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# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

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SEPTEMBER 2006

[www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

(619) 685-7321

[info@cnpssd.org](mailto:info@cnpssd.org)

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### **VEEP SPEAKS**

I'm writing on a cold afternoon on a rainy August day in San Diego. Heatwaves, summer monsoons, a weak June bloom, late spring rains after a hot, dry winter. It's been a weird year. What's going on here?

That the global climate is changing is undeniable. Whether San Diego's past year is a specific manifestation of this global trend is debatable, but it's a quibble and beside the point. Our weather has been strange, variable, and intense. And the changes, locally and globally, appear to be coming much faster than we anticipated.

How native plants will be affected is therefore a question of great interest and importance. We've just learned, for example, that poison oak will be both more toxic and more aggressive with higher temperatures and more CO<sub>2</sub>. At least we can console ourselves with the prospect that Arundo will grow slower as rising carbon dioxide levels affect its photosynthetic metabolism.

What will San Diego's wildlands look like in fifty years? Will boojom, dudleya, and cacti grow in Chula Vista? Will the hills be conquered by non-native grasses and aggressive, short-lived weeds? Many of our wildflower's posterity may well wind up in the collections of the Natural History Museum and in a network of protected native plant gardens.

Maybe these concerns could be considered trivial in the face of a ghastly, bloody Middle East, fundamentalism rampant at home and abroad, and an onslaught on the Constitution and the rule of law. But from observing the natural world we learn that all the parts are connected, and maybe doing something at home can influence the rest.

Each of us who appreciate this diverse and wondrous flora can get to know some small piece of it and learn to become a steward. Record the bloom dates in a local canyon, propagate a rare wildflower in your garden, guard against exotics in the hills. Most importantly, come together to learn and grow and to support each other in the face of an uncertain future.

Dave Flietner

### **SEPT. MEETING/PROGRAM**

#### **Lashbrook Park Case Study:**

##### **Landscaping with Natives**

**by Bob Perry, Perry & Associates**

**Tuesday Sept 16 - 7 PM**

Room 104, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Lashbrook Park is a newly created native plant park within the City of El Monte. It is built on a two-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Rio Hondo Channel and is key part of the 'Emerald Necklace' master plan for the San Gabriel Valley that contains bike trails, greenbelts and community parks.

The design and planting of Lashbrook Park follows the Los Angeles River Master Plan Landscaping Guidelines. Bob Perry was the principal designer of the native plant associations and irrigation systems.

Bob will present his concepts and summarize the challenges presented by urban debris, poor site drainage, contaminated soil, non-native plants, and invasive plants.

### **CHECK OUT PAGES 3, 4 & 5**

You will find out about a new native plant book, and good information about our Fall Plant Sale.

### **CHAPTER CALENDER**

**Sept 13 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**  
6:30-8:30 p.m., Tecolote Nature Center. Take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote exit from I-5. Proceed east until road ends at the Nature Center. Board Members, please call Carolyn Martus if you are unable to attend.

**Sept 19 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM**  
Tuesday: Meeting at 7 p.m., Program at 7:30 p.m.,  
Room 104, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The annual election for San Diego CNPS board members will be held in November. Candidates will be running for a two year term (Jan 2007 – December 2008). Ballots will be mailed with the November/December newsletter. Members will have the opportunity via mail or in person at our November general meeting.

- Any CNPS member in good standing is eligible to run for the board. We will have 7 openings and we encourage competitive elections. The primary responsibility of the elected board is to oversee the chapter's finances and to ensure compliance with the chapter and state bylaws. If you're thinking of running for the board, consider these thoughts:
- Are you committed to the mission of the California Plant Society?
- Are you able to commit between 5-10 hours per month to help us accomplish our mission?
- Are you a leader and interested in working with other CNPS members to help protect native plants and their habitats?
- Are you able to attend the board meetings? The board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month except August and December.

### Timeline for board member election:

**Now:** If you're at all interested in running for the board, please contact any board member now for more information.

**Oct 1:**<sup>s</sup> Declare your candidacy; submit name and a one paragraph bio to the president (see back of newsletter for contact info.)

**Nov 1:**<sup>st</sup> 2006: Ballots distributed via newsletter.

## CONSERVATION CHAIR

We are looking for an organized individual with strong communications skills who can organize a committee of volunteers working on various conservation projects.

A large part of this job is reviewing environmental documents, writing comment letters and attending public hearings. There is an incredible amount of work for one person so it's critical to have someone who is willing to lead and work with a team of volunteers.

Our current conservation chair, Cindy Burrascano would like to pass the torch but will help train the new committee chair and will stay on as part of the committee. It's a fabulous opportunity for a person interested in learning more about the environmental rules and regulations concerning native plant conservation.

Contact [info@cnpsd.org](mailto:info@cnpsd.org) for more information

## HOSPITALITY POSITION OPEN

We are looking for someone to take the flame and greet our members and visitors at our monthly meetings. All that is involved is: picking up some cheese, crackers, cookies, and drinks at the store bringing the food to the monthly meeting and setting it out on the table with hot water for tea and coffee, making folks feel welcome, and putting the food away at the end of the meeting

The time commitment is minimal at 3-5 hours per month, and we also have some fabulous volunteers willing to fill-in at meetings you are not able to attend, so that you don't have to be at every meeting. We really just need someone who likes people, enjoys coming to meetings and meeting new folks, and doesn't mind picking up some food and coordinating with other volunteers to make sure every meeting has food. It's a simple job, but vital to our being an open and inviting chapter. It's also a fabulous way to meet people in the environmental world in San Diego if you're new to town or in school, etc.

If you are a people person, we need you! Think you might have time? **Send us an e-mail at [info@cnpsd.org](mailto:info@cnpsd.org)** or leave a message on the chapter phone (contact info on back of newsletter)

## PLANT PHOTOS NEEDED

Do you like to take pictures or do you have a collection of native plant photos? We need photos for our plant sale signs and for our education and outreach displays. We're looking for photos that show the plant in a garden or landscape setting, both close-ups (leaves and/or flowers) and whole plant shots. Contact the plant sale committee if you are interested; [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org).

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

We're looking for someone to push ahead with our Public Outreach effort. The main purpose for outreach is to expand our contact with the general public and thereby share our message and enthusiasm about native plants.

This could involve such things as:

- Responding to requests for CNPS participation
- Contacting members available to help
- Organizing materials
- Arranging for storage of exhibit, etc
- Maintaining supply of display materials
- Maintaining supply of current handouts
- Keeping notes on events, contact persons, etc

Contact [info@cnpsd.org](mailto:info@cnpsd.org) for more information

## **SUNRISE POWERLINK**

The SDG&E/Sempra proposed 120-mile route for distributing power from the Imperial Valley (so-called sunrise powerlink) is running up against stout opposition on many fronts. CNPS has been observing and commenting on plant concerns as the proposal has moved from PR and hype toward becoming a bona-fide application. SDG&E claims that it will serve San Diegans with "green" energy from yet-to-be-funded and built solar or geothermal plants, but this claim seems belied by the new fossil-fuel Sempra plant (and future plants) in Mexicali.

That this route is best for San Diegans is doubted by many, because SDG&E arguments against using an existing utility corridor along I-8, roughly 40 miles shorter in distance, seem specious, and SDG&E has not denied that planning this route so close to Lake Henshaw isn't really a way to access Riverside via San Diego's precious park lands.

This proposal has been formally opposed by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation as a risk to the integrity of Anza Borrego Desert State Park and areas of the desert State Wilderness under State Park management. However, on August 6, District Superintendent Mike Wells said the department wants to work with SDG&E to reduce the impact of the transmission corridor. San Diego County residents who have worked since the early '80's to establish the coast to crest park links opposed SDG&E's proposal to locate the route in these newly protected lands in the Santa Ysabel area and through lands within the San Diego River Park near San Diego Country Estates. Supporters of the integrity of purchased, dedicated and designated vernal pool habitat north of Rancho Penasquitos Park oppose the plan to run the route right across these vernal pool lands.

I will work to get more information on sensitive plant species that are located in the proposed corridor in time for the October newsletter. By that time, an application may have been submitted by SDG&E to the State PUC and formal comments by CNPS will be needed.

Sempra's Mexicali power plant submitted an environmental report for a transmission line from Mexicali to the Imperial Substation, where the proposed "Powerlink" (now being called the "Sun Path" by CAISO) would start. The presenters for SDG&E have not been forthcoming about the status of this corridor. This link will effectively create more dependence on fossil fuel energy even if a small percentage of the electricity transmitted eventually comes from geothermal and solar plants in the US. Risks to this proposed electrical supply include future CO2 exhaust trading/rationing reducing production, political issues hurting natural gas supplies, and border problems with Mexico, as well as the long route itself which could be damaged.

Kay Stewart

## **RAPID ASSESSMENT**

In June we performed rapid assessments of two neighboring landscapes in the City of San Diego MSCP preserve lands west of Interstate 15. We broke up into two crews of 5 and one crew performed a rapid assessment of a riparian area that contained a pleasing mixture of arroyo willow (*Salix laevigata*) and black willow (*Salix goodingii*) in the over-story. Species present along the drainage that were new to all of us, included the exotics bird's foot treefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and dissected leaf geranium (*Geranium dissectum*).

The other crew performed a rapid assessment of a stand of coastal sage scrub that was dominated by California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and California sage (*Artemisia californica*). Other species common to this particular site were laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and California encelia (*Encelia californica*). Two species present in this stand that deserve special notice were San Diego barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*) and California adolphia (*Adolphia californica*). Both are CNPS List 2.1 rare species.

Patrick McConnell

## MIRAMAR SPECIES REPORTS

The Marines are willing to make presentations about USMC Miramar to public groups requesting presentations especially concerning the potential for joint use of facilities with a civilian airport. They generally focus on military flight issues and send out pilots to do the presentations but if requested can slant the presentation to cover natural resources on the base. I believe it is important for people throughout the county to understand the consequences of our upcoming vote on the potential use of USMC Miramar for a Joint Use Airport. I encourage you to schedule a talk for any large group you may be associated with be it an environmental group or not. **Contact the Community Plans and Liaison Office at MCAS Miramar at 858.577.6603 to arrange a presentation.**

On a recent visit I reviewed Reports on Gnatcatchers (they had 22 fledglings in the report I read that was post-fire mostly in the western part of the base), Willow monardella which may be in trouble post-fires due to weed invasions which were not problematic pre-fire, and two Rare and Endangered Plant Species reports. Two additional reports on plant resources (Willow monardella and a general rare plant survey of the western part of the base) will likely be available in the near future when finalized.

Did you know the base supports major populations of Long-spined spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longispina*), Variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*) and San Diego goldenstar (*Muilla clevelandii*) as well as smaller numbers of Palmer's grappling hook (*Harpogenella palmeri* var. *palmeri*), and Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* var. *crassifolia*)? I knew it held the vast majority of listed vernal pool species (*Pogogyne abramsii* (San Diego Mesa Mint), *Eryngium aristulatum* (San Diego button celery), and both San Diego and Riverside fairy shrimp) that remain in the county in addition to some *Navarretia fossalis* (Spreading navarretia), *Myosurus minimus* ssp. *apus* (Little mousetail), *Orcuttia californica* (California Orcutt grass), and *Ophioglossum californicum* (CA adder's tongue) [vernal pool associated species] and the bulk of Willow monardella (*Monardella viminea*). They have also documented 32,100 individual Long-spined spineflower and 8 or so million San Diego goldenstar on base.

Cindy Burrascano

## FALL PLANT SALE

All inquiries regarding our fall plant sale on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, should go to [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org). Volunteer your time for the plant sale:

We need a few helpers right before the plant sale. On Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>, a small group of volunteers carpool to Tree of Life Nursery to help tag and organize the plants and on Friday October 13, a few people are needed to help with some misc. tasks.

Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> is the big day and we need volunteers starting at 7am to help unload the plants, assist customers with loading their plants and help with clean-up.

Contact us if you have any last minute donations of plants or seeds.

## PLANT SALE PRE-ORDERING

**Plant Sale Pre-order:** Skip the lines and crowds and pre-order your plants! For a list of plants visit our website or contact us directly. **Pre-orders are welcome until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and must be e-mailed to [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org).**

Pre-orders should list the latin name of the plant and must be listed in alphabetical order. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail stating that your e-mail was received, make sure you resend the e-mail.

Pre-orders must be **at least \$100 or 20 one gallon plants.**

If you need help selecting plants, we are experts and can help you select the right plants for your landscape or restoration project, just contact us. Orders must be picked up on sale day, Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> by 10:30 am. We accept cash or checks only, **NO credit cards**. If there is something you want to buy, but it's not on our list, (i.e. something you've seen in the Tree of Life Catalog or on ([www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com)), let us know, we'll try to get it for you.

Prices are subject to change due to taxes, plant availability, and/or inflation. Most plants will be available in one gallon containers unless otherwise indicated.

Plant Sale Committee

## WANT TO EARN CNPS – SD BUCKS??

It's easy! For each new member you recruit, you earn a CNPS-SD buck. All you have to do is email the name of the new member you've recruited to [membership@cnpsd.org](mailto:membership@cnpsd.org) along with your name *OR* simply call the CNPS-SD member line at 619.685.7321 and leave a message with your name and the name of the new member you've recruited. You can spend your CNPS-SD bucks at the monthly meetings or at the October plant sale. You win and CNPS-SD wins! Remember, CNPS-SD bucks must be earned and spent by the end of the year, so don't wait to sign up your friends, family and co-workers! CNPS-SD membership makes a great gift for birthdays, holidays, housewarmings, retirement, graduation, any occasion!

# California Native Plant Society

San Diego Chapter

## Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday October 14, 2006

Open to CNPS Members, 9:15 AM – 2 PM

Open to Public, 10 AM – 2 PM

Cash or Checks Only

**Balboa Park**

**Casa del Prado Courtyard (next to the Casa del Prado Theater)**

**San Diego, CA**

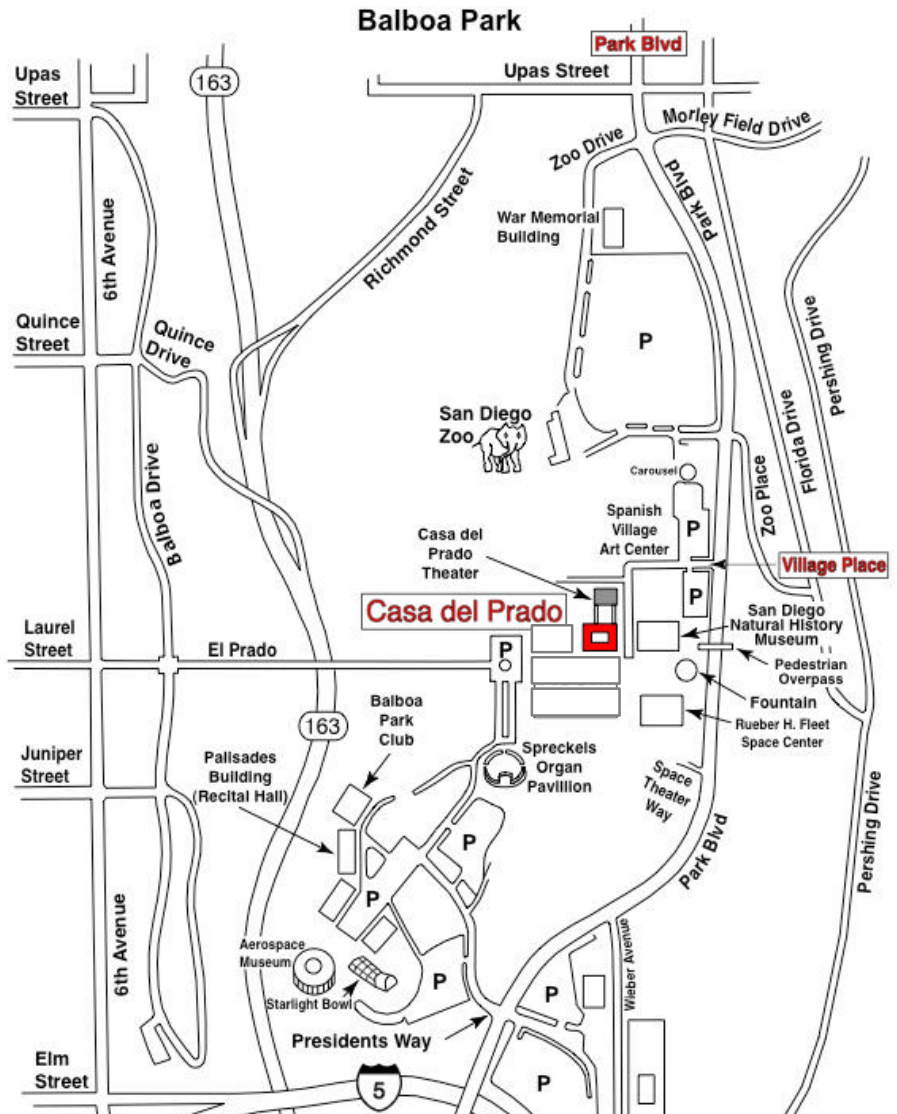
**Books, posters, seeds  
and free advice will  
also be available**

**Come early for the  
best selection!  
Show up late for the  
good deals!**

**You can join at the  
sale or download a  
membership form  
from our website.**

**Large orders can be  
placed in advance,  
\$100 minimum, please  
contact us directly.**

**info@cnpsd.org  
www.cnpsd.org  
619-685-7321 (voice mail)**



All proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

## FEEDBACK NEEDED

**Help STEP make natural environment issues a priority for funding! Final deadline for input: Fri., Sept. 15.** "STEP" needs your feedback to make certain that issues such as wildlife-vehicle interactions, habitat, connectivity issues, water quality, wetlands, and vegetation management are properly prioritized for 2006-09 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) research funding!

STEP (Surface Transportation Environment & Planning Cooperative Research Program) is the new research funding process for FHWA. Stakeholder input is required in order to identify the research topics that should receive priority consideration. STEP will fund research, field demonstrations, technical transfer, conferences & workshops. It is likely that future FHWA funding for the International Conference on Ecology & Transportation, as well as "Weeds Across Borders," will come from STEP. It is important for them to hear from stakeholders regarding the scientific benefits of these conferences. Grants and cooperative agreements are possible with a 50% match. Research contracts will not require a dollar match.

Make your voice heard by taking these 4 easy steps (the entire process should take about 5 minutes of your time):

- #1: Visit <http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/step.nsf>
- #2: Under "Feedback Topics," choose "Environment"
- #3: Under "Environment," choose "Water/Wetlands; Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat; Brownfields"
- #4: Fill out the one-page form with your ideas and submit

## SHERMAN PARCEL

After fourteen years of work, the Sherman parcel- 134 acres in the heart of the Buena Vista Creek Valley is under contract for purchase for conservation!

This parcel was identified as the top priority acquisition in the north county MHCP by the state and federal wildlife agencies. Of course our focus is on the high quality coastal sage scrub and wetland habitats that make up most of the site. Over \$8 m has been raised (including a prior donation by our chapter to get this started). It is now up to all of us to help raise the last \$1m that will preserve this land forever.

Tax deductible donations can be mailed to Preserve Calavera/Friends of Buena Vista Creek at 5020 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056.

**For more information call 760-724-3887**

Preserve Calavera

## SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP

**California Native Plant workshop for teachers, parents or volunteers working on school gardens Sat. , Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am – noon Recon Native Plant Nursery**

Sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Recon Native Plant Nursery

If you are a teacher, parent, or volunteer working with a school or environmental education center to establish or maintain a native plant garden or habitat, this is the workshop for you! We will discuss some of the basics for establishing and maintaining an educational native plant garden or habitat, how to propagate native plants and how to incorporate them into your lesson plans.

You will meet some of the leading local experts on California native plants and have the opportunity to network with other teachers, parents, and volunteers working on similar projects. Participants will also receive free plants and seeds.

Submit your name, school or center you work with and describe your existing or future project in one paragraph or less. The workshop is free and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Past participants are welcome to attend space permitting. Submit your information to [sandiegonativeplants@yahoo.com](mailto:sandiegonativeplants@yahoo.com)

## SECRETS OF THE CHAPARRAL

Monday, Sept. 11, 6 pm at Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, , Jimmy Durante Blvd. (Thomas Bros.1187, F-3).

Ecologist Richard Halsey, author of Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California, will discuss the association of remarkable plants shaped by summer drought, winter rain and an extremely fragile relationship with wildfire.

The talk will be followed by a Plant Forum and a drawing featuring plants provided by the speaker. Free.

For more information,

**call (760) 295-7089 or visit [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org).**

## NATIVE MEDICINALS

**Native Medicinal Herbs**

**Wed., September 6, 7-9pm.**

Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

James David Adams, Jr., PhD and Cecilia Garcia, a Chumash healer, are the featured speakers at the monthly meeting of the San Diego Herb Club. Guests are welcome.

The club meets monthly on the first wednesday. : For more information, see <http://www.sandiegoherbclub.com/>

## CNPS SD FIELD TRIPS

### Fall Bloomers in the Laguna Mountains

Sept. 16, 9 a.m.

Enjoy composites and other fall wildflowers with Kirstin Winter and Michelle Balk. Two meeting places: Los Coches Road Park & Ride at 9:00 (Thomas Guide 1252 D-1) or Morris Road parking lot, 1/4 mile east of Sunrise Highway (TG 410 B5). We'll spend about an hour near Morris Road and hope to see the Mount Laguna aster (CNPS List 2), then head a little higher to see the flora along part of the Pacific Crest Trail (about two hours). Bring lunch and layers – it can get windy!

### Cottonwood Campground Tree Planting and Cleanup Work Party & Carcamp

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Sat/Sun

Leader Larry Klaasen 619-582-7407

e-mail [klaasen\\_L@juno.com](mailto:klaasen_L@juno.com)

Join us for National Public Lands Day by planting cottonwood and oak seedlings at the BLM campground in McCain Valley.

Tim Cass has been busy growing the seedlings for fall planting. Optional carcamp afterwards. Sunday we'll have several hikes in the area, possibly Sombrero peak, or the palm grove in 4 Frogs Canyon. This is also a critical area of concern about the potential for a wind farm in the valley.

### Laguna Hanson, Baja California

October 7 – 8.

Save the Date! Andy Pigniola will lead a weekend car camp to the wilds of the Sierra Juarez. Details in next month's newsletter.

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OUTINGS (NHM members only)

### Botany of Baja California

Dates: Tuesday, October 24 to Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2006

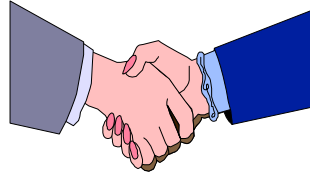
Join the Museum's curator of botany, Dr. Jon Rebman, and Baja Discovery staff in exploring Baja California's biogeographic history and physiognomy. Price does not include airfare from San José del Cabo to San Diego. Passport required.

### Cedros and San Benito Islands Exploration

Orientation: Tuesday, February 6, 2007; 6:30–8 PM

Trip: Monday, Feb 19 to Friday, Feb 23, 2007

The expedition is a fascinating adventure to Cedros and San Benitos Islands, some of the least known islands of the Baja California Pacific. On these islands, see thousands of elephant seals, sea lions, and the rare Guadalupe fur seal.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

WELCOME to our new members:

Phil and Sandra Dempewolf  
Betsy Cory  
Lynn Elliot  
Kenneth Blackford  
Stephen Boyanton  
Charlene Glacey

New members will receive a welcome gift when they attend a meeting and bring their 'welcome to the chapter' card!

Mary Kelly  
760.525.9687 cell

## HOME GROWING ANYONE?

The Program Manager for the National Wildlife Refuge district in San Diego is hoping some CNPS members might help the Refuge system with some revegetation projects.

Specifically he requested members to contact him about growing *Fremondodendron mexicanum* for a project. Other plants may be of interest also.

Call Andy, 760-930-0168 Ext. 1.

## A FREE SEED EVENING

Free seed for members only!: At our September meeting we will be giving away free native plant seed to CNPS members only. Bring your newsletter or membership card to show proof of membership. Also bring some brown bags or appropriate container to put the seed in. Some species include *Mulenbergia rigens* (Deer Grass) and *Mimulus aurantiacus* (Monkeyflower).

Copy submissions are due by the first of the month prior to month of publication. (for example, copy for inclusion in the July issue must be received by June 1).

Send copy submittals to: [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org)

CNPS Newsletter is published monthly. Chapter dues include a subscription to the chapter newsletter.

Second class postage paid at San Diego, CA.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

CNPS, 2707 K Street Ste. 1; Sacramento, CA 95816

## Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes informative publications, free field trips and monthly programs and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

San Diego, California

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## CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS SEPTEMBER 2006

Chapter Message Phone 619-685-7321; [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org); [info@cnpssd.org](mailto:info@cnpssd.org)

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NOTE: For mailing label issues contact Jim Harrison at  
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