



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

February 2010

PREZ SEZ

CNPS may seem like kind of a mongrel – is it just a gardening or hiking club, some kind of professional society, or an environmental advocacy group? I've come to realize that while we have elements of all of these, we occupy a unique niche due to the fact that we are involved with plants. Plants, by their very nature, offer us the opportunity to interact with nature in a way that is impossible for members of most other environmental groups: anyone can plant an acorn, but it's a lot harder to get involved with a polar bear.

Our members get outside and live their environmentalism by learning (or teaching) on a field trip, working together creating public native plant gardens, fighting invasive plants to let the natives come back, and surveying native plant communities to add to our understanding. Where else can you do something for Mother Earth and come home smelling of sage?

In 2010, I am looking forward to our new Rare Plant Survey, Seed Collection, and Plant Propagation groups offering new ways for our members to take a hands-on approach to restoring the environment. So, while I'm not knocking working in your own garden (it adds years to your lifespan!), I also encourage you to become more deeply involved as a member of our community of dirty-fingernail activists.

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

AT

TREE OF LIFE NURSERY

MARCH 13 9AM-4PM

33201 ORTEGA HIGHWAY

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION

CNPS MEETING PROGRAM - FEB 16 **EDIBLE, MEDICINAL, MATERIAL,** **CEREMONIAL: CONTEMPORARY ETHNOBOTANY** **OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIANS - BY ROSE** **RAMIREZ AND DEBORAH SMALL**

Learn about this on-going collaborative project consisting of interviews, photographs, videos, and a multimedia presentation of southern California Indians as they gather, prepare, and use native plants in their everyday lives. For 2010, we have joined together to produce an ethnobotanical calendar that documents the contemporary uses of twelve native plants of profound importance to the intellectual, spiritual, and cultural vitality of California Indian people. We are honored to work with an ever-expanding group of knowledgeable consultants and contributors. Our consultants are repositories of cultural knowledge and eloquent defenders of the land, its sacredness for Indian people, and its importance for all species who inhabit this particular part of the planet.

Join us before the meeting for our Natives for Novices presentation "Irrigating Natives" by Jeremy Sison 6:30-7pm

CNPS-San Diego Monthly Programs

Chapter meetings are open to the public; there is no charge. Meetings are in Casa del Prado Room 101 or 104, located in Balboa Park west of the San Diego Natural History Museum 85

For a Balboa Park map see www.balboapark.org/nav.html
www.cnpsd.org - info@cnpsd.org. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

Before and after our speaker, browse our books, get a native plant identified, enjoy refreshments, and find out how you can become more involved.

BOARD MEETING

Executive Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive (Thomas Guide 1189 G-4). All members welcome.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Our December holiday meeting featured delicious eats and drinks, live music, botanical art, books, lots to lively conversation, and a recalcitrant projector. It was also a chance to recognize and thank those members who took on significant new volunteer responsibilities during the past year. These members were nominated by Board members and committee chairs as volunteers who stepped up and made a difference in the past year.

President **Dave Flietner** (left) with 2009 Volunteer honorees (back row, left to right) **Frank Landis** (Field Trips), **Paul Hormick** (Field Trips), **Dave Varner** (Public Outreach chair), **Vince Scheidt** (Rare Plants), **Sue Marchetti** (Gardening), **Chris Brennan** (Conservation), **Pete di Girolamo** (Outreach), (front row, left to right) **Mike Bregantic** (Plant Sale), **Pat Fishtein** (Hospitality), **Margy Day** (Outreach), **Betsy Cory** (Hospitality chair), **Kay Stewart** (Field Trip chair), and **Anna Bennett** (Vegetation chair).

In addition to those who attended, other volunteers recognized for their work in 2009 are: **Adrienne Heinzelman** (Membership chair), **Arne Johansen** (Invasive chair), **Jason Sundberg** (Seed Collection chair), **Mike Murphy** (Field Trips), **Tom Beltran** (Conservation), **Mary Anne Hawke** and **Jonathan Snapp-Cook** (Rare Plants); **Connie di Girolamo**, **Diane Green**, **Amy Huie**, and **Jennifer Lansing** (Plant Sale); **Erika Bjorquist** and **Ed Schwind** (Outreach); **Wes Hudson**, **Jeremy Sison**, **Morgan Vandrok**, and **Sue Kyrzwicki** (Gardening).



Legal Fund Update

Thanks to donations from a number of members, we've almost made the board challenge for the Legal Fund. The match is still on, so you still have the opportunity to make your contribution go twice as far: send those contributions to CNPS Legal Fund, P.O. Box 121390, San Diego CA 92112-1390. This fund is dedicated for legal services needed to help preserve San Diego County's wild land. Your donation is tax deductible. In 2009, we used this fund to help the California Chaparral Institute efforts to get the County to follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CRITICAL HABITAT ACTIVITY

On June 10th, 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed revised critical habitat for spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) (Federal Register (FR) vol. 74, pages 27588-27639). Spreading navarretia is found in vernal pools from Los Angeles south into Baja California, Mexico. An isolated disjunct population is reported from near Creston in San Luis Obispo County but these plants maybe intermediate to prostrate navarretia (*N. prostrata*). The majority of populations are found on Otay Mesa in southern San Diego County, and along the San Jacinto River and at Hemet in Riverside County.

The Service previously proposed critical habitat in 2005 but the Center for Biological Diversity sued, arguing the Service exempted too much habitat. The final rule only included 652 acres of critical habitat and excluded 18,748 acres of “essential habitat”, almost entirely within Habitat Conservation Planning areas and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. Critical habitat is one of the more controversial tools in the ESA box. It must be considered at the time of listing and is designated in specific areas within the geographical range of the species where physical or biological features are essential to the conservation of the species and may require specific management. The Service uses “primary constituent elements” (PCEs) to determine which sites could be designated as critical habitat. In the case of spreading navarretia, the PCEs are ephemeral wetlands, the matrix habitat surrounding these wetlands, and soils that support winter and spring ponding – for the most part, vernal pools.

The Service only considers impacts to critical habitat through Federal actions, such as a U.S. Army Corps permit. It will not affect activities on private land without a Federal action so its impact is some times over rated. On the other hand, for animals, already with clear permit requirements, its usefulness by the environmental community can also be a bit overrated. Plants on the other hand are not subject to take so any tool in the box is useful.

The revised proposal includes 6,872 acres, a considerable improvement. About 1,000 acres of this is in San Diego County. Proposed critical habitat is at the Poinsettia Train station, Santa Fe Valley, Caroll Cyn., Noble Dr., Montgomery Field, San Marcos, Ramona, Sweetwater Reservoir, and five complexes on Otay Mesa. However, if you read the fine print, the proposal identifies about 5,700 acres on lands within HCPs and suggests that unless a good argument is presented otherwise, they *will* exclude HCP areas. This is about 80 percent of the proposed lands

leaving about 1,150 acres (about 1,060 acres in San Diego County). In this case, San Diego County actually fairs well but this is most likely due to a lawsuit challenging vernal pool protections in the MSCP.

There is a strong disparity in the intent between Section 10 of the ESA, which results in HCPs, and Section 7 of the ESA, which generates biological opinions. Under HCPs, a plan only has to assure its approval will not cause the extinction of a listed species (jeopardy), while critical habitat requires avoiding extinction and stabilizing or improving the species conservation status. Additionally, critical habitat is a federal tool and excluding lands within HCP lands deprives other federal agencies additional opportunities to conserve species. For this reason, CNPS as a whole supports designation of critical habitat within HCPs.

The proposal relies heavily on the benefits of landowner coordination and partnerships with HCP managers to support exclusions. The Service asked me to Peer Review the proposal for scientific accuracy and I submitted a lengthy letter dated August 9th. The letter focused largely on the issue of exclusions and the strength (or weakness) of the Service’s arguments.

A second critical habitat proposal was released on August 26, 2009 (FR 74:44238) for San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*). The Service identified 802 acres of essential habitat, including 324 acres in San Diego County. Unlike the navarretia proposal, the Service excludes 278 acres of critical habitat from San Diego County HCP lands without any regrets. Comments were due on October 26, 2009.

Fred Roberts

Rare Plant Botanist



2010 CNPS WORKSHOPS

Registration is now open for CNPS 2010 workshops. Go to <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/> for descriptions and registration.

If you have further questions after visiting the website, please contact Josie at jcrawford@cnps.org or phone me at (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

RARE PLANT COMMITTEE - SPRING HUNT FOR SAN DIEGO THORNMINT

The San Diego Chapter Rare Plant Committee, in concert with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the recently-formed San Diego Thorn-mint Working Group, announces a spring field survey/hunt for San Diego Thorn-mint. This extremely rare and endangered herb is found in San Diego County in mostly tiny remnants populations from Oceanside to the border, and for a short distance into Baja California, Mexico. For those of you not familiar with this plant, here is a photo:



San Diego Thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) is a pleasant smelling, low-growing annual, with erect, nearly hairless, 4-angled (square) stems. The leaves are opposite on the stems, more-or-less rounded, and serrated along the edges. The flowers consist of a calyx about 5 mm in length supporting a white corolla that is about 12 mm long. The corolla lobes are white or sometimes rose-tinged. The most distinctive features of the flower are the spiny bracts that surround and protect the flower head. These spiny bracts are what lend the term "thorn-mint" to this species.

San Diego Thorn-mint occurs on dense clay soils, often on small "lenses" of clay in otherwise unsuitable areas, such as dense chaparral or coastal sage scrub. These lenses are usually mostly barren except for a few herbaceous species, and the clay is characterized by a very loose, almost fluffy feel. When dry, the clays are easily crumbled in the hand or under foot.

Today, there are less than 60 known occurrences of San Diego Thorne-mint in the United States, all of which are in San Diego County. Many of these occurrences may be gone – no one is sure. For this reason, the Rare Plant Committee, with the aid of volunteers, intends to conduct field trip reconnaissance surveys this spring once the flowers begin to appear to verify if this species is still present in the locations where it had been reported in the past.

Our plan is to send out teams of two or more volunteers to as many accessible occurrences as possible. The field trips will be fun, easy, and should be very productive! Some of the teams will locate thorn-mint, photograph them, and record any observations about the plants. Others may come away without seeing any specimens, even from sites were the plant was collected in the past. In either case, we will generate lots of useful data for future management of this species.

If you would like to participate in this fun spring activity, we will be putting together a brief training meeting so that everybody can be brought up to speed about the program. You certainly don't need to be a botanist to participate – all are welcome. The adventure of trying to relocate one of San Diego's rarest plants on sites where they have not been seen in decades will make for a rewarding experience for all!

Tijuana Estuary 2010 Docent Training Course

Begins on Wednesday, February 3 at 9 a.m

Share your love of nature with others by becoming a Tijuana Estuary Docent! Docents are highly trained volunteers who promote a greater understanding of the Tijuana Estuary through working with school groups, leading nature walks, and helping out at special events. It is a 10-week training, 30-hour course to be held on Wednesdays from 9am until noon starting in February. Please help us spread the word to recruit more docents!

For more information, contact Danielle Litke, Community Outreach Coordinator, at 619.575.3613 x330 or volunteer@trnerr.org.

View the docent training flyer at <http://trnerr.org/Volunteers/Docent%20Training%202010%20Flyer%208.pdf>.

Designing with California's Own Native Plants

Chapter member Greg Rubin will present "Designing with California's Own Native Plants" on Tuesday, March 16 from 10:00 A.M. thru 12:00 Noon at the Vista Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace in Vista.

The class is offered through OASIS, which is a unique educational program for mature adults who want to continue to grow, learn and be productive. Membership is free and open to anyone 50 or older. If you are not already a member, you can [join now](#). Greg's class is listed as Class # 718 in the catalog, which can be accessed at the website below. If you're not yet 50, don't worry about it. You can still participate!

The cost is only \$4; to register, go to their website, www.oasisnet.org/Escondido, or call 1-760-796-6020 for more information. Just follow the instructions under the blue OASIS "bubble"!

RANCHO GUEJITO DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A sub-committee of the San Diego County's Pala/Pauma Planning Group is being formed to over-see the development of the Rancho Guejito and its surrounding lands in the District.

Their first committee meeting with the developer's representative Rikki Schroeder of RMA Consultants was Jan. 5th. The next meetings are approaching and they encourage the public to get involved. If within the sphere of influence you may become a sub-committee member, if not you may attend the meetings and add your voice. They will meet the first Tuesday of every month (before the regular meeting) from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Pauma Community Center, 16650 Highway 76, Pauma Valley, CA 92061.

Here are some concerns that should be addressed:

- How will thousands of new homes affect traffic on the 78, the 15 and nearby communities like Valley Center, Escondido, Fallbrook, and Ramona?
- Where will the water come from to support the new development? How will thousands of vehicle trips per day affect air pollution levels?
- Where will the sewage go and where will the trash be hauled to?
- How will light pollution affect adjacent Cleveland National Forest, Hellhole Canyon Preserve, Boden Canyon Ecological Preserve, and the Palomar Observatory, etc.?
- How will this loss of a huge wild area affect existing wildlife and wildlife corridors?
- What is the purpose of destroying this contiguous tract of wild land for more housing, when there are numerous housing developments planned already within populated areas and other non-populated areas?
- What is the BEST use of the land – housing development or wild parkland?

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 2 and then March 2, 2010. 6:30 to 7:30.

We look forward to seeing you and getting your input!

Here is a website that has some background information on the Rancho Guejito:

<http://www.californiachaparral.com/branchoguejito.html>

- Julie Schneider Ljubenkov

SPRING PLANT SALE

The spring plant sale will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010 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 numerous areas landscaped with native plant 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 themselves 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.

Connie Beck will be giving a presentation on designing a garden to attract birds and butterflies. The presentation is at 10 am and will give you some great ideas to use when designing the landscape for your home or office.

Volunteers working at the sale will provide assistance and information. If you are interested in volunteering for this sale please contact **Connie Beck**, CNPSSD Plant Propagation Chairperson.

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 .

VEGETATION COMMITTEE

Join the vegetation committee on **February 27th at 10am** for our next rapid assessment survey at McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve. If you made it to the survey at South Crestridge back in January then this will be your opportunity to put your rapid assessment survey training into action! If you weren't able to make it to last month's survey, no worries, training is always provided for new volunteers the day of the survey by our local volunteers. To RSVP for a survey, or more information, please contact me at vegetation@cnpssd.org or call 559-443-9233. Directions and a list of what to bring will be emailed to the volunteer group. For more information on what the vegetation committee is all about visit: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/vegetation>.

Anna Bennett

MONTHLY WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden

2nd Saturday of each month - rain will cancel

February 13, Saturday, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

The Native Plants will benefit from our weeding unwanted exotic plants so please bring your favorite weeding tools, hand-pruners and loppers if you have any, garden gloves and sun protection. A drinking fountain is on site.

The Garden is located at the western edge of Old Town State Historic Park, across from the trolley station at Taylor and Congress Streets. Park at the west end of the free state park parking lot between the garden and Calhoun Street. For more info contact: fieldtrips@cnpsd.org

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

February 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

Contact Richard Dhu at Richard@sandiegoriver.org or 619-297-7380 <http://sandiegoriver.org/plnpg/php>



MONTHLY CNPS-SD EVENTS

Tecolote Canyon Walk - First Sunday of each month

February 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/Tecolote 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.

CNPS MEMBERS FIELD TRIP

First 2010 CNPS San Diego Member's Field Trip:

February 28, Sunday, All Day

Plants of the Northern Cleveland NF: Lower San Juan Trail, Orange County

Rain Cancels

San Diego CNPS members (and their guests) finally get to explore a bit of the alluring mountains of Orange County east of the Tree of Life Nursery. We will botanize along two miles or so of the lower San Juan Trail in the Cleveland National Forest, with the able leadership of botanist Fred Roberts. Fred is the author of *Vascular Plants of Orange County, an Annotated Checklist* (2008) and *Illustrated Guide to the Oaks of the Southern Californian Floristic Province* (1995), which will be available for purchase at the field trip.

Meet at 9 AM at the Park'n'ride in Oceanside on the west side of I-5. Take the Vista Way exit, turn right & cross the I-5, and the Park'n'ride is on the right (1928 Morena Dr.) From the east, SR78 becomes Vista Way where it crosses I-5. From there we can ride-share or caravan.

About 13 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on the Ortega Highway, just before the San Juan Ranger Station, turn onto Hot Springs Canyon Road. The parking lot for the San Juan Trail is about a mile up this road. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is needed to park at the trail-head. We'll start walking by 10:15.

The trail, which is very popular with mountain bikers, starts in oak woodland but is mostly within sunny chaparral on the slopes with beautiful views and interesting plants in openings. Many species are likely to be flowering due to the coastal influence. After a gain of 800 feet elevation the trail reaches a ridgeline, where unusual soils support Orange Co.'s southernmost population of *Nolina cismontana*. We will eat lunch along the trail, and plan to return to the trail-head around 3 PM, and reach Oceanside between 4 and 4:30 PM.

Bring lunch, water, sun protection, and wear footwear suitable for rugged trails.

Please RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpsd.org by February 27 and please leave 1. your cell phone number with your message, and 2. if you intend to meet at the Park'n'ride or at the trail-head. CNPS members may bring a guest. If you are not yet a member, you may join CNPS at the beginning of the trip.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb 2** - Rancho Guejito Development Meeting - pg 5
- Feb 3** - Tijuana Estuary Docent Training - pg 4
- Feb 6** - Point Loma Native Garden Work Party - pg 6
- Feb 7** - Tecolote Canyon Walk - pg 6
- Feb 7** - CNPS-SD Board Meeting - pg 1
- Feb 13** - Spring Plant Sale - pg 1 and 5
- Feb 13** - Old Town State Park Work Party - pg 6
- Feb 16** - CNPS -SD Monthly Meeting - pg 1
- Feb 27** - Rapid Assessment - pg 5
- Feb 28** - Members Only Field Trip - pg 6



Ranunculus californicus

Drawing contributed by
Fred Roberts

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.cnpsd.org

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

MEMBERSHIP

Please complete this form, make out a check payable to "CNPS", and mail to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Ste 1
Sacramento, CA 95816

- Student 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: _____

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship. Membership is open to all and includes informative publications, free field trips and monthly programs and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

c/o San Diego Natural History Museum

P. O. Box 121390

San Diego, CA 92112-1390

www.cnpsd.org - nfo@cnpsd.org

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO

BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Dave Flietner(858) 268-3789
president@cnpsd.org
VICE PRESIDENT: Kay Stewart.....(619) 234-2668
vicepresident@cnpsd.org
SECRETARY: Tom Beltransecretary@cnpsd.org
TREASURER: Sandra Feiock.....(760) 735-8845
treasurer@cnpsd.org

BOARD MEMBERS

BOOK and POSTER SALES: Cindy Burrascano(858) 578-8040
booksales@cnpsd.org
CONSERVATION: Carrie Schneider..... (858) 352-4413
conservation@cnpsd.org
NEWSLETTER: Julie Janssen.....(760) 645-3169
newsletter@cnpsd.org
PLANT SALE: Carolyn Martus.....plantsale@cnpsd.org
PROGRAMS: Hank Kraus.....(760) 751-1929
programs@cnpsd.org
Wes Hudson.....(619) 846-0585
weshudson@cox.net
Frank Landis.....(310) 883-8569
franklandis03@yahoo.com

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE: MartyFoltyn.....(858) 259-0283
chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

RARE PLANT BOTANIST: Fred Roberts..... (760) 439-6244
rarebotanist@cnpsd.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

HOSPITALITY: Betsy Cory(619) 656-8669
hospitality@cnpsd.org
INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson.....(858) 759-4769
invasiveplants@cnpsd.org
MEMBERSHIP: Adrienne Heinzelman..... (858) 761-7007
membership@cnpsd.org
NATIVE GARDENING: Dave Flietner.....gardening@cnpsd.org
PLANT PROPAGATION: Connie Beck..... (619) 749- 4059
propagation@cnpsd.org
PUBLICITY: Pat Fishtein(619) 280-8234
publicity@cnpsd.org
PUBLIC OUTREACH: Dave Varner(619) 630-4591
outreach@cnpsd.org
RARE PLANT SURVEY: Dave Flietner.....rareplants@cnpsd.org
SEED COLLECTION: Jason Sundberg..... (906) 251- 0392
seeds@cnpsd.org
VEGETATION: Anna Bennett..... (559) 443-9233
vegetation@cnpsd.org
WEBSITE: .Mary Alice Kessler.....webmaster@cnpsd.org