

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETINGS

No Chapter Meeting in August!

The next Chapter Meeting will be **Tuesday, September 25** (not September 18). The September newsletter will provide more details.

BOARD MEETING

The Board does not usually meet in August, but since there is business to conduct the Board voted at the July meeting to hold a meeting in August.

Wednesday, August 8, 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.

Thanks, Margy!

It was 2009, and Dave Flietner persuaded **Margy Day** that staffing the CNPS booth at Earth Day would be a lot of fun - and she did have a great time! Thanks to that good fit, for the next three years Margy loaded up all the exhibit gear, including a shade pavilion, and with other volunteers set up at student environmental fairs, cleanups at the San Diego River or Otay Valley, and garden groups out in the suburbs.

When native plants go into high gear with the rain, so, too, do the outdoor event organizers - so between March and May, Margy was on the go. A big part of Outreach for her was inviting other volunteers to help her staff the booth at these events, and some good friendships budded from that sharing. And at the end of a long day of questions and answers, she took everything home and tucked it away in her garage - until the next event.

Margy, with her great smile and good humor, was at it for three years. Due to her strong commitment to Outreach, people joined CNPS and now are learning more about our wonderful native flora. Since she wants to take a break now, we want to thank her for a job well done!!

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK

August 5; 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. Remaining dates for 2012 are: Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.



Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) at Torrey Pines State Park.
Photo by Bobbie Stephenson.

CONSERVATION

Global Warming and the Great Northward Migration

For the dog days of August, I thought I'd pick on something I recently read in the June 30 *Science News*. The article ("Animals on the Move") was about how climbing temperatures would affect the ranges of animals. The assumption is that warming will drive animals toward the poles, at the rate of 400 meters per year. This doesn't sound like much, but the article asserts this is "10 to 100 times faster than they've ever had to move before to cope with changing climate." They say much the same about plants, and name-check the National Phenology Network, which includes some people in San Diego.

The scientists see this as a serious conservation problem. It is, but it's not quite as horrible as it seems. The problem is that our current conception of a natural reserve is an area that's fenced to protect some rare organisms. As the climate warms, these organisms will need to migrate north to stay comfortable, and therefore our current parks will be inadequate to protect them.

As Anthony Barnosky of UC Berkeley notes, "You have to decide, am I interested in a species? Am I interested in a landscape? Or am I interested in a feeling of wilderness?" Protecting a species may mean that they need to be moved, while protecting "ecosystem services" may mean somehow moving groups of species together. Preserving a wilderness free of human meddling may be impossible, although Dr. Barnosky makes the important point that the species in a park a century from now may be different than they are now. But then again, nature is in an eternal state of change, and we do need to remember this, climate change or not.

That's the bad news, and my heart fell when I first read that. Then I thought about it, and realized that it is, of course, more complicated than that, and possibly not so bad as it seems.

Recently I read paleoecologist Curt Stager's *Deep Future: The Next 100,000 Years of Life on Earth*. In it, he details the official IPCC climate change scenarios, which range from a 1,000 gigaton release of CO₂ (about three times what we've released to date) and a 5,000 GT CO₂ release (if we burn all the accessible fossil fuels).

If we go the "low" 1,000 GT route, sea level rises 6-7 meters, temperatures peak a few degrees hotter a century or two after we get to peak atmospheric CO₂ (the ocean takes a long time to heat up) and it takes about 100,000 years for atmospheric CO₂ to return to current levels, with corresponding temperature and sea level drops. If we burn *all* of our fossil fuels, sea levels rise 80 meters over the next 1,000-1,500 years, temperatures rise about 10 degrees over the same period, and it takes about a half-million years for atmospheric CO₂ to return to

current levels.

Now, let's go back to that initial claim: wildlife will have to migrate 400 meters north per year to deal with climate change. If we release 1,000 GT of CO₂ over the next 100 years, that means wildlife will only have to move 50-60 miles, or up to LA, over the next two centuries. Since our flora substantially overlaps with that in LA, I'm not sure how horrible this would be. Certainly today's beaches would all flood, but over the course of a century, not overnight. If we're monumentally stupid and burn every bit of fossil fuel we can find, the northward migration will have to go perhaps 250-375 miles north. This is certainly not good for our conservation efforts, but it's not quite like trying to get maritime chaparral to grow in southern Alaska. Regardless, greenhouse gas emissions will peak, the earth will (slowly) reabsorb these gases into the rocks, and eventually (in 130,000 or a million years) there will be another ice age. It's quite likely that humans will see the next ice age, too.

This is all speculation, of course, and we do need to plan for climate change now with conservation. The basic point is that climate change is not a "game over, environmentalists can't win" reason for hopelessness, whatever certain business leaders may say. It just means that conservationists will be working for the next, oh, 100,000 years on this issue. Call it job security.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee Chair

There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.

— Theodore Roosevelt

WRAP-UP OF SEVEN 2012 MEMBERS' FIELD TRIPS

2012 included two other fine field trips in addition to the other five described in the July Newsletter.

On March 31, **James Dillane** led ten chapter members and guests through the fascinating landscape of Calavera Mountain's preserve lands in the northeast corner of Carlsbad, but accessed easily from the City of Oceanside via College Drive. James assists the agencies and private companies that manage this large area by providing plant identification and training for other professionals, as well as public walks like ours. Calavera Mountain is an old volcano with dramatic rock formations that are exposed in an old quarry with Lake Calavera, where frogs were croaking, on its north side, rolling hills falling away from it, cut by boulderstrewn channels. James knew the exact locations of a wide range of plants, including some small

annuals perched along a small trail on the upper lip of the quarry - some members chose to see while others didn't take advantage of the moment.

A restoration effort is restoring plants that had been mostly removed by earlier owners, in a small valley where an exposed layer of alkali minerals provide ideal conditions for the surprising occurrence of alkali marsh plants. The Calavera Lake and Mountain area is a great botanical resource and I hope more members who live in the coastal and inland cities of north county find time to explore it.

On June 17, wilderness advocate **Cindy Buxton** led eight other CNPS members on a driving and walking tour to sense the possibilities of exploring the approximately 40,000 acres of newly proposed wilderness within the Cleveland National Forest. These proposed wilderness lands lie southwest of Julian and north of Descanso, and encompass a large part of the upper watershed of the San Diego River. Part of the walk included a short hike into the trail adjacent to Boulder Creek below Cuyamaca Peak, where red and blue delphiniums sparkled among the shrubs, along with a species of *Collinsia* that we could not identify to species - closely resembling *Collinsia parryi*, which is not reported from San Diego County. With the temperatures hovering in the low 90's, we declined a more strenuous day, and enjoyed driving and taking short walks. Cindy took the group to view parts of the upper Cedar Creek drainage, including the newly acquired McGee Flat area with magnificent Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) groves, and a view out to Ant Mountain across Cedar Creek Gorge that she and others are advocating to include.

~ Kay Stewart, fieldtrips@cnpsd.org

GARDENING

WANTED: Photographs from the Inaugural San Diego Native Garden Tour in April 2012.

If you would like your photographs included in a slide presentation at the September chapter meeting, please call or email Susan Krzywicki at (619) 318-4590 or gardening@cnpsd.org.

Gardening Committee Report

The Gardening Committee met at **Sue Marchetti's** home on June 25, 2012. We had an excellent view of San Diego and Sue's native garden as we de-briefed from the 2012 San Diego Native Garden Tour project.

In addition, we discussed how to organize a follow-on tour and our ongoing projects: Natives for Novices (with some discussion about a name change), Gardening Fact Sheets, and other topics.

As we move towards 2013, we'd like to organize the next Garden Tour. If you'd like to participate, please email me at gardening@cnpsd.org.

~ Susan Krzywicki, Gardening Chair

A Native Plant Gardening Resource

For those of you who missed or miss Louise Lacy's gardening newsletter, the information is available for purchase at <http://www.growingnative.com/>. The information from the first 59 newsletters published over 10 years has been captured in four packets of information downloadable for \$14.95 for each packet. The information is broken down into:

- 1) The Basics on how to grow California native plants successfully plus California Native Plant Communities (73 pages),
- 2) Perennials: 175 California natives for dry or moist gardens (50 pages),
- 3) Shrubs: 150 evergreen and deciduous California natives (52 pages), and
- 4) Wildlife and Inspiration (40 pages).

~ Cindy Burrascano, Book Sales

FALL PLANT SALE

The **2012 Fall Plant Sale** will be **Saturday, October 13th**, at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

Please help us! The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers to help plan and organize this year's sale. Our seed team needs help packaging the seeds, we need help in the nursery growing and watering plants, we need help publicizing and promoting the sale, and there are other administrative tasks that need to get done and require no plant experience. If you'd like to get involved with one of the Chapter's largest fundraisers, please join us.

Contact Plant Sale Committee Chairs Carolyn Martus & Mary Kelly at plantsale@cnpsd.org if you can help.

The Seed and Bulb Work Group will meet on the following dates to clean and package seeds and bulbs for the fall plant sale:

- Sunday, **August 26, 2012**, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Sunday, **September 30, 2012**, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Sunday, **October 7, 2012**, 8:30-11:30 a.m.



We hope to see you at Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA 92110, to help!

~ Amy Huie

If you can help with public outreach, please contact President Tom Oberbauer.

Native Garden Work Parties

**Old Town Historic State Park Native Garden:
August 11 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

It's Snipping Time in the Old Town Native Plant Garden

Everything slows down in August, including gardeners, so we plan to do some leisurely snipping on smaller shrubs in the landscape. Garden volunteers can pace themselves in the summertime to finish this important summer project. By cutting now, after the plants have finished flowering and seeding or fruiting, the plants will have plenty of time to develop buds for next year's flowers and fruit.

This half-acre in Old Town Historic State Park illustrates plants from the landscape that grew near the San Diego River when Europeans arrived. They founded San Diego at the spot where a Native American village called Kosoy stood, right above the native plant landscape. Trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbs have been planted. These plants were useful for making tools, shelter, weapons, clothing, ornaments, toys, food, medicine, or were eaten by animals that the original Native American people hunted and ate. Handouts are available that tell how these plants fit into the Native people's everyday world for around 9,000 years before contact with Europeans.

More plants are added every year thanks to donations from individuals, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the San Diego River Park Foundation, and the landscape is maintained by volunteers from the community, CNPS, the Gothic Volunteer Alliance, and the State Park staff.

This Native Plant learning-landscape is at 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.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: August 4 and 19, 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, September 8, 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. The last date for 2012 will be Nov. 10.

Public Native Plant Garden in West La Mesa/Rolando

Mike Bregantic, and every kid and dog-walker in Mike's neighborhood in west La Mesa, knew the shortcut through a weedy patch connecting Century Drive and Adams, just west of 70th Street. Mike discovered that this little scrap of public land will never have any use - so he adopted it. He laid a gravel trail, weeded, planted, seeded, and hauled water from his home a block away. Now the little orphan lot has a good path, and along one side a row of robust deer grass, thriving toyons, a patch of wild roses, beautiful desert mallow, a big prickly pear thicket and wooley blue curls. All look well-tended and clearly say "I am a garden." The other half of the strip is left to plant - and more people could help Mike complete this in the fall. Do you want to help?

If you are one of the thirty or so CNPS members who live in the 91942 or 92115 zip codes, you are very close. Call Mike at 619-460-1908 to help him bring the natives back to La Mesa/Rolando. This project is being sponsored by the San Diego Chapter's Gardening Committee. Questions? Contact Susan Krzywicki at gardening@cnpsd.org

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

To receive your newsletter via email, please contact us at:
enewsletter@cnpsd.org

Save the environment by not receiving a paper copy. AND your newsletter will be in **COLOR** and have embedded links!

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HANTAVIRUS

CNPS members need to be aware of hantavirus if you are in the field, camping, or living close to natural areas, which many of us do. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a rare, but frequently fatal, illness caused by a virus shed most commonly by deer mice.

Most cases have been acquired in rural and semi-rural settings where deer mice commonly invade human dwellings. Activities that increase risk of exposure include:

- Occupying or cleaning rodent-infested barns, sheds, cabins or other buildings
- Having direct contact with rodents or rodent materials while hiking or camping

- Living in or visiting areas where there has been an increase in the rodent population
- Working in enclosed spaces infested with rodents

The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health issued this press release on July 13, 2012:

**MOUSE TESTS POSITIVE FOR HANTAVIRUS
County Urges Residents to Use Caution When
Cleaning Up Rodent Droppings**

A wild deer mouse trapped in North Escondido during routine monitoring has tested positive for the potentially deadly hantavirus, San Diego County vector control officials said Friday.

“Infected mice rarely pose a threat to people if they remain in the wild,” said Jack Miller, director of the County Department of Environmental Health. “But hantavirus can be a danger if infected rodents get indoors and people come into contact with their droppings. People should never sweep up or vacuum rodent droppings or nesting materials when they find them, but use bleach solutions and sponges or mops to carefully clean up instead.”

Wild rodents, primarily deer mice, carry hantavirus. People contract the disease by inhaling dust particles containing the virus from rodent droppings and nesting materials. When the virus becomes airborne and is inhaled, it can cause hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). Symptoms, which can develop between one to five weeks after exposure, are similar to the flu but can lead to severe breathing difficulties and even death. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for hantavirus and the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report the disease has killed 36 percent of all the people known to have contracted it. The best way to prevent the disease is to keep mice out of houses, garages and sheds.

How to Avoid Exposure:

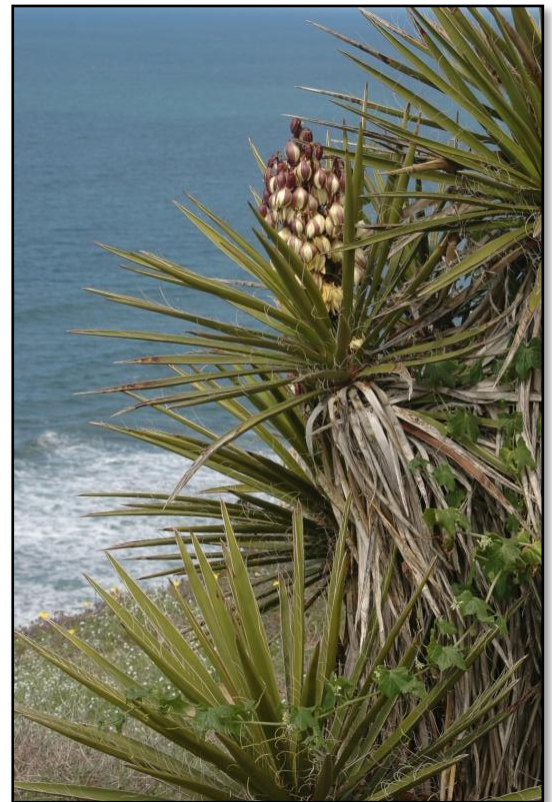
- Eliminate rodent infestations immediately.
- Avoid rodent-infested areas and do not stir up dust or materials that may be contaminated with rodent droppings and urine.
- Clean up rodent droppings and urine using the wet cleaning method described below.

Use “wet-cleaning” methods to prevent inhaling the virus:

- **DO NOT SWEEP OR VACUUM INFESTED AREAS.**
- Ventilate affected area by opening doors and windows for at least 30 minutes.
- Use rubber gloves. Spray a 10 percent bleach solution (2 tablespoons bleach to 1 cup of water) onto dead rodents, rodent droppings, nests, contaminated traps, and surrounding areas and let the disinfectant stand for at least 15 minutes before cleaning. Clean with a sponge or a mop.
- Place disinfected rodents and debris into two plastic bags, seal them and discard in the trash.

- Wash gloves in a bleach solution, then soap and water, and dispose of them using the same double-bag method. Thoroughly wash your bare hands with soap and water.

For more information, contact the County Department of Environmental Health at (858) 694-2888 or visit <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/hantavirus.html>



Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) at Torrey Pines State Park. Photo by Bobbie Stephenson

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.

Calendar for August 2012

8/5: Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 1)
 8/4: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.4)
8/8: Board Meeting (p. 1)
 8/11: Old Town Work Party (p.4)
 8/19: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.4)
 8/26: Seed and Bulb Packaging (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

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

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August 2012 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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