

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

**Tuesday, March 18; 7 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park**

Ecological Importance and Conservation of Native Bees in Southern California

by Keng-Lou James Hung

Recent research estimates that over 85% of all terrestrial plant species are pollinated at least in part by animals. As pollination is a crucial process in the life cycle of plants, global declines in pollinator diversity have elicited considerable attention. Native bees are the most important pollinators in temperate ecosystems and are known to decline in the face of disturbances such as habitat loss and degradation. In recent decades, widespread development in Southern California has threatened the rich plant and pollinator communities in this biodiversity hotspot. However, despite growing conservation concerns for both native plants and native bees, little is currently known regarding how disturbances to bee communities affect the reproduction of native plants in non-managed ecosystems.

California harbors one of the richest bee communities on earth, with an estimated 2,000 native bee species, and potentially 600 of these in San Diego. Representing a wide range of sizes, nesting strategies, foraging patterns, and social behaviors, our native bee species now occur in habitats fragmented by urbanization and they coexist with the introduced super-generalist honey bee, which dominates many ecosystems. This presentation will focus on the diversity, natural history, and conservation of San Diego's native bee species, as well as discuss ongoing research to evaluate the state of pollination services in fragmented coastal sage scrub habitats in our area.

CNPS San Diego and Orange County

Spring Plant Sale

&

Membership Day

**Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano
Saturday, March 8, 2014**

See p. 3 and the enclosed flyer for information.

Blooming Consciousness

March 29-30, 2014

A two-day **garden tour** featuring 15 inspirational native California landscapes in North San Diego County. Also, "A Night in the Garden" on March 15, 2014. See p. 3 and the enclosed flyer for information and purchasing tickets.

6:30 p.m. – **Jake Sibley** will present a power point preview of the March 29-30, 2014 Garden Tour, showing how beautiful native gardens are and how beneficial they are to our environment. We hope you will all go online and get your tickets for the Tour.

7:00 p.m. – refreshments, 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.

Keng-Lou James Hung, our March speaker, is primarily an insect ecologist, but has developed a passion for the ecology and conservation of native plants through his recent work on plant-pollinator interactions. James studied bee ecology during his undergraduate at Dartmouth College and now continues this research as a PhD student at UC San Diego.



James Hung collecting bees.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you wish to discuss an issue, please email president@cnpssd.org to get your issue on the agenda.

Prez Sez

In the past, we have spoken about the value and need for volunteers in our chapter. We are very fortunate to have a strong set of volunteers on our Board of Directors and numerous committees that are listed on the back of the newsletter. However, we can always use more volunteers to help with the various activities that the chapter has, including field trips, programs, conservation, invasive species eradication, and rare plant surveys, the native plant sales, garden tours and even our treasurer and preparer of the newsletter.

There is one area in particular where we could use additional support. We occasionally are requested to participate with events such as the Mission Trails Day in May, and there are other opportunities for us to get our message to the public such as the Earth Day events

in Balboa Park and even the San Diego County Fair. We have one person who currently manages our outreach program, **Betsy Cory**, and though she is very active, she can only do so much. She carries a large burden of attending a number of major events each year. We are desperately in need of individuals who can help to attend events, set up a table or booth with a banner to provide information about the California Native Plant Society, hand out fliers and membership applications, and answer questions. If several people were able to assist the work could be spread out in order to avoid one person having to attend numerous events. The main qualifications needed are enthusiasm for native plants in the wild and in landscaping, though a complete knowledge about these topics is not necessary, and the ability to take the time to attend the events. In this way, our organization can grow and we can better spread our message and share our love of native plants both in the natural world and in our gardens. If you can help in these types of endeavors, even if it is only one weekend a year, please contact **Betsy Cory** and offer her assistance.

Thanks everyone.

~ **Tom Oberbauer**, Chapter President

HELP WANTED: the Chapter needs help at public outreach events. Please read the Prez Sez above for more information.

To see what is blooming in the desert this spring and to get up to date information about where the flowers are, call Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's **Wildflower Hotline** at 760-767-4684 or visit their website at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638

Other websites include:

<http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/ca.html> and <http://naturalhistorywanderings.com/wildflower-reports/>



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!

Spring Plant Sale & Membership Day

Saturday, March 8, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The spring plant sale and membership day will be held at Tree of Life Nursery at 33201 Ortega Highway, 92675, 7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on the Ortega Highway (Highway 74). Tree of Life Nursery has a large selection of plants in several sizes. Bring your friends and introduce them to the beauty of native plants while they learn about CNPS. Areas on the nursery grounds are landscaped with mature plants, allowing visitors to experience an environment that preserves the look and feel of a native landscape.

There will be a series of speakers throughout the day. **Connie Beck** will present a discussion of native plants that attract wildlife, including birds, butterflies, bats, and bees. **Will Johnson** will talk about reducing your water bill and finding beauty with native plants. **Mike Evans** (Tree of Life Nursery) will discuss 2 iconic shrubs of California—*Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus*.

All CNPS members will receive a 10% discount to celebrate membership day. You can join or renew your membership the day of the sale. CNPS members from the San Diego and Orange County chapters will be available to help people choose plants and provide free native plant gardening and landscaping advice.

For more information, visit Tree of Life Nursery at www.californianativeplants.com or call 949-728-0685, or visit the CNPS San Diego chapter website at www.cnpsd.org.



Photos of Tree of Life Nursery



Blooming Consciousness Garden Tour

Saturday & Sunday, March 29-30, 2014
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

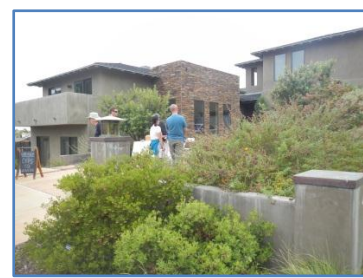
Tickets \$25 per person, children 12 and under are free. CNPS members enjoy a 20% discount! Enter code "manzanita." Visit GardenNativeTour.org.

Garden Native and CNPS-SD are hosting "Blooming Consciousness," a two-day garden tour featuring 15 inspirational native California landscapes. This year the focus is North County. Guests will discover an artisan vineyard, miniature hiking trail, and edible gardens. They will also be treated to free talks on design, wine-making, ethnobotany, sustainable building practices, and much more!

For more information, visit <http://gardennative.org/tour> or see the enclosed flyer. Hope to see you there!



Photos from the 2012 Garden Tour



Field Trips – Explore Nature's Gardens

South Crest Preserve

Sunday, March 9, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. (first day of Daylight Savings Time) See rare plants and native plant restoration with leaders **Jessie Vinje** and **Jonathan Applebaum**. The out-and-back route will be about 3.5 miles, with an elevation gain of 300 or 400 feet, mostly on a single-track path and a bit off-trail.

This tour of the south portion of the Crestridge Ecological Preserve will take us to see Perry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*), Dehesa beargrass (*Nolina interrata*), variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*), and rush-like bristleweed (*Machaeranthera juncea*), and possibly chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria biflora*), if our timing is right. Though San Diego thornmint was collected nearby, it is unlikely to occur in this part of the Preserve because of an infestation of purple false brome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), an invasive non-native grass. We will also learn about a research project that focuses on this site.

Jonathan is the Biologist/Land Manager for the Endangered Habitats Conservancy, with training in restoration ecology and habitat conservation planning. He earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from UC Santa Barbara in Environmental Science and Management. Jessie received a Bachelor in Science Degree in Biology from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and has worked as a land manager, consulting biologist, and a natural resource specialist for BLM. Currently a biologist/botanist for the Conservation Biology Institute, Jessie is restoring degraded habitats and conducting surveys for, and managing, listed and sensitive plants.

Directions: Take I-8 to El Cajon, exit on 2nd Street and turn right (south). 2nd St. becomes Jamacha Road after angling across Main Street. Travel 1/3 mile more, then turn left on Washington Ave., which becomes Dehesa Road after 1/2 mile. Go approx. 2-1/2 miles, past Willow Glen Drive, and turn left onto Sycuan Summit Road. The trailhead is located at the cul-de-sac. There is ample street parking for 20+ cars (though carpooling is encouraged). Parking is free. **Ride-share:** meet in the parking lot behind Denny's restaurant on Friar's Road just east of Hwy 163 at 8:30 a.m. Or meet at 9 a.m. at the Park'n'Ride on the south side of I-8 at the Fuerte/Severin exit just east of Hwy 125/Grossmont Center exits.

Bring water, sun protection and snacks or lunch. Boots with good ankle support and tread will give more confidence on the trail and off.

Otay Mountain

March 22, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM lands) with **Joyce Schlachter**, BLM Wildlife Biologist, and **Josue Campos**, Botanist. **Maximum 14 additional participants – send an email to Kay at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org to reserve your spot!**

Come see plants named for Otay Mountain and other rare species by spending a day bouncing along roads on this rugged landmark, and piling out to penetrate the shrublands to see rare and endemic plants that our leaders have located. The plants we expect to see include: Tecate cypress (*Hesperocyparis forbesii*), Gander's pitcher sage (*Lepechinia ganderi*), Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*), Otay Mountain ceanothus (*Ceanothus otayensis*), and Otay manzanita (*Arctostaphylos otayensis*), along with a large list of other cool stuff. Joyce will help us understand more about the various agency land ownerships so people can see how everything fits together and the effort that is being made to acquire and preserve habitat for plants and animals in southern San Diego County. Josue's botanical training has led him most recently to working for Recon Native Plant Nursery collecting seed for propagation, including species on Otay Mountain. In addition, Josue is studying Tecate cypress for a Master's Thesis, with Jon Rebman as a mentor.

Meet at 8:30 at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (RJER), 14715 State Highway 94 in Jamul, CA 91935. We will park some cars there for the day and caravan in the vehicles with the highest clearance, as many of us per car as possible, following the Otay Truck Trail and Minnewawa Truck Trail. We will be on BLM lands. At our first stop we will take fifteen minutes to brush up on some botanical terminology using Lightner's field guide to San Diego Native Plants, while those who don't need this booster will be locating plants for the group to see. We will continue to drive and stop along the way to hike and explore. We will take a break for lunch at a scenic pullout. **Ride-share:** If you want to ride-share from central San Diego to the meeting place, meet at 7:45 in the parking lot behind the Denny's on Friar's Road just east of SR 163. Bring plenty of water (a couple of quarts is recommended), trail shoes, hat, snacks, and lunch, and your favorite California or San Diego flora field guide. Please give information about your vehicle. **Rain at 7 a.m. wherever you are will cancel the trip. If in doubt, call Kay that morning 619-917-2668.**

Rattlesnake Canyon

Saturday, April 5, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Native Flowering Plants of Rattlesnake Canyon, Poway. Rattlesnake Canyon in southeast Poway is an open space known for the diversity and profusion of its native wildflowers and flowering shrubs. Lee Gordon, a CNPS member who lives in Poway, hopes others will come to enjoy the flowers. In April 2013 they were amazing and beautiful. We will walk into the canyon about a mile on an out-and-back easy trail. We will also see metates where Native Americans ground oak acorns, and an old sediment-filled dam.

Bring water and snacks, and have sun protection. For those who want to see an additional 20 or more species of plants not found in the valley, on the return we will take a 1/2 mile round-trip up to a boulder viewpoint via a side trail that is steep and a bit rough. Hiking boots with tread and ankle support are recommended if you want to join this spur trip. Otherwise, good walking shoes will be fine for the valley part of the field trip.

We will meet on Range Park Road where it crosses Rattlesnake Creek. From I-15 northbound, drive east 6 miles on Poway Road, turn left on Espola, go 1/3 mile then right on Range Park and drive 1/4 mile and park.

From I-15 southbound, exit Camino del Norte which becomes Twin Peaks. Cross Espola and drive 1/3 mile more, then turn right on Range Park 1/4 mile. This is a residential neighborhood, so be careful not to block a driveway when you park. Questions? contact **Lee Gordon**, lee@gordons.com

If you want to enjoy plant photos Lee took in 2013, here is a link:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/102448857620437769245/RattlesnakeCanyonApril2013?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCK756I21st3cSQ&feat=directlink>



California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) at Rattlesnake Canyon, Poway. Photo by Jürgen Schrenk.

General Field Trip Information: Everyone is welcome. We use botanical terms, keys and photos to try to identify plant we don't know by sight. We'll start the trips with a short brush-up on terms that will help identify the plants we expect to find that day. Rain at your home at 7:00 a.m. will cancel a trip. Call **Kay** at **619-917-2668** if in doubt.

Planning Ahead – Field Trips in April

April 13, Sunday (but may be postponed until May): Restoring Artesian Creek, San Diego, with Arne Johanson.

April 26, Saturday: Calavera Preserve, Oceanside, with James Dillane.

April 27, Sunday: Mount Miguel in El Cajon/Jamul with John Martin.

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



March 2; 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Tecolote Nature Center on the first Sunday 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.

CONSERVATION

It's Not Just The Law...

Since I've had two versions of this discussion in the last few weeks, it's time for the column. It's about how conservation law works, and, I'm sorry to say, it isn't pretty.

A lot of us would like to think that when a law is passed, when property is acquired for conservation or preservation, that's the end of it. The land is preserved. It probably has to be managed for weeds and such, but that's it. Management isn't exactly easy, but once the land's protected, it's protected, right?

Nope.

I had to learn this the hard way, but it needs to be shared. Conservation depends on a number of factors: the law is a major factor, certainly, but so are public opinion, money, and science. Conservation's neither simple nor easy, nor do the issues ever really go away. The price of conservation is eternal vigilance, cheesy as it sounds.

Let me explain.

The law is a problem in that laws change. Every few years, someone tries to gut CEQA, NEPA, and various endangered species acts. Lawmakers periodically attempt to pass laws to avoid environmental oversight on something, often during an "emergency." The border fence was built under the emergency of 9/11, CalFIRE's Vegetation Treatment Program was created (several times) to answer the perennial emergency of wildfire, and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's 1,200 acre carbon sequestration/reforestation program is being run under an emergency CEQA exemption for 540 acres of restoration after the Cedars Fire. You can't depend on a law to keep an area safe, especially if there's an emergency on. Anything's allowable under an emergency, right?

Public opinion is an equally potent force; without enough people supporting a law, it doesn't get enforced. The Endangered Species Act is a great example of this. Every red-blooded American supports protecting Bald Eagles, our national symbol. It would be unpatriotic to let them go extinct, even in California, where our state animal is the extinct Golden Bear. But the ESA doesn't protect the majority of organisms, such as fungi and bacteria. There are a large number of rare and unusual lichens and mycorrhizal fungi, but only a handful are protected. Plants are in a gray area: charismatic trees and pretty flowers get public support, but small-flowered little annuals are a harder sell outside CNPS and similar groups.

Similarly, vandalism is a huge problem related to public opinion. Do people support fixing vandalism, or do they deliberately vandalize preserves to get them less protected? Do authorities protect preserves because they believe that action is supported by their constituents, or do they neglect preserves because the public doesn't care?

Money is another huge issue. Even if the law and public opinion support something, is there a budget for it? This is a common, if subtle, attack on many programs—defund them, or, more subtly, underfund them to the point where they can't do their jobs, then use their ineffectiveness as a reason to get rid of them entirely. The CDFW wardens have had to deal with this for years. Even if there is a budget for a program, is it enough? Restoration and weed control can realistically take up to 20 years to produce their desired outcomes, but they are rarely funded for more than three years, and I've never seen a budget to plant all the species that were on the original site. Typically a few common species are planted, and it is hoped that the rest will show up on their own.

Indeed, our chapter's rare plant survey committee was

created in part to survey rare plants where there was a need for the data, but no budget for a professional to collect it. This was particularly important during the Great Recession, but this year the agencies still have unfunded surveys they'd like our help with. For the agencies, the Great Recession isn't over yet.

Then there's the science. Sometimes the need for conservation simply outpaces the science. One reason I believe strongly in preservation is because, in too many cases, we couldn't rebuild an ecosystem after it's destroyed. In many cases, we don't even know all the species present, let alone how to reintroduce them successfully. Still, these aren't the only problems science causes.

One big problem starts when those in power cherry-pick science that supports their position and ignore the vast mountain of opposing evidence. This has been the problem with climate change and its well-funded deniers, but it plays out in local land use issues, particularly those surrounding fire and chaparral. A more subtle issue is when there is--how to put it politely?--a mismatch between the skill-set of professionals and the problems they have to solve. For example, trained foresters may be tasked with restoring grasslands. We even have to deal with this in the conservation committee, when we're asked to intervene on projects in areas we've never visited, and never given enough time to become truly expert on the projects. We all do our best.

Is this a counsel of despair? Hardly, but it is a quiet plea for your support. The disputes we deal with rarely end; the VTP has been going on since the 1990s, as has much of the development around Carmel Valley. Conflicts never end as simply as getting some land put aside for preserving a bunch of rare species, and tacking up no trespassing signs. After all, to be honest, how many of us think those no trespassing signs don't apply to us? I'm as guilty of that as anyone else, although I try (perhaps arrogantly) to cause no damage. I'd suggest the same: if you're going to ignore the signs, please leave the place as you found it.

You can also help us by understanding. Realize that even if the law is on our side, we still have to win in the court of public opinion and then keep people on our side. Understand that we have to help keep programs funded, and sometimes we have to volunteer to fill in the gaps. Take time to learn about the science, even if it seems hard or boring. Speak up and write when we ask. And finally, please help us recruit our successors. The price of conservation is eternal vigilance, after all, and none of us is getting any younger.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Chair

BOTANY

A Not So New Onion in San Diego County

Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvinii*) is included in the CNPS Inventory of Rare Plants with a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B.1. Until a year ago, had you looked at the California Consortium of Herbaria, Yucaipa onion was confined to the Banning Pass region, just as you would expect it to be based on all we knew about the onion. However, if you pull up the Consortium today, you will see a fair number of localities scattered across interior San Diego County.

In the new Jepson Manual you will find that Yucaipa onion shares a key branch with red-skinned onion (*Allium haematochiton*). Both have more than two leaves per stem and oblong or oblong-ovoid bulbs that cluster on a stout rhizome. The two onions look pretty much identical from any distance and you cannot separate them unless you look closely at the ovary crests.

How is it that we suddenly ended up with so many records of this presumed Banning Pass endemic species? A bigger question might be what does this mean for the relationship of the scarce Yucaipa onion and widespread red-skinned onion? To know why that is important, it is best to know something of this onion's history.

Yucaipa onion is not in the first edition of the Jepson Manual and it is mentioned only as a synonym in Munz's 1974 *Flora of Southern California*. It was described by Anstruther Davidson in 1921 based on a collection made by J.C. Marvin in April 1921 (J.C. Marvin 3408), which was described as "abundant on a hill east of Beaumont". Davidson said of Yucaipa onion, "This plant has the habit and general appearance of *A. haematochiton* but lacks the numerous blood-red bulb coats of that species. The capsule is markedly different in the two species."

A couple of years later, in 1923, Davidson published his *Flora of Southern California* in association with George Moxley, the first true flora devoted to southern California. *Allium marvinii* is included in the work and it is described as being found in "Mountains east of Banning." LeRoy Abram's *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*, volume 1, was published this same year. Alas, there was no mention of *A. marvinii* in his greatly acclaimed and widely used work. Abrams either did not know of *A. marvinii* or did not feel it was worthy of recognition. Philip Munz at least knew of the name. In his 1935 Manual of Southern California Botany, he lists

Yucaipa onion only in synonymy under red-skinned onion without comment. After that, the whole concept pretty much faded from sight as it became a forgotten and unlooked for name.

Seventy years after Davidson included Yucaipa onion in his flora, in the spring of 1993, Andy Sanders curator of the herbarium at U.C. Riverside, examined some unusual onions from Wildwood Canyon in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. These onions were superficially similar to red-skinned onion by lacked the blood-red skin of typical red-skinned onion and had prominent, raise and even pointed ovary crest as compared to the relatively low crests typically found on red-skinned onion. It did not take Andy long to become aware of Davidson's paper. The road back to recognition for this species took about a decade.

Yucaipa onion was considered a rare plant. While there were a number of collections for the vicinity of the Banning Pass on either side of the Riverside/San Bernardino County line, there were only a few places where the plant was still extant. By 2001 Andy had convinced a number of botanists, including Dale McNeal, that Davidson was correct in that Yucaipa onion was a species by its own right. However, all known localities remained clustered in the vicinity of Banning. It was added to the CNPS inventory this year.

I had my first opportunity to look at Yucaipa onion in May 2005. As it happened, a week and a half later, I was near Elsinore Peak, Santa Ana Mtns., when I stumbled upon onions that looked very much like the plants I had seen above Wildwood Canyon. I also found similar onions along Lyons Valley Road in San Diego County. Perhaps Yucaipa onion was not endemic to the Banning Pass region after all.

We were not aware until years later that in 2005, Dale McNeal, the Jepson 2 author on onions, had confirmed at least one Santa Ana Mtn. collection as Yucaipa onion, extending its range into the Peninsular Ranges.

Last fall, while Jon Rebman and Michael Simpson were in the process of revising and updating the *San Diego County Checklist of Vascular Plants*, I came across my June 2011 Lawson Peak onion collection. When I found these onions, I had made note of the Yucaipa onion characters and collected a specimen. It seemed that Jon Rebman should be aware that Yucaipa onion could be an element of the county flora for the new checklist. Throwing caution to the wind, I labeled the collection *Allium marvinii* and asked Jon to confirm the identification. He did. And being Jon Rebman, he went a bit farther. He started reviewing other collections already in the herbarium. Jon found nearly 20 specimens that appeared to fit Yucaipa onion in San

Diego County and even annotated a few from Riverside County. Once again, this reminds us of the value of voucher specimens over merely noting a presence.



Yucaipa onion, with inset photo of ovary crests.

Of course, this does make life more complicated for botanists and conservationists. Before, we generally could identify red-skinned onion at a glance. Now it is a good idea to take a close look at the ovary crests. If you are away from the coast, especially in the foothills and interior valleys inland of the I-15, it could be Yucaipa onion. Some of the places it has been reported include Hellhole Canyon, the hills north of Warner Spring, Witch Creek, El Cajon Mtn., Cedar Creek, Cuyamaca, Lyons Valley Road and Lawson Peak, Corte Madera, Morena Reservoir, and Kitchen Creek Road.

Questions still linger. If Yucaipa onion is as widespread as it seems to be, what is its real relationship with red-skinned onion? Is the form of the ovary crest real (obvious and raised in Yucaipa, low and rounded in red-skinned) or does this feature form a continuum. If both are widespread in the interior, what ecological factor separates the two species? Or is Yucaipa onion more appropriately treated as a subspecies? Are there features we missed beyond the ovary crest form that separate these two taxa? In 1921, Davidson stated that the capsule "is markedly different in the two species". McNeal sheds no light on this and few specimens have capsules to compare. It is quite remarkable when you consider these plants that no one apparently has been looking at the capsules over the last 20-years and even the experts have not determined what the "marked difference" is (it would have been nice if Davidson had actually described it in the paper). Here is the chance for the citizen scientist to make a splash. Go find some good red-skinned onion and some good Yucaipa onion and late in the season, compare the fruits. If we are lucky, they will be quite different just as Davidson's suggested.

Not all botanists are comfortable with Yucaipa onion having an expanded range. Over the next several years, some of these questions will be answered. I suspect that

when the smoke clears, Yucaipa onion will be a permanent resident of San Diego County.

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist

NATIVE GARDENING

SEEN THIS NOTICE BEFORE...**Old Town Native Landscape Work Party**...BUT HAVEN'T MADE IT? Why not come to help this time? Saturday, **March 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

A dedicated corps of CNPS SD members has supported the development of this educational native landscape since 2006. It is located at the gateway to Old Town State Park where tens of thousands of visitors arrive by train, bus, and trolley - many from other nations or states - plus San Diegans coming for a good meal and a fun walk through the park to hear the music and see the museums - and our landscape.

Help CNPS introduce thousands to native plants by helping other volunteers tend the landscape. You will be appreciated and welcomed, and see the results of your work. Wear sun protection and bring bottled water, bring garden gloves and your favorite tools if you want, or share ours. If you come by MTS, cross at Congress and Taylor and enter by the adobe sign welcoming all to Old Town. If you drive, park for free in the shady lot across Taylor Street in the CalTrans lot. Questions? Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden

March 1 & 16, 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



Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) fruit with Harlequin Cabbage Bug, an insect specific for this host. In San Diego County, the bladderpod is native along the coast and in the desert. Photo taken at Otay Valley Regional Park by Jürgen Schrenk.

INVASIVE PLANTS

WHY DO YOU LOVE NATURE?

Working for hours on a hillside provides much time for contemplation. Recently I was asked what I love most about nature? Certainly the services, such as, clean air and water are very important. As are the beauty and serenity of a natural space. There is the feeling of the sun and wind. Then there is the adventure and excitement of new discovery. There is also personal satisfaction that comes from giving nature a helping hand. Is there one thing that stands out above the rest?

For me it is simply being in a place full of life. A place with insects flitting, crawling, flying and buzzing about diverse stands of plants. A place with lizards and birds hunting the bugs. A place where other animals feed on the plants and others, in turn, rely on them in endless cycles. But most of all, a place where children explore - discovering things new to them while also discovering themselves and their place in it.

If you have an interest in open spaces, come and visit our special places. Maybe you will want to get involved and sense the satisfaction that comes with bringing places back to life. And if you're lucky, you too may spot some of those young explorers. Contact: invasiveplants@cnpsd.org or call 858-759-4769.

Arne Johanson, Exotic Plants Chair

RELATED ACTIVITIES

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve

Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Educational Nature Walk. Meet at the North Rios Trailhead, Solana Beach (directions in next column).

Blue-eyed grass, lupine and California sunflower begin to splash the hillsides with color. This is San Elijo Lagoon's south side, featuring riparian woodlands and coastal sage scrub, with intimate views of the salt marsh.

Directions:

- I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe exit
- West on Lomas Santa Fe
- Right on N. Rios Avenue
- Drive to end of N. Rios Avenue and park along the street.

For more details about walks and activities at San Elijo Lagoon, visit <http://sanelijo.org>.



Blue-eyed grass
(*Sisyrinchium bellum*)



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@cnpsd.org.

CNPS-SD Calendar for March 2014

- 3/1: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.8
- 3/2: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p.2
- 3/5: **Board Meeting**, p. 2
- 3/8: **Spring Plant Sale** at Tree of Life Nursery p.3
- 3/8: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.8
- 3/9: Field trip to South Crest Preserve, p.4
- 3/16: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.8
- 3/18: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1
- 3/22: Field trip to Otay Mountain, p.4
- 3/29-30: **Garden Native Tour**, p.3
- Planning Ahead:
- 4/5: Field trip to Rattlesnake Canyon, Poway, p.5
- 4/13: Field trip to Artesian Creek (tentative)
- 4/26: Field trip to Calavera Preserve, O'side
- 4/27: Field trip to Mount Miguel, South County

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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March 2014 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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