

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, November 16, 7 p.m. Casa del Prado, Room 104 NATIVE PLANTS IN BALBOA PARK By Zana Kerr

Zana Kerr is a Park Ranger at Balboa Park. Her presentation focuses on areas in the Park where native habitats persist and places where native plants are being restored. The appearance of Balboa Park is continually changing as native plants are being established to improve and increase habitat areas. Thanks to a new partnership between the Chapter's Propagation Committee, Park Rangers, and the Kate Sessions Nursery, an array of native plants are being made available to City Parks for habitat recovery and enhancement. Volunteers will provide assistance in propagating plants at such places as at the native plant demonstration garden at Morley Field and within Florida Canyon.

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, December 21, 7 p.m. Casa del Prado, Room 104 GALA HOLIDAY PARTY

Incredibly—we just finished our El Fabuloso Beach Party, and it's almost time for our Gala Holiday Party Extravaganza on Tuesday, December 21! It's a regular chapter meeting day, so it's already on your calendar. And it's a potluck, so no need to RSVP. Just come and bring your choicest delicacies (or most down-home goodies) to share with us. The Chapter will supply the usual tasty hot water for coffee and tea, hot mulled cider, utensils, cups, napkins, and plates. You provide the stuff to put on the plates! There will be volunteer awards, probably music...and who knows what-all! Bring your pictures of native plants, native gardens, or whatever on a disk and we will provide a computer and projector. *Afoolproof computer*. (Right, computer guys?) See ya at the Gala! ~Betsy Cory, Hospitality

North San Diego County Satellite Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 7 p.m. Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center

HABITATS AND FLORA OF CARLSBAD'S LAKE CALAVERA AND CALAVERA HEIGHTS PRESERVES by James Dillane

Five years ago CNPS was asked by Preserve Calavera to lead a native plant hike in these preserves. James volunteered for what became an annual event and was so taken by the area's unique geography that he embarked on a study of the plants and habitats of the two preserves, particularly the rare and unusual species. Mt. Calavera is an ancient volcanic neck, and the plants in the area range from salt marsh species to rare and unusual clay and maritime chaparral endemics.

Directions: The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center is at **1580 Cannon Road**, **Carlsbad**: Exit I-5 east @ Cannon Road, turn left at Faraday Ave. signal into driveway (Thomas Guide 1126 J-1).

BOTANY: RIPARIAN VEGETATION

Riparian vegetation grows in locations where the water table is near the surface. These plants do not have a dry season because their roots reach down into the groundwater that is present. A large portion of the riparian vegetation that originally existed in San Diego County has been converted to agricultural croplands such as in the (con't p. 7)

PREZ SEZ

I've been writing these columns for about four years now, first as "Veep", then as "Prez". This will be the last column by me, at least for a while. The thing that I'm most proud of doing during this time has been starting the Public Field Trip program. I'm happy that hundreds of San Diegans have learned about the common native plants that grow where they live, and that some of them have joined CNPS (my original intent in creating the program). But what pleases me the most is working with the wonderful people who have volunteered to lead hikes and seeing many of them subsequently take on leadership positions.

Seven of the fourteen field trip leaders that I've had the pleasure to work with have gone on to become leaders in the chapter. Among the first cohort of six in 2007, Betsy **Cory** has become our Hospitality Chair, enlivening our monthly meetings and starting winter and summer social meetings; **Arne Johanson** formed the Invasive Plants Committee where he shares his passion and knowledge of weed control; and Wes Hudson joined the chapter's Executive Board and is now developing a community native plant garden in North Park. Paul Hormick began leading walks with me in 2008, learning plant identification and natural history as we went, and took over leadership of the plant walk program itself last year - a real sign of a successful project to me. The class of 2009 included Adrienne Heinzelman, (Membership Chair), JR Sunderberg (Seed Collection Chair), and Frank Landis (Rare Plant Survey chair and Board member).

Maybe I was just extraordinarily lucky in creating a new program that attracted the people who would have become leaders anyway. But it's more likely that potential new leaders are reading this column right now, if only we would make a conscious effort to attract and cultivate them as volunteers. If my experience with public field trips was not a fluke, maybe other committees should meet as a group over food occasionally, have volunteers work together as mentor and protégé, and entrust them with their own responsibilities. That, and not being afraid to ask for help, worked for me. As I leave my position of leadership in the chapter, I hope those that come after me will remember that our members are our future.

~Dave Flietner

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **November 3** at 6:30 at the San Diego Audubon office at **4010 Morena Boulevard**, **Suite 100**. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena. Board meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of the month. **No Board meeting will be held in December.**

BOARD NOTES

There were no action items at the October board meeting. Most of the discussion items are reported separately in this newsletter.

~ Tom Beltran, Secretary

TECOLOTE CANYON MONTHLY WALK

November 7 and December 5. 9:00 a.m.-noon. Kay Stewart will lead this walk that leaves from the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center. Urban canyons have surprises, as you will see by the plants we encounter in this pocket of wild in the city. We take a relaxed walking pace. From the I-5, take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote Drive exit and go east. The Nature Center is at the far end of Tecolote Road, up the driveway and beyond all the ballfields. This walk is repeated the first Sunday of every month. Rain at 8 a.m. cancels the walk. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of every month.

CHAPTER ELECTION

The chapter Executive Board consists of 11 members each elected to a two year term of office. This year we have four candidates for five open positions for two-year board positions. We also have a vacancy to be filled among those board members who have one year remaining, so we have a need for two more candidates. If you want to become a write-in candidate, please send your one-paragraph bio to the nominating committee c/o info@cnpssd.org and the voting membership will be advised at the meeting of your candidacy.

BOARD CANDIDATES FOR 2011

Tom Beltran

"I currently serve as a board member and the Secretary for the San Diego Chapter. I've also been a member of the Chapter Conservation Committee for two years. For a year and half, I have worked extensively representing CNPS as intervenor on the Imperial Valley Solar Project. My primary interests are in the desert where my wife, Rose, and I spend much of our time. As a member of the Borrego Springs Sponsor Group, I'm heavily involved in land use decisions affecting our desert community. While the East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan has been on hold due to San Diego County budget constraints, I look forward to continuing participation on important issues that affect vast tracts of land in east county."

Cindy Burrascano

"I have served the chapter in a variety of positions, including president, exotics chair and book sales chair, and desire to continue to assist the chapter by continuing to serve on the board. I enjoy learning about rare plant species and am interested in doing more to protect them. I have been shocked to find out how little we know about even most listed species and would like to help find ways to engage more people in adopting a species to learn more about what species need besides not taking their habitat."

Susan Krzywicki

"I am co-chair of the Gardening Committee. My passion is putting natives into gardens and using them in fresh and interesting ways. I have been responsible for preparing the CNPS SD Gardening fact sheets - the one and two page informational bulletins that are available online and at CNPS SD chapter meetings. I have lived in San Diego off and on since I was five and have a deep interest in the very local nature of plants in our community. I am now planning for the opening of a California Native Plant garden center here in San Diego."

Tom Oberbauer

"I am a third generation native San Diegan and grew up in the hills east of El Cajon studying Coastal Sage Scrub and Chaparral habitats, with a Master's Degree in Biology from SDSU. My thesis was on the vegetation of this County with emphasis on grasslands. I have been involved with the San Diego Chapter of CNPS since 1975, served as Director at Large and chapter President for a combined roughly 10 years. My knowledge of the vegetation of San Diego County, Baja California and the nearby islands led to writing articles, including articles published in Fremontia. I have worked for the County of San Diego, with efforts in the Multiple Species Conservation Program Plan that has preserved more than 40,000 acres of sensitive habitat to date. I am committed to the conservation of the rare and endangered species of

San Diego County and the myriad of vegetation communities that occur here."

Bobbie Stephenson

"I am currently a board member and the Newsletter Editor. I have also served as Secretary, Plant Sale Chairperson, Vice President, President, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor since I joined the chapter in 1978. I wish to continue on the Board to provide botanical expertise, promote the appreciation and knowledge of California's diverse native flora, and keep our members up to date on chapter activities and the botanical world. I've been a Botanist in San Diego County since about 1982 and hold Bachelor's Degree in Botany and Master's Degree in Biology with an emphasis in Botany from SDSU."

A ballot for the annual election is included in this newsletter. It may be returned via mail or turned in at the November chapter meeting. We will also have ballots available at the meeting.

CONSERVATION

The demand for conservation volunteers just keeps growing. We're seeing more cases where the environmental documents don't match up with what's on site. This means that endangered plants don't get recorded, intact rare plant communities get reported as highly degraded, and once the project is approved, everything gets bulldozed. If you can help, **please get involved now**. Don't wait for the economy to improve. If you can help for even a few hours, you will make a difference. We will train you, and there's much more to do than just reading reports.

On to the news. Imperial Valley Solar (formerly Solar Two), the massive solar project south of Anza Borrego, has been approved by the state and the US Interior Department. So has Ivanpah, the similarly massive solar project in the Mojave. The state of California wants to get these projects going by December 31st, to get federal funding. As **Ileene Anderson**, a biologist for the Center for Biological Diversity and CNPS member noted, Imperial Valley Solar is "a classic example of a good project in the wrong place."

It could have been worse. CNPS was able to get Imperial Solar to reduce the size of the solar plant to avoid a sensitive desert wash, and to do a very thorough botanical study, so we did exert some positive influence by participating. Might we suggest that having your own solar cells on your own property is an even better idea? There's lots of vacant roof land in the city.

Closer to home, CNPS is going to be involved in creating the 2011 Environmental Report Card. A coalition of conservation groups has come together, as we did last fall, to rate the actions of the San Diego City Council and the Mayor. The report card will be issued next spring.

Since this is the last column of 2010, everyone in the chapter should be proud of the conservation committee, from the chairwoman Carrie Schneider to the "silent elves" who evaluate the EIRs, report problems from within government agencies and companies, and do the very necessary conservation work for our chapter.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Committee

RARE PLANT SURVEYS

Time to start preparing for 2011! The rare plant committee will hold a meeting on **November 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Frank's house.** We will be providing food, so please RSVP Frank (<u>franklandiso3@yahoo.com</u>) by November 5th if you wish to attend. You do not have to be an expert to attend this meeting. If you are interested in rare plants, show up and share your thoughts!

The meeting agenda will have two items: First, we will be determining what to survey in 2011. Second, we will be discussing ideas for more active within the chapter.

Rare plant conservation is one of CNPS's central missions, even though it is often overshadowed by other activities. As usual, there are efforts to weaken the regulations protecting rare plant species, and we need to counter them. This involves education and outreach, both within the chapter and outside it. The November 9th meeting will be a great time to bring questions, ideas, and strategies to the table.

~ Frank Landis, Rare Plant Surveys Chair

LEGISLATION

Native Plant Week

ACR 173, as amended, proclaims the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week and encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants. Hooray for native plants!!!

Vote November 2!!!

You can help native plants and the entire environment by voting on November 2:

Vote **Yes on Proposition 21,** which would provide for an annual vehicle license fee of \$18 in exchange for free year-round day-use admission to all California state parks. These fees would fund a State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund that would provide reliable

funding for management of the parks in the wake of major budget cuts.

Vote **No on Proposition 23,** which would suspend AB 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act) unless unemployment drops below 5.5% for 4 consecutive fiscal quarters. AB 32 is California's landmark law targeting climate change that provides for clean energy and lower air emissions. Texas oil companies, Valero and Tesoro, some of the top air polluters in the state, are spending massive amounts of money in support of this "license to pollute."

Vote **No on Proposition 26**, which would reclassify as taxes the fees that polluters currently pay thus requiring a 2/3 vote instead of a simple majority vote of the state legislature to approve the fees. The effect of the proposition would be to make it more difficult to impose fees on polluters for cleaning up oil spills, toxic waste, air pollution, etc. and shift the financial burden of these responsibilities to taxpayers.



Vote Earth by Earth Hour Global

Critical Habitat for Spreading Navarretia

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has revised the critical habitat for spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*). The final rule designated approximately 6,720 acres of land in portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego counties as critical habitat. This revised final rule was in response to a lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity that challenged the 2005 designation of 652 acres of critical habitat for the plant. Spreading navarretia is a plant that grows up to 6 inches tall and has small lavender to white flowers that cluster in compact heads surrounded by spine tipped leaves. In San Diego County it primarily occurs with vernal pools. Most of the plant's habitat has been lost to agriculture and urban development. It is estimated that over 90 percent of vernal pool habitat in southern California has been lost.

~Bobbie Stephenson

PLANT SALE REPORT

A giant **THANK YOU** to all who volunteered at the 2010 CNPS-San Diego Chapter Plant Sale! As you know, the sale is our biggest annual fundraiser and without volunteers like you, it couldn't be done! We especially want to thank our youngest volunteers, **Julia Huie** and **Quinn Giessow**, both age 7! We won't mention our oldest volunteers but we especially thank you too!

This year we started with almost 5,500 plants for sale. By the end of the day, we had written over 400 tabs totaling almost \$26,000. Once all expenses are paid, proceeds from the sale will be used for programs and projects throughout the year.

So give yourself a big pat on the back for a job well done! You made a difference and helped deliver yet another successful sale!

If you have any feedback or ideas for future sales, please email them to plantsale@cnpssd.org. We're always looking for ways to improve the sale for our customers and our volunteers!



CNPS-SD Plant Sale October 16, 2010

OLD TOWN STATE PARK NATIVE PLANT GARDEN – NEW WETLAND TO BE INSTALLED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is helping to pay for an expanded and relocated "constructed wetland" at Old Town State Park California Native Plant Garden. The garden is a project of our chapter.

Kay Stewart, landscape architect, selected a low lying area along Congress St., the historic bank of the San Diego River channel, for willow, cottonwood, tule, cattail and other riparian species. The Service's Carlsbad office, through its Connecting People with Nature Program, will provide a heavy duty rubber liner and irrigation system components. Appropriate riparian species will be gathered from the upper freshwater reaches of Famosa Slough under an arrangement in place among California State Parks, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, and Friends of Famosa Slough.

The new wetland will replace the original constructed wetland created farther north along Congress St. That location proved too elevated, and its rubber liner set too shallow in the bank to hold enough wet soil to encourage growth of cattail and tule--which are of major importance to the Kumeyaay Indians in San Diego whose presence this garden honors. The good news: the too-shallow wetland has proved fertile ground for cottonwood, willow and baccharis seed. Plants germinated from wind-blown seed are now nearing 6' tall after just three years.

Members of our Chapter, assisted by volunteers from San Diego River Park Foundation will dig a hole for the rubber liner and lay it on **Saturday**, **January 8**, **2011** from 1:00 pm on. Plants will be planted on **Saturday**, **February 12**, **2011** from 1:00 pm on. Please join us for these activities.

The Old Town California Native Plant Garden is evolving rapidly. Through Kay's tireless efforts, and with assistance of a dozen or so regular volunteers from our Chapter and the Goth Volunteer Association, weeds and non-native grasses are rapidly coming under control. Annual and perennial herbs and wildflowers are growing, as are a few bulbs. Yarrow and California fuchsia are spreading rapidly. As non-native grasses are eliminated, we will plant more bulbs. Our newly planted Coast Live Oak trees produced their first acorns in late summer.

~Peter H. St.Clair

NORTH PARK COMMUNITY RESTORATION GARDEN

Saturday, November 13 (and December date to be determined), 9 a.m. The CNPS Gardening Committee is embarking on an exciting new project: a combination native garden and plant restoration on a site bordering Juniper Canyon in North Park. We welcome all volunteers and neighbors who are interested in learning about the local habitat and how to use local native plants in their gardens. Be prepared for work outside to help prep the site and eventually to install plants. We will park and meet at the intersection of Petra Place and Petra Drive off of Pentuckett. If you have any questions or you are interested in helping to get this project underway but can't attend, please feel free to contact me at 619-846-0585, or weshudson@cox.net.

~ Wes Hudson

GARDENING COMMITTEE

The Gardening committee did a bit of pruning at our last meeting, cutting back some programs that hadn't gotten much response to focus on those that have. The School Gardens program, gardening forum on the web, and the Sykes Adobe garden project have been allowed to go dormant, so we can focus our energies on the successful Natives for Novices presentations at our monthly meetings, developing and marketing the Native Gardening fact sheets, continue the garden at Old Town State Park and build the new Community Garden in North Park. We discussed the possibility of having a garden Tour in 2011, but this is dependent on volunteer interest.

We will meet next on **Saturday**, **November 13**, **4:00 p.m.** at 4996 Mt. Almagosa Dr. (at corner with Mt. Blackburn). We'll order pizza. Newcomers, from interested amateurs to seasoned pros, are welcome

~Dave Flietner and Susan Kryzwicki Gardening Co-Chairs

GARDEN WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Park Native Garden: Saturday, November 13 and December 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. See text box for details.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: November 6 and 21, December 4 and 19, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities. Tools/supplies provided. First Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

Have your newsletter delivered direct to your computer terminal!

Just send the name on your mailing label to enewsletter@cnpssd.org. You won't save a tree if you print it out, but you will save CNPS-SD a stamp.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL GROUP

November 6 and December 4. (First Saturday of each month). 9 a.m. to noon. We focus on tools for controlling invasive weeds for the purpose of habitat restoration and fire prevention. We try to touch on all aspects from evaluation and planning, laws and regulations, various control techniques, through to ongoing maintenance. All members are welcome. We schedule once a month but our daily program allows for other times to fit your schedule. Boots, long pants and long sleeves are required; eye protection is optional but recommended. Contact me for meeting place, directions, gate code & further info at invasiveplants@cnpssd.org.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plant Chair

One if by Land, Two if by Sea, with Three, you get eggroll!

This and other mysteries will be solved if you help at the Saturday, November 13, Old Town Native Plant Garden planting party, 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your favorite tool for digging holes and garden gloves (unless you want dirt under your fingernails.) We will plant about 150 California native plants after getting coached on proper planting techniques.

The Garden is located at the west end of Old Town State Park, where Taylor and Congress Streets meet, across the street from the train/trolley depot building. Park for free in the lot at Calhoun and Taylor Streets. Drinking fountain and restrooms are on site. We'll be planting in any weather. Wear a rain jacket and rain pants if it is raining.

We'll go celebrate with Mexican Hot Cocoa at a local restaurant afterward, ...and eggroll? Creo que no! (CNPS' treat.)

(Botany, Con't from p. 1)

San Luis Rey River, the San Dieguito River, and parts of the Tijuana River; however, in other locations, riparian scrub vegetation has actually increased in area as freshwater urban runoff has converted seasonal streams and dry drainages into perennially moist areas where water is available to vegetation all year. These are mostly narrow and isolated locations.

Of the riparian vegetation alliances listed in the California Native Plant Society Manual of California Vegetation, 13 occur in San Diego County though some are of limited distribution like box elder (*Acer negundo*) forest, California walnut (*Juglans californica*) groves, and the big leaf maple (*Acer macrophylla*) forest that consists of individual trees on Mount Laguna and in Castro Canyon off the side of Agua Tibia Mountain.

There is quite a variety of shrubs and small trees that make up the characteristic species for riparian vegetation, including sandbar willow (Salix exigua), arroyo willow (S. lasiolepis), shining willow (S. lucida ssp. lasiandra), red willow (S. laevigata), black willow (S. gooddingii), black cottonwood (Populus balsmifera ssp. trichocarpa) in a few locations in the northern part of the County, Fremont cottonwood (P. fremontii), California sycamore (Platanus racemosa), and white alder (Alnus rhombifolia). variety of plants occur in the understory, such as poison oak (Toxicodendron radicans ssp. diversilobum) and California rose (Rosa californica). In fringe areas, there is often a mix of the typical deciduous riparian woodlands and forest and coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) woodland creating oak riparian woodland. Engelmann oak (Q. engelmannii) sometimes appears in this community in the foothills of the County. It is not always a simple task to distinguish the delineation of vegetation alliances where the oak woodland and riparian woodlands mix.

This is one vegetation community that consists predominantly of winter deciduous trees and large shrubs. The fall colors that appear in late October and November and sometimes into December in our coastal canyons and valleys are contributed by Fremont cottonwood, and California sycamore. The cottonwoods provide a nice yellow color on the central portion and west end of Mission Valley. They are especially brightly colored in some of the eastern parts of the County such as near Warner Springs and Buckman Springs. California Sycamores are predominant in San Clemente Canyon along Highway 52 and also in numerous foothill locations such as the Rancho Jamul and parts of Ramona.

As mentioned above, riparian woodland and riparian scrub vegetation has been heavily impacted in San Diego County. The estimate of the original acreage was just under 35,000 and now there are approximately 17,220 acres, which is roughly a 50 percent loss.

This vegetation community was traditionally also more dynamic. Prior to the construction of dams on the major stream courses in the County, heavy rain storms and wet seasons resulted in broad flood events that sometimes scoured the riparian vegetation and deposited sand and silt. The trees and shrubs in this community are very resilient and adapted to these conditions and rapidly regrow from root bases and seeds to form a new riparian woodland. In fact, this community is one of the most important for wildlife in general and bird species such as the Least Bell's vireo that is strictly confined to this community and prefers a mix of mid-sized woodland vegetation to older growth woodlands. Periodic flood seasons would have provided a continuous sequence of events to provide a steady supply of this younger vegetation.

A set of 1928 aerial photographs of coastal San Diego County demonstrates the variety of open and young riparian vegetation near the center of the stream and river beds with older vegetation on the outer edges following a series of floods in 1927.

Excellent riparian vegetation can be seen every day in the San Diego River, but also the San Dieguito River near the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, the San Luis Rey River, the Santa Margarita River on Camp Pendleton, Sandia Creek, Santa Maria Creek, the Sweetwater River in the area upstream from the Sweetwater Reservoir, and the lower Tijuana River valley.

~Tom Oberbauer

CALENDAR

11/3: Board Meeting (p. 2)

11/6: Invasive Plant Control Group (p.6)

11/6: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 6)

11/7: Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)

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11/10: North County Satellite Meeting (p. 1)

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11/13: North Park Garden Work Party (p. 4)

11/13: Native Gardening Committee (p. 6)

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11/21: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 4)

12/4: Point Loma Native Plant Garden Work Party (p.6)

12/4: Invasive Plant Control Group (p.6)

12/5: Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)

12/11: Old Town Work Party (p. 6)

12/19: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 6)

12/21: Chapter Meeting – Potluck (p. 1)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
	Student or Limited Income \$25;Individual \$45;Family or Library \$75	
	_Plant Lover \$100;Patron \$300;Benefactor \$600;Mariposa Lily \$1,500	
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