



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

September 2009

www.cnpssd.org

CNPS (916) 447-2677

info@cnpssd.org

PREZ SAYS

America is staggering through a great recession with a massive collective hangover after three decades of drunken, spendthrift materialism. Faced with foreclosures, unemployment, and the collapse of public services, we've sworn "Never again," increased savings, cut conspicuous consumption and abandoned shopping as a form of entertainment. The go-it-alone, me-first mentality that got us into this mess just might be replaced with a more civic-minded culture, where community and cooperation are valued. Whether we actually stick with our resolution to change our ways largely depends on if we find better alternatives to our old bad habits.

As a member of CNPS, I presume that you've already discovered the joys of a less materialistic way of life, whether it's working in your garden, hiking in the backcountry, or just joining with like-minded people to learn about plants. But I hope that you might take advantage of this possible cultural tipping point to share what you've found with others. One way to do this is person-to-person: invite a couple of neighbors to our next meeting and then the October Plant Sale. This is a great thing to do, especially when drought has people thinking about native plants.

But there is a much deeper way that you can help create the needed cultural transformation: make our chapter more effective collectively by taking on one of the many nitty-gritty tasks that need to be done for us to function effectively as a group. The great thing is you **do** have a skill that we can use. In the past month, people with chronic disease, no computer, or even a teen-ager(!) have found a volunteer niche. Right now we have a tremendous opportunity to reach out to the general public, but lack enough volunteers on our Publicity and Public Outreach committees, for example. Take a look at the all the committees on the back page of this newsletter, think about how you could contribute, and decide to make a difference.

- Dave Flietner

CNPS MEETING

PROGRAM

Save water...build habitat

by Mike Evans

Many agencies and municipalities are introducing strict measures for mandatory water conservation, especially for outdoor use and landscape irrigation. We are told about numerous ornamental plants that will "work" in the landscape to save water; plants which fit into the category "California Friendly." The only plants that will truly use less irrigation water and also attract beneficial wildlife species are California native. We will discuss why native plantings are the "friendliest" of the California Friendly" plants, and the crucial need before us to enhance and build wildlife habitat within the human environment.

10 Minutes with a Plant Expert

In lieu of Natives for Novices, our pre-meeting will be "10 Minutes with a Plant Expert." From 6-7pm you will have the opportunity to meet with a native plant expert and get answers to your questions. This service will be open to all and we also encourage volunteers working on habitat restoration projects or school gardens to come and your questions answered. To get the most out of your ten minutes, please bring good photos of the areas you want to discuss and a plan of existing conditions of that spot and around it out to 20' at least, to scale, with north indicated, and address/city. Reservations are not required but you are encouraged to RSVP to plantsale@cnpssd.org so we have an idea of how many are coming and we can have enough experts on hand to answer all of your questions.

Natives for Novices will resume in October, with "Grasses" by Morgan Vondrak.

CNPS-San Diego Monthly Programs

Chapter meetings are open to the public; there is no charge. Our programs are the 3rd Tuesday of the month, excluding August and December. Come early and browse our books; stay after the program for conversation and refreshments. We meet in Balboa Park, in the Casa del Prado, Room 101 or Room 104, which can be reached by car from Village Place off of Park Boulevard (served by the #7 bus). The Casa del Prado is immediately west of the Natural History Museum. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

7-7:30 pm: Mystery plants identified! Bring your unknown plant and we will help you learn to identify it.

For a Balboa Park map see www.balboapark.org/nav.html

FREE PLANT WALKS IN THE FALL

We're trying something new this year. Besides the plant walks that we usually sponsor in the spring, we're having a few hikes this fall. Springtime brings lots of flowers and greener plants, but fall offers opportunities to appreciate our native plants as well. Some plants, such as evening primrose (*Oenothera elata*) bloom in summer and fall. Summer and fall also give us the chance to notice the plants' adaptations to the months of drought. In September we will have three hikes:

September 5: Frank Landis and Michael Murphy will lead a hike at Penasquitos Canyon 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Meet at the parking lot at the canyon preserve along Black Mountain Road (Thomas Guide D7).

September 13: Dave Flietner will lead a hike in Florida Canyon in Balboa Park, 12 noon to 2:00 pm. We will meet at the large fountain in front of the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park (Thomas Guide 1269 C7). Turn off of Park Blvd. west onto Village Place. Parking lots are on either side of Village Place.

September 26: Arne Johanson and Adrienne Heinzelman will lead a hike at the Manchester Preserve, 10:00 am to 12 noon. We will meet at the end of Calle Ryan (Thomas Guide 1167, G2). Exit I-5 east at Manchester and head east, to El Camino Real, turn right on Calle Ryan.

Members are encouraged to enjoy these outings, but remember, these hikes are intended as an outreach for new members, so bring a friend or neighbor who might enjoy learning more about our natural flora and might become a CNPS member.

AUGUST FIELD TRIP REPORT

The weather cooperated beautifully on Aug. 9 for a summer field trip in the Laguna Mountains. Fifteen members of CNPS San Diego and San Diego chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) explored the Cleveland Forest near the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, and ended up on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), working our way to the desert transition areas on the east side of Burnt Rancheria Campground.

Lots of herbaceous plants were in bloom. Every hundred feet another patch of something different would delight us for five to ten minutes, so the morning went too fast. In the oak and pine forest, a beautiful colony of *Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *austomontanum* (giant woolly star), captivated the group with its intense true-blue color. Shrubs, trees and herbaceous plants with cones, drupes, capsules, and other kinds of seed containers gave us a chance to work on that aspect of plant identification. And the winner for the most wonderful plant of the day was found at our turnaround point on the PCT: two huge *Mirabilis multiflora* var. *pubescens*. Having identified that, we regretfully turned back.

No one person served as field trip botanist but Paula Knoll and Sue Burdick, each San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneers, were very knowledgeable, and Dave Flietner and others efficiently dug through Beauchamp and Jepson. We ended up feeling confident of the identification of 37 plant species, got six others to genera, and neglected grasses entirely. A list will be sent to all participants. Afterward as we ate a picnic lunch catered by Navid Mostatabi of the ASLA for a very reasonable flat-rate charge to everyone who wanted to dine, everyone said they had a good time.

I deeply regret that I failed to do everything that could have been done to notify members of a last minute parking change the U.S. Forest Service required of us. Jennifer Tillman, her husband, and Neil Bouscaren showed up at the original meeting place, and after waiting, set off on their own. I will do my best to prevent that happening again, and apologize to all.

- Kay Stewart



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The objective of the Conservation Committee is to use the power of team thinking to come up with the best strategies to protect native plants, and to encourage CNPS members to learn enough to influence planning processes so that plants and vegetation are protected. Contact the Carrie Schneider (see back cover) if you are interested in joining this committee.

Keep in touch with other members and find out about late-breaking events by joining our chapter email discussion list. Write to info@cnpsd.org and ask to be subscribed.

Legal Challenges

The chapter has made a major financial contribution to help cover litigation costs for the California Chaparral Institute's lawsuit against San Diego County. The basis of the suit is that the County, in approving a 3-4 year, \$7 million program for removing dead, dying and diseased trees, allegedly failed to follow state law that requires public participation, and failed to provide proper scientific oversight in planning. See <http://w.californiachaparral.com/csdcountyslashburn.html> for more information.

Legal Fund

Send your contribution to CNPS Legal Fund, P.O. Box 121390, San Diego CA 92112-1390. Our chapter has raised \$2,735 in donations, bringing the total contributions to the Legal Fund to \$8,970. Please contribute to our Legal Fund to help protect native habitats! We are currently accepting checks made payable to CNPSSD; write "Legal Fund" in the memo line. We are working to set up Paypal account that will take Legal Fund donations through our website and hope to have this finished by the printing date of this newsletter. Please check our website (cnpsd.org) to see if Paypal is active.

We appreciate the donations from:

Jean Cate	Bonnie Hough
Debbie Evans	Leonard & Michele Ruja Jirek
Pat Fishtein	Jan & Don Maxted
Adrienne Heinzelman	Michael and Jennifer Tillman



New Google Earth Tool

Check out a new tool from Google Earth version 5 - you can look up older maps and compare to newer ones to examine land use changes over time. This could help us determine when "disturbed" land actually became disturbed. This is important for conservation because "disturbed" land requires a much lower mitigation ratio than land with higher value habitat, therefore there are incentives to degrade land.

CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

The Chapter Council's next meeting will be in San Diego on September 12, 2009 at the San Diego Natural History Museum, from 8 am to 5 pm. San Diego has never hosted a Chapter Council meeting, and it is our time to shine and let the Chapter Council delegates who come from the 33 local chapters that make up CNPS Chapter Councils know more about our great programs, fantastic members, and important issues. All San Diego members are welcome to attend the meeting and the evening program.

As most of you know, the California Native Plant Society is a state-wide organization. There are quarterly meetings held at rotating sites throughout the state where delegates from each Chapter (the Chapter Council) and any other interested CNPS members discuss the whole range of topics pertinent to CNPS. The Chapter Council is the body responsible for setting the goals and policies of CNPS. These discussions can be quite interesting and informative, and the meetings eventually become a regular gathering of state-wide friends with common interests and concerns. You are encouraged to participate!

- Marty Foltyn

CNPS-SD CHAPTER BOARD MEETING Wednesday September 9—6:00-8:00

Carmel Valley Branch Library
3919 Townsgate Drive, San Diego, CA

E-mail Dave Flietner for more information—
president@cnpsd.org

INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE

Most of us don't think of invasive weeds as our primary concern; we care about things like gardens, habitat or fire safety. But weeds are a major management issue influencing these and other issues related to native plants. Some of us who have seen the effects of invasives on native plants have jumped right into weed removal without having a clear overall purpose or ultimate aim; sometimes we don't even know if what we are doing is safe or effective.

The Invasive Plant Committee is being formed to establish a network of trained people to effectively fight these weeds. The group will focus on weed identification and management. You'll learn to answer the questions "Where do I start? How do I identify what I am dealing with? What should I do with this stuff after I have identified it?"

The group is open to any CNPS member no matter what your goal. You will learn skills to help you with your primary purpose, whether managing your garden, restoring an urban canyon or maintaining a nature preserve. Furthermore, you will learn where to obtain information that will allow you to be more self-reliant.

Some may want to obtain a State pesticide applicator's license, which is currently a requirement to do weed work in the City of San Diego. CNPS will support members who attend the sessions regularly, pass the license exam, and commit to teaching others by paying for study guides and exam fees.

Since the group goal is to form a network of trained people we will be using shared learning. Each person will be expected to contribute what they know as well as to research something new and share their findings. This learning will be guided by me and occasionally augmented by local experts. A large portion of the learning will be hands-on in the field. Long sleeves, long pants, boots, gloves and eye protection are required. We will be training

at two sites in the Rancho Bernardo area Blue Sky Reserve and Bernardo Lakes Open Space.

We will learn specific techniques for controlling four different sets of weeds: palms, woody weeds, broad-leaved herbs, and grasses. For each group we will cover safety, plant identification, tools, and control options, including manual, mechanical, and chemical methods. We will put this information into a broader framework, combining techniques to create plans to help you with your individual interests. Each of us will become more effective stewards of the places we care about and will be better able to help others in similar situations in the region.

I will be concentrating on palms and woody weeds until the rainy season begins. Initially, meetings will be held on the first Saturday of each month beginning in October. Alternate times may be arranged that better meets our mutual schedules.

Please email me or talk to me at the September meeting if you are interested in becoming a better weed warrior.

- Arne Johanson
arne_kj@yahoo.com; 858-759-4769

Invasive Plants

Invasive exotic plants displace native plants and wildlife, increase wildfire and flood danger, consume valuable water, and degrade recreational opportunities. Approximately 1,800 non-native plants grow in the wild in California. The inventory of the California Invasive Plant Council categorizes about 200 species as invasive and of threat to the state's wildlands. Categorization is based on an assessment of the ecological impacts of each plant. The Inventory represents the best available knowledge of invasive plant experts in the state. The inventory improves our understanding of the impacts invasive plant species can have and helps those working to protect California's treasured biodiversity; however, it has no regulatory authority. Visit Cal-IPC and review the inventory at: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/>

RECYCLE AND RAISE MONEY FOR CNPS

Las Pilitas Nursery donates 10 cents for every usable pot brought to them by CNPS members. Pots can be brought directly to Las Pilitas at

8331 Nelson Way Escondido, CA 92026
or stored at the Tecolote Nature Center at
5180 Tecolote Road San Diego, CA 92110
Please visit the CNPS-SD website for details.
www.cnpsd.org

ATTENTION TEACHERS

School's out! By now you may have finally caught your breath and are getting ready to take on those summertime projects. Are you interested in meeting with other teachers to develop ways to increase classroom education involving native plants?

Educating the next generation is critically important to the success of CNPS's mission and we would like to expand this part of our program. There is no set agenda for this effort, other than the ideas that you may bring. Please contact me if you would like to meet and discuss how CNPS can help you incorporate San Diego's native plant communities into your educational programs. I will coordinate a meeting that works with everyone's schedule.

Dave Flietner

WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden

2nd Saturday of each month.

September 11, Saturday, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Bring work gloves, your favorite weeding tool, a sun hat and sun screen. There is shade, refreshments and bathrooms on site. The native plant garden is at the northwest end of Old Town State Park. It is on Taylor St. across Congress St. from the trolley station. There is often free parking available in the lot at the corner of Taylor St. and Calhoun St. Enter off Calhoun Street behind the former CalTrans HQ building. We meet near the McCoy House, a large two story reconstructed Victorian home.

Point Loma Plant Garden

First Saturday and third Sunday of each month.

The San Diego River Park Foundation

2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

September 5 and 19, 9-11 AM: Wear sunscreen and bring a hat and water. All tools and supplies are provided. No facilities on site. For more information contact Richard Dhu at Richard@sandiegoriver.org or 619-297-7380 or visit http://sandiegoriver.org/clean_green.php

CNPS

FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday

October 17th, 2009

All inquiries regarding our fall plant sale should go to plantsale@cnpsd.org. This year's plant sale will take place at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado and across from the west entrance of the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. This is our largest fundraiser and we need everyone's help promoting the sale. The funds we raise from our sale help pay for our newsletter, meeting rooms, and local conservation projects. Check our website to download the plant sale flyer and post it around your neighborhood. This year's sale will again feature convenient pre-ordering for CNPS members, free native plant advice, free seed packet for kids and of course the best selection of California native plants!

Pre-order your plants! This is a member's only service. Details for how to pre-order can be found on our website. Minimum amount for pre-ordering is 20 items or \$100.

We need many volunteers on sale day. Jobs include plant sale set-up, ticket writers (should be comfortable with numbers and calculators), refreshments, security, and general customer service. E-mail us for more information.

Specific tasks needed for our fall plant sale:

Refreshments: We need someone to buy the refreshments and set them up for the sale. CNPS reimburses all costs.

Pick-up Boxes: We need one or two people to pick up boxes from grocery stores, contact us for more details.

Plant Labeling: We send teams of volunteers to some of the nurseries (Tree of Life, RECON and Las Pilitas) to label the plants.

Plant Sale Committee



CNPS PLANT SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM WORKSHOPS 2009

**Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora
of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert**

September 29 - October 1, 2009

Primary Instructors: James M. Andre & Tasha La Doux

Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

Cost: TBA

Course Description: Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California's desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals are considered "summer annuals", species that germinate following the monsoonal cloudbursts of summer, grow rapidly, and complete the life cycle before temperatures decline sharply in fall. In addition, many perennial species flower in early fall, particularly those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate to short day hikes.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Each year the State CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2009.

Joan Stewart, Chair
CNPS Educational Grants Committee

NATIVE PLANT CLASS

**Gardening and Landscaping with
California Native Plants**

Looking for beauty, little or no irrigation, and plants that can take care of themselves once established? California Native Plants are perfect for our climate and the increasing pressure to reduce water usage. You'll learn where to find natives, when to plant, which plants are fire resistant, and how to choose just the right plants to meet your needs. You will have the opportunity to design and develop a plan to convert all or part of your yard to natives, and you will have the knowledge to hire a professional if you don't wish to do the job yourself. Be a part of restoring California's unique natural heritage by using natives in your own backyard.

Cost: \$57.00, plus a \$3.00 fee for a "do-it-yourself" course hand-book and list of 150 plants.

Location: Mira Costa College, Oceanside (Community Services) (760) 795-6820; commservices@miracosta.edu

Dates: Three Saturdays, October 24, 31, and November 7, 2009

Time: 12 noon to 2:00 PM

Instructor: Julie Schneider Ljubenkov



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The matilija poppy, our chapter flower depicted on the headline of our newsletter, was first collected by the Irish botanist Thomas Coulter, presumably in the Pala area of the San Luis Rey River valley. The poppy was given the name *Romneya coulteri* in 1845 by William Harvey, keeper of the Trinity College Herbarium, who introduced many of Coulter's California plants to European and American botanists. The name *Romneya* honors Coulter's close astronomer friend, Reverend T. Romney Robinson of Ulster's Armagh University. The poppy's common name, matilija, is from a Chumash tale about the daughter of Chief Matilija, but any actual meaning of the word is unknown.

WELCOME NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter!

La Ree Brownell	Margot Laue
Linda Bussell	Heidi Parnell
Carol Fuller	Paula Pijoan
C. L. Henson	Lee Ripma
Scott Jones	Christy Wolf

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OPTION

19 VOLUNTEERS TO DATE!

Would you be interested in receiving your CNPS newsletter digitally? The cost of printing and paper continues to rise. Help CNPS-SD save money and reduce waste by signing up to receive your newsletter via e-mail. If you are interested please e-mail Julie at newsletter@cnpsd.org.



And a number of members who have been reinstated:

Carol Ball	Alberta Jane Parker
Elizabeth Branstrom	John G. Pitcairn
Steven Cowgill	Miriam Soto
Jose Delgadillo Rodriguez	Julie Ann Day
David DiDonato	Stuart G. Garrett
Mark W. Dodero	Mark Huffman
Michelle Garcia	Callie Mack
Anitra Kaye	Jackie Redmon

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Visit the CNPS website at:

www.CNPS.org

Click on the **JOIN** button

MEMBERSHIP

Please complete this form, make out a check payable to "CNPS", and mail to:

California Native Plant Society

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student or Limited Income \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family, Group or Library \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$600 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily \$1,500 |

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

e-mail address: _____

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.

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

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO

June 2009

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CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE: MartyFoltyn.... (858) 259-0283h
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cnpsd@nyms.net

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membership@cnpsd.org

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Open positions: EDUCATION, INVASIVE PLANTS AND PUBLIC
OUTREACH . Contact any board member if you are interested in any of
these positions.

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