

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, June 19; 7 p.m. Room 104, Casa del Prado Balboa Park

Border Field State Park Habitat Restoration

Presentation by Phillip Roullard

The presentation gives a brief history of the impacts that have occurred at Border Field State Park from natural influences, agriculture, the military and DHS infrastructure construction projects. Using aerial images and images that illustrate the above impacts, a short explanation is given as to what events have led to the alteration of the habitat at Border Field and what has and is being done in order to restore the habitat of a five acre parcel of land with native plants using community sourced volunteer labor.

Presenter, Phillip Roullard, has worked for California State Parks for the last 11 years. For the last six years, Phil has worked at Border Field State Park removing invasive plants, then restoring habitat by revegetating with native plants.

Pre-meeting Natives for Novices at 6:30 p.m. Scott Jones will present plantscape-matchup design ideas using native and endemic plants of the So. Calif. islands. All plants considered will be those that maintain a relatively fresh and lively year-round appearance.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. They are held the $3^{\rm rd}$ 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.

NATIVE GARDEN TOUR A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

The San Diego Native Garden Tour on April 28th and 29th, hosted by the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter and Hunter Industries, was a smashing success! 550 people attended the event and several thousand dollars were raised for the chapter's conservation activities. In addition to the 15 Garden Committee members who devoted hundreds of hours over the preceeding year, organizers of the tour also recruited 85 volunteer docents. The tour's volunteers included UC Master Gardeners, landscape architects and designers, wildlife biologists, students from High Tech High, and many CNPS members. Tour Director Clayton Tschudy and Tour Board Representative Susan Krzywicki wish to thank the many volunteers who made this event possible.





Native Landscape Service Providers

The Chapter is updating its listings of native landscape service providers on its website. Nurseries, landscape designers, landscape contractors, or landscape architects who use California native plants in their projects and who want to be included on the Chapter website, please email a paragraph with your business information to:

webmaster@cnpssd.org

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., monthly CNPS San Diego Chapter board meeting to be held at 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). Exit I-5 to Balboa Dr. east and turn north on Morena Drive. Proceed 1/2 mile and make a u-turn at the Avati Street signal and turn into the driveway for 4010. Drive to the parking lot on the west side (away from Morena). Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you want to discuss an issue, please ask to get on the agenda by sending an email to president@cnpssd.org.

CONSERVATION Plant Conservation

Doing conservation work for the California Native Plant Society has some interesting limitations. Even though I have been doing this for a while now, I'm still learning, especially in the last few months.

One issue that I hadn't properly processed until very recently is that CNPS status as a non-profit limits what we can do. According to the IRS, we are "absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office." This becomes even trickier in today's obsessively partisan political environment, where so many activists focus on how issues affect campaigns. Ultimately, we can't publically endorse one candidate over another.

Rather than campaigning for particular politicians, CNPS campaigns for native plants and works on the issues that affect them. This focus gives us some status, but it also limits us in some fairly critical ways. For one, I have to remember periodically we're not general purpose environmentalists. We do participate in the general environmental community, because many issues (habitat loss, climate change, and development) affect everything, including plants. Still, we get asked to carry water on a number of issues that are peripheral to our core mission. Sometimes we can help, sometimes we can't.

This issue has come up repeatedly with proposed power plants, whether they are powered by wind, solar power, or natural gas. Wind turbines cause problems for anyone living near them, and they kill many birds and bats. Fortunately or unfortunately, wind turbines aren't that destructive to native plants (unless one explodes and starts a fire), so CNPS isn't one of the major players in the fights around new wind farms. Big Desert Solar can be a huge problem, since solar plants require that the ground be scraped bare, and they can suck a lot of water out of precious desert aquifers. Some solar plants are being sited in high quality native plant areas, and we're fighting them. Some power plants don't cause much harm to native plants, and there's little we protest about them. This galls people who are against some particular power plant and looking for allies, but we are limited in what we do.

Ultimately, though, we have to work on climate change, because that is certainly affecting native plants. If we're going to protest every solar, wind, natural gas, nuclear plant, and transmission line, where are we getting our power from? Coal plants in Baja? Ask every homeowner and renter in San Diego to spend \$30,000 for a rooftop solar array? Figuring out what we can say yes to is part of CNPS' mission, too, one that gets handled on the state level as well as in our chapter. Climate change is a key issue for CNPS, and saying no to that is no longer an option. And it's not a simple issue.

This is a bit of a negative article, so I'll finish on a geeky note. I was recently reading William DeBuy's excellent A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest. He makes many valuable points, but the one I'd like to highlight here is an alternative for the term global warming: global weirding. The point is that, as more heat gets trapped in our atmosphere, it won't simply drive up temperatures. All that heat causes air to absorb more water and move faster, so as the concentrations of greenhouse gases goes up, we should see bigger storms, deeper droughts, stronger winds, flashier floods, and faster changes among these states. DeBuys says that some climate scientists prefer "global weirding" to "global warming." As we go into the summer, you can contemplate the idea that things may get progressively weirder from here on out, and not just in politics.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Committee Chair

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



July 1; 9 a.m. to noon. A relaxed opportunity to learn

plant lore of this coastal natural reserve from a CNPS member. Meet at the Tecolote Nature Center. Wear sun protection and comfortable walking shoes, bring water. Rain at 8 a.m. cancels the walk Directions: exit I-5 at Seaworld/Tecolote exit. Go east (away from Mission Bay) on Tecolote, past the ball fields, along the driveway to the very end. Free and open to the public, and parking is also free. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of each month. (No walk at this location in June 2012)



Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) seen during the Native Garden Tour. Photo by Bobbie Stephenson

Members' Field Trips

Ancient Tecate Cypresses of Guatay Mountain

(This trip was postponed twice due to rainstorms)

Sunday, June 10, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Leader: Bob Greenberg.

CNPS members and their guests will get to see the oldest and highest elevation stand of Tecate cypress (Hesperocyparis forbesii) known: at least 145 years old at an elevation of 4,000-4,500 ft. The mature trees appear healthy and vigorous, with lots of cones of various ages. The field trip will be a **5.2-mile round trip** hike through old growth chaparral, including redshank (Adenostoma sparsifolium), manzanita (Arctostaphylos spp.), mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus spp.) and creeping sage (Salvia sonomensis) - at least 100 plant taxa have been identified in the vicinity. The route is an unmarked moderately strenuous trail with a **1,600-foot elevation gain and loss**, suitable for experienced and fit hikers only. We'll go slowly, looking at plants (and resting!)...so we may take 4-5 hours for the round trip.

We will meet 9 a.m. at the Pine Valley Trailhead parking area in the Cleveland National Forest. From San Diego, drive east on I-8 to Pine Valley exit (about 45 miles). Turn north (left) and drive 0.3 mile to junction with old Hwy 80 in downtown Pine Valley. Turn left (NW) and proceed 1.5 miles to signed turnoff (on left) for Pine Valley Trailhead. Drive 0.5 mile down entrance road to parking area, where we will meet. (see Thomas Guide Map 1237, A4 and A5, shown as Pine Valley - Las Bancas Rd on the map). Nice restrooms are available.

If you want to ride share, meet at the I-8/Severin-Fuerte Park-n-Ride, just to the right of the stop at the end of the off-ramp. Cars should have a National Forest Adventure Pass to park in national forest land. You can buy one up en route by exiting from I-8 at the Tavern Road exit in Alpine, and going to either the Chevron or Valera gas stations that are next to the freeway. Both are open at 6 AM, and you can be back on the road quickly.

RSVP at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org. Please note the number in your party, and a cell phone number to help coordinate lost or late attendees. Bring lunch and water, wear good hiking boots and sun protection. Members may bring a guest, or non-members who want to attend can join CNPS by completing a membership form and paying membership dues at the trailhead. Membership information is at www.cnps.org. If it's raining that morning, leaders will call all RSVPs by 7:30 a.m. to cancel.

Some Headwater Drainages of the Proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness

Sunday, June 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Leader: Cindy Buxton

CNPS members (and their guests) are invited to hike to view areas within the IRA's (Inventoried Roadless Areas) of the Cleveland National Forest's proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness. These wild areas have not reached dedication as wilderness over the past decade, while threats to the integrity of the land have grown. Very few botanists have collected in this area, and finding special species will only help the case for the importance of protection, via the Wilderness dedication process if possible.

We will be on a dirt road from which we will make short hikes for panoramic views of the IRA, and then will park and follow several small trails through oak woodland, riparian areas and meadows. Depending upon how far the group has the ability to go, more of the area can be accessed and observed. Approximate walking distance will be **2-4** miles, depending on the desires of the group, with about a **400-foot elevation gain and loss**. It will be a moderate hike with some muddy areas.

Wear good footwear with treads, tough long sleeve shirt and pants that will resist thorns and twigs, sun protection, and insect repellent. Bring lunch and at least two quarts of water. Though we will do our very best to avoid encountering poison oak, bring a change of clothes to leave in the car to change into after the walk if you do encounter poison oak. By turning the exposed clothes inside out and bagging them, they can be laundered without contacting the oiled fabric.

Meet at the Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel at 9 a.m. We will leave some cars and ride share to the trail head in those vehicles with the best road clearance. The group will return to the Dudley's parking area around 3 p.m. Those who want to ride share to Dudley's, meet in the parking lot of the small mall just east of I-15, north of Poway Road, and west of Sabre Springs Road at 8 a.m. (Thomas Guide 1189 H6). Enter the mall down the driveway and turn to your right (a gas station is on the left).

Please RSVP to <u>fieldtrips@cnpssd.org</u>. Heavy rain in the morning will cancel. Please leave your phone number with your RSVP - if the trip is cancelled, the group leader will call around 7 a.m. to confirm cancellation.

~ Kay Stewart, Field Trip Chair

Did you know about this Botanist's Bonanza?

Need the new name of a California native plant? Here's a link to help you find it! Just enter a name or list of names at this website and it will return the latest name from the new Second Edition of the Jepson Manual:

http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange/JMtoJMII.html

There's Something About Oaks

California Wildlife Foundation recently sent me *Lichens and Oaks: A Deep Partnership* by Stephen Sharnoff. It is another great publication along with the last one I received from them, which was an Oak Gall Poster. The California Oaks Foundation merged with the California Wildlife Foundation in 2010. They have many oak related publications that are downloadable books, oak care pamphlets, and links to oak-related websites, all available at http://www.californiaoaks.org/html/reference.html.

Documents include Oaks 2040, The Status & Future of Oaks in California, a published curriculum called Investigating the Oak Community, Carbon Resources in California Oak Woodlands, Acorns and Eat 'em, Compatible Plants Under and Around Oaks (please ignore the non-native options!), Regenerating Rangeland Oaks in California, A Field Guide to Insects and Diseases of California Oaks, To Prune or Not To Prune, and Fire in California's Oak Woodlands. The website has info and links to groups dealing with insects & diseases of oaks such as sudden oak death and gold-spotted oak borers, oak woodland policies of 41 counties in California, items from the Fifth Symposium on Oak Woodlands, and links to that Oak Gall Poster that I love so much. Janet Cobb, the Executive Director, assured me that they would post the Lichen and Oaks article on the website soon so that it would be available to a wider audience than just their mailing. You too can have a copy of Sharnoff's lichen article with beautiful color photos of lichens or the Oak Gall poster by Ron Russo along with the booklet titled Confessions of a Gall Hunter. The lichen photos reminded me of the Tunnels fieldtrip in April and the galls of the large oaks at Penasquitos Canyon, especially the Mystery Tree Loop, and the grand old oaks in the Cuyamacas.

~ Cindy Burrascano



The Ponderosa Pine in San Diego County



"P" is for prickles and "P" is for ponderosa pine. This memory hook was painfully fixed in my mind on a summer high school biology class field trip. We had pulled off of SR 79 near the sharp curves in Cuvamaca Rancho State near Paso Picacho Campground and one of my class mates threw a partially opened pine cone to me. I instinctively caught it and was rewarded with a series of stinging punctures as it slapped into the palm of my hand.

Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), which is more common in our mountains, is similar in overall appearance to ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Jeffrey pine cones are moderately sized with large scales and little pointed spinelet structures that turn downward. Ponderosa pine cones, on the other hand, are somewhat smaller and covered with prickly pointed structures that protrude outward and readily poked into my hand.

Ponderosa pine cones



Ponderosa pine is one of the most widespread pines in North America, following the lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta). Ponderosa pine grows from the northwestern part of the Rocky Mountains in Canada to the Black Hills of South Dakota and down into the Rocky Mountain Cordillera in Mexico. In California it grows widespread in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and parts of the Coast Ranges including the Santa Lucia Mountains and as far south as San Diego County. Over the years there has been considerable debate about whether or not ponderosa pines occur in Baja California. There are some large pines that look a little like ponderosa around several of the large meadows of the Sierra de San Pedro Mártir, but the general determination is that the groves I so painfully remember in the Cuyamaca Mountains lives as the southwesternmost stand for this species (Haller 1962; Delgadillo 2005; Griffin and Critchfield 1972).

Both ponderosa and Jeffrey pines have three needles per

fascicle or bundle, and are part of the Yellow Pine group section Ponderosae that also includes the Coulter and Torrey pines. In addition to the cone difference, ponderosa pines have large plate like panes of bark made up of jigsaw puzzle shaped scales that are packed together. Jeffrey pines are less likely to have the plate structure. Also, Jeffrey pines are supposedly more likely to produce a scent of vanilla, pineapple or butterscotch when one breathes close to the fissures in the bark, but that is not always consistent and sometimes seems almost an artifact of the observer with the nose who is doing the smelling.

Ponderosa pine grows in areas that receive between 11 and 69 inches (279 and 1752 mm) of precipitation seasonally (Oliver and Ryker 1965). In the drier areas, precipitation falls mostly as snow though some summer rainfall may also occur. The largest or tallest Ponderosa pine was discovered in January 2011 in southern Oregon. That tree was verified as being 268 feet tall by a climber's direct measurement. It was growing in the midst of several ponderosa pine trees at or above 260 feet tall (Fattig 2011; Richard 2011). Before that the tallest pine was a 269-foot tall sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) that grew in Yosemite National Park. Unfortunately, it died in 2009. The oldest ponderosa pine at 950 years old was found in Utah.

Aside from being famous for a ranch near Lake Tahoe that was the subject of a long running television series, ponderosa pines are the major component of the forest on the Kaibab Plateau north of the Grand Canyon in Arizona are also dominant trees in many other areas of the west. Their natural history is also fairly well known. Ponderosa pines are shade intolerant (Oliver and Ryker 1965) and do not grow well in the shadow of other trees, though other trees and some shrubs are able to grow beneath them. For their reproduction, they need to have mineral soil to insure that the roots do not dry out in the soil duff. However, the seeds are not viable for long in the soil and reproduction only occurs when adult trees are nearby. The cones are not serotinous, e.g., the cones release seeds without needing to be heated by fire. The adults are able to withstand low level ground fires due to their thick insulating bark. Before European contact, low ground fires caused by lightning or in some cases native people kept the understory clear and reduced the probability of tree consuming crown fires (Fitzgerald 2005).

The San Diego County Plant Atlas web site identifies three locations for ponderosa pine in San Diego County: Palomar Mountain, Hotsprings Mountain, and Griffin and Critchfield (1972) Cuvamaca Mountains. identify a number of populations in these same mountains as well. While ponderosa pines in other locations are quite tolerant of relatively dry conditions, in San Diego County they grow in the areas that receive the greatest amounts of rainfall and snow, and the drier locations with as low as roughly 20 inches (500 mm) of precipitation seasonally are occupied by Jeffrey pines. They all receive some summer rain, but that is not regular and predictable in our Mediterranean climate, especially considering its levels relative to the areas in the Southwest where summer monsoons provide a significant percentage of the rainfall.

The forests in San Diego County's mountains are what are often referred to as "sky islands." These are forests that are remnants of wetter and cooler conditions that existed during the Pleistocene and survived the Hypsithermal period roughly 5,000 years ago that was warmer and drier than today. At this point in the age of global climate change, the forests should still be able to survive the conditions that currently exist. Certain forms of management of the forests, namely attempted exclusion of fire, can result in the loss of the trees even when climatic conditions are stable.

The largest live ponderosa pines in San Diego County occur on Palomar Mountain. They are roughly four feet in diameter and between 300 and 400 years old. Occasional hybrids between *Pinus ponderosa* and *Pinus jeffreyi* are found, though not necessarily very commonly. The stress from the drought of the past 14 years and competition for water with dense growth of understory saplings has taken its toll on these as well as other conifers.

The Cedar Fire of 2003 killed major portions of forest in the Cuyamaca Mountains. Surveys of the mountains following the fires have not been promising. A study by Franklin and Bergman (2011), in which they surveyed all roads and trails in the Cuyamaca Mountains and catalogued seedlings and pines, was also not promising. They found only two ponderosa pine trees remaining in those areas (Bergman, pers. Com. 2012) where it once was relatively common. A few additional trees survived scorching in locations on the lower edge of the forest not accessible by trails and roads (Goforth and Minnich 2008), but the low number of trees is not a good sign for the future of ponderosa pine in those mountains. Only a small patch of coniferous forest was not burned by the Cedar Fire in the area located below and east of the high point of Cuyamaca Peak and little else.

~ Thomas Oberbauer

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http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_1/pi nes/ponderosa.htm

Richard, T. 2011. World's tallest ponderosa pine climbed, measured at 268 feet outside Grants Pass. The Oregonian. December 3, 2011.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive Plant Group Activities

Over the last five months we have completed the primary control from our current target area. **Elizabeth Mather** has been the major contributor to this success. She has also passed the QAC exam and is taking on weed control in her own neighborhood park, working with the rangers there.

The group will be starting work in Poway's 800 acre Rattlesnake Canyon. During the next six months we will be working on further spreading the native vegetation by controlling annual weeds.

The **Invasive Plant Group** operates a year-round habitat restoration training program tailored to the individual volunteer. Working in small teams using the Bradley Methodology, we have restored more than six hundred acres over the past seven years. Contact: invasiveplants@cnpssd.org or call 858-759-4769.

FALL PLANT SALE

Mark your calendars, the 2012 fall plant sale will be **Saturday, October 13**th, at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers to help plan and organize this year's sale. Our seed team needs help packaging the seeds, we need help in the nursery growing and watering plants, we need help publicizing and promoting the sale, and there are other administrative tasks that need to get done and require no plant experience. If you'd like to get involved with one of the chapter's largest fundraisers, please join us.

Contact Plant Sale Committee Chairs Carolyn Martus & Mary Kelly at plantsale@cnpssd.org if you can help.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

To receive your newsletter via email, please contact us at:

enewsletter@cnpssd.org

Save the environment by not receiving a paper copy.

AND your newsletter will be in **COLOR** and have embedded links!

Native Garden Work Parties

Old Town Historic State Park Native Garden: June 9 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Summertime is Almost Siesta Time!

Many of the plants in the Old Town Native Plant Garden are past flowering in the summertime, but even when many of the plants are taking a hot-weather siesta, something needs the attention of our volunteer work party. We'll plan to trim off old tired seed heads and prune some of the shrubs that are getting into the paths. Bring your personal pruners or loppers if you have them because we have limited numbers of these tools. There will always be some weeds and we have weeding tools to share if you want to remove weeds.

This landscape illustrates the landscape that was by the San Diego River when Europeans arrived and established San Diego at the site of a Native American village called Kosoy. Trees, shrubs, grasses, and other plants that were useful for making tools, shelter, weapons, clothing, ornaments, toys, food, medicine, or that were forage for the animals that were part of the diet of the original Native American peoples, are being added to the garden each year. We have handouts to help volunteers learn more about these plants that were part of the native people's everyday world for at least 9,000 years.

The Native Plant site is at the far west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Congress and Taylor Streets, opposite the train/bus/trolley station building. Take public transit and you are there - cross at the corner and meet under the sycamore trees. If you drive, park in the lot next to the Garden off Calhoun and Taylor streets, or park in the CalTrans lot across Taylor and Juan Streets. Bring gloves and your favorite weeding tools or share the group tools. Have sun protection and bring water if you don't want to use the drinking fountain. Restrooms are nearby.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: June 2 and 17, 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.

Native Garden Tour Photos*





Clayton Tschudy & Susan Krzywicki.

By Tara Hoffman



Participants checking in.
By Tara Hoffman



Bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*) and California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*).



Live-forever (Dudleya sp.).



One of the native plant gardens.



Douglas iris (Iris douglasiana).



Visitors enjoying a native garden.



One of the native plant gardens.



Whimsical garden art at the Agua Hedionda Discovery Center. By Pat Fishtein



Flannelbush (*Fremontodendron* sp.) in bloom.



Cluck-cluck!!

*Photos on this page by Bobbie Stephenson unless otherwise noted.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, March 10 for the April newsletter, etc. Please send submittals to newsletter@cnpssd.org.

Calendar for June 2012

6/2: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.6)

6/6: Board Meeting (p. 2)

6/9: Old Town Work Party (p.6)

6/10: Member Field Trip – Guatay Mtn (p. 3) 6/17: Member Field Trip – Eagle Peak (p. 3)

6/17: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.6)

6/19: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)

7/1: Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)

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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Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

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