

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

**Tuesday, May 15; 7 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park**

Awakening The Wildness Within

Presentation by Rick Halsey

Join us to discover and explore what led Everett Ruess to write, "During the last few weeks, I've been having the time of my life. Much of the time I feel so exuberant that I can hardly contain myself. The colors are so glorious, the forests so magnificent, the mountains so splendid, and the streams so utterly, wildly, tumultuously, effervescently joyful that to me at least, the world is a riot of intense sensual delight." We all have stories to tell about why a favorite natural place, a particular species, or our personal alchemist inspires us. It's time to consider those stories, to rejoice in the lessons nature can offer, and embrace the wildness within.

Our presenter, Richard W. Halsey, is a photographer, writer, and director of the California Chaparral Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving native shrubland habitats throughout the world and supporting the creative spirit as inspired by the natural environment. Mr. Halsey has been a teacher of natural history for over thirty years.

Pre-meeting Natives for Novices at 6:30 p.m. Clayton Tschudy - Otay Mountain Natives.
7:00 p.m. – refreshments, book browsing, socializing.
7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. They are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except Aug.) in the Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., monthly CNPS San Diego Chapter board meeting to be held at 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). Exit I-5 to Balboa Dr. east and turn north on Morena Drive. Proceed 1/2 mile and make a u-turn at the Avati Street signal and turn into the driveway for 4010. Drive to the parking lot on the west side (away from Morena). Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you want to discuss an issue, please ask to get on the agenda by sending an email to president@cnpsd.org.

Prez Sez

My Favorite San Diego County Wildflowers

Anyone who watches the travel channel or the cooking channel on television is familiar with the top ten lists for beaches, natural wonders and places to eat. Well, along that line of thinking, I thought I would list my top ten favorite wildflowers that naturally occur in San Diego County and I will attempt to briefly explain why.

1. *Linanthus bellus* (desert beauty) – *Linanthus bellus* is simply a few thread-like leaves and beautiful pink and white nickel sized flowers. This plant grows on sandy and gravelly soil that looks bare otherwise. It grows out between Boulevard and Jacumba and eastern Warner Springs and down into the northern Sierra Juarez. It has all the ingredients of an interesting plant: brightly colored flowers, little vegetative growth, ephemeral nature by flowering only a short time, and localized distribution. If one has a doubt about why I chose this plant, one only has to look down the throat past the pink and white petals to see a small dark lined ring that looks like someone drew it there to add an esthetic detail. Its relative, *Linanthus dianthiflorus* (fringed ground pink) is also a near favorite especially when it produces carpets on the ground as it did in 2008 in Torrey Pines State Preserve following extensive efforts by the State Parks staff and their volunteers to remove invasive weeds. (Continued on pg. 9)

CONSERVATION

Connecting the Dots

The last few weeks have been uninspiring, to say the least. By the time you read this, it will be old news, but in a way, the whole article is about reducing, reusing, and recycling. But primarily it's about plants.

On April 10, the San Diego City Council unanimously passed the Amendments to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations and Biology Guidelines Pertaining to Wetland Deviations. While you deglaze your eyes, let me explain what this means. Basically, the Council made it easier for developers to build in wetlands in the city, over the protests of environmental groups. The Department of Fish and Game backed the Council, as did the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The idea behind the deviations is that the City will find reasons to develop along urban creeks and rivers, and the wetlands will be mitigated somehow in non-urban areas. I believe the wildlife agencies are trying to get a few, high quality wetlands outside the city boundaries where they can protect them better, perhaps because protecting urban wetlands has proved very difficult in the last few decades.

So what? This is where we start connecting the dots. One dot is what purpose wetlands serve. To the wildlife agencies, they are places where wetland plants and animals live. To someone who has done a bit of wetlands work (such as me), wetlands are the kidneys of the streams. Wetland plants are good at capturing a number of pollutants. They also help with flood control and slow water down, enabling it to soak in and recharge aquifers. None of these functions work for the city if the wetlands are outside city limits.

Effectively, the city made it easier to sell off its kidneys, in return for some development bucks. As a result, the City will almost certainly have to pay more to deal with increased flooding (in all those shiny new developments), and increased pollution in our streams, ocean, and beaches.

Because the City failed to connect the dots, and see wetlands as anything other than wildlife habitat set aside to please environmentalists, we'll all end up paying more for clean waters. The richest irony of this whole process was that, before the Council passed the deviations, they also had items on "Declaring the Termination of a Continued State of Emergency Regarding Flooding Caused by Unusually Precipitous Winter Storms," and "Formation of the Water Policy Implementation Task Force," to guarantee that the City can continue to import adequate amounts of fresh water.

Failure to connect the dots indeed. I guess getting free water cleaning from plants isn't as good as paying firms to do the same job, nor as resumé inflating as appointing task forces.

If there's a take-away lesson from this, it's to abandon the single-point notion that native plants are for xeriscaping, or for wildlife habitat, or used to please environmentalists. Native plants have a multitude of functions, and if you can connect the dots among these different functions, you get a multifunctional landscape. Unfortunately, there are quite a few people who only work one dot at a time. These people can be hard to reach, especially when they think they are right.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee Chair

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK

May 6; 9 a.m. to noon. A relaxed opportunity to learn plant lore of this coastal natural reserve from a CNPS member. Meet at the Tecolote Nature Center. Wear sun protection and comfortable walking shoes, bring water. Rain at 8 a.m. cancels the walk. Directions: exit I-5 at Seaworld/Tecolote exit. Go east (away from Mission Bay) on Tecolote, past the ball fields, along the driveway to the very end. Free and open to the public, and parking is also free. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of each month. **(No walk at this location in June 2012)**



RARE PLANT SURVEYS

The rare plant survey committee still has a few beaches, but the majority of the surveys are done. This does not mean that the committee itself is done, however. Our mission is to work on rare plants that fall through the cracks, ones that will not be surveyed for except by us. So far, we have received several requests to survey areas away from beaches, and I will be announcing these surveys later. As always, if you are interested in participating, contact Frank Landis (franklandis@cnpsd.org) to volunteer.

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

Sharing CNPS!

Do you have enthusiasm or knowledge to share? Maybe even both? CNPS will be participating in a fun event in May and we need your help to greet the public and share our love of native plants. We will have a kid-friendly Discovery Station at Explore Mission Trails Days on Saturday May 19, with native butterfly specimens and their host plants: <http://www.mtrp.org/EMTday.asp>. If you can spend some time representing CNPS, please sign up at the volunteer table at the monthly meeting or email publicoutreach@cnpsd.org. It's a great way to get involved!



Purple
needlegrass
(*Stipa pulchra*)

Members Field Trips

Sunday, May 6. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m, San Juan Trail, Hot Springs Canyon in the Santa Ana Mtns. Leader: Fred Roberts

In February 2010, San Diego CNPS members and their guests had the opportunity to botanize along San Juan Trail in the Cleveland National Forest east of Tree of Life Nursery. We will be returning to this 2-mile stretch of the trail a bit later in the year and will hopefully catch many plants in bloom that we missed the first round. Our leader will once again be **Fred Roberts**, the author of the *Vascular Plants of Orange County, an Annotated Checklist* (2008) in addition to several other books (Fred will bring some of the Checklists along for purchase at a discounted price of \$17, including tax).

Meet at the 8:30 a.m. at the Park'n'ride in Oceanside on the west side of I-5. Take the Vista Way exit, turn right & cross the I-5, and the Park'n'ride is on the right (1928 Morena Drive). From the east, SR-78 becomes Vista Way where it crosses I-5. From there we can ride-share or caravan. Parking space maybe limited in Hot Springs Canyon so the fewer the cars the better.

About 13 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on the Ortega Highway (SR 74), just before the San Juan Ranger Station, turn onto Hot Springs Canyon Road. The parking lot for San Juan Trail is about a mile up this road. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is needed to park at the trailhead. We will start walking about 10:00.

The trail, which is very popular with mountain bikers, starts in oak woodland and switchbacks up a moderately steep slope through chaparral with beautiful views and interesting plants in the openings. Hopefully we will see snowdrop bush (*Styrax redivivus*) with its wonderful 8-lobed petals. After climbing 800 feet, we will come to a ridge where unusual soils support one of Orange County's southernmost populations of chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontane*) and dense-pine reed grass (*Calamagrostis densa*). In 2010, we also saw California saxifrage (*Saxifraga californica*). We will eat lunch along the trail and plan to return to the trailhead by 2:30-3:00 p.m., and reach Oceanside between 4 and 4:30 p.m.

Bring lunch, water, and sun protection, and wear footwear suitable for rugged trails. Please RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpssd.org by May 5 and please leave the following information:

- 1) your cell phone number with your message, and
- 2) if you intend to meet at the Park'n'ride or at the trailhead.

CNPS members may bring a guest. If you are not yet a member, you may join CNPS at the beginning of the trip. Heavy rain in morning cancels trip.

~ **Kay Stewart**, Field Trip Chair

Public Plant Walks

May 5, 10 am till noon. North Shore Lake Hodges. Adrienne Heinzelman and Michael Murphy lead. Meet at dirt parking lot for Bernardo Bay Natural Area across from retirement home on the southwest side of Lake Hodges. From there we'll walk across the pedestrian bridge to the north side of the lake. Exit 1-15 at West Bernardo Road. Take West Bernardo Road west to the dirt parking lot on the right, just after the pedestrian bridge (Thomas Guide 1150 A7). 619-663-1497.

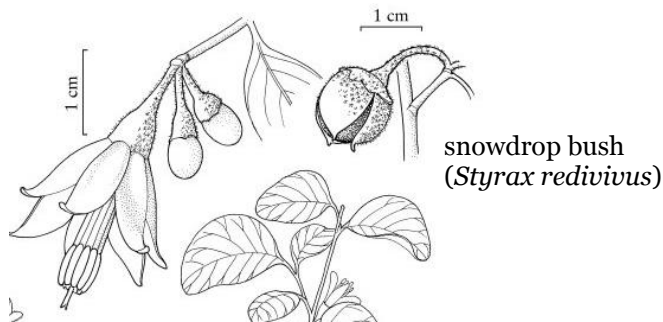
May 26, 10 am till noon. Marion Bear Park. Paul Hormick leads. From Highway 52, exit at Regents Street. Turn south, go 200 yards, turn right, drive to parking lot (Thomas Guide 1228, C7). 619-297-2957.

Field Trip Volunteers Needed at South County Event Saturday, June 2

Would you enjoy leading some 1/2-hr to 1-hr public walks into the riparian woodland of Otay Creek in the Otay Valley Regional Park at an environmental fair hosted by WILDCOAST and the staff of the Park on the morning of June 2, Saturday? The trailhead and environmental fair will be located at 2155 Beyer Blvd, (Thomas Guide 1330 C6) just south of Chula Vista about 1/2 mile east of I-5 and a bit north of Palm Avenue.

The event organizers will be sending the plant list soon. The importance of our regional riparian communities and some basic ecological and biological information would be good to share with visitors. I hope those who volunteer can help each other by collecting this information from the many resources we have in CNPS (people, books, on-line data). Please send your name and contact information to fieldtrips@cnpssd.org and we will figure out a schedule based on whoever volunteers.

~ **Kay Stewart**, Field Trip Chair



CNPS EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

The CNPS Educational Grant Program has for many years supported and shared our CNPS goals with students in graduate programs whose field research is in some way consistent with our objectives, our Mission. Each year we select from proposals received those we consider appropriate, and divide up the funds available to the program. Last year we received 21 requests for support, mostly from graduate students in California, but one each from Arkansas, Florida, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Colorado with work based on California vegetation. Topics involved studies of individual genera, systems or associations, coastal dunes, relationships with oaks/fire, serpentine soils, and invasive grasses. With allotted funds, we ended up offering amounts between \$200 and \$800 to each as partial financial support and encouragement.

This year we continue with the same guidelines and procedures. Copies of the Guidelines for Drafting and Submitting a proposal are available from the Sacramento CNPS office. Address requests to the Chair, Educational Grants Committee. **Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2012.** Proposals are evaluated by reviewers who include active academic botanists, experienced botanical consultants, agency representatives, and Chapter conservation officers. The reviews and recommendations consider whether the applicant followed directions, the proposal was clearly written, was consistent with CNPS objectives, the schedule and budget were reasonable, and comments from the required letter of support from the student's academic advisor. Response letters are mailed early in November.

Each student whose work is supported by CNPS is asked to submit a report, not necessarily a long article, to Fremontia when the research is completed. We suggest that the student recipient of each funded study contact the Fremontia editor before they begin to write their article. Having a report published in the widely circulated CNPS journal could constitute a young botanist's first published citation!

The CNPS Education program, a major component of CNPS leadership in promoting the "preservation of California's native flora", views our support of university students as a major priority, and works to offer financial support, avenues for presenting research, and professional opportunities to the upcoming generation of concerned botanists in California. With this purpose we ask Chapter leaders, student members, and those who guide and work with graduate students in botany to inform others of this opportunity to receive financial support and recognition for work that promotes CNPS mission...generally studies of taxa or systems, that involve some field work, and that will serve our mutual purposes. Note the availability of guidelines and the deadline for having the proposal in Sacramento.

~ Joan Stewart

A LOOK AT SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRASSES (POACEAE) IN JEPSON 2

By now many of you have the new Jepson Manual and have had a chance to thumb through it. You may have noticed that among the grasses (Poaceae), there have been a few changes since the first Jepson Manual was published in 1993. If splitting became the theme of the Asteraceae, the Poaceae went the opposite way, with re-unification of traditional genera the main theme. Three genera especially stand out, *Stipa*, *Elymus*, and *Festuca*. *Achnatherum* and *Nassella*, the needlegrasses, are once again *Stipa*. *Piptatherum* (rice grass) is tossed in for good measure. *Leymus* is once again folded back into *Elymus* (wild rye). Not only was the annual genus *Vulpia* returned to *Festuca* (fescues) as a subgenus, so were plants we've long known under the genus *Lolium*.

For those of you that are interested and not sure you really want to go to the trouble of figuring out what happened to your favorite San Diego County grass, I've summarized the changes for you below.

Note that the new Jepson Manual generally does not include waifs, and some forms, especially those of hybrid origin such as *Stipa bloomeri* (Bol.) are only mentioned as variants under parent species. The San Diego Checklist (Rebman & Simpson 2006) already reflects some of these changes.

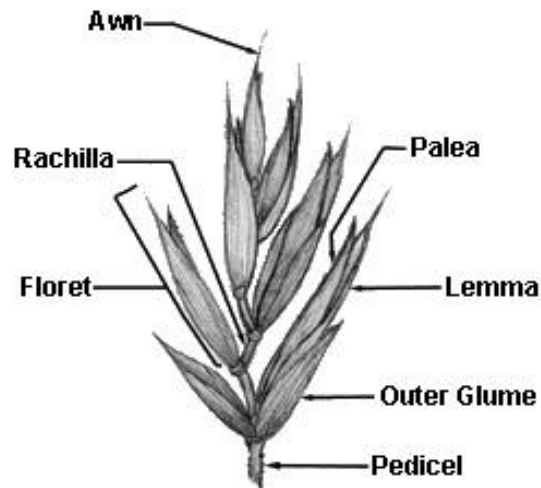
POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY

- Achnatherum coronatum* (Thurb.) Barkworth = *Stipa coronata* Thurb.
Achnatherum diegoensis (Swallen) Barkworth = *Stipa d.* Swallen
Achnatherum hymenoides (Roem. & Schult.) Barkworth = *Stipa h.* Roem. & Schult.
Achnatherum latiglumis (Swallen) Barkworth = *Stipa latiglumis* Swallen
Achnatherum lemmonii (Vasey) Barkworth = *Stipa lemmonii* (Vasey) Scribn. var. *lemmoni*. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Previously known from northern California.
Agropyron desertorum (Fischer) Schul. = *A. cristatum* (L.) Gaertn. subsp. *pectinatum* (M. Bieb.) Tzvelev
Agrostis viridis Gouan = *Polypogon viridis* (Gouan) Breister
Alopecurus pratensis L. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Previously known from farther north.
Avena sterilis L. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Previously known from farther north.
Bromus anomalus Fourn. = *B. porteri* (J.M. Coult.) Nash. The name *B. anomalus* was missapl.
Bromus carinatus Hook. & Arn. var. *carinatus*. Some plants previously considered under this variety now represent the following:
Bromus carinatus var. *marginatus* (Steud.) Barkworth & Anderton NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA [CA]. A new segregate derived from *B. carinatus* var. *carinatus*.
Bromus pseudolaevipes Wagnon NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Resurrected name. Previously treated under *B. laevipes*.

Bromus trinii Desv. = **B. berterioanus** Colla
Cortaderia selloana (Schult.) Asch. & Graebn. = **C.s.** (Schult. & Schuff. f.) Asch. & Graebn. Author correction.
Danthonia californica Bol. var. *americana* (Scribn.) Hitchc. NOT RECOGNIZED AS DISTINCT FROM **D. californica**.
Deschampsia danthonioides (Trin.) Benth. = **D.d.** (Trin.) Munro. Author correction.
Deschampsia elongata (Hook.) Benth. = **D.e.** (Hook.) Munro. Author correction.
Digitaria californica (Benth.) Henrard var. *californica* NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Previously known from Arizona.
Digitaria ciliaris (Retz.) Koeler var. *ciliaris* NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF.
Echinochloa crus-pavonis (Kunth) Schult. S. California plants now treated as **E.c.** var. *crus-pavonis*. *E.c.* var. *macera* occurs outside California.
Echinochloa muricata (P. Beauv.) Fernald. S. California plants now treated as **E.m.** var. *microstachya* Wiegand.
Ehrharta longiflora Sm. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA.
Elytrigia intermedia (Host) Nevski subsp. *i.* = **Elymus hispidus** (Opiz) Melderis
Elytrigia pontica (Podp.) Holub subsp. *p.* = **Elymus ponticus** (Podp.) N. Snow
Gastridium ventricosum (Gouan) Schinz & Thell. = **G. phleoides** (Nees & Meyen) C.E. Hubb. The name *G. ventricosum* misapplied.
Hordeum jubatum L. Our plants treated as **H.j.** subsp. *jubatum*. Another subspecies in the Rocky Mtns.
Koeleria phleoides (Villars) Pers. = **K. gerardii** (Vill.) Shinners. The name *K. phleoides* is illegitimate.
Leptochloa fascicularis (Lam.) A. Gray = **L. fusca** (L.) Kunth subsp. **f.** (Lam.) N. Snow
Leptochloa uninervia (J. Presl) Hitchc. = **L. fusca** (L.) Kunth subsp. **u.** (J. Presl) N. Snow
Leymus condensatus (Scribn. & Merr.) A. Love = **Elymus c.** J. Presl
Leymus triticoides Buckley = **Elymus t.** Buckley
Lolium multiflorum Lam. = incl. under **Festuca perennis** (L.) Columbus & J.P. Sm.
Lolium perennis L. = **Festuca perennis** (L.) Columbus & J.P. Sm.
Lolium tementulum L. = **Festuca tementula** (L.) Columbus & J.P. Sm.
Monanthochloe littoralis Engelm. = **Distichlis littoralis** (Engelm.) H.L. Bell & Columbus
Muhlenbergia asperifolia (Nees & Meyen) Parodi = **M.a.** (Trin.) Parodi. Author correction.
Muhlenbergia filiformis (Thurber) Rydb. = **M.f.** (S. Watson) Rydb. Author correction.
Nassella cernua (Stebbins & A. Love) Barkworth = **Stipa c.** Stebbins & A. Love
Nassella lepida (Hitchc.) Barkworth = **Stipa l.** Hitchc.
Nassella pulchra (Hitchc.) Barkworth = **Stipa p.** Hitchc.
Panicum acuminatum Sw. var. *acuminatum*. EXCLUDED FROM JEPS 2 based on lack of vouchers. Some specimens now treated under the following:
Panicum acuminatum var. *fasciculatum* (Torr.) Lelong NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Includes some specimens previously identified as *D.a.* var. *acuminatum*.
Panicum dichotomiflorum Michx. Our plants are **P.d.** subsp. *dichotomiflorum*. Other subspecies in E. North America.
Panicum hillmanii Chase NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF.

FLORA. Previously known from Great Valley.
Panicum miliaceum L. Our plants **P.m.** subsp. *miliaceum*.
Phalaris angusta Nees = **P.a.** Trin. Author correction.
Piptatherum micranthum (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth = **Stipa divaricata** Columbus & J.P. Sm.
Piptatherum miliaceum (L.) Cosson = *Stipa miliacea* (L.) Hoover var. *miliacea*
Pleuraphis rigida Thurb. = **Hilaria r.** (Thurb.) Scribn.
Poa fendleriana (Steud.) Vasey subsp. *fendleriana* NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA.
Polypogon maritimus Willd. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Previously known from northern California.
Rytidosperma caespitosum (Gaudich.) Conner & Edgar NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. This species is considered a waif and is mentioned only in the key. A more detailed description is found online at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html>.
Secale cereale L. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA. Previously known from northern California.
Setaria adhaerens (Forssk.) Chiov. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA.
Setaria gracilis Kunth. = **S. parviflora** (Poir.) Kerguelen. More widespread.
Setaria pumilia (Poir.) Roem. & Schult. Our plants now **S.p.** subsp. *pumila*.
Triticum aestivum L. NEW ADDITION TO S. CALIF. FLORA.
Vulpia bromoides (L.) S.F. Gray = **Festuca b. L.**
Vulpia microstachys (Nutt.) Benth. var. *ciliata* (Beal) Lonard & Gould = **Festuca microstachys** Nutt. Varieties not recognized.
Vulpia microstachys var. *confusa* (Piper) Lonard & Gould = **Festuca microstachys** Nutt. Varieties not recognized.
Vulpia microstachys var. *pauciflora* (Beal) Lonard & Gould = **Festuca microstachys** Nutt. Varieties not recognized.
Vulpia myuros (L.) CC. Gmelin var. *hirsuta* Hack. = **Festuca myuros** L. Varieties not recognized.
Vulpia myuros var. *myuros* Hack. = **Festuca myuros** L. Varieties not recognized.
Vulpia octoflora (Walter) Rydb. var. *hirtella* (Piper) Henrard = **Festuca o.** Walter. Varieties not recognized.
Vulpia octoflora var. *octoflora* (Piper) Henrard = **Festuca o.** Walter. Varieties not recognized.

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist



GRASS FLOWER PARTS

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

(always the third Friday in May)

May 18, 2012 is the sixth annual Endangered Species Day that was launched by writer and editor David Robinson from La Mesa who helped persuade Congress to memorialize rare plants and animals. In the late 1980s, he developed and edited a handbook about imperiled species in San Diego County for use in schools and libraries. About 15 years later, he asked Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., for help in creating a special day to reflect on species. That happened in May 2006 at a time when the federal Endangered Species Act was under pressure from business groups and conservative legislators who said it elevated the needs of plants and animals above those of people.

Events on and around the third Friday in May have grown from a handful in 2006 to more than 100 nationwide this year. "Endangered Species Day is a reminder that we as people have an incredible ability to do good," said Charles Gailband of the Chula Vista Nature Center. Few places have more threatened and endangered species than San Diego County, where development, pollution and other factors have pushed many plants and animals to the brink of extinction. "Our goal is to capture the hearts and minds of the children," said Wendy Spaulding, education director at the nature center. "They are the ones who are going to carry the torch for endangered species into the future."

Now in its sixth year, Endangered Species Day is celebrated by conservationists, environmental agencies and others trying to draw attention to the plight of imperiled plants and animals as well as successes helping them to recover.

Events are held at zoos, parks, wildlife refuges, aquariums, parks, community centers and other locations throughout the country. For more information, visit:

<http://www.stopextinction.org/esd.html>.

INVASIVE PLANTS

The Invasive Plants group cares for open spaces. In doing so, we provide participants the opportunity to learn, hands-on, about invasive pest plants and to become part of the solution. Through a program of interactive learning and hands-on experience, targeted to you, the individual learns principles and techniques that help nature heal degraded native habitats. Contact: invasiveplants@cnpsd.org.



The invasive giant reed (*Arundo donax*)

GARDENING COMMITTEE Activities and News

The Gardening Committee has been a whirlwind of activity preparing for our really big event: the San Diego Native Plant Garden Tour April 28 and 29. This inaugural tour is a labor of love. I want to thank all of the volunteers who made the whole thing possible, along with the generous sponsors. Hundreds and hundreds of hours have been devoted to bringing focus to this vital component of the CNPS mission.

First, we have had great partnership from Hunter Industries, Rainscape Environmental Management, Bob Hoffman Video and the Chula Vista Nature Center! Second, we have expanded our circle of influence to masters gardeners, High Tech High students, and other affinity groups. And third, we have created a buzz around the ideals of native landscaping with press articles, high profile spokespeople like Todd Gloria and Nan Sterman.

Each property, each garden is a native habitat: it's own little watershed that plays a role in helping to stem the tide of invasive exotics, chemicals and natural space destruction.

The inevitable development that removes native habitat can be somewhat mitigated and the land in a sense "restored" by using intense native gardening techniques.

So, I celebrate and thank all those who came to help.

Additionally the Gardening Committee has been involved in other efforts. **Margy Day**, as outreach coordinator, has been doing booth duty at the San Diego Horticulture Society meetings, and this led to my being asked to be the title speaker for April. We had an informed and positive audience of about two hundred listeners as I made an impassioned plea for native gardening, which was received with enthusiasm. Evidence of that was the group that swarmed over to where **Greg Rubin** had set up a display of about twenty-five plants.

Sue Marchetti continues to present excellent speakers for the pre-meeting sessions, "Natives for Novices." Last month **Scott Jones** spoke on the art of using plant communities as a basis for landscape design. We look forward to more information from Scott.

All are welcome to join our meetings - send an email to gardening@cnpsd.org and we will invite you to the next!

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Native Gardening Chair

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Use 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

Spring Plant Sale and Membership Event Report

It was a gorgeous day for the spring plant sale and membership event held by the San Diego and Orange County CNPS chapters at Tree of Life Nursery (TOLN) on March 24. The event was originally scheduled for March 17, but had to be postponed because of a late winter storm that promised (and delivered) driving rain and cold temperatures. Fortunately, the majority of San Diego and Orange County volunteers were able to make the switch to the new date. San Diego chapter members **Connie Beck**, **Pete diGirolamo**, **Pat Fishtein**, **Amy Huie**, **Kristen Olafson**, and **Marsha Rold** partnered with more than 15 Orange County chapter volunteers to inform people about the benefits of CNPS membership and assist customers in selecting plants.

volunteers and that TOLN is a “great place to hang out for a day.”



Chris and Chanel, two of the Orange County chapter volunteers. Photo courtesy Laura Camp and TOLN.

There were four talks scheduled for the day—Replace Your Lawn: Kill the Grass, Natives for Wildlife, Plants for Shady Areas, and Accent Plants. Attendance at each presentation ranged from 12 to 30 people. With all the San Diego and Orange County helpers available, volunteers were able to attend some of the talks.

One of the highlights of the day was meeting and working with the Orange County volunteers. It was interesting to exchange gardening experiences with fellow native plant lovers (eg, which manzanitas are you growing?) and hear about the specifics of their chapter’s activities. Several talked about how the Orange County garden tour is organized and expressed interest in attending the north county portion of upcoming San Diego tour. One Orange County volunteer bought a San Diego CNPS t-shirt and wore it for the afternoon. We all hope that our chapters can continue to work together wherever possible.

Connie and **Amy** deserve special thanks for doing double duty: in addition to acting as sales consultants for the day, they both gave well-attended talks. TOLN gets a big thank you from all the volunteers for purchasing pizza—a great main dish to go with the baked goods supplied by **Connie** and **Kristen**. And once again, Margy Day’s beautiful photos of native plants made for an eye-catching flyer.

~ Spring Plant Sale Committee



Amy Huie (fifth from right) discusses native plants that will work in shady areas. Photo courtesy Laura Camp and TOLN.

As always, the TOLN staff made things easy. The staff set up a membership table at the front entrance, so all those coming to the nursery had the opportunity to find out about CNPS. Both chapters offered incentive items to encourage people to join CNPS. In addition, TOLN contributed some incentive items and donated a free plant to all CNPS members. Five people joined or renewed their membership through the San Diego chapter while Orange County signed up twelve new members and one renewing member.

The nursery grounds and garden were beautiful. Pat described the day as “perfect” and said she enjoyed listening to the sound of the birds while staffing the membership table. She also took the time to explore the nursery’s “nooks and crannies with new discoveries everywhere.” TOLN’s garden area makes it easy for customers to see what plants look like as they grow and, as Marsha commented, “are a treat to see.” Marsha recognized some returning shoppers from last spring’s sale, noting that they “came with lists and enthusiastic reports of their colorful gardens” and that “several indicated that they were complete novices last year; they had some success, did some research, and came back, ready to buy more natives!” Pete summed it up well when he said the “rewards are greater than the duty and the drive” for the San Diego



One of the many visitors that stopped by the CNPS membership table. Photo courtesy Pat Fishtein.

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Garden Work Parties

Old Town Historic State Park Native Garden: May 12 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. How Green Is My Grass? You know the grass is always greener - until it turns brown and makes seeds. The weedy grasses in the Old Town Native Plant Garden are green and we need to eliminate next year's weeds before they go to seed. We will also give our wonderful deergrass stands some haircuts at the same time. Maybe next summer there will be enough deergrass growing to have a basket-making demonstration using the deergrass flower stalks.

The Garden is the far west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Congress and Taylor Streets, opposite the train/bus/trolley station building. Take public transit and you are there - cross at the corner and meet under the sycamore trees. If you drive, park in the lot next to the Garden off Calhoun and Taylor streets, or park in the CalTrans lot across Taylor and Juan Streets. Bring gloves and your favorite weeding tools or share the group tools. Have sun protection and bring water if you don't want to use the drinking fountain. Restrooms nearby.

The Old Town State Park Native Plant Garden Work Parties are monthly on the second Saturday, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: May 5 and 20, 9:00 – noon. 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.

Friends of Famosa Slough Work Party, Saturday, May 12, 9:00 a.m to noon to take care of California native plants and remove invasives. Meet at SE corner, W. Pt. Loma Blvd. and Famosa Blvd. (zip=92107). For details: call (619)224-4591 or see www.FamosaSlough.org . Work parties at Famosa Slough are held the 2nd Saturday of each odd-numbered month. For the rest of 2012, the dates will be July 14, Sept. 8 and Nov. 10.

Azalea Park Conservation Garden in City Heights. Volunteers are needed to help in the Azalea Park Conservation Garden for landscape design and plant care and maintenance. In the midst of City Heights is a beautiful drought tolerant garden that features artwork made from recycled materials. The garden has become a pride in this community.

This garden was created in the fall of 2010 by Pamela Thorsch, former executive director of a non-profit organization called Rebuilding Together San Diego, with the majority of the garden installed by 100's of volunteers and countless in-kind donations received to make this garden possible, including a major contribution from RECON Native Plants. This was a grassroots project with the garden design contributed by Vicki Estrada of Estrada Land Planning. All the artwork in the garden has been

donated by the artists.

The garden has several plant themes, including California natives. A large open space within the garden still requires a design element and the CNPS Chapter is being approached to see if any of the members would consider getting involved to help with the design and/or care and maintenance of the garden. Community service credit is available. Additional artwork, that meets the criteria of the garden, is also needed.

Project Clean has been responsible for caring for the garden; however, there is need for additional assistance. Please contact Pamela Thorsch at pthorsch@att.net or call (619) 988-0251 for information and to discuss your interest. Thank you for your consideration in utilizing your time and talents in support of the Azalea Park Conservation Garden.

Prez Sez, continued from pg. 1

2. *Calochortus weedii* (Weed's mariposa lily) – This beautiful yellow flowered tulip-like plant produces its floral display in the midst of darkly colored chaparral and in burn areas. *Calochortus* appear to provide color out of nowhere and the detailed pubescence in the flowers and the shape of the petals are truly interesting. Any *Calochortus* is notable in my mind including the more common *Calochortus splendens* (lilac mariposa), the *Calochortus concolor* (golden bowl mariposa) that is a clear yellow color, and the near endemic *Calochortus dunnii* (Dunn's mariposa) with its white flowers and brown spots at the base of the petals. It too appears in the midst of the dark chaparral, but only on unusual soils like gabbro (black granite) and metavolcanic rock.
3. *Acanthomintha ilicifolia* (San Diego thornmint) – I spent many years looking for this plant on clay soils throughout San Diego County. It had been included in the Rickett's Wildflowers of the United States from photographs near Chula Vista. I even offered a reward for anyone who could find it. I eventually found it on McGinty Mountain so I never paid the reward, but it met my expectations. Not only is it a beautiful blue and white flower, it has an amazing odor. Odor plays a lot into my interest in plants and this one with its scent of a combination of mint and Argentine ants does not disappoint.
4. *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy) -- The state flower for California is one of my favorites because of its bright color, especially those found near Warner Springs and Mataguay Boy Scout Camp, but also because it produces what I like to call "sheets of color." In places following fires such as it did in 2008 in Del Dios and Poway, the coastal forms also create solid masses or "sheets of color." The area near the intersection of SR 76 and SR 79 produces beautiful displays following seasons of well timed and ample rainfall. It can produce wildflower displays even during dry years if the rain fell at the right time. It can rival Antelope

Valley, maybe not for total area, but surely for quality of displays.

5. *Clarkia unguiculata* (elegant clarkia) – *Clarkia* species are interesting plants in the Onagraceae. They are clearly ephemerals and their four-petaled flowers are really unique, some with really narrow petals. *Clarkia unguiculata* occurs throughout much of California but only in the northwestern portion of San Diego County. Of course, there are a number of other *Clarkia* species in San Diego County and some support broad, brightly colored petals such as *Clarkia purpurea* (four-spot clarkia). A great deal of scientific study has also been applied to the genus *Clarkia* regarding their genetics and ability to generate new species over a short period of time due to chromosome rearrangements.
6. *Ceanothus cyaneus* (Lakeside ceanothus) – There are many species of *Ceanothus* in San Diego County and they have been the subject of articles in this newsletter. *Ceanothus cyaneus* is found in San Diego County and northern Baja California. *Ceanothus* in general are beautiful plants in spring and *Ceanothus tomentosus* (Ramona ceanothus) as well as *Ceanothus verrucosus* (wart-stem ceanothus) and *Ceanothus palmeri* (Palmer's ceanothus) produce bright blue or white colored displays on hillsides following adequate rainfall. *Ceanothus cyaneus* flowers a little later than most of the associated *Ceanothus* and the color of the flowers is an indigo blue that is difficult to describe.
7. *Chamaebatia australis* (southern mountain misery) – *Chamaebatia australis* is another combination flower and scent favorite. The flowers that occur for only a short time in March and April are delicate white, typically designed like others in the rose family with relatively large and delicate petals, not what one typically expects in the midst of dense, dark green chaparral. The leaves of this plant are finely divided into delicate fern like structures and the plant produces a sticky substance with an interesting greasy odor.
8. *Oenothera deltoides* (evening primrose) – This is a desert favorite. It grows in fine sandy soils and when it flowers, due to the large size of its petals, it has the appearance of tissue paper scattered over the desert. It can carpet areas with beautiful displays especially near the Borrego Valley airport where it also occurs with *Geraea canescens* (desert sunflower) and *Abronia villosa* (sand verbena).
9. *Mimulus bigelovii* (Bigelow's monkeyflower) – this is another delicate, bright pink flowered annual that grows on open gravelly and sandy soil. It can produce sheets of color but during dry years, such as this year, an entire plant may produce only one flower. The shape of these flowers, compared to old gramophone record playing devices from the last century, have interesting details in shape and color design. Annual *Mimulus*, in general, are very intriguing plants and there are a number in San Diego County and elsewhere, especially species such as the maroon, purple and yellow *Mimulus palmeri* (Palmer's monkeyflower) from the mountains and foothills.

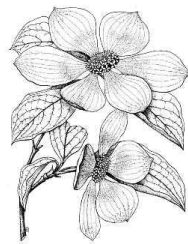
10. *Geraea canescens* (desert sunflower) – This sunflower is an annual that grows to considerable size. It can produce sheets of color in northern Borrego Valley if the *Brassica tournefortii* (Sahara mustard) does not overrun it. The yellow from its flowers on top of knee high stems can be seen for miles. In Death Valley, during the record breaking rainfall season of 2005, it covered vast areas that were formerly very barren.

Honorable mentions – *Pogogyne abramsii* (San Diego mesa mint), due to odor and neat little flower design; *Downingia concolor* var. *brevior* (Cuyamaca downingia), due to flower design growing in colored patches near Cuyamaca Lake and nowhere else in the world; *Lasthenia californica* (goldfields) due to its ability to create sheets of color like no other species; *Malacothrix glabrata* (desert dandelion) for the creamy yellow color that it produces and its ability to generate sheets of color; *Eriophyllum wallacei* (Wallace's woolly daisy) for its neat flower growth in miniature; *Cornus nuttallii* (Pacific dogwood) and *Rhododendron occidentale* (western azalea) because they have beautiful flowers; and *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland sage) for its wonderful fresh-washed-clothes or soapy scent and its bright blue flowers.

If you have other favorites, please let me know. This is my current list that may change tomorrow depending on what catches my eye.

~ Thomas Oberbauer

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, March 10 for the April newsletter, etc. Please send submittals to newsletter@cnpsd.org.



Pacific dogwood
(*Cornus nuttallii*),
U.S.D.A. Drawing,
flowers and leaves,
courtesy Hunt
Institute

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2012

- 5/1: Tecolote Canyon Public Walk (p.2)
- 5/2: **Board Meeting (p. 1)**
- 5/5: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.8)
- 5/5: Public Plant Walk – Lake Hodges (p.3)
- 5/6: Member Field Trip - Santa Ana Mtns (p.3)
- 5/12: Old Town Work Party (p.8)
- 5/15: **Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 5/20: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.8)
- 5/26: Public Plant Walk – Marion Bear Park (p.3)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family or Library \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500

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May 2012 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

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