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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

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## CHAPTER MEETING

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

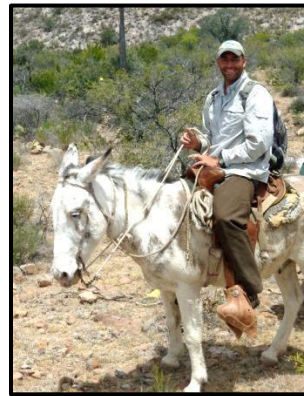
**The Plants of Baja California:  
Diverse, Beautiful, & Fascinating  
by  
Jon Rebman**

The Baja California peninsula is a narrow strip of land stretching for approximately 1,300 km in length and ranging from 45 km to 240 km in width. Its geographic position, latitudinal span, and topographic heterogeneity have conferred a diverse assemblage of weather regimes including a Mediterranean-type, winter rainfall climate; extreme arid, hot desert conditions; and tropical, summer rainfall patterns. In addition, the region's biogeographic history and physiognomy have resulted in a wide range of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, conifer forest, many desert scrub types, and tropical deciduous forest. The peninsula is also characterized by the presence of several islands varying in distance (<1 km to 240 km) from its coast, which are located in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortés) and the Pacific Ocean. This piece of land and its adjacent islands support a wealth of species diversity in many different plant families. It is estimated that the flora consists of more than 4,000 plant taxa with approximately 30% of these known only from (endemic to) the Baja California region. Many of the plants from the peninsula and its islands are distinctive and stretch the imagination in respect to plant form and structure, including the bizarre boojum tree/cirio (*Fouquieria columnaris*), the giant elephant cactus/cardón (*Pachycereus pringlei*), and elephant trees (*Pachycormus discolor* and *Bursera* spp.).

**6:00-7:00 p.m.** Natives for Novices. Lawns in Nativescapes – **Greg Rubin**.

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

**7:30 p.m.** – presentation.



**Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D.**, has been the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair/Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) since 1996. Dr. Rebman is a plant taxonomist and conducts extensive floristic research in Baja California and in San Diego and Imperial counties.

He leads various field classes and botanical expeditions each year and is actively naming and describing new plant species from our region. His primary research interests have centered on the systematics of the Cactus family in Baja California, especially the genera *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and *Opuntia* (prickly-pears). However, Dr. Rebman also does a lot of general floristic research and he co-published the most recent edition of the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County*. He has over 23 years of field experience with surveying and documenting plants including rare and endangered species. As a field botanist, he is a very active collector of scientific specimens with his personal collections numbering over 27,000. He is the director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project and identifies/verifies all of the new specimens (currently over 62,000) coming into the herbarium through this scientific endeavor. As the curator of the SD Herbarium at the SDNHM, he is in charge of this dried plant specimen collection that contains over 228,000 specimens dating back to the 1870s. Dr. Rebman recently finished a new edition of the *Baja California Plant Field Guide* with co-author Norman

Roberts that was published in June 2012. He is in the process of finishing another book entitled *Ferns and Lycophytes of San Diego County* that is co-authored with Annette Winner.

## PREZ SEZ

We are reminded with practically everything we do today that we live in a digital age. At my place of work, I use the internet continually for research and looking for photographs of plants to help with their identification. Many people have great web sites as resources for plants in San Diego County and Southern California in general including Tom Chester and Wayne Armstrong. The San Diego Natural History Museum plant atlas site, the Jepson Manual site with links to a variety of plant collections, and the Calphoto and Calflora sites are additional resources of great value to name just a few. Many of us have come to rely more on digital information on our computers, i-pads and cell phones than on paper documents. The convenience of being able to search for data on a web site or database is much greater now than sorting through a pile of papers. As much as I myself like paper, as many people know, it is often easier to search on the internet for a scanned copy of a document than to try to find it in a stack of reports and references even when I know that I have a copy.

In light of the digital age, it is also less costly to create files and place them on a web site or disperse them through an E mail list than to print paper copies. The cost of paper is increasing, even with recycling to reduce reliance on harvested wood products. Postage for those paper products is also another cost. For conservation groups that are reliant upon donations and dues, that cost is not insignificant. Our chapter newsletter has been available through digital dispersal for some time. Yes, the newsletters are part of the core purposes of conservation groups like the San Diego Chapter of CNPS, but the cost of producing paper documents and mailing them is one of the greatest costs that we have. One other thing to think about is the clarity of the photographic images that are included in the newsletter. They are much more clearly observed in digital copies than in paper copies.

Some conservation groups have switched over entirely to digital newsletters. The San Diego Chapter of CNPS is not proposing to do that. However, we would strongly encourage those who can receive a digital copy to select that option by sending a message to [email@cnpsd.org](mailto:email@cnpsd.org) and asking to be placed on the digital newsletter list. That not only provides a better copy for reading and allows one to receive it quickly but it also saves our

chapter money. It is also easier to save them into an accessible computer file than to have them pile up in stacks. All we ask is that you consider receiving a digital copy instead of a paper copy.

Thanks very much.

~ Tom Oberbauer, Chapter President

## BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, November 6, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month. Future 2013 Board Meeting dates are Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you wish to discuss an issue, please email [president@cnpsd.org](mailto:president@cnpsd.org) to get your issue on the agenda.

## FIELD TRIPS AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The reforestation project in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is described in a video produced by the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, which has provided substantial financial support to sequester carbon. The video is posted on the website of Climate Action Reserve, the organization that brokered the funding for this work with the various parties for California State Parks to implement:

<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/?video=true>

Interested? Want to see it in person? Here's an opportunity:

**Saturday, November 2, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** CNPS-SD field trip to look at and discuss some reforestation plots in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP). Our CRSP subcommittee of CNPS-SD's Conservation Committee intends to contribute input to the CRSP's reforestation project. Meet 8:00 in the parking lot north of Denny's on Friar's Road just east of SR 163; a second meeting location is at 8:30 at the Park & Ride on the SOUTH side of I-8 at the Severin/Fuerte Exit (between Grossmont Center Exit and Chase Exit). The final meeting place is at 9:30 a.m. in CRSP along parking shoulder at the Milk Ranch Road junction with SR 78, 1/2 mile south of Lake Cuyamaca and 1 mile north of Paso Picacho Campground. North County members who want to ride-share, let me know and I'll put you in contact with each

other. We will cover a total of six miles by the end of the day, gaining around 800' of elevation gradually and returning to the lower elevation on our return. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and snacks, and wear good hiking boots with ankle support, and wear appropriate clothing based on the weather. Rain at 7:00 a.m. will cancel the field trip.

**Tuesday, November 12, 6-8 p.m.** The final Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Master Plan public workshop will be held in San Diego at the Marriott Hotel, 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, at the corner of Qualcomm Drive, in the Cabrillo Room. Frank Landis, our chapter Conservation Chair, is working on a statement from CNPS about why the reforestation project must be included in the CRSP Master Plan.

~ Kay Stewart, [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org)

## TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



**November 3; 9 a.m. to noon.** For a relaxed opportunity to learn plant lore of this coastal natural reserve from a CNPS member, meet at the Tecolote Nature Center on the first Saturday of the month. 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.

## ELECTION

The Chapter Executive Board consists of 11 members, each selected for a two year term. This year we need to elect five members of the Board, and next year we will elect six. This year we have 8 candidates running for 5 positions. Information about each member who is running is below (listed alphabetically). Please mail your ballot (enclosed in this newsletter) so that it will arrive by **November 15** or bring it to the next chapter meeting on **November 19**.

**Connie di Girolamo.** My appreciation for native plant gardening began around 2002 when my husband

(and I) decided it was time to create a native garden of beauty at our recently purchased home in North Park. We found out that many of our neighbors were volunteers in CNPS and Switzer Canyon activities - and I, too, wanted to participate. For the Chapter's annual Native Plant Sale in 2008 and 2009, I volunteered to be a cashier, and in early 2010, there was an unexpected vacancy on the Board - a need to fill the Treasurer position and I accepted this appointment. For nearly four years, I have helped the Board establish an annual budget, have maintained financial records for the Chapter, and report financial activity to the Board monthly and to the State annually. I have agreed to consider an additional two-year term, and would appreciate your support!

**Mike Evans.** I have had a career as an environmental planner and field biologist specializing in endangered species in San Diego County since the 1970's, with degrees from San Diego State University in biology. I have been associated with CNPS on and off since the mid-1970's, having served various offices, including as Chapter President and Conservation Chair. Two years ago, I was elected to the Chapter Board and have served as Membership Chairman and for the last year also taken on the duties of Board Secretary. I want to help keep the organization running efficiently, while continuing to engage in sharing our organization's passion for native plants.

**Will Johnson.** I have most recently served our Chapter as a volunteer on our first Native Garden Tour, and on our first Native Gardening Symposium as the event co-director. We stand before the opportunity to preserve such a rich trove of wilderness, yet most in our County are unaware of the natural paradise that surrounds them. WE need to reach out, we need to teach, we need to gain support. When folks first become aware of natives, they begin to appreciate the importance of conservation and preservation. As their knowledge and appreciation grows, so does their willingness to support the hard decisions that must be made...to fund and protect our rapidly-disappearing natural landscape. My vision for our chapter includes:

- Increasing participation in our many activities, events, programs and committees
- Increasing membership
- Membership name tags, so we can better get to know who the other members are
- Increasing CNPSSD exposure to the public
- Creating and growing outreach events, such as the recent Symposium and Garden Tour.

I hope to bring enthusiasm and hard work to our Board, and ask you for your vote.

**Frank Landis.** I have been a CNPS member for over 20 years. My mother (Betsey Landis, active in the Santa Monica Mountains chapter) gave me a gift membership soon after I graduated from college in 1990. From there, my interest in native plants grew, and I went on to obtain two graduate degrees in botany (MA from Humboldt State, PhD from UW-Madison). Over the last two decades, I have belonged to four chapters (East Bay, North Coast, Santa Monica Mountains, and San Diego) and been active in three. As a CNPS member, I have given talks, led hikes, pulled weeds, run an art contest, sold plants and seeds, commented on environmental documents and policies, surveyed rare plants and vegetation, given testimony in front of the San Diego City Council, County Board of Supervisors, and state Cal-Fire, written the monthly conservation column and occasional rare plant columns, and yes, served on the chapter Board of Directors since 2010. I am also the chair of the Conservation and Rare Plant Survey committees. I am a somewhat extreme example of how most native plant enthusiasts are made, not born, through exposure to enthusiastic, knowledgeable teachers who turn the world from a gray-green blur into beautiful landscapes of fascinating species. As a director, I am interested in helping run the Chapter's day-to-day activities, in reaching out to new members and educating existing members, and in furthering plant conservation efforts throughout our city, county, and state.

**Jake Sibley.** I have been an active with the Society and with native plants since 2008, when I first discovered the value of native plants to both the community and the environment. Since then, I have been committed to the mission of the Society: To conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. My most significant contribution to date has been acting as Co-Director of the 2013 Native Gardening Symposium, an inaugural event conceived and organized by the Gardening Committee, of which I am an active member. The Symposium was a tremendous success towards the Society's mission by any metric. We educated over 135 attendees on the value and use of native plants in horticulture. We retained a profit after expenses, and those funds will continue to support outreach and education programs in coming months and years. We built goodwill with many partner organizations, including the Girl Scouts and Friends of Balboa Park, who will now be even stronger allies in our mission of conservation and education. I have experience serving on the Board of Directors at San Diego Canyonlands, a local non-profit organization with very similar goals of education and conservation regarding our local natural habitat resources. My

academic background is in biology and ecology. I hold a B.A. in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and I completed a year of graduate study in ecology under Northeastern University. I spent several years as a field ecologist in the employment of the Biology Department at San Diego State University.

**Kay Stewart.** I have been a member of CNPS since around 1985, when I moved to San Diego to take a job in a local landscape architectural firm after graduating from U of Oregon with a degree in landscape architecture. My prior master's degree was in biology, and years of work in the USFS left me longing for wilderness on weekends. I asked around for an organization that would help me find the wild places of San Diego county, and I found CNPS. Bonus: I also learned about the native flora for landscaping. I hope you find CNPS enjoyable, as I have. There are so many great ways to participate in this group. Some years that was to just come to meetings, or buy plants. Other years I helped sell posters, chaired public outreach by showing slide shows to interested groups, and tabled for CNPS at events. I was chapter secretary in the early 1990's and helped develop our beautiful plant sale signs. I again became a member of the board in 2010, when I was asked by the then-board to fill a vacancy. During these past four years I served as vice-president, then president, while concurrently co-chairing field trips. I would like to serve on your board for another two years and hope you will support my candidacy.

**Clayton Tschudy.** I have been involved in environmental conservation and education for the past 15 years when I switched from a career in music to biology. I returned to school at Humboldt State University for biology with a botany focus where I studied with some terrific botanists such as Mike Mesler and the renowned redwood forest ecologist Stephen Sillet. While in school I became involved in native plant horticulture working with horticultural experts like Bert & Celeste Wilson of Las Pilitas Nursery, and our local horticulture luminary, Greg Rubin. I have been designing, installing, and maintaining native gardens throughout the state of California since that time. My design work includes successful wetland and upland restorations as well as commercial and home native landscape gardens. I have worked as a consultant, designer, or field biologist with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD), The City of Chula Vista & Port of San Diego (as a consulting biologist on their jointly run Wildlife Advisory Group for South Bay development), San Diego Canyonlands, Vallecitos Water District, Ojai Valley Water District, TRC Solutions Incorporated, Ultrasystems Incorporated,

SDG&E, The San Diego Children and Nature Network (SDCaN), and The Friends of Balboa Park, as well as running an independent design business for the past 10 years. In the last year I launched CalNative, the Institute of California Horticulture, whose mission is to provide ecological landscaping education to landscape design professionals. The passion in my professional career has always been education, and I view native horticulture as an extension of the conservation ethos, providing average folks without an environmental science background the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with nature in their own gardens. Such relationships become bridges of understanding leading people from their backdoors into nature conservation. My educational focus led me to launch the inaugural 2012 San Diego Native Garden Tour through CNPS San Diego, a successful event that brought in 150 volunteers and 600 members of the public to see native gardens throughout San Diego County. I have been a long-time member and volunteer at CNPS, participating in many events including the recent 2013 Native Gardening Symposium, and taking on the mantle of Chair for the Gardening Committee. It is my belief that CNPS with its long history of volunteerism and community collaboration is uniquely positioned to help bring the general public into the conservation fold and it is for this reason that I wish to become more deeply involved with the San Diego Chapter of CNPS as a Board member.

**David Varner.** In 1999 I became a CNPS member in the North Coast Chapter, where I attended school and where a very influential botanist taught me the meaning of the strange word, ‘chaparral.’ My membership lapsed when I moved to Idaho a few years later, but I was quick to re-join the San Diego Chapter when I returned to California in 2008. New in town, I served on the Conservation Committee under Carrie Schneider, where I learned how to monitor and provide input about development projects and their effects on native vegetation. In an effort to popularize our message, I chaired the Public Outreach Committee in 2009 -2010, educating others about native plants and representing CNPS at various public events. At former Chapter President Dave Flietner’s suggestion, I took on the role of Chapter Delegate in 2010, and since then have been doing my best to coordinate and communicate San Diego chapter’s efforts and successes with other chapters at quarterly Chapter Council meetings. I helped organize the ‘Public Day’ event held at the 2012 CNPS Conservation Conference in San Diego. I am honored that Chapter Council selected me to serve as a CNPS Director last year, and am using my tenure to support the Mission of CNPS and strengthen its organizational capacity. For me, CNPS embodies the purest, social form

of natural resource conservation, which is central to my life. I run the Habitat Management Program at San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, designing and implementing habitat restoration projects in northern San Diego County. I have the privilege of maintaining a plant list for and holding CNPS fieldtrips at the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. I love California and San Diego County for its coast, mountains, valleys, deserts, and proximity to the Baja Peninsula! As a director I want to work with members to conserve native plant populations and diversity and increase the relevance of CNPS to other San Diegans.

## HORTICULTURE



### New Horticulture Program Director

The San Diego Chapter has made a big contribution to the state-wide organization: **Susan Krzywicki** has been named to the newly announced position of Horticulture Program Director. CNPS sought out a Horticulture Program Director who is articulate and inspiring about California native plant horticulture.

“Catching the native gardening “bug” is quite the affliction—you never know where it will lead. I had no idea a dozen years ago when I met Susan Krzywicki that she would turn out to be the new Horticulture Program Director for CNPS. I witnessed her knowledge, interest, and passion blossom, however, bringing her commitment to friends, neighbors, clients, and companies.” said **Greg Rubin**, Board Member, CNPS San Diego Chapter.

Susan was a perfect choice for the job because of her dedication and hard work in promoting native plant gardening. Her professional marketing background manifested itself in a variety of successful outreach projects: the San Diego Native Garden Tour last year, the chapter’s recent Native Gardening Symposium, and building an active and lively Gardening Committee.

Susan’s communication skills, public presence, leadership, and organizational ability will enable her to make an outstanding contribution to the CNPS mission: to protect California’s native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations.

Native plant horticulture is increasingly popular and is being implemented by homeowners, homeowners associations and public entities across the state. It is a fun and effective approach that saves water, and helps pollinators. This widespread acceptance is in large part due to our CNPS membership and in the coming years we will continue to spread the word and encourage these gardening techniques.

The Horticulture Program is ramping up, and we are looking forward to input from members throughout the state. Please welcome Susan and send any suggestions or ideas and comments to [skrzywicki@cnps.org](mailto:skrzywicki@cnps.org). As we set plans in motion, it is crucial to focus on what works at a local level and how we can base our programs on a sound scientific footing that can help gardeners throughout the state to succeed.

## Symposium Success!

We set out to start an ongoing Symposium project and our first offering, September 28 at Balboa Park, was a success! Our mission was to educate the public. We had over 135 attendees, over 30 volunteers, and the comments from attendees were very positive. Even the criticisms were positive: people wanted more information, longer and more sessions, and gave us suggestions on how to improve for next year.

**Jake Sibley** and **Will Johnson** were the key organizers. They put in countless hours and showed grace under strain. We had three tracks with offerings such as Unlocking the Secrets to Native Landscaping; Weeds! How to Identify and Eliminate Impostors in Native Gardens; The Vital Link Between Native Plants and Butterflies, Birds, and Pollinators; Schoolyard Habitats: Nature-based Learning Right Outside the Classroom; Native People, Native Plants: Local Foods and Medicines (and the Disappearing Oak); and Native Landscape Design Principles. **Clayton Tschudy, Greg Rubin, Michael Klein, Arne Johanson** and others were excellent instructors.

The Balboa Campus of the Girl Scouts was an excellent venue - close enough for a wide reach and with clusters of classrooms and outdoor space. We also partnered with the Friends of Balboa Park and want to thank **Lucy Warren** for her connections that made this possible.

Everyone one on the Gardening Committee made a huge contribution. **Cindy Burrascano** said book sales were great and **Connie di Girolamo** tells us that we had five new memberships. Thanks to all.

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Horticulture Program Director

# CNPS-SD Gardening Committee

Clayton Tschudy has volunteered to take the position of Chair of the Gardening Committee. As you know, he was Tour Director for the successful 2012 Garden Tour and has generously offered his time and talents to chair the committee. Clayton is a committed activist, an extremely capable botanist and a very talented landscape designer. I couldn't leave the group in more capable hands. Please support him in his new position.

Susan Marchetti will step up as Vice Chair and be Clayton's right-hand person. Susan is a Board Member and has run the Natives for Novices since the beginning - putting on the educational and helpful programs that have brought additional focus to our community. She has volunteered for every project we've inaugurated and been the solid rock on tough issues as well as the go-to for everything from offering her home for meetings to rallying her fellow Master Gardeners.

Come to the next meeting and contribute to the new direction. The Gardening Committee will meet on **November 13** at the home of Lucy Warren, 3380 Granada Avenue, San Diego.

Email [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org) if you would like to be involved.

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Horticulture Program Director

## Work Parties

### Old Town Pre-contact Native Plant Landscape

**Saturday, November 9, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Planting Continues in the Old Town Native Plant Landscape.

In October we dug in and watered container plants, and in November we will plant seeds. One of the seeds is Rancheria clover (*Trifolium albopurpureum*). This beautiful clover was very widespread when the Spanish arrived, and was an important human food. The cattle, sheep and goats of the Spanish quickly munched this tall, nutritious legume to the point of leaving mere traces of it scattered across the County. As a nitrogen fixing plant, with very pretty flowers on 12" stalks, we hope it will establish in Old Town. We will also rake in other useful native seeds in other places in the landscape. If you have a metal rake, please bring it!

The Native Plant Landscape illustrates some of the many

# CONSERVATION

## Conservación En Español

useful plants that were part of the Native American daily life before the arrival of Europeans in the late 1700's. Weavers' rush and deergrass continue to thrive, so a basketry workshop is on the distant horizon. Shaw's agave and narrow-leaf milkweed are spreading and growing, too. Perhaps by next summer we can harvest some of each and learn how to craft twine from their fiber.

The Landscape is at the far west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, opposite the trolley/train/bus station. If you come by public transit just cross the street; or if you drive, park for free in the shady CalTrans lot across Taylor Street from the Old Town Landscape: enter the lot at Taylor and Juan Street, park, then recross and walk toward the transit station. Turn left at the adobe sign and look for us under the trees. Have sun protection and bring bottled water, gloves, and hand tools - especially hand pruners and rakes - if you have any. If not, we have some tools to share. Questions? Contact **Kay Stewart** at [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org)

### Point Loma Native Plant Garden

**November 2 & 17, 9:00 a.m. – noon.** Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Contact: [Richard@sandiegoriver.org](mailto:Richard@sandiegoriver.org)

### Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Native Plant Garden

**Saturday, November 23, 9:00 a.m. to noon.** We will have the first of four planned work parties at the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park garden area. We'll be working near the Ladera Street parking lot (entrance at 4401 Ladera Street) and planting about 500 native plants.

Since 2005, we have restored about two acres of disturbed area with over fifty species of indigenous plants. More information about Sunset Cliffs Natural Park and a species list is at [www.sunsetcliffs.info](http://www.sunsetcliffs.info). We have gloves and tools, but please bring sunscreen and drinking water. We'll work unless there is really heavy rain. Contact: **David Kimball** at [birdfest@cox.net](mailto:birdfest@cox.net).

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[enewsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:enewsletter@cnpsd.org)

Save the environment by not receiving a paper copy. AND your newsletter will be in **COLOR** and have embedded links!

Now that CNPS has a Baja chapter, it would be great to have more bilingual plant conservation material. Simple, right? You just feed your favorite essays through Google Translate, and presto! What could possibly go wrong?

Just for fun, I ran "coast live oak" through Google. "Roble vivo del costa?" Um, yeah. Even though my Spanish is rudimentary, I seem to recall that Spanish uses "encino" for the live oaks, "roble" for the evergreen oaks. Would "encino costanero" be a better translation?

Let's try translating something simpler: "weed." Hmm, "mala hierba." Bad plant! Bad plant! Don't grow in that grassland! Bad plant!

Actually, this isn't surprising. Most educated Americans are clueless about plant conservation and gardening, so shouldn't be a surprise that most truly bilingual people would have trouble translating conservation jargon. A computer is even worse.

This isn't the first time I've seen this particular problem. I was peripherally involved in the writing of the *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*, because my mother, Betsey Landis, was one of the co-authors. As she struggled with putting the book together, I got an earful about the problems with translating it into Spanish.

For those of you who don't have a copy, the *Care and Maintenance Manual* is set up with a parallel structure, one page written in English, one in Spanish. The paragraphs and sentences are supposed to exactly parallel each other, so an American garden owner can work with her (or his) Mexican landscaper, and they will both figuratively be on the same page when talking about how to care for, and maintain, native plant gardens.

There are numerous issues with that translation, and even getting what they had was a challenge. The general and specific problem is that there are very few Spanish translators who are expert gardeners and/or botanists, and these people tend to be busy. They also prefer to be paid for their expertise, and the *Care and Maintenance Manual* was a shoestring affair.

As a result, sections got translated by different people. If I recall properly, one translator had a serious health problem and resigned from the project. The team then hired a bilingual college student to translate the rest of the manual. This student was busy, so he recruited some buddies and the doled pages randomly out to them to

translate. To compound the problem, they never checked to see that they were translating each term the same way. You can imagine the result when the pages were assembled back in order. This mess so annoyed the first translator that she came back to help fix the damage, but she was in no shape to do a thorough job. As a result, the Spanish version of the *Care and Maintenance Manual* is a muddled affair, and I encourage people to note down mistakes as they find them. The second edition could be much better.

Proper translation is critical, because Spanish is not English. For example, one Spanish word covers both fertilizer and mulch, and a gardener spreading fertilizer instead of mulch can kill a native plant. Conversely, Spanish uses different terms for live oaks and deciduous oaks, while English uses only "oak." This wouldn't surprise anyone who realizes that England has only deciduous oaks, while Spain has both live and deciduous species, but most translators wouldn't know that, would they?

And this doesn't even count the concepts. A great Spanish example is "monte," which can mean mountain, bush, forest, woods, or cliff. If this is confusing, think of what "the bush" means in Australia or Canada. Or we can talk about chaparral, which came from the Spanish term for scrub oak ("chaparro") and also from the Basque term for thicket ("txapar" or "sapar"). The -al suffix is used as the collective term for a plant community dominated by a plant (so chaparral would be land dominated by scrub oaks), but do we call chamise chaparral "chamisal," as English dictionaries back to 1913 do? It's not a standard term used by the current generation of vegetation ecologists, although it certainly could be.

This is not a counsel of despair, but rather a more realistic assessment of how much work we've got ahead of us, on both sides of the border. Conservation is predominantly seen as a middle-class, anglo, American issue, but California is becoming increasingly Latino, more like Mexico both ethnically and linguistically. Translating our love of and passion for native plants both into Spanish and into something that will work in Baja is something we need to do, if we want the ideas and ideals of conservation to continue forward for the next century and beyond.

In any case, if you know any bilingual people, get them interested in native plants. Let them know that we're looking for help getting the word out, and have them contact me if they're interested in learning more.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

# BOTANIZING

## Searching for Representatives of Previous Eras; A Mysterious Canyon Part 2

Shasta was receiving calls on her cell phone from her office and was needed to turn back to deal with work issues. I called out that I would scout ahead because there may be other fall faces to deal with. Farther up, the route encountered more and more Poison Oak and many, many branches of Mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) as well as downed tree logs, and numerous alluvial benches and stream bottoms, but there weren't any more large, waterfall faces, dry or wet. I kept going, scanning for maples in the midst of hundreds of Sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) of varying sizes, some slender saplings and some massive trunked trees, but I saw no maples. Farther up, Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and the wonderful minty, musty scented White Alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*) were growing in the canyon. There were places that looked very suitable for a Bigleaf maple, but I did not see any maple trees or at least what I thought looked like maple trees.

In the heart of the area where they were supposed to grow, I was beginning to formulate reasons in my mind that they may actually no longer be there. Panic that this wonderful opportunity would not succeed began to set in, maybe because of not concentrating on the right search image. It would have been nice to have other eyes to assist, but there was no time to go back.

The sky was partly cloudy due to tropical clouds overhead. The soft upward whistle of black-crested Phainopeplas was heard throughout the canyon. Small rain-sprinkle spots from overnight were visible in the finer soil, but the ground level was so dry that the golden brown Sycamore leaves crackled loudly underfoot. Some of the Sycamore leaves were more than 12 inches across. I kept processing through my mind that Sycamore leaves are not flat-planed, but uneven like they had been folded, with triangular and squared off angles while maple leaves would be flat and with more finely divided indentations and lobes. Also, as mentioned, the Bigleaf maples in Northern California and the San Bernardino Mountains had dense leaf cover that went down to the ground, whereas the Sycamores were tall, irregularly branched trees with clusters of leaves.

Masses of Sycamores and shaded California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees grew to great heights.



Humboldt lilies (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *ocellatum*) were flowering down in the canyon bottom, most with decent flowers remaining at this late season. Their tennis ball sized orange flowers with dark red spots and petals pulled back on the top of tall flowering stalks are intriguingly beautiful. One of the dozen or so I saw was 7 feet tall.

The humidity and effort was soaking my clothing with sweat and covering my pale blue shirt with dirt from climbing and crashing through dry branches. I hopped, jumped and high lifted my legs over boulders and downed branches and Wild grape vines. I waded through waist-high Poison oak with the red leaves in the exposed open areas where it created a visually attractive, false pre-fall coloration. There were no alternative routes but through the middle of it. Flies and gnats were abundant but fortunately no Yellowjacket or *Vespa* wasps were following me. After being stung twice behind the ear on the day of the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, I found out that the faint ant like scent I detected when it stung marks targets for other wasps to find and attack. One happy surprise was that I also did not see any ticks. Maybe that was because there didn't seem to be many game trails. However, at this time, I wasn't contemplating wasps or ticks. I was really worrying that something had happened to the maple trees.

Since they had last been documented in 1995, San Diego County has had more than 13 years of drought including 2002 and 2007, two of the driest years ever recorded. Dead tree trunks were lying around, which could have been from the maples if they had succumbed and fallen. The stream bed did seem very dry. Pothole rock basins that showed signs of holding water earlier in the season were now entirely desiccated with only a thin coat of silt to indicate that they had held water. To be sure, there were some moist areas where Black cottonwoods and the White alders grew, but they only appeared in patches.

I was thirsty, but kept telling myself around the next corner will be a maple tree and I will drink then, and I became hungry and thought, I will eat one of my peanut butter sandwiches when I find a maple tree. I drank and ate and still did not find one. I was concerned that Kurt might be worried about me, but also knew the necessity to keep moving in order to find one of the trees.

The clouds temporarily cleared and the sun made conditions warmer. A little two track dirt vehicle trail appeared crossing the stream moving northward. It led to a dense grove of White alder that created heavy shade and very dim light beneath its canopy. Walking into the area beneath the canopy was like entering a

large tent. A pipe indicated that the stream water was being captured and sure enough, a catchment box was directing the water away from the stream. Upstream of the catchment, surface water flowed fitting my original impression of how Castro Canyon would look. I feared that maybe the capturing of the water dried the downstream stretches of Castro Canyon and caused the maples to die. Time was running out but I walked on beneath the alders in the diffuse light, past the pools of dark, reflective water. At that point, the Cleveland National Forest Boundary seemed near, close to the outside of the area Darin Banks mentioned as habitat for the maples.

Just as I was thinking my time was up, I looked up and saw maple leaves, Bigleaf maple leaves, *Acer macrophyllum* maple leaves. This maple tree had fallen. During its growth, it must have been 30 or 40 feet tall, but it was now lying across the stream and the side branches were growing upward with clearly distinctive maple leaves. The leaves were very deeply lobed and though they were Bigleaf maples, the larger ones were not much more than six or seven inches across. The vein pattern on the leaves was intricate and finely detailed. The branches were sparse and the tree had a slender appearance, not like the ones I have seen to our north. Some of the leaves were already yellowing from the dryness. It appears that they may be drought deciduous as much as Fall deciduous. I have seen photographs of orange *Acer macrophyllum* trees, but I wonder if the ones in our county will do anything but turn yellow. (See Part 3 in the December issue)

Tom Oberbauer, Chapter President

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## CNPS-SD Calendar for November 2013

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- 11/2: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.7
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