



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, February 21

**Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park**

***The California NativeScape Garden –
Past, Present and Future***
By Judy LaVine

A small garden group, the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, was created in 1981. Ten years later, the Club entered into an agreement with the Wild Animal Park (now known as the San Diego Zoo Safari Park) to create a native garden there. Over the years, five acres of undeveloped land in the northeast corner of the Park have been transformed into a series of unique native habitat gardens (“nativescapes”) show-casing all plants endemic to San Diego County. There are nine native plant communities represented: from low Desert to riparian to montane. The California Nativescape Garden has been described by Sunset Magazine as “the most convincing wild thing” in the Park. The Club’s highly-committed volunteer effort to implement, maintain and nurture the California Nativescape Garden has withstood over 25 years of changes in Club membership and administrative changes at the Park. Judy is proud to share the Club’s story and give some insight into the next 25 years!

Judy LaVine is retired after 26 years in manufacturing. After earning a BA in Chemical Engineering (a proud Michigan Wolverine) and a MA in Finance (UC Berkeley), she found employment with Raychem Corporation, a high-tech polymer manufacturing company in the San Francisco Bay Area, at which she held positions in Manufacturing Engineering, Logistics, Customer Service, Product and Project Management. Upon retiring to San Diego County in 2007, Judy joined

the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club to learn more about gardening with native plants.



Other hobbies include running, modern quilting, being Grandmother to three adorable grandkids, and creating her own native and drought-tolerant garden on 2 ½ acres at her home.

6:30-7:00 p.m. Natives for Novices. Caring for your Open Space. Arne Johanson will enlighten us regarding weeds and weeding in our canyons and open space - and revegetating or not.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

FIELD TRIP

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve with the San Diego Canyoneers. (Vernal Pool or South Trailhead)

Saturday, February 11, 7:45 a.m.

View the only known examples of Southern Basalt Flow Vernal Pools and then continue on to visit two historic adobes, circa 1857. Learn about the plateau’s unique topography, geology, and habitats. This is an intermediate 5 mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of up to 500 feet.

Some species we may discover include Spreading Navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), Santa Rosa Basalt Brodiaea (*Brodiaea santarosae*), and Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria biflora*).

Fritillaria biflora. Photo by B. Stephenson.



NOTE: The Canyoneers will conduct the hike; we are following their lead and guides. They have invited us to chime in with any knowledge we bring of plants and natural areas.

Directions: (Riverside County, Murrieta) From I-15 N, turn left on Clinton Keith Rd. and go 5.2 miles to Tenaja Rd. Continue 1.7 miles onto Via Volcano. The parking

lot is 0.8 mile on the left. Pay the park's day use fee: \$4 adults, \$3 children. Facilities are available. (GPS N33.509703, W117.294419)

Ride sharing: If you want to ride-share from coastal central San Diego, meet at 6:15 a.m. at the parking lot behind Denny's Restaurant, 7676 Friar's Road, just east of SR 163. Enter the parking lot from cross street Frazee Road. We'll leave from there at 6:30 a.m. Please offer whoever's driving several dollars for transportation costs.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 1, 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@cnpsd.org.

GRANT RECEIVED

CNPS-SD and Cabrillo National Monument Visitors Center received a \$5,000 community grant award from the American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego Chapter (ASLA SD) to help restore and enhance native habitat. Established in 1997, the grant is awarded to deserving community groups pursuing cultural, aesthetic, and educational enhancement of

their local environment.



From left: Nate Magnusson, ASLA SD 2017 president; Jennifer Webster, ASLA SD V.P. of Community Outreach; **Michael Gonzales**, CNPS-SD, for the Cabrillo National Monument Headquarters Native Landscape Project; Rich Risner, American Society of Landscape Architects, SD past president 2016; **Greg Rubin**, California's Own Native Landscape Design Inc and CNPS-SD.

With Greg Rubin's guidance, and documents and planning by local landscape architects, the Cabrillo National Monument project will restore or enhance native habitat at 15 outdoor areas in the vicinity of the Visitor's Center complex. Of 5,990 square feet in total area, the project will completely restore 4,392 square feet of disturbed areas, and enhance 1,598 square feet of landscaped areas by introducing native plants conducive with the existing ornamental species to remain in these areas. The purpose of the project is to provide native habitat that is both sustainable and educational, which fulfills simultaneous objectives of the U.S. National Park Service.

This project is a collaboration between the Cabrillo National Monument staff and CNPS-SD's Garden Native volunteers. Garden Native includes certified landscape architects who will create working construction-level drawings of the native habitat restoration and enhancement areas, including planting plans and specifications. The physical work to implement the project will be performed by a combination of Cabrillo National Monument workers/contractors and CNPS-SD volunteers.

The ASLA mission is to lead, educate, and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of the natural environment, which is in line with the CNPS mission to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. The Community Grant is intended to enhance and to educate the community on landscape architecture, environmental issues and the value of Landscape

Architecture and the use of licensed Landscape Architects. Each year the grant is supported by the proceeds of the Annual ASLA/Community Grant Golf Tournament.

~ Mike Gonzales, Garden Native

Welcome New Members!

Casey Bogan
James Gordon
Anneli Kyner

Julia Roberts
James Thiede

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

February 7. First Tuesday evening of each month. Contact Frank Landis at conservation@cnpssd.org for location.

So the County got sued again, and...

Despite what some may think, I'm not anything like an inside player in local politics. As the latest example, I found out that the Sierra Club and the Cleveland National Forest Foundation are each suing San Diego County again by reading about it online at the UT San Diego

(<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/sd-me-zoning-lawsuit-20170113-story.html>).

CNPSSD is not involved in either lawsuit, of course--you would have heard about it otherwise. Still, these two suits are part of the difficult struggle we're all facing as San Diego grapples with diverging pressures to decarbonize, to grow, to build huge numbers of affordable homes, and to not destroy what's left of our environment. While I don't know much more about the suits than what is in the newspaper article, I do know a bit about the surrounding conditions, and that's the topic of this essay.

The Sierra Club's suit focuses on the lack of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in the County's general plan. The reason the County doesn't have a CAP is that the Sierra Club sued over the last one in 2012, claiming that it didn't have specific action items that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Club won in 2014 at the California Supreme Court, and now the County is preparing a new CAP. (Continued on p. 4)

GARDEN TOUR



PLEASE JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL TOUR!



If you participate as a volunteer, you will receive one free tour ticket for a 4-hour shift and 2 free tickets for an 8-hour shift.

Volunteers will greet people who are coming to view the gardens and share an enthusiasm for using native plants in landscaping. **Knowledge about native plants is not necessary to be a volunteer. Friendliness, enthusiasm and an interest in talking with others are the desired skills.**

First-timers will enjoy a 2-hour volunteer training session and mini-tour (including lunch) at one of two locations/dates of their choice. Attendance at the training is optional for past garden tour volunteers.

The two dates for these training sessions are:

- **Saturday, March 18th in the South Bay Area**
- **Sunday, March 26th in the South Park Area**

You only need to attend ONE training but you are welcome to attend both. If you are unable to attend either of these sessions, please contact Judie Lincer at judielincer@gmail.com to arrange other training opportunities.

Sign up here: gardennative.org/volunteer-contact-form

Any questions? Email: judielincer@gmail.com

(Continued from p. 3)

I've been part of the CAP 2.0 meetings, and I do hope they do a better job the second time. We'll see next summer when the new CAP is (hopefully) unveiled.

Underlying the conflict between the Sierra Club and the County is California law, which says that general plans are supposed to be complete before they are put into action. The County's general plan states that all the required greenhouse gas reductions are to be handled under the CAP, but there is no CAP, thanks to the Sierra Club's suit. The Sierra Club claims therefore that the County doesn't have a complete general plan, and that it therefore cannot approve developments under the general plan. To no one's surprise, the County disagrees with this idea, since we have a housing crisis to solve and everything, so now they'll settle it in court. And probably someone will appeal, and probably the other side will appeal that, and probably it will end up in front of the California Supreme Court again around 2019 or 2020.

And there's the other suit. The Cleveland National Forest Foundation was founded and is led by Duncan McFetridge, the man who back in 1993 spearheaded the effort to pass the Forest Conservation Initiative (FCI), which sunset in 2011. Since then, there has been an ongoing dispute over how public inholdings in the National Forest should be developed. The County has held that the FCI's restrictions on development on inholdings in the Cleveland National Forest was temporary, and that the 1993 rules now apply, since the FCI as originally written was not renewed. The Cleveland Forest Foundation holds that this is not the case, and now that the County has passed a revised FCI, the Cleveland National Forest Foundation is suing to stop it. The new FCI is somewhere between the 1993 plan and the FCI, and the Cleveland National Forest Foundation believes that is not good enough.

As I noted above, there are multiple issues interacting here: decarbonization, the housing crisis, environmental protection, and the underlying ideology of growth. That's what is triggering these suits. I'll start with climate change.

Those of us who have been involved in climate change issues are pretty sure that the only safe path to avoid severe climate change is "deep decarbonization," which basically means switching civilization entirely to renewable electricity as fast as possible. There are some problems with this idea: the technology is not quite there, the Feds in Trumplandia are extremely hostile to dealing with climate change, the oil and coal

industries are highly resistant to losing their trillion-dollar global industry, there is a lot of societal active resistance and passive inertia, especially here in the "car culture" of southern California, as well as a lot of physical inertia embodied in the structure and infrastructure of San Diego County, too much of which was built to run on petroleum.

In the face of this mess, I can understand why politicians, especially the Republican county supervisors, might prefer to give lip service to deep decarbonization. Unfortunately, that's insufficient in California, where, like it or not, we're in the vanguard of American attempts to deal with climate change. The state has multiple laws that now say we're supposed to phase out fossil fuels.

While the idea of totally reworking civilization over, say 30 or 40 years may sound terribly rushed, I keep thinking of my grandfather. He was born in 1904, son of a doctor in rural Pennsylvania. He grew up tending his father's carthorse and hated horses, so he went into electrical engineering. By the time he died in 1971, America had gone from a country where doctors made house calls in buggies to a country that had landed a man on the moon. And we'd fought in two world wars and gone through the Great Depression. During all these upheavals, no one talked about culture shock, even as the country changed profoundly. Wouldn't it be great if we could be like my grandfather and just get on with changing the technology over?

Then there's the whole housing crisis. Yes, it would be great if there was more affordable housing in San Diego. Unfortunately, it's not that simple. For one thing, basically all of the good sites for housing developments have been built already, and many of the fights CNPSSD is engaged in are over suboptimal sites, out in the east county, on Del Mar Mesa, Otay Mesa, and elsewhere. They're places where people will have to drive a long ways to get to jobs and stores, and while these places would have worked back when gas is cheap, they are less attractive now, gridlock waiting to happen in areas that generally don't have any provision for public transit, and we're only now developing electric cars with a range to make commuting from the back country practical.

But suboptimal sites are just one part of the problem. In most of the developments I've looked at recently, developers aren't building much affordable housing. That was the problem with Measure B on last fall's ballot, which was just more big houses. Worse, when

NATIVE GARDENING

Garden Native Meeting

February 8. Garden Native is the Chapter's native gardening committee, which meets 2nd Wednesday of each month. For info: **Mike Gonzales** at gardening@cnpssd.org.

Time to Plant Seeds



The wet season in Southern California is the best time to plant native seeds and the CNPS Seed and Bulb Committee still has a large variety of both annual and perennials for you to choose from thanks to our many member seed and hour donations.

Contact seedandbulbs@cnpssd.org for

an updated list of seeds we have or come to the next chapter meeting to see them. We can also mail seeds to you and help you choose species appropriate for your site.

We will be preparing for the next October plant sale as the summer approaches so if you think you might have seed to donate this year or would like to get involved, please let us know at seedandbulbs@cnpssd.org.

~ **Cindy Hazuka**, Seed & Bulb Committee

Q & A's

CNPS-SD recently received a query from a San Diego County gardener:

"Please see attached photo. Two of six Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter' that have been on our hillside in Rancho Bernardo for three years have leaves that are turning brown. Our gardener was trimming off the dead branches and discovered larvae that he thought might be termites. Our pest control contractor says they are not termites. Do you have any idea what this could be or how we could find out? Thank you very much for your help."



We identified these as the flatheaded borer, the larvae

developers do try to build affordable housing, local communities (most recently Poway) go all NIMBY and force the local city councils to reject it. Personally, I'm for affordable housing, but I have to admit that when my back yard has vernal pools in it, I'm just as adamant that they don't build apartments on top of them. While we do need more housing, we're going to have to figure out where to put everyone, and that's going to take a lot of compromise.

Then there are issues around environmental protection, as I noted last month when talking about the City of San Diego's new Vernal Pool HCP. But the underlying conflict, really, is between environmental protection and growth. Growth in itself isn't always bad, but we're so stuck with our ideology of growth that it makes for problems. It doesn't matter if we're concerned about running out of water, or whether we'll get four feet of sea level rise by 2050, or whether there's a big earthquake in the next decade the people running this place assume San Diego has to grow, period. Arguments that growth isn't inevitable aren't refuted, they're simply not heard. I've read enough history to realize this is silly, that given enough time, the population of any city yo-yos around crises, but we can't talk about it here. That's why I call it an ideology, not a fact.

As you might guess, it's difficult for people to imagine preserving anything if they assume that populations are going to expand, urban areas are going to expand, and we're all going to have and need more stuff. It's an impossible assumption, of course. But if you assume that growth is not inevitable, why, we'd have to question the debts that municipalities take on to where to build roads to, well everything.

As with climate change, I think most people don't question growth because to do so opens questions to every action. It's not we can't work that way, it's that it's scary to contemplate, and we don't have a scary enough crisis to force us to think about it.

And that's where we are. We don't want to whole heartedly embrace decarbonization, we can't think about anything but growth, and affordable housing is a hot-button issue. As a result, we get into conflicts and lawsuits over environmental protection. I would suggest that everyone grow up, but I suspect that the real problem is that most of the people involved are too old and set in their ways. Unfortunately, that means that change comes through lawyers, not through politics.

Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

of an adult beetle, most likely the **Pacific flatheaded borer, *Chrysobothris* spp.** This borer can attack Ceanothus, manzanita, and several other trees and shrubs that have been weakened through injury or environmental stress. The female lays eggs in an area of bark that receives sunlight, or in a weakened limb. A few months later, the larvae hatch and start feeding in the cambium, which can cause the death of young or newly transplanted shrubs. Because the borers do not attack healthy plants, good care and maintenance practices are the best prevention. Good practices include providing adequate water, not pruning from spring through summer when the adult borers are active, and removing pruned materials from the planting area. Once the larvae enter the wood, there is no effective chemical control.

This is a new regular column for the newsletter. Please send your native gardening questions to info@cnpsd.org.

RESTORATION

GREAT CHALLENGES, GREATER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Last month I provided an overview of our efforts. This month I will focus on just one, the San Dieguito River. While nowhere near the finish line, we have certainly accomplished much to get to this point. First, we trained and licensed volunteers who then earned the trust of USFW and the several property owners through our efforts at other sites. With our partners we obtained all of the permits to work in the river. Then we only had to obtain right of entry for some 6-10 parcels before initiating work.

Our work commenced by clearing a 20-foot wide path through 100 feet of *Arundo donax*. This provided the initial degree of fire safety the fire department required while also giving us a way to haul the *Arundo* out. With that, we proceeded to treat another dozen acres. This included cutting canes 20 or more feet tall and then hauling or chipping them all. With this accomplished, we could treat the other weeds before taking a break for bird nesting season and to let the natives fill in.

Our methods vary by type of weed. Small weeds of all types are pulled by hand wherever possible. Our approach for *Arundo* is to cut it and then to spray

with 5%-6% glyphosate when it grows back to about three feet. Most Eucalyptus and Acacia are cut down and we treat the stump with 41% glyphosate. The Pampas Grass is sprayed with 2% glyphosate. Follow up on any of these is usually to spray with 2% glyphosate. Big palms are usually drilled and injected with small amounts of 41% glyphosate. With these approaches, directed specifically to individual weeds, we are able to achieve very good control while using far less herbicide than allowed for a given area.

The recruitment method we use is paced to the regrowth of native vegetation. This means we are providing replacement habitat as we go. Of course the native vegetation is of much higher quality so we see an increase in wildlife from year to year.

Season two began by re-treating any weeds that came back up in our initial area. This will be repeated as long as needed until we exhaust the supply of weed seed and roots, typically some three to five years. Eventually the natives will grow back and crowd out most of the weeds.

Bob Byrnes has also plowed into new areas cutting more *Arundo* while utilizing the rest of us as beasts of burden. Training the local gardeners is also a priority so they will know how to maintain the area once it is restored.

Yes, we have made great strides here. We have a great deal more to do. And we have plans in the works to do even more. The project area has just about doubled this season with the addition of parcels to the north.

We will get help from ACE (American Conservation Experience) workers for two weeks. And we are planting some sparse areas. If you would like to contribute to the efforts we would love to have you. We provide hands-on training at your pace and pretty much on your schedule.

Please contact Bob Byrnes or Arne Johanson with your interests and availability. We can be reached at: invasiveplants@cnpsd.org.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasives Committee



Wild Hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). See article on Page 7.

Old Town Native Plant Landscape

February 11 & 25, Saturdays

9:30 am to noon

The Old Town Native Landscape needs your help thinning out weeds and pruning shrubs. We hope to see that the rains brought up lots of wonderful native flowering annuals, to tenderly free from the weeds.

Bring drinking water, hat, gloves, and your favorite tools for these jobs. An ordinary table fork with wide tines makes a dandy weeding tool and sharp scissors that you don't mind getting wet with weed juice can be used to snip away weeds from right around desirable annuals, without disturbing their roots in the soil.

The Landscape is north of the MTS bus/trolley/train station at Taylor and Congress Streets. This is the west end of the Park. If you come by public transit just cross at the corner and come in under the trees where we have signup, tools, handouts, and the work party leaders will find a task for you. Or if you drive, there is free parking in the lot between Calhoun and the Landscape just east of Taylor Street.

Questions? contact oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org

BOTANY

Farewell to *Dichelostemma*?

Yes, the name *Dichelostemma* may soon be a history note in San Diego County and the rest of southern California. The genus *Dichelostemma* will not be going away, it just won't apply to the plants we have known as blue dicks, school bells or wild hyacinth.

I am writing this in Sacramento to the sound of pounding rain, returning from a two-day symposium hosted by the Northern California Botanists. Not many of you, perhaps none of you, have been to one of these excellent symposiums typically held in early January at Chico, California. It is a good long drive from San Diego. The symposium was held over January 9th and 10th. The drive to get to it and back was also an excellent opportunity to sample the atmospheric river that had been making news and apparently beating at my hotel window.

At the symposium's poster session this morning, a poster presented by a prominent northern California botanist and contributor to the Jepson Manual, Robert

Preston, caught my eye. Currently, Preston has been focusing some attention on *Brodiaea* and related groups. The poster was titled: "Not another Damn Name Change! Why Blue Dicks is not a *Dichelostemma*".

Dichelostemma capitatum already has a bit of a checkered history. It has been called variously *Hookeria puchella*, *Brodiaea pulchella*, and *Dichelostemma pulchella*. All three names, as Preston explains, have ultimately been shown to be incorrectly applied to this plant and the name that appeared in the 1993 edition of the Jepson manual was *Dicholostemma capitatum*. Many of you familiar with Latin names may only have known blue dicks by this latter name. Those of us that spent our formative botany years clutching a Munz book knew this plant as *D. pulchella*.

Mr. Preston made a compelling argument that we should be using *Dipterostemon capitatus* for this plant. The name is already available and was proposed by Per Axel Rydberg in 1912. Apparently no one took Rydberg or his name seriously, as you can hardly find reference to it. I'd certainly never heard of it. However, recent researchers have found genetic and embryologic evidence that suggest Rydberg was right on the mark. Will the botanical community at large accept this new name with old roots? Very likely they will.

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist

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, Nov 10 for the Dec newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar February 2017

- 2/1: **Board Meeting**, p.2
- 2/7: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.2
- 2/8: Garden Native Mtg, p. 5
- 2/11: Field Trip - Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, p.1
- 2/11: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.7
- 2/21: **Chapter Meeting**, p.1
- 2/25: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.7

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

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February 2017 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

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