

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park

January 16, 2018

Presentation at 7:30 pm

**2017 Wildflowers of
San Diego County
Desert and Coast**

by Tom Oberbauer

Anza-Borrego has been identified as one of the best locations in the Country to observe wildflowers. With rainfall that came at well-timed intervals, the 2017 season was reported as a potential Superbloom. It did not disappoint, with sheets of color in Henderson Canyon from Desert gold, Evening primrose and Sand verbena as well as Desert Lily and Desert dandelion. Over a period of a few weeks the Brittle-bush/Incensio and Ocotillo flowered as well.

Nearly the same time period, the coast was having its own bloom that was the best in years with Sea dahlia, California encelia, California poppies and Fringed ground pinks being prominent on Point Loma and Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Tom will show images of the bloom for these areas and discuss the flowers and vegetation.

Tom Oberbauer is a third generation San Diegan with a long history of visiting the San Diego Desert as a guide



for The NAT and exploring on his own, and with an equally long history of observing wildflowers on the Coast. He is a long-time member of CNPS and is a member of the Board of The NAT. He also has written numerous

articles on the natural history of San Diego and the islands of Baja California and has a Youtube site (Plnaturalresources) with documentaries on the Pacific Coast Baja California islands and is currently working on a documentary for the 2017 wildflower season.

Visit **Tom's Youtube site** (Plnaturalresources).

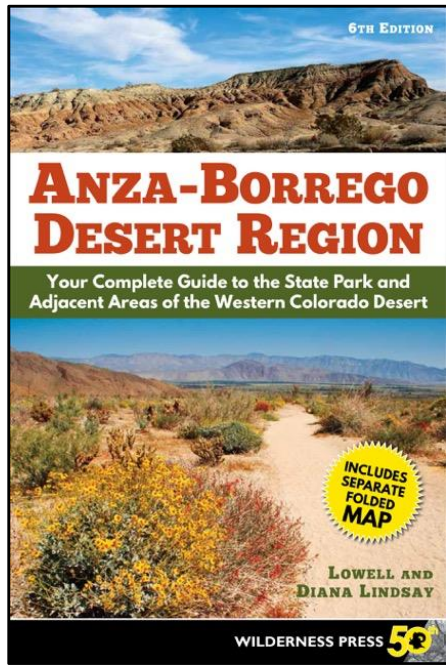
6:30-7:00 pm – Natives for Novices: Diana Lindsay.

The Journey of the Anza-Borrego Desert Region Guidebook—Now in Its 6th Edition. For 40 years the guidebook Anza-Borrego Desert Region has been the “bible” for anyone exploring this desert area. The thoroughly updated guide has over 200 detailed trail descriptions for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and off-roaders. There is also a plant list with the current updated scientific names.



Diana has been intimately involved with the Anza-Borrego area for 50 years. She is an honorary California State Park Ranger and has received a Resolution from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for her contributions to this desert area. She currently serves

on the board of the San Diego Natural History Museum.



7:00 pm – refreshments, browsing, & socializing.

7:30 pm – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

FIELD TRIPS

January 6, Saturday. 10 am – 1 pm. - Come with us to explore the Herbarium section of the Botany Department and take a look into the **Botanical archives and collections at the San Diego Natural History Museum (The NAT)**, led by the esteemed Botanical Curator, **Jon Rebman**, PhD. We'll get access to the study areas that are instrumental to local and global research into our native floral species and range, and critical to understanding how genetics are being expressed over time.

In particular, we'll be viewing collections of rare species we seldom to never get the chance to see in the wild. Dr. Rebman's tour will include a talk about ongoing projects and the history of botanical studies at the Museum. This is a rare opportunity to access areas and collections only available to research fellows and scientists. Limited photography opportunities will be available, under the discretion of the Curator and staff - please ask before taking any photos. Stay for the Unshelved Exhibition on the main public floors as well as the recently opened California's Coast to Cactus Exhibition, both of which are amazing in their

presentation! **Be sure to bring the \$19 entry fee unless you are a member of the museum!** This event is open to the public, but anyone without membership is encouraged to join the Museum for the many other member events put on over the year as well as the other perks. Donations go to keeping this vital bastion of science and history alive and well. There will be no scheduled car pool for this tour because it is in a central location of Balboa Park and parking is available. There are three lots near the Museum.

- **Meeting location:** San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, San Diego. **Meet between 9:45 and 10:00 am on the SOUTH side of the museum (the side facing the fountain). We must all be together to enter no later than 10 am.**

Words from Dr. Rebman about the Herbarium and this trip: "For more than 140 years, the San Diego Society of Natural History has been studying and collecting plants in the Southern California and Baja California region. With dedicated curators such as Daniel Cleveland (the "clevelandii" of *Salvia*, *Mimulus*, *Penstemon*, *Dodecatheon* fame), Frank Gander (the "ganderi" of *Lepechinia*, *Quercus*, *Cylindropuntia*, *Cryptantha*, *Packeria*, *Rubus*), and Reid Moran (the "moranii" of *Agave*, *Arctostaphylos*, *Astragalus*, *Bajacalia*, *Dudleya*, *Eriogonum*, *Galium*, and *Morangaya* along with a new "Moranothamnus" just published), the institution has served as an important botanical resource in our region since the 1870s. During this time, the Society has amassed an extremely strong regional herbarium collection of more than 250,000 plant specimens that are actively used for ongoing botanical research & publication. To supplement the scientific endeavors of the botanists and provide plant resources for the public, the Society also has an amazing library of botanical books, journals, and paintings including a complete run of Curtis's Botanical Magazine dating back to 1793; early herbals dating to 1517; Flora Londinensis 1777, with hand-colored illustrations; and 1,094 original watercolors of native California plants from 1908-1918 by A. R. Valentien. This outing will not only address the historical efforts of botanists associated with the Society, but will also delve into current research projects including recent binational, multidisciplinary expeditions into Baja California and the publication of many new plant species from our region by the current curator. Come and see behind the scenes in the Museum's Botany Department and learn about what they are doing in respect to floristic research and plant conservation."

**January 15, Monday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Cabrillo National Monument, 1800 Cabrillo
Memorial Dr., San Diego. Leader: Justin Daniel.**

This Monday is a free admissions day at the Cabrillo Nat'l Monument, so we're taking advantage of the opportunity to take in some winter sun or maybe even coastal fog or rain while we go over a major piece of San Diego's history, and even bigger sanctuary for our natural history. The coastal sage scrub here is as coastal as it gets, with San Diego Bay on the one side and the open Pacific Ocean on the other. Hopefully we can get some additional insight to the Point and the recent landscaping project by those who helped to make it happen!

From the Visitors Center at the monument statue of Juan Cabrillo, we'll check out the newly installed native plantings and landscaping sponsored by CNPS-SD at the visitors center and along the trails. From there, we'll take a circuit of the upper Point by the lighthouse where native endemics such as Shaw's agave (*Agave shawii* var. *shawii*) and cliff spurge (*Euphorbia misera*) are currently in bloom, and then down the Bayside Trail where golden-spined cereus (*Bergerocactus emoryi*) and white coast ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) show up along the way. There will be an opportunity to visit the tide pools and lower trails after the main hike; low tide will be at 3 pm and it is the season for whale migration off the coast.



Golden-spined cereus (*Bergerocactus emoryi*) (USDA photo)

While it's still very early for the annuals across the peninsula, the trip will hopefully make up for this with stunning views of Coronado and Downtown San Diego and, if clear enough, the Channel Islands and Mt. Palomar.

Carpooling: This trip is central to San Diego, but parking can be limited so carpooling will be available from the Fashion Valley Mall near the trolley station from 9:20 to 9:30 am. Park close to Fashion Valley Rd and you'll find us. Otherwise, park at the main parking lot at Cabrillo.

Directions: Take Rosecrans south to Talbot and then left onto Catalina Blvd. Drive to end through the cemetery. Look for us at the Entry Arcade to the Cabrillo Monument Museum, near the Theater.

January 21, Sunday – Anza-Borrego Desert

State Park. This will be the first Anza-Borrego trip this year. We'll follow the footsteps of Tom's January 16 presentation. For information please visit <https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/>.

For questions about any of the field trips, contact Justin at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org.

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 3, 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.

The statewide **CNPS Chapter Council Meeting** will be held March 9-11, 2018, at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. More info will be available in the next newsletter. There will be presentations, special field trips, and more!

PHOTO CONTEST

***Native Plant Photo Contest –
Show off your native plants, native
gardens and your talent as a
photographer and win some cool
prizes!***

CNPS-SD is sponsoring a photo contest to collect native plant/garden photos to be displayed in the Garden Native Tour Booklet, on our website, on Note Cards, etc. Prizes will be awarded for best plant photos in categories such as: best garden photo, most creative, wildlife in your native garden, and more. Your photos will be displayed and photo credit will be given if your photos are used. Photos should be a minimum of:

- 600 x 600 pixels/inch to be used for online media. iPhones and other phone pictures meet this pixel/inch standard!
- Or 2000/2000 to be used for print media such as notecards, in our Plant Tour and/or Workshop Brochures.

Photo submission deadline is **April 30, 2018**, which will allow plenty of time to include spring gardens and pictures from the Garden Tour (Saturday and Sunday April 14 & 15).

We look forward to seeing your photos. **Please post the photos to the Timeline at CNPS-SD Garden Native Facebook page at: <http://facebook.com/gardennativeSD>.**

~ Judie Lincer, Garden Tour Director

NATIVE GARDENING

Native Gardening Committee Meeting

January 10. The Chapter's native gardening committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpsd.org for location and time.

Native Gardening Winter Demonstration Workshop

**Saturday, February 10, 2018
9 am-3:15 pm**

See How It's Done!

This is the perfect event for garden enthusiasts and landscape professionals to learn how to plant a native garden. In addition to the basics, attendees will learn of the far-reaching benefits of using native horticulture. These benefits include low-water use, low maintenance, and providing habitat for native wildlife, including birds and other pollinators.

The day is arranged so that, through session rotation, every participant will be able to attend all presentations. **Greg Rubin** and **Lucy Warren** will give a morning hands-on demonstration of properly planting California natives. Greg and Lucy are local experts on native gardens and coauthors of two well-received native gardening books, with a third book in the works. Concurrently, **Tony**

Gurnoe, Horticultural Director of San Diego Botanic Garden, will give a tour of the Garden's native plant preserve. The tour will include explanations of San Diego's wildlife ecology and diverse plant populations, including ethnobotanical uses of native plants such as food and medicinal uses, dyes, Kumeyaay dwellings, etc. **Mike Evans**, President of Tree of Life Nursery, will deliver a key presentation after lunch on proper irrigation of native plants. The day will conclude with a panel answering questions gathered throughout the day and prior to the workshop.

Other presentations during the day: "Propagation Using Cuttings and Seeds", "Gopher Trapping", and "Barn Owl and Kestrel Boxes for Rodent Trapping" featuring live birds from The Raptor Institute.

The workshop will be held at the San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, in Encinitas from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Tickets are \$60 and include breakfast, lunch, snacks, Starbucks coffee and tea. Parking is free.

For questions, please contact **Judie Lincer** at workshop@cnpsd.org or (619) 277-1490.

For registration and further information please visit Upcoming Events at www.cnpsd.org/events.

Native Plant Landscape in Old Town State Historic Park

Planting Party

January 13, Saturday 9:30 am to noon.

Old Town Native Plant Landscape Needs You and Your Wheelbarrow, Wagon or Cart.

We will be placing toaster-sized rocks (or larger) to protect irrigation heads and plants. A toaster-sized rock weighs over 40 lbs., so we need ways to move them safely. That is where your wagon, garden cart, or wheelbarrow will be really handy, since the landscape's volunteer coordinators only have one wheelbarrow between them.

The rock will be delivered the day before in a pile next to the landscape. Volunteers will excavate shallow pits and then move the rocks into them. We always do a little weeding too, so shovels, hand tools and gloves will be handy. Bring your own, or borrow ours.

The Landscape is at the corner of Taylor and Congress

Streets. Park in the lot east of Taylor and south of Calhoun. At the end of the work party those who want can go for a no-host lunch.

Questions? Email oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org.

~ Kay Stewart

SAVE THE DATES!
Native Garden Tour
April 14 & 15, 2018
and
Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, April 28, 2018

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

January 2. Usually the first Tuesday evening of each month. Contact **Frank Landis** at conservation@cnpsd.org for details.

CNPS kicks off Climate Change Initiative

The greatest threat to the current state of the California flora is climate change, affecting local and regional climate, drought and fire intensity, weed invisibility and species phenology. While the number of issues are many, CNPS must formulate future actions. Using the 2018 Conservation Conference as a jump-off, we will assemble a working group to discuss such as issues as focused research, local climate projections, forming a data clearing house, advising on CNPS policy and action plans, and similar issues. San Diego Chapter should consider how it might participate, including providing species trends analysis and risk evaluation, evaluation of local government policy, and compilation of relevant data. At the outset this would be directed through the chapter's conservation program.

~ **David Chipping**

San Luis Obispo Chapter Conservation Chair

Conservation Conference



February 1-3, 2018
Workshops & Field Trips January 30-31

Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Airport Marriott

<https://conference.cnps.org>

Los Angeles Airport Marriott
5855 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA, 90045

January 30 & 31: Pre-conference field trips and workshops.

February 1-3: Programs and sessions.

Every 3 years, the CNPS Conservation Conference brings together California's conservation community for **the largest gathering of its kind**. Scientific sessions cover a broad spectrum of topics, and special events provide time for collaboration, networking, and fun.

Pre-conference workshops provide professional skills training, while field trips allow you to get to know local plants with local experts. Three days of scientific sessions and special events provide a forum for collaboration and appreciation of our beautifully diverse flora. You will have opportunities to connect with other like-minded people, while learning about current research and trends, and contributing to future plans for California's native plants and natural habitats.

The conference is in Southern California this year. Please attend!

Can San Diego Grow Up?

Yes, this is not the kind of remark that an ex-Angeleno like me should be making in this part of the world, even if it is intended as a lame pun, as here. I'm writing this as the Lilac Fire burns in the San Luis Rey watershed, which is an event you probably didn't want to remember, but this isn't another column about fire safety.

Here's the issue: if you believe what I promote for CNPSSD, the solution to many of San Diego's woes, including losing homes to fire, is that we're all supposed to put solar panels on our roofs, use public transit, and ride bikes everywhere but on our wildlands, because mountain bikes are tearing up ecological reserves. Most importantly, we are to stop building single family homes in high-fire areas; instead we are to build apartments, condominiums, and town-homes near transit lines. In

other words, we're supposed to grow up, not out, hence the lame pun in the title.

Sounds wonderful, right? I'm sure everybody with a native garden wants to replace it with a multistory granny flat, as well as subdividing their multistory homes into apartments, as well as lobby hard for bike lanes and bus stops in their neighborhood. Doesn't that sound great to you?

No? That's what I wanted to write about. There is this fundamental contradiction at the heart of what I do. I don't have the answer, and I don't even know if a complete answer is possible. Still, we need to realize that some of our ideals conflict with each other, if only so that someone like me doesn't sound like a condescending idiot or worse when trying to advocate for native plants.

On one side of this issue is CNPS' mission to get everybody to protect, grow, and love California native plants. One of the best ways to do this is to get people out hiking and gardening, and the more time they spend outside, the better. In years past, this was easy, because gas was cheap, subdivisions were small, and if you didn't just want to hike out your back yard, it was easy to take a long trip up to the mountains, out to the desert, or to ride a horse across, say, Del Mar Mesa without seeing anything other than cattle. A lot of our current environmentalists grew up this way on the edge of town. If you believe Richard Louv's theory of Nature Deficit Disorder, getting out into nature is a good way to stay healthy and sane. Living out in nature is a great way to do this, and it's part of the impetus for all this suburban sprawl into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) throughout the West. San Diego is scarcely alone in helping people sprawl this way, and quite a lot of CNPS members, perhaps a majority, live in this type of environment or grew up here. We have fewer members who live in the inner city and in apartments, and this may be why CNPSers are generally older and whiter than the population of California as a whole.

On the other side is the whole issue of adapting for climate change. The City of San Diego barely existed before fossil fuels came along, so our whole growth pattern has been predicated on easy access to huge amounts of energy, most of it from fossil fuels. Our dependency shows up in urban sprawl, which depends on cheap energy for cars. It also shows up in the way we import 85% of our water, a vast majority of our food, energy, and people (all possible due to cheap energy). Also as a consequence of cheap energy, we've shown an unfortunate predilection for building in places, like

Mission Valley or the WUI, that are prone to natural disasters like floods and fires, because there's this notion that if we just manage our resources right, we can tame the floods and break the fires with some clever bulldozer work or something.

Now we're faced with the end of fossil fuels sometime this century. Yes, it's conceivable that someone will invent nuclear fusion to give us huge amounts of cheap electricity. It's even somewhat more likely that future batteries will store as much energy as does gasoline, so that we can have an electric 4WD truck that goes 400 miles between charges, along with electric bulldozers and other electrified heavy equipment. However, it's much more likely that we'll have to do more with a lot less energy, that effectively all of that energy will be electricity, and that our best electricity storage will be less energy dense than are current fossil fuels, so vehicles will be smaller and more range limited.

In this environment, the sensible thing is to cluster people closer by building denser housing with more stories (cutting down on transportation distances), working out bicycle and public transportation systems, putting up energy gathering systems like solar panels and wind turbines every place they'll fit, and doing other things (like planting massive numbers of trees) to try to ameliorate climate change as much as we can. Still, transforming San Diego into New York Del Mar would be a monumental task even if this wasn't earthquake country, and that's even before we consider the obvious conflict above, and the costs associated with it.

I'll take the costs in reverse order. As I've written before, my wife and I are working to decarbonize our fairly average suburban home. With the cost of solar panels, an electric car, a (currently hypothetical) house battery capable of charging the car, and switching our appliances over to electricity, we're going to spend over \$100,000 on the project, more if we can make two electric cars work. I publicize this number because it's a painful reality check for us environmentalists. Many of us would like to see San Diego's roofs all paved with solar panels, rather than seeing rare desert plants and habitats destroyed for huge solar plants, as at Ivanpah. Unfortunately, it appears to be more financially feasible, at least for now, to build big desert solar than it is for the average San Diego household to spend more than their annual income to decarbonize their homes. We'll still all have to decarbonize, but we have to realize that it's quite expensive right now, and that costs for sustainable technology need to come down and also to be subsidized by government on levels, which means

someone needs to be taxed to pay for the subsidies. It's a wicked problem.

That's the financial cost. There's also the social cost, something I see every time my little electric car gets cut off on the freeway by a big roaring SUV or oversized boy-toy truck. Simply put, living in an apartment, riding a bike and taking public transit is for poor people. At the very least, this seems to be the attitude of those who like to conspicuously display their wealth with big cars, big homes, and big gardens. This last, I suspect, is what will frustrate us the most. We love our gardens dearly, and giving them up is going to sting, especially if some people give them up for the good of society, while others selfishly keep them.

I suspect similar social costs have played out recently in attempts to turn failed golf courses in Escondido and Poway into condominiums. Neighbors voted down both these projects. Similar attitudes might be behind neighborhood opposition across the San Diego to densification. As a result, we hypocritically seem to be okay with other neighborhoods densifying, but not our own, and that attitude effectively inhibits attempts to grow San Diego up, rather than sprawling it out.

Ultimately, though, we in CNPS have to deal with the central problem: how do we simultaneously soak people in nature and tame sprawl? It's another wicked problem, but it's not completely insoluble. For kids, at least, we have any number of urban canyons, even if we also have to deal with homeless people living in them. Still, we, as individuals and as society, really need to think long and hard about what we value. What's the cost of that big home in the country that we love so much? How do we prepare ourselves to watch it burn down some random year? Does even building it cause harm to the surrounding wildlands and to future generations, and if it does, does our current pleasure offset that harm? If, conversely, we're advocating for densification, public transit, solar roofs, and so on, how do we feel about putting these in our own neighborhoods? If that's a repugnant idea, why should we prescribe it for "those other people?" Should we trust government planners to figure out how to make this all work, or should we try to come up with solutions of our own and promulgate those?

These aren't easy questions, but they are ones I think about. If you have any thoughts on them, feel free to share them at conservation@cnpsd.org.

~ Frank Landis, SD Conservation Chair



Spring 2017 flowers in A-B Desert State Park.
Photos by Jürgen Schrenk.



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, July 10 for the August newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

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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
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

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January 2018 Newsletter

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

www.cnpssd.org

info@cnpssd.org

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Bobbie Stephenson.....president@cnpssd.org
(619) 269-0055
VICE PRES: Tom Oberbauer.....vicepresident@cnpssd.org
SECRETARY: Michael Evans.....secretary@cnpssd.org
TREASURER: Connie di Girolamo.....treasurer@cnpssd.org
Cindy Burrascano..... (858) 342-5246; booksales@cnpssd.org
Bob Byrnes.....bob.byrnes@cnpssd.org
Frank Landis.....(310) 883-8569; conservation@cnpssd.org
Sue Marchetti.....nativesfornovices@cnpssd.org
Torrey Neel.....programs@cnpssd.org
Al Field.....gardening@cnpssd.org
Justin Daniel.....fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Frank Landis.....chaptercouncil@cnpssd.org

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

Fred Roberts.....rarebotanist@cnpssd.org
(760) 439-6244

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpssd.org
(858) 342-5246
CONSERVATION: Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpssd.org
(310) 883-8569
EDUCATION: OPEN
FIELD TRIPS: Justin Daniel.....fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

HOSPITALITY: Kye Ok Kim.....hospitality@cnpssd.org
INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson (858) 759-4769 &
Bob Byrnes.....invasiveplants@cnpssd.org
LEGISLATION: Peter St. Clair.....legislation@cnpssd.org
LIBRARIAN: OPEN
MEMBERSHIP: Connie di Girolamo.....membership@cnpssd.org
NATIVES FOR NOVICES: Sue Marchetti.....
nativesfornovices@cnpssd.org
NATIVE GARDENING: Al Field.....gardening@cnpssd.org
GARDEN TOUR: Judie Lincer... ..tour@cnpssd.org
HABITAT RESTORATION: Arne Johanson..... (858) 759-4769 &
Bob Byrneshabitatrestoration@cnpssd.org
NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpssd.org
(619) 269-0055
OLD TOWN NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE: Peter St. Clair and
Kay Stewart.....OldTownLandscape@cnpssd.org
PLANT PROPAGATION: Jim Wadman...propagation@cnpssd.org
619-294-7556
PLANT SALE-FALL: Carolyn Martus.....plantsale@cnpssd.org
PLANT SALE-SPR: OPEN.....springplantsale@cnpssd.org
POSTER SALES: OPEN.....postersales@cnpssd.org
PROGRAMS: Torrey Neel.....programs@cnpssd.org
PUBLICITY: OPEN.....publicity@cnpssd.org
PUBLIC OUTREACH: OPENpublicoutreach@cnpssd.org
RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Frank Landis...raresurvey@cnpssd.org
(310) 883-8569
SEEDS & BULBS: Cindy Hazuka.....seedsandbulbs@cnpssd.org
VEGETATION: OPEN.....vegetation@cnpssd.org
WEBSITE: [Joseph Sochor](mailto:Joseph.Sochor).....webmaster@cnpssd.org