



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, October 18; 7 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park

San Diego Botanic Garden
by Julian Duvall

The San Diego Botanic Garden, previously known as Quail Botanical Garden, covers 37 acres in Encinitas. First opened to the public in 1971, the garden features a diverse variety of plants and displays that include native and exotic environments. Four miles of trails lead visitors to explore and observe examples of plant species from around the world. Many improvements have been made to increase the visitor's experience, including a native plant demonstration garden entitled "California Garden Scapes", and two children's gardens, "Seeds of Wonder" and the "Hamilton Children's Garden". Continued attendance and visitation by the public is most important to the Garden's mission: ***To Inspire People of All Ages to Connect with Plants and Nature.***

Julian Duval has been the director (President/CEO) of the San Diego Botanic Garden since 1995. He will provide a visual tour of the garden and highlight how it has grown and improved over time.



Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. They are held the 3rd 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.

6:30 Natives for Novices: Pre-meeting presentation: "Fall Color, Blooming and Otherwise" by Valerie Phillips, Las Pilitas Nursery.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.



VEEP SPEAKS

A number of exciting opportunities are coming in the near future for San Diego CNPS members. Our chapter just finished hosting the Chapter Council meetings in which a number of important issues were discussed, including conservation, leadership of the organization, and the upcoming conference in January 2012. Our chapter is involved in each of these topics and they are a reflection of our own chapter's issues. Regarding conservation, there is a continuing need for volunteers to assist in reviewing environmental impact documents and potentially preparing listing package proposals for rare and endangered plants. There are a variety of activities that volunteer conservationists can perform for the cause of California native plants.

Along those lines, one of the responsibilities of the Vice President is to organize the elections for Board Members. Those who are on the Board now will soon be asked if they would like to continue and there is one vacancy that still needs to be filled.

The Chapter will be holding its annual plant sale, its major yearly fundraiser, on October 15. Please be ready to assist in buying plants or helping the plant sale organizers.

The State Conference that will be held in January is another opportunity to volunteer and participate in conservation of native plants for California. There will be many sessions and presentations on a variety of topics,

ranging from Baja California to vegetation to planning for conservation. Check the web site for updates on the conference events. Even if you are unable to volunteer to help or were not able to submit abstracts for presentations, please sign up for the conference. I realize that the cost is not trivial, but it is comparable to other similar conferences and it is an extremely rare opportunity for the conference to be in our home city.

Finally, please tell your friends and family about the California Native Plant Society. The quality of the field trips, newsletter and Fremontia are outstanding and provide tremendous avenues for education and learning about the flora of our great state and areas nearby.

Thanks again to all volunteers.

~ **Tom Oberbauer**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, **October 5**, San Diego is the next chapter board meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego. CNPS members are welcome to observe. To get the topics on the board's agenda, send request by email to president@cnpsd.org.

September Meeting Summary

The Board met on September 7, 2011, for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. **Jonathan Dunn** was unanimously elected to serve on the Board through December 2012. Treasurer **Connie di Girolamo** reported that the chapter is now authorized and capable of accepting credit cards in lieu of cash or checks for a trial period. **Connie di Girolamo** and **Bobbie Stephenson** were authorized to serve on the Elections Committee with Committee Chair **Tom Oberbauer**. Elections will be held in November.

~ **Tom Beltran**, Secretary

SPEAKERS NEEDED

During the months of November 2011 and February 2012, the San Diego Audubon Society will be hosting workshops on native plant gardening. They are currently looking for individuals that would be willing to do presentations on best practices, advice on types of plants and designs, and who can provide information on San Diego weather and soil types and how they relate to native plants. Please let contact **Becky Wilbanks**, Anstine Audubon Nature Preserve, (760) 295-1548 if you are interested in helping with these workshops or if you have any questions.



IN MEMORIAL

The conservation movement lost a friend recently. **Mike Stroud** passed away on July 31, 2011. He was 64 years old. You may or may not recognize the name, Mike was a behind the scenes kind of guy, but Mike Stroud was the force behind Naval Engineering Command Southwest's Natural and Cultural Resources group from 1994 to 2003. Much of the conservation work on Navy installations in the Southwest had his fingerprints on it.

After leaving the Navy Mike joined the staff of the Center for Natural Lands Management in Fallbrook as the Director of Operations. He worked there until he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2007. He graduated in 1969 from UC Berkeley with a BS in Forestry, and a MS in Range Management in 1970. He was an active member in the Society for Range Management for over 40 years. He founded the Range Camp in Half Moon Bay to teach conservation to young adults and was active in it for 26 years. Mike was a leader, friend and mentor and will be missed. A memorial bench will be installed at Daly Ranch and an oak tree will be planted at Range Camp in his memory.

CNPS E-NEWSLETTER

The State CNPS has upgraded to a new member web interface. Some of you have probably received an e-mail about it. This new interface will allow CNPS to send newsletters and other messages to members and subscribers. This notice is for the State CNPS e-newsletter only; not for the CNPS-SD Chapter Newsletter or the State CNPS Bulletin.

To receive the CNPS e-newsletter, please go <https://support.cnps.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=290> to create a user profile. This will ensure that you can opt-in to continue receiving the CNPS e-newsletter and other CNPS communications under the heading "My Email Preferences". (If you have already created a user profile, please make sure that you have selected to receive the e-newsletter in your email preferences.) If you do not opt-in to receive the e-newsletter through the new CNPS portal, you will stop receiving these interesting and informative newsletters!



TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



October 2. 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn plant lore in Tecolote Canyon on a walk with a CNPS member/leader. Exploring at a leisurely pace will allow lots of information about the flora of this urban canyon to be shared. Meet at Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, wear comfortable walking shoes and have sun protection and water. Free and open to the public. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of each month.

PUBLIC NATIVE PLANT HIKES

We have two public hikes for October. Although we are in the midst of our fall drought, both hikes promise at least a few blossoms. These hikes are intended for the general public, but CNPS members can also come along. Bring a friend!

October 8: 10:00 am - noon. San Elijo Lagoon, La Orilla Trail. Mike Murphy and Adrienne Heinzelman lead. From I-5 take Lomas Santa Fe exit and go east. Turn left on Highland Drive (a 4-way stop). Turn left on El Camino Real. Pull into the parking area on the left side before the 90-degree bend in the road (Thomas Guide 1147 J5). Call 858-663-1497 for info.

October 22: 10:00 am - noon. Cedar Ridge, Elizabeth Wilkinson and Paul Hormick lead. From 805 take El Cajon Blvd. west. Turn left on 30th Street, heading south. Turn left on Juniper and go to the end. Turn south on Pentucket Ave. and continue to the end of the street. Meet at the end of Pentucket Ave. (Thomas Guide 1289, F2). Call 619-297-2957 for info.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CNPS will be represented at Tecolote Canyon's Baskets and Botany event. We will also be present on Monday, November 14, at the San Diego Horticultural Society's meeting featuring **Jon Rebman**. If you would like to assist at either event please contact **Margy Day** at 858-603-1908 or publicoutreach@cnpsd.org.



CNPS Conservation Conference UPDATE

January 12-14, 2012
**Town and Country Resort and Conference
Center, San Diego**

Volunteers needed for audio/visual production work. During the 2012 CNPS Conservation Conference we need MANY volunteers to run the digital projectors for Workshops and Concurrent Sessions. Volunteers will be asked to work in 3 and 4 hour shifts during 5 days of the conference, January 10-14, 2012. Volunteers will be eligible for a \$75 rebate on conference registration and may be matched to events they are interested in attending. Eligibility for the rebate will be based on 8 hours or more of volunteer work during



CNPS 2012
Conservation Conference

Conserving and restoring
the roots of California's richness

the conference and prior registration for shifts. If you can help, call **Dick Miller** 619-347-1320 or email rngr900@cox.net

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Committee always deals with this question: "What is the most important conservation issue facing CNPS-SD right now?" It's a question many people have an answer to. For example:

The agencies and environmental groups want our input on everything from federal and state laws to County Plans to City laws and codes, policies, and so forth.

These same entities also want us to serve on their committees, everything from city open space to the environmental report card. As unpaid volunteers, of course.

Some people want us to target development, because they believe (often with evidence) that both developers and the people regulating them aren't following the rules. They'd love us to sue, too, on their behalf.

Some people and groups want us to deal with fire issues.

Some people want us to help with rare plant conservation.

Some people want us to do something about feral pigs and turkeys, non-native species that are now tearing up the back country.

Some people want us to do something about the gold-spotted oak borer, which threatens to kill all the coast live oak trees in San Diego.

Do you recognize any of your favorite issues on the list? If not, feel free to contact us and add your concerns to the pile.

In all these cases, the conservation committee has one answer:

"Who's going to do it?"

If you're reading this, your most likely answer is, "not me."

Stop and think about this for a second.

Why not you?

Of course you're too busy. Of course you're not an expert. Of course you have a life. Of course it's tedious, daunting, even scary. Funny thing is, *every single person who serves or has served on the Conservation Committee overcame all of these excuses.*

And you know what? It's actually quite fun to do these things side by side with other like-minded folks. Join us!

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee

El Monte Valley Project

At the Chapter Meeting in January 2011, Tim Smith described the Helix Water District's El Monte Valley Mining, Reclamation, and Groundwater Recharge Project (El Monte Valley Project). This project has been suspended for at least four years because of a delay in the availability of advanced treated recycled water and increased project cost. For more about the project, visit Helix Water District's site: <http://www.elmontevalley.com/>



RARE PLANTS

What happened to the sand asters?

Most of you are familiar with the 1993 Jepson Manual. *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* was recognized as *Lessingia filaginifolia* with only two recognized varieties, of which *L. f. var. filaginifolia* is found in San Diego. However, the California Natural Diversity Data base continues to track both San Diego sand aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia* var. *incana*) and Del Mar sand aster (*C. f. var. linifolia*) as List 1B.1 species. When Jepson 2 arrives, it again recognizes *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* but now recognizes no varieties at all. What is going on?

The Jepson authors follow Markos' and Strother's treatment in the Flora North America (2006¹). These authors argue that genetic research does not support recognizing varieties under *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* and that the species is a single very diverse entity. There is little doubt that the species is incredibly diverse across its range. However, some botanists familiar with genetic research will also point out that our knowledge of genetics at the variety and subspecies level may not always make for reliable conclusions. Morphology and phenology (blooming period) are the direct results of genetic make-up and if these characters stand out, the genetic markers must be there somewhere.

In the case of our two rare and narrowly distributed coastal sand asters, there are characters that definitely stand out. Both have exceptionally large flowers, broad flower heads, and narrow leaves. The flower heads on Del Mar sand aster are also strikingly tomentose (hairy). Both have recurved phyllaries.

Vince Sheidt and I have not seen this combination of characters in any other sand aster anywhere in southern California. More significantly, San Diego and Del Mar sand asters bloom in the late spring and summer while typical sand asters bloom in the late summer and fall. Blooming flowers from both groups do overlap in August and September but one set reaches peak bloom in June, the other in September and October.

Vince and I are currently taking another look at the sand aster question. We think something in the genetic picture is missing and we are confident that our two rare varieties are real and that they are worthy of recognition. We will continue to urge the CNDDDB to recognize these taxa regardless of their status in Jepson.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Looking for an opportunity to help with plant sciences? We would like to characterize sand asters throughout the county but that is a lot of sand aster. We have a fair number of herbarium specimens but fresh material always gives us a different perspective.

If you have a digital camera that takes a reasonably good close-up photograph and have a metric ruler handy, take a photo of the flower head both from the side and from the top, as shown in the diagram below. If you can do it, place a leaf from near the base of the plant in the same field as the side shot if you can.



¹

http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=108006

The back of a clipboard or grayish sheet of paper would make a nice backdrop but whatever is handy will work. Finally, provide us a location, preferably using a GPS unit, but a general location will do, and a date. Please note which blooming state best describes the plants in the area that you are looking at:

- 1) a few flowers present;
- 2) about one quarter to half the flowers in bloom, or
- 3) most flowers in bloom.

I can supply a simple data form in PDF format that can be printed out and carried in the field with you.

You can send the data and photos to me at antshrike@cox.net. We are hoping to show that San Diego and Del Mar sand aster populations in San Diego County are unique and worthy of continued recognition. Your photos and data will be very helpful in determining where in the county we should be looking at plants in greater detail. For example, is the earlier blooming form unique to Point Loma and the Del Mar area? Are there other places where we have exceptionally large flowers? We would like to be able to answer these questions.

~ **Fred Roberts**, Rare Plant Botanist



INVASIVE PLANTS

What Can One Volunteer Do?

Sometimes we look at all that needs doing and find it overwhelming. **Mike Bregantic**² volunteered with the Invasive Plant Group and expressed this opinion. He looked at our parcel with its massive weed infestation and judged it hopeless. Nevertheless, there was an inviting stream and an opportunity to learn - reasons enough to make it worth returning.

Mike came out a couple of days a week. He learned some basic principles and a few techniques. Most importantly, he kept coming. From July through December he removed broom, pampas grass, eucalyptus, fennel, Arundo, Picris, garland chrysanthemum, fountain grass, Tamarix, mustard, Canary Island palm and castor bean. Over the six months he was instrumental in restoring 38 acres. No, he didn't do it all alone. Others came and did their share. The point is Mike gave it a try, stuck with it, and made a difference.

How effective was the effort? With the first rains, the uncovered natives perked-up. With subsequent rains many more plants germinated and spread. The hillsides are essentially restored. The creek bottom is now mostly native. On the most recent return we even found patches of milkweed, with Monarch butterflies that seemingly appeared from nowhere.

² In August Mike suffered a stroke affecting his left side and his balance. He is continuing with therapy. Mike, get better soon - we have more weeds!

What good can a volunteer do? **A volunteer can help bring an area back to life.**

The Invasive Plant Group operates a year-round habitat restoration training program geared to the individual volunteer. For more information contact: invasiveplants@cnpsd.org or call 858-759-4769.

~**Arne Johanson**, Invasive Plant Chair

New Weed Takes Root

Canary Island knapweed (*Volutaria canariensis*) is a white-flowered, annual species in the thistle tribe (Cardueae) of the daisy family (Asteraceae). It was recently collected from a naturalized population in the Borrego Springs area; the first report of it being found outside of its native range in the Canary Islands, off the western coast of northern Africa. Many of the 17 species in this genus were originally described in the genus *Centaurea*. Several species within the *Centaurea* lineage are known noxious weeds in California, such as yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) that occurs here in San Diego County.

Canary Island knapweed seems to be native to the hot, desert-like southern coasts of islands within its native range. Therefore, it is thought that the species might naturalize in the desert region of California. Although it may be limited in its spread by its environmental tolerances, based on the invasiveness of many of its close relatives, Canary Island knapweed may nevertheless become a severe pest. As the species currently is highly restricted in its range in North America, eradication may be possible. In the spring, before the weed produces seed, the County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) staff will begin eradication treatments on the Borrego Springs population.



~ **Bobbie Stephenson**



Canary Island knapweed (*Volutaria canariensis*)



GARDENING AND RESTORATION

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 15

10 a.m. members/11 a.m. public – 3 p.m.
Rain or Shine!!!

Casa del Prado Courtyard Balboa Park

(across the street from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park; 1700 Village Place)

For the first time, **credit cards**, as well as cash and checks, will be accepted for payment at the Fall Plant Sale!

To get in at 10 a.m. you may join or renew your membership at the sale. See our website for more info.

We'll have just about everything from native bulbs, seeds, books, and posters, to plants. From *Abies* to *Yucca*! We'll have over 150 different species totaling more than 4,000 pots. This is a good place to see California native plants close-up and learn more about them.

At the sale, you can:

- ❖ Purchase native plants, bulbs and seeds!
- ❖ Talk to professional native plant gardeners about the plants' care!
- ❖ See photographs of each plant in bloom and read the informative signs to learn a plant's natural habitat and range, and some horticultural hints!
- ❖ Pick up handouts to take home!
- ❖ Purchase books, posters, and other items!

Plan to come early as some species sell out in minutes and many plants are gone by noon.

Please help the plant sale volunteers by bringing your little red wagons and boxes for collecting your new plants at the sale and for taking them to your car. There is a loading zone on Village Place in front of the courtyard and we will have volunteers to assist you.

After you have planted your plants you can recycle your empty pots and help raise money for native plants. For details as to where to drop off for your empty pots for re-use, see our website www.cnpsd.org. We have drop-off sites at the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center in Oceanside, Las Pilitas in Escondido and Tecolote Nature Center in San Diego.

Plant Sale Volunteers:

- 6:00 a.m. - Begin to set up signs (3-5 early birds would be greatly appreciated!)
- 7:30 a.m. - Help unload plants from the truck and set up the sale area.
- 7:30 a.m. - Help set up the volunteer buffet.

Throughout the sale

- Write up customers' sales (ticket writers)
- Provide security
- Man the membership table (outreach),
- Sell seeds, bulbs, books, posters and other items (sales)

Finally, at the end of the sale, help tear down and clean up so everyone can all go home by 4 p.m.

If you can help, please contact the Fall Plant Sale Committee at plantsale@cnpsd.org.

~ Carolyn Martus, Fall Plant Sale Chair

Propagation Committee

The propagation committee has finished its work for this year and it's proud to have produced over 300 plants for the fall plant sale! Faithful workgroup members who performed this worthwhile effort include: **Jim Wadman** (volunteer extraordinaire!), **Pat Fishtein**, **Lynne Thomas**, **Judy Dunning**, **Amy Huie**, **Brad Burkhart** (our guru), **Pete di Girolamo**, **Jim Rader**, **Michelle Pickett**, **Joan Helland**, **Mike Bregantic**, **Alan Bennett**, **Charlene Kasian**, and **Connie Beck**. This group has a lot of fun while we learn how to propagate natives. All work is done with the helpful, cooperative, and friendly supervision of Ranger Zana Kerr and Nursery Supervisor Mike Rasmussen, without whom this project would not exist. Our gratitude to everyone who has made this project such a success over the past two years! If you are interested in joining this group for a couple of hours of productive work every month contact propagation@cnpsd.org to be put on the mailing list for notifications of upcoming meetings.

~ Connie Beck, Propagation Chair

HELP – SPACE WANTED: year-round dry storage for plant sale info stands in eight (8) boxes, each 3'-4" long by approx. 1'-6" wide/high. They are very heavy but with strong people to lift them, can be stacked two or three deep, needing less floor space. They are essential for the October plant sale. Others will help transport to and from the plant sale. Contact plantsale@cnpsd.org



Gardening Committee

October 13, Thursday, 6-8 p.m. The next CNPS Gardening Committee Meeting will be held at the Poway Branch of the San Diego County Library, 13137 Poway Road, Poway, CA 92064, (858) 513-2900.

That branch is on the south side of Poway Road, about three miles east of I-15. We will be discussing Natives for Novices and the Garden Tour. The meeting is open to any CNPS members.

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Gardening Committee Chair

Garden Work Parties

Old Town State Park Native Garden: October 8 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Come help transform what was a vacant lot near the railroad tracks into a replica of the landscape that was there when Europeans arrived. The Garden is located at the far west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, right across from the Coaster/Trolley/Bus depot. If you come by mass transit, cross at the corner and you are there. If you drive, park in the free lot at Calhoun and Taylor Streets or across Taylor in the CalTrans parking lot. Bring your own gloves and garden tools (label them) or use our small stock of gloves and hand tools. Wear sun protection, and bring water if you prefer not to use the drinking fountain on site. A very cool little museum is next door to the Garden that will be open when we finish our gardening.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: October 1 and 16, 9:00 – noon. Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Contact Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

North Park Community Restoration Garden: Saturday, Oct. 22 @ 9 a.m. The CNPS Gardening Committee invites all who are interesting in helping with our community native garden on a site bordering Juniper Canyon in North Park. We will focus on planting replacements for those plants that didn't quite make it over the summer, and discussing design choices for the future. 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 and bring water. We will park and meet at the intersection of Petra Place and Petra Drive off of Pentucket. 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.



NEWSLETTER

Erratum - August 2011 Issue

Correction to page 7, line 32 of the August 2011 issue of the CNPS-SD newsletter. Replace "Keeley et al. 2004" with "Oberbauer 2007". The reference is "Oberbauer, T. 2007. Loss of 500-year-old Sugar Pines during October 2003 Fire Storms. *Fremontia* 35(3):18-23. Summer." Dr. Keeley did not believe that Mr. Oberbauer had referenced his paper correctly regarding whether big fires, such as occurred in 2003 and 2007, are natural events or whether they are due to fire management activities, such as suppression, causing San Diego forests to be overly dense.

General Newsletter Info

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is published 12 times a year. We are always looking for interesting articles and notices by CNPS members, so, please, share your stories and knowledge.

The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, October 10 for the November newsletter, etc. Please send submittals to newsletter@cnpsd.org.



CNPS-SD CALENDAR OCTOBER 2011

- 10/1: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)
- 10/2: Tecolote Canyon Public Walk (p.3)
- 10/5: Board Meeting (p. 2)**
- 10/8: Plant Walk at San Elijo Lagoon (p. 3)
- 10/8: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)
- 10/13: Gardening Committee Meeting (p. 7)
- 10/15: CNPS Fall Plant Sale (p. 6)**
- 10/16: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)
- 10/18: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 10/22: Plant Walk at Cedar Ridge (p. 3)
- 10/22: North Park Garden Work Party (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

San Diego Chapter
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390



October 2011 Newsletter

Nonprofit
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San Diego,
California

Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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