

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park

6:30 pm – Browsing, & socializing

7:00 pm – Presentation

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Main Presentation

ON THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

by Richard Louv

Journalist, Author, and Co-Founder and Chair Emeritus of Children and Nature Network

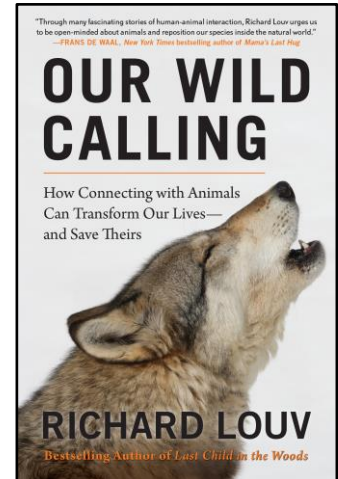
Our Wild Calling: how connecting to animals can transform our lives — and help save theirs. In his newest book released on November 5, Richard Louv explores the powerful and mysterious bond between humans and other animals, including both domestic and wild animals. He makes the case that deepening our connection with other animals, both wild and domestic, can improve our mental, physical and spiritual lives; serve as an antidote to the growing epidemic of human loneliness; and is essential to the preservation of life on Earth.

We love our pets. We say we love nature. We talk about the threat to other life in an almost technical way, about endangered species, disappearing habitat, but we seldom consider what may be the greatest potential loss, at least to us: the mysterious bond we share with other



animals – that most fragile connection that has no name, the whisper we may not miss until it is too late, that essence that may yet save us – and them.

Richard Louv is a journalist and author of ten books, including *Our Wild Calling: How Connecting With Animals Can Transform Our Lives - And Save Theirs*; *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*; *The Nature Principle*; and *Vitamin N*. Translated into 21 languages, his books have helped launch an international movement to connect children, their families and communities to nature. (Cont. on p. 2)



Save the Date Winter Workshop

Saturday, January 25, 2020

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park
Integrating Sustainability into your Native Garden

This year's Winter Workshop will give you a practical understanding on bringing sustainable practices into your native garden. The day will start out with a spark of motivation given by David Newsom discussing how our gardens can be the start of a revolution. This will be followed by deep dives into harvesting water, edible gardening with natives, and choosing the right living soil for your garden. Finally, it will wrap up with a case study on a fully sustainable native garden project recently completed by Revolution Landscape. The workshop will be held again this year at the beautiful Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. Please consider attending as this is bound to be an insightful workshop!

(Cont. from p. 1; Richard Louv)

In 2008, Richard Louv was awarded the Audubon Medal, presented by the National Audubon Society. Prior recipients have included Rachel Carson, E. O. Wilson, Sir David Attenborough and President Jimmy Carter. Among other awards, Louv is also the recipient of the Cox Award for 2007, Clemson University's highest honor, for "sustained achievement in public service."

He is co-founder and chair emeritus of the nonprofit [Children & Nature Network](#), which supports a new nature movement.

He speaks frequently around the world, including keynote addresses presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference, the first White House Summit on Environmental Education, the Congress of the New Urbanism, the International Healthy Parks Conference in Melbourne, Australia, and the national Friends of Nature Conference in Beijing, China.

Louv has written for the New York Times, the Times of London, Parents Magazine and many other publications. and has appeared on CBS This Morning, NBC's Today Show, ABC's Good Morning America, NPR's Talk of the Nation, and other programs. Married to Kathy Frederick Louv, he is the father of two young men, Jason and Matthew. He would rather hike than write.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 – 9:00ish 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.

At the November Board Meeting, **Joseph Sochor** was appointed to fill the vacant position on the board through the rest of 2019.

Results of Board Elections

Board elections were held in November. Four members were on the ballot, but before the votes were cast, **Joseph Sochor** offered to run for the fifth position. He is newly elected, though he has served on the board before. These board members were elected for the 2020-2021 calendar years:

Elected: **Joseph Sochor**
Re-elected: **Bob Byrnes**
Justin Daniel
Connie Di Girolamo
Frank Landis

We now have a full board of 11 members.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Vice President

Conservation Committee

December 3. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Email conservation@cnpsd.org for details. If you are interested in this kind of work, you are very, very welcome, as we always need more volunteers. **We are happy to train you**, too, and we have developed training materials. If you know of a project that needs our involvement, we also welcome you. Our goal is to protect California's native plants, and where they are threatened, whether it is by development or climate change, we speak up and advocate for them.

Conservation Column

Holiday Talking Points for the 2020 Elections

As I write this in November, it's quiet on the conservation front, although this is certainly the lull before a storm of CEQA documents that will probably bring, well, strong emotions to my holiday season. Because some important issues are coming up in the March 2020 election, I wanted to use this month's column to talk about one of them, the Save Our San Diego (SOS) initiative within the County. CNPSSD officially supports this initiative, and I wanted to go into some detail as to why.

None of this is news if you regularly read the newsletter. What may be news is that there's a lot of money lining up against the SOS initiative, including from developers and people employed by developers. Since you're likely to get bombarded by stuff designed to either confuse you or make you not want to vote, here's what the SOS initiative is about, the bigger context, and how it relates to native plants and CNPS issues.

As you probably already know, the SOS initiative covers unincorporated San Diego County, although everybody in the County votes on it. The process the SOS proposes is:

- IF a development project requires a General Plan Amendment (GPA), AND
- IF that project proposes to increase housing density over what the County General Plan specifies for that parcel (with certain minor and common-sense exceptions), AND
- IF the supervisors approve the GPA, after it has gone through the normal development and environmental reviews,
- THEN it goes to the voters for final approval.

What SOS does not do is:

- Block any development that follows the County General Plan.
- Make the voters in charge of approving development by initiative (as with the initiative to develop Lilac Hills

process entirely).

- Have anything to do with affordable housing (it's about density, not type).
- Stop development in the unincorporated County.

These last are important, because that's what the anti-SOS rhetoric has alleged.

The story being spread around is that this will stop affordable housing. Since none of the big GPA projects the County approved over the last two years had any affordable housing to speak of, this is simply wrong. There's a lot of affordable housing zoned for in the current County Plan. If it was all built, we wouldn't have a housing crisis. Indeed, some of it is getting approved and built. You haven't read about it here because there was no reason to get CNPS involved in those planning processes, because it had no native plant issues worth mentioning.

Moreover, if a developer proposed a GPA that had massive affordable housing, San Diego voters could pass it under the SOS initiative, just as they could pass any GPA. That's why the initiative is not anti-growth. It just adds another step so that people get their voices heard. That additional step is important, because it's otherwise hard for voters to make their desires heard on GPAs.

GPA developments that propose to build thousands of high-end homes (homes worth \$500,000 and up) stand to gross hundreds of millions to billions of dollars if they are fully built. With that much money at stake, substantial contributions to political parties, funding litigation, or fighting initiatives are all trivial costs. And, since the county gets a lot of property tax for every one of these units, there's a collective financial incentive for the County to approve as many as possible. And, since fires and other disasters don't happen every year (or every decade) and there are term limits on most elected offices, it is a reasonable gamble that whoever approves a dangerous project won't be in office to deal with it being destroyed in a fire, flood, or earthquake, nor will they take the blame. This is not a partisan analysis, simply to point out that if the only things people analyze about developments are the money to be made and risk of loss, these GPA developments look like good investments. The problem here is that the developer gets the profits, while the county only gets the tax revenue until disaster strikes, at which point we are stuck with the cost of dealing with the mess.

You may think that, as an urbanite, problems with back-country developments do not affect you and are therefore none of your business. Unfortunately, that is not true. While there are attempts to get new developments to pay for their share of utilities and infrastructure, ultimately everyone's taxes pick up the slack, which includes costs for roads, power (especially if we go to Community Choice Aggregation), sheriffs, emergency response, and disaster response. These last two are where things can get really expensive, because someone has to pay for fighting big, wind-driven fires.

hundreds of homes in Malibu. While not all of those homes were owned by the super-rich, everyone in LA and Ventura Counties paid to fight that fire and protect the people in Malibu. That is money that otherwise could have gone to improving the conditions in lower income, urban neighborhoods. If mansions are built in Proctor Valley (following Otay Ranch Village 13 or 14), then everyone in San Diego will help cover the costs of fighting fires to save those houses. The money we pay to allow protect people's expensive homes from fire could be used to underwrite affordable housing elsewhere, but a GPA forces us to pay to protect those homes.

Since everyone is affected, everyone should have a say in it. That is a principle that I think most people across the political spectrum agree on.

There are some other rumors going around about the SOS initiative, that it's an experiment in radical leftist politics and that it will make housing unaffordable in San Diego County. Neither of these are particularly true.

San Diego isn't the first place to try this in California. That first place, to my knowledge, is the City of Ventura (1995). Since then the County of Ventura has adopted it (1998), as have eight other cities in that county. In 2016, Ventura County voters reapproved the idea and stretched it out to 2050. It's withstood challenges all the way up to the State Supreme Court. Ventura's Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) continues to champion this approach, because it protects them from being assimilated by suburban sprawl from next door LA County.

Ventura County is marginally more liberal than San Diego County (39% voters are registered democrats vs. 35% here), so we're not talking about a wild utopian experiment. Nor are we talking about a legally untested one.

As for the idea that it will make San Diego unaffordable, according to an article on Marketwatch.com (May 24, 2019), of the five best and most affordable places to live in California, four (Oxnard, Ventura, Simi Valley, and Camarillo) were in Ventura County. I don't think there's any evidence that putting developments before the voters automatically results in making a place more unaffordable. If anything, it might make San Diego County more livable.

Finally, there's the question of why CNPS is involved in this. For us, this is about loss of habitat for natives, about fire, and about climate change. The loss of native plants is an obvious problem, but not all GPAs have that. Lilac Hills Ranch is mostly on farmland, for instance. However, we have a statewide policy that we don't support destroying native plants to put people in danger from wildfire. As an organization we especially do not support destroying rare and sensitive plant species, or ecosystems for that matter, to put people in danger from wildfires. That's what gives CNPSers standing to speak up against projects to protect both plants and people.

and driving is the single biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the county. Putting a lot of people where they have to drive a long way to get to work or stores increases air pollution, while encouraging people to drive less, whether it's by increasing transportation or making it easier to walk or bike to work helps decrease it. That's why I speak up on behalf of CNPS against sprawl.

Hope this helps make the SOS initiative more clear. It's pretty straight forward, it's been tested, and it appears to work.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Native Gardening Committee Meeting

December 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpsd.org for location and time. Meetings address a lively array of gardening opportunities, projects, and special events. The location rotates each month amongst private homes and public spaces. They are usually preceded by a potluck dinner.

2020 Native Garden Tour

Calling All Local Artists!



"Bringing Nature Back Home Pt. 1" by Molly Paulick

Seeking Artists for the CNPS San Diego 2020 Native Garden Tour April 4th & 5th

This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate, showcase and sell your art!

Plein Air, Fine Art, Mixed Media, Sculptures, Native Habitat Houses, Hand Crafted Art are just a few examples.

Artwork must be native plant/garden related, original & unique. Submit photos of your work to:

cnpsd.org/artist

Entry Deadline is February 17, 2020

Thank You! Judie Lincer and Christine Hoey, 2020 Native Garden Tour Co-Directors



CNPS San Diego Chapter 7th Annual Native Garden Tour April 4 & 5, 2020

Show off Your Native Garden!

We are looking for California Native Gardens in the following areas for our spring native garden tour:

- La Mesa
- Del Cerro/San Carlos
- Santee
- Fletcher Hills
- Rolando/College Area
- Rancho San Diego

For Details and Application, go to:

cnpsd.org/my-garden

Thank you! Judie Lincer and Christine Hoey, 2020 Native Garden Tour Co-directors

Old Town Landscape

No work party is scheduled at the Old Town Landscape in December. For info, contact Peter or Kay at OldTownLandscape@cnpsd.org

OTHER CNPS ACTIVITIES

CNPS Bryophyte Chapter

Registration is now open for the **SO BE FREE** Bryophyte Foray March 20 – 23, 2020, in Lake County, CA.

<https://bryophyte.cnps.org/images/pdf/SBF25Announcemnt.pdf>

San Diego Audubon Society

Audubon Preserves

Audubon's [Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary](#) (13003 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside, CA 92040; (619) 443-2998) is open to the public on **Sundays from 9 am to 4 pm, October through July. Guided nature walks are conducted at 10 am and 1:30 pm October through June**, with some guided hikes featuring a special topic. Audubon's [Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve](#) (2437 Hutchison Street, Vista, CA 92084; (760) 295-8379) is open Saturdays 9 am-noon and the 3rd Wed. of each month, 8 am-11 am (closed July through September). With a loop trail through the native vegetation, the Anstine preserve is a North County birding hotspot.

2020 San Diego Bird Festival

February 26 to March 1, 2020

Marina Village Conference Center

For the festival brochure, please contact **Jen Hajj** at hajj@sandiegoaudubon.org with the subject line "Please send a festival brochure to this address." Registration is open. The BEST way to get the programs you want is to register online. Mailed-in registration forms may experience a short lag in processing.

California Society for Ecological Restoration (SERCAL) Conference

April 29 – May 1, 2020; <http://www.sercal.org/>

Habitat restoration experts across California are gathering to share their experiences and knowledge on a gamut of restoration activities happening in our backyards. From large-scale dam removals to small-scale community restoration, collective efforts are helping California landscapes regain connectivity and ecosystem function, while advancing the science, art, and practice of ecological restoration in a rapidly changing state.

The 27th Annual SERCAL conference will be held at **Palo Corona Regional Park & Discovery Center in Carmel Valley (Monterey)**. The annual conference provides a congenial environment for professionals, students, and enthusiasts to invigorate their work through technical presentations, poster presentations, fieldtrips, and sponsorships.

Conference themes:

A Fish-eye's View: Myriad opportunities for enhancing watersheds.

Building Healthy Soils: For plant growth, nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration.

wildfires.

Grassland Ecosystems: Management perspectives & local adaptations.

Greenways and Trails: Creating habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.

Habitat Restoration for Wildlife: If we build it, will they come?

Hindsight is 2020: Are we learning from our mistakes?

Protecting California's Natural Resources: Managing invasive plants.

Restoration in Our Backyard: How community-based efforts are transforming landscapes.

Tech Tools: Monitoring, data, and analysis at our fingertips

Transforming "Retired" Lands: The paths to functioning ecosystems.

Your Story Here: The nuts & bolts, science, and practice of habitat restoration.

Plus Lightning Talks and a Poster Session featuring a Student Poster Competition.

SERCAL is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to advancing the science, art, and practice of restoring native California habitats.



Remembering our colorful 2019 spring. Photo of Poway hills 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, November 10 for the December newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar December 2019

- 12/3:** Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4
- 12/4:** Board Meeting, p.2
- 12/11:** Garden Committee Mtg, p.5
- 12/17:** Chapter Meeting, p.1

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



December 2019 Newsletter

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

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