

## A conservation puzzle: Members invited to hunt for San Diego thornmint

By Jonathan Snapp-Cook and Jessie Vinje

In just a few short weeks the pink and white blooms of San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) will emerge from its green thorny foliage. When surveying for this small annual you might feel the crunch of the crumbly clay soils or smell its wintergreen-like scent before seeing the plants. San Diego thornmint is limited in distribution to San Diego County and northwestern Baja California. The species is only found on gently sloping clay lens habitat. Jonathan Snapp-Cook will provide a virtual tour of some of the locations where this species is found and present the findings of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 5-year Review for San Diego thornmint. Jessie Vinje will provide a first hand account of her work managing San Diego thornmint on three North County preserves. Jonathan also hopes to lure in volunteers to our spring search for thornmint with tales of populations of greater than 30,000 beautiful plants and unique clay lens habitats scarcely the size of a kitchen table. If you already know that you want to volunteer for our chapter's spring surveys for San Diego thornmint please contact Frank Landis at [franklandis03@yahoo.com](mailto:franklandis03@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday March 16, 2010**  
**San Diego, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104**  
**7:00 PM**

For a Balboa Park map see [www.balboapark.org/nav.html](http://www.balboapark.org/nav.html)  
[www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org) - [info@cnpssd.org](mailto:info@cnpssd.org)

*Join CNPS and receive a free gift! This offer is open to new members only, and you must join and pay at the general meeting. CNPS members who recruit a new member will also receive a free gift. Membership forms will be available at the meeting, or you can download one from our website.*

### **About CNPS-San Diego Monthly Programs;**

Chapter meetings are open to the public; there is no charge  
Our programs are the 3rd Tuesday of the month, excluding August and December.

7:00-7:30 PM is a time for discussion, camaraderie, and visiting the book sales table. The program starts at 7:30 PM. Come early and browse our books. Stay after the program for conversation and refreshments.

We meet in Balboa Park, in the Casa del Prado, Room 101 or Room 104, which can be reached by car from Village Place off of Park Boulevard (served by the #7 bus). The Casa del Prado is immediately west of the Natural History Museum. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

**7-7:30 pm: Mystery plants identified! Bring your unknown plant and we will help you learn to identify it**

## **Biography**

Jonathan Snapp-Cook is a botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Carlsbad. He is interested in hard to find endemics and vernal pool flora and fauna.

Jessie Vinje is a preserve manager and botanist with the Center for Natural Lands Management. She manages preserves in Carlsbad and Encinitas.