



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

January 2008

www.cnpsd.org

CNPS (916) 447-2677

info@cnpsd.org

PREZ SEZ

I hope that everyone had a pleasant and peaceful holiday season! For my holiday, I was on a quest for the most environmentally friendly Christmas tree. I tried using a 15 gallon toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) as a mini Christmas tree – the pot and the plant ended up being the same size, so I think I'll keep the plant in the pot for next year's holidays. After that, I might be looking to plant it in a public garden somewhere. If anyone has any ideas for California natives that can be used as a holiday tree – let us all know.

Recently, the board of our local chapter has been working to contact any CNPS member who may have lost their home in the recent wildfires. Our chapter has put together a fund to assist CNPS members who lost their homes to help them replace their botanical libraries. If you have lost your home or would like to help with this effort, please contact board member Cindy Burrascano, see back page for contact information.

On November 10th, CNPS hosted teachers from Curie Elementary, Explorer Elementary, Coronado Middle School, Chula Vista High School, Albert Einstein Academy, Crawford High School, San Diego Cooperative Charter School, and San Diego High School for a native plant propagation workshop. Thanks to Recon Native Plant Nursery for hosting the workshop and to the volunteer instructors who helped teach the classes. CNPS has a goal that someday there will be a California native plant habitat or garden at every school in San Diego and Imperial Counties and each year we get a little bit closer.

Thanks to Bruce Hanson for serving on our board for over four years! Bruce has focused most of his time and energy helping countless volunteer groups with their restoration projects. His advice and assistance has been invaluable. Thanks to Bruce and his wife Sue for giving so much of their time, knowledge and energy to CNPS. While Bruce is stepping down from his position as board member, he will still be available to provide assistance to volunteer groups with questions on habitat restoration.

Carolyn

MEETING PROGRAM

**Designing California
Native Gardens**
by Alrie Middlebrook, author and owner
of Middlebrook Gardens,
San Jose

**Plant Sale- 6:30
Presentation- 7:30**

**Tuesday January 15
San Diego, Balboa Park. Casa Del Prado
Room 101**

Mystery plants identified !

bring your unknown plant
and we will help you identify it!

Alrie Middlebrook is a committed advocate/ & practitioner of the sustainable lifestyle, respected landscape professional and California native plant specialist. Her San Jose, California-based build/design firm, Middlebrook Gardens, has installed over 150 California native gardens and remains on the leading edge of the rising sustainability movement.

She published the California native plant cook book, "*Eating California*" and co-authored the groundbreaking new book "*Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens*," with renowned field botanist, Dr. Glenn Keator.

ACORNS & OAKS

In Peñasquitos Canyon this is a great year for acorns. Lots of trees groaning under the weight of a good crop. I mention this because many people interested in collecting acorns for restoration projects may be assuming that drought means poor acorn crops. That's not the case, at least in Coastal San Diego. Coast live oaks and their acorn crops don't track the previous year's rain, etc. They've evolved a different pattern, hence this year's bumper crop after years of drought. Perhaps 25% of the crop has browned up and dropped off the tree but I'm seeing most still green to light brown and still on the tree.

If you have restoration projects involving oaks this or next year I estimate you have 2-3 weeks, to about XMAS of a window for collecting. Scrub oak acorns are largely on the ground, but there are small numbers of brown ones still on some shrubs if you look hard. One I harvested was germinating on the bush. In Peñasquitos Canyon and other parks you'll need permission to legally collect acorns. They're usually good about giving it for worthwhile projects. When you collect, collect from a variety of trees and get a variety of small to large acorns to ensure genetic diversity. Discard those that are soft, have holes, are split already, etc. At home, do the float test. In a bowl of water dump the acorns. Discard floaters. Insects have already eaten the germ plasm. I add 10% bleach to kill a common fungus often on them, then rinse them with non-bleach water and pat them dry with paper towels. Plant right away since stratification (cold) is not needed in SoCal or store them in your refrigerator until ready to plant.

Another tree having a great year is California holly or Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). A good year for large, heavy fruits. Watch the birds grab a berry on the wing, precision flying. -- Mike Kelly (mkelly1@san.rr.com)

Message: 8 Date: Thu, 29 Nov 2007 9:24:32 -0800 From: <mkelly1@san.rr.com> Subject: [Cnpssd-L] Re: Cnpssd-L Digest, Vol 2, Issue 305 To: cnpssd-l@mailman.ucsd.edu Cc: cnpssd-l-request@mailman.ucsd.edu Message-ID: <16903830.602151196357072259.JavaMail.root@cdtpa-web27-z01> Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8

Cindy's additional notes on big trees were instructive. I'd like to add a note or two. The Sycamore Anthracnose disease tends to occur when spring rains are copious and occur in early winter and late spring. Early rains and warming weather stimulate the Sycamore to leaf out, but the a late occurring rain can trigger the disease and the leaves brown up and often drop off. People tend to panic and think the trees are dying. In my experience they rarely die and tend to leaf out again in the same year and appear perfectly healthy. A disease they co-evolved with I'm guessing.

If you would like to see our Big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) in lower altitudes visit Mission Trails Regional Park near the campgrounds for some glorious examples and then drive up Mission Gorge Road, taking in the San Diego River as you go. In the late fall you'll see a nice explosion of color, yellow mainly

in the maples there. It's easy to think you're seeing just cottonwoods, also present there. But a big part of the color is the maple here in San Diego.

p.s. That stretch of the SD River also has a small number of native walnuts (*Juglans californica* S. Watson var. *californica*). Can you see them? You have to hike near the MWWD pump station to see them. Now, are they 100% native walnuts or one of the hybrids. I honestly don't know. On the Cuyamca cypress, can the County restrain themselves this year post-fire and not cut them down near the lookout?
Mike Kelly

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) now has funding for grants specific to Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands (ERAL). Under Proposition 84 the WCB received \$5 million dollars to "Assist Farmers in Integrating Agricultural Activities with Ecosystem Restoration and Wildlife Protection.

Eligible funding applicants include agricultural and conservation related non-profit groups, along with public entities involved in working with private agricultural land owners.

The types of projects to be funded are restoration and enhancement projects that provide long-term, durable habitat benefits to wildlife on working agricultural lands, with a special focus on private farms. Additional **information regarding how to apply for these funds, including project selection and time-lines are available on WCB's web page.** http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/eral_project.asp 1095

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The "proceedings" from the 07 CNPS Conservation Conference in Santa Cruz are posted on the CNPS website: <http://cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2007/index.php>

Here are the titles of the talks:

- Preventing Invasion from Horticulture Stock
- Conservation of the Santa Cruz Sandhills
- Tejon Ranch — Overview, threats
- Genetic Pollution and the Use of Native Plants in Restoration and Landscaping
- Chaparral Ecology and Fire
- Fuel Management in Chaparral
- Perspective on Chaparral Mgmt for Fuel Reduction

I found the presentation on chapparal ecology and fire was particularly interesting

Dave Flietner

DESERT INSTITUTE COURSES

Experience Nature with the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park, the Institute offers exciting, short outdoor courses in cultural history, natural science, survival skills and the arts where adults can explore the wonders of the park with expert instructors. Each student will have an intimate learning experience with the natural world. This is a great way to visit Joshua Tree National Park and the surrounding area, where sunshine is plentiful in this fascinating backdrop of ancient rock formations and desert vegetation. Below is a partial course calendar for spring 2008. Please call or email the Desert Institute to request a course catalog at (760) 367-5535 or desertinstitute@zippnet.net!

Feb 23	Discover the Eagle Cliff Mine
Feb 29 & Mar 1	Map & Compass Basic Skills
Mar 1 & 2	Native Californian Basket Weaving
Mar 2	Map & Compass Advanced Skills
Mar 7 & 8	Photography: Nature to the Digital Studio
Mar 8	Advanced Wilderness Navigation
Mar 9	Queen Mountain: A View from the Top
Mar 9	Native Californian Plant Cordage
Mar 14 – 16	Rocks & Minerals of JTNP
Mar 15	Watercolor Painting in the Park
Mar 16	Botanical Drawing: A Visual Journey
Mar 22	Wildflower Wanderings

PLANT SALE TEAM KUDOS

In case you haven't heard – if you want it to rain in San Diego County, you need to schedule a plant sale! It rained on our plant sale for the second year in a row but that certainly didn't dampen our sales and we all got wet. We sold almost 6,000 plants and the unsold plants were donated to volunteer groups restoring native habitats and school gardens. Our successful sale helps pay for our use of Balboa Park, our newsletter, free educational programs for the general public, and it enables CNPS to make financial contributions to important scientific research like the SD Natural History Museum's Plant Atlas.

Thanks to the customers who bought the plants and to all the volunteers who endured the rain with a smile. Thanks especially to Gay Dorius for coordinating our seed and bulb table, Margaret Fillius for the beautiful plant signs, Mary Kelly for helping coordinate the sale, Georgie Birch for transporting plants around, and Ray Feiock for the waterproof signs.

Thanks to the members who grew plants for the sale: Amy Huie, Connie Beck, Carrie Schneider, Sharon Hackett, Mike Bregantic, Norm and Lynn Ginsburg, Vince Scheidt, Theresa Acerro, Anne Ewing, Mel Howe, and Mike Kelly.

Thanks also to Julie Janssen, Lynn Elliott, LeeAnn Pence, Mike Bregantic, Sue Fouquette and Seiko Sudo for helping with our seed and bulb sales.

Thanks to the following growers and retail nurseries of California's beautiful native plants: Recon Native Plants, Native Plant Connection, Cal-Native Plants, Tree of Life, Moosa Creek, and Las Pilitas.

Thanks to Christine Bennich for coordinating refreshments and securing donations from Starbucks, Ralphs Hillcrest, Henry's in La Mesa, Vons La Mesa and Golden Donut.

Our next sale is Saturday, March 1 at Tree of Life Nursery!

SUNSET CLIFFS GARDEN

We had a miracle rain on Friday, November 30th, that did an excellent job of preparing the site for planting. Of course, it did mean that plants had to be unloaded in a driving rain.

On December 1st, we planted 235 plants of 31 species; We now have a total of about 400 new plants and nearly an acre of robust native garden. Only 68 more acres to go.

A small area was hydroseeded in the '90s, but only about five native species were present at the time of our 2006 planting. There are now 40 species of native plants in the roped area (and about five exotic species that we will be work to remove at our next work parties--crown daisies, tumbleweeds, and a few grasses).

Starting in January, we will plan work parties for the fourth Saturday of the odd numbered months. We will meet on January 26th from 9 am to noon about 50 yards south of the parking lot off of Ladera Street at the yellow-roped area.

Contact me at kimballd@cox.net for more information.
David Kimball

ANTHRACNOSE

Although there is no budget money to get rid of this problem in our wild lands and parks, anthracnose can be pretty much eradicated from infected trees in a home landscape by use of a commercially available organic spray.

The product is called Envirotree and the only place I know of for sure with a supply is Kniffing's Wholesale Nursery in Blossom Valley. It costs \$17.95 retail. You spray it on the trunk up to 5' high and repeat in 30 days. For the sycamores wait till early spring to do it. This is a great organic product and they have proof that it works. Kniffing's Phone number is 619 561 0611.

Some of my students have used it for other tree problems with excellent results. Right now I am spraying two Monterey pines in hopes of saving them. Removing the last two that died due to drought was heinously expensive.

Connie Beck

TREE LORE

Last night's tree talk inspired me to share some tree lore from questions brought up in the talk/question period. Sorry I can't italicize the scientific names of species with my email program.

Leaf drop in Sycamore (*Plantanus racemosa*) can be related to its deciduous nature but it can also occur in response to buildup of the fungus, Sycamore Anthracnose or *Apiognomonina veneta*. This disease is usually worse in trees in coastal areas or fog belts.

Cuyamaca cypress (*Cupressus stephensonii*) naturally occurs in King Creek starting below Cuyamaca Peak on State Parks land with the majority of trees on Forest Service lands at slightly lower elevations (about 3000 feet). Given the limited distribution of the species, scientists around in the 1970s kept recommending establishment of additional populations of the species. After the large 1970 Laguna Fire, apparently trees were established at a variety of places (Palomar Mountain, outside Julian off State Route 79, and along many roadsides) although I have not been able to find any written records of organized planting. Scientists that had kept asking for something to be done stopped asking for establishment of secondary populations.

Big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) occurs in riparian areas in mountainous areas of San Diego. It is more common elsewhere in the state and has been used to highlight the concept of locally rare species by CNPS. While you might not protect trees where the species is common, it has been recommended that it would be wise to protect trees that occur in San Diego County if for no other reason than our trees might have been selected to be a little more tolerance of a less water. Beauchamp lists the trees as being rare in the county in his *A Flora of San Diego County California* with occurrences at Morgan Hill, Castro Canyon and Oasis Canyon. The San Diego Natural History Museum has records for Big-leaf Maple in squares C12 (Agua Tibia area/Palomar Mountain or Morgan Hill and Castro Canyon), O23 (Laguna Mountains, I think Oasis Spring) and N23 Storm Canyon in the Lagunas. Most of the records are historical. Someone else will need to chime in if there are big stands of the species in our county as I do not know.

Cindy Burrascano

TECOLOTE CANYON WALKS

1st Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Walks may be canceled in event of inclement weather or poor trail conditions.

Walks leave from Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote rd., San Diego. Bring water and binoculars if you have them, and wear a hat, comfortable shoes, and sunscreen. Don't forget to make time to visit the Nature Center before or after the walk.

VOLUNTEER FOR CNPSSD

It's never too late to fulfill your new year's resolution. If you're interested in any of the following volunteer positions, contact us at info@cnpsd.org.

Librarian: CNPS has a small library that is available to CNPS members during our meetings. We need someone to oversee the library and check out books to members.

Publicity: Write press releases and announcements about CNPS events.

Public Outreach: Coordinate CNPS booth and activities at local environmental fairs or other events.

Board Member: One position for one year is currently open, inquire for more info.

Program's assistant: Help coordinate and set up the room for our monthly meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except Aug and Dec).

SD HORTICULTURE SOCIETY GARDEN TOURS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 9AM - 3PM
LECTURES AT 3 LOCATIONS REPEAT @ 9, 11, 1
LOCATIONS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY, NO REGISTRATION NEEDED
VISIT IN ANY ORDER

1. The Right Plant in the Right Place

By Landscape Designer Nancy Knight
CITY OF SAN DIEGO ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS. DEPT.
9601 Ridgehaven Court, SD, 92123
Specialty plant sale at this location: Plant societies & nurseries will be selling the rare and unusual

2. Green Roofs: Growing in Popularity

By Company President Jim Mumford
GOOD EARTH PLANTS
7922 Armour Street, SD, 92111
Huge 'Plant Rescue' Sale. Homeless Plants, large & small, going for pennies on the dollar

3. Maintaining a New Drought Tolerant Garden

By Landscape Designer Pamela Homfelt
SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
4677 Overland Drive, SD, 92123
Visit the experts and walk away with educational material answering all your questions

Special thanks to the City of San Diego Environmental Services Dept. and the San Diego County Water Authority
FOR MORE INFO AND MAPS, VISIT: www.hortsoc.org
or **CONTACT:** green_isredhot@yahoo.com

VEEP SPEAKS

I spent a Saturday (December 8) at the beautiful UC Berkeley Botanic Garden meeting with other representatives of our organizations far-flung chapters. There was probably one hundred thousand hours of service to the cause of native plants represented by the individuals in that room. A Martian looking around that room might legitimately have wondered if its inhabitants were of a separate species, or at least cultivated variety (well, maybe not in Berkeley). We are a diverse, dedicated, cantankerous, idiosyncratic group; your representative not least among them -- after dinner, another delegate complimented me the conciseness with which I expressed my ideas, despite "all the people who complain about you all the time (!)."

Because of each delegate's passionate concern for native plants, their commitment to represent the views of their members, and frankly, a propensity to embroider upon a point, our discussions can be excruciating at times. But it deeply gratifying for me to participate in two white-knuckle discussions, where we struggled against the tyranny of the clock, wrestling Robert's Rules of Order into submission and miraculously coming to agreement on two important new weed control policies.

Over the course of my four year service on the Chapter Council I have seen a wonderful development in our ability to set aside our personal agendas and work together to strengthen the organization and preserve native plants. We used to have gruesome meetings that accomplished nothing; now a grueling meeting ends with the sweet savor or success. This meeting was particularly gratifying to me because it will be my last (for a while) as San Diego's chapter rep. I am stepping aside and Marty Foltyn, building on a decade and a half of service in our chapter, will contribute her maturity, judgment, communication skills, and financial acumen to the group.

There are many challenges confronting the Society, from destructive brush management to potential genetic pollution. I am confident that Marty will excel in representing our chapter's perspective and helping to build the organization we all value.

Dave Flietner

GOT A RESOLUTION?

Now that it is a 2008, hopefully everyone has a New Year's resolution to change the world. It may sound a little hokey -- but that is really what our volunteer projects are all about. By pulling invasive plants, planting California natives, picking up trash, or simply contacting our elected officials to let them know you care about California's native plants and their habitats, you can make a difference. To volunteer contact us at info@cnpsd.org.

Spring Native Plant Sale

At the Tree of Life Nursery, just north of San Diego

Saturday March 1

9 AM – 4 PM

33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano
7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on Ortega
Highway
(Highway 74).

Enter at the green gate on the north side of highway,
For more information, contact Tree of Life Nursery
www.treeoflifenuresery.com, or 949-728-0685

Books, posters, seeds and free advice will be available.

Free Talk at 11:00:

"Backyard Habitats with Native Plants"

CNPS members will be available to help you choose
plants and to give free native plant gardening advice

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

info@cnpsd.org

www.cnpsd.org

CHAPTER ELECTION

Two members were re-elected, Peter St. Clair and Daniel Simon. Two new members, Sandi Feiock and Patrick McConnell, were elected for the first time. All four will serve a two-year term.

Catherine MacGregor has resigned from her position as a board member and there is one year remaining her term. The board will appoint a CNPS member for a one-year term. If you are interested in taking a leadership role in CNPS-SD, please contact us right away for more information, info@cnpsd.org.

TABLEING ANYONE?

Does a CNPS member want to organize a small fund-raising plant sale for the chapter? CNPS San Diego has been invited by San Diego Horticulture Society to staff a booth and provide information and sell plants on February 16.

Contact Kay Stewart 619-234-2668 or kaytaff@sbcglobal.net if you would like to help the chapter by organizing a sales table.

FIRE NEEDS

We know of six members who lost their homes in the large fires that burned in San Diego this year. They are from around the county with losses in Jamul, Poway, San Diego, Ramona, and two in Pauma Valley.

An even larger number of members lost structures and/or landscaping or their neighbor's homes were burned. Needs of the various members who lost homes vary. We have a member who is an artist and teaches classes in both art and ethnobotany who lost her library and much of her artwork who would like to build her library back. We have two naturalists who lost their libraries, one in Pauma Valley and one in Jamul. One is not sure they are staying in the area but the other naturalist in Jamul would also like to rebuild her naturalist library. She lost the things Duffy Clements had left her and it likely those things cannot be replaced.

Two members are more gardening oriented although that is a simplistic viewpoint. One mentioned that although her

insurance covers household things, her landscaping needs will largely not be covered as she was woefully underinsured for outdoor losses on the property. She wondered if the chapter would be willing to repeat the November program for educating communities but hold those meetings nearer effected communities. She does not need books but may benefit from technical expertise and plants in the future. One member is moving into more of an assisted living situation and didn't feel she needed any assistance.

The Board approved expenditure of some funds to help replace some basic books for those members who lost their homes. Another member whose property burned asked for assistance in cutting dead trees and weed identification.

We would like to develop a book transfer program so if you have extras of something that a member lost in the fire, they could be passed along. Please contact Cindy at cindyburrascano@cox.net or 858.578.8040 to potentially donate items.

Cindy Burrascano

NATIVE GARDEN CLASSES

Designing, Building & Managing a Native Garden
A series of do-it-yourself classes offered by
California Native Garden Foundation.

**North Park Recreation Center, Teen Unity Center,
4044 Idaho Street, San Diego and various gardens**

Saturday, January 12

9:30–11:30 a.m. Designing a California Native Garden;
11:30–12:30 p.m. Discussion & Question & Answer session
12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch (eat the bag lunch you bring)
1:30–5:30 p.m. Tour established native plant gardens
in the vicinity of North Park

The San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is sponsoring the California Native Garden Foundation's series of classes on how to Design, Build, and Maintain a California Native Garden yourself. These classes will introduce you, the do-it-yourself home gardener, to creating a sustainable, low-maintenance, and water conserving garden around your home.

In "Designing, Building and Managing a Native Garden" you will learn how to start visualizing your native garden, learn how to incorporate native plants, learn which native plants are right for your yard, and get many design ideas for your project. This class will be taught by Alrie Middlebrook who has more than 30 years experience as a professional landscaper and author.

The Garden Tour will feature two private gardens and a school garden in the San Diego area where you see hands on how each garden reflects the natural environment around it, and learn from the designer first hand about garden styles and how each garden was constructed.

Cost: One or more Classes and/or Garden Tour: \$40 for members (CNGF or CNPS), \$65 for non-members. Please RSVP to reserve your spot.

All proceeds go to support the work of CNGF and CNPS. The purpose of the California Native Garden Foundation is to change the way Californians garden to be more sustainable. We teach Californians how to use native plants to create a garden that mimics the natural environment, saves water and energy, and creates wildlife habitat. We work with local schools to assist in the creation of native demonstration gardens, and teach young people about ecology. Please help us by joining the foundation today!

For more information please contact:
The California Native Garden Foundation
California Native Plant Society
76 Race Street San Jose, CA 95126

Alan Bennett (408) 292-9993 (619) 955-3275

info@cngf.org
alanbennett@hotmail.com
<http://www.cngf.org> <http://www.cnpssd.org>

You can see examples of residential gardens in the North and South Park area at:
<http://www.cnpssd.org/SDLandscapes/Site/Home.html>

Alrie Middlebrook will also speak at the CNPSSD general meeting (open to the public) at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15th in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado on the subject of designing, building and maintaining a native garden.

NEW SPECIES FOR SD AREA

Riverside and San Diego County CNPS members might be interested in a new species that lives only on the Santa Rosa Basalt found in sw Riverside and nw San Diego Counties:

Brodiaea santarosae

The Santa Rosa Basalt *Brodiaea*

<http://tchester.org/plants/analysis/brodiaea/santarosae.html>

In addition to being of interest because it is a species that grows only in our neck of the woods, it has two fascinating stories behind it.

The first is its past history and geologically-imminent-extinction, deduced from the association with the basalt.

The second is the story of how it was "hidden in plain sight", masquerading as two other species, *Brodiaea filifolia* (thread-leaved *Brodiaea*) and / or *B. orcuttii* (Orcutt's *Brodiaea*).

Our discovery was just published in the peer-reviewed botanical journal *Madroño: A West American Journal of Botany* sent out late last month; a copy of that article is posted online. We would have sent a note out on 10/22/07 to this distribution, but there was this little matter of fire and evacuations.

If it ever rains again, we will be happy to lead a CNPS trip to show everyone this species when it blooms in late May to June.

B. santarosae is a honking plant, with leaves that are as long as *Calochortus* leaves(!), and big flowers up to 2 inches across. It is very different from *B. filifolia* and *B. orcuttii* in many details, despite the superficial similarity of the flowers in overall appearance.

Its scape is the tallest of all southern California *Brodiaea*s. Wayne measured a growth rate over a period of nine days of one mm per hour (=one inch per day) resulting in a length of 64 cm (2 feet). See the pix about halfway down the page here: <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/wildfls7.htm>

Its long scape may be the reason it blooms so late; it seemed to take forever for plants in pots to bloom earlier this year.

Here is one story not yet told online in its entirety, since we are working on it now: prior to the recognition of this species, we had thought the Santa Rosa Basalt was found only on the flat-topped mesas of the Santa Rosa Plateau, just as is shown on all published geologic maps.

While it was clear from the beginning that the vast majority of specimens of *B. santarosae* grew on basalt, it appeared initially that a small number of specimens grew just outside mapped basalt areas. A perceptive comment, from one of the *Madroño* reviewers of the scientific paper, led to further field work in 2007 that revealed that all specimens in fact grew only on soils derived from the Santa Rosa Basalt. Those areas, outside previously-known basalt areas, contain remnants of the basalt found outside the flat-topped mesas.

I.e., we had initially trusted geologic maps, and our "knowledge" that the basalt only existed on flat mesa tops, to conclude that some specimens lived off the basalt. But when we actually looked at the rocks found in the soil where those plants grew, there were chunks of obvious basalt (with bubbles!) everywhere on the ground, with no other rock type in sight!

We are now in the middle of mapping the basalt found off the mesas, and finding there are fairly extensive outcrops of the basalt that were not known before. If we hadn't seen this with our own eyes, we would have seriously doubted anyone who told us such outcrops existed.

We just discovered on 11/3/07 an ancient river valley in the basalt of the Mesa de Burro that we had never noticed before, due to it being shallow and broad. See a panorama made from four pictures here: http://tchester.org/temp/srp/071103/mesa_de_burro_ancient_valley_marked.jpg

The valley is 140 feet deep! Our mapping on 11/8/07 found that the basalt continues down the left side of the mesa in the above pix, all the way down to waterline road, an elevation of 120 feet below the mesa top there, right down to a *B. santarosae* location!

So this species has led to geologic discoveries!

In turn, these geologic discoveries have resulted in additional areas that we will search for *B. santarosae* plants next year.

For example, on 11/8/07 we were dumbfounded to find an extensive patch of basalt well-away from the mesas, outlined in green in the following map: http://tchester.org/temp/srp/basalt_mapping/basalt_mapping_071108.jpg

This patch surrounds the hill 1974 (between the hill 2001 and the Mesa de Burro), and is almost surely what is left of a former mesa. The green contour in fact looks like a miniature Mesa de Burro in shape, despite it being 160 feet below the peak of the hill.

Tom Chester

BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT
2008

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

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



CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS JAN 2008

CNPS Phone (916) 447-2677, www.cnpsd.org, info@cnpsd.org

BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Carolyn Martus(760) 434-5033h

VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Flietner.....(619) 501-3789h

SECRETARY: Daniel Simon.....(661) 428-4791

TREASURER: Sandra Feiock.....(760) 735-8845

OTHER ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

POSTER SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....(858)578-8040h

LEGISLATION: Peter St. Clair.....(619) 683-9352

PROGRAMS: Carrie Schneider.....(858) 352-4413w

RESTORATION: Bruce Hanson.....(619) 262-8905h

MEMBER: Hank Kraus.....(760)-751-1929

MEMBER: Marty Foltyn.....(858)-259-0283h

MEMBER: Patrickl McConnell:

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BOOK SALES: Susan Marchetti.....(858) 273-6486h

FIELD TRIPS: Dave Flietner(619) 501-3789h

HOSPITALITY: Sharon Hackett.....

INVASIVEPLANTS:.....

MEMBERSHIP: Mary Kelly.....(916) 447-2677

NEWSLETTER:newsletter@cnpsd.org

Jim Harrison: editor(858) 273-5242

PLANT SALE:.....

RARE PLANTS: Fred Roberts.....(760) 439-6244h

VEGETATION: Lexine Schroeder.....(619) 729-5715

WEBSITE:.....Mary Alice Kessler

Open positions include CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, HORTICULTURE, PUBLICITY, LIBRARIAN Please contact any board member if interested in any of these positions

NOTE: **For newsletter mailing label** issues contact Jim Harrison at newsletter@cnpsd.org or (858) 273-5242