



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, October 16; 7 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park

**CEANOOTHUS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY:
THREATS AND ENDEMISM**
by Jim Rocks

Ceanothus is a diverse North American genus in the Rhamnaceae whose members occur in habitats ranging from sub-tropical rainforests to snow covered ridgelines. California, with its climatic, edaphic, and topographical diversity, is the center of the distribution of *Ceanothus* with more than 80% of known taxa. The remarkable variety of habitats in San Diego County support at least 17 *Ceanothus* taxa, several of which are endemic to the region. The ecological complexity of the genus and its distribution within the County will be discussed followed by a focus on the endemic and near-endemic *Ceanothus* taxa within the region (*C. cyaneus*, *C. otayensis*, *C. verrucosus*, *C. sp. nov.*). These species have unique distributions and life histories and face challenges and threats due in large part to urbanization and population growth. The wide variety of *Ceanothus* species and cultivars for the garden and landscape will also be briefly discussed.

Jim Rocks is an independent biologist in San Diego with over 13 years experience working throughout California and is a Botany Department Associate at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Through the Museum, he's taught classes on several plant families in San Diego County. Of particular interest is the *Rhamnaceae* because of its wide distribution, unique and beautiful species, and rare taxa.

Pre-meeting Gardening with Natives, 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.: Check the CNPS-SD list server for information on whether the pre-meeting will occur.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

PLANT SALE

October 13

10:00 a.m. for members
(if you are not a member, join at the sale)

11:00 a.m. for the public

Our October 13 plant sale will be at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance of the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.



Our **smokin' hot deal** will be California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) **1-gallon for \$3**. CNPS MEMBERS (not the public) may pre-order a minimum of twenty of these plants until October 9!

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

Volunteer the day of the sale: We need lots of helpers from 7:30 am until 4pm.

Before the sale: We need a few volunteers the Wednesday or Thursday before the sale to help label plants, about 4 hours of your time. For more information: info@cnpsd.org

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. They are held in the Casa del Prado, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

PREZ SEZ

As we have indicated before, our chapter of CNPS is one of the most active chapters in the state. We are involved in many different activities from the successful Native Plant Garden Tour to Native Plant Sale in addition to our monthly programs, newsletter, field trips and conservation work. We are very busy. As such, as people's lives evolve, it is understandable that priorities change and the need to move on is necessary. While we like to hope that people will work with us for the long term, and many have, we understand if that is not possible.

This leaves us with the dilemma of needing new people to step into the shoes of those who have left. For example, **Mike Evans**, one of the Board members, has stepped in to the membership management role and **Frank Landis** over this past year has taken on conservation in addition to his rare plant work.

At the present time, we are in need of additional assistance in the role of public outreach. There are numerous opportunities to set up a table or attend events for other organizations with the goal of publicizing the existence of CNPS. We are in need of someone who can help carry out those types of tasks.

We at the San Diego Chapter of CNPS have been extremely fortunate to have the gifted skills of a treasurer. Our treasurer, **Connie di Girolamo**, sets a shining example of how to organize funds in an organization such as ours. However, we are facing the need for assistance for her in the future. With an eye for occasionally filling in for her in the future in order to provide her with flexibility for her family priorities.

As we have mentioned here numerous times before, we really appreciate efforts of volunteers since we are made up of volunteers and we wish to cultivate our future organization.

~ **Tom Oberbauer**, Chapter President

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK

October 7; 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: Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 3, 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.

CONSERVATION

Fixing Environmental Laws?

As November lurches inexorably towards us, I keep getting distracted from happy thoughts of the upcoming plant sale by politics. This column is, if nothing else, an attempt to exorcise it from my tortured brain, so I can think happy thoughts about plants.

One issue that's slithering around this year is whether we should fix, update, or perhaps junk CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act. It's, um, fascinating to see how the opposite sides view this issue.

One thing many people forget is that environmental laws set up adversarial relationships: documents are put out for public comment, and the only comments people get back are negative. It's set up so that environmentalists oppose projects. As a result, the opposing sides tend to see each other as enemies: environmentalists see developers as greedy and evil, developers see environmentalists as stupid, out-of-touch obstructionists, while agency people, however they feel personally, are influenced by the politics of their institutions and elected bosses, and the money that flows to those at the top.

This isn't a plea that we should all be friends, although I'll note that it's a heck of a lot cheaper, for everyone, when we can get beyond butting heads. The problem with the stereotypes is that there's a big grain of truth to all of them, and we're working in an arena where conflict is inevitable.

Instead, I want to think about what this means for environmental law. I know I'm not alone in thinking that, if we just enforced CEQA as written, we'd have many fewer problems throughout the state.

So why don't we do that, just follow the law? Let me offer a few guesses:

Some of it's clearly ideological. Some developers think CEQA's a bad law because it stops them from doing what they want to do, and do as little as possible to follow it. On a deeper level, many people in our society see growth

as essential, and anything that obstructs growth is therefore bad. Many people who see the world this way have a real problem dealing with criticisms of growth. If we tell them a development won't work for good economic reasons, they deny our claim, because it collides with their pro-growth ideology on the way to the more rational parts of their brains.

Some of the problem is functional, both in the agencies and the environmental consulting industry. There's little industry-wide quality control, from certifying professional skills to improving techniques. The odd thing is that other fields, such as medicine, have used rigorous quality control and improvement programs to become some of the biggest industries in the world, even though no one really wants to pay for it (you *like* paying your medical bills?). Imagine, if you will, an environmental industry that was aggressive about improving restoration techniques and rigorous about both critiquing and learning from failures. Fantastic, isn't it? I've been told it'll never work. Repeatedly. Many agencies aren't much better. Bureaucrats who have to deal with CEQA paperwork are often overworked and undertrained deliberately, so that CEQA documents don't get the scrutiny they need. This allows their politician bosses to criticize the law as being ineffective, when in fact it has been deliberately crippled.

Then there are ethical problems. I have heard of a developer who bribed the entire planning division in a California city, just so that he wouldn't have to install a 80 foot-long fire lane. So far as I can tell, it would have been cheaper for him to simply comply with the law, but for the developer, it was about the principle of the thing, not the money. Or something. While corruption is certainly a disease of developers and their special friends in the agencies and consultancies, we environmentalists aren't free of it either. Environmental complaints can cover for more unsavory issues, such as keeping people of a different ethnicity or religion out of a particular neighborhood. This kind of thing gives both NIMBYs and environmentalists a bad name (NIMBY stands for "Not In My Back Yard"). We have to make sure that we're honest too.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee Chair



Scarlet monkeyflower (*Erythranthe cardinalis*)

PUBLIC PLANT WALKS

October 6: 10 a.m. until noon. Tijuana Estuary. Paul Hormick leads. Exit 5 at Coronado Ave, heading west. Continue as Coronado Ave turns into Imperial Beach Blvd. Turn left on Third St. and left on Caspian Way. Meet in the parking lot of the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center (Thomas Guide 1349 F1) Imperial Beach. Besides the flora there should be a number of birds, so you might want to bring your binoculars, too. Phone: 619-297-2957

October 27: 10 a.m. till noon. Crest Canyon. Adrienne Heinzelman and Michael Murphy lead. From Via De La Valle, turn left on Jimmy Durante Blvd, left onto San Dieguito Dr, continue 1/2 mile to fork in road. Meet at San Dieguito Dr. at Racetrack View Dr. (Thomas Guide 1187 G-4) Del Mar. Phone: 858-663-1497

BOTANY

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MONKEYFLOWERS GONE.....

At the CNPS Conservation Conference, Bruce Baldwin warned us that we could expect changes in the Jepson Manual. Raise your hand if you love monkeyflowers, those colorful members of the genus *Mimulus*.

The genus *Mimulus* is one of the most cherished and widely recognized groups of plants in southern California. We love to take admire them, take their pictures, collect them, and even grow them in our native gardens. Someone new to plants, if they have learned any Latin names at all, will know *Mimulus*. For years these plants were considered members of the Scrophulariaceae (figwort family). Recently this genus was moved from this long familiar family to Phrymaceae (the lopseed family) and that took some getting used to. However, a change in family was a relatively small change from tradition compared to what is on the table now.

An excellent paper published in May 2012 by W.R. Barker, Guy Nesom, Paul Beardsley, and Naomi Fraga (Phytoneuron 2012-39:1-60) proposes to eliminate *Mimulus* from the California flora. Under their proposal, *Mimulus* would be found only in Eastern North America and the Old World. Our monkey flowers would be spread over three genera, *Diplacus*, now much expanded, and the unfamiliar, *Erythranthe*, and *Mimethathe*. Ironically, we would likely still call these monkey flowers. This would be a case where the common names are perhaps more stable than the Latin names.

In their paper, the authors propose that the genus *Mimulus* is not monophyletic, (not all members originated from the same descendants). In other words, the broadly defined group we know as the members of the

genus *Mimulus*, likely belong to at least several separate, closely related genera. They put forth a fairly compelling argument and I suspect it will be well received. So what does this mean for San Diego County monkeyflower-lovers?

The following list cross-references the names in our barely-off-the-store-shelf 2012 Jepson Manual with the newly proposed names.

Mimulus aurantiacus var. *aridis* = *Diplacus aridus*
M. aurantiacus var. *pubescens* = *Diplacus calycinus*
(in part) and *D. longiflorus* (in part)
M. aurantiacus var. *pubescens* X var. *puniceus* =
Diplacus X *australis*
M. aurantiacus var. *puniceus* = *Diplacus puniceus*
M. bigelovii = *Diplacus bigelovii*
M. brevipes = *Diplacus brevipes*
M. breweri = *Erythranthe breweri*
M. cardinalis = *Erythranthe cardinalis*
M. clevelandii = *Diplacus clevelandii*
M. congdonii = *Diplacus congdonii*
M. floribundus = *Erythranthe floribunda*
M. fremontii = *Diplacus fremontii*
M. guttatus = *Erythranthe guttata*
M. latidens = *Erythranthe latidens*
M. moschatus = *Erythranthe moschata*
M. palmeri (ours) = *Erythranthe diffusa* (*E. palmeri*
would be farther north)
M. parishii = *Erythranthe parishii*
M. pilosus = *Mimethanthe pilosa*
M. rubellus = *Erythranthe rubella*

The separation of the three California taxa would be based primarily on the fruit structure and pedicel length. In *Mimethanthe* and *Erythranthe*, the pedicels are longer than the calyx and in *Diplacus*, the pedicels are shorter than the calyx or absent.

What happens next? As Andy Sanders at UC Riverside points out, a published paper is merely a proposal. Google *Erythranthe* on the internet and the response is still pretty spartan. The Jepson Interchange has not yet included these names. However, expect that to change. However, Flora North America volume 18, currently under review, does recognize *Diplacus*, *Erythranthe*, and *Mimethanthe* in place of *Mimulus*, so the clock is ticking.

~ **Fred Roberts**, Rare Plant Botanist



Bigelow's monkeyflower (*Diplacus bigelovii*).
Photo by Bobbie Stephenson, at the CNPS-SD Field Trip to Plum Canyon in 2011.

GARDENING

In August and September the Garden Committee helped the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative to sponsor a series of workshops on using native plants in School Gardens. This program is encouraging teachers to start habitat gardens. The first workshop was on how to start a garden, followed by sessions on using native plants for habitat and how to propagate native plants. The final sessions will be on how to include curriculum into the garden planning, execution and maintenance aspects.

Connie Beck, Carolyn Martus, Kay Stewart, and Clayton Tschudy each spoke at one or two of the three sessions held at the Cuyamaca Water Garden, San Diego Botanical Garden and South Bay Botanical Garden. **Sue Marchetti** arranged for native plant donations from local nurseries. Some plants were given away as chance drawings. Several of the plants were actually used in the gardens to show proper planting techniques and became permanent additions to the respective botanical gardens. The feedback from the sessions was all very positive. These are great go-to resources for school gardening. If you know of a schoolteacher or parent who wants to start their own project, then connect them with Anne Fege and Leta Bender at <http://www.sdchildrenandnature.org>, or email Anne at <http://www.sdchildrenandnature.org> and Leta at benders2@cox.net.

Our CNPS members shined again at events that reached throughout San Diego County and will influence schoolchildren at dozens of schools for years to come.

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Native Gardening Chair

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FALL PLANT SALE

October 13

1. To post flyers in public places like libraries and coffee shops, we will supply the flyers or you can download and print it from the CNPS website: <http://www.cnpsd.org/2012fallplantsale.pdf>.

2. Someone to lead the plant tagging at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. This is usually done the Wednesday or Thursday before the sale. Volunteers usually carpool to the nursery. You need to be able to use Excel and review the list and the tags before the sale, check to see that all plants are there, and be able to direct a 2 or 3 volunteers. It's really not hard, and you could probably do this in about a half day.

3. Need two vehicles to pick up plants from Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido the Friday before the sale and deliver them to the sale at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Plants must be covered when transported, so minivans and trucks with camper shells are preferred rather than open pick-up trucks.

4. Collect boxes: Need someone to hit up Costco or the grocery store to collect boxes that plant sale customers can put their plants in at the sale. During the weeks before the sale you gather the boxes, then bring them to the sale. You do the collecting whenever it is convenient for you.

5. Pick up our plant signs, which are being stored near San Diego, before the sale and deliver them to the sale at 6 a.m. on Saturday. This requires someone with a big truck or van and a very strong back, and a strong helper. A flat cart with wheels works well but you still need to lift them a bit to get them into the truck or van.

6. Volunteering on Sale Day: We need lots of help unloading the trucks and setting up the sale, people to write sale tickets during the sale, volunteers to help customers load their plants, security - help make sure nobody walks away without paying, and then lots of cleaning up.

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

The Seed and Bulb Work Group will clean and package seeds and bulbs for the fall plant sale on 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

Native Garden Work Parties

Old Town Historic State Park Native Garden: October 13 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Native Plants at Old Town Need Care the Same Day as the Plant Sale

Monthly care for the Native Plant Landscape in Old Town State Historic Park is scheduled on the same day as the Chapter's Fall Plant Sale. If you aren't planning on helping at the sale, please come over and assist coordinator Peter St. Clair who will be weeding and trimming.

The landscape illustrates the native plants that provided food, fiber, tools, medicine, and more for the Kumeyaay people for thousands of years. These plants are at the end of the long dry season and will benefit from being cleaned of dead leaves and twigs, and will have time

to develop next year's growth by March. The cleanup will also prepare the site for a November planting of some shrubs in containers and for spreading seeds of medicinal and edible plants. This timing will take advantage of the cool season rains that will soon arrive.

Other plants that respond more keenly to the lengthening days of light will be planted in February. Those plants will include deergrass, rushes, and wild rye grass.

The Old Town native plant landscape is at the north-west corner of the Park, at Taylor and Congress Streets. If you take the bus or trolley, cross at the corner near the tracks, where the trees and the sign are located. If you drive, you can park for free in the lot by Taylor and Calhoun, or in the CalTrans lot right across Taylor Street - cross at the signal at Juan Street and walk toward the trees. Have sun protection and bring pruners, your favorite weeding tools, and gloves if you have them, or share the tools and gloves that will be provided.

~ Kay Stewart

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: October 6 and 21, 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.

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.

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!

Calendar for October 2012

- 10/2: Board Meeting (p. 2)**
- 10/6: Public Plant Walk – Tijuana Estuary (p.3)
- 10/6: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.5)
- 10/7: Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)
- 10/7: Seed and Bulb Packaging (p.5)
- 10/13: Fall Plant Sale**
- 10/13: Old Town Work Party (p.5)
- 10/16: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 10/21: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.5)
- 10/27: Public Plant Walk – Crest Canyon (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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C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
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October 2012 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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