, take the 2nd right at the five-way intersection onto Poplar St. and continue to end.

March 21, 10:00 am to noon. Florida Canyon (Balboa Park). Betsy Cory and Paul Hornick lead. Meet at the end of the parking lot on the west side of the tennis courts, by the water fountain (Thomas Brothers 1269 C6). From Park Boulevard, turn west on Morley Field Drive; just past Florida Drive, turn right into the parking lot.

Check your April newsletter for more details on these upcoming public field trips:

April 4, 10:00 am to noon. Cedar Ridge Park.

April 11, 10 am to noon. Sweetwater River (Rancho San Diego).

April 18, 10:00 am to noon. Manchester Trails.

April 25, 10:00 am to noon. Penasquitos Canyon.

CNPS-SD CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

March 11, 2009, at the Tecolote Nature Center from 6:30–8:30 (2nd Wed)

Take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote exit from I-5. Proceed east until the road ends at the Tecolote Nature Center. Board members please e-mail Dave Flietner if you are unable to attend. CNPS members are always welcome to attend, please RSVP - president@cnpsd.org

Board Meeting Summary - February 11, 2009

The Board of Director meeting on February 11 focused on planning for the upcoming year. Mary Alice Kessler led a discussion on website submissions and site updates. The Board voted to rescind a previous allocation of \$1,000 to support propagation of native plants from Border Field State Park; it is anticipated that the money will be provided when a state budget is passed. We discussed the need for a Chairperson to head the Public Outreach Committee; we currently are declining all invitations from other organizations. We had a vigorous discussion regarding how to approach our budgeting process and agreed to identify how our spending reflects our core areas of membership, conservation, and horticulture. Marty Foltyn encouraged active members to attend the State Chapter Council meeting in March. Dave Flietner was elected as Acting Native Gardening chairman. Members are welcome to attend our next meeting on March 11.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 8am-12noon
Earth Discovery Institute at Crestridge Ecological Reserve
1171 Horsemill Road
El Cajon, CA 92021
www.earthdiscovery.org/619-437-7989

Sales benefit education and restoration programs at Crestridge.

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION WILDFLOWER HOTLINE

The Theodor Payne Foundation runs a wildflower hotline every spring - starting March 6th this year! They are hoping to compile a comprehensive announcement for wildflower viewing. If you would like to include your own report on what you see blooming along roads or trails, in parks or any natural area please contact:

Marie Massa at (323) 465-1061 or e-mail your information to: massa30@gmail.com or flowerhotline@theodorepayne.org

If you are interested in learning what is blooming and where visit the Theodore Payne website after March 6th at: www.theodorepayne.org

CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

March 13-15, 2009 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

The next CNPS Chapter Council meeting will be held March 13-15, 2009 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Friday evenings are a social gathering, Saturday is the Chapter Council meeting followed by dinner and a great speaker, and Sunday offers interesting local field trips. And of course the beautiful RSABC is open for viewing. All CNPS-San Diego members are welcome to attend. A special topic for the Saturday March 14 meeting is to advance the CNPS fire policy discussion– the CNPS-SD Board and San Diego chapter members Rick Halsey and Kay Stewart in particular, have made contributions – and yours are welcome. More information and the latest agenda can be found at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/admin/cc/index.php>.

Also, San Diego Chapter Council Delegate Marty Foltyn and the CNPS-SD Board are planning the Fall Chapter Council Meeting to be held September 11-13, 2009 in San Diego. Planning ideas and volunteers are welcome, contact Marty at chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org for more details.

THE BORREGO DESERT IS BLOOMING!

CNPS member Tom Chester has been hiking in the Borrego Desert and has already seen 28 species of annual desert wildflowers in bloom. On his latest hike, February 11th, he saw a total of 53 species in bloom.

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park rangers “anticipate the peak blooming season to hit between the third week of February and the second week of March, depending on the weather”.

This year Tom is documenting the plant species he sees in in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and his publishing his data at <http://tchester.org/bd/blooms/2009.html>.

Tom updates the site every four or five days and provides summaries of bloom conditions, a list of all the species he observed and a detailed botanical report from each of his hikes. If you don't have time to get out there yourself, Tom has links to photographs of many of the blooms he is seeing.

NATIVE GARDENING GROUP

Got a green thumb? Want to share your knowledge with others? Thousands of San Diegans will soon be ripping out their water-guzzling lawns and you could help them make the eco-friendly choice. We will be brainstorming about ways we can promote new and better native gardens at the kick-off meeting for the Native Gardening group at on March 4, at 7 p.m. at my home in Claremont. If interested, please email or call for directions.

Dave Flietner (619) 501-3789 president@cnpsd.org

MARCH 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CNPS—SAN DIEGO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>Tecolote Canyon</i> <i>Walk 9-11 am</i> <i>Pg 3</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 <i>Sustainable</i> <i>Gardening Class</i> <i>SDNHM Pg 3</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Native Garden</i> <i>Group 7 pm Pg 5</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 <i>Spring Plant Sale</i> <i>9am-4 pm Pg 3</i> <i>Point Loma Work</i> <i>Party 9-11 am</i> <i>Crest Canyon</i> <i>Walk 10 am-noon</i> <i>Pgs 3 and 4</i></p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 <i>CNPS Board</i> <i>Meeting 6:30-</i> <i>8:30 Pg 5</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <i>Old Town State</i> <i>Park Native Plant</i> <i>Garden Work</i> <i>Party 1-3 pm</i> <i>Manzanita</i> <i>Canyon Walk</i> <i>10 am-noon</i> <i>Pgs 3 and 4</i></p>
<p>15 <i>Point Loma Work</i> <i>Party 9-11 am</i> <i>Pg 3</i> <i>Plum Canyon</i> <i>Walk 9 am -4 pm</i> <i>Pg 4</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 <i>CNPS Meeting</i> <i>7 pm Pg 1</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 <i>Florida Canyon</i> <i>Walk 10 am-noon</i> <i>Pg 4</i></p>
<p>22 <i>Torrey Pines State</i> <i>Reserve Walk</i> <i>9 am-12 noon</i> <i>Pg 4</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

REPORT ON THE 2009 CNPS CONSERVATION

CNPS pulled off a remarkable conference in Sacramento in January and I attended on behalf of the chapter. In addition to botanists among the more than 800 attendees (including more than 10 from San Diego), we had land managers, agency staff, lawyers, mapping experts, heads of nongovernmental organizations (NGO) like the Center for Natural Lands Management, biological consultants, land restorers, scientists and museum staff, and chapter volunteers like me. Four concurrent sessions ran over three days, and it was barely enough time to cover all the topics. CNPS wisely framed the conference as "Strategies and Solutions" for conservation, which avoided a lot of the angst that normally creeps in: it was very forward-looking. All agreed that we should do this more often, since the last conference was twenty years ago!

World-renowned speakers started off the day on Saturday and Sunday. Jerome Ringer reminded us that we need to reach out to the various communities that comprise our state, and that it's always worth the time to train and mentor other people. Steven Hopper from the Kew Botanic Gardens showed how they are turning the gardens into a "shop-front" for the conservation message because "the world can care for every man's need but not every man's greed".

Some notes from the conference, please contact me if you wish elaboration of these. I chose to attend sessions that dealt with the logistics of conserving land and plants; there were many talks on the interesting science of plants that I missed. I understand that abstracts from the talks and posters will be published on the state website in the near future.

- The value in having an NGO (as opposed to a local government) do the managing of habitat conservation plans.
- Department of Fish and Game has a published protocol for monitoring and managing habitat conservation programs.
- The work of organizations such as Terre Peninsular that are engaged in land conservation in Baja California.
- New development plans must be compliant with SB375, the greenhouse gas bill, to receive transportation funding. In our area, I would expect that SANDAG will be preparing plans, and we need to review them when they come out.
- In Ventura County, the local CNPS branch modified the County general plan to specify that the County "shall" consult with the CNPS when nature plant resources are affected.
- The citizen campaign that resulted in the relocation of the Merced campus of UC to avoid vernal pools.
- A voucher-based checklist for Baja California flora is in progress by our Museum of Natural History. The Museum is also scanning Reid Moran's notes and they will be available on the website.

- A session on ethics of biological consulting was standing-room only. A good case was made on the value of creating a license system to certify biological consultants.
- A planner from Point Reyes states that they treat CNPS 1B plants as if they are federally listed endangered species, because most would qualify if the federal government were able to process the data for them.
- Best way to get rare plant data into the California Natural Diversity Database is to make a collection and deposit it to a herbarium. I plan to start working with US Fish and Wildlife on how we can help expedite this process in San Diego.
- Vegetation mapping: an updated Manual of California Vegetation is in the works. Todd Keeler-Wolf emphasized that even though "vegetation" is not a "real" biological concept, mapping different types of vegetation communities is invaluable for planning purposes. Seeing how these change over time influences development planning. Using the same system all over the state is important so that edges will match up. Plans to have a complete map of the state within 10 years.
- BLM maps of state vegetation should be online within 1 year.
- Non-native weeds: Bob Case recommends that chapters join the local Weed Management Area, adopt an area, have field trips. He's working on an early-identification web tool so volunteers can report new sightings.
- Gardening for native bees: <http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens>. Did you know there are more than 1600 species of native bee in California? And that many of them will happily use urban gardens, especially when they are full of native plants?
- Tejon Ranch: a long negotiation between a number of environmental groups has resulted in an agreement to preserve much of Tejon Ranch from development, which will maintain a wildlife corridor between the Sierras and the Peninsular ranges. An audience member pointed out that rare plant populations don't map at the scale used, and will need to be considered when development plans become more definitive.
- Center for Natural Lands Management outlined their process for deciding how large an endowment to establish in order to manage an area in perpetuity. It was acknowledged that global climate change is making this process less certain.

And finally, our chapter supported the attendance of a number of students at the conference. I met one of them who expressed her thanks over and over. About 100 students were sponsored through the efforts of more than twenty chapters. Thanks to all of you for helping make this a success.

Carrie Schneider, Conservation Chair

CNPS-SD RAPID ASSESSMENTS

Rapid assessments (see <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/vegetation>) are a tool for understanding plant composition, habitat and site quality across a landscape. We work to help the California Department of Fish and Game further classify vegetation associations, while also aiding local organizations or individuals get a better understanding of the property under their management. Rapid assessments provide a snapshot in time of the condition of particular vegetation associations, and thus can be relocated and repeated over time to reveal broad patterns due to any number or combination of factors like disturbance and weed invasion. Some of us do this for purely selfish reasons; we just dig being outdoors, and continuing to explore new places. New plants and reminders of already known plants are present at every survey. This most recent survey was certainly no typical survey.

During our last outing, ten participants were in attendance, and though several were new, we put them all to good use! We conducted our surveys in the Crestridge area, in recently preserved lands just outside of the town of Crest. Several sensitive plants were present either inside, or nearby our plots, including the State Endangered Dehesa nolina (*Nolina interrata*). In both plots surveyed, this was a co-dominant. One plot was a purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) grassland, and harbored several fascinating forbs, including the beautiful chocolate lily (*Fritillaria biflora*), and shooting stars (*Dodecatheon clevelandii*). Nearby both plots grew the rare Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*), a CNPS list 1B.2 plant.

Surveys take place the fourth Saturday of every month (fifth for May) until after June, when surveys then only occur during August and October. Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). Light snacks and beverages are provided for volunteers.

If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP for a survey, or more information, you may email: vegetation@cnpsd.org. I will email you directions and a list of what to bring. You may call 619 549 4142 if this is a preferred method of contact.

Patrick McConnell

Vegetation Committee Co-chairperson

WANTED

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CNPS-SD NEWSLETTER

Do you have an idea for our newsletter? An article, a poem, or story about native plants and their environment? We could also use line drawings or simple black and white photos of native plants. Copy submissions are due by the 10th of the month. We would love to hear your ideas!

Send copy submittals to: newsletter@cnpsd.org

CALIFORNIA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE CONTEST IN FULL BLOOM

San Diego County – The 6th annual San Diego County California-Friendly Landscape Contest is in full bloom and more than two million residents are eligible to enter their water-wise yards for over \$5,000 in prizes! Do you have a low-water use landscape? Have a neighbor with a beautiful water-wise landscape?

Now is a great time to consider making water-wise changes to your landscaping. The deadline to apply is April 6, 2009. Residents interested in entering the contest can get more information or download an application online at www.landscapecontest.com. Entries are accepted by participating water agencies throughout the County.

Drought conditions throughout the state have made water conservation more important than ever. Approximately 50-70% of household water in San Diego County is used outdoors, making it the best place to find savings. California friendly plants use less water, often require less maintenance and many are fire resistant. Water-wise landscaping helps conserve San Diego's water supply, especially during dry conditions, and could lead to a lower water bill.

The region's best do-it-yourself homeowner and best professionally landscaped yard will receive \$500 gift certificates to an area nursery. Each water agency will also have a best-in-district winner who will receive a \$250 gift certificate.

Judges consider the following elements of water-wise landscaping: overall attractiveness, innovative design with water conservation and function in mind, use of California-Friendly plants, color and texture in the landscape, zoning techniques (grouping plants with similar water requirements), energy-efficient landscape design (proper tree placement), functional use of grass areas, creative use of hardscapes and the use of water-harvesting designs to reduce runoff.

Prizes will total over \$5,000 and will be awarded in May at the Water Conservation Garden, located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West in El Cajon. The Water Conservation Garden is a beautiful place to visit and provides many water-wise gardening ideas at its four-acre facility.

The 6th annual San Diego County California-Friendly Landscape Contest is sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority, Ewing Irrigation and the San Diego Horticultural Society.

For more information contact:

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MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

San Diego County is home to many rare, threatened, and endangered species. On a national and global scale, the region has been identified as a major “hotspot” for biodiversity. It is also one of the most rapidly growing economic regions in the country. This combination of high biodiversity, large numbers of rare and unusual species, and rapid urbanization has sometimes led to intense conflicts between economic growth and biological conservation.

In the past, as development occurred, small, disconnected areas of open space were created that were too small to support significant populations of wildlife. In the early 1990's, a concept grew from the Federal Endangered Species Act to create coordinated plans to deal with high numbers of sensitive species as well as development. These plans, known as Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), identify and conserve the most important wildlife habitats. They identify areas for regional preserves and eliminate the piecemeal preservation of noncontiguous pieces of land.

The first such plan in San Diego County was the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan, which covered 85 rare, threatened and endangered species in the southwestern portion of the County, including the cities of San Diego, Poway, Santee, La Mesa, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, Coronado, National City Chula Vista and Imperial Beach, and the unincorporated land. The MSCP, adopted in October, 1997, was the result of 6 years of intense planning and review by a diverse group of private conservationists and property owners as well as a number of public agencies and non-profit organizations. The MSCP creates a more efficient and effective preserve system as well as provides better protection for the rare, threatened and endangered species in the coastal region.

Under the MSCP Plan the Cities of San Diego, Poway, La Mesa, and Chula Vista, and the County of San Diego prepared subarea plans that were specific to their jurisdictional areas in southwestern San Diego County; these plans have been approved by the Wildlife Agencies. The Cities of Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, and National City have elected not to participate in the San Diego MSCP. The other jurisdictions are either progressing on their draft plans or their plans have been stalled.

Bobbie Stephenson—CNPS-SD



MSCP PLAN FOR NORTH COUNTY

The County is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish & Game (Wildlife Agencies) to develop a Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan that will protect sensitive species in the northern portion of the County. The North County Plan is the second of the County's three proposed Habitat Conservation Plans. The South County Plan has been completed and the East County Plan is currently in preparation, but is not as far along as the North County Plan.

The North County Plan area encompasses 280,459 acres in and around the unincorporated communities of Bonsall, De Luz, Fallbrook, Harmony Grove, Rancho Santa Fe, Lilac, Pala, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, Ramona, Rincon Springs, Twin Oaks Valley, and Valley Center. In order to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem health in the region while ensuring quality of life and economic growth opportunities, the Plan incorporates the following underlying goals:

Biological Goals: Develop a preserve system that will preserve ecosystem functions and values, maintain the range of natural biological communities and native species within the Plan area and contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species and their habitats.

Economic Goals: Provide a regulatory process that allows for efficient permitting of residential and commercial development, community infrastructure projects, agricultural expansion, and ongoing agricultural activities as well as greater certainty for economic and urban development through the identification of appropriate locations for new development.

Social Goals: Protect the quality of life for residents and visitors by maintaining the scenic beauty, natural biological diversity, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities within the Plan area.

Biological goals for the Plan follow standard principles of conservation biology and a science-based approach to conservation planning.

Several GIS-based computer models were used to compile existing biological data and design a preserve network for 63 plant and animal species proposed to be covered by the plan. The preliminary draft North County Plan proposes to cover the following 29 native plant species:

- San Diego thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*)
- Spineshrub (*Adolphia californica*)
- San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*)
- Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*)
- Rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*)
- Coulter's saltbush (*Atriplex coulteri*)

Continued on page 7

MSCP Plan for North County cont.

- Parish brittlescale (*Atriplex parishii* var. *parishii*)
- Encinitas baccharis (*Baccharis vanessae*)
- Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)
- Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*)
- Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*)
- Wart-stem ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*)
- Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*)
- Orcutt's Spineflower (*Chorizanthe orcuttiana*)
- Summer-holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*)
- Short-leaf Dudleya (*Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *brevifolia*)
- Sticky dudleya (*Dudleya viscida*)
- San Diego button-celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*)
- San Diego barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*)
- Felt-leaf monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata*)
- San Diego goldenstar (*Muilla clevelandii*)
- Little mousetail (*Myosurus minimus*)
- Spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*)
- Chaparral beargrass (*Nolina cismontane*)
- Gander's butterweed (*Packera ganderi*)
- Nuttall's scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*)
- Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)
- San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*)
- Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*)

At present, the North County Plan is being revised to incorporate comments from stakeholders and the Wildlife Agencies. The preliminary draft of the North County Plan is scheduled to be put on the County's MSCP website for public review within the next month. This is not the only time you will be able to review the plan. Public comments on the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the plan, and the plan will be available for public review again later, along with the EIR evaluating the environmental impacts of the plan.

If you are interested in reviewing the preliminary draft plan or finding out more about the plan, check the County's MSCP website at

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/mscp/nc.html.

Bobbie Stephenson—CNPS-SD

WELCOME NEW CNPS MEMBERS

- Erin Bergman
- Mariana Geck
- Roxanne Kim-Perez
- Birgit Knorr
- Torrey Neel
- Cathleen Wolf

REMEMBER—A CNPS Membership makes a wonderful gift!

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NATIVE PLANTS FOR CALIFORNIA

LANDSCAPE SITUATIONS

Here is a summary of the plants recommended by Dan Songster in his presentation for the January monthly CNPS-SD meeting—

Thank you Hank for putting this together for us!

Ground cover

Achillea millifolium 'Island Pink'-Yarrow Cv
Arctostaphylos edmundsii 'Burt Johnson'-Manz. Cv
Arctostaphylos 'John Dourley'-Manzanita Cv.
Ceanothus griseus var. *hor.*-Yankee Point'-Calif. Lilac
Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens*-Scarlet buckwheat
Fragaria californica-California Wild Strawberry
Salvia leucophylla 'Point Sal'-Purple Sage

Slope/Hillside Plants

Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks'-Prostrate Coyote Bush
Encelia californica- Coast Sunflower
Eriogonum fasciculatum-California Buckwheat
Prunus ilicifolia ssp. *lyonii*-Catalina Cherry
Ribes viburnifolium-Evrgrn Currant/Catalina Perfume
Romneya coulteri-Matilija Poppy

Grasses/Bulbs (Useful in meadows)

Aritisida purpurea-Purple Three-Awn Grass
Mulenbergia rigens-Deergrass
Nassella pulchra-Purple Needlegrass
Carex praegracilis-Clustered Sedge
Sisyrinchium bellum-Blue Eyed Grass
Allium unifolium- NCN, Wild Onion
Bloomeria (Tritelia) laxa-Ithuriel's Spear
Calochortus species-Mariposa Lily
Dichelostema capitatum-Blue Dicks

Accent Plants

Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Sentinel'-Manzanita
Fremontia cal. 'California Glory'-Cal. Flannelbush Cv.
Mimulus species and hybrids-Monkeyflower
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP'-Foothill Pen.
Salvia spathacea-Hummingbird Sage
Yucca whipplei-Our Lord's Candle

Hedges/Screens

Ceanothus species-California Lilac
Heteromeles arbutifolia-Toyon
Mahonia 'Golden Abundance'-Oregon Grape
Myrica californica hybrid -Pacific Wax Myrtle
Rhamnus californica-California Coffeeferry
Rhus integrifolia-Lemonade Berry

Vines

Antigonon leptopus-San Miguel Coral Vine
Calystegia macrostegia 'Anacapa Pink'-Island Morning-Glory
Keckiella cordifolia-Heart-leaved Penstemon
Vitis californica 'Roger's Red'-Calif. Wild Grape Cv.

Container

Arctostaphylos species-Manzanita
Bulbs!
Dudleya species-Live Forever
Galvesia speciosa-Island Snapdragon
Verbena lilacena-Lilac Verbena

Shade

Aquilegia Formosa-Western (Red) Columbine
Carpenteria californica-Bush Anemone
Heuchera maxima & hybrids-Coral bells
Iris douglasiana and 'Canyon Snow'-Douglas Iris+Cvs
Ribes sang. Var. *glutinosa*-Red Flowering Currant &
Ribes speciosum-Fuchsia Flowering Gooseberry
Thalictrum polycarpum-Meadow Rue

Summer/Fall Performers

Aesculus californica-California Buckeye
Chilopsis linearis-Desert Willow
Epilobium californica-California Fuchsia species
Erigeron gluaca 'Wayne Roderick'-Seaside Daisy
Eriogonum species-Buckwheat
Isocoma menziesii- Coast Goldenbush
Salvia clevelandii-Cleveland Sage
Tecoma stans-Golden Bells
Trichostema lanatum-Woolly Blue Curls

Many of these plants will be available at the Tree of Life

Spring Plant Sale—March 7, 2009!!

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.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO

March 2009

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