



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

January 2010

PREZ SEZ

Season's Greetings! We hope this holiday season found your family healthy and happy. The CNPS family has been blessed with a fun-filled and fruitful year, thanks to everyone pitching in.

Kay made the most of the mild spring, hosting almost 20 field trips in our local canyons, mountains, and desert. She and **Paul** put a few more on in the fall, which was especially busy, with **Marty** putting on a big meeting at the Natural History Museum for all our kin from around the State, and **Carolyn** and **Mary** again putting on a successful plant sale -- we were worried that the recession might slow things down, but their organizing skills made it a hit.

We're proud of **Carrie**, who got us all involved with her Legal Fund and has almost reached her \$10,000 goal. Sadly, we had hoped it would be a "rainy day" fund, but she had to spend a third right away to protect the backcountry.

Hank's programs have all been popular this year (he's had to haul extra chairs in at the last minute a few times!), but he really outdid himself with the Native American meal. He's happy to share credit for the great meetings with **Cindy**, who keeps us stocked with the best selection of plant books in town; **Betsy**, who's really upped the taste appeal of our meetings; and **Susan**, who's added a new dimension with her Natives for Novices workshops. If you haven't been to a meeting lately, you've really got to see what they've been up to.

Peter's native garden in Old Town continues to flourish, and **Dave** wants to get more school and community native gardens planted around the County -- hopefully many more will be blooming next year. Speaking of plans for next year, **Anna**, **Arne**, and **Jason** are planning to get us outside a lot more, surveying vegetation, fighting weeds, and collecting seeds. These three join another new trio dedicated to building and maintaining our family: **Pat**, who will spread the word through mass media, **David**, who will be talking to folks at public events, and **Adrienne**, who is keeping our new members involved and happy.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without **Mary Alice** and **Julie**, who work so hard behind the scenes to keep all of us in all touch. Well, I've run on too long again.... Everyone sends their love and asks you to keep in touch during the New Year-- our email addresses are on the back page!

CNPS MEETING PROGRAM - JAN 19

CONNECTING NATIVE PLANTS, PEOPLE, AND POLITICS BY ANNE FEGE

Native Plants, nearby nature, and the work of CNPS are more important than ever, and this presentation will be a dialogue about the values of learning in nature and "playing" outdoors. When people spend time "connecting to nature," they are more likely to make personal lifestyle changes, participate in community projects, grasp the imperative of greenhouse gas reduction, and give political support for biodiversity. Children who spend time in nature are healthier and happier and develop their curiosity and creativity, get a sense of place, and learn about stewardship of the environment.

6:30-7 Natives for Novices "Constructing a Garden Entirely from Natives" by Greg Rubin

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

We meet in Balboa Park, in the Casa del Prado, Room 101 or Room 104 For a Balboa Park map see

www.balboapark.org/nav.html

CNPS-San Diego Monthly Programs

Chapter meetings are open to the public; there is no charge. Meetings are in Casa del Prado, located in Balboa Park west of the San Diego Natural History Museum 85

85 (Thomas Guide 1289 C-1). From Park Blvd. turn west onto Village Place and park in either lot. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

Before and after our speaker, browse our books, get a native plant identified, enjoy refreshments, and find out how you can become more involved.

BOARD MEETING

Executive Board meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive (Thomas Guide 1189 G-4). All members welcome.

Board and Chairs will also meet for a Planning Session on January 23, 2010 10 am to 3:30 pm at the Chula Vista Nature Center 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista.

CNPSSD BYLAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Shed a tear for our incoming Board members. In revising our Board Handbook for their inaugural Board meeting, I discovered that our chapter bylaws incorporate State CNPS's bylaws about elections and Executive Board officers. Our chapter bylaws were adopted in January 2003, but the State revised their bylaws in June 2007. As a result, our current bylaws are confusing at best and contrary to our actual practice at worst. So we must update our bylaws as soon as possible – at said inaugural meeting, January 6. While we're at it, we will consider making changes regarding electing committee chairs and our check cashing policy.

All members are welcome to attend the January 6 Board meeting. In accordance with our bylaws, I am including the proposed amendments in this notice. Space forbids a full analysis of the proposed changes, but this is available at <http://www.cnpsd.org/bylaws>. Below is a brief explanation of the proposed changes to each section, followed by the proposed new language: To save space, Articles and Sections are referred to by their numbers (e.g., ARTICLE II. Section 4. is simply II.4.)

II.4. OTHER REGULATIONS: This would remove the reference to sections of the State's bylaws (amended after our chapter's bylaws were adopted). These sections describe the functions of the Board and its officers, but include functions and offices that are exclusive to the State organization.

All other regulations regarding memberships shall be as those of the parent society.

IV.1. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. This would add a) the language currently in IV.2 (see below) and the State's description of the Board's function (referenced in our current bylaws' II.4), removing references that don't apply to us.

a. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD of this chapter shall consist of eleven members, each elected to a two-year term of office. In order to provide continuity of leadership within the Executive Board, election of members of the Executive Board shall be staggered, with six members elected in even-numbered years, and five elected in odd years. Subject to the limitations of the articles and bylaws of the parent society and the laws of the State of California; the business and affairs of the chapter shall be administered by the Executive Board.

b. The duties of the Executive Board include: (1) Provision of fiscal oversight and accountability; (2) Establishing policies to fulfill the duties of the Board; (3) Develop the Chapter's strategic plan on a regular and periodic basis; (4) Fully execute the strategic plan to the best of the Chapter's ability; (5) Insure adequate resources to meet the needs and mission of the Chapter; (6) Develop a program to insure a steady supply of qualified leaders

to meet the Chapter's need; and (7) All other duties normally and customarily associated with a Executive Board for a California public benefit corporation. In addition, the Executive Board carries the fiduciary duties for the activities of a nonprofit organization as imposed by California state law.

IV.2. ELECTION: Our current bylaws do not actually talk about elections in this section. This applies the State's language (which another section of our bylaws incorporates by reference) for our Board elections, removing irrelevant language.

a. The Executive Board Members will be elected in each year necessary as follows: (1) Any CNPS member with currently paid dues interested in serving as a Board member may be nominated by submitting a written nomination petition to the chair of the Nominating Committee;(2) The chair of the Nominating Committee will mail written ballots for these positions to all Members;(3) Marked ballots will be returned to the Nominating Committee to be counted;(4) The chair of the Nominating Committee will announce the results of the elections for these positions to the Executive Board, and by publication in the chapter newsletter and posting on the website; and (5) Those elected will take office on the immediately following January 1.

b. The Executive Board will establish fixed dates for each of the actions enumerated in clauses a(1) through a(4), provided that: (1) The date for announcement of winners for each year will be chosen to be as soon as practical after November 1, of such year; and (2) At least two (2) weeks elapse between mailing of the ballots and the closing date of the election.

c. Every member with currently paid dues who submits a duly signed written nomination petition on, or before, the then-current date for such submissions will be listed on the ballot for that year.

d. Each Member will have the right to cast a vote for up to the then-current number of open Board member's positions. The elected candidates will be those receiving the most votes, enumerated in descending number of votes. In case of a tie, the then-current Board President will cast a tie-breaking vote. The term of each Board member will be two (2) years.

V.2. ELECTION: This is about election of Board officers. This describes how we actually do it, includes some of State's language for a hypothetical situation, and makes Board officers' terms one year long.

a. Each Board Member will have the right to cast one vote for each different officer position, president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, but may decline to cast a vote for any particular position. The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast for each office will be elected to that office. In case of a tie, the then-current President will cast an additional tie-breaking vote.

b. Election of Board officers will occur at the first Executive Board meeting after an annual election of Executive Board members. The term of office shall be one year. Vacated officer positions will be elected from among the Executive Board as described in Section 2(a)."

BYLAWS CONTINUED

V. 3. PRESIDENT: Uses the State's language (referenced in II.4), with appropriate modifications.

The president shall preside at all meetings of the members and Executive Board and shall be *ex officia* a member of all committees. The president shall make reports to the membership and to the board, and shall perform all such other duties as are incident to the office or are properly required by the Executive Board.

The president is the chief officer of the Chapter and shall act as the chair person of the Executive Board. The president performs, or ensures the performance of, the following duties: (1) Organize, facilitate and chair all meetings of the Executive Board, including setting the agenda and seeking input from the Executive Board on what should be included; (2) Ensure the effectiveness of the Board Committees; and (3) Fulfill any other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

V.4. VICE PRESIDENT: Uses the State's language, with appropriate modifications.

The vice president fulfills all duties of the president in case of absence, disability or removal of the president, and performs, or ensures performance of, the following duties: (1) Provide support to the president to help make her/his job manageable and effective; (2) Chairs the Nominating Committee, and certifies the results of the election of Board members and officers; and (3) Fulfill any other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board.

V.5. SECRETARY: Uses the State's language, with appropriate modifications.

The secretary has overall responsibility for all record keeping for the Chapter. The secretary performs, or ensures the performance of, the following duties: (1) Record officially the minutes of all proceedings of the Executive Board meetings and actions, and have such minutes distributed to the Executive Board; (2) Provide notice to the Executive Board of all Executive Board meetings and actions; (3) Authenticate and maintain files of the records of the Chapter; (4) Keep a file of all correspondence; (5) keep or cause to be kept, a roster of all members; (6) Fulfill any other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board; and (7) Maintain records in compliance with California Corporations Code Section 6320.

V.6. TREASURER: Uses the State's language, with appropriate modifications.

The treasurer has overall responsibility for all Chapter funds. The treasurer performs, or ensures the performance of, the following duties: (1) Keep full and accurate accounts of all financial records of the Chapter; (2) Deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Chapter in such depositories as may be designated by the Executive Board; (3) Disburse all funds when proper to do so; (4) Develop reports as to the financial

condition of the Chapter, and distribute such reports to the Executive Board and other parties as required by law (California Corporations Code Section 6321); (5) Make reimbursements to members for expenses as agreed upon by the Executive Board; (6) Upon reasonable notice, make financial records available for inspection by any Board Member; and (7) Fulfill any other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board.

VI.1. COMMITTEES: Reflects Board practice of naming committee chairs, not entire committees.

The Executive Board shall appoint committees or committee chairpersons, standing or temporary, as may from time to time be deemed advisable, necessary, or convenient to accomplish the purposes of this chapter, e.g. Conservation, Field Trip, Newsletter, or Publicity. The powers, duties, and the length of terms of the members of such committees shall be prescribed by the Executive Board. Committee chairpersons may select committee members from among the general membership of the Chapter. Committees or committee chairpersons shall report to the Executive Board on a regular basis. Public positions of committees must represent the positions agreed upon by the Executive Board. Committee chairpersons are responsible for keeping the Executive Board apprised of its activities. Committee chairpersons will forward copies of all public correspondence in which a position is stated (e.g. letters to agencies) to the Secretary.

VII.1. MONIES: This would authorize a single signature on checks, with restrictions but would provide for limits that the Board could impose.

All funds derived from any source by any person or group of persons acting under or through the auspices of this chapter shall be turned over into the custody of the treasurer. All checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, issued in the name of this chapter or payable to this chapter, shall be signed and endorsed by the Treasurer, President, or Vice-President. The authority to sign checks, orders for payment of money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness may be subject to conditions established and periodically modified by the Executive Board.



Quercus engelmannii

Drawing contributed by Fred Roberts

The wonderful line drawings that graced our last few issues were contributed by Fred Roberts, long-time member and currently our Rare Plant Botanist. I apologize for using the wrong last name when crediting him for his wonderful work. - Julie Janssen

CONSERVATION NOTES

Good news! As of December 10, the County Board of Supervisors has rejected the Merriam Mountains development on a 2-2 tie vote. CNPS wrote a letter opposing it, and CNPS members have been working on it for quite some time.

That brings us to this month's conservation issues, brought to us by the City of San Diego.

1. The City of San Diego is working to amend the environmentally sensitive lands portion of the biology guidelines to provide guidance on how damages to wetlands from new projects should be handled. CNPS opposes this proposal because a list of "essential public projects" is unjustified, and because wetland mitigation will not be supported by a maintenance and monitoring program. **We are looking for CNPS members to contact their SD City Council Members, and ask them to vote for the "Wildlife Agency Alternative" in order to ensure that high quality wetlands are preserved or created to make up for destruction of existing wetlands.**

2. Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program. Back in September, CNPS submitted a 7-page comment letter detailing the problems with the City's proposal to manage storm water by bulldozing creeks and channels, to make sure that storm water that enters the channels goes straight into the ocean. Aside from being problematic under the Clean Water Act, this also would damage rare plants and riparian vegetation, and in many cases won't do much to stop floods or fix problems with the system. There are better alternatives that allow native plants to stay in the channels and help ameliorate the floods. **We are asking CNPS members to request that the City set up a task force to identify ways to manage stormwater that also preserve environmental benefits of wetlands.**



SCHOOL GARDENS

Our New School Garden Program is up and running!! We now have a link to the program on our website where visitors can learn more about the program and can download an application form for their school - <http://www.cnpssd.org/schoolgardens.html>

We also need your help to spread the word, so if you know of a local school that wants (or maybe needs) a native garden, forward them a copy of our application or let us know and we will contact them to see if we can help. As the program (and the gardens!) grows we will add more information, as well as some photos of our new teaching gardens!

Thank you to everyone who had contributed and shown support for the program in its early stages and especially to those who have signed up as volunteers and have been so patient while we work out the details. We may also have occasional calls for local volunteers as our list of school gardens grows so keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities in your neighborhood!

For anyone interested we will be having our introductory School Gardens meeting on January 12th at 6:30 pm. This will be a short meeting before the larger Native Gardening Committee meeting at 7 pm which we invite you to attend also. Please contact Morgan at schoolgardens@cnpssd.org for directions or more information.

Native Garden Committee

The next meeting of the Native Gardening committee will be at January 12 at 7 pm. We will be reviewing and planning our major projects: school gardens, Plants in Public Places, Natives for Novices, landscape leaflets, and Flora Fora (yes, we love alliteration). If you want to get involved with any of these projects, or simply want to learn more about what we are up to, please contact me for directions to the meeting.

Dave Flietner

NONPROFIT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE

Did you know that when you buy plants or books from CNPS, you're helping to support local conservation education programs? Thanks to your purchases, CNPS was able to help fund the San Diego non-profit organization, Ocean Discovery Institute, engaging hundreds of youth and adults in restoring their community canyons.

With a focus on the diverse, low-income community of City Heights, Ocean Discovery Institute's mission is to engage, educate, and inspire youth from urban and diverse backgrounds through science-based exploration of the ocean and nature, preparing them to be tomorrow's scientific and environmental leaders. Funding from CNPS helped the organization purchase native plants for the City Heights community to restore their very own Swan Canyon. Through the innovative Habitat Stewardship Program, the community's youth are leading the way in taking back their canyon, organizing regular events to plant native plants, remove invasive species and trash, and engage the community in becoming stewards of their local open spaces. What was once deemed an unsafe, degraded canyon with little native habitat, is now gaining a reputation as an inviting place for children and families to access nature in their own neighborhood.

As part of Ocean Discovery Institute's comprehensive programs, the high school students who are leading the project are learning about potential environmental careers, which will help address the underrepresentation of minorities in environmental fields. An Ocean Leader student since 2007, Joel Urbina, now a freshmen majoring in Marine Science at UC Santa Barbara, is one of the students who helped lead the project when he was a high school student living in City Heights. He recently visited Swan Canyon, saying, "I see how much it's changed and how awesome it looks, and I'm like *Wow! I helped do this. I was one of a whole bunch of people that made this possible.* It makes me feel great."

For more information, contact Dylan at dedwards@OceanDI.org or 858-488-3849, or visit www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org.

VEGETATION COMMITTEE

We will return to our regular monthly schedule starting **January 30th** with a survey of gabbro soil vegetation associations at South Crestridge. This will be an exciting survey not only because it is our first survey for 2010, but because Julie Evans, Vegetation Program Director from CNPS Sacramento, will be joining us to train the volunteer group on rapid assessment survey methods. If you plan on helping out on any of the surveys, this would be a great way to start the year. If you can't make it to this survey, no worries, training is always provided for new volunteers the day of the survey by our local volunteers.

If you're unfamiliar with the Vegetation Committee, here's a synopsis of what we do: Rapid assessments (see <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/vegetation>) are a tool for understanding plant composition, habitat and site quality across a landscape. We work to help the California Department of Fish and Game further classify vegetation associations, while also aiding local organizations or individuals get a better understanding of the property under their management. Rapid assessments provide a snapshot in time of the condition of particular vegetation associations, and thus can be relocated and repeated over time to reveal broad patterns due to any number or combination of factors like disturbance and succession. Rapid assessments are a great excuse to get outdoors and discover/reintroduce yourself to native plants. Each survey is a learning experience no matter what level you're at.

Surveys usually take place the fourth Saturday of every month through June, after which surveys will occur in August and October. Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). Light snacks and beverages are provided for volunteers. If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP for a survey, or more information, you may email: vegetation@cnpsd.org. I will email you directions and a list of what to bring. You may call 559-443-9233 if this is a preferred method of contact.

MONTHLY WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Historic Park Native Plant Garden

2nd Saturday of each month - rain will cancel

January 9, Saturday, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

The Native Plants will benefit from our weeding unwanted exotic plants, plus mulefat and lemonadeberry shrubs will need shaping, so please bring your favorite weeding tools, hand-pruners and loppers if you have any, garden gloves and sun protection. A drinking fountain is on site.

The Garden is located at the western edge of Old Town State Historic Park, across from the trolley station at Taylor and Congress Streets. Park at the west end of the free state park parking lot between the garden and Calhoun Street. For more info contact: fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

Point Loma Plant Garden -Work Party first Saturday and third Sunday of each month - rain will cancel

January 2 and 17, 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 - San Diego River Park Foundation

Contact Richard Dhu at Richard@sandiegoriver.org or 619-297-7380 <http://sandiegoriver.org/plnpg/php>

MONTHLY CNPS-SD EVENTS

Tecolote Canyon Walk - First Sunday of each month

January 3, 9 - 11 am: Learn about the plants in Tecolote Canyon. Meet at Tecolote Nature Center at 9 AM. Take I-5 to Sea World/Tecolote Rd and proceed east on Tecolote past all the ball fields to the very end of Tecolote Rd. Comfortable walking shoes and sun protection are recommended. Rain will cancel.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Over the past two months, the Public Outreach Committee held a series of meetings to strategize and plan for 2010 activities. We believe that the best way to reach out and introduce the public to native plants and CNPS is by building a strong network with other, like-minded organizations. We plan to keep the network active by participating monthly in public events. We have developed a catalog of groups to include in our network, and we have a long list of 2010 events where we will spread the word about native plants and CNPS. Our first event of the season is coming up in February!

The Public Outreach Committee needs your help to attend these community and environmental-oriented events and speak on behalf of CNPS. We need folks who can reach out to the public and share their knowledge and experience about native plants. These events are fun! Volunteer slots are only for two hours per weekend. Please join us at this month's meeting on Wednesday, January 13 at 5 P.M. at The Corner Bakery in Mission Valley (1025 Camino de Reina) to learn how you can contribute to our efforts.

If you have any questions or would like to provide input, please contact David Varner at puboutreach@cnpssd.org or 619-630-4591.

SUNSET CLIFFS NATURAL PARK WORK PARTY

January 16 from 9 am to noon - We will be adding over 300 native plants to our demonstration garden area.

This will be the fourth year we have been working to develop and expand this coastal bluff area. The garden now encompasses about 1.5 acres and incorporates over 70 species of plants historically found on Point Loma.

We will supply gloves and all the tools needed. Bring drinking water and sunscreen. Meet at the garden area about 50 yards south of the Ladera Street parking lot. Stop by to help or just enjoy the garden.

Please contact David Kimball (kimballd@cox.net; (619) 224-4975) with any questions.

ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK BOTANICAL SOCIETY

A new botanical organization has been formed, focused on the local desert. It is the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botanical Society, and it is under the umbrella of the State Park's existing volunteer programs. The Society has been in existence for a year and is starting to do outreach to potential members and anyone else with an interest in desert flora. The impetus for our formation was recognition of the fact that episodic desert wildflower blooms result in a great influx of visitors to local deserts and a brief surge of public interest in native plants. We hope to harness that episodic interest to foster an improved public understanding of native California flora and plant conservation issues.

The group's activities to date include botany classes taught by Kim Marsden and Larry Hendrickson, general meetings held on the second Monday of each month at 10 am in the park's Visitor Center, and plant collecting under the auspices of the Natural History

Museum Parobotany program. The Society is planning its botany classes for 2009-2010. Enrollment is free and CNPS members are invited to sign up. For more information contact Don Rideout at rideouts@cox.net.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to **renew automatically** year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

Visit the CNPS website at:

www.CNPS.org

MEMBERSHIP

Please complete this form, make out a check payable to "CNPS", and mail to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Ste 1
Sacramento, CA 95816

- Student or Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family, Group or Library \$75

- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1,500

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

e-mail address: _____

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship. Membership is open to all and 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

www.cnpsd.org - nfo@cnpsd.org

Nonprofit Organization

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO

BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Dave Flietner(858) 268-3789h
president@cnpsd.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Peter St. Clair.....(619) 260-1307
vicepresident@cnpsd.org

SECRETARY: Diane Green.....(858) 571-2862
secretary@cnpsd.org

TREASURER: Sandra Feiock.....(760) 735-8845
treasurer@cnpsd.org

BOARD MEMBERS

BOOK and POSTER SALES: Cindy Burrascano(858) 578-8040
postersales@cnpsd.org

CONSERVATION: Carrie Schneider..... (858) 352-4413w
info@cnpsd.org.

FIELD TRIPS: Kay Stewart.....(619) 234-2668
fieldtrips@cnpsd.org

LEGISLATION: Peter St. Clair.....(619) 260-1307
legislation@cnpsd.org

PROGRAMS: Hank Kraus.....(760) 751-1929
programs@cnpsd.org

PUBLICITY: Pat Fishstein(619) 280-8234
publicity@cnpsd.org

Tom Beltrans:.....cnpsd@nys.net
Wes Hudson.....(619) 846-0585
weshudson@cox.net

Julie Janssen.....(760) 645-3169
newsletter@cnpsd.org

BOARD MEMBERS cont.

Frank Landis.....(310) 883-8569
franklandiso3@yahoo.com

Carolyn Martus.....plantsale@cnpsd.org

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE: Marty Foltyn.....(858) 259-0283h
chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

RARE PLANT BOTANIST: Fred Roberts..... (760) 439-6244
rarebotanist@cnpsd.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

HOSPITALITY: Betsy Cory(619) 656-8669
hospitality@cnpsd.org

INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson.....(858) 759-4769
invasiveplants@cnpsd.org

MEMBERSHIP: Adrienne Heinzelman.....membership@cnpsd.org

NATIVE GARDENING: Dave Flietner.....gardening@cnpsd.org

NEWSLETTER: Julie Janssen..... (760) 645-3169
newsletter@cnpsd.org

FALL PLANT SALE: .Carolyn Martus/Mary Kelly.....plantsale@cnpsd.org

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Dave Varner(619) 630-4591
puboutreach@cnpsd.org

RARE PLANTS: Dave Flietner.....rareplants@cnpsd.org

SEED COLLECTION: Jason Sundberg.....seedcollection@cnpsd.org

VEGETATION: Anna Bennett.....vegetation@cnpsd.org

WEBSITE: .Mary Alice Kessler..... webmaster@cnpsd.org