



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, September 20; 7 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park

Discover California Grasslands

by Zach Principe

In a state with towering redwoods, majestic oaks, vernal pools and other more "charismatic" plant communities, grasslands are often overlooked while right at our feet. In this information packed presentation you will learn that grasslands are very productive and diverse biologically, and provide numerous ecosystem services that benefit humans and natural systems alike. Yet today, less than 2% of our native grassland heritage remains.

The focus of the presentation is on five components of what make California grasslands special and unique: California grassland tremendous plant and animal diversity, what are grasses?, the ecosystem values and services of grasslands, restoration and landscaping with native grasses, and the important work of the California Native Grasslands Association. Emphasis will be on southern California grasslands and their diversity.

Zachary Principe is a biologist with The Nature Conservancy with 16 years of experience working with grasslands at Santa Rosa Plateau, Ramona Grasslands and in Kern County. As a result of his interest in grassland ecology and conservation, he has been on the California Native Grassland Association board since 2008.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public & held the 3rd 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.

6:30 p.m. Natives for Novices (prior to the main speaker): What to do and what you should know before going to the CNPS Plant Sale on October 15th, at Balboa Park.

7:00 p.m. – refreshments, book browsing, socializing.

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

FIELD TRIPS

We resume our public hikes this month with a plant hike convenient for folks up in north county and a hike that features restoration that has been achieved along our coast. These hikes are intended for the general public, but members are encouraged to attend as well

September 10; 10:00 am till noon. Guajome Park. Michael Murphy and Adrienne Heinzelman lead. Interstate 5 to Route 76 east. Turn off and head south on Guajome Lake Road. The park will be on your right. Go past the main entrance and park near second entrance next to big field adjacent to the main park. (Thomas Guide 1067 D7).

September 24; 10:00 am till noon. Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. Paul Hormick and Elizabeth Wilkins lead. At the terminus of Interstate 8 turn left and immediately bear right on Sunset Cliffs. Go all the way on Sunset Cliffs till it ends. Make a left on Ladera St. The entrance to the park is at the corner of Ladera and Cornish. Make a right into the park entrance and follow the road down to the parking lot (Thomas Guide 1287 H3).

September 4, Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. 9:00 a.m.-noon. Meet at the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center for a three hour stroll to learn some of the plant lore of Tecolote Canyon. From I-5, take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote Drive exit and go east. At the end of Tecolote Road, continue up the driveway, past the ballfields and rec center, to the Nature Center. Wear comfortable walking shoes and sun protection and bring water. Repeated the first Sunday of each month except holidays.

PREZ SEZ!

Josie Crawford is an inspiration to me. On top of being statewide Education Coordinator for CNPS, Josie is also Coordinator for the 2012 Conservation Conference in San Diego. The state office coordinates planning and implementation of the conference, but the over 300 volunteers from the many chapters who will staff 32 committees and on site event positions will make the conference a reality.

In Josie's words, "This is an opportunity for hundreds of CNPS volunteers and members to celebrate everything we do as a leading conservation organization in California."

How? For instance, "Chapters can strut their stuff with posters about successful conservation projects... At the 2009 conference over 30 posters highlighted projects around the state showing what we can do on a grassroots level." Contact Kristie Haydu at pickleberry26@hotmail.com for "how to" create and submit a poster about a great San Diego conservation project.

Chapters and members can sponsor students, who are vital future members. They come and see "good" conservation, and meet future professors, employers, and mentors. They can envision future work as a volunteer or professional. At the 2009 Conference, individual members, organizations, and chapters contributed a combined \$18,250 to sponsor 45 grateful students! Contact Josie Crawford, at jcrawford@cnps.org to find out "how to" sponsor students.

If any members can help secure financial commitments from sponsors, you will be doing a great service, since fundraising efforts for the conference are not stellar this year. If you can help interest your business or other organization to become a sponsor, their name or logo will be acknowledged. Contact Tara Hansen at thansen@cnps.org for more information.

Josie wrote, "This conference brings so much collective experience and knowledge into one location

for 5 days of sharing and networking for conservation solutions, that it is a great benefit to all CNPS members and conservation... Please think of us as one big, beautiful organization working together to accomplish our common goals. Together we will make the 2012 Conference a successful event."

Visit the conference website at www.cnps.org/2012, for registration and up-dates.

~Kay Stewart, President

CNPS NEEDS YOU!!!

Please offer to help:

HELP WANTED: Energetic Member needed to sell beautiful CNPS Posters to regional gift/book shops and nature-related facilities. Help our chapter raise funds and share knowledge of our fabulous flora with the public. A positive attitude is all that is required; no botanical expertise is needed. Help is available to get you started.

Contact president@cnpsd.org

Help Wanted: Volunteers to lead our Public Outreach Plant Hikes. Any amount of knowledge or enthusiasm for our native flora, or just plain old moxie is all you need to be a hike leader. We will give you training for leading hikes, and you will be paired with an experienced hike leader on the hikes. You just need to have one Saturday a month available this fall when the hikes resume. Contact Paul Hormick phbb@pacbell.net.

HELP – SPACE WANTED: year-round dry storage for plant sale info stands in eight (8) boxes, each 3'-4" long by approx. 1'-6" wide/high. They are very heavy but with strong people to lift them, can be stacked two or three deep, needing less floor space. They are essential for the October plant sale. Others will help transport to and from the plant sale. Contact plantsale@cnpsd.org

CONSERVATION

City of San Diego Open Space and Canyons

Our Chapter has a seat on the City of San Diego Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee (OSCAC). OSCAC was created in 2003. As a result of the City Council's commitment to protect open space and canyons from undue harm during construction and maintenance, the City Park and Recreation Department (Park and Rec) increased staff in its Open Space Division and agreed to head this committee. OSCAC has 20 members, including reps from various City departments whose work affects our open space and canyons, Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, SDG&E (whose utility lines pass through canyons and open space), the building industry, Community Planning Groups and environmental organizations (CNPS and Canyonlands). The committee also has an organized recreation group advocate, a representative of disabled groups, and two "at large" positions.

The purpose of the committee is to review canyon and open space projects before they begin, and to monitor open spaces and canyons as projects move forward. For example, OSCAC has spent a great deal of time working with the City on its vegetation management program (aka "Brush Management") to assure it is conducted in a cost effective manner that protects California native plants while reducing wildfire risk. CNPS provided:

- Training on native plant id,
- Instruction on pruning and thinning native plants,
- Native plant maintenance manuals,
- Photographic evidence of good and bad management techniques,
- A forum between City, USFWS & CDFG on how vegetation management was being mitigated and carried out under the NCCP and MSCP),
- Support for Park and Rec to create and fill a City position for a biologist to work with the veg mgt supervisors and crews.

OSCAC has also reviewed City plans for grading and construction in open spaces to prevent urban flooding from stormwater runoff. CNPS and Canyonlands helped identify a large number of proposed projects that need not ever be undertaken, or can be completed with far less impact on canyons, creeks and open space. **(Cont. on p. 4)**

BOARD MEETING

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **September 7** 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.

CNPS Conservation Conference UPDATE

January 12-14, 2012
**Town and Country Resort and Conference
Center, San Diego**

Get the latest info by visiting www.cnps.org/2012

Registration is now open!

Registration is now open for both the conference events and the hotel. Early registration discounts are available until Oct. 31, with additional discounts for CNPS members and students. Special CNPS conference discounts are available at the conference hotel (Town and Country Resort), until Dec 16 or until all rooms are taken. You may register for the conference and/or the hotel through our website at www.CNPS.org/2012

Students

If you are a student or know students that might want to attend the conference, check out the Student Opportunities and Activities (including registration and/or travel stipend funding) on our conference website, www.cnps.org/2012

Silent Auction

The 2012 Conference Silent Auction Committee is looking for donations and committee members! The 2009 Conference Auction raised almost \$10,000 for CNPS' Conservation Program; let's beat our own record in the name of California native plants! Ideas for donations include plant themed and handmade artwork, books, gardening accessories, jewelry, and other items of beauty, value, or interest. If you would like to donate, please fill out the Auction Donor Form available at the CNPS.org website. If you do not have something special to donate please consider donating your time by joining the Silent Auction Committee and soliciting donations or volunteering at the conference. For questions about donations or volunteer opportunities please contact

silentauction2012@cnps.org

(Cont from p. 3)

Most City Canyons and many open space parcels are crisscrossed by water, sewer, stormwater, electric and gas lines, yet they are also set aside for recreation or as habitat for rare or endangered species under the City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan. Conflicts over use inevitably arise.

CNPS's objective has been to work cooperatively with the City, agencies, private property owners, developers and other citizen's organizations to create an integrated system for infrastructure and open space management. Examples of this abound in other cities and counties in California and throughout the U.S., i.e., in stormwater management, Bay Area Counties, L.A. cities and County, Orange County, and most other jurisdictions have worked within EPA guidelines to create urban flood management systems that primarily use natural contours, such as hills, valleys, canyons and flood plains. Where dense urban development limits options such as "green streets" programs (rainwater "harvesting" from roofs, driveways and parking lots to slow stormwater flow, allowing it to percolate naturally) the City may be able to design and construct systems within canyons and open spaces that have far less environmental impact, cost less, and use less fossil fuel energy.

Although the committee challenges engineering and construction solutions, CNPS hopes its participation benefits the City of San Diego by proposing more environmentally friendly, and often less costly, alternatives. Over time, we believe the City can save hundreds of millions of dollars in construction, energy and mitigation costs if it will develop integrated utility construction and maintenance programs that also benefit our canyons, open spaces and our environment.

BY THE WAY, did I mention that I have been the Chapter delegate to the Committee for a number of years? I am looking for an alternate to help me, or a Chapter member who would like to take my place, (subject to an application process with). The Committee meets four times a year. The next meeting is **Thursday, October 13 at 3:30 p.m.** at the City of San Diego Metro Wastewater Operations Center auditorium (MOC II) at 9192 Topaz Way, San Diego. This is just off Kearny Villa Road, just northeast of the intersection of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. and SR 163. Please e mail me at phstc@aol.com or call me at 619-260-1307 if you would like to attend the next meeting with me.

~ **Peter St. Claire**

GARDENING AND RESTORATION

2012 Garden Tour Volunteer Opportunities!

The Gardening Committee is looking for a few volunteers for a couple of very specific tasks related to the April 2012 Garden Tour. First, we will need more volunteers to act as docents during the tour. We are looking for people who are not necessarily "experts," since part of our program involves training the docents via our native plant horticultural training. This is an excellent opportunity for people who would like to learn more hands-on gardening techniques and information.

Second, we would like several more volunteer organizers for the tour - for phone calling and meeting with local businesses and organizations. We will, of course, provide the script, the knowledge and what you will need to bring is a desire to talk about why native gardening is important to San Diego.

If you think either of these would be your forte, please get in touch with Clayton Tschudy or Susan Krzywicki by emailing gardening@cnpsd.org and we will be in touch. Join with others who have already volunteered for this unique opportunity to learn, educate others and advocate for natives in our own back yard.

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Gardening Committee Chair

Fall Plant Sale

Our fall plant sale will take place on Saturday October 15th, at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. CNPS members are invited to pre-order your plants and have them waiting for you by the curb! Instructions on pre-ordering will be posted on our website around September 1st and orders are due by October 1st. For more information email info@cnpsd.org

The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers to help with this year's sale.

Seed Team: Help clean and package seeds.

Before the sale: We need a few volunteers the Wednesday or Thursday to help tag plants, which will take about 4 hours of your time.

Publicity: help distribute flyers, simply download one from our website and post it in a public place.

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

Garden Work Parties

Old Town State Park Native Garden: September 10 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

This is the end of the dry season and what can we do to help the garden along? Prune shrubs!

We will learn a bit about smart shrub pruning and then go to work shaping up some of the messier plants in the Garden. During this dormant period and before the initiation of budding with the rains is a great time to make shrubs fit our ideas of what looks good.

Please bring your own sharp hand pruners or loppers if you have any and gloves, or use some of the chapter gloves and tools. We don't have many pruners or loppers, though, and if we run out there are some other tasks to be done that involve digging. Wear sun protection. Restrooms and drinking fountain are on site, but bring your own beverages if you would rather. The Garden is located at the very west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets. This is right across from the Old Town Trolley and transit and Train station - cross at Taylor Street and you are there if you come by transit. If you drive, free parking in the lot off Taylor and Calhoun. Questions? Contact **Kay Stewart** at president@cnpsd.org.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: September 3 and 18, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Contact Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

A Seed Ball, One Year Later

Last August and September, the CNPS-SD email list hosted a long discussion about seed “bombs,” or rather seed balls. At the September meeting, a man came forward to provide his seed balls free to CNPS-SD as a demo. They reportedly contained the seeds of ten native plant species. I took one of those balls, since I have a dish on my patio where I grow native annuals. Last September, I dropped the seed ball in that dish. This August, 11 months later, I decided to end the project. Here's what happened.

At first, a number of seedlings grew from the ball, then died out, through a combination of competition and the seed ball drying out. The ball then grew a California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) in the spring. The poppy flowered and died. In August, there were two species growing in that dish: Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) and sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), both non-native weeds.

I took some pictures, posted them on my blog (<http://franklandis.wordpress.com>), and ended the experiment by ripping out the weeds, roots and all, before they could set seed. Now the pot is hosting a *Dudleya* that needed a new location.

Before I go on to the lessons learned, I need to make one important point. I'm not accusing the seed ball maker of bad faith in this exercise. That's why this person's name is not being used here. This is about seed balls, and some of the less obvious issues surrounding them. That said, this little experiment has three important results:

1. Seed source is critical. Even if the seed ball maker used what he thought were nothing but California native plants, the evidence unequivocally says there were weed seeds in that ball.
2. My seed ball didn't break. Seed balls were originally designed to hide seed from birds and to give the seedling some nutrients and soil to grow in (see Masanobu Fukuoka's *One Straw Revolution* for the original instructions). Some people assume seed balls (renamed "seed bombs") are designed to shatter on impact and spray seeds. They don't necessarily, and if they do, they leave the seeds on the surface, vulnerable both to drying out and to birds. It's tricky to have it both ways.
3. Only two plants managed to grow from the ball at a time. The poppy came up and died before the grass grew. If there were 100 seeds in that ball, then 97% failed. If you pack a seed ball full of seeds, most of them will die, and they may kill each other when they germinate together. Be restrained in the number of seeds used in a ball.

As I'm a bit opinionated, I also have some suggestions for potential seed ball users and makers. Remember that it's possible to spread weeds with seed ball. If you want to make seed balls for a project, ideally you should collect your own seed, assuming you can do this legally, and identify the plants. A second choice is to buy pure seed (single species, not mix) from a reputable dealer. Good dealers will tell you how much weed seed is in their mix. That number is rarely zero, despite everyone's best efforts.

If you buy a packet of “wildflower seed,” realize that “wildflower” doesn't mean California native plant. Rather, it is an industry term for a group of annual plants, some of which are weeds in California. You actually have to look at the species list to see what is in the packet, and make sure they are all California natives. If reading such a list perturbs you, don't use wildflower seed packets. This advice also goes for commercially available seed balls.

Finally, even if you take this advice, it is always possible for weed seed to get mixed in, simply by accident, so plan on weeding the site afterwards. If you're not planning on weeding a site, don't seed it. We have enough weeds in this county already, and we don't need people spreading more.

Seed balls are a useful tool in the proper situation. Unfortunately, they are not a panacea, nor should they be used unthinkingly. I'd urge anyone interested in seed balls to make their own and test them first, before deploying them in a planting.

~ Frank Landis

National Greenscape Challenge



Steven Roeder of La Jolla won the National Greenscape Challenge for replacing his lawn with native plant species and installing rain barrels for watering his fruit trees. (Photo by National Greenscape Challenge)

Botany

Creosote Bush Scrub

Few who visit San Diego County would guess that one of the top three vegetation communities is the Sonoran Desert-derived Creosote bush scrub. With more than 440,000 acres, it encompasses roughly 16% of the county and is only exceeded in area by Coastal sage scrub and Chaparral.

Creosote bush scrub grows on the leeward side of the mountains in the hottest and driest locations. With San Diego County's variety of climates, Creosote bush scrub grows in areas receiving less than 6 inches of precipitation per season coupled with high summer heat. Receiving some rainfall in the form of thunderstorms as part of the summer monsoon is usually an annual occurrence in this county, though it can be highly irregular with copious amounts one summer and little the next. Higher summer amounts may be correlated with the El Nino phenomenon due to the northward extension of tropical moisture. Rainfall is regular enough that some plant species are stimulated to germinate and grow in summer.

Many who visit the deserts assume that the lands covered with this vegetation are nearly barren; however, that is far from the case. The diversity of plants and even vegetation associations and alliances is great. In the CNPS Manual of California Vegetation, twenty-two alliances with Creosote bush are listed and a full 44 associations are listed. Species commonly associated with Creosote bush scrub in San Diego County include Desert agave (*Agave deserti*), Burrowbush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), Cheesebush (*Bebbia juncea*), Teddy bear cactus (*Cylindropuntia bigelovii*), Barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), Incensio (*Encelia farinosa*) named after the use of the stem resin for incense, Ephedra (*Ephedra californica*), Beaver tail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), White rhatany (*Kramaria grayii*) and a number of others. In various locations the vegetation may be nearly 100% Creosote bush, but varying mixes of these species in others. The Incensio grows best on slopes and hills and may be mixed with Creosote bush, but also may be the dominant species present. On large flat expanses, Creosote bush and Ocotillo may be the most stable dominant. The barrel cactus seems to be more prevalent on sloping areas with some rocky aspects.

Creosote bush scrub is found mostly in the low elevation desert areas, the lowest parts of the County from the Borrego Sink at 460 feet in elevation and Carrizo Marsh at around 450 feet in the southern area near Ocotillo, which is just outside of San Diego County, to less than 100 feet at the County line near Ocotillo Wells in the northeastern portion of the County. It also grows up into Jacumba at 3,000 feet and it creeps into Earthquake or Shelter Valley and the lower part of San Felipe Valley.

A number of annuals and wildflowers are associated with Creosote bush scrub and many of these create spring wildflower displays in and around Borrego Springs. Some of the annuals include Desert lantern (*Camissonia boothii*) named after the shape of the skeleton like structure of the dried plants, Brown-eyed evening primrose (*Camissonia claviformis*), Dune evening primrose (*Oenothera deltooides*) with flowers that appear to be made of white tissue, Desert sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*) adding a bright pink-lavender color to the desert, Desert sunflower (*Gerea canescens*) that produces yellow flowers on the end of plants a couple of feet tall, sometimes in great masses, and the short Desert monkey flower (*Mimulus bigelovii*) with bright pink open flowers. Other showy wildflowers include Parish's gold poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*), many species of popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha* spp.), the beautiful Ghost flower (*Mohavia confertiflora*), several species of Blazing star (*Mentzelia* spp.) and Arizona lupine (*Lupinus*

arizonica). Perennial plants also produce displays of flowers following good rainfall seasons. Incensio can cover hillsides with yellow flowered shrubs; Ocotillo generates red tube flowers on the end of the tall, spiny stems; Chuparosa grows red tubular flowers; and the Beavertail cactus produces flowers of a pink color that has to be seen to be believed.

Each year the areas that have the greatest number of flowers in the spring vary depending on the amount and spacing of the rainfall. One area that is regular in the production of wildflowers in the midst of Creosote bush scrub is located at the Carrizo Badlands overlook in the vicinity of Cañon Sin Nombre in the southern part of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. There one can see Desert monkey flower and Arizona lupine. Down in the canyon itself, alkali soil with a clay substrate is the home of the pale lavender Orcutt's woody aster (*Xylorhiza orcuttii*) along with the silvery Desert-holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*). Following heavy winter rains, the slopes of Montezuma Grade and Mountain Springs Grade can be covered with yellow due to the profuse flowering of the Incensio. As you drive south on Highway S-2 near Agua Caliente County Park, there are vast flat areas and gently sloping bajadas with Desert agave and Ocotillo. The most reliable wildflower location is along Henderson Canyon Road in northern Borrego Valley where sandy and silty soils have supported colorful patches of Desert sand verbena and Desert sunflower. However, the non-native invasive Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) has been a major problem in that area in recent years.

The Creosote bush scrub also includes plants that grow and flower after summer rainfall. One of the most obvious is Chinchweed (*Pectis papposa*), a low growing annual that gives an overall impression of the Goldfields (*Lasthenia gracilis*) appearing in patches of yellow on the soil surface, and also Desert unicorn plant (*Proboscidea althaeifolia*), with trumpet shaped yellow flowers growing on sandy soils. Other plants that respond to summer rainfall as well as winter rains include Ocotillo, Desert agave and Desert Spanish needles (*Palafoxia arida*).

The master species in all of this is the Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) that itself has an amazing history and natural history. Creosote bush is one of five species in the genus and, depending on the taxonomist, is sometimes combined as a species with similar plants that grow in Chile. The plants from the northern hemisphere are so close to those in the southern hemisphere that they will hybridize in the laboratory. There have been theories that the plants in North America originated in the South America, because there are two species of *Larrea* there, and somehow traveled northward. Theories have not been perfected regarding that happened though there are

other species of plants that have similar distribution in both the northern and southern hemispheres. One of the interesting factors of the natural history of *Larrea tridentata* is that the fruits are considered to be dispersed by wind, rolling easily on sandy surfaces due to the hairy structures that make a fuzzy cover for them. It seems this would not be conducive to being carried by birds or other long distance dispersal mechanisms.

As the Pleistocene glaciers retreated and the pluvial period declined, Creosote bush spread into the lowland areas roughly 11-14,000 years ago. It is also noteworthy that it has been recognized that Creosote bushes grow from a single stem outward, creating ring shaped clones as the center part dies. The individual clones may be more than 11,000 years old and King Clone in the Mohave Desert is dated at 11,700 years old. This great age also means that it was one of the earliest established creosote bushes following the Pleistocene, and it is still there.

From an ecosystem standpoint, the Creosote bush is of great importance in its communities. It is an important wildlife shrub with many animals burrowing beneath it for shade and shelter. It is not eaten widely, but Jackrabbits will eat it in times of drought, though it may be poisonous for sheep. Summer rain is required for its germination, but it can reproduce by sprouting as well. Creosote bush is an efficient water consumer with roots 3 meters deep, drawing enough water that few other plants can grow near it and generating a plantation appearance for some of the stands.

Creosote bush has been used as traditional medicine by the local natives from Texas to Utah, and New Mexico to Arizona, California and northern Mexico. It has been used as teas and other treatments for a broad range of ailments and the *Larrea divaricata* form from Argentina has been used for similar purposes by native inhabitants. It is also used in modern herbal medicine and sold under the name "Chaparral." It is used for a variety of treatments including antioxidant and anti-cancer. Since it is somewhat poisonous to animals, there are concerns about its use for human consumption but many people consume it with no ill effects.

Creosote bush scrub that provides so much diversity of habitat for wildlife is just another indicator of the unique and varied features of San Diego County. While many feel that deserts are simply dry wastelands, the Creosote bush is an indicator of the presence of organisms with amazing adaptations to provide resources for survival in an extreme environment.

~ **Tom Oberbauer**

CNPS-SD CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011

9/3: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.7)

9/4: Tecolote Canyon Public Walk (p.3)

9/7: Board Meeting (p.2)

9/10: Guajome Park Field Trip (p.1)

9/10: Old Town Work Party (p.7)

9/18: Point Loma Native Garden
Work Party (p.7)

9/20: Chapter Meeting (p.1)

9/24: Sunset Cliffs Field Trip (p.1)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter
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September 2011 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

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