



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, October 19, 7 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 104

**THE GOLD-SPOTTED OAK BORER:
A NEW NON-NATIVE PEST IN CALIFORNIA**

by **Kim Camilli**

A significant number of oak trees have died in San Diego County over the past several years. Initially the mortality was thought to be caused by drought, but the recent discovery of the non-native gold-spotted oak borer (*Agrilus coxalis*; a.k.a. GSOB) as one cause of oak tree mortality has brought many researchers together to investigate more about this insect and other possible associated problems. This talk will focus on the biology, epidemiology, possible management options, and education outreach for this new insect pest. Kim Camilli works as a forest pathologist in central and southern California.

CNPS Executive Director **Tara Hanson** will also be visiting our chapter, and will give a short presentation regarding the vision and direction of the state-wide organization. Interested members may join Tara for dinner at the Prado at 5:45 p.m. Contact programs@cnpsd.org to reserve your place.

PRE-MEETING PRESENTATION

6:30: NATIVES FOR NOVICES

Wes Hudson will present "A Water-Free Native Garden." Don't miss the following presentations in coming months:

Nov: "Restoration Garden"

Jan: "Rain Garden - Retaining our Rain Water"

Feb: "Edible Natives"

March: "Natives for Wildlife: Birds"

7:00-7:30: Browse books, get a native plant identified, enjoy refreshments, and find out how you can become more involved.

7:30-8:30: Business meeting and presentation. Chapter meetings are open to the public and are free. They are held the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in the Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.



Gold-spotted oak-borer adults are about 10 mm long and 2 mm wide. They are bullet shaped and can be identified by the six golden-yellow spots on their forewings.

VEEP SPEAKS

Our Chapter has Board of Directors elections in November. This year, three of our long-time stalwart board members are taking well-deserved rests and letting their terms expire: Carrie Schneider, Carolyn Martus, and Dave Flietner. All three plan to continue active in the Chapter in various committees, but their departures leave three empty positions. In addition, one spot has been vacant since March. Participating on the Board helps CNPS at its core, as a group of people working together to promote the best native plant science, conservation, education, and horticulture we can.

The Board has eleven members. Four are executive spots (treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president). Others are active in committees, or adopt an needed activity, such as helping a student develop a proposal for a scholarship or mini-grant, or helping a committee through a rough spot.

I helped the Board in the early 1990's when the secretary was ill. I happened to know some board members who asked me to fill in. That led to a couple of years on the Board and then to some committee tasks. Then, after 16 years, I was elected to the Board again. Each month another fascinating need emerges. I have witnessed some superb leadership, too, from the catbird seat of VP. CNPS attracts such gifted and interesting people!

If you are interested, please attend the October 6 Board meeting to help you decide if you would like to be a candidate for the November elections.

Please contact me at vicepresident@cnpsd.org.

~ **Kay Stewart**, Chapter Vice President

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **October 6** at 6:30 at the San Diego Audubon office at **4010 Morena Boulevard, Suite 100**. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena. Board meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of the month.

BOARD NOTES

The chapter board met on Sept. 8 and unanimously voted to appoint Susan Krzywicki as co-chair of the Native Garden Committee. No other votes were taken. However, David Varner reported on several issues of statewide importance to CNPS. Primarily, the process to choose a new CNPS logo has stalled for lack of a clear winner. A December decision to suspend or re-start the process will be made. In addition, Dave Flietner reported there is a threat to the influence of CNPS lists of concern, especially to list 2, at a statewide level. Cindy Burrascano explained this influence derives from a 1997 MOU between CNPS and DFG (Cal Fish and Game), who may discontinue using the lists. CNPS is working with DFG to clarify this matter.

~ **Tom Beltran**, Secretary

FALL PLANT SALE!!!

Saturday, October 16

A display of beautiful San Diego County native plants for your gardening pleasure will be a sight to see!

Invite your friends!

TECOLOTE CANYON MONTHLY WALK

October 3. 9:00-11:30 a.m. **Kay Stewart** will lead this walk. Meet at the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, at the end of Tecolote Road, past all the ball fields. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of every month, therefore: November 7, December 5, etc.

CNPS 2012 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Conserving and Restoring the Roots of
California's Richness

January 13-15 with workshops Jan 16-17, 2012
Town and Country Hotel, San Diego

CNPS is recruiting volunteers to help on the Arrangements Committee for the 2012 Conservation Conference. Volunteers from San Diego are needed! CNPS is planning to add a public education day with field trips, workshops, and children's programs for this conference, and is planning to host a Science Café, art and photography contests, and poetry reading. A range of student events will be offered. The conference will be followed by two days of workshops (January 16-17) on a wide variety of topics. The Call for Abstracts will go out in early spring of 2011. Up to date information and opportunities will be posted on the conference webpage at:

<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/meetings.php>.

CONSERVATION

More than ever, if you're interested in conservation, *please* get involved. We need more people to read environmental documents, comment on them, and go to meetings. If you are not sure how to review a document and write comments, we will train you.

Solar Two, the massive solar project south of Anza Borrego, will probably be approved through a process called a "statement of over-riding considerations." There are substantial issues with this project, as it will harm endangered species and cultural resources, and it has a questionable water source in an area with very little water. Nonetheless, the state wants to get the project going by December 31, 2010, so that it will get federal funding. Any further CNPS action will take place at the state level. It is worth noting that CNPS is emphatically not anti-solar. We are objecting to the fact that many of these projects are being built on the few wild desert lands we have left, adjacent to wilderness areas and parks. There is plenty of degraded land in the deserts, as well as plenty of vacant roofs in the coastal urban areas. Additionally, big desert solar projects require water to keep their panels and mirrors clean, and there is little water left in our deserts.

Closer to home, CNPS has been commenting on proposals to re-build Fiesta Island in Mission Bay. Although the island was constructed out of dredge spoils, it has since become the home to rare plant and animal species. The project has gone through a large number of design iterations, and it will set aside space for native plant and bird species. It will also "restore" dune habitat. However, the island traditionally has been an area where dogs could be walked off-leash, and the off-leash advocates are trying to keep that privilege over as much of the island as possible. Unfortunately, dune plants cannot tolerate heavy trampling, and it is unclear how the park department will balance the conflicting needs of rare plants and dogs. Fortunately, we still have a number of meetings in which to comment.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee

RARE PLANT SURVEYS

Time to start preparing for 2011! The rare plant committee will hold a meeting on **November 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Frank's house**. We will be providing food, so please RSVP to Frank (franklandis03@yahoo.com) by November 5th if you wish to attend. He will provide directions to the meeting after receiving your RSVP.

The meeting agenda will have two items. First, we will be determining what to survey in 2011. Second, we will be discussing ideas for more activity within the chapter.

Rare plant conservation is one of CNPS's central missions, even though it is often overshadowed by other activities. As usual, there are efforts to weaken the regulations protecting rare plant species, and we need to counter them. This involves education and outreach, both within the chapter and outside it. The

November 9th meeting will be a great time to bring questions, ideas, and strategies to the table.

You do not have to be an expert to attend this meeting. If you are interested in rare plants, show up and share your thoughts!

~ **Frank Landis**, Rare Plant Surveys Chair

FALL PLANT SALE

OCTOBER 16

Our fall plant sale will be **Saturday, October 16**, at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. **HELP IS NEEDED** - The Plant Sale Committee is looking for volunteers to help with this year's sale:

Seed Team: Help clean and package seeds

Publicity: help distribute flyers

Volunteer the day of the sale: We need lots of helpers from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Before the sale: We need a few volunteers for about 4 hours on the Wednesday or Thursday before the sale to help put name tags on the plants.

If you can help, please contact the Plant Sale Committee at plantsale@cnpsd.org.

NORTH PARK COMMUNITY RESTORATION GARDEN

Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m. The CNPS Gardening Committee is embarking on an exciting new project: a combination native garden and plant restoration on a

site bordering Juniper Canyon in North Park. We welcome all volunteers and neighbors who are interested in learning about the local habitat and how to use local native plants in their gardens. Be prepared for work outside to help prep the site and eventually to install plants. We will park and meet at the intersection of Petra Place and Petra Drive off of Pentuckett. If you have any questions or you are interested in helping to get this project underway but can't attend, please feel free to contact me at 619-846-0585, or weshudson@cox.net.

~ **Wes Hudson**

GARDEN PHOTOS NEEDED

The Public Outreach Committee is compiling a photo book of beautiful California native gardens for display at our events. We will give photo credits and landscaping credits for each photo. If you have examples of your garden or your work that you are willing to share, please send digital copies to Margy Day at margyday@gmail.com.

GARDEN WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Park Native Garden: Saturday, October 9, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Rain cancels. Please bring weeding tools, hand pruners, loppers and gloves. A drinking fountain is on site. The garden is located at the western edge of Old Town State 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. This work party is always on the second Saturday of the month.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: October 2 and 17, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Bring water. No facilities on site. Tools and supplies provided. Always the first Saturday and third Sunday of the month. Email Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL GROUP

October 2. (First Saturday of each month). 9 a.m. to noon. We focus on tools for controlling invasive weeds for the purpose of habitat restoration and fire prevention. We try to touch on all aspects from evaluation and planning, laws and regulations, various control techniques, through to ongoing maintenance. All members are welcome. We schedule once a month but our daily program allows for other times to fit your schedule. Boots, long pants and long sleeves are required; eye protection is optional but recommended. Contact me for meeting place, directions, gate code & further info at invasiveplants@cnpsd.org.

~ **Arne Johanson**, Invasive Plant Chair

California Native Plant Society
ANNUAL
NATIVE PLANT SALE



Saturday, October 16, 2010

**Balboa Park, San Diego
Casa del Prado Theater Courtyard
1700 Village Place**

11 AM - 3 PM

**Open to CNPS members at 10 AM
Join or renew membership at the Sale**

- *Native shrubs, trees, flowering plants*
- *Seeds, books, posters*
- *Convenient curb-side parking for loading plants*
- *Friendly, knowledgeable experts to assist you*
- *Freebies for kids*
- *More information at www.cnpssd.org*

Why Native Plants?

***Attract birds and butterflies, save water,
and preserve San Diego's natural heritage!***

All proceeds support the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of native California flora

MESQUITE BOSQUE

One of the more unusual and unknown vegetation communities in San Diego County is referred to as mesquite bosque (pronounced bos'-kay). As the name implies, it is dominated by mesquite. "Bosque" is the Spanish term for forest. As one might expect, mesquite would be found in the desert. In San Diego County, mesquite bosque consists predominantly of a low forest of honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and catclaw (*Acacia greggii*), but also screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*) and other desert wash species such as indigo bush (*Psoralea schottii*) and smoke tree (*Psoralea spinosa*). Other species that may also be associated with this community include typical desert microphyll woodland shrubs and trees found in washes and drainages such as ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) and desert lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*). It is interesting to note that the Gambel's quail, Crissal thrasher and Lucy's warbler are three bird species that are nearly confined to this community.

While mesquite bosque occurs in a few drainages the regional vegetation data base indicates that it covers approximately 3,870 acres of our County, with the largest area, roughly 2,500 acres, occurring near the center of Borrego Valley. The valley in which Borrego Springs is located is surrounded on the west by the San Ysidro Mountains, the north by an extension of the Santa Rosa Mountains, the south by the Pinyon Mountains, and the east by a series of higher elevation hills and badlands. The lowest elevation of the valley is the Borrego Sink, a dried lake bed that occasionally fills with water during floods such as in those in September 1976 associated with Tropical Storm Kathleen. The floor of the valley lies on top of alluvial deposits that range from 700 to 1,800 feet deep overlaying crystalline hard rock. Borrego Valley is a closed system of roughly 240 square miles in which all of the precipitation that falls within its boundaries eventually flows toward the lowest part of the sink located near the center of the valley floor. The most interesting fact and that which provided for the mesquite bosque is that much of the alluvial material contained a large underground aquifer with the water reaching as high as only 18 feet below the surface in the early 1980s. Mesquite species are well known to support deep root systems that can tap into groundwater as deep as 190 feet below the surface. Unfortunately, as a result of the residential and golf course development in Borrego

Springs, the agricultural uses in the northern part of the valley, and the lack of imported water, the water table is declining precipitously in the basin. During the period 1983 to 1999, the basin water level declined as much as 38 feet. This is having a negative effect on the mesquite and many of them are dying. The situation is likely to get worse as the water table continues to retreat while high water consuming activities from new housing, watering golf courses and growing fruit trees continue. The mesquite bosque near Tucson, Arizona suffered a similar fate caused by lowering the water table and is much declined.

(Basin data is from California's Groundwater Bulletin 118 available from the California Department of Water Resources.)

~ Tom Oberbauer

FLOWER LITERATURE

Most California Native Plant Society members are interested in general information about plants, not only in California native plants. There have been lots of good books and programs about plants that have come out in the past few years. Here I will mention a few of the better of these in case you missed any. For more information on these you can "Google" the title or check availability on Amazon.

The most comprehensive is the 1995 BBC production narrated by David Attenborough with a book entitled "The Private Lives of Plants". This is a classic book with excellent photography including time lapse and microphotography; in the BBC production it's all backed by the "music of the spheres." David hangs from the tree tops of the tropical rainforest to illustrate mimicry, the life of carnivorous plants and how a tree works. He describes succession after a storm in a British hardwood forest showing foxglove, willow herb, and young birches as early stages in succession. They all do best when they have full sun. It is all quite dramatic and sometimes a bit anthropomorphic but if this doesn't get the beginner interested in plants, nothing will.

In 2001, Michael Pollan, who has recently become our leading good food guru wrote the "Botany of Desire" which has since been on PBS stations. He is an excellent researcher and writer so even if you saw the show on PBS you would enjoy the book. Did you know that considering where the Garden of Eden was, the apple

was probably a pomegranate? We have domesticated and transported the plants we like all over the world and have developed many new varieties to slake our desires. He uses tulips, apples, potatoes and cannabis as examples of plants that we have influenced and that have influenced us. We are a part of nature and have worked on the behalf of these other species in what we have thought was our interest. "But nature bats last".

More recently, in 2007, Amy Stewart wrote "Flower Confidential". Amy tells us about how the varieties were developed and how the flowers that we so enjoy from the florist are grown and sold. Many of the flowers once grown in the United States are now grown Overseas because of the cost of labor. California grows 68% of the cut flowers in the United States and more of these are now sold in supermarkets than by florists. The extensive use of pesticides and herbicides in production is scary particularly since so many flowers are grown in countries where controls are lax. *Viola odorata*, sweet violets are grown along the coast of California where they can grow well outside.

In 2009 Amy Stewart added a second plant book, "Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities." This little book of poisonous plant vignettes includes the elderberry pointing out that most parts of the plant including the uncooked fruit contain dangerous levels of cyanide. There are other "popular" plant books but these are a good start for summer reading. You could call your local book dealer for further suggestions.

~ **Steve Stocking**

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CNPS Sierra Foothills Newsletter*

Cal-IPC Symposium

October 14-16, 2010, Ventura, CA. Title: Weeds and Wildlife: Impacts and Interactions. The symposium will feature sessions examining the challenge of balancing invasive plant management with the needs of wildlife species, organized in conjunction with the Western Section of The Wildlife Society as a follow-up to the 2007 Invasive Plants and Wildlife meeting. A pre-Symposium Field Course will be held on October 13. Visit www.cal-ipc.org for more information.

Southern California Botanists 36th Annual Symposium

October 9, 2010; 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Ruby Gerontology Center, California State University Fullerton. Title: **Southern California Mountains Botany, You Say Coastal, I Say Cismontane.**

List of speakers and Topics:

- An Overview of the Natural History of Southern California Mountains- Allan Schoener
- The State of Bryology in Southern California: Can Vascular Trained Botanists Become Good at Collecting Specimens?- Jim Shevock
- Flora of the Sierra San Pedro Martir Mountains, Baja California Mexico- Fred Roberts
- Flora of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed- Naomi Fraga
- Flora of the San Jacinto Mountains- Scott White
- Muddy Secrets from the Rare Mountain Lakes of Southern California: 70,000 Years of Climate Change- Matthew Kirby
- San Diego County Mountains-Tom Oberbauer
- Assembling the San Bernardino Mountains (floristically speaking)- Scott Eliason
- Mapping a Century of Change in the San Jacinto Mountains- Rusty Russell

For more info or to register visit www.socalbot.org.

CALENDAR

- 10/2:** Invasive Plant Control Group (p.4)
- 10/2:** Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 4)
- 10/3:** Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)
- 10/6: Board Meeting (p. 2)**
- 10/9:** Old Town Work Party (p. 4)
- 10/16: PLANT SALE (p. 4 & 5)**
- 10/17:** Point Loma Native Plant Garden Work Party (p.4)
- 10/19: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 10/2:** North Park Comm. Restoration Garden (p.4)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ 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: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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