



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

**Tuesday, January 19
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park 7:00 p.m.**

How Do We Use Native Plants In Our Gardens and Developed Spaces to Conserve Habitat, Water, Resources, and Money Sustainably?

By Wayne Tyson

Are we operating by Nature's rules? What are those rules? Do we know? How do we keep from violating them? Wayne Tyson will rely on his relevant experiences over the last 60+ years (including farming, ranching, hiking/hunting/fishing, gardening, landscaping, forestry, travel, park planning/design/management, and consulting in ecosystem restoration) in an attempt to merge these and other conceptual frameworks in a critical review of basic principles and elements of doing ecosystem restoration (including his own past practices and some mistakes!). This presentation will examine some ways to reconcile the needs and works of humankind with those of the earth and its life, and the role of native plants in that pursuit. Audience interaction is strongly encouraged!

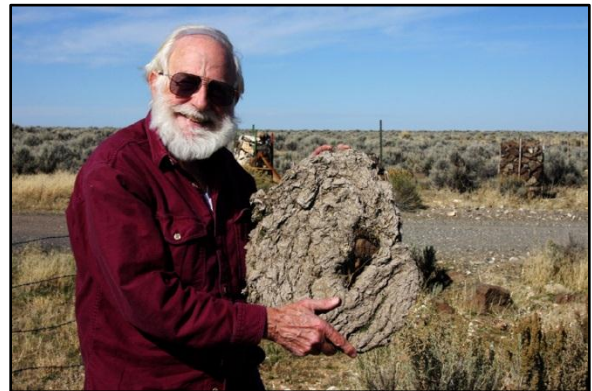
7:00 p.m. – refreshments, browsing, & socializing.

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Wayne Tyson worked for the City of San Diego for over 11 years and then operated a consulting business in ecosystem restoration for 21 years before "retiring." Previous jobs have included dry-farmer/rancher,

slaughterhouse worker, tree "surgeon," nursery worker, landscape architecture draftsman/designer, forester, and parks construction inspector/manager/planner. He now spends most of his time in the backcountry of the western U.S.



Wayne Tyson

Save the Date!
2016
Garden Native Tour
April 2nd & 3rd



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY www.gardennative.org

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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

enewsletter@cnpssd.org

If your email address has changed from what we have on record, please let us know.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Alicia Clarke

Cameron Newell

Deborah Kronenbitter

Kyla Roessler

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Happy New Year to everyone! The first weekend in December, 2015, I attended the state CNPS Board Meeting and the Chapter Council meeting in San Carlos. I feel it is important to impart the information from these meetings to our chapter, so here are some of the highlights and interesting tidbits.

Finances: CNPS finances are good even though membership costs have not increased. Membership is increasing and CNPS is bringing in more funds with grants, donations, bequests, and contract work.

Publications: The State CNPS is not planning to go paperless for the state Bulletin or for the Fremontia, but they may decide to give the membership the option of receiving the Bulletin digitally. CNPS has four new publications: A Flora of the Lava Beds National Monument, Rock Creek Wildflowers, The Plants of Monterey County (second edition), and A Field Guide to Manzanitas. California's Botanical Landscapes will be out soon. See the description at <http://store.cnps.org/products/californias-botanical-landscapes> .

CNPS will not merge with Calflora: The State CNPS and Calflora considered merging datasets but the data sets for the two organizations are just too different.

Phytophthora Policy: The CNPS Chapter Council unanimously adopted a policy on actions to reduce the threat of Phytophthora infestations and other harmful pathogens in native plant nursery stock. The policy was prepared at the request of the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter, and they have agreed to participate on the Ad Hoc Committee established to develop this policy. Phytophthora species and other plant pathogens present significant threats to native plants and their habitats. This policy will help guide CNPS actions and allocate its resources to minimize this threat. CNPS has not released the final wording of the policy, but that should be available shortly.

Botanist Certification: CNPS is moving ahead with a certification process for botanists to improve the quality of field botanists. The certification would be good for 5 years. Botanists must pass a test to be certified and must complete continued education to get it renewed at the end of 5 years. The initial cost would be \$300-\$400, then \$95 per year to keep up the certification. The certification program should be self-funded.

Botanists could be tested for two levels of certification. Level 1 would be for a Field Botanist and Level 2 would be for a Consulting Botanist. The tests would be in SoCal and in Northern California. CNPS would have a Board of Certification and would need a Code of Ethics and a Professional Ethics Committee. CNPS is considering following the program of the International Society of Horticulture.

There was some discussion that botanists should not sign confidentiality contracts with developers because the locations of rare plants are not "trade secrets", and nothing disclosed under CEQA is a trade secret. Plant locations are not trade secrets and should be shared with botanical data bases and other botanists so the species can be accurately categorized as rare or not.

CNPS Received Bad Press in Harper's Magazine: Harper's Magazine published an article about a presentation at our CNPS Conservation Conference in San Jose in January 2015 (see <http://harpers.org/archive/2015/09/weed-whackers/>). CNPS Executive Director, Dan Gluesenkamp, worked to get a response to the article published. See <http://harpers.org/archive/2015/12/letters-840/>.

2018 CNPS Conference may be in Sacramento. If you have any ideas for the conference, let Dan Gluesenkamp (dgluesenkamp@cnps.org) or Becky Reilly (breilly@cnps.org) know.

Strategic Plan: The Chapter Council discussed, edited and approved the goals and strategies for the CNPS Strategic Plan. The next steps will be that CNPS staff and the executive director propose the action items. Proposed actions can be submitted to the Strategic Plan committee by the Chapter Council. Staff will prepare the action items and the Chapter Council will be able to review and make comments.

I'll continue to keep you informed about issues at the state level. If you have any questions, please let me know.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter President

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 6:30 – 9:00 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 Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email president@cnpssd.org.

December Board Meeting Report

Your CNPSSD Board met on December 2, 2015. The Board focused on a review of the Fall Plant Sale results, planning for the 2016 Garden Native Tour, a possible new Spring Plant Sale, design changes for the newsletter, and bringing new Board members up to speed.

Treasurer **Connie di Girolamo** reported that the Fall Plant Sale sold approx. 4,000 plants, generating more than \$25,000 in income. After expenses, the Plant Sale contribution to the Chapter will be more than \$12,000.

For info regarding the Garden Native Tour discussion, see page 5. Chapter President and Newsletter Editor **Bobbie Stephenson** discussed some design changes for the newsletter, including an updated banner and distinctive name (The San Diego Native Plant Press). The Board approved funding a well-known local artist to assist in developing a new banner for the newsletter. The Board identified the need to bring the incoming Board members up to speed by preparing background documents and perhaps a special session of “training.”

~ Mike Evans, Board Secretary

CNPS FIELD TRIPS FOR 2016

Enjoy Nature’s Gardens!

Look for a lot more 2-3-hour field trips close to the urb’s and burb’s, plus bonus longer ones ‘way out in the backcountry! We’re inviting teachers, a writer, artist, photographer, or mapper, to come along on different field trips to teach some of their skills as different ways to appreciate the flora. We’ll emphasize some big-picture knowledge - the plant communities we see, and their environmental setting. We’ll talk about the conservation programs that help preserve each place we visit. We’ll help attendees to learn at least three dominant plants – small, medium, and large – for each habitat, and will also seek out the rare, endangered, or extraordinary plants, instead of trying

to bag as many plant ID’s as possible on any given trip. Though, because that is fun too in its own way, we will have a few species-bagging field trips! Here is an announcement for the first one:

FIELD TRIP

UCSD’s Kendall Frost Preserve

January 30, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – Noon: Estuarine plants and wildlife at UCSD’s Kendall Frost Preserve. Hosts: Preserve manager, Isabelle Kay, and other staff. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Preserve Center, corner of Crown Point Dr. and Pacific Beach Dr., Mission Bay.

This protected area of what was once a huge estuary is part of the UCSD Preserve system. The center is hosting an open house to showcase how the center’s research program aids coastal estuary conservation in San Diego County. Throughout the day, different speakers will describe the center’s environmental studies. Walks through the estuary will be led by knowledgeable specialists who can describe the interaction of tides, seasons, fresh and salt water, in the dynamics of the lives of submerged and emergent plants and the animal life that relies on this very productive ecosystem.

Wear comfortable shoes that might get wet & sun protection, & bring water, binocs. **Very easy walk.**

Here is a rough schedule for fieldtrips for the rest of the year. **The first and third Saturday trips will run 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sunday trips will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

- Sat/**Feb 6**, Gonzales Canyon near Torrey Pines H.S.
- Sat/**Feb 20**, Calavera Preserve, Oceanside.
- Sun/**Feb 28**, Glorieta or Plum Canyon in Anza Borrego Desert State Park.
- Sat/**Mar 5**, little Black Mountain, R. Penasquitos.
- Sat-Sun campout/**Mar 12-13**, Anza Borrego SP, Coyote Canyon and ?
- Sat/**Mar 19**, S.D. National Wildlife Preserve, El Cajon.
- Sun/**Apr 10**, Lucky 5 link between Anza-Borrego SP and Cuyamaca R. State Park.
- Sat/**Apr 16**, Tour de Plants Bicycling, location TBA.
- Sat/**Apr 16**, Mission Trails West, Tierra Santa.
- Sun/**Apr 24**, Elfin Forest, Harmony Grove, Escondido/San Marcos.
- Sat/**May 7**, Crestridge Ecological Preserve, El Cajon/Blossom Valley.
- Sun/**May 15**, Sycamore Canyon, Santee.
- Sun/**May 21**, Viejas Peak, Alpine and Viejas I.R.
- Sun/**Jun 5**, Cuyamaca R. SP reforestation revisited.

- Sun/Jun 19, Cedar Creek Recommended Wilderness, Three Sisters Falls.

Any questions? Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org.



Members on a field trip.

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



January 3; 8 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. 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.

NATIVE GARDENING

Native Gardening Committee

January 13. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month.
Info: Mike Gonzales at gardening@cnpsd.org.

Final Sunset Cliffs Native Garden Planting Event

Saturday and Sunday, January 23 – 24, 2016. Our November planting event was kinda crazy. Walk for the Cure folks streaming by to a continual chorus of shrill cheers, topsoil delivery an hour and a half late, valiant ingenuity to cut a chain since *somebody* (the Author) forgot the combination, working until sunset... most of you missed it. I'm pretty sure I'm correct in that statement, dear Reader, because no CNPS members besides a few stalwarts have joined us at any of these events. You have one last chance to rectify that at our final planting event on January 23 & 24.

Saturday will be devoted to site preparation -- breaking up the compacted dirt, and mixing in the topsoil, spreading the mulch. We will be going at it from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but we are only looking for volunteers to come by for a couple of hours. Sunday will be the fun stuff -- planting and watering -- and how much we are able to do will be based on the success of our work on Saturday.

This is a City of San Diego volunteer event, and they would like you to wear closed-toed shoes or boots, long pants, a hat, and sun protection. We'll provide snacks and refreshments.

CNPS members are welcome to just swing by and join in, but it would help us plan the event if you let us know when you intend to come. To do so, go to SunsetCliffsGarden.org and hit the "Participate" and "Volunteer" links. In the comment section, just say when you'll be coming.

Our garden is located west of the intersection of Adair St. and (1250) Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Last chance to share in the glory!

~ Dave Flietner, Sunset Native Garden Coord.

Old Town Native Plant Landscape Partners in Grime

Saturday, January 9: Work Party - 1 to 3 p.m.

What Germinated in December in the Old Town Native Plant Landscape? Partners in Grime will see what plants came up in December. Then we will grub the bad and nurture the good. The good ones are plants that were here when Europeans arrived. The bad ones are the others!

The Native Plant Landscape is at the west end of Old Town State Historic Park, across from the train/trolley/bus depot at Congress and Taylor. Enter the CalTrans lot at Taylor and Juan and park for free. Bring sun protection water, gloves, and tools, or share ours. **Questions?** Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org.

GARDEN NATIVE TOUR

Since Hei-och Kim is not available to coordinate the Garden Native Tour this year and after much discussion at the December Board meeting, the Board unanimously agreed to employ previous Chapter President **Dave Flietner** to organize and direct the 2016 Garden Native Tour. Hei-och was employed by CNPS (state) and the Board chose to hire Dave because the short time

remaining before the tour and the substantial amount of work for the director and the many volunteers of the Garden Committee will require almost full time work until the tour is over. As part of preparing for the Garden Native tour, Dave has solicited some short garden stories from people whose gardens will be open for the tour. Here is the first one:

Garden Tales - Stories from the Garden Native 2016 Tour

As a Los Angeles native, I was made aware of the limited rainfall that we naturally experience, and with the iterative changes to our own household landscape as I grew up I also was exposed to the concept of using drought-tolerant plants. When I moved to Arizona while I was in high school, however, I started to pay attention to how different life was in the desert (the REAL desert), and appreciated the plants that lived in that tough environment. This reinforced my decision to become a biologist.

I moved to San Diego for graduate school and have been here ever since, and native gardening first came onto my radar when listening to the radio in the laboratory. There was a program with a local expert highlighting benefits of native plants in the garden: drought tolerance, edibles, habitat, and sense of place. I was left with two thoughts, "Of course! Why isn't EVERYONE doing this?" and "If I ever own a house with a yard, there is no question what I will do with the landscape."

My first opportunity came when we were able to purchase the home we were renting in 2010. As soon as we found making the leap from renters to buyers was feasible, I began to absorb as much information as I could find about the variety of species available and their specific ecology, as well as how to incorporate them into a garden setting. The first trip to a nursery to find some natives was followed shortly after the closing of escrow, and I have never looked back.

In tribute to my profession as a biologist, landscaping with natives is my own joyful experiment. Each new specimen is an opportunity to learn about its specific native ecology, what conditions in the garden it tolerates, its growth habit, and its response to the seasons. I have also become an avid collector of seeds from the garden and dabble in propagation. What has delighted me most is how through the garden I have also learned more about local wildlife, because they came to me! Despite growing up in southern California, it was not until I put in natives that I saw my first lizard in the garden! I lament the days when I am not

afforded the time to linger in the garden and spot that insect I haven't seen before or to catch the first signs of new growth. I invite you to come and linger with me.

~ Steve Miller

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

Jan. 5. First Tuesday evening of each month. Contact Frank Landis at raresurvey@cnpsd.org for the location.

The Newhall Ranch Ruling

Yay, we won one!

CNPS (through David Magney of the Channel Islands Chapter) was a co-plaintiff in *Center for Biological Diversity et al. vs. California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Newhall Land and Farming Company*, which I'm going to call the Newhall Ranch ruling. The case started in 2011; we lost the appellate appeal, but won in California superior court. Thanks to David, CBD, and their co-plaintiffs (including Coastkeeper) for fighting the long fight.

The Newhall Ranch project has been around for a *long* time, it's been through the courts before, and this ruling didn't kill it. The idea behind the project is to turn Newhall Ranch, which is currently a land of cattle and oil wells, into a 58,000-odd person new city along the Santa Clara River on the northwestern edge of Los Angeles County (west of I-5, north of the I-5/Hwy 14 split, south of Castaic Lake, and west of Santa Clarita, if that helps you locate it).

The reason I care about it is that, aside from a hard-fought victory that needs to be celebrated, the court ruled that the Newhall Ranch EIR screwed up in their treatment of greenhouse gas impacts. That caught environmentalists' attention all over the state.

I'm going to get into the details in this essay. The Newhall Ranch ruling will also come into play with new developments in San Diego, including leapfrog sprawl as at Lilac Hills Ranch. So, with the ritual invocation of "I am Not a Lawyer, this is my personal opinion and not the official opinion of CNPS or CNPSSD, consult your own attorney before attempting to use the Newhall Ranch Decision in a court of law," let's begin. These invocations get longer every year, don't they?

All EIRs now have to analyze the impacts of a project on greenhouse gas emission. According to the 2010 Newhall Ranch EIR (these things grind through courts really slowly), Newhall Ranch presently produces an

estimated 10,272 tonnes of CO₂ and equivalents per year (hereafter GHG for greenhouse gases). When fully developed, it would produce 269,053 tonnes of GHG. Given that our state is trying to cut overall greenhouse gas production to 1990 levels by 2020, this looks like a huge impact.

However, the EIR said that the impact was not significant, and this is what the court struck down. The EIR's (invalid) argument went as follows:

- Greenhouse gases are a global pollutant, not a local pollutant. Individual projects have negligible greenhouse gas impacts on their local environment, but cumulatively, all projects have a tremendous impact on California. Therefore, we have to analyze greenhouse gas impacts as cumulative impacts, not local impacts. Their location doesn't matter.
- Growth is going happen, so if it doesn't happen in one place (like Newhall Ranch), it will happen somewhere else (perhaps Lilac Hills Ranch?). This also suggests that location plays no part in determining whether greenhouse gas emissions are significantly impactful (gag) under CEQA.
- Under A.B. 32, which set the greenhouse gas limits, the Air Board created a Scoping Plan with a "business-as-usual" projection that predicted how much GHG would be produced if there were no controls. They then calculated how much GHG were produced in 1990, which is the level they wanted to reduce to by 2020. It turns out that the 1990 number was 29% less than would be produced in 2020 under their "business-as-usual" projection, so they made it the state goal to decrease GHG emissions cumulatively by 30% by 2020 to fulfill the requirements of A.B. 32.
- The Newhall Ranch EIR appropriated the "business-as-usual" model to project how much GHG could be produced by their project under "business-as-usual" assumptions. They calculated this would be 390,046 tonnes of GHG, 31% more than the 269,053 tonnes of GHG they already estimated would be produced. Therefore, they said, they met A.B. 32 goals and the project was not a significant producer of greenhouse gases.

If you're choking on this logic, because it's hard to say with a straight face that you're decreasing GHG emissions when you're increasing them on a parcel by over 2,619%, well, the court agreed that the argument was bogus. However, they had a different set of reasons than you might expect.

According to the Court, A.B. 32 assumes that growth

will continue, and that California will meet its GHG reduction goals through conservation and efficiency, so the argument in the EIR is not necessarily wrong. What the court said was that it was not necessarily right either. According to the Court, "the EIR's deficiency stems from taking a quantitative comparison method developed by the Scoping Plan as a measure of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction effort required by the state as a whole, and attempting to use that method, without consideration of any changes or adjustments, for a purpose very different from its original design: To measure the efficiency and conservation measures incorporated in a specific land use development proposed for a specific location."

Instead, the Court agreed with our side "that the percent reduction is *not* the same, and that in fact a greater degree of reduction may be needed from new land use projects than from the economy as a whole: Designing new buildings and infrastructure for maximum energy efficiency and renewable energy use is likely to be easier, and is more likely to occur, than achieving the same savings by retrofitting of older structures and systems," something the California Attorney General had concluded in a comment on the EIR.

Additionally, the Court pointed out that location does matter, because the way the statewide Scoping Plan models population density and transportation GHG emissions is different than what would occur at Newhall Ranch, which would be denser than the model and (possibly) present a longer commute in heavier traffic.

As you can see, this doesn't kill the Newhall Ranch project. It merely says that they have to redo their GHG impacts section.

The court suggests three possible ways they might deal with their GHG problem:

- Rejiggering their business-as-usual model approach and trying it again. "On an examination of the data behind the Scoping Plan's business-as-usual model, a lead agency might be able to determine what level of reduction from business as usual a new land use development at the proposed location must contribute in order to comply with statewide goals." If they can meet that local level, they have no significant impacts.
- "Second, a lead agency might assess consistency with A.B. 32's goal in whole or part by looking to compliance with regulatory programs designed to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions from particular activities." The court puts the burden of compliance on local governmental agencies and the programs they create. These include documents like "a general plan, a long range development plan, or a separate plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." If these are "sufficiently detailed and adequately supported," they may be "used in later project-specific CEQA documents to simplify the evaluation of the project's cumulative contribution to the effects of greenhouse gas emissions." These documents could also include climate action plans, greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans, sustainable communities strategies, and the like.

- "Third, a lead agency may rely on existing numerical thresholds of significance for greenhouse gas emissions," although no unchallenged thresholds exist or are required in any California jurisdiction.

And, as the court points out, if all else fails, the lead agency can issue a Statement of Overriding Considerations and approve the project anyway.

We in the environmental community are going to be running with the Newhall Ranch decision, but it does mean more work. I've largely ignored climate action plans because they say little or nothing about native plants. Since they just became that much more important to local development, I'm going to have to pay a lot more attention to them.

So far as Lilac Hills Ranch and its sprawling siblings go, this ruling says that sprawl has more impacts than does close-in development, so such developments are going to have to be more stringent about reducing their emissions to meet state standards. Or they'll have to get a statement of overriding considerations from the Board of Supervisors, which might be easier, if more litigation-prone.

This ruling in general is bad news for commuter communities. Since some 40% of GHG emissions come from vehicles, a community with no plan for public transportation and few local jobs is going to have to come up with other ways to make new developments more efficient. Or not approve them at all.

Finally, left untouched is the shibboleth of inevitable suburban growth and inevitable GHG emission increases. We environmentalists are going to have to come up with a suitable, pithy retort to the idea that growth is going to happen, regardless of where it happens, to prevail over this particular meme. Any ideas?

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botany Society

January 11, 10 a.m., Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center, 200 Palm Canyon Drive 92004. Plant ecologist Kate Barrows will describe how to introduce native plants into the garden for people bedeviled by an extended drought and eager to conserve water. The public is invited; Free.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden

January 2 & 17, 9 – noon. Work Party. Usually 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month. Contact: Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

WILDFLOWER HOTLINES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: (760) 767-4684.

Info, events, road conditions, etc.: (760) 767-5311 or www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park:

<http://www.abdnha.org/pages/03flora/reports/current.htm>. You can add your observations at this website.

<http://theodorepayne.org/education/wildflower-hotline/>

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally 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, October 10 for the November newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar January 2016

- 1/3: Tecolote Cyn field trip, p. 4
- 1/5: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.5
- 1/6: **Board Meeting**, p.3
- 1/9: Old Town Native Landscape, p.5
- 1/13: Gardening Committee Mtg, p. 4
- 1/19: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1
- 1/23 & 24 Sunset Cliffs Planting, p. 4
- 1/30: **Field Trip** – Kendall Frost Preserve, p.3

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500
Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter
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San Diego, CA 92112-1390

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January 2016 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO
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