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# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

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April 2009

[www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org)

CNPS (916) 447-2677

[info@cnpsd.org](mailto:info@cnpsd.org)

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### VEEP SPEAKS

I joined CNPS to learn about California native plants. In 1978 I moved to Los Angeles from New York City, and I was surprised to find myself surrounded by mountains and trees. From there, I moved to San Jose, then Santa Barbara, then finally to San Diego in 1984. I took lots of hikes and participated with Audubon's Christmas Bird Count everywhere along the way. But I knew very little about native plants, other than Bristle cone and Torrey pines--which have excellent press agents. Even with tutelage from the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden my yard filled with grass, Mediterranean shrubs and trees. A monthly Chapter meeting was advertised in the Reader. I went. It was a fantastic slide show on California native plants in San Diego. I was hooked. I joined, largely for field trips. I ended up helping Carrie Schneider with Legislation.

Here's what I'd like you all to do: Write Julie Janssen, our Newsletter Editor at [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org) and tell her your favorite place(s) to walk or hike and see native plants.

Conservation organizations get so wrapped up in politics and land-use issues they sometimes lose touch with harmony, beauty and the outdoors.

Let's not do that.

Support our Chapter's field trips and get together as much as you support our efforts to understand and conserve our natural landscape.

Peter St Clair

### 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](http://www.earthdiscovery.org/619-437-7989)

See Page 8 for More Details

### CNPS MEETING PROGRAM

April 15 - 7pm

#### **Native Treasures: Plant Encounters in the California Outback**

Nevin Smith has spent his entire life growing plants in California and exploring its wild landscape with a passion. Our speaker this month will present a personal account of the joys and challenges of exploring the California landscape, working with its native plant treasures, and bringing them to California gardeners.

Mr. Smith has been one of California's most respected nurserymen for over 30 years. Currently he is Director of Horticulture at Suncrest Nurseries in Watsonville. He has selected, named and introduced numerous native plants familiar to many of us.

In 2006 he published *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California*. He has published many interesting features in *Fremontia* and *Pacific Horticulture*. He received his B.A degree from UC Berkeley in political science and a Master's from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Please join us for this important presentation from one of the most respected horticulturalists in the industry.

#### **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.

## SAN DIEGO WATER RATIONING AND YOUR LANDSCAPE

We San Diegans use a lot of water, about 150 gallons per person every day, which is more than the national average. Most of that water, about 64%, goes toward outdoor use, mostly to water lawns and other outdoor plants. Thirsty landscaping can be avoided with native plants; once established, they do not need the watering that lawns and most nonnatives require. As the city of San Diego contemplates mandatory water rationing due to years of drought, native plants can help ensure that we make it through these dry times.

San Diego has been in drought for years. And the areas where we get most of our water are similarly running dry. About 90% of our water comes from the State Water Project, which derives most of its water from the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, and the Colorado River. For the Sierras, the winter snow pack has declined for the last 20 years and has reached a historic low. Also, the Colorado River basin is in its eighth year of drought.

Because of the diminishing water supply, the city of San Diego plans on reducing water delivery starting this July and has held workshops with the public to get its input in the process. The city favors a plan in which households will be given an allocation calculated as a percentage of previous years' use. This avoids the "policeman" aspect of other plans, such as restricting lawn watering to certain days of the week or fining homeowners if watering causes runoff.

Although things are still in the input and planning stages, the city will be expecting most of the water reductions to be made from outdoor watering, which uses more water and is less essential than indoor uses of cooking, cleaning, and sanitation. Total xeriscaping would be the best way to save water, but any amount of landscaping performed with native plants would be a move in the right direction.

If you're already xeriscaping or otherwise trying to save every drop and fear that the city will reduce the paltry amount of water you use even further, don't worry. The allocation will be calculated on patterns of use from 2005 to 2007, and there will be a minimum level, a baseline that the city will set for a typical resident for cooking, cleaning, sanitation, etc., that cannot be reduced.

Paul Hormick

## CNPS—SD MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 4-** Crest Native Plant Sale 8am—12 noon pg 8

**April 4 -** Point Loma Garden Work Party 9-11am pg 3

**April 4—** Public Field Trip Cedar Ridge Park 10 am—noon pg 5

**April 5 -** Members Only Field Trip Chaparral and Canyon Woodlands 9am-3pm pg 4

**April 5—** Tecolote Canyon Walk 9-11am pg 4

**April 8-** CNPS-SD Chapter Board Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm pg 3

**April 11 -** Old Town Native Plant Garden Work Party 1-3pm pg 3

**April 11 -** Public Field Trip Sweetwater River 10am—noon pg 5

**April 15-** CNPS Meeting Program 7pm pg 1

**April 18 -** Public Field Trip Manchester Preserve 10am—noon pg 5

**April 19 -** Point Loma Garden Work Party 9-11am pg 3

**April 19—** Earth Fair CNPS Booth pg 4

**April 19 -** Native Plant Walk 2pm pg 7

**April 25 -** Public Field Trip Penasquitos Canyon 10 an—noon pg 5

**April 25 -** Rapid Assessment Boulevard pg 8

**April 26 -** Members Only Field Trip Santa Ysabel Preserve 9am—4pm pg 4

## THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION WILDFLOWER HOTLINE

If you are interested in learning what is blooming and where visit the Theodore Payne website at:

[www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

## MONTHLY WORK PARTIES

### Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden

2nd Saturday of each month

**April 11, 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

**April 4 and 19, 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](mailto:Richard@sandiegoriver.org)

619-297-7380

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

## WELCOME TO BETSY CORY—OUR NEW CNPS-SD HOSPITALITY CHAIR

Our monthly meetings offer more than just an interesting speaker -- they give members and visitors a chance to meet and chat with other plant lovers. Making our meetings welcoming, friendly, and delicious is the mission of Betsy Cory, our new Hospitality Chair.

Betsy joined CNPS through her involvement with birds, especially hawks and owls. (She has been a raptor rehabber with Project Wildlife for seven years.) Wanting to learn about local birds led her to hikes in local canyons, which led to her interest in the flora that support the fauna there. Living between two canyons in Chula Vista has led Betsy to co-lead the CNPS public hikes in those canyons and others around the County.

She feels she can relate to members of the public who aren't botanists because she is not a botanist herself. She works in speech therapy with the Chula Vista elementary schools and finds that her students enjoy learning about wild plants and animals. She's also a member of Audubon Society, Canyonlands, and the Chula Vista's Resource Conservation Commission. Look for veggies and herbs from Betsy's garden decorating the Hospitality Table at our meetings.

## CNPS-SD CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

**April 8, 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](mailto:president@cnpsd.org)

### Board Meeting Summary - March 11, 2009

Discussion at the March Board meeting focused on the budget the 2009 Fiscal Year (March 2009 to March 2010). The Board unanimously approved an operating budget of \$23,550. The big ticket items are \$7,200 for the newsletter, \$5,000 for books (for sale), \$1,000 for Chapter Council, \$2,000 for Native Gardening, \$2,000 for Programs, \$1,000 for the Plant Sale, and \$1,000 for Public Outreach.

Additional budgets that were approved are:

President	\$250.00
Vice President	\$50.00
Administration	\$1,250.00
Conservation	\$600.00
Education	\$500.00
Field Trips	\$400.00
Hospitality	\$150.00
Legislation	\$50.00
Membership	\$150.00
Publicity	\$50.00
Vegetation	\$350.00
Website	\$550.00

The Board also set aside funds in several general categories, with specific expenditures in these categories subject to Board vote:

\$2500 to expand our Reserve ("rainy day") Fund to \$22,500;

\$6700 to create a Legal Fund, with \$3350 directly allocated and \$3350 contingent on matching contributions;

\$2300 to Mini-Grants to fund small projects;

\$5000 for "sister organizations" that we are help fund on an ongoing basis;

\$2500 to purchase major equipment.



## 2009 FIELD TRIPS FOR CNPS MEMBERS\*

**Sunday April 5 - 9 AM to 3 PM**

### **South Alpine Foothill Chaparral and Canyon Woodlands**

Botanist Kirsten Winter will lead and help us identify plants on a private parcel in the Alpine area on the north fork of the Sweetwater River, and then into a nearby part of the Cleveland National Forest. After we explore riparian woodlands and unusual hard chaparral on "One Starfish Ranch", those who wish to help, will form a chain to help shift some junk left by the previous owners from the river bed to a staging area for the present owners to remove. We'll break for lunch, and then caravan to an area Kirsten has explored in the Cleveland NF foothills about five miles from the Ranch. Wear good hiking shoes, long pants and sleeves, sun protection, and bring a couple of quarts of water, and lunch.

Meet 9 AM at 7563 Dehesa Road, south Alpine. From I-8 in Alpine take Tavern Road south to the junction with Jamul and Dehesa Rds. Turn right on Dehesa and proceed approx. one mile, until you see 7563 on the mailbox on the opposite side of the road. Make a turn sharp left into the driveway. Take the descending driveway down the hill and park where there is space at the terrace to the left. If you need help with directions, call 619-445-4351.

If you want to ride-share or caravan from coastal Mission Valley, meet at 8 AM at Denny's Restaurant on the north side of Friar's Road just east of I-163.

RSVP to Kay at [kaytaff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaytaff@sbcglobal.net) Please leave your cell phone number and say if you plan to meet at Dehesa Rd. or the Denny's in Mission Valley.

**Sunday April 26 - 9 AM to 4 PM**

### **Santa Ysabel Preserve and Neighboring Private Wildland**

Jerilyn Hirshberg, botanist, will lead CNPS members into the forests and meadows of the San Diego River's headwaters. We will see what five-plus years of recovery looks like since the Cedars Fire ravaged the Oak woodland, mixed chaparral, riparian, and meadowlands of this 3,500'-plus elevation mountain landscape.

Homeowners adjacent to the Santa Ysabel Preserve invited CNPS to explore and identify plants on their 12-acre parcel. At around 11, the group will backtrack to the lower trailhead of Santa Ysabel Preserve. We will walk to the headwaters of the San Diego River and a bit beyond to a ridge with great views, and return downhill, for a roundtrip walk of around

six miles. A map of the preserve can be downloaded at: <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/openspace/santaysabelmap.html>

Meet at Dudley's Bakery at the junction of HWY 78 and 79 at 9 AM, and the group will caravan from there. Wear good shoes, long pants and sun protection, a jacket if the weather cools, and bring water and lunch for a picnic on the trail. Binoculars are a bonus with sightings of interesting birds and other animals likely.

If people want to ride-share or caravan from coastal areas to Santa Ysabel, meet at 8 AM at the Park'n'ride on Sabre Springs Road. Take Poway Road east from I-15, turn north (left) on Sabre Springs Road, left at the first signal into the shopping center, and turn right into the north parking lot. RSVP to Kay at [kaytaff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaytaff@sbcglobal.net) - and please leave your cell phone number, and whether you plan to meet at Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel or at the Park'n-ride in Poway.

\* **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.

### **MONTHLY CNPS-SD EVENTS**

Tecolote Canyon Walk - First Sunday of each month

April 5, 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.

**Earth Fair**, the annual environmental extravaganza, will happen for the 40<sup>th</sup> time on April 19<sup>th</sup> in Balboa Park and CNPS will be there. Spectacular spring wildflowers and upcoming water restrictions ought to mean that lots of people will want to talk to us. So I'm looking for a dozen friendly people to spend 3 hours chatting with what is inevitably an interesting assortment of folks (last year I had a great ten- minute conversation with Mike Aguirre). You DON'T need to be an expert to do this, in fact, it would be a great chance to educate yourself by perusing our books and flyers. You DO need to be pleasant and outgoing; you can quickly learn the rest. If you want to take a shift (9 to 12, 12 to 3, 3 to 6) please call or email (see back page).

Dave Flietner

## PUBLIC FIELD TRIPS SPRING 2009

Spring is here and the flowers are blooming! Come explore the wonders of San Diego with CNPS volunteers. Bring family and friends and share in our volunteers' enthusiasm and knowledge about our common native plants. These public field trips are short walks in moderate terrain suitable for able-bodied folks from 7 to 70. Plant discussions will include the use of common names and touching, smelling, maybe even tasting.

**April 4**, 10:00 am to noon. **Cedar Ridge Park**. **Betsy Cory** and **Paul Hormick** lead. Meet at end of Pentuckett Ave. (Thomas Guide 1289, F2). From 30<sup>th</sup> Street in South Park, turn east on Juniper, continue to end and turn south on Pentuckett Ave., continue to end of street.

**April 11**, 10 am to noon. **Sweetwater River** (Rancho San Diego). **David Di Donato** and **J R Sundberg** lead. Meet at Edward's Cinema parking lot, in front of Rubio's (Thomas Guide 1271,J6). From Highway 94 eastbound, turn right on Campo Road; turn left at first light and park in front of Rubio's.

**April 18**, 10:00 am to noon. **Manchester Preserve** (Encinitas). **Arne Johanson** and **Adrienne Heinzelman** lead. Meet at the end of Calle Ryan (Thomas Guide 1167, G2). From I-5 exit Manchester and head east. Manchester becomes El Camino Real; stay on El Camino Real, turn right on Calle Ryan.

**April 25**, 10:00 am to noon. **Penasquitos Canyon**. **Frank Landis** and **Michael Murphy** lead. (Thomas Guide 1189, D7). Exit Highway 56 at Black Mountain Road, head south 0.9 miles, left onto Canyonside Park Road and park. We will meet on the western side of the ball fields.

**May 2**, 10:00 am to noon. **Dove Canyon**. **Betsy Cory** and **Paul Hormick** lead. Meet at the First Unitarian Universalist Church (Thomas Guide 1269, A5). From Washington St. in Hillcrest, turn north onto First St., then left onto Arbor St. Two paid parking lots in the area.

**May 9**, 10:00 am to noon. **Marian Bear Memorial Park**. **Frank Landis** and **Michael Murphy** lead. (Thomas Guide 1228, C7). From Highway 52, exit at Regents Street. Turn south, go 200 yards, turn right, drive to parking lot.

**May 16**, 10:00 am to noon. **Black Mountain Open Space**. **Arne Johanson** and **Adrienne Heinzelman** lead. (Thomas Guide 1169, E6). Exit Highway 56 at Black Mountain Road, turn right (east) on Carmel Valley Road and continue ¾ mile to the park entrance on the right.

**May 23**, 10:00 am to noon. **Tijuana Slough**. **David Di Donato** and **J. R. Sundberg** lead. Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> & Iris (Thomas Guide 1349, F2). From I-5 exit west on Coronado Ave. (not the bridge). Coronado becomes Imperial Beach Blvd, left on 5<sup>th</sup> St. to end. Park on street at trail entrance.



## Cal-IPC's 2009 Field Courses in Southern California

Looking to hone your wildland weed management skills? Cal-IPC's field courses provide expert instruction on core topics for your work. Courses are designed for professional land managers and restoration volunteers — newcomers and old-timers, professionals and committed volunteers alike.

*For 2009 Cal-IPC is able to offer a special discounted rate for restoration volunteers! You qualify as a restoration volunteer if weed management is not part of your professional work and you volunteer for an organized restoration effort.*

### ***Southern California Field Course Schedule:***

#### **San Diego - Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Open Space**

April 1 - Control Methods

April 2 - Revegetation Techniques

#### **Pasadena - Audubon Center at Debs Park**

November 4 - Control Methods

November 5 - Mapping

Registration and details at:

[www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/index.php](http://www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/index.php)

And although this isn't exactly Southern California, I know that many of you will plan to join us at our annual Symposium in **Visalia - Kaweah Oaks Preserve**

October 7 - Advanced Herbicide Control Techniques **NEW!**

*[Cal-IPC 2009 Symposium follows on Oct. 8-10 at Visalia Convention Center]*

## NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

The Native Gardening committee was formed with the goal of raising the awareness of the general public about the ecological, economic, and aesthetic benefits of gardening with native plants and increasing our members' skills and enjoyment of their native plant gardens. A core group of nine members met on March 4 to set a course toward meeting these goals. The group ran the spectrum from locally-renowned experts to novice gardeners (like me). We discussed a large number of possible ideas for the group and coalesced around five initial objectives that fit the strengths and abilities of our group:

- Develop a power point presentation about the benefits of native plant gardening;
- Initiate a native garden program for schools
- Create a series of brochures on native gardening techniques
- Establish a Gardening Forum on our chapter website
- Have mini-seminars before our monthly meetings

The power point presentation will be designed to communicate our message to landscape professionals, home owners associations, local government groups, etc. The idea here is to dispel stereotypes and explain the benefits of using native plants to groups that make decisions over large landscaped areas. The professional landscapers in our group (the "pros") will jointly develop this presentation and form the core of a speaker's bureau that will solicit and accept invitations to speak.

Our gardening pros (**Greg Rubin**, **Wes Hudson**, **Morgan Vondrak** – so far!) will also act as our native garden design resource team for developing school garden projects. We will contact the school districts to let them know this resource is available, and then individuals will design a planting plan for that site. The school will be responsible for obtaining plants, tools, irrigation, etc., but we will also be available to direct activities on installation day. We hope that a "non-pro" in our group will "adopt" the garden at this point and continue to work with the school to make sure that it is a continuing success and resource for the students. I thank **Morgan Vondrak** for volunteering to coordinate both the development of the presentation and the school garden design projects.

The series of native gardening brochures would also be

developed by the professional gardeners in our group to address common situations faced by native gardeners in our area. The brochures would have a uniform format and would help identify CNPS as THE source of native gardening information. They would be available both as pdf files on our website and as paper copies to be handed out at public events that our chapter participates in. **Susan Krzywicki** will coordinate this effort.

The Gardening forum on our website will more directly serve our members by offering a place where we can ask specific questions about gardening problems and learn from the experience of others. While non-members will be able to search for specific topics and view the answers, the password-protected forum will be for members only. **Jeremy Sison** will set up and monitor this forum.

The most tangible benefit to our members should come from our new "Natives for Novices" mini-seminars that will be held before our monthly meetings. These will be informal, hands-on, low-key presentations on specific topics of wide interest that will be held from 6:50 to 7:20 PM, before the formal talk at our monthly meetings. **Greg Rubin** will present first, talking about "Converting Your Lawn to a Native Garden" at our April 15 meeting. **Susan Marchetti** is coordinating this activity, and I'll put you in touch with her if you would like to present next.

This is an ambitious undertaking by an enthusiastic group of volunteers, and one that I think will breathe new life into a long-neglected aspect of our mission. There are plenty of opportunities for all of our horticulturally inclined members to get involved, from professionals who can serve on our speaker's bureau, to gifted amateurs who are welcome to present at our monthly meetings, to the general gardener who could adopt a newly-installed school garden.

Dave Flietner

### 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](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org)

# CNPS-SD

## FALL PLANT SALE

**Fall Plant Sale:** All inquiries regarding our fall plant sale on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, should go to [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org).

While it is only April, our fall plant sale (our largest fundraiser) is only six months away. The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers interested in organizing this year's plant sale. No plant experience necessary, looking for organized individuals with good communication skills.

### Specific tasks needed for our fall plant sale:

**Home Growers wanted for Fall Plant Sale:** If you are interested in growing plants for the October plant sale, please e-mail [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org). We buy many plants from native plant nurseries but member grown plants increases our profits and enables us to protect more native plants and their habitats. Perhaps you have some native plants in your garden that you can share or propagate from cuttings. If you're a novice at plant propagation, we encourage you to pick up one of the many books on native plant propagation, see our website for a complete listing, or e-mail us with your questions. We have many experienced members who can help you get started with native plant propagation.

**Seed and Bulb Team:** We also collect and sell our own seed at the fall plant sale. We need help collecting, cleaning and packaging.

**Publicist:** A motivated individual(s) to help promote the sale throughout the local and regional area. Excellent communication and computer skills required.

**Comments wanted:** Do you have any ideas that would help us improve our fall plant sale? What plants do you really want to buy at the plant sale? How can we make things easier for customers at the sale? E-mail us at [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org).

Submitted by the Plant Sale Committee

### Native Plant Walk Sunday April 19th— 2pm

Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association  
presents the 7th Annual Native Plant Home Tour.

Please arrive and sign-in by 1:45. We will gather in the St. Mary's School parking lot at the corner of Wisconsin and South Ditmar in Oceanside.

Come see 15 Native Plant Gardens in the historic Seaside Neighborhood! Plant experts and neighborhood locals will lead a one mile walking tour to see these wonderful front

# Pellytaay

(pronounced like 'pestai' with a lisp)

## *Salvia apiana* White Sage

Pellytaay is the first plant I was introduced to when I started seriously studying ethnobotany with Jane Dumas about thirty years ago. After listening to her for a couple of years Jane took me to her mother's gathering place to help her gather. Jane's mother, Ysabel Thing, was one of the last and greatest healers in southern California.

After Jane showed me the different plants growing there, she asked me to dig up a small pellytaay (*Salvia apiana*) and pot it for her to take. But first she said I must ask permission from the plant, say a prayer for it to the Creator, and tell the plant what you are going to do with it. Ever since then I have been asking permission, saying a prayer, and giving the plant my intent before I gather it.

Years later I started taking botany classes to help identify the plants Jane Dumas was talking about because Jane's plant knowledge is in her native Kumeyaay language. In traditional plant use there is male and female pellytaay. While in botany *Salvia apiana* has both sexual parts in its flowers and in botany, plants are classified by the flower parts. Traditionally plants are classified by the senses; sight, smell, touch, and sometimes taste.

Pellytaay is one of the most versatile plants with the Kumeyaay. Pellytaay has ceremonial, medicinal, food, and utilitarian uses. Pellytaay is used in sacred ceremonies because its seed stalks are considered umbilical cords to the Creator and when burned removes the negativity. Tea made from its leaves helps relieve colds and congestion and works as a blood purifier. (Caution: pregnant and nursing women should not ingest pellytaay.) Its seeds and young shoots are eaten as food. Pellytaay was the favorite plant for the most basic utilitarian use, t.p. Its leaves are big and soft and they smell good.

Richard Bugbee  
Hunwut Nganga Pe'naxanish  
Namuul Ipa'shw'ii Womii

*Richard Bugbee is an ethnobotanist of Kumeyaay Indian descent. He lives in Topanga Canyon, but frequently teaches at Cuyamaca Community College and Kumeyaay Community College. He helped select plants for the Old Town State Park Native Plant Garden.*

## CNPS-SD RAPID ASSESSMENTS

**Rapid Assessment:** April 25, 2009 in Boulevard.

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 (DFG) 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.

Nine participants attended our February 28 surveys. We conducted our surveys at Carlsbad Oaks North, a habitat conservation area (Preserve) in Carlsbad. We surveyed two homogeneous vegetation stands during our visit. The Preserve is notable in that there are large stands of coast live oak woodland, as well as large stands of scrub oak woodland, and hence the epithet. The scrub oak woodland we surveyed was dominated by coast scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), a CNPS (1B.1 listed) rare plant. Other areas of the Preserve contain a mixture of this species with scrub oak (*Q. berberidifolia*), and supposed hybrids among these two species. We will certainly be back to sample these mixed woodlands. The coast live oak woodland (*Q. agrifolia*) had a beautiful canopy; and with the exception of the poison oak bugging our attempts to walk, was exceedingly pleasant to be under.

The April 25 survey is likely to take place nearby the town of Boulevard, in eastern San Diego County. We are excited at the opportunity to visit these locations. 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 to get more information, you may email: [vegetation@cnpsd.org](mailto: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

CNPS San Diego Vegetation Committee

## PLANT PHENOLOGY STUDY

Do you have a favorite natural place that you regularly visit? If so, you can enhance your understanding of the life cycle of the native plants growing there while contributing to a nation-wide study on the effects of global warming. Ruben H. Fleet Science Center and the San Diego Natural History Museum have created a new program that will harness the observations of hundreds of amateur naturalists like you to note changes in important stages of plant growth (phenology) over time. These kinds of changes can affect foraging and pollinating insects that depend on their host plants to survive.

Volunteers note the time of emergence and completion of leafing and flowering of select species of common plants and enter the information on a simple web-based form. The observations will be compared to past records and, more importantly, with future observations, to determine if and how different plant species are responding to climate change. You don't need to be a professional botanist to do this – the project looks at only a few common species and provides links to photographs of these plants, as well as verification of field samples. This activity will both hone your observational skills and enhance your appreciation of the natural world around you.

To get involved or learn more about the project, contact Mary Ann Hawke ([mhawke@sdnhm.org](mailto:mhawke@sdnhm.org), (619) 255-0301).

### Spring 2009 Native Plant Sale

Earth Discovery Institute/Crestridge Ecological Reserve  
Saturday, April 4, 2009: 8am-12noon  
Native Plants/Expert Advisors/Kids Activities

The EDI/Crestridge native plant sale benefits education and restoration programs at Crestridge Ecological Reserve. Most plants will be local natives in 1-gallon containers. Native plant experts will be on hand to assist you with selection. Most plants are \$7.50 or 3 for \$20.

Fun activities for kids: Dissect an owl pellet/Build a birdfeeder/Make an animal track.

**1171 Horsemill Road**, El Cajon (Crest), CA 92021

I-8 to Greenfield Drive

- East on Greenfield to La Cresta
- Up the hill on La Cresta for 3 miles
- A top of hill, turn left onto Mountain View
- Stay on Mountain View for 1.1 miles to Horsemill (on left)
- Turn left onto Horsemill, continue to end, park
- Walk in on dirt road behind gate

Please contact Cathy Chadwick at [chadgroup@cox.net](mailto:chadgroup@cox.net) or 619-437-7989 for more information.



# WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

## 2008 Changes to the County Fire and Building Code Requirements

The wildfires of 2003 and 2007 have had a huge impact on the lives of residents in San Diego County. The most important part of living with wildfires in the backcountry is to reduce the susceptibility of structures to catching fire. The County of San Diego is working on many ways to reduce the loss of structures to wildfires, not the least of which is the strengthening the County Fire and Building Code, the newest of which became effective January 30, 2008 ([http://www.amlegal.com/sandiego\\_county\\_ca](http://www.amlegal.com/sandiego_county_ca)). Although these changes affect new construction, the County is also looking retrofitting existing structures. Since there is not enough space in this newsletter to describe all the changes to the code, a few of the requirements are described and at the end of the article locations on the County's website are provided for those who want to learn more.

Previously there was a two-tier system of ignition-resistant construction: "Basic" for all structures located in the wildland-urban interface area, and "enhanced" requirements for when 100' fuel modification zone around the structure could not be achieved on the parcel. Now there is just one level of ignition-resistant construction for all structures in the wildland-urban interface, regardless of the size of the fuel modification zone. All structures have to meet the previously named "enhanced" requirements.

One of the code areas that needed improvement was eave construction. Winds in wildfires carry huge amounts of burning embers, swirling into cracks and crevices, igniting anything that is combustible. Eaves, because they are perpendicular to the wall, tend to capture blowing embers. Eave vents, which are designed to move air in and out of the attic, give opportunity for embers to ignite soffit material or enter attic areas. Once a fire starts in an attic, it goes undetected for some time and is very difficult to stop even under ideal conditions. Eaves, soffits and fascias must comply with requirements for ignition-resistant construction. New requirements for eave construction reduce the ability for fire to start in the eaves of a house and can be found at:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/docs/DPLU198.pdf>

With few exceptions, exterior wall surfaces must be non-combustible (stucco, masonry, cement-fiber board, etc.), ignition-resistant, heavy timber or log wall construction.

All vents (attic, underfloor, combustion air, etc.) must resist the intrusion of flames and burning embers into the

corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with 1/4" openings. Windows must be dual-glazed units with a minimum of one tempered pane **or** shall be glass block units **or** shall have a fire-resistance rating of 20 minutes. Previously there was the option of windows being dual-glazed *or* tempered; now it is *required* that windows be dual-glazed with a minimum of one tempered pane per the California Building Code.

The first five feet of fences and other items attached to a structure shall be constructed of non-combustible material, pressure-treated exterior fire-retardant wood or meet the same fire-resistive standards as the exterior walls of the structure. The building official may allow vinyl fences when the construction conforms to guidance documents.

Paper faced insulation is not permitted in attics or ventilated spaces due to the potential of embers igniting the paper. Foil-backed or un-faced fiberglass batts and blankets are better suited to conditions of potential fire hazards.

Roof gutters shall be provided with the means to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris. Previously roof gutters and downspouts were required to be metal; roof gutters and downspouts constructed from vinyl are now acceptable. Vinyl melts but does not burn. Exterior doors must be of approved non-combustible construction **or** of solid-core wood not less than 1 3/8" thick **or** have a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. In addition, decks, balconies, carports, patio covers, and other projections and attachments must be of non-combustible construction (such as concrete or metal) or fire-retardant treated wood (pressure-treated, listed for exterior use, installed per listing), heavy timber construction, or one-hour fire-resistive construction.

These are just a few of the design features that can help make a new structure withstand wildfire. The County Fire and Building Code can be found at [www.amlegal.com/sandiego\\_county\\_ca](http://www.amlegal.com/sandiego_county_ca). Publications regarding living with wildfire and what to do before, during and after a fire in San Diego County can be found at [www.wildfirezone.org](http://www.wildfirezone.org).

Bobbie Stephenson—CNPS-SD Member



## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee meets monthly to discuss progress on projects aimed at preserving our wonderful native vegetation. If you'd like to join us, please contact Carrie Schneider at [info@cnpssd.org](mailto:info@cnpssd.org). We welcome people of all levels of skill in the conservation area. One of our new projects is "Plumping Up the Rare Plants Database", in collaboration with the San Diego Natural History Museum and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Carrie Schneider

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to **renew automatically** year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

Visit the CNPS website at:

[www.CNPS.org](http://www.CNPS.org)

Click on the **JOIN** button

## NEED CNPS VOLUNTEERS FOR EVENT IN RAMONA

The Ramona Garden Club has asked if CNPS wants to have space at the "home base" of their annual garden tour on **SATURDAY APRIL 18**. CNPS could sell plants and give out information at the site in the heart of the commercial district of Ramona. This very active garden club reaches a lot of people. If anyone would organize this, I would be happy to coach them on putting it together, including how to get more volunteers, since I did this for four years in the 1990's.

Please contact me - Kay Stewart [kaytaff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaytaff@sbcglobal.net) or call 619-234-2668

## WELCOME NEW CNPS MEMBER

**Cathy Mador**

REMEMBER—A CNPS Membership makes a wonderful gift!

# MEMBERSHIP

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

California Native Plant Society

- Student or Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group or Library \$75

- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1,500

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPRING PLANT SALE AT TREE OF LIFE NURSERY

The day was sunny and clear and the Tree of Life (TOL) personnel were prepared for an overflow crowd as we had the previous year. In 2008 we had so many visitors that every available parking space in the front parking lot and along the roads in the Nursery were completely filled. Their plans for an equally large group this year did not materialize. We publicized and promoted the sale much as we have in prior years, but recession blues and the general economic conditions are not like previous years.

We had many people shopping for a specific plant or for a specific area in their yard and garden. In 2008 we had families who purchased plants for their entire landscape. The knowledge and expertise of our members who volunteered to work at the sale was appreciated. All of our volunteers had worked at the Tree of Life Nursery before at earlier CNPS-SD sales. Knowing the layout of the nursery and where specific plants are to be found is a real advantage. The working relationship between our volunteers and the TOL employees was excellent.

Dave Flietner and Kay Stewart were in attendance for the talk on the restoration of the Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden which Kay delivered at 11AM and again at about 1:30 in the afternoon, by request of some visitors. There was also some TOL personnel attending who were interested in hearing about the restoration work and the plants that were selected based on the plants that were there many years ago. When they were not giving a talk Dave and Kay were in the plant sale area mixing with other CNPS SD volunteers to assist the customers.

The Tree of Life nursery had bumper stickers that stated "I KILLED MY LAWN" followed on the next line by TREE OF LIFE NURSERY. This class is taught at the nursery on three successive Saturdays as a way to reduce residential water consumption by replacing your lawn with native plants. It conserves water at a time when available supplies of water are shrinking. It is also a way to reduce your water bill, as many water districts are increasing the price of each additional unit of water consumed. The TOL training program has been very successful both in the sale of California native plants and the resulting reduction in the water bills of those who took the course and practiced what they had learned.

Many thanks to Cindy Burrascano, Sandi Feiock, Dave Flietner, Don Miller, Coolidge Sharkey and Kay Stewart for their help in this year's sale. Their attitude remained cheerful and upbeat even with a slow day at the plant sale.

Ray Feiock

## OUR THANKS TO TREE OF LIFE NURSERY!

Many thanks to Tree of Life Nursery for their generosity Saturday March 7, 2009. We San Diego CNPS members had a beautiful day helping out with the Nursery's sponsored CNPS joint-chapters plant sale.

We met Orange County (OC) chapter members, including OC chapter President Laura Camp. Among other things, I learned more about the Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. This preserve is about five miles from TOL Nursery. San Diego CNPS members who might want to go see it, here is a list of upcoming events and contact info.

All events are hosted by a docent, and you must make a reservation to visit the Conservancy.

- Kay Stewart

### THE DONNA O'NEILL LAND CONSERVANCY

The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy invites you to join upcoming events:

#### April 2009

4 CPPF Nature Talk\* 10:00-11:00a

11 Trail Clear & Weed 8:00-11:30a

18 Astronomy Night 7:00-9:00p

25 Sierra Sage/Wildflower Walk 9:00-11:30a

#### May 2009

2 CPPF Nature Talk\* 10:00-11:00a

3 Wildflower/Butterfly Walk 10:30-12:30p

9 Trail Clear & Weed 8:00-11:30a

16 Sierra Sage Walk 9:00-11:00p

23 Astronomy Night 7:30-9:30p

\*Caspers Park Preservation Foundation program, held at the Visitor Center,  
Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park

Dates & times subject to change.

For detailed information about specific events, visit [www.TheConservancy.org](http://www.TheConservancy.org) or call 949-489-9778 or email [staff@theconservancy.org](mailto:staff@theconservancy.org) for information and reservations.

## 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

c/o San Diego Natural History Museum

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## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO

April 2009

Phone (916) 447-2677

[www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org), [info@cnpsd.org](mailto:info@cnpsd.org)

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Open positions: EDUCATION, INVASIVE PLANTS AND PUBLIC  
OUTREACH Contact any board member if you are interested in any of  
these positions.

**NOTE:** For newsletter mailing label issues contact Jim Harrison at  
[newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org) or (858) 273-5242