

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, April 16; 7 p.m. Room 104, Casa del Prado Balboa Park

San Diego County Native Plants in the 1830s: The San Diego Collections of Coulter, Nuttall and HMS Sulphur with Barclay and Hinds

by James Lightner

Three expeditions of United Kingdom naturalists collected plants in the San Diego region in the 1830s. Mr. Lightner will discuss who these explorers were, how and why they came to the San Diego region, the plants they collected here, and the natural environment they observed in the 1830s. Images of original herbarium sheets will be presented. Mr. Lightner will also answer any questions about the 2011 edition of the field-guide, San Diego County Native Plants.

James Lightner is author of the local field-guide, *San Diego County Native Plants* (3d edition 2011). He will sign copies of the book at the meeting.

6:30 p.m. Natives for Novices: WASTELAND TO WONDERLAND: How a Total Novice Transformed His Yard with Native Plants by Jake Sibley.

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 in the Casa del Prado, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.



Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), a plant first collected by Thomas Coulter in the San Diego region in 1832.

BOARD MEETING

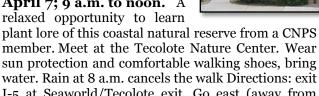
Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., monthly CNPS San Diego Chapter board meeting to be held at 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). Exit I-5 to Balboa Dr. east and turn north on Morena Drive. Proceed 1/2 mile and make a u-turn at the Avati Street signal and turn into the driveway 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.



California Poppy Day - April 6 (see p. 4)

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK

April 7; 9 a.m. to noon. A



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.



Detail of Turkish rugging flowers (Chorizanthe staticoides). Photo from researchlearningcenter.org.

ADVANCED PLANT LOVERS' FIELD TRIPS

April 7, Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Proposed Wilderness Area in Cleveland NF: Upper Cedar Creek, Cindy Buxton, Leader.

The upper headwaters of Cedar Creek descend quickly down a steep canyon that is not easily accessible and has seen little botanical records as a result. However, the creek can be accessed from a steep powerline maintenance road that starts near Boulder Creek Road. After reaching the creek, the channel can be traversed, as long as a hiker is willing to get wet feet and scramble on boulders. Early April is prime time at this elevation for many species of plants to be in flower. The goal of the field trip will be to see this rarely visited area and document the flora that would be protected as part of a new wilderness in the Cleveland National Forest, if it is granted this status by Congress. Information about the species found could help support the position it is worthy of this title.

Trip leader Cindy Buxton has been up and down Cedar Creek and wants others to see if they agree that it is a special place worthy of recognition. Those who are fit and willing enough to join her will have a chance to judge for themselves. The elevation loss/gain will be around 1,000 ft total, and the route will be gnarly.

Meet at Dudley's Bakery at 9:00 a.m. and caravan to the trailhead. Wear long pants and sleeves and footwear with ankle support that will take getting wet. Bring 3 quarts of water and lunch. Bring a change of clothes and TecNu or your preferred method of combating dermatitis, in case you encounter poison oak. Rain at 7:00 a.m. will cancel the field trip.

April 28, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon: Original and Restored Flora of San Elijo Lagoon, Elizabeth Venrick and David Varner, Leaders.

Enjoy southern vistas of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve amidst chaparral plants, and then descend through coastal sage scrub all the way to the salt marsh. We will stop often to look closely at the plants that typify the three vegetation communities, as well as seek out interesting native plants such as Del Mar manzanita (Arctostaphylos glandulosa ssp. crassifolia), wild onions (Allium ssp.), Turkish rugging (Chorizanthe staticoides), and others. We will also see evidence of the botanical legacy from former inhabitants of the Reserve.

This will be a slow but steady trail hike of 3 miles on some moderately steep terrain as well as flat land.

Meet the Solana Hills Trailhead (www.sanelijo.org/solana vista.htm). From I-5, exit at Lomas Santa Fe Drive and go west; make a right on Solana Hills Drive and continue to the end of the street and park.

For those who want to ride share from central San Diego. meet at the Denny's on Friar's Road just east of SR 163 at 8:20. Send an email to fieldtrips@cnpssd with your name and a cell phone number where you can be reached that morning.

Note: The Ramona Grasslands Field Trip, previously scheduled for April, has been changed to Sunday, May 26, when more species will be in flower.

General guidelines for field trips: Wear good hiking shoes/boots with tread that can provide stability on steep trails, long pants to protect from scratches, and sun protection. Bring a notebook and water. Questions? Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

2013 Chapter Field Trips Off to a Great Start!

We kicked off the 2013 field trip season on February 24th with a couple of fun walks at Carmel Mountain and Torrey Pines Extension. We had a diverse and lively group of 13 participants, with a range of plant skills and variety of interests, including gardening, medicinal uses, and wildlife value.

It was still a bit early for most annuals, but we were treated to great floral displays of CNPS Listed wart-stem ceanothus (Ceanothus verrucosus; 2.2), California adolphia (Adolphia californica, CNPS 2.1), sea dahlia (Leptosyne maritima; 2.2 [OK, we only saw one in full bloom, but lots on the verge!), as well as bush rue (Cneoridium dumosum), California sunflower (Encelia californica), rock rose (Helianthemum scoparium), and the diminutive red maids (Calandrinia ciliata).

~ Dave Flietner

PLANT WALKS FOR EVERYONE

April 6, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Manchester Trails. Michael Murphy and Adrienne Heinzelman lead. From I-5 exit Manchester and head east. Manchester becomes El Camino Real; stay on El Camino Real, turn right on Calle Ryan. Meet at the end of Calle Ryan. Thomas Guide 1167, G2. 858-663-1497.

April 27, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Florida Canyon. Paul Hormick leads. From Park Boulevard, turn east on Morley Field Drive. Just past the intersection with Florida Drive, turn right into the parking lot, meet near the water fountains in the dog park adjacent to the tennis courts. Thomas Guide 1269 C6. 619-203-0779.

CONSERVATION Sequestration

In February, I was lucky enough to get our regional lichen guru, Kerry Knudsen, down to collect on Del Mar Mesa with Andy Pagniolo. We found a number of lichens, but we had two prizes: one was unidentified, which is good news, because it's either a new species or something that was last collected a century ago and hasn't been seen since. The other was *Texosporium sancti-jacobi*, which we found at multiple locations in the Del Mar Mesa area. Two weeks later we also found it on Carmel Mountain.

Yes, I know, lichens aren't plants, but *Texosporium* sancti-jacobi is so cool that I'm making an exception. It's

a very rare lichen that occurs in a few places in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California. If you're curious, you can see pictures of it in all its Lilliputian glory, courtesy Wayne Armstrong, at Wayne's Word (http://waynesword.palomar.edu/Pinnacles1.htm).

What makes *Texosporium* special? It's the only member of its genus, but what makes it special to me as an ecologist is the substrate it grows on: rabbit poop. Specifically, it grows on old rabbit pellets that haven't moved in years. That's according to Kerry. According to Wayne, it also grows on the dead stems of *Selaginella* and similar stuff.

We found it on very old rabbit pellets.

However, this article mostly isn't about a lichen that's rare because of its idiosyncratic habitat preferences. Instead, it's about places where rabbit pellets can sit, unmoving, for years.

We're talking here about a profound absence of disturbance. On Del Mar Mesa, Kerry and Andy found *Texosporium* on beautifully developed cryptogamic crusts that occur here and there on the mesa top. The crust was composed of twenty-odd species of lichens, mosses, and *Selaginella cinerascens* (ashy spikemoss). It grows in the spaces between chamise, surrounded by chaparral.

Even on Del Mar Mesa, crusts are not common. Too much foot traffic, let alone vehicular traffic, destroys crust. It take years for crusts recover, and if the disturbed area is invaded by weeds, they don't recover at all.

We could lament the loss of yet another unique miniature ecosystem, but personally, I look to the Chinese, who are intensively researching soil crusts with an eye towards restoring them. The Chinese have a bit of a problem with blowing dust, so they have an incentive to try to secure their desert soils with crusts. We actually have dust issues too, and while there are American soil crust researchers (see www.soilcrust.org), we have this pesky problem with a government that doesn't spend much on conservation research right now. Fortunately, global researchers are learning many things about soil crusts, and I'm confident that in the next few years, Washington will realize that it has a crust gap it has to close and start funding research to catch up.

But back to Del Mar Mesa, and that lack of disturbance that supports the *Texosporium* populations. It's not what most people think of when they think of chaparral, is it? When most people think about chamise, they think about brush, and they think about fires. The soil crust is telling us a different story, one of organic matter staying in place for years, possibly decades.

That's the thing about chaparral that's both its blessing and its curse. Anyone who has crawled through old chaparral has seen a lot of dead branches in varying states of decomposition. A few decades ago, these branches were derided as signs of "senescence," and in certain disreputable quarters, it still is. The truth is that decomposition rates are low in chaparral, and chaparral shrubs mostly have hard woods that decompose slowly. Yes, this means that a lot of wood builds up in chaparral, and when it burns, it burns fiercely. This is true for all piles of wood, including buildings, but that's not really the subject of this column either.

Let's instead talk about sequestration. Carbon sequestration, that is. When things don't decompose quickly, carbon stays in the wood and leaves, in the duff the wood and leaves eventually decompose into, in the soil crusts, in the slowly decaying rabbit droppings (made of plant material the rabbit couldn't digest), and in the slowly growing lichens that grow on all of these.

Chaparral isn't in the same league as redwood forests when it comes to carbon sequestration, but left undisturbed, it appears to be very good at holding on to the carbon it does sequester. In this, it is very different than annual weeds. These decompose rapidly, releasing most of their carbon back into the air within a year.

Ultimately, that's the cool thing about *Texosporium*. It only lives in slow-cycling systems that sequester carbon. Indeed, it could only have evolved in a system that rarely burned. When you think about *Texosporium*, it seems ridiculous to talk about cutting down chaparral as a means of sequestering carbon and preventing fires, but that seems to be the bad idea du jour in certain disreputable quarters. In comparison to that proposal, *Texosporium's* habitat preferences are positively benign.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

CALIFORNIA POPPY DAY APRIL 6

The California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) was selected as the state flower by the California State Floral Society in December 1890, winning out over the mariposa lily (genus *Calochortus*) and the matilija poppy (*Romney coulteri*) by a landslide, but the state legislature did not make the selection official until 1903. Every year, April 6 is California Poppy Day and May 13 - 18 is Poppy Week. Gold is a theme in California symbols; the state colors are blue and gold, the state nickname is *The Golden State*, and gold is the official state mineral.

Also known as the flame flower, la amapola, and copa de oro (cup of gold), the California poppy grows wild throughout California. California Indians valued the poppy as a food source and for the oil extracted from the plant. California poppy leaves were used medicinally by Native Americans, and the pollen was used cosmetically. The seeds are used in cooking.

Eschscholzia californica was the first named member of the genus Eschscholzia, named by the German botanist Adelbert von Chamisso for the Baltic German botanist Johann Friedrich von Eschscholtz, his friend and colleague on Otto von Kotzebue's scientific expedition to California and the greater Pacific in mid-1810s aboard the Russian ship, Rurik.

E. californica is drought-tolerant, self-seeding, and easy to grow in gardens. It is best grown as an annual, in full sun and sandy, well-drained, poor soil. Because of its beauty and ease of growing, the California poppy has been introduced into several regions of the world that have Mediterranean climates like California's. commercially sold and widely naturalized in Australia, and was introduced to South Africa, Chile, and Argentina. It is recognized as a potentially invasive species in the United States, although no indications of ill effects have been reported where it has been introduced outside of California. Ironically, it has been displaced in large areas of its original habitat, such as southern California, by more invasive exotic species, such as mustard or annual grasses.



GARDENING COMMITTEE

The Gardening Committee continues to meet monthly and our next meeting is **April 10th at 6 p.m.** Send an email to <u>gardening@cnpssd.org</u> and we'll put you on the mailing list with the location, once we determine where we will hold the meeting. They are usually held at the homes of our members and we do have fun, talking about plants and projects.

Dave Flietner and Clayton Tschudy continue with their Demonstration Garden project at Sunset Cliffs - we will be hearing an update from them and there may be opportunities to get involved in this high-profile project.

Upcoming Natives for Novices talks will include bird/plant combinations for modern gardens, irrigation maintenance with Will Johnson and Jake Sibley talking about how he had a "no-maintenance" gardening epiphany at his North Park home. Please let Sue Marchetti know if you have ideas for, or can volunteer to talk at, "Natives for Novices" - send an email to gardening@cnpssd.org.

The 14th annual Seaside Native Plant Garden Tour is scheduled for Sunday April 21st. Many of you know of Joan Bockman's labor of love in Oceanside: over eighteen Native Plant Gardens! Plant experts and neighborhood locals lead an informative 1.5 mile walking tour to see these wonderful front yard gardens.

Meet at 2pm Sunday, April 21st at St. Mary's School parking lot at 515 Wisconsin Avenue. The guided walk is free. Donation requested for 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.

If you've never been on this delightful event, please do go! The below photo is from one of the lovely gardens and shows a side courtyard.

~ Susan Krzywicki, Native Gardening Chair





Old Town Pre-contact Native Plant Landscape Work Party, Saturday, April 13, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Old Town landscape should have a lot of wildflowers in bloom by mid-April. We'll get out tools and transplant some small plants, and dig whatever weeds dare to show themselves.

This small park of California native plants includes many of the plants that were used by the Native Americans who lived in this region before contact with Europeans. In years to come, these plants will provide materials for workshops on edible food harvesting and basketry.

The landscape is located at the northwest corner of Old Town State Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets. If you come by bus, trolley, or train, just cross at the corner and follow the path to where we will be gathering near the Sycamore Trees. If you drive, you can park in the lot at Taylor and Calhoun, or park in the CalTrans parking lot across Taylor Street - cross at the Juan Street traffic light and walk a couple hundred feet south along Taylor Street to join us.

Wear sun protection and bring gloves and weeding tools if you have them. If not, we have some to share. Bring bottled water if you prefer that to the drinking fountain. If it rains, some of us will come anyway, wearing good raingear, and you will be welcome. Restrooms are nearby. Questions? Contact **Kay Stewart** at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: April 6 and 21, 9:00 – noon. Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Contact <u>Richard@sandiegoriver.org</u> for more info.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Picture a gray brown hillside with dry non-native grass and twigs from mustard and fennel. The place is virtually unused by wildlife and is seemingly just waiting to burn. Now picture the same hillside three years later replaced with coastal sage and alive with wildlife. It is awe inspiring to see how nature recovers with just a bit of help.

Come and visit our special places and sense the satisfaction that comes with bringing them back to life. Contact: invasiveplants@cnpssd.org or call 858-759-4769.

FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 12

Mark your calendars, the CNPS-SD fall plant sale will take place on October 12 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 with:

- Packaging and labeling seeds
- Growing and watering plants at the City's nursery near Balboa Park
- Publicizing and promoting our sale, contacting news outlets, etc...
- General administrative tasks

If you'd like to get involved with one of the chapter's largest fundraisers, please join us. Plant Sale Committee Chairs Carolyn Martus & Mary Kelly, contact us at plantsale@cnpssd.org.

2013 CNPS Plant Science Workshops

The CNPS Plant Science Training Program provides workshops for professional botanists, biologists, and ecologists to teach the skills and provide the tools and resources for conducting sound scientific surveys for rare plants, rare plant communities, vegetation, and wetlands.

Dates and locations are subject to change. Information is available at:

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/.

Note that some details, including price and exact locations, are subject to change. To register or for more information, contact Josie Crawford at (916) 447-2677 or jerawford@cnps.org.

Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy, **April 15-17**, by Carol Witham, and Jennifer Buck-Diaz. UC Davis and vernal pools at the following locations in Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties: Jepson Prairie, Tule Ranch, Valensin Ranch, Rancho Seco, and Howard Ranch. Combination of laboratory and field studies. The first day will be in the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity and the following two days will be spent visiting hard pan and clay pan vernal pools. CNPS Members \$415; Non-members \$440.

California Rangeland Monitoring. April 24 and/or 25, by Jennifer Buck-Diaz, CNPS, Vegetation Ecologist. Merced and ranchland site TBD. Join CNPS and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a one or optional two-day workshop. Day 1: Maintaining grassland biodiversity - half day lecture/half day field. Day 2: Grassland vegetation sampling using the Relevé method. California grasslands are incredibly rich in herbaceous plant species; however, most areas are

labeled and mapped as "non-native grasslands". CNPS has launched an initiative to better understand and conserve California's grassland vegetation. Learn both the CNPS Relevé field sampling protocol and the NRCS Natural Resources Inventory method. First day: \$25 (includes coffee/tea, breakfast snacks & lunch). Second day: CNPS Members \$150; Non-members \$175. Total for both days: \$175 CNPS members; \$195 Non-members.

Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations May 7-9, by John Willoughby. Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve. Using classroom and field exercises, the workshop will focus on the role of plant population monitoring for adaptive management. Topics cover principles of sampling and several sampling designs, field techniques for measuring vegetation, analyzing monitoring data and presenting results. Participants will receive a copy of Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations by Caryl Elzinga, Dan Salzer, and John Willoughby; a notebook of all materials covered; and a CD with additional materials. CNPS members \$395; Nonmembers \$420. Three nights lodging and meals \$288 (\$96/day). Two nights lodging and meals \$192.

Riparian & Wetland Plant Identification. May 21-22, by David L. Magney. An intensive introductory/intermediate course on riparian and wetland plant identification and ecology geared towards anyone who wants or needs to improve their knowledge and skills about riparian/wetland plants. Emphasis will be given to southern California species and habitats. The class will include classroom presentation and exercises, and field excursions. We will spend at least half the time in the field. CNPS members: \$310 Non-members: \$335.

Riparian Ecology and Restoration. June 5-7, by Bruce Orr and Amy Merrill, Stillwater Sciences. Yolo Bypass Visitors Center, Davis, Cosumnes Preserve in Galt, and upper and lower reaches of Redwood Creek on Mount Tamalpais and Muir Beach. A day of lecture and discussion that provides a conceptual framework for riparian ecology and the natural processes that sustain riparian systems (day 1). The remaining days will include at-site lectures and field visits to riparian areas within a 1-2 hour drive of Davis. In the field, see how riparian systems function from the source waters to the river mouth, and visit restoration sites that demonstrate a broad range of approaches and techniques. Cost: CNPS members: \$395 Non-members: \$420.

Riparian Plants of Southern California, June 18-20. *David Magney,* Casitas Springs, Ventura County.

Vegetation Rapid Assessment, September 3-5. *Julie Evens, Jennifer Buck-Diaz*. Location TBD (somewhere in the Sierras).



RELATED ACTIVITIES

San Diego Horticultural Society

Saturday, April 6 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Spring Garden Tour

This year's tour is co-hosted by the Lake Hodges Plant Native Club, celebrating their 25th annual Spring Garden Tour. The tour includes both the 2011 and 2012 <u>San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles</u> magazine Grand Prize winners for Garden of the Year. Tour six wonderfully diverse private gardens in Poway. For more info visit: http://www.sdhort.org/



Southern California Botanists Field Trips

April 7, Sunday, Pebble Plains Cosponsored by CNPS Mojave Chapter. Surrounded by a sea of pinyon trees, junipers, and the occasional Yucca brevifolia characteristic of the nearby Mojave Desert, the pebble plains of North Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve along Highway 18 at the eastern end of Big Bear Valley in Bernardino Mountains harbor San extraordinary "gems" hidden among the abundant quartzite cobbles that dominate this unique habitat type. See a fantastic spring carpet at 7,000 feet in elevation when adjacent wooded hillsides are still covered in feet of snow! Bring water and a lunch for a day out in the sun (potential for high winds, so dress in layers). Contact Tommy Stoughton at tstoughton@rsabg.org for more information, including the meeting time and place.

April 20, Saturday, Lark Canyon, McCain Valley, Eastern San Diego County. Lark Canyon Campground on BLM land is in an interesting mosaic of sandy washes and granite boulder-covered hills in a high desert/chaparral transition zone north of Boulevard and I-8. If the rains are adequate, there can be a nice array of wildflowers. One of our target species will be desert beauty (*Linanthus bellus*), a spectacular pink member of the phlox family and nearly endemic to this area. This also a good time of year to see *Caulanthus simulans*. We may also take a side trip to look at *Quercus palmeri*. This may be possibly the last chance to see this scenic area before towering wind turbines begin to line up on the

ridges. We will meet on the coastal side of the mountains near the I-15 and I-8 junction and car-pool to the site. Contact **Fred Roberts** antshrike@cox.net for details.

May 4, Saturday, Woodwardia Canyon on Otay Mountain, San Diego. For details email snappcook@gmail.com.

May 5, Sunday, Cushenbury Canyon in San Bernardino National Forest. For details e-mail tstoughton@rsabg.org for details. Cosponsored by CNPS Mojave Chapter.

For more information, visit www.socalbot.org

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.



CNPS-SD Calendar for April 2013

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McGee Flats Field Trip, p.2

4/7: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p.2

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Planning Ahead

5/5: Crestridge Ecological Preserve Field Trip

5/12: Cottonwood Creek Field Trip

5/19: McCain Valley Field Trip

5/26: Ramona Grasslands Field Trip

Aug./Sept. date tbd: Plants of Lake Henshaw &

Warner Springs vicinity

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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April 2013 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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