

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

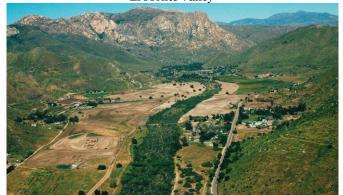
Tuesday, January 18, 7 p.m. Casa del Prado, Room 101

NOTE: Room 101, NOT 104, this month only.

El Monte Valley Project by Tim Smith

The Helix Water District is pursuing a new visionary water project along a portion of the San Diego River. The three major components are purified water, riverbed restoration, surface sand mining. Purified water pumped into recharge basins will seep into the groundwater basin to help raise the water table, which will allow for restoration of the riverbed with native plants and enable the creation of a public recreation area, with multi-purpose trails on both sides of the river and crossings for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, as well as wildlife habitat and educational opportunities. The 10-year mining project will re-contour the riverbed and produce sand and gravel to address San Diego County's shortage and generate needed funding.

El Monte Valley



6:30 p.m. (prior to the meeting) – Natives For Novices - Rain Gardens by Morgan Vondrak.
7:00 p.m. – refreshments, book browsing, socializing.
7:30 p.m. – presentation.

North County Satellite Meeting

Wednesday, January 12th, 7 p.m. Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center

Public Participation and the Environmental Process by Megan Enright

The purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act includes disclosing to the public the significant environmental effects of a proposed discretionary project and enhancing public participation in the environmental review process. As a member of CNPS and a citizen of the state of California, you have the right have your voice heard. Join us and learn how to effectively communicate your concerns about preventing or minimizing damage to botanical resources. Megan Enright is a senior project manager at Dudek, a local environmental consulting firm, and has 13 years' experience in environmental planning, specializing in biological resource analyses for environmental documents, regulatory compliance, and botanical surveying. Ms. Enright serves as the botanical services manager for Dudek and is trained and skilled in botanical surveying. Directions: Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center is at 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad. Exit I-5 east at Cannon Road, turn left at Faraday Ave. signal into driveway (Thomas Guide 1126 J-1).

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! 2012 CNPS CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

In mid-January 2012, our San Diego chapter will host the third state-wide CNPS Conservation Conference at the Town and Country Inn in Mission Valley. It's time to start thinking how you can play a part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share the best of San Diego County's native plant heritage with the 800+ conference participants, many from other parts of the golden state.

For the botanical or horticultural professional, the sessions at the Conference will cover a huge range of topics, and a call for abstracts will soon be announced. Other kinds of experts will also be showcased. Artists will display their native plant art in many media formats. Members and memberteams with writing and graphic talents will develop posters to illustrate aspects of plant conservation in the San Diego region and beyond. The general public will be invited to learn about CNPS at an open house "Public Day" on the last day of the Conference.

Our varied membership can make the 2012 Conference successful in many ways. People-oriented members can help with registration and other hosting roles. Techies can keep the AV working during presentation. Outdoor enthusiasts will be needed to guide local field trips in various capacities.

As you can see, all sorts of participation is needed. Not least, strong and silent (or noisy) member volunteers will be needed to help set up and break down the exhibits. If many members volunteer as few as two to four hours for these simple but essential tasks, this will make a huge difference in the smooth running of the event next year.

CNPS will offer an incentive to those who volunteer longer hours. These include substantial discounts on the registration fees and other perks. planning for the 2012 Conference has been underway since the 2009 Conference wrapped Sacramento. The planning is based on the expectation that hundreds of participants from throughout the state will attend this exciting, five day event. The Conference will include botanical research and project presentation sessions, poster sessions, botanical illustration and photo contests, nature poetry reading, chapter poster display, methods workshops on involved in conservation, a silent-auction fund raiser, banquets, nearby field trips, and many more special events.

VOLUNTEERS ALREADY ACTIVE

Members of the San Diego chapter are hard at work. Michelle Cox, Jonathan Dunn and Vince Scheidt have been on the Conference Steering Committee since San Diego was chosen as the host chapter early last year, with Vince serving as the Chair of the Conference Executive Committee. Recently, more chapter members have stepped forward: Dave Varner as Public Day Chair, Michelle Cox as Volunteer Coordinator, Carolyn Martus to plan field trips, Kay Stewart as Local Arrangements Coordinator with the Conference Event Planner, and others.

Josie Crawford at the State office has asked for one volunteer in particular to chair the Outreach Committee. One of the tasks of this committee will be to enthusiastically contact the many college and university students whose attendance at the Conference will build CNPS's future and the future of plant conservation throughout California. In order to help all volunteers, Josie has developed an excellent organizational handbook to help all volunteers fulfill their roles.

FUND-RAISING TO START THIS MONTH

This month, CNPS will start intensive outreach to agencies, consulting firms, universities, other organizations, and the 33 state-wide CNPS chapters in order to raise funds for the Conference. Both large and small donations are needed to provide the solid financial foundation so the planning can shift into implementation. Most importantly, Chapters will be asked to help support student attendance at the Conference. Other volunteers are needed to contact various service providers to enlist them to be exhibitors/vendors during the Conference. The chapter newsletter will continue to carry updates as the date approaches. Around June, the pace will really pick up.

If you want to become involved, contact Kay Stewart at <u>fieldtrips@cnpssd.org</u>. We'll provide the Conference Handbook for you to browse in order to select the activity you most want to volunteer for.

~ Vince Scheidt and Kay Stewart



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.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **January 5** 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.

BOARD NOTES

From November 3, 2010. The Board unanimously approved a \$300 contribution from unallocated funds for an intern at the CNPS state offices with the understanding that it will be for conservation work. The Board voted unanimously to adopt a chapter conflict of interest policy for chapter Board members. The board may rescind this policy should the CNPS state already have a policy which is preferred.

~ Tom Beltran, Secretary

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

A total of 55 members voted in the chapter elections. The following members were elected to the Board:

Tom Beltran Cindy Burrascano Susan Krzywicki Tom Oberbauer Bobbie Stephenson

Congratulations to the returning and new Board members!!!

FIELD TRIPS

Be Sure to See San Diego's Native Plants in the Wild in 2011. The chapter Field Trips committee is planning wonderful field trips to lure you away from the confines of your home and office in 2011.

If you are a plant i.d. beginner, co-chair Paul Hormick and a lively group of member/volunteers will host Saturday walks starting in March. These walks invite members and the general public to get to know their local neighborhood wild plant sites and the most commonly found plants in those nearby hideaways. The team is planning to explore some new neighborhood wild places in La Mesa, and revisit many of the popular canyons and parks that were studied in the past three years.

If you want to tackle the plant identification game with more terminology and determination, join the members' field trips. If you love plants, you will find the intense focus delightful. Co-chair Kay Stewart and a half-dozen other member-volunteers are planning out a calendar with botanists as leaders again. The outlook is for at least two trips per month, on Sundays, starting the end of February. Desert, foothills, coast, riverbottom, and mountain routes are being planned.

With these two levels of field trips on the two different weekend days, members can go to both the beginner and more advanced trips if they want. .

The 2010 field trips were outstanding. We explored around 30 places. San Diego County is so big and has so many fascinating species and plant communities that we will continue to explore new places, while revisiting some of our favorites again. If you have a place you want to add, become a volunteer. Send email to fieldtrips@cnpssd.org.

~ Kay Stewart and Paul Hormick

TECOLOTE CANYON MONTHLY WALK

January 2. 9:00 a.m.-noon. Kay Stewart will lead this walk that leaves from the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center. 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.

CONSERVATION

How many Torrey pines would you cut down to spend five minutes less every day on the freeway? This month I thought I'd pull back the curtains on the whole environmental review process, using the I-5 expansion EIR as an example. Environmental review is fundamentally quite simple: If you want to build something, describe what's on the site right now, determine how much environmental damage your project is going to cause to the site, and figure out how to fix that damage before you cause it. Write all this up in an EIR. Submit that EIR to the appropriate regulating authority, and solicit public input. The authority (County Supervisors or whoever) takes in all the information and decides whether to approve the project or not. This is where someone figures out whether a freeway expansion is worth sacrificing some Torrey pines, and it's never an easy decision.

If people dislike the project decision enough, they sue to stop it. Lawsuits typically involve problems with the EIR. Preparing an EIR is a complex process, and project proponents too often cut corners and hope that no one calls them on it.

The critical point is that a properly prepared EIR is quite difficult to challenge. This is why environmental consultants can be so valuable. They are much cheaper than lawyers, and smart developers get them involved early on in the design process, to minimize the environmental impact from the start. Doing it right is much, much cheaper than doing it wrong, losing in court, and having to do it right the second time.

The CNPS conservation committee reviews the botanical sections of EIRs, looking for problems. We comment on them, and if the problem is bad enough, we take legal action to stop or change the project. This brings us to the I-5 EIR. In our opinion, it was so incomplete that we could not support any widening of the road. There's no evidence in the EIR that Caltrans hired a consultant to write this, and the botanical section is problematic to put it mildly:

- 1. Caltrans took botany sections from old studies of 2004 to 2007 and cobbled them together. They did not document what's growing in the project area in 2010.
- 2. While the EIR allegedly covered plants growing within 10 *miles* of I-5, they missed *over half* the sensitive, rare, or endangered species growing within 500 *feet* of their project. It took us a few days to do the research. It wasn't hard.
- 3. Mitigation? Caltrans wants to transplant all the rare plants out of the construction zone, so they claim there will be no impacts. Go ahead and cringe: mature Del Mar manzanitas do not survive transplantation in our experience. Nor do Torrey pines, scrub oaks, or other species (including the ones they missed). This is what "unmitigated impacts" means.
- 4. They will revegetate after construction, but just using unspecified "native plants." Rare species will not be replanted where they grew. We dislike the hybrid *Encelia* that Caltrans uses (coastal *Encelia californica* crossed with desert *Encelia farinosa*), and it's not the only problematic "native plant" in their palette.

And worst of all, we get to pay for this mess three times. As taxpayers, we paid for this EIR. If there is legal action, we will pay to defend it, and if Caltrans loses, we will pay to have it redone properly.

Would that Caltrans had done it properly the first time.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Committee

New Cnps Online Inventory Of Rare And Endangered Plants

CNPS has released an updated version of the Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, a primary data reference for information about the conservation status of over 2,200 of California's rare and endangered plants. Access is at:

www.rareplants.cnps.org.

CNPS-SD: RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT WINNER

Congratulations and a big THANK YOU to Frank Landis for organizing and running the rare plant surveys for Acanthomintha ilicifolia during the spring of 2010! And to all those who volunteered their time on this project: Bev Pecunia, Birgit Knorr, Brian Cameron Newell, Arnold, Carol Manning, Cindy Burrascano, **Cornelius** Bouscaren, David Varner, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Erika Bjorkquist, Georg Coermann, James Lightner, Janet Franklin, Jennifer Tillman, Jim Soe Nyun, John Hopper, Jon Murphy, Jonathan Snapp-Cook, Kye Ok Kim, Linda Pardy, Lindsay Willrick, Lisa Gadsby, Margaret Fillius, Margy Day, Maryanne Bache, Pamela Haehn, Robert Greenberg, and Torrey Neel. CNPS San Diego is the Second Place winner for having the second most volunteer hours and rare plant occurrences found by any CNPS chapter for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt! Good work, Frank and all the volunteers who participated. Your support was essential in getting this new project going. CNPS San Diego was awarded a \$50 gift certificate to purchase field supplies for future field trips and will be recognized on the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt website and blog.

RARE PLANT SURVEYS

For 2011, we're switching gears. This spring, we will be looking for eight rare plant species that live only on coastal dunes, and we'll be surveying sites from Imperial Beach north. Dates are still up in the air, because we need to work around the breeding seasons of the least tern and snowy plover. If you are interested, sign up at the chapter meeting or contact me at franklandis@cnpssd.org.

~ Frank Landis, Rare Plant Surveys Chair



As California native plant enthusiasts and San Diegans, we're used to celebrating year-round the beauty, diversity and unique benefits of our native flora. Come the third week of April, however, we're going to ask all Californians to join us ... with the encouragement of the California State Assembly and Senate, no less. Beginning in 2011, the third week of April will be known officially as "California Native Plant Week," according to an Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR 173) passed on August 2 by the State Assembly and on August 27 by the State Senate.

CNPS SD will be coordinating activities here in the county and promoting state-wide activities. The plant sale, April Garden Tour, Earth Day and many other activities will have a Native Plant Week tie-in. If you have any ideas for other events you would like to see us co-market, please get in touch with Susan Krzywicki (susankrzywicki@mac.com) who is representing the chapter at the state level and helping to gain recognition for local events.

The celebration will by no means be limited to CNPS. We will be collaborating with environmental groups, botanic gardens, water districts, parks organizations and schools to hold native-plant related activities during CNPW. Stay tuned for more information.

LEGISLATION

Critical Habitat for Ambrosia pumila

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has published its final rule on critical habitat for *Ambrosia pumila* (San Diego ambrosia). The final rule, which became effective on December 30, 2010, designated approximately 783 acres of land in Riverside and San Diego counties as critical habitat for the species. Visit www.fws.gov for more information. (Click on Endangered Species, then fill in the plant's name.)

~Bobbie Stephenson



Ophioglossum californicum

BOTANY: TWO UNUSUAL PLANTS

Fritillaria biflora (chocolate lily or mission bells) and Ophioglossum californicum (California adder's tongue) are two unusual plants that, depending on rainfall, are visible in the late winter and earliest spring. Fritillaria is a genus of about 100 species from western North America including Alaska, Western Europe, Asia, and one species on St. Helena Island off the west coast of Africa. The Fritillarias are geophytes (plants that grow from underground bulbs), with relatively large smooth green lily-like leaves with smooth to slightly undulating edges that sprout during the warm days of late winter. Chocolate lily is relatively widely distributed in California and ranges from Mendocino County southward into the northern portion of Baja California, but the greatest numbers of collections have been made in San Diego County. A plant of heavy clay soils, it may grow in rocky areas with few other plants or in the midst of native grasses and herbs, or even among weedy non-native herbs and grasses. The early rains of October and November this season may stimulate this plant to flower early even though it is considered a La Nina season with lower probability of normal rainfall. Its chocolate-colored flowers makes it always a surprise to find.



in the form of a bell except for the fact that they have five petals. A close look at the inside of the flower shows light colored striations radiating from the center. The stamens are creamy yellow in the center of the flower and the stigma and style are whitish.

The flowers look like they are

made of chocolate candy shaped

Fritillaria biflora

The chocolate lily can be found in a number locations San Diego in it County and occurs consistently each year in Mission Trail Regional Park, Wright's Field Alpine, and on several of the gabbro (black granitic) peaks including Viejas and McGinty Mountains.



Fritillaria biflora

In contrast, California adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum californicum*) is not even a flowering plant, but a fern. The Genus *Ophioglossum* is in the family Ophioglossaceae in the Order Ophioglossales, which is an indication of how unique this species is. When it is growing, it appears to be a small, single leaf or

sometimes two leaves growing directly out of the soil. It grows in usually nearly barren sandy or loamy soils, and sometimes in clays. In some places it does grow with non-native plants, but the color of its leaf, a vellowish-green, is characteristic. Its reproductive structure, referred to as a sporangium because it produces the spores, is a small stalk that superficially appears to be shaped like a snake's tongue, but it has a series of notches near the tip where spores are The distribution of adder's tongue in released. California is interesting because it occurs in only a handful of counties from Amador County to a noncontinuous set of counties including San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey and a few Sierra Nevada foothill counties. Of course, because of its small size and cryptic form, it could be overlooked in a number of locations where it occurs. As with the chocolate lily, the greatest number of collections have been from San Diego County, where adder's tongue has been found in the area around Jamul, Carmel Mountain/Del Mar Mesa, Point Loma, Alpine and up into the center of the Encinitas and Carlsbad. ~ Tom Oberbauer

SEED COLLECTION

For an interesting view of seeds of native plants visit the Rancho Santa Botanic Garden's Ana Seed Program website at http://www.hazmac.biz/s eedhome.html. John Macdonald and Mike Wall have a wonderful website that has Guidelines and Standards



for collecting and storing seeds as well as seed photo lists where you can choose to look at seed photographs of species. ~ **Cindy Burrascano**

GARDENING COMMITTEE

Our next CNPS Gardening Committee Meeting will be held **January 5**, **6-7:30 p.m.** at the Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego (to the west of the IKEA store in the Fenton Marketplace, south of Friars Road between I-805 and I-15). The main agenda item will be the upcoming April Garden Tour during Native Plant Week. Clayton Tschudy will describe the exciting plans. We'll also talk about our other ongoing projects. We can use help at all levels, so please join us. ~ **Susan Kryzwicki**, Gardening Co-Chair

GARDEN WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Park Native Garden: Saturday, January 8, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Non-Political Mud Slinging in Old Town!

The first 2011 work party at the Old Town Native Plant Garden will be digging a 15'x25'x2' deep hole that will be lined with a heavy duty rubber liner and backfilled with the soil, then saturated with water to provide ideal soggy conditions to grow healthy bullrushes and These plants will be harvested for cattails. construction and weaving demonstrations by regional First Nation people who have helped CNPS and the State Park staff plan the Garden. Funds for materials are being provided by a USFWS grant. This demonstration wetland will add to the Garden's ability to illustrate the pre-European Native American uses of the Old Town area. Bring a shovel and gloves, and be prepared to get dirty. Additional volunteers will be coming thanks to the San Diego River Park volunteer network. The more the merrier!

The Garden is at the west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Congress and Taylor Streets, opposite the ticket building of the Trolley/Coaster station. Take the trolley, or if you drive, park in the lot off Calhoun and Taylor Streets. A drinking fountain and restrooms are on site.

~ Kay Stewart

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: Jan. 16, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities. Tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

North Park Community Restoration Garden. Saturday, January 22, 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

The First Annual San Diego Native Plant Garden Tour

April 16 and 17, 2011

Gardens containing at least 80% California natives can be submitted before January 15 to be considered for inclusion in the tour. If your native garden is in good shape, please apply! We will need a good number of volunteers to help with logistics. Volunteer docents, who have a good familiarity with native garden plants, will be needed to lead guided tours of the gardens. Send an email or call either Clayton Tschudy or Susan Krzywicki.

Clayton Tschudy, 858 774 7692 tschudyecodesigns@gmail.com

Susan Krzywicki, 619 318 4590 Susankrzywicki@mac.com

Please volunteer for this exciting opportunity and help us make the First Annual Native Plant Garden Tour in San Diego County a success!

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

January 29 (the last Saturday for January only; then we'll return to the 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

California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC): Map the Spread to Stop the Spread

In 2006-2008 Cal-IPC mapped the existing distribution of all species in the Cal-IPC Inventory by county and Jepson floristic region. In 2010-2011 they will continue mapping at a finer resolution (7.5 minute USGS quadrangles). The keystone of this effort is to gather a group of local botanists and land managers and map their expert knowledge. They are seeking input from CNPS volunteers with strong botanical skills and a regional knowledge of invasive plant distribution. Come participate in our data gathering meetings!

The meetings have been informative and collaborative, with palpable excitement about the final mapping products. The outcomes of this project will enable users to answer questions like: What's here, What's on the move, What's on the way, What's ripe for eradication and What's ripe for containment. To participate, please contact Arne Johanson (the Chapter's Invasive Species Control Coordinator) or email mapping@cal-ipc.org. For more information, visit www.calweedmapper.org.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plant Chair

Weed Phone Application for Reporting Weeds

I always learn some interesting things at Cal IPC meetings, sometimes out-of-the-box things like herbicide balls for use with paint ball guns for killing weeds in hard to access areas or using dogs to detect a low density weed you are trying to eradicate. This year I finally found a reason to buy a phone. Christy Brigham at the Santa Monica Mountains Nat'l Rec. Area described a new phone app being developed with the Center for Embedded Network Sensing at UCLA. The app is called "What's Invasive!" and allows managers to upload photos and other information about target invasive plants that is then used to generate a mobile phone app for use by the public. The apps are downloaded by a prospective user from a manager's internet site (www.whatsinvasive.com in this case) and using a phone application, when a person finds one of the target species, they can compare it to the images and text and take a digital picture of the plant in the field while the GPS location is automatically recorded by the phone. You label the photograph with a plant name via a drop down menu. The application uploads the photographs, GPS points, and data labels to the website where the information is translated into a map. Dan Gluesenkamp of Audubon Canyon Ranch also described a Bay Area early detection system that would tie into CalFlora. Local land managers might think about developing this weed technology for their parks. I can also envision this type of system being developed for reporting rare plant species in the future. Wouldn't that be cool?

~ Cindy Burrascano

CALENDAR

1/2: Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 3)

1/5: Board Meeting (p. 3)

1/5: Native Gardening Committee (p. 6)

1/8: Old Town Work Party (p. 6)

1/12: North County Satellite Meeting (p. 1)

1/16: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 6)

1/18: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)

1/22: North Park Garden Work Party (p. 6)

1/29: Invasive Plant Control Group (p.7)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION							
_	Student or Limited Income \$25;Individual \$45;Family or Library \$75						
	_Plant Lover \$100;Patron \$300;Benefactor \$600;Mariposa Lily \$1,500						
Name(s):							
Address:							
Phone:	e-mail:						
Mail check payable to "CNPS" to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.							

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - SAN DIEGO

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