



# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

### Winter California Native Plant Sale: Online Order and Pickup

Begins Monday, February 15, 2021, 8:00 pm

Our list of plants that will be available for online order at the Winter Plant Sale 2021 beginning February 15 at 8 pm is now online. We will take the first 180 orders beginning on February 15 at 8 pm. The sale closes after 180 orders have been placed.

You can view and start planning on Calscrape with advanced search features (click in upper right), or Calflora with photos and botanic info, or, if you prefer, you can view the list in spreadsheet format. An additional dozen species will not appear on the Calscrape and Calflora lists since they don't match to Calscrape because they are from Baja or for other reasons. The following will be available for sale:

- 150+ species of California native plants
- 100+ species of California native seeds and bulbs
- Books and merchandise

Pick up will be by appointment to keep people safe. CNPS members will receive a gift at pick up. Note that availability of species is subject to change.

The proceeds of your purchase support CNPS-San Diego Chapter, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of native California flora and the crucial habitat it provides for wildlife & people.

### **BOARD MEETING**

#### **February Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 3, 6:30 – 9:00ish p.m.** The meeting will be via Zoom. To add an issue to the agenda, or to get the link to the meeting, please email [president@cnpsd.org](mailto:president@cnpsd.org).

The January and February Board Meeting summaries will be included in the March newsletter.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary/  
Newsletter Editor

### **ZOOM PROGRAM**

Zoom programs are listed on the chapter website at: [www.cnpsd.org/events](http://www.cnpsd.org/events). Check the website to see if any have been scheduled since this newsletter was completed.

### **CONTRIBUTE A STORY**

The articles and stories in our chapter newsletter come from our members and friends. Have an idea for an article or story on a native-plant-related topic? Please write it up and send it to [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org).

### **GARDENING WITH NATIVES**

#### **Garden Committee (GC) Zoom Meeting**

#### **Wild Yards Project by David Newsom**

**Tuesday March 9, 6:30-8:00 pm**

Via Zoom (You do not need a Zoom account or app to attend)



The Garden Committee is pleased to announce **David Newsom**, founder of the nonprofit organization *Wild Yards Project* ([wildyardsproject.com](http://wildyardsproject.com)) as our speaker for the March meeting. Self-described native plant evangelist and

storyteller, David will be presenting "*As Above, So Below - What Our Gardens Say About Who We Are, And Where We Are Headed.*" Through "rewilding" his own yard, David's mission is to "inspire a movement across the country to transform every yard into vital native habitat." The meeting is open to everyone,

but limited to 100 attendees. Mark your calendars now and register here: [March Meeting Sign Up](#)

This month's featured article, "What to Prune" is written by Garden Committee member and CNPS Garden Ambassador, **Tish Berge**. The focus is on California native plants that can be pruned this month along with the benefits of pruning. So, if you didn't have a chance to trim back some of your natives last fall, now is the time to encourage new growth for spring!

## February in the Native Garden



(Left) Pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*).

This is still a great time to continue adding new native plants to your garden! Keeping the root ball and surrounding soil moist will help establish

your new plants. Many of us have rain barrels and using rainwater in your garden is the perfect way to keep your native plants happy. And remember to put your native plant order in quickly for the February 15th CNPS-SD Native Plant Sale. The online catalog is available now for viewing at: [CNPS-SD Plant Sale](#)

For those of you who only get the hardcopy newsletter, go to this address on your computer: <https://www.cnpsd.org/events/plantsale-feb-15>

For established native gardens, keep an eye out on soil moisture if there are long periods between soaking rains or light rains. When additional watering is indicated, your native garden will thank you for a little overhead sprinkling and soil soak. Replenish your mulch as needed.

Annual wildflower seeds can still be planted for flowers in the spring/summer. Lightly rake the soil before broadcasting seeds and keep the soil moist for germination - no mulch is necessary, but watch out for the critters who are looking for a quick snack!

**Volunteer Opportunities** - We are always looking for volunteers, so drop us a line at [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org) if you are interested in helping with the following:

- **Bird Park native gardens:** We are in the planning/design phase and if you are interested in helping, send us an email. We welcome input and ideas from novices to experts.
- **Native Garden Video:** The Garden Committee has the chapter board support to create a native garden video of selected gardens from the 2020 cancelled garden tour. The native garden video will debut during *Native Plant Week* this April on the CNPS-SD YouTube channel. We are looking for volunteers with video, editing and post production experience to assist with

this project. Please contact Christine Hoey for more information at 770-714-5462

- **Winter/Spring plant sale:** several leadership positions are open, and volunteers will be needed for tagging and plant pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, contact [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org)
- **CNPS-SD Newsletter:** Write short native garden related articles for the newsletter. Click on this link to sign up: [Newsletter Sign Up](#)

**Mark your Calendars:** The Garden Committee meets every other month via Zoom. After our Tuesday, March 9 meeting, our next meeting will be **May 11, 6:30 pm**. Meetings are open, and everyone is welcome!

*Spring is on its way!*

*Christine Hoey, Nancy Levine & Judie Lincer*

## What to Prune Now

By Tish Berge, CNPS Garden Ambassador

Many native plant gardeners are attracted to the low maintenance of native plants, or at least I was. While low maintenance is definitely an advantage of native plants, there are several types of natives that benefit from pruning. By pruning, we encourage growth, especially of flowers, which translates to nectar, seeds, and berries—all things that your local critters need for survival. More of these means a richer, more robust habitat in your garden.

As our gardens start to take advantage of the little bit of rain we got recently, we can see growth in many of our plants. Depending on your plant makeup, you may also be noticing that some plants are slowing down and ending their bloom cycle.

Every plant has a different rhythm with regard to when it experiences growth. In California, we are blessed with plant diversity and generally milder seasons compared to the rest of the country. This diversity is wonderful and beautiful. As a gardener, though, you may find some decisions more confusing, such as if and when to prune a plant. This article covers pruning for deciduous, woody, and flowering or fast-growing plants during this time of year.



Pruning tip: Keep pruning shears sharp and cut stems on a diagonal. Clean shears with disinfectant between trimming different native plants to prevent spreading disease.

**Deciduous.** Prune plants that have dropped their leaves or that benefit from a hard pruning. Plants likely to have dropped their leaves this time of year include California wild grape (*Vitis californica*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp.), rose (*Rosa*

spp.), elderberry (*Sambucus* spp.), and redbud (*Cercis* spp.) (list courtesy of *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide* by Helen Popper). Also, deciduous oaks can be added to this list. Because at this time of year they don't have leaves, it is easier to select and prune out unwanted crossing and cluttering branches. Such cuts will direct new spring growth.

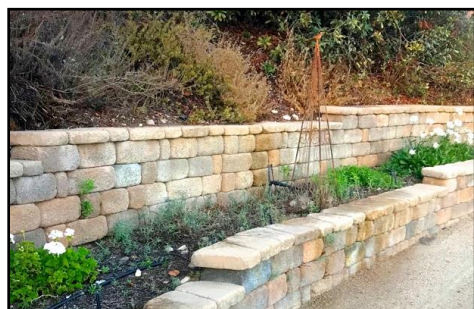
**Woody.** At this time, do not prune woody chaparral plants, such as ceanothus, manzanita, or evergreen oaks. I don't like to touch these plants at all, but if yours need shaping, save that for summer.

**Flowering and Fast Growing.** Some plants benefit from a hard pruning or shearing and will reward you and your habitat with robust growth afterwards. Examples include California fuchsia (*Epilobium* spp.), Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), and poverty weed (*Iva* spp.). My California fuchsia has provided the hummingbirds with nectar for months now and is reaching the end of its flowering phase. As a side benefit, I've been raking the spent flowers that drop on the ground onto the mulch.

Here is a before photo of the California fuchsia before the hard pruning. I purchased these plants at the CNPS plant sale, and they are located in very well-draining soil in this raised bed garden. They do receive supplemental water here as well, which simply makes them more prolific. They have seeded volunteers throughout the garden, and those volunteers have remained small or have died out due to lack of water. In November 2019, I did a hard pruning of this plant, so you are looking at just over 13 months of growth in this before photo.



In early January 2020, I did a hard pruning of my California fuchsia again, as shown in the next photo.



With this hard pruning, the remaining plants are just inches high, and now you can clearly see the garden obelisk that helped provide a structure for the

fuchsia to gain more height. Given the location of the garden path, I did not use the chop-and-drop method for the cuttings, but did distribute some of the leaf and flower litter to other parts of the garden.

While I was a little sad seeing my resident hummingbird show up with just a few flowers left, I look forward to the fuchsia coming back again even stronger and providing valuable nectar for the birds.

**Tish Berge** has been a CNPS member since the early 2000's when she got her very first native plant, a Catalina cherry. She likes natives because they are drought tolerant and attract wildlife. She recommends workshops, tours, and patience to new gardeners.

## CONSERVATION

### Conservation Committee Meeting

Contact [conservation@cnpssd.org](mailto:conservation@cnpssd.org) for information regarding the January meeting.

### Being pro-science

This is one of the harder columns to write. No, I haven't been through a personal tragedy, it's just that the mess that started January 6<sup>th</sup> makes it hard to write about local environmental politics. The NGO Global Witness regularly reports on how many environmentalists were assassinated worldwide. In 2019, 212 people lost their lives doing some version of what I do for CNPSSD. I'm glad we live in a country where I can be active in local politics, trying simply to speak for the plants, and not worry about being arrested, assaulted, or disappeared. It's unsettling to realize that this is more a privilege than a right, that it doesn't come for free, and that quite a few people in this country want otherwise. Hopefully, when you read this in a few weeks, it will be all over except the trials, and we'll be trying to work out a new normal where the politicians actually deal with COVID-19 and climate change.

That said, there are a lot of local issues, including one last big development in Escondido that you'll hear more about as the spring progresses. That development is Harvest Hills, formerly Safari Highlands. Since the Escondido city council is now majority-republican, we can expect it to come up for a vote (and probably litigation) later this year. It's yet another leapfrog sprawl that impacts rare plants and animals, puts the people who would live there in heightened wildfire danger, and contributes to climate change. To paraphrase MLK, I have a dream that one day we won't have to deal with these anymore, because developers will have found something better to do for a living. But that time is not yet.

There are other issues on the horizon. Unfortunately, all of them overshadowed by probable financial shortfalls inflicted by the pandemic. There's a lot to do, and it's unclear how it will all get done. When you see the list of things new leaders want done, remember this.

High on that list is the County Climate Action Plan. We can hope this will actually reduce emissions, but getting there will take some hard decisions. The big issue is that the County needs to reduce emissions within its own borders. Generally, that means some combination of getting everyone to drive less (our major

emissions category), use less gas to do everything else, build differently, and figure out ways to get carbon out of the air, all inside the county. This last has doomed the last few CAPs, because it was always easier to assume that we could pay someone else to take care of our carbon for us while we went on with business as usual.

That option—carbon offsets—has always been problematic, because the world doesn't have enough carbon sequestration capacity now and it will have less in decades to come. Buying someone else's share doesn't solve the problem, and not getting scammed on the investment is even problematic. Unfortunately, San Diego doesn't support rain forests full of carbon-hungry trees. With our dry, fire-prone climate, we're very unlikely to sequester as much carbon as we currently generate. Figuring out how to reduce and sequester our emissions will take some real thought, honesty, management, innovation and above all good science. That's a tall order for governments plagued by high turnover and bureaucracies that prioritize politics.

Science also shows up increasingly in park planning, including the new-ish field of recreation ecology. Those of us dealing with park issues, especially the increasing pressure for more trails, have been learning about recreation ecology, which as a field studies the impacts of recreation on the natural world. Unfortunately for all of us, it turns out that recreation, especially mountain biking but also hiking, has serious negative effects on both plants and animals. We already know about the negative effects on plants—people damaging them, introducing weeds, and lighting too many fires. Unfortunately, it turns out that there are serious impacts on animals, too, as human recreation disrupts the activities necessary for them to survive and reproduce.

Right now, in the County and various cities, there's a political push on (yes, largely by the mountain bikers) to make more trails, more parking areas, and more bike transit corridors. This sounds superficially great, but the negative impacts are already obvious to those of us working and volunteering in parks, that this will make a hell of a mess.

The problem is convincing the planners of this. I've now heard multiple plans, including the City Parks Master Plan and the proposed new park by Wright's Field, that focus exclusively on having parks provide amenities for humans. The MSCP, to the extent they've heard of it, is now considered a trivial hurdle to be overcome during the CEQA stage, not a fundamental agreement that both City and County have pledged to uphold for another 25 years to keep species from going extinct. They're no longer using it in the planning process, and we're rushing to re-educate them about its importance.

This isn't just a matter of producing good science, because to be honest, most of the decision makers have no idea how to interpret the data and little apparent interest in doing so. For example, one current park planner specializes in transportation planning and is a recent transplant from the Midwest. They have little biology background and probably didn't know that

San Diego County has at least as many native plants as their entire home state did. To them, parks were blank spaces on the map that provided convenient places to put bike paths. As another example, the planners of the park adjacent to Wright's Field took the public requests to have "nature" in the park as an excuse to design an artificial playground with imported logs and rocks for kids to climb on. Worse for native plants, they plan to have the park serve as a massive terminus (up to 100 parking spots), for people to drive in and bike on Wright's Field, which is an ecological reserve. Wright's Field was never supposed to be a destination playground for that many people, and it's not clear how much of it would survive that much traffic.

To repeat the refrain from last month, conserved has to mean conserved. It seems we will have to struggle with this going forward. We will need to demonstrate, repeatedly, that conserved spaces are not blank spaces on the map waiting to be used, but full spaces that will be degraded and broken by careless overuse and lack of real care. This, unfortunately, is part of the bigger struggle we're engaged with right now, over privilege and greed right in our society.

Another place the science needs to go is into creating north and east county MSCPs. I hope they can, but in reading the proposal, I had a few big concerns.

One is that the MSCPs will not cover all rare species. The North County plan will only cover a few dozen, because the plan is being pitched as a way for the County to meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, not as a way to protect everything. Species stuck along the north county coast, in particular, won't be covered, so we'll have to protect those in parcel-by-parcel struggles.

A second problem is that the developers want a "no surprises" rule. There is no mention of climate change, and this desperately needs to be in the contract, because circumstances for both wildlife and developers are going to change wildly. The developers still think they can develop the Merriam Mountains and other places. Instead, they're going to have to go truly carbon neutral and fire safe, a combination that rural sprawl developments are uniquely unsuited for. No one is ready for this future, yet we're still trying to build an MSCP by compromise. It will be interesting, and I hope that sciences like recreation ecology aren't a casualty of the negotiation.

In all of these, science matters. This isn't a plea to fund studies and wait for the answers. Far more, it is recognizing, after decades of people believing they could choose their own reality, that there is an objective reality that we're at the mercy of. We very much have to take care of the systems that support our lives and livelihoods, or they fall apart. These systems include our democracy, our politics, and the natural world that provides clean air, drinkable water, plants, fungi, insects, wildlife, and all the other parts of a beautiful, meaningful world that should not be subsumed under some planners' ugly rubric of "ecosystem services." If they only understand built environments, it's high time they learned about the other 90% of reality.

We have a lot to do. Stay safe.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### **Class: Landscaping with California Native Plants Livestream**

**By Susan Krzywicki**

**February 6 & 13, 2021**

**9 am - noon**

CNPS-SD member **Susan Krzywicki** will teach this 2-day class through MiraCosta Community College.

Class ID: 55328

Cost: \$59

Register at:

<https://www.facebook.com/cnpssd/posts/10157758327787647>

**NOTE: Registration closes Friday, February 5 @ 11:59 pm.**

Create a sense of place and habitat using California's own heritage, which will ultimately benefit your purse, your home and the planet. We will focus on 20 native California plant species, their uses, care and maintenance without chemicals or additives. Students will design a landscape and supplemental irrigation system through lecture and hands-on design sessions.



### **San Diego Audubon Society San Diego Bird Festival February 17-21, 2021**

This year's San Diego Bird Festival is a "hybrid" event, with a blend of in-person and on-line events. Workshops and speakers will all be presented via Zoom. A few low attendance field trips are also planned. There will be no gatherings of more than 12 people at a time.

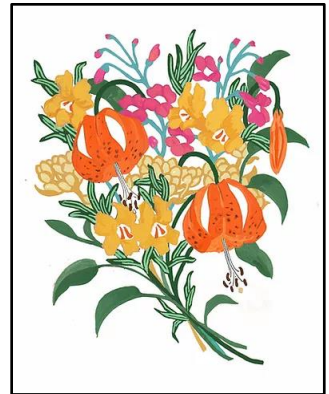
You can view the entire schedule and register at: [www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birding/san-diego-bird-festival](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birding/san-diego-bird-festival)

### **Native Plant Art**

The January issue of the Paintbrush, the newsletter of the CNPS San Gabriel Chapter, included an article about artist Lesley Goren.

You might like to see her native California plant artwork by checking out her website at:

<https://www.lesleygoren.com/>



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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter; that is February 10 for the March newsletter, etc. Please submit items to [newsletter@cnpssd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpssd.org).

### **CNPS-SD Activities Calendar February 2021**

- 2/3: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.2**
- 2/9: Garden Committee Meeting via Zoom, p.2**
- 2/15: CNPSSD Native Plant Sale, p.1**

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<https://www.cnps.org/membership>

\_\_\_ Student/Limited Income \$25; \_\_\_ Individual \$50; \_\_\_ Plant Lover \$120; \_\_\_ Supporter \$500; \_\_\_ Patron \$1,000; \_\_\_ Benefactor \$2,500; \_\_\_ Perennial Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at \$5/mo provide much needed predictable income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see <https://www.cnps.org/membership> to sign up for this membership level.

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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February 2021 Newsletter

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

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Two OPEN positions on the board.

### **CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE**

Frank Landis.....chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

### **Email DISCUSSION GROUP**

Craig Denson, Moderator  
To join, email: CNPSSanDiegoDiscuss+subscribe@groups.io

### **RARE PLANT BOTANIST**

Fred Roberts.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org  
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