

Carol Greentree's 1989 CNPS Chapter History Project

In 1989 CNPS wanted to publish short histories for Chapters and asked the different chapters to write up something about their chapter for an upcoming *Fremontia* article. In fact, there were a series of articles describing the various Chapters published in 1990 grouped by areas of the state. Southern California chapters were covered in the October edition. Bobbie, our current Chapter President was the Chapter President at the time of this historical collection and Joan Stewart, the Vice-President asked Carol Greentree to write up a capsule history for the Chapter. Carol broke the project up into two parts, one the written history and the other a collection of bona-fide archives of CNPS history and activities. Carol combed through people's scraps of paper about the Chapter and asked nineteen early members to fill out a questionnaire she developed for the project. Her list of people contacted included: Duffie Clemons, Willie Reynolds, Chuck and Lois Kline, Bill Gunther, Carol Jean Wolcott, Mitch Beauchamp, Anne and Earl Galloway, Reid Moran, Bette Klingman, Wayne Armstrong, Bill Knerr, Erik Jonsson, Ed and Anne Karig, Fred Sproul, Mrs. Hal Nourse, Tom Oberbauer, Jim Dice, Ann Payne, Jeanne Hawkins, Andy Wilson, Bobbie Steele, Joan Stewart, and Wayne Tyson. She wanted to find Jane Minshall, Darley Howe, Gail Culver, Susan Elliot, Mike Douglas, Burch Mehlin but couldn't find good addresses for them or they were deceased by the time the project was initiated. Carol also asked chapter members to contribute some reminiscence about their involvement in CNPS.

The following captures some of the responses from Carol's questionnaire-

Bill Gunther

When you were first Involved in CNPS? Charter member

What drew you to the group?

Interest in plants

If you held an office or chaired a committee, do you still have records?

No

What attracted you to CNPS?

See attached sheet

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Went as a group to dig up and save the Barrel Cactus and *dudleyas* along the route of interstate 5 or 805.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

None that I know of

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

The pleasure of desert hikes

What frustrations did you encounter?

No frustrations

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

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How has CNPS changed your life?

It has not changed my life.

Attached sheet;

I don't remember what year our Chapter was formed, but the formative "charter" meeting was in the Casa Del Prado; perhaps there were 8 people in attendance. Mike Beauchamp was elected President. But who to be Vice President? The choice was between several of us aged and experienced – but tired- old folks and one young unknown high school student who showed up "out of the blue". We chose the high school student. [hand written in Mike Douglas.]

He was a clean-cut kid, and he was very energetic. I don't even remember his name, but it may have Douglas. And why was Douglas interested in native plants instead of rock and roll and girls and "pot", which then was in rage among schoolchildren? Possibly because he was a newcomer to the area: it turned out that he and his family had recently arrived from the backwoods of Newfoundland, Canada, where life is centered on fish, native plants, and native animals.

At the time, some local native plants were threatened by a big housing development project planned for Mount Soledad, above La Jolla. Naturally, the local Chapter of California Native Plant Society, in its monthly meeting, voted to oppose the

development. And Douglas volunteered to express our opposition – which we assumed would be in the form of an official letter from the Chapter to the City Planning Board. But between that meeting and the next, we were brought up to date. Douglas had researched the site and learned the common and scientific names of the native plants which grew there. With this information, he, a high school student, personally appeared at a meeting of the City Planning Board and flabbergasted everyone with a learned presentation in opposition to the development. The Planning Board didn't know what to do so they deferred approval of the development and referred Douglas' protest to the Mayor of San Diego. So a week later Douglas appeared before the Mayor and, with complete self confidence and with fluid use of botanic names, repeated his plea for preservation of the native plants of Mount Soledad.

As usually happens, the housing project eventually was approved and built. But Douglas, alone, at least stalled it. And in so doing he brought welcome assurance that all students were not just playboys, and that all conservationists were not just hippies, and he simultaneously elevated the new San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society from an unknown entity to a status of being well known – if for no other reason than for having a high-school student as its lobbyist. ***** G

Hand written note: Carol – In those days, Douglas had a driving ambition to become an astronomer – although I (including on a trip with him to the mountains) tried to change his ambition so that instead he would become a botanist. Years later I heard a rumor that he in fact was a scientist – but neither astronomer nor botanist. If you in this project find out where he now is, what he is doing, and for whom he is working, please advise - Thanks - G

Bette Klingman

Bette drafted a hand written letter to Carol while at a 49er's Celebration at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley

1. I became a member of CNPS (SD) 1972
2. When I was a newcomer in San Diego in late 1971 I wrote Helen Witham (Chamlee) a letter of appreciation for her efforts to preserve a natural area. In her reply was an invitation to join CNPS which I did in 1972.
3. I have material of a survey of special areas effort CNPS made for preservation projects. The records from sales activities I turned back to CNPS long ago.
4. I don't believe I'm a founding member, but joined soon after. Helen Chamlee (then Witham), Reid Moran, Wilhelmina Reynolds, Mitch Beauchamp, Bill Knerr, Dick Bradshaw were first members I knew. Soon I met Eric Jonsson and Duffy Clemons. CNPS people were concerned for loss of open space due to development for commerce and housing. I wanted to know about San Diego, and

to make friends in my new “home” area. I was motivated to watch a 5 acre floral area come to bloom, seed and sleep!

5. CNPS activities and people enriched my life. I loved projects so plant rescues, seed planting were very rewarding – The most rewarding early achievements of this chapter was drawing attention to the unique Vernal Pools and efforts to divert highway and other construction to destroy them.
6. Barriers Lack of the general public’s interest in preserving natural areas for future parklands or green belts.
7. Highlights Borrego desert areas fieldtrips were a whole new world of beauty to me, a newcomer. I felt safe and comfortable with the group on our hikes and campouts which was important to one new to “widow” situation. I was proud of our knowledgeable members whose input was used by local govt. CNPS stimulated me to raise a variety of native plants for the sale, using advise of Bill Knerr and Wilhelima Reynolds. I have been especially glad those with more botany background did not distain those beginning to learn!
8. Frustrations: My great achievement was a flat of successfully sprouted Matilija poppies – 1” high. That sunny spot was the only place my kitty could find for his daily nap and he squashed them all! I also lost a great many transplants which I bought instead of adding an “amendment” to excellent soil I had!
9. Personal Involvement: I enjoyed rescuing plants, reforestation, giving programs on plants, using my new found knowledge in docent work for SD Natural History Museum. I have felt that I was doing something positive at this time of destruction of our environment. In efforts to save a livable environment in every way we are actually working to save ourselves, the truly endangered species! The impact of CNPS on my life has been very great – Raised my awareness of abundant LIFE and my place in it/

Carol, perhaps you know that “Willie” keeps records – she also has wonderful photos albums of CNPS trips and plants. (I guess Ill get mine together and bring someday. I’ll find the info mentioned and bring to our president! I hope my response is not too late. I was out of town a long time and now a month again away!!

Duffie Clemons

When you were first Involved in CNPS? 1976

What drew you to the group?

I was studying for a B.S. Botany at SDSU and saw a reference to CNPS in the San Diego Union. I thought it might help in taxonomy classes. (My hobby is botany)

If you held an office or chaired a committee, do you still have records?

Yes, 1980 to present Treasurer No 1979 Recording Secretary No 1978 VP & Program Chair

[Unfortunately bound ledgers became bug infested and the records were destroyed]

What attracted you to CNPS?

1. Hikes and identifying flora 2. Chapter meetings, programs (it was Eric Jonsson who took me to a Board Meeting and got me involved helping him with field trips)

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

The transfer of emphasis from a socially oriented gardening club to environmental activism and botanical nature studies. The primary leaders in this were Tom Oberbauer, Mitch Beauchamp, Fred Sproul, Jim Dice and Erik Jonsson.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

The above change was not accomplished without some degree of hard feelings among the gardening group and some of them dropped out.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

1984- Became a life member, 1985- Compiled Vascular Plants of Anza Borrego Desert State Park (32 pp), 1986- Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association published above for sale at Desert Visitor's Center, 1986 to present- A series of descriptions and comments on the rare and endangered plants of San Diego County (it was Joan Stewart who suggested that I do this).

1986- Compiled Vascular Plants of Montane San Diego County (41 pp.)

1987- Compiled Vascular Plants of Extreme Southwest San Diego County (36 pp.)

(Proceeds of sales of plant lists donated to CNPS. Royalties from Anza-Borrego booklet donated to CNPS)

1986 to present- Appointed Desert Issues Person for CNPS State Conservation Committee (after some arm-twisting by Joan Stewart and Mary Dedecker)

What frustrations did you encounter?

More frustrating than a poor turnout for a hike was to have too many. Memorable fiascos: Torrey Pines (one year), Cabrillo Nat Mon, a recent Anza-Borrego Desert field trip.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

I have enjoyed all my CNPS involvement, with one exception. I find that public meetings and large committee groups are wasted effort. Net worth of our chapter at end of 1979 was \$3541. It now stands at \$12,659 (7Aug89). I am proud that I put our bookkeeping on a business-like basis. (Sample report enclosed)

How has CNPS changed your life?

In 1979 CNPS was given a tour of the herbarium, San Diego Natural History Museum. Reid Moran, Curator, indicated need for volunteers. In the past 10 years I have donated 11,000 hours to the Botany Depart. In 1984 I was granted (with Erik Jonsson) a scientific collecting permit for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. I have collected 2000+ plant specimens for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Herbarium and the Natural History Museum.

Tom Oberbauer

When you were first Involved in CNPS? 1976

What drew you to the group?

Word of mouth information from Mitch Beauchamp and information regarding the rare and endangered plant list.

What attracted you to CNPS?

Meetings and the journal *Fremontia*; particularly information on rare plants.

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Forcing the City of San Diego to deal with rare plants, particularly vernal pools. There was controversy about spending money to hire a lawyer to require the City to comply with State regulations.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

Transition from just a garden-horticultural club interested in native plants to a more or less politically active group. As with all groups, this one is still run by a small core group.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Leading field trips has always been enjoyable as well as representing the local chapter at the State level. I have also greatly enjoyed presenting talks and slide shows on the rare plants of San Diego County in 1978 when the room 101 auditorium was filled with at least 75 people.

What frustrations did you encounter?

Getting the interest of more than just a few core individuals. It is still a problem and people who invest heavily usually "burn out". It has also been frustrating that there is not greater interest from University students; something that could be encouraged by professors.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

Presenting interesting programs of local topics.

How has CNPS changed your life?

It provided me an avenue to learn more about rare plants as well as work with other people, including helping me with leadership skills. It also provided me with a better understanding of the State of California through attending Board meetings in places like Arcata, Berkeley, San Luis Obispo and Sacramento.

I have a number of early newsletters, many may be duplicates, but you may have them if you want them.

The one message I would like to give the current CNPS is that we are simply a volunteer organization. Any activity we undertake involves a lot of hard work on the part of a very few individuals. I wish there was some way that more people could get involved to spread the work around. There are many simple little tasks in which we need assistance from helping mail newsletters to keeping up membership files. There are also difficult tasks such as reviewing environmental impact documentation for development proposals. If we are to do anything about the future of San Diego we all must help.

Wilhelmina Reynolds

When you were first Involved in CNPS? October 1972

What drew you to the group?

Wanted to know about native plant. What am I looking at in the plant world when out hiking.

Do you still have records if you held an office or chaired a committee?

For a short period I was Secretary. Enclosed is a cassette tape, voices: Fred Sproul before he was President in 1976 and myself. Mitch Beauchamp. Helen Chamlee- AKA Witham. Bette Klingman. Walt.

What attracted you to CNPS?

Hikes

Post-it attached with note: People like Willie are such an important part of a group for continuity and dependability and structure!

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

I don't know or remember. I wasn't involved with those activities.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Hikes, Plant Sale

How has CNPS changed your life?

Knowing a little about native plants helped toward my training at the Natural History Museum to be a Native Plant Guide.

Anne and Ed Karig

When you were first Involved in CNPS? 1973 (?)

What drew you to the group?

Desire to know more about native plants and use in landscaping.

Do you still have records as an officer or committee chair?

No records – Anne was membership Chairman for 5-6 years. Anne and Ed chaired plant sales.

What do you remember about the founding of the chapter?

The chapter was fairly new and our need was money – hence the plant sales.

What attracted you to CNPS?

Meetings, people, gardening how-to info

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Dissemination of information to public, for instance our information booth at Wild Animal Park during “Beauty and the Beasts” weekend.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

None really -

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Anne did publicity for plant sale, some of which had to be in 3-4 months in advance- Sunset Magazine for example.

What frustrations did you encounter?

Members very cooperative

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

As Membership Chairman (Anne)

How has CNPS changed your life?

We have our hillside planted to natives and shown them to friends and neighbors.

Reid Moran

When you were first Involved in CNPS? Don't remember

What drew you to the group?

I subscribed to *Fremontia*, or rather the newsletter that preceeded it, shortly after it started. I was never very deeply involved.

Do you have records?

I do not.

What motivated you?

I wasn't.

What attracted you to CNPS?

I really don't remember the details. I went to occasional meetings but not too many field trips because I was busy with my own field trips in Baja California. I did lead a couple of trips to BCfa for CNPS and/or Southern California Botanists, and I think I gave a couple of programs.

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Arousing interest and getting people with common interests together.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

Don't know.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Well, I remember getting together with a large group at Davis for a two- or three day work session on the rare plant program.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

I guess I don't have much to feel proud of.

How has CNPS changed your life?

I don't think significantly. Sorry to have so little to tell you.

Jeanne Hawkins

When you were first Involved in CNPS? 1980

What drew you to the group?

My field expertise at that time was botany (Ecologist by training)

Do you still have records?

Some

What attracted you to CNPS?

People, field trips, botany

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Was not active then.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

I enjoyed reviewing EIRs, etc., but because I was asked to write letters, etc, I discontinued it (it was a "conflict of interest" for me to become publicly involved). Enjoyed hikes when could attend (worked weekends during most of the year when I was active).

One activity that was rewarding during my term on the Board was when the State Board had their annual meeting in San Diego. Can't recall the year tho.

What frustrations did you encounter?

One main frustration was distance – too far to go for meetings (80 mi roundtrip for us). The same was true of any statewide meeting as I worked long hours on Tuesdays. As Publicity Chairmen, could not get the info needed because could not attend meetings.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

Most satisfaction derived from the people with whom I worked. They were all so helpful.

How has CNPS changed your life?

Did not change. However, the thing that disappointed me most was not having the opportunity to get out in the field with knowledgeable Botanists (I could not go

weekends). There were few or no mid-week programs. So I now concentrate on birds instead of plants, largely because we can go alone and derive much satisfaction from it. I no longer write professionally in the plant field, so do not spend much time on it.

I am afraid this may not be much help to you, I don't recall making any major contributions to the group. Wish I could say I had. I served as V.Pres, Pres & Publicity chrmn & editor of the newsletter. I was also editor of the Statewide newsletter. I did my jobs but really accomplished no major thing – I suppose by serving in some capacity, you tend to hold things together, but that's about it. Others did much more.

Charles Kline

When you were first Involved in CNPS? 1960's when original meetings held at UC Berkeley.

What drew you to the group?

Working as propagator at UC Botanic Garden, Berkeley

What do you remember about the founding of the chapter?

Was in on most of the meetings; however I did not join when original membership began. Believe I joined a few months later. Met in a classroom where such people as Dr. Ornduff, Wayne Roderick, Scott & Jenny Fleming and many others all took part in discussions. An attorney was also present who helped draw up proper papers for IRS to gain non-profit status. [Note this is not the chapter formation but the organization formation]

What attracted you to CNPS?

People involved. Enjoyed plant sales in Tilden Park (Person who can give you most info. I feel would be Wayne Roderick 166 Canon Dr. Orinda, CA 94563 (415) 254-0912). Mr/Mrs Scott Fleming 2750 Shasta Rd Berkeley 94708

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Got the who concept of native plant preservation and interest going.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Enjoyed the enthusiasm of the Berkeley group.

Carol:

I had many other Bay area activities, so was not that involved with the organization. The names I gave you could fill in many pages as could Dr. Robert Ornduff, who I believe is still Director of the UC Botanical Garden.

I feel *Fremontia* is excellent. Local bulletins are fine (I know how hard it is to get anyone to do this work). Fell such groups as Xeriscape and activities for Rancho Santa Ana are more into the actual native plant discussions when it comes to nursery and landscape info & "how to" info.

Cal native plants are very dear to me, but I tend to be Catholic in my tastes and drift more to the aforementioned organizations who esp. Xeriscape, take in all Mediterranean type plants.

Bill Knerr

When you were first Involved in CNPS? Charter member, 1965

What drew you to the group?

A burgeoning interest in CA native plants.

Do you still have records?

President of Chapter. No. Chairman of Plant Sale for a number of years. Plant lists and posters only. And Oh yes?, a number of our early newsletter and field trip plant lists. 8 I think. Sorry I'm so late Carol. I kept thinking I must get out that box of stuff.

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Just staying afloat. Interesting people in CA native plants mainly thru field trips.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

Driven from my mind but see below.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

The excitement of helping inaugurate and build upon a worthwhile project. Interesting hundreds of people by introducing them to CN plants at Plant Sales.

What frustrations did you encounter?

Always inveigling (sp?) people into contributing time and effort and keeping up the interest of people, particularly younger people, an aleidingt [??] problem.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

See above

How has CNPS changed your life?

By introducing me to fascinating and worthwhile friends, involving me for the first time in really worthwhile projects, and creating and nourishing a lifelong interest in an amazing group of plants. WOW!

Joan Stewart

When you were first Involved in CNPS? ? Carol- wish I could add more- I attended meetings a couple of years before taking Membership. Perhaps you can date this

What drew you to the group?

Programs on native plants (Chapter meetings)

If you held an office or chaired a committee, do you still have records?

+ yes

What attracted you to CNPS?

Meetings, people, hikes

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Desert weekends – a chance to immerse oneself in plant biology for more than a couple of hours.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

Seeing our credibility in environmental issues

How has CNPS changed your life?

Opportunity to connect public, community service with botanical interests

Wayne Tyson

When you were first involved in CNPS? Don't remember. Started paying dues in the seventies.

What drew you to the group?

Native plants

If you held an office or chaired a committee, do you still have records?

"Watershed Management Council Liason" Very few records. Recently resigned.

What attracted you to CNPS?

Native plants

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

Others better qualified to answer.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

Knowing people like Helen (Witham) Chamlee, Doug Howe, Duffie Clemons, Eric Jonson, and others.

What frustrations did you encounter?

Seeing new members fade away because old members wouldn't take the initiative and talk to them, encourage them to get involved by following their own interest.

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

I've got nothing to brag about.

How has CNPS changed your life?

When I was about 20, Theodore Payne offered me a job. I turned him down. Stupid move/ Got to know Eddie Merrill and Lou Ziegler, both widely unappreciated for their contributions to the preservation of native plants. Not sure if they were members – this was over 20 years ago, but people were acting without a formal organization, although the Theodore Payne Foundation did a lot, especially Ed Petersen. I didn't join CNPS when I was a bureaucrat, because I thought I could be more effective without such ties.

For today's (or tomorrow's) CNPS:

1. Get priorities in order. Species are being lost!
2. Learn to (and actively) talk with (and listen to) the enemies of native vegetation. Educate, Educate, Educate!

You can't do that by preaching to the choir and making only angry, self-righteous noises toward the enemies.

3. Evaluate present assumptions about membership. Start with statistics. Like, over the last 20 years (year by year) what has been the drop-out rate? Why? Has anybody ever asked anybody why they quit? If they were told, did they do anything to change things to prevent future drop-outs?

Enough. Best, Wayne

Carol Jean Wolcott

Nov. 6, 1989, typed note:

Dear Carol,

Sorry I haven't responded sooner to your request for information about the early days of the S.D. Chapter of CNPS. It was quite a while ago and I can't remember a whole lot about this time.

I was involved for a brief 2-3 years between 72/73 and 1977. I did serve as Secretary for awhile when the Board was absolutely DESPARATE! (The minutes went to the next secretary). Some of our Board meetings were dinner meetings (very pleasant)...once met at a Chinese restaurant.

I joined the group on the coattails of Helen Chamlee Witham, a good friend, who know I am a serious plant-person. Besides Helen, the people I remember the most were Bill Knerr and Bill Gunther.

I am not sure that we had any Achievements but it seems to me there were a couple of “plant rescues” just ahead of bulldozers so to speak...where developer or Cal Trans allowed CNPS to collect natives from areas about to be graded.

The Field Trips and Plant Sales were commendable. However, I will always remember the night we voted for Chapter emblem. There was considerable discussion and several factions..my group favored the scarlet Campo pea.

Frustrations: trying to find a typewriter for the minutes!

Suggestions:

- (1) Organize and lead, throughout the City,Community field trips to educate citizens about their Canyons & Open Spaces. (Serran Mesa Community Council would like to have an annual program initiated for their canyons)
- (2) PLANT TREES!!!

Thanks for the sage! Carol Jean Wolcott

As an intro to Carol Jean Wolcott, Bobbie wrote a note to Carol Greentree:

I spoke to Geology Major Carol Jean Wollcott – she’s with the Serra Mesa Land Use Committee and used to be a CNPS member, and a friend of Helen Chamlee. She was on the first Florida Cny Committee and long ago was secretary of our chapter. I thought you might like to talk to her for the wonderful history you are preparing. Also, I received the brochure for the plant postcards- I’ll discuss it with other board members and let you know. Thank so much for all your hard work! Bobbie

Notes: on back of paper: temp secy 73ish; Mission Village; Knew Helen C in 60s – Matileja poppy; Grandparents-de Anza; Little conservation activity early on; Canyons in Serra Mesa – CNPS, Sierra Club “Designated” vs “Dedicated” open space: chaparral and a little riparian; Campo pea-Matilija poppy 73-74; Succulent field trip – cash box stolen

Mitch Beauchamp

Note to Carol: Here are some brief thoughts. I’m off to Europe for 3 weeks. Mitch

When you were first Involved in CNPS? Sept 1968

What drew you to the group?

I learned about the Society from Helen Chamlee (Witham) and when I was stationed on Treasure Island I visited the group at a meeting at Paul Silva's home in Berkeley. There Ledyard Stebbins played the piano and spoke about native plant evolution and conservation.

If you held an office or chaired a committee, do you still have records?

I was State Bulletin Editor in the mid 1970's and have copies of those issues as well as most chapter bulletins for that time.

What attracted you to CNPS?

I wasn't a charter member – I think only Helen Chamlee from our area was. At the chapter level the founders were Helen, me, some relatives of mine- Dr. & Mrs. G. Burch Mehlin, my Spanish teacher whose son is a botanist- Elizabeth Stone. I can't recall any others but I know there were others. Mehlin & Stone & Helen are now gone. The prime motivation was study of the unique plants and their preservation. Not much horticulture was involved in those early days except Helen's revegetation ideas.

What were some of the early achievements of this chapter?

The chapter helped back me in getting the San Diego mesa mint listed and fighting Pete Wilson to preserve vernal pools. Helen's educational work was also a long-range effort. The plant sales were the first commercial opportunity for the public to get any selection of native plants.

What were some of the barriers this group faced during its formation & earliest years?

Dependence on too few people was a hindrance to development of a larger, broader intent group. Several have burned out because of this.

What highlights were especially memorable for you?

The joint field trips with SD and Marin Chapter in the desert were excellent, especially the trip where Gompers Saijo drew the original sketches used in the desert plant poster. Bringing Pete Wilson to his knees on the vernal pool issue also had its reward.

What frustrations did you encounter?

Can't recall any real problems. I may have been a problem to others with my brash, aggressive attitude

What personal involvement in CNPS are you most proud of?

Completing my flora of San Diego County with the moral support of members.

How has CNPS changed your life?

Without the support of native plant proponents I would not have felt comfortable in being vocal in my efforts to preserve native plant habitats. The initial efforts in organizing made by CNPS have allowed me to share their experience with other native plant organizations in the western U.S. To support their dissemination of information, a short lived group – The Association of Western Native Plant Society, and a newsletter- The Hesperian, existed. The success of these Native Plant organization in the US may be due to their efforts.

Erik Jonsson

Erik took a few minutes to write down his memories from CNPS fieldtrips. It got to be quite a novel once I started stirring up things in my mind [8-page typed letter].

California Native Plant Society Memories

By Erik Jonsson August 15, 1989

I remember:

The first time I came in contact with CNPS. It was at Silverwood. (I was in the Audubon Society that time and went to Silverwood a lot to show Frank Gander plants that I had pressed and did not know what it was. I must have been a terrible nuisance for him.) Anyhow, there was this bunch of people all interested in plants like me and looking like the kind of nice people I like so I decided that I had better join and take part in the fun.

..... more of this one to follow