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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

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## CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.  
Casa del Prado, Room 104

### Three Restoration Success Stories

by Mel Hinton, David Kimball  
and Jim Peugh

This program will look at three separate habitat restoration projects, each with its own story. Somewhat different approaches were used in the restoration process because of issues with land ownership, physical characteristics of the sites, and general preferences by those managing the restoration. Each project moved from invasive eradication, to planting, to post planting care and finally long term maintenance and weed control. Almost all of the work was done by volunteers.

Of the three projects, Famosa Slough has the longest history going from a badly degraded wetland about to be developed in the 1970's, to a thriving habitat for native vegetation, birds, and other wildlife. The 37-acre slough straddles West Point Loma Boulevard just east of Nimitz and is managed by the City of San Diego Park Department with help from Friends of Famosa Slough. Jim Peugh is Chairman of the Board of that organization.

David Kimball oversees the restoration of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park in Point Loma as Chair of the Revegetation Committee for the Sunset Cliffs Recreation Council. This 68-acre park overlooks the Pacific Ocean along the western edge of Point Loma. What was once a weedy field dominated by non-native crown daisy (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*) is now filled with native plants and birds. Much more work remains, but the side by side comparison of restored and un-restored land is striking.

Mel Hinton's involvement with native plants began by creating a mini wildlife habitat in his backyard. He

now supervises the restoration of former agricultural land at a 11.5-acre nature preserve near Vista owned by the San Diego Audubon Society (SDAS). The property has a 1.5-acre pond, coastal sage scrub and oak/willow riparian woodland habitat. Kay Stewart developed the original restoration plan which was initially implemented by Claude Edwards. Many kinds of wildlife have been sighted at the Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve, including 100 bird species.

Co-presenters Mel Hinton, David Kimball and Jim Peugh are all members of CNPS and Friends of Famosa Slough. They also are active members of the San Diego Audubon Society (SDAS) and have worked on numerous habitat restoration projects managed by the local Audubon chapter. All have been on the Board of Directors of SDAS for a number of years.

**6:30 p.m. – Natives For Novices:** Natives for Wildlife - Butterflies & Insects - Clay Tschudy.

**7:00 p.m. –** refreshments, book browsing, and socializing.

**7:30 p.m. –** meeting and presentation.

Chapter meetings are open to the public and are free. They are held the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in the Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

## BOTANY: COASTAL SAGE SCRUB

Right now if you travel through Balboa Park on Highway 163 or visit the tide pools on Point Loma or look in the hills around Santee and Poway, you will see shrub vegetation with subtle colors. There are patches of gray greens, darker greens, brown-green and even yellows. To those from the eastern U.S., this vegetation is indicative that San Diego is located in a desert due to the low stature of the shrubs. It is best developed in areas that receive between roughly 8 and 15 inches of rainfall during the winter months and extends from Central California down to roughly El Rosario in northern Baja California. (con't on p. 8)

The Board unanimously decided to spend some of the Chapter's funds over the next fiscal year (April 2011 through March 2012) on some outstanding programs that will benefit native plants in San Diego! Every year our Chapter's hard working volunteers generate its income by staffing a very successful Fall Plant Sale and a smaller spring sale, and by selling books, posters, plants and seeds, at our monthly meetings and outreach events. Along with generous donations received from members and organizations, this income supports all of our many chapter activities. Our Chapter is financially healthy. This year the entire Board felt that this would be a good time to invest some of our savings to energize our CNPS mission. Here are four ways that we decided to do this:

1. **Invasive plant management:** people caring for native plant populations from small gardens to large preserves need science-based knowledge to control exotic species. The California Invasive Pest Plant Council is a leader in this field, and its upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> conference later this spring, will receive a \$1,500 donation from our chapter. This "Gold Sponsor" level qualifies the Chapter to send three attendees. We hope they will learn techniques to nurture native plants in San Diego more successfully.
2. **Conservation:** The board authorized \$2,500 as our seed-money share for the state CNPS's 2012 Conservation Conference. It will be held next January in San Diego, so our chapter's role in plant conservation will be spotlighted at this conference. Starting now, fund-raising efforts and planning will go into high gear. Expect to read about this every month, and look for ways that you can participate.
3. **Botanical knowledge:** We are especially fortunate that the Chapter could combine sizable donations made by several individual chapter members (who have asked to remain anonymous), and by the Tree of Life Nursery, to directly augment the San Diego Plant Atlas with a \$5,000 gift. This project has added volumes of knowledge about regional native plants, but needs funds to botanize some areas of our rugged back county that are still unexplored.
4. **Grants:** The board also set aside \$1,000 for MiniGrants (up to \$500 each). Please contact the board for more information if you want to apply for support for a small project that advances CNPS's mission.

**Kay Stewart**, Chapter President  
**Connie di Girolamo**, Chapter Treasurer

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **April 6** 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.

~ **Tom Beltran**, Secretary

## Native Plant Art Contest: We have a winner!

People attending the March General Meeting voted, and we have a winner in our 2011 Native Plant Art Contest: Jim Soe Nyun's "Chalk Dudleya, Budding Out."



There were 34 entries from nine people. Pictures came in from as far away as Los Gatos, CA, where a former San Diegan heard about the contest and sent four gorgeous pictures. Three volunteer judges went through all the entries and winnowed the field down to 12 finalists. In picking the finalists, we primarily focused on how the images looked both in color and in grayscale. As some entrants noted, a flower picture that looks wonderful in color can turn into an undistinguished wash of grays in grayscale, especially when it is small. None of the dozen finalist pictures had this problem. In fact, a number of the people voting commented that it was quite difficult to choose a winner from among the dozen. Everyone who participated in this contest should be proud of their contributions. We judges had a lot of fun going through all of them.

You will be seeing "Chalk Dudleya, Budding Out" for the rest of the year. We will be using it to advertise Native Plant Week this month, and we are planning to put it on a t-shirt as well. If you have any ideas for how it can be used, please let us know.

If you didn't enter or win this year, take heart. We will hold the contest again for the 2012 Native Plant Week. Now that spring is here and flowers are blooming, start painting, drawing, and taking photographs. This looks like another good year for native plants.

~ Frank Landis



The Chapter is participating in three events to highlight native plants and Native Plant Week in April:

**Spring Garden Festival at Cuyamaca College**

April 9, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Earth Fair in Balboa Park**

April 17, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Qualcomm's Earth Day**

April 22, Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Public Outreach Committee could use your help at any of these events. If you can spend some time representing CNPS at one of these events, please email [outreach@cnpsd.org](mailto:outreach@cnpsd.org). Even if you can't volunteer, stop by our booth and say hello!

~ Margy Day

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE GRASSLANDS ASSOCIATION TOUR

**Saturday, April 9. 9:30 a.m. to ~1:30 p.m.**  
**Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve West.** Led by **Zachary Principe**, CNGA board member and Ecoregional Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy. **RSVP to at [zprincipe@tnc.org](mailto:zprincipe@tnc.org)** as the preserve closes following 1/2 in. or more of rain/snow and remains closed until the trails dry. Directions: Take Highway 78 or 79 to Santa Ysabel. The Staging Area is one mile west of Santa Ysabel (intersection of SR 78 and SR 79) on SR 78 at call box #495 or across the street from 29313 SR 78. See [http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/openspace/Santa\\_Ysabel.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/openspace/Santa_Ysabel.html) for details and a map. Be prepared for a slow-paced, 4-mile hike across uneven and, in places, steep terrain.

Bring a lunch & water. Dress and be prepared for any kind of weather. Binoculars, cameras, and hand lenses are encouraged.

# MEMBER'S FIELD TRIPS

It's spring again and time to get out and see some amazing flora! If you are not a CNPS member or a guest attending with a member, you can join CNPS at the trailhead and enjoy the outing with us.

**April 10 (Sunday), 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rarely Visited Places in Deerhorn Valley and Lyon's Peak.**

A maximum of 15 visitors can be accommodated due to the trail limitations, so **BE SURE TO SEND YOUR RESERVATION IN SOON. RSVP to [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org)**. Leave your cell phone number and group size, and if you intend to meet at the Denny's or at Hollenbeck (see below). Rain at 8 a.m. cancels the field trip.

CNPS Members Don and Jan Maxted will guide us to private places in the hills and valleys southeast of Alpine, with member-botanists to assist in plant identification. CNPS members (and guests) will enjoy this visit to a wild and beautiful part of San Diego County.

Our first destination will be a leisurely three mile walk around the Deerhorn Valley drainage, where bobcats roam and plants have regenerated vigorously since the Harris Fire of 2007. This gently descending valley has habitats ranging from shady riparian areas to oak woodlands (four species of *Quercus*), exposed sunny slopes with many species of native shrubs including bush poppies, monkey flowers, and two species of *Ceanothus*. The array of perennials and annuals will challenge and delight the group. After we have hiked this area, Don and Jan have invited us to their home on Sierra Cielo Lane where we'll take a lunch break on the patio. Bathrooms and refills of water will be available. After lunch, we'll ramble through a different area of the large acreage. This walk will take us up a steep trail edged by blooming *Ceanothus*, native bunch grasses and even some Cooper's rein orchids.

Meet 8:45 at the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area on Honey Springs Rd. (Thomas Guide 1313, E1). Directions: Take Hwy 805 south and exit Telegraph Canyon Rd. east (back under the 805). Go east (becomes Otay Lakes Rd.) past Otay Lakes. Turn left on Hwy 94 and then immediately right on Honey Springs Road, then turn left into the Hollenbeck

reserve parking lot. Allow 45 minutes from downtown San Diego. Don and Jan Maxted will meet us there at 9 a.m. and we will follow them to the site. To ride share to the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area from central San Diego: Meet at 7:45 a.m. in Mission Valley at the Denny's on Friar's Road just east of SR 163. Wear long sleeves & clothes that can take scratchy vegetation, have sun protection and poison oak protection, and bring water and lunch. Binoculars are a bonus.

**April 17 (Sunday), 9:00 a.m. to noon. Rattlesnake Canyon, Poway. RSVP to [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org).** Please provide a cell phone number and the number in your group. Botanist Kirsten Winter will lead CNPS members and their guests around this scenic canyon in Poway. This area supports coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, non-native grassland, and a great array of spring wildflowers. Much of the area burned in the Cedar Fire of 2003 and the Witch Fire of 2007, so we may still see some fire-followers such as Whispering Bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*), Phacelias, and California Poppy (*Eschscholtzia californica*). Other species of interest include Stinging Lupine (*Lupinus hirsutissimus*), Copperleaf (*Acalypha californica*), Odora (*Porophyllum gracilis*), and Owl's Clover (*Castilleja exserta*). There is a lot of birdlife in the canyon so bring binoculars if you wish.

Rattlesnake Creek is part of the upper watershed for Penasquitos Canyon. Part of Rattlesnake Canyon has been preserved through the Poway Multiple Species Conservation Plan. We will be walking about 2 miles on trails and old roads. The terrain is gentle, but the trails are rough after the recent rains and there is poison oak in some areas. Wear long pants and sturdy hiking shoes, and bring water, a hat, and sunscreen.

Meet at the Poway DMV at 13359 Poway Road. Google and other online tools usually do not map this office correctly, so follow these directions: From I-15, take Poway Road east about 4 miles to Community Road. Turn left (north) on Community Road then after about 1/2 block turn right into the Walmart parking lot. The DMV is in the small shopping complex at the northwest corner of the parking lot. We will leave some cars here and rideshare to the trailhead.

Please RSVP to [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org) and give your cell phone number and the number in your group. Non-members who are not members' guests may join CNPS at the trailhead. Rain at 8 a.m. will cancel the field trip.

**May 8 (Sunday). 9 a.m. to noon. Crestridge Ecological Reserve.** Botanist leader to be announced later. Second chance! Last year CNPS

members and their guests were welcomed to Crestridge Ecological Reserve by Cathy Chadwick, the Director of the Reserve's Earth Discovery Institute. We were introduced to some of the habitats of the approximately 3,000-acre Reserve. We're returning this year to explore several more habitats of this terrific site. We'll head for the areas thought to have the widest plant diversity. The terrain is hilly, and some of the trails are single-track with irregular footing, but the pace will be slow.

Crestridge is bordered by I-8 on the north and west and the community of Crest on the south and east. Vegetation includes relict and restored grasslands, oak woodland (including Engelmann oaks), riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, and a rich variety of chaparral species, including the spectacular, scarce (CNPS-List 1B.2 species) Lakeside ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*). Other rare species include San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*), Ramona horkelia (*Horkelia truncata*) and ashy spikemoss (*Selaginella cinerascens*). These plants are under the stewardship of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the end of Horsemill Rd. From I-8 east of El Cajon, take the Greenfield exit east, proceed 1/2 mile then turn left on La Cresta Rd. Travel approximately 3.5 miles and at the top of the grade, turn left on Mountain View Rd. Proceed 1 mile, turn left on Horsemill Rd. and continue 1/2 mile to the Crestridge entrance at the end of the road.

Have good walking shoes, sun protection, long pants and sleeves, water, and snacks or a lunch. Following the field trip you are welcome to spend all or part of the afternoon exploring other trails within the Reserve.

Rain at 8 a.m. will cancel the field trip.

## **2011 FIELD TRIP SEASON STARTS OFF GREAT**

**Santa Margarita River Trip.** On March 6 the Members' field trip season kicked off with an outstanding four mile walk along the Santa Margarita River. With member/botanist Gail DeLalla and four other skilled botanist/members in the group, the two dozen participants learned a great deal and identified 86 taxa. A enormous colony of Parry's larkspur (*Delphinium parryi*) were weeks away from flowering, so some of us plan to go back in April to enjoy that sight. One plant stumped even this team: a low growing shrub that dominates the understory below an ancient coast live oak grove. You'll reach this extraordinary trail system adjacent to the untamed river from the public trailhead at the far north end of Willow Glen Road in Fallbrook.

**Plum Canyon Field Trip.** The desert was aflower

on March 13 when eight of us accompanied leader Larry Hendricks to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's Plum Canyon near Scissors Crossing (intersection of SR 78 and S-2). This is not a "banner year" for the big flower fields out north of Borrego Springs, but in Plum Canyon we found over 70 species in bloom. The ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) and chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) are in full bloom, and California encelia (*Encelia californica*), *Bahiopsis laciniata* (= *Viguiera laciniata*, formerly San Diego viguiera), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), California trixis (*Trixis californica* var. *californica*), and buckwheats (*Eriogonum* spp.) were just coming into flower. We saw chia (*Salvia columbarae*), Bigelow's monkey flower (*Mimulus bigelovii*), two species of *Cryptantha*, purple mat (*Nama demissum* var. *demissum*), and desert woolly-star (*Eriastrum eremicum* ssp. *eremicum*) on the sandy bottom of the canyon. Several species of *Phacelia* and rancher's fiddleneck (*Amsinkia menziesii*) filled shady spots under shrubs and branches and grew from cracks in the rocks, and we found ferns in the shade of big rocks. Then there were the odd and peculiar blossoms on desert tea (*Ephedra californica*), *Lycium*, *Odora*, and *Kramerias*.

~ **Kay Stewart**, Field Trip Chair

# PUBLIC PLANT WALKS

Enjoy our native flora on one of these great hikes in April. With all the spring rain, we should have some beautiful and fragrant blossoms. Bring a friend. He or she might be interested in joining CNPS.

**April 2. Rueda Canyon:** 10:00 a.m. to noon. **Adrienne Heinzelman** and **Michael Murphy** Lead. Exit I-15, east at Tierrasanta Blvd. Turn right on La Cuenta Drive. Meet at the south field of Roadrunner Park, just after Farb Middle School (Thomas Guide 1249 H3) 858-663-1497.

**April 9. Switzer Canyon:** 10:00 a.m. to noon. **Deborah Benson** and **Elizabeth Wilkinson** lead. Meet at the canyon entrance on the corner of 28<sup>th</sup> and Maple. From University Ave., following 28<sup>th</sup> south all the way to the end (at Maple). From the south, take Pershing Drive or 30<sup>th</sup> Street north to Redwood, take Redwood to 28<sup>th</sup>, turn south along the east side of Balboa Park to the end. Parking is on the street (Thomas Guide 1269 D-7) 619-993-9653.

**April 16. Buchanan Canyon:** 10:00 a.m. to noon. **Paul Hormick** leads. From 163 take the Washington Street exit and head east on Washington. At the second light make a left onto Lincoln Ave. Turn right on Johnson and go 100 feet. Park along Johnson Ave. (Thomas Guide 1269 B5) The first 100 feet of this hike has some very steep sections. Sturdy shoes are recommended. The trail also comes close to patches of poison oak. 619-297-2957.

**April 30th Forty-Seventh Street Canyon:** 10:00 am till noon. **Deborah Benson** and **Elizabeth Wilkinson** lead. Meet just north of the City Farms Nursery at the intersection of Euclid Ave. and Home Ave. From the 15 Freeway take the University Ave. exit heading east. Turn right on Euclid, heading south. The nursery and canyon will be on the right. Street parking is available. Do not park at the nursery (Thomas Guide 1269 J7) 619-993-9653.

~ **Paul Hormick**



Happy hikers in Plum Canyon: Jim Soe Nyun, Larry Hendricks (leader), Maggie Loy, Margaret Fillius, Adrienne Heinzelman, Jim Roberts, Bobbie Stephenson (below) and Kay Stewart (above). Guest Gail Wright snapped the picture.

## TECOLOTE CANYON MONTHLY WALK

**April 3.** 9:00 a.m.-noon. **Kay Stewart** leads this walk from the Tecolote Canyon Nature Ctr. From the I-5, take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote Drive exit and go east. The Nature Center is at the 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 is repeated the first Sunday of every month.

## CONSERVATION

A Conservation committee member just learned how to respond to EIRs—two hours of tutoring. Yes, it's that easy. We are always looking for new members to help out!

If you feel like talking to your state legislators (never a bad idea), we suggest lobbying **hard** to keep state

parks open and to not slash environmental law enforcement. Also lobby for integrated an integrated conservation plan in the desert. Right now, the desert is being piecemealed up by solar and wind projects, and the state would do better to consider the impacts of all projects together, rather than dealing with them individually.

On the positive front, the 2011 San Diego Environmental Report Card comes out in April. This is the second year, in which a coalition of environmental groups grades the San Diego City Council and Mayor on their environmental votes. Once again CNPS participated, providing input on what City Council actions to grade and how to evaluate the grades. Overall, the City Council's individual grades improved from last year. Part of the improvement was that 2010 (the year graded) was a relatively calm year for environmental votes, and few controversial issues came before the Council. That said, we are glad they voted for the environment on a variety of issues, and we hope they continue the trend in 2011 and beyond.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee

## RARE PLANT SURVEYS

On March 10, **Frank Landis**, **David Varner**, and four CDFG staffers did the first dune plant survey at the mouth of Batiquitos Lagoon. The sites are fenced off to protect snowy plover and least tern nests, but since the birds weren't nesting, CDFG went in with us to see what we could find.

The total is approximately 10,000 coast woolly heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *denudata*), a large red sand verbena (*Abronia maritima*) and possibly four very rare Nuttall's lotus (*Lotus nuttallianus*). In other words...success! Nuttall's lotus was one of the plants we were really searching for, and it is a species that wasn't known from that site. Unfortunately the lotus wasn't blooming, which means we could not definitely identify it. We'll have to go back in there in a month to see if they have bloomed. And no, we didn't count the woollyheads. That's an estimate.

It appears that we will not need to schedule a training session for this survey. This spring we're hunting for eighteen different rare plant species, but only a few of them occur at any one site. At Batiquitos, we found that it's simpler to learn the plants on that particular dune (there were about a dozen species). Once you know the common species, it's relatively easy to spot anything unusual (although some of them are tiny!), and then to check to see if it's one of the species we are looking for. Frank has already created a set of ID sheets that show what the rare species look like.

If you are interested in participating, email [franklandis@cnpsd.org](mailto:franklandis@cnpsd.org). We are particularly looking for anyone who already knows some dune species, but anyone can participate. All it requires is sharp eyes to spot tiny plants, and careful feet to avoid stepping on them.

~ **Frank Landis**, Rare Plant Survey Chair

## VEGETATION SURVEY

**Saturday, April 23rd, 8 a.m.** Enjoy your Saturday by hiking to Sycuan Peak with the Vegetation Committee where they will use relevé survey methods to gather data on vegetation alliances and associations that occur in gabbro soil.

If you're new to the group, training is always provided the day of the survey by our local volunteers. The Vegetation Committee (see <http://www.cnps/vegetation>) works to help the California Department of Fish and Game further classify vegetation alliances and associations while also aiding local organizations or individuals to get a better understanding of the property under their management. These surveys are a great excuse to get outdoors and discover/reintroduce yourself to native plants. Each survey is a learning experience no matter what your botanical skill level is.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Edwards Cinema parking lot (2951 Jamacha Rd). To get to the parking lot from west of SR 125, take 94 east to Jamacha Rd. Edwards Cinema is in the shopping center southeast of Campo Rd. If anyone is interested in carpooling, let me know and I'll coordinate rides. **Please RSVP by Friday, April 22nd.** Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP or request more information, email **Anna Bennett** at [vegetation@cnpsd.org](mailto:vegetation@cnpsd.org).

## INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

**April 23, 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. We meet 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@cnpsd.org](mailto:invasiveplants@cnpsd.org).

~ **Arne Johanson**, Invasive Plant Chair

# SPRING PLANT SALE REPORT

It was a gorgeous day for the CNPS San Diego benefit sale at Tree of Life Nursery (TOLN) on March 5. Chapter members **Connie Beck, Cindy Burrascano, Pete diGirolamo, Amy Huie, Kristen Olafson, Joni Palashewski, and Marsha Rold** worked with TOLN staff to assist customers in selecting plants. Because of a recent TOLN Groupon offer, there were a fair number of people who were new to gardening with native plants. It's a wonderful feeling to gently steer someone away from the idea of planting ivy on a slope!

Quite a few customers were experienced with native plants. As Marsha said, it was "encouraging to talk to some of the buyers who had done research and had lists in hand." All local CNPS chapters had been notified about the sale and it was great to talk to fellow native plant lovers who were out supporting CNPS San Diego. Connie deserves special thanks for doing double duty: in addition to acting as a sales consultant for the day, she gave a well-attended talk on "Natives for Wildlife" that led to a rush on the plants she featured.

In an upcoming newsletter, there will be a report on the amount of money raised for our chapter. We hope we can match last year's great success. Also, the Spring Plant Sale Committee will be looking to recruit more volunteers for the sale in 2012 and be exploring a topic for a second talk since Connie's presentation was so well received. Comments and ideas are welcome. **Kristen Olafson** is the new chair of the Spring Plant Sale. Please contact Kristen at [springplantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:springplantsale@cnpsd.org).

~ Spring Plant Sale Committee

## GARDENING COMMITTEE

The next CNPS Gardening Committee Meeting will be held **April 5, 5:45-7:45 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).

~ **Susan Kryzwicki**, Gardening Co-Chair



The San Diego Chapter propagation committee in a City Nursery greenhouse, Balboa Park, at their workshop in February standing behind a few of their hundreds of starts and thousands of seedlings. Several hundred other one-gallon native plants are growing well in lath houses and open sun in other parts of the nursery. Co-chair Connie Beck is on left in the front row.

## BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.

See over 15 Native Plant Gardens in the historic seaside neighborhood of downtown Oceanside! Plant experts and neighborhood locals will lead an informative 1.5 mile walking tour to see these wonderful front yard gardens. Meet at 2 p.m. at the St. Mary's School parking lot at 515 Wisconsin Avenue. The guided walk is free; a donation is requested for the map and plant list. Local kids sell lemonade and cookies along the route. St. Mary's School is one block east of the 101 Cafe at Coast Highway and Wisconsin Ave. This annual event is sponsored by the Buena Vista Native Plant Club and the Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association. Go to [BVAudubon.org](http://BVAudubon.org) or [OCNA.info](http://OCNA.info) or call the Buena Vista Nature Center at 760-439-2473 for more information.

## GARDEN WORK PARTIES

**Old Town State Park Native Garden: Saturday, April 9, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** The Artificial Demonstration Wetland Planted in February! The installation started in January with a couple dozen volunteers digging and lining the basin. Materials for the wetland project were purchased using an educational grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The wetland is located in the Native Plant Garden in Old Town State Historic Park, at Congress and Taylor Streets.



This work crew of muddy volunteers just planted a small artificial demonstration wetland in mid-February. When the young cuttings grow so the bog is full, skilled craftspeople will teach how to harvest these plants and make mats and baskets from them.

## Help Us Primp For The Party!

At our work party Saturday, Apr. 9, we will spiff up the Old Town Native Plant Garden to look its best for **California Native Plant Week**. Bring your own favorite weeding tools and gloves, sun protection and a smile. Or just bring the hat and the smile, because we will supply gloves and hand tools. Our Native Plant Garden is the closest thing to nature's wonderful wild California gardens for the thousands of visitors to Old Town State Historic Park who arrive by train, trolley, or bus and walk through the garden on their way to the historic district's exhibits, food, and gift shops. The Garden is at the west end of the Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, right across from the Trolley/Train/Bus station. See the trees? You're almost there! Take a trolley, or if you drive, park in the lot at Calhoun and Taylor Street.

~ **Kay Stewart**

Old Town Native Plant Garden  
Work-Party Coordinator

**Point Loma Native Plant Garden: April 2 and 17, 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](mailto:Richard@sandiegoriver.org) for more info.

**North Park Community Restoration Garden. Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m.** LET'S CONTINUE PLANTING! The CNPS Gardening Committee has begun planting and invites all who are interesting in our 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 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 with this project but can't attend, please feel free to contact Wes at 619-846-0585, or [weshudson@cox.net](mailto:weshudson@cox.net).

~ **Wes Hudson**

(Coastal Sage Scrub, Con't from page 1)

This vegetation was the signature habitat in coastal southern California. It is home for the California gnatcatcher, the orange-throated whiptail and a host of endemic plants and animals. The vegetation is generally known as Coastal Sage Scrub and sometimes referred to as Soft Chaparral or Soft-Leaved Drought Deciduous Scrub, and, in Mexico, Matorral Costero. It was one of the dominant vegetation communities in San Diego County before European contact. Roughly 480,000 acres or 18% of the vegetation in San Diego County was Coastal Sage Scrub (Oberbauer and Vanderwier 1991). Under the Manual of California Vegetation (Second Edition) (Sawyer et al. 2009) and the new Vegetation Classification Manual for Western San Diego County (soon to be on SANDAG's website), 24 associations would fall under this category of vegetation.

The dominant species that are nearly always present in some amount are California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). California sagebrush is a soft branched shrub with feathery greenish gray leaves that appear after sufficient rainfall has fallen. Its leaves, like many members of this plant community, are very aromatic with a spicy paint thinner odor that is pervasive on one's clothes if one walks through it. *Artemisia* is a large and widespread genus of plants that include some species that are used for spice, such as Tarragon, but also one commonly referred to as Wormwood, used to create an ancient distilled alcoholic spirit called Absinthe, with a colorful reputation. California sagebrush is a member of the sunflower family, though one would be hard pressed to make that connection based on casual observation. The flowers are very small and wind pollinated. Like many of its cohorts, California sagebrush is drought deciduous, losing its leaves during the summer and even dry rainfall seasons enhancing the desert-like image on the hillsides. However, if rains are adequate, the growth of new leaves can transform a hillside of dry sticks to felty green in a matter of a few weeks.

California buckwheat, the other co-dominant, is much darker in color, and the leaves are small and



short, nearly needle-like in some cases, especially for those along the coast that have been found to contain multiple sets of chromosomes. It has obvious white or cream colored flowers that grow in flat clusters. The flowers persist and turn a rusty brown or maroon color as they dry. *Eriogonum* is a very large genus of plants with many species in North America.

Other plants commonly found in the Coastal Sage Scrub under its broad connotation are laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), a large shrub with somewhat evergreen, canoe-shaped leaves and multiple stems in the Poison Oak family; black sage (*Salvia mellifera*); the garlic scented white sage (*Salvia apiana*); the red and yellow flowered bush monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), California encelia (*Encelia californica*) with brown centered yellow flowers generally near the coast; San Diego sunflower (*Bahiopsis laciniata*) with yellow flowers and yellow centers usually on south facing slopes, as in Mission Valley and Rose Canyon; and broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*), a green broom shaped shrub that flowers in fall with white feathery clusters on the upper branches. Occasionally, the parasitic witches hair, Santa Claus whiskers or dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.) drape the shrubs with an orange filamentous mass that turns black as it dries. In some locations, a greater presence of succulents occur with the vegetation constituting Maritime Succulent Scrub or dryer coastal conditions make up Maritime Desert Scrub. These, though related, are treated differently.

Axelrod (1978) examined the origins of the sage scrub vegetation. Based on fossil evidence, his research indicates that this vegetation community has moved up and down the California coastal region as climate changed during and since the Pleistocene. Its current distribution (within historic times), is relatively recent in geologic terms. Axelrod also described a number of subcategories, referring to the community in the San Diego and northern Baja California region as Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub. This was based on species composition and supports the concepts described in the Manual of California Vegetation, that the vegetation is much more diverse than simply the Coastal Sage Scrub category would imply.

Coastal Sage Scrub has suffered losses of roughly 74% of its original cover, being the plant community that has been most affected by urbanization in this region. It is also highly flammable and subject to burning more frequently than Chaparral. Only a few of its members, such as the laurel sumac, resprout following fires, with the rest requiring seeds for reproduction. However, it is also efficient at colonizing bare soil and with California buckwheat is frequently one of the first native plants to become established in an area that has been scraped or cleared. In areas where fires have occurred

frequently, weeds may invade and potentially reduce the Coastal Sage Scrub's cover. The areas that burned in the southern part of the County during both the 2003 and 2007 fire seasons merit monitoring for their recovery. However, under natural conditions, for a season or two following a fire, the area occupied by this community can support a wide assortment of wildflowers that have existed as seed in the soil between the fires. Notable wildflowers include the brilliant orange California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), deep purple Parry's phacelia (*Phacelia parryi*), and the ground pink (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*) to name just a few of many. Many of these ephemeral members of the Coastal Sage Scrub plant community do not reproduce if fires do not occur. While it is growing vigorously this year, please go out and look at the Coastal Sage Scrub in the hills east of El Cajon, at the National Wildlife Refuge in Jamul, or the spectacular Mission Trails Park.

#### References

Axelrod, D. I. 1978. The origins of Coastal Sage vegetation, Alta and Baja California. *American J. Botany* 65: 1117-1131.  
 Oberbauer, T. A. and J. M. Vanderwier. 1991. The vegetation and geologic substrate association and its effect on development in Southern California. In *Environmental Perils, San Diego Region*, P. L. Abbott and W. J. Elliot eds. San Diego Association of Geologists. Pp 203-212.  
 Sawyer, J., T. Keeler-Wolf and J. Evens. 2009. *Manual of California Vegetation (Second Edition)*. California Native Plant Society.



### CALENDAR

- 4/6: Board Meeting (p. 2)**
- 4/2:** Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 8)
- 4/2:** Public Walk at Rueda Canyon (p.5)
- 4/3:** Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 6)
- 4/5:** Gardening Committee Mtg. (p. 7)
- 4/9:** Public Walk at Switzer Canyon (p. 5)
- 4/10:** Field Trip to Deerhorn V./Lyon's Pk (p. 3)
- 4/16:** Public Walk at Buchanan Canyon (p. 5)
- 4/9:** Old Town Work Party (p. 8)
- 4/17:** Field Trip to Rattlesnake Canyon (p. 4)
- 4/19: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 4/17:** Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 8)
- 4/23:** North Park Garden Work Party (p. 8)
- 4/23:** Vegetation Survey at Sycuan Peak (p. 6)
- 4/23:** Invasive Plant Control Group (p.7)
- 4/30:** Public Walk at 47<sup>th</sup> St. Canyon (p. 5)
- 5/8:** Field Trip to Crestridge Ecol. Preserve (p. 4)

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