

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

June 2009

www.cnpssd.org

CNPS (916) 447-2677

info@cnpssd.org

VEEP SPEAKS

On Wednesday, May 6 I hiked the circuit trail around Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary on Wildcat Canyon Rd., just above Lakeside (Rt 67 and Willow Rd) and close to the Barona Indian Casino. Silverwood is owned and maintained by the San Diego Audubon Society. It consists of more than 640 acres of chaparral covered hillsides and two riparian areas.

CNPS and Audubon undertake a number of programs together. They are a wonderful partner and do a great deal to promote and protect California native plants in the wild and in public and private gardens.

Aside from an encounter with three gigantic rattlesnakes who guarded a downhill portion of the trail as if it were the mythological River Styx, Gates of Hades or rocky straights traversed by Odysseus, I had a very enjoyable walk.

I saw about 35 varieties of flowering native trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials and annuals--encompassing most of the species depicted in the Silverwood fold-out wildflower guide (available from Audubon for a nominal charge), the Cuyamaca State Park guide, and the Mission Trails guide.

I saw or heard at least 25 species of birds.

Interestingly, I saw about the same number of wildflowers and birds, although a slightly different composition, on a walk through the eastern portion of the County's new Santa Ysabel Preserve, on State Route 79, just north of Dudley's Bakery, which is at the intersection of State Routes 78 and 79.

At a Monday morning bird count at San Elijo Lagoon, east side, from Rancho Santa Fe to I-5 along Escondido Creek, I saw about the same number of wildflowers, again with different composition, but this time more than 50 bird species, due to the riparian/estuarine nature of the County Park.

My message to all of you? Get out. Take a walk or hike. Count and identify--observe relationships--but most of all-have fun. - Peter H. St. Clair

CNPS MEETING PROGRAM

San Diego, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104 June 16- 7pm

Native Landscape Myths and Legends

Presented by Greg Rubin

This presentation challenges much of the conventional wisdom surrounding native plants with lots of photographic examples. Greg also looks at many of the "Do's" and "Don'ts" of successful nativescapes, including an analysis of a huge, failing native installation (sorry, no names will be divulged). Bring your questions.

Come early and enjoy CNPS-SD's new feature **Natives for Novices** from 6:50-7:20. This months topic will be on How to Plant Natives Successfully

For a Balboa Park map see www.balboapark.org/nav.html www.cnpssd.org - info@cnpssd.org

CNPS-SD CHAPTER BOARD MEETING Wednesday June 3—6:00-8:00

Carmel Valley Branch Library

3919 Townsgate Drive, San Diego, CA

E-mail Dave Flietner for more information president@cnpssd.org

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.

CNPS PLANT SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM WORKSHOPS 2009

June 9-11, Introduction to the second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation

Primary Instructors and authors: Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens

Location: A 3-day transect across the central Sierra Nevada, from the foothills to the eastern Sierra. We will begin at Calaveras Big Trees and end at Grover Hot Springs Valley, near Markleeville. See http://www.scenic4.org/map.html

Course Description: The authors will debut the greatly expanded second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation*. They will provide an overview of additions and changes to the manual, including new vegetation types recognized or redefined across many habitats. You will learn how to use the new manual, in the field as we traverse a variety of vegetation types in the Sierra Nevada, as well as its uses for conservation and management.

Cost: Members \$445 Non-members \$470

June 23-24(25) Great Rivers of California: the American River (3rd day in Desolation Wilderness is optional)

Primary Instructors: Robert Holland and Virginia Dains Location: Headwaters, mid-elevation and valley sections of the American River.

Course Description: Azonal vegetation is shaped by processes other than regional biota and climate. Riparian vegetation is shaped by the agency of flowing water, both during high flows (when the habitat is sculpted) and during low flows (providing late summer irrigation). This class will focus on how stream dynamics and sediment transport structure riparian habitats, taught from a floating classroom. The first day we will float from Fair Oaks to Goethe Park on the lower American River, observing how the current affects our boats, the river's substrate, and the vegetation along a low-gradient valley stream. The second day we will repeat the process upstream, floating the South Fork American from Coloma to Lotus, a steepland stream with all together different riparian vegetation. Licensed, professional guides will captain our rafts both days. For an optional (and limited) over-night, third leg we will goat pack into the American's headwaters in Desolation Valley, where riparian vegetation manifests the additional complication of persistent winter snowpack. The emphasis throughout the class will be more on the processes that shape the vegetation and less on binomial nomenclature.

Cost: Members \$425
Non-members \$450

Additional Cost: Members \$175 Non-members \$200

August 12-14th, Vegetation Rapid Assessment:

Primary Instructors: Todd Keeler Wolf, Julie Evans, Jennifer Buck, and Josie Crawford

Location: Donner Summit

Course Description: The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), present a Vegetation Rapid Assessment workshop near Donner Summit. The course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling. The course will focus on collecting data using the CNPS Rapid Assessment protocol. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

Cost: Members \$365 Non-members \$390

Sept 29- Oct 1, Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert

Primary Instructors: James M. Andre & Tasha La Doux Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

Course Description: Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California's desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals are considered "summer annuals", species that germinate following the monsoonal cloudbursts of summer, grow rapidly, and complete the life cycle before temperatures decline sharply in fall. In addition, many perennial species flower in early fall, particularly those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate to short day hikes.

Cost: TBA

MONTHLY WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden 2nd Saturday of each month

June 13, 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

June 6 and 21, 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

THE OLD TOWN STATE PARK NATIVE PLANT GARDEN— ONE YEAR OLD!

Guy Raffetto from State Parks walked Kay Stewart, our landscape architect and me through the garden this morning.

Thanks to all, it is beautiful and doing very well.

All along, Guy and Kay have managed the irrigation system to use as little water as possible, yet keep our plants alive and our "suggestion of the San Diego River's historic course"--in the form of willow, cottonwood, sycamore and other riverside plants, visible to all. Today we reviewed irrigation needs in light of the plants' growth. We do not need to apply any more water, but we do not believe we can use substantially less for another year or so.

The riparian species will always need irrigation. The historic San Diego river and its groundwater are more than eleven feet beneath the surface. Probably too far for most of the riparian species' roots to reach. The system Guy and Kurt worked on is efficient and allows us to target specific areas, and in some cases, individual plants--delivering water with little waste.

OLD TOWN STATE PARK CONT.

We also plotted against weeds and talked about a twentyyear plan for the garden.

Our "Second Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm" volunteer maintenance program is successful, but we will continue to advertise the opportunity widely with our partner, San Diego River Park Foundation. We have as few as three volunteers and as many as a dozen. People prefer to plant, but what we really need are people who want to weed.

Send them to us, please.

The weed crop is noticeably less this spring than last. It takes about two years to make a significant dent in the weed population, and we are on the path to success. Because so many weeds grow nearby, and the wind blows, and birds and animals (and even people) bring in seeds, we will never be free of weeds. But we can manage them.

Once weeds are under control, we can begin to plant the dry -land bulbs, annual seeds, native grasses and under-story plants that would have grown in and around Old Town before 1769. These will not need irrigation once established.

Two other long term goals: first, visitor education; and second, use of the many basket-making plants we planted. I would like to link the exhibits in McCoy House, many of which discuss the San Diego River, native peoples and native plants, to the landscape outside. When our willow, juncus (rush), tule (reed), deergrass and basket bush are mature, they can be pruned and the fronds used to make baskets and structures.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out and continues to help.

It is a beautiful spot. Visit it at different times of day. Bring friends and family.

Peter H. St. Clair

RECYCLE AND RAISE MONEY FOR CNPS

Las Pilitas Nursery donates 10 cents for every usable pot brought to them by CNPS members. Pots can be brought directly to Las Pilitas at

> 8331 Nelson Way Escondido, CA 92026 or stored at the Tecolote Nature Center at 5180 Tecolote Road San Diego, CA 92110 Please visit the CNPS-SD website for details. www.cnpssd.org

2009 MEMBER'S FABULOUS FIELD TRIPS

CNPS members have followed this year's bloom via five field trips since January. We were very lucky to have picked dates that corresponded with peak flowering at each location. We were also extremely fortunate that four botanists gave of their time to teach us more about San Diego County's native plants.

In February, Margaret Fillius led a group through Torrey Pines, finding many of the flowering plants that she describes in her book on the flora of the preserve and nearby areas. Because the preserve limits group sizes, and so many people had wanted to join her in February, Margaret agreed to lead a second field trip in March, by which time different species were in bloom. In fact, visiting Torrey Pines throughout the year reveals different species in bloom almost every month, since the ocean fog sustains and supports a long bloom cycle in this unique ecosystem.

In March, we headed to the eastern edge of the County, and Larry Hendrickson guided a very lively group into Glorietta Canyon south of Borrego Springs. We were there at exactly the right time of year, locating so many species that the extensive list Larry had prepared had its margins filled up with additional species. Two of the more spectacular desert wildflowers, lookalikes Mohavea and Monoptilon, were in full bloom so we could see how they differ. Tom Chester was botanizing that day in Glorietta and when our chapter field trip ended near the head of the canyon, Tom and Larry got into some intense botanical conversation. Most of us headed back down the canyon, but a few or our group continued over the pass and into a second canyon where they found even more species before calling it a day.

In April we explored the center of San Diego County on two field trips into he Peninsula Range. In early April, Kirsten Winter helped us identify plants on two sites in South Alpine at about 1500 ft elevation. The first site was the property of member Patricia Akers and her husband Paul, where riparian woodlands of the north fork of Sweetwater River meet a 45-year old stand of chaparral that was healthy, beautiful, and full of herbaceous plants under the canopy of evergreen shrubs. The second site, along the California Hiking and Riding Trail north of Loveland Reservoir, traced a path through meadows skirted by more dry-site chaparral. The meadows were covered with tiny flowering species as soon as we got away from the invasive species mobbing the places closest to the parking lot. The trail crosses the road and heads eastward into rocky arroyos with more luxuriant chaparral species and surprising plants tucked into moist places in the shelter of small elderberry and willow trees.

For the field trip in late April, Jeri Hirshberg assisted us in identifying plants in the 3500 ft elevation headwaters of the San Diego River. Member Jennifer Robinson hosted us at her property, where she teaches nature study for scout and school groups. She labeled over fifty species that we identified, using Jeri's checklist, with Jeri's careful

guidance. The group enjoyed lunch (that the Robinson's provided - thanks again!) - and then we went to the Santa Ysabel Preserve. The huge meadows east of Hwy 79 were carpeted with herbaceous perennials and annuals, and as we climbed (and it is a climb!) we encountered dozens more species. We could compare similar species blooming side by side, so it was a great learning experience. This was California at its best - majestic groves of *Q. engelmanni* with new foliage and flowers were an extraordinary golden color among acres of blue-eyed grass in full bloom. California milkweed was the star of the day. In addition, Jeri pointed out *Quercus* hybrid swarms.

On each of these field trips, people use many references, but one keeps popping out of backpacks regularly: Mitch Beauchamps' 1980's key to the flora of San Diego. As Jeri pointed out, botanists in San Diego owe a big debt to Mitch Beauchamp for developing the first comprehensive key. Over the years it has been augmented by continuing botanical work, most recently by the Plant Atlas project of the San Diego Natural History Museum. With its internet search engine the Atlas enables botanists to map our amazing flora even better.

Each of these four skilled and busy botanists not only gave of their time to lead field trips, but also researched and provided checklists to help us. Words alone cannot express the gratitude we feel, so the San Diego chapter is hosting a dinner in June for the botanists to thank them and, we hope, to encourage them to lead more field trips for members in the future!

-Kay Stewart

CNPS SHOWCASES NATIVES AT ZOO EVENT

The San Diego Zoo spotlighted gardening over Mother's Day, and CNPS had a spot at their three-day event. The Zoo set up booths for several dozen horticultural organizations and vendors and thousands of zoo visitors passing by had a chance to stop and learn. They took home a list of regional natives nurseries, CNPS newsletters, and brochures provided by Tree of Life Nursery that suggests native plant substitutes for popular exotic species. Volunteers Ellen Landfear, Theresa Acerro, Amy Huie, and Joyce Schlachter helped me staff the booth. Theresa brought a bouquet of natives from her home garden that brightened up the booth with plants from RECON, Moosa Creek, and Tree of Life. A lot more people know about a lot of neat native garden plants now, thanks to the Zoo and all who participated.

- Kay Stewart

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENT

On Monday, July 13, 2009, the San Diego Horticultural Society welcomes horticulturist Mary Irish, whose very timely a program titled "Plants for Drier Gardens" will inspire us to try new plants as we face increasing water restrictions. Irish will provide a thoughtful review of woody plants and perennials that thrive on minimal watering, even in the summer, and provide ample beauty, structure and color in the garden. Copies of her books will be available for sale. The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Parking is free and everyone is welcome. Admission is free for members and \$5 for non-members. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity drawing featuring plants you'll want to add to your garden. After a short break, there will be the popular Plant Forum, where plant experts will discuss plants and answer questions about plants brought in by the audience.

For more information, call (760) 295-7089 or visit www.sdhortsoc.org.

LEGAL FUND PLEA

The Board of Directors would like to thanks the people who have started our legal fund going. We see in the very near future a need for legal assistance specifically when dealing with the preservation of San Diego County's wild land. We hope to achieve a \$10,000.00 balance to cover such legal fees since CNPSSD's comment letters have not been effective in the past.

Our Goal: \$10,000.00

Donations to date: \$3,890.00 -- 38.9% of our goal Your donation is tax deductible and will be matched by additional funds set aside by CNPSSD's Board of Directors. We need your help, please consider us when planning your annual tax-deductible donations.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Albert Einstein Acadamies, a local charter school, is looking for help designing a Baja California Garden.

Our school, located in South Park, received a grant to create world gardens. We are looking for some help designing with the 3rd grade kids.

Plant donations and advice are most welcome!

Contact Terri at thugheso@sdccd.edu or 619.296.9789. Albert Einstein Academies Garden Coordinator

CNPS

FALL PLANT SALE

While it is only April, our fall plant sale (our largest fundraiser) is only six months away - October 17th, 2009. The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers interested in organizing this year's plant sale. No plant experience necessary, we are 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 <u>plantsale@cnpssd.org</u>. We buy many plants from native plant nurseries, but member grown and donated plants increases our profits and enables us to protect more native plants and their habitats. Perhaps you have some plants on your property that you can re-pot up or propagate from cuttings. If you're a novice at plant propagation, 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@cnpssd.org.

-Submitted by the Plant Sale Committee

WELCOME NEW CNPS MEMBERS

Joan Simons
Robin Taylor
Eliana Uretsky
Elizabeth Wilkinson
Sue Giller
Lawrence Osen
Khoa Nguyen
Pat Herron
John G. Pitcairn
Gift a CNPS Membeship Today!

CNPS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

How did you find out about CNPS? I suppose it's possible that someone could search the web for "native plants", find our website, and join, but most likely someone told you about the group. Whoever it was – a friend or colleague, someone on a hike or at a plant sale, or a friendly stranger sitting at a table somewhere -- someone spoke to you, you were interested, and eventually you decided to join. Our chapter has three committees whose basic purpose is make that happen for more people: publicity, public outreach, and membership.

Publicity

Publicity aims to get the word out about our activities to the general public – people who may not even know what a native plant is. The Publicity Chair announces meeting times, places, and directions, special events such as public involvement in restoration projects, and hike locations in local papers, and through the list-serve. The goal is to further involve members, help our Chapter increase local membership, and further interest the broader public in the cause of conservation through appreciation. This position requires regular action in order to input information into periodicals like the San Diego Reader.

Currently, Publicity could use your help. The current Chair has had considerable difficulty having papers like the Union Tribune input our activities into the public interest sections. Multiple events like plant sales and CNPS led hikes happening on the same day will negate one entry or the other in periodicals such as the Reader, due to the posting coming from the same source. In short, we need one or more additional members to help out, so that all events can be posted in a timely fashion in as many periodicals as possible.

If you would like to be more involved by spending an hour or so a week helping, we would be most grateful. Contact me at 619 549 4142 (cell), or pmcconnell@cnlm.org.

Public Outreach

Public outreach is the face of CNPS to people who already have something in common with us, whether gardeners, outdoor lovers, or environmentalists. We staff tables at events such as Earth Fair or the Del Mar Garden show, answer questions (when we can), tell people about the group, and maybe sell books and posters.

Many other groups would like to have CNPS at their event, and Erika Bjorquist has volunteered to coordinate our response to these invitations by passing along the information to committee members who may be able to participate the day of the event. We need two types of volunteers to be on her email list: Enthusiastic, friendly people to represent CNPS at these events and display assistants who maintain, store and set up our displays. To be a CNPS representative you mostly need to be outgoing and friendly; some knowledge about gardening or botany is good, but you'll also be able to learn a lot from your partners at the table or just by looking through the materials at the table. Usually you'll be asked to spend three or four hours at an event, and you get the chance to visit the other groups and activities at the event. If you want to staff events near where you live or only certain types, that is fine, but we would like you to be willing to do at least two events a year if you are on the email list. Display assistants are the people who can, ideally store, maintain and set-up/tear down our CNPS displays. This position includes keeping an up to date inventory of display items including posters and pamphlets and re-ordering them as needed. This is a critical need and a great way to promote the organization for those who would prefer to stay out of the public's eye, but wish to contribute their time to CNPS.

Please send an email to president@cnpssd.org to learn more or to volunteer for one of these positions.



DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OPTION

Would you be interested in receiving your CNPS newsletter digitally? The cost of printing and paper continues to rise. Help CNPS-SD save money and reduce waste by signing up to receive your newsletter via e-mail. If you are interested please e-mail Julie at newsletter@cnpssd.org.

MONTHLY CNPS-SD EVENTS

Tecolote Canyon Walk - First Sunday of each month

June 7, 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.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

As chair of the chapter Conservation committee, I often have people tell me that they want to help with conservation of native plants, but they "don't know anything". I translate this as "I don't have formal training in botany, and I can't easily remember the Latin names of all the plants". But this is not really as big a hurdle as it seems. There are very few people who have had this kind of professional training, but there are many databases and reference books that can help become knowledgeable about a specific area.

We think the most valuable way that a non-professional can get involved in conservation is to choose a certain area and learn as much about it as possible. This could be your neighborhood canyon, or for example part of the Laguna Mountains or Anza Borrego Desert Park. Focusing means that you have a good chance to learn the details about the plants (and animals) that reside in your favorite area. You can learn which ones are common and which are rare. You can get on mailing lists to receive notices about development and management plans, and you will be able to judge whether the plan correctly addresses the biological value of your area.

CNPS and other environmental organizations can help you figure out how to get good information for your area. Working with San Diego Canyonlands, we can help you identify local "Friends" groups to join up with. We can help you figure out how to use the Plant Atlas to create a local plant list, and how to figure out the conservation status of those plants.

So, don't let lack of knowledge be a roadblock. If you want to become a conservation steward for a particular area, please get in touch with me and we will help you get started. We are here ready to assist you, so just ask!

Carrie Schneider

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Visit the CNPS website at:

www.CNPS.org

Click on the **JOIN** button

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| Please complete this form, make out a che | eck payable to "CNPS", and mail to: |
| California Native l | Plant Society |
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| City/State/Zip: | |
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Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes informative publications, free field trips and monthly programs and discounts on books and posters.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

c/o San Diego Natural History Museum

P. O. Box 121390

San Diego, CA 92112-1390

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO

June 2009

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APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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|--|
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| WEBSITE: .Mary Alice Kessler webmaster@cnpssd.org |
| Open positions: EDUCATION, INVASIVE PLANTS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH Contact any board member if you are interested in any of these positions. |

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