



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

## CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, February 19; 7 p.m.  
Room 104, Casa del Prado  
Balboa Park

### Sahara Mustard Control Efforts in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

by  
Larry Hendrickson

Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), a non-native annual plant, has become a serious threat to the annual wildflower fields in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and throughout the southwestern United States. This talk will focus on practical experiences controlling Sahara mustard in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the importance of educating the public to the threats that all invasive weeds pose to our wildlands.

Larry Hendrickson is a Senior Park Aide at the Colorado Desert District of California State Parks. He has worked over the last 15 years on non-native plant control within all of the parks within the District. Larry is a self-taught botanist who has been studying plants in the San Diego backcountry for over 25 years. He is also a field associate with the San Diego Natural History Museum Botany Department.

**6:30 p.m. Natives for Novices:** "How to Choose the Ceanothus That's Right for You, and How to Take Care of It When You Get It Home" presented by Debbie Creassy of Tree of Life Nursery.

**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 in the Casa del Prado, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.



Larry Hendrickson giving training on removal of Sahara mustard in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.



### SAVE THE DATE!

**Spring Native Plant Sale  
and Membership Day at  
Tree of Life Nursery  
March 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

33201 Ortega Highway  
San Juan Capistrano 92675  
San Diego and Orange County CNPS Chapters



Ceanothus "Concha" –  
Photo by Tree of Life  
Nursery

# BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, February 6, 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](mailto:president@cnpsd.org).

## Pres Sez

Hello Everyone! I have the privilege to serve as your chapter president for another year. I feel a great responsibility to serve our members as well as the resources in San Diego County. San Diego County continues to impress with the diversity of habitats and species with new discoveries and very old acquaintances being found all the time. All one has to do is look at a vegetation map of the County and you can see the variety of habitats. That, coupled with the expansive development, creates great challenges for conservation. However, as the San Diego Plant Atlas managers have been documenting, there are surprises ongoing in the world of botany in San Diego County. In the next year there will be some fascinating field trips to observe some of this diversity. Let us hope that the rain picks up to bring out that diversity. We have thus far been fairly fortunate to have received a number of storms so far this winter, but they have been relatively weak so we could use a boost in rainfall.

However, let us not forget that San Diego County is also at the forefront in horticultural endeavors. Last year we conducted a very successful native garden tour. While we are not conducting one in the same venue this year, there are other opportunities to understand the culture of horticulture with natives in San Diego. In particular, our very own Greg Rubin has authored a book on landscaping with native plants. His book is scheduled to come out before spring and he will be our general meeting speaker in March. We will do all we can to make his book available for purchase to our chapter members.

We continue to be one of the most well established chapters but we are always in need of members to assist in several areas such as hospitality, outreach and assisting our treasurer.

Thank you and Happy New Year.

~ **Tom Oberbauer**

## TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK

**February 3; 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.



Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*) and goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*). Photo by Bobbie Stephenson.

# FIELD TRIPS

## 2013 San Diego Chapter Field Trips for Advanced Plant Lovers

Last year we had members-only field trips on Sundays. This year we are opening our Sunday Advanced plant ID field trips to anyone, member or not, who wants to participate in the pleasures of identifying the thousands of species of plants found in natural – and some restored – locations in San Diego County. If you have a good grasp of the basics of plant recognition, and want to build your skills and vocabulary, these field trips are for you. We do our best to identify everything we see, working off tentative plant lists and referring to keys and other guides, as well as the knowledge base of other field trip members.

We call this level of chapter field trip “Advanced.” You don’t have to be at an advanced level of plant identification, but you have to be happy with the activities we engage in, including stopping frequently, going down on our bellies, and speaking in tongues (Latin, Greek, and other). “Beginner” field trips will be held on Saturdays, so you won’t have to choose one over the other, if you want to attend both.

In 2013, we will explore special locations to find a particular suite of species of plants of particular interest, and while doing that, we hope to visit enough places so we will also view every native *Ceanothus* species in San Diego County. Here are the scheduled field trips:

**February 24:** Carmel Mountain Preserve and Torrey Pines Extension (**Dave Flietner**)

**March 10:** Torrey Highlands and Crest Canyon (**Fred Roberts**)

**March 24:** Wrights Field, Alpine

**April 7:** Cedar Creek Gorge via Ant Mountain and McGee Flats (**Cindy Buxton**)

**April 14:** Ramona Grasslands or other site, tba

**April 28:** San Elijo Lagoon (**David Varner**)

**May 5:** Crestridge Ecological Preserve

**May 12:** Cottonwood Creek (**Neil Bouscaren**)

**June 2:** McCain Valley (**Tim Cass**)

**Possible addition for June:** Cold Stream (Stonewall Peak area).

**August or September** (date to be determined): Rare Plants of Lake Henshaw & Vicinity (**Fred Roberts**)

More detailed field trip information will be provided in future newsletters. The botanists named will be participants, unless an emergency in their field work calls them away. If no one is listed for an area you know, and you want to help lead a walk, please contact me.

~ **Kay Stewart**, [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org)

## Carmel Mountain Preserve and Torrey Pines Extension, Del Mar (First Advanced Plant Lovers Field Trip)

**Sunday February 24, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Rain at 8 a.m. cancels the field trip. Come see what plants have flowered near the coastline with the longer daylight of the early spring and some rainfall!

Carmel Mountain Preserve is a preserved remnant of the San Diego coastal mesa that has been mostly developed over the past 20 years. Its natural vernal pools may be colorful during the field trip, with one or another herbaceous species in the succession, depending on the rainfall in February. Woody coastal plants with restricted ranges, including summer holly (*Comarostaphylos diversifolia*) and California adolphia (*Adolphia californica*), are also in the preserve. Usually in bloom near the spring equinox is a showy carpet of canchalagua (*Zeltnera venusta*). If we don’t see it during the field trip, the participants can return at a later date.

After exploring this small but beautiful preserve, the group will then drive two miles to Torrey Pines State Reserve Extension, nestled in the south-facing sandstone bluffs above the western end of Carmel Valley. This area is a treasure trove of coastal native plants. The south-facing slope means warmth and early blooming for many species. We will spend at least 1.5 hours identifying plants from the bottom of the bluffs to the top and back.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Carmel Valley Road Park’n’Ride just west of I-5. Take the Carmel Valley Road exit from I-5, drive to the west side of the freeway, and turn onto the signed short spur for the Park’n’Ride on the south side of Carmel Valley Road. From there we will caravan to the trailhead at Carmel Mountain Preserve. To ride share to the meeting place from central San Diego, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Denny’s parking lot just off Friar’s Road and SR 163.

Wear long sleeves so you won’t be nicked by an unruly twig; have sun protection, and bring water and a snack. Binoculars are a bonus. RSVP to [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org). Leave your cell phone number and group size, and please tell us if you intend to meet at the Denny’s or at the Carmel Valley Park’n’Ride.

~ **Kay Stewart**, [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org)



Conchalagua  
(*Zeltnera venusta*)

## Orange County Chapter Field Trip

Some of our members, especially those in North County, may want to attend Orange County chapter field trips. Most field trips are free and most are open to all, but read the trip outlines for parking/entrance fees or pass requirements and be sure the trip fits your physical abilities. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, appropriate trail shoes, a camera, a notepad and lots of enthusiasm.

**Trips change, so always check the website [www.ocnps.org/explore](http://www.ocnps.org/explore) for more current information. Rain cancels – check the website after 7 p.m. the evening before the trip for final weather and trip updates.**

**Sunday, February 17. El Moro Canyon, Crystal Cove St. Park, 8 a.m.** Meet at 8 a.m. at the day-use lot in the “Moro Canyon” parking area, located on the inland side of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), behind El Moro School. Once in the main lot, be sure to proceed to the “day-use” lot, to the right.

*This trip does require a **\$15 day use fee per vehicle** (carpool if you can) or a **State Parks Pass!***

**Physical Difficulty:** About 4 miles and moderate.  
**Plant Intensity:** Moderate. **Time:** Approx. 3 hours.

Along with Laguna Canyon and Aliso Canyon, El Moro Canyon comprises one of the major coastal watersheds of The San Joaquin Hills. Oriented perpendicular to the coast and cutting about three miles into the foothills it offers a range of plants typical of our coastal foothills. In order to avoid too much up and down, we will likely head straight up the canyon, looking at the plants of the coastal sage scrub and grassland areas along the way, while doing our best to avoid the weekend mountain bikers. Small areas of riparian and chaparral will offer some variety. Along the way, we will make a stop to pay our respects to Orange County’s only native Valley Oak tree.

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new and renewing members!

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Allie Akmal       | Jane Higginson  |
| Robin Allen       | Wayne Julien    |
| William Black     | Michelle Kriz   |
| Michael Bostwick  | Sarah Mapel     |
| Amy Bouck-Knight  | Anne Marston    |
| Stephen Cantu     | Patrick McKenna |
| Danielle Champoux | Christine Mih   |
| Karen Cook        | Stephen Peters  |
| Claudia Copitas   | Andrea Plummer  |
| Robert Damone     | Sandy Reeve     |
| Royal Fraser      | Jason Sundberg  |
| Tanya Fuad        | Tim Thornton    |
| Lisa Haws         | Jeremy Tuler    |

**We are glad you have joined  
or rejoined the chapter!**

## Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Kickoff

### The Orocopias and the Bradshaw Trail



**Sat. Feb 23 - Sun. Feb. 24, 2013  
10:00 am - 4:30 pm**

Shaped by the movements of the San Andreas Fault over millennia, the Orocopias sit between Joshua Tree National Park and the Salton Sea in the Colorado Desert Region of the Sonoran Desert. It's hotter in the low desert, but these mountains rarely experience frost, and enjoy both winter rains and summer monsoons.

We're kicking off our treasure hunt year in the Orocopias' washes and canyons, along the Bradshaw Trail. While the desert will be coming into full bloom, we will largely be focusing on rare Salvias and Colubrina, with both long and short calorie-burning hikes in cool, pleasant temperatures. The camp spot will be divine!

We'd love to have you join us, exploring the desert's canyons and washes in search of rare beauties, and checking out some of the most extravagant adaptations in extreme desert niches. Share what you know, learn something new, and take home a Colorado Desert experience to savor, inspire and inform our future. Sign up below to get on the trip list. Directions to follow.



Kim and Duncan

Reserve Your Spot...

Copy and paste or otherwise send the following to [kclark@cnps.org](mailto:kclark@cnps.org):

Name:

Project Name/Date: Orocopias Mountains / Feb 23/24, 2013

Best e-mail:

Best phone (en route to project):

Street Address:

Vehicle make/model/4WD:

Carpool driver or rider:

Vegan, vegetarian or omnivore:

Age Range:

Do you have any physical limitations in rugged conditions?:

Specialties such as botany (level of expertise),

photography, GPS, guitar:  
Any questions:

If you'd like to reduce the carbon footprint, share the high cost of fuel, or help folks with low-clearance 2WDs participate, we're happy to let you know of others going from your area so you can arrange a carpool.

## CONSERVATION

### What I Did For My Winter Holiday

Sometimes I wonder why my wife bothers taking time off around New Years. Yes, we have a good reason (both our birthdays fall around the holidays), and each year, we hope to get away for a week. Unfortunately, this year we stayed home.

The environmental industry has this rather nasty practice. The truly obnoxious EIRs typically come out at two times: right before Christmas, and in August. The reason is obvious—they assume that no one will be around to respond, so they can get their dirty laundry certified without being sued over its gross deficiencies.

This is not a new practice. Back when I was in grad school, I spent Christmas with my parents. Many times, my mother would keep me awake until 2 a.m. or later in late December. The computer was in my room, and she was working, all alone, on a response to some obnoxious environmental document. Sometimes she growled as she typed.

Now I'm carrying on this family tradition.

The 2012 steaming pile of joy is the Board of Forestry's Vegetation Treatment Program EIR, available at: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/resource\\_protection\\_committee/current\\_projects/vegetation\\_treatment\\_program\\_environmental\\_impact\\_report\\_\(vtpeir\)/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_(vtpeir)/)

This cheerful document is a short 1,351 pages, short because they want permission to "treat" 38,000,000 acres, or about 33 percent of the state, and 1,351 pages is far too short to adequately describe the full, um, grandeur of their proposal.

This program includes ALL state park lands, many public lands, private lands, even federal lands. They didn't bother to provide a map, so I can't tell you whether your property or anything you care about is on the list of affected lands.

Federal lands should require an EIS, right? Oddly enough, they didn't provide one of those. I'm not sure why. There are a number of things they didn't provide.

The treatments they propose are familiar: they want to reduce biomass using techniques like burning, bulldozing,

spraying lots of herbicides, and harvesting biomass for burning in commercial power plants. They claim this will reduce fire danger to people and property, reduce invasive species, improve air quality, increase desirable plant species, and improve wildlife habitat. Really.

There's not a lot of science to back this up. Quite recently, a paper published in the prestigious (and peer-reviewed) *Public Library of Science* (freely available at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4719>) suggested that fire protection was a planning issue, not a bulldozing issue. Housing density and location were better predictors of which houses would burn than were the fuel loads around them. While being surrounded by wildlands increased a building's fire danger, grasslands and weed-fields increased fire danger much more than did woody vegetation like chaparral or forest. Their strong suggestion was that the best way to protect houses was through planning laws and zoning ordinances, rather than bulldozing and burning the back country.

The paper's authors hoped CAL FIRE would help produce hazard maps and work with municipalities to keep their neighborhoods safe. Instead, CAL FIRE is being directed to engage in this Vegetation Treatment Program and macerate the back country, thereby reducing woody vegetation, increasing herbaceous vegetation, and generally making it more dangerous for us all. That doesn't even cover the problems from the smoke of controlled burns (regulated by the Air Resources Board and EPA), increased dust (ditto), or how the increased erosion from all this clearing will affect local waterways and reservoirs, especially in a time of decreasing rains.

By the time you read this, the comment period may have ended. It was January 25th, although we're trying to get it extended. What you can do, however, is talk to your politicians, agency folk, neighbors, and any other environmental groups you know. If fire safety is a matter of planning, rather than clearing state parks and spraying our watersheds, then we need to get everyone involved in making our neighborhoods safer.

So anyway, I spent my winter holiday reading and responding to this joyous document, because most other people were away, too busy, or asking to be paid to read it. My thanks do go to **Tom Beltran** and **Kay Stewart** for helping me with this (as of this writing. I'll have more people to thank later). My thanks also go to my wife, for putting up with my growling.

Oh, one last thing? Please don't leave town in August, because I'd love to have more help on the next stinker. I wonder what it will be?

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Chair



# Desert Fragrance in San Diego County

Back when I was attending college at San Diego State University in the mid-1970's, I became obsessed with traveling to the Sierra de San Pedro Mártir in Baja California. Growing up in San Diego, one always had the impression that south of our border was desert and Baja California was nothing but desert. The idea of a high mountain range with conifers surrounded by desert brought out the obsessive personality in me. One spring, I convinced my old backpacking buddies to drive us down to those mountains. It was late May, actually the weekend of Memorial Day. One of my friends, the one who was driving, had a teaching job in Hemet so we left after he arrived, driving down the toll road to Ensenada and then down the main two-lane road south. It was a relatively warm evening as we drove and south of Ensenada we began to perceive a scent of the vegetation wafting through the windows of the truck. It was a very distinctive and powerful scent. As we drove south, it became stronger as the road traveled alongside drainage courses lined with sycamores, cottonwoods, oaks and willows. South of Santo Tomás and around San Vicente, I became curious about what was causing the scent. It was a sweet smell somewhat like that of a sycamore crossed with that of a tarplant (*Deinandra* sp.), but much sweeter. When we pulled off the road, it was apparent that it was emanating from a large shrub that had wand like branches from a base, growing to 8 or 10 feet tall in some areas. I did not know what it was a first. It looked like a weedy species since some of our semi riparian species are not native, maybe some form of *Conyza* (horseweed) species or I naively thought it may be some large species of ragweed. I distinctly remember driving down the road as it wound through the canyons with the headlights shining on the road cuts and Sycamore branches around the curves as the smell drifted through the air.

After returning home from the trip, I did a little more investigating and discovered that it was called *Hymenoclea monogyra*. The common name listed in Ethyl Bailey Higgins' Annotated List of Ferns and Flowering Plants of San Diego County was "Desert Fragrance." Over the years, I could recognize where it was from the scent. As I spent more years at San Diego State obtaining my Master's Degree and continued to visit the library there for research, I became aware through its odor that there was a stand of this plant at the bottom of Montezuma Road where it splits with Fairmont Avenue, south of Interstate 8. I had observed quick glances of the shrub as the traffic sped by. I continued to equate it with Baja California, but its range actually extends to Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, growing in the southwest deserts as well as Baja California. Ethyl Bailey Higgins listed it as "common in low flats in the southwestern corner of the County, as at Monument School, north to Murphy Canyon and east to Dulzura." Over the years, the nomenclature for this species has changed and more recently, it was lumped into the genus *Ambrosia* with the ragweeds. Apparently my initial

intuition that it looked like some sort of ragweed was not so far off after all. However, with the new name, it also seemed to have received a new common name, the uninspired "single-whorl burrobush." Fortunately, the San Diego Natural History Museum still maintains the "Desert Fragrance" name for common use. Since it is not common in California, it has a CNPS Inventory rare plant status of 2.2 indicating that it is rare in California but more common elsewhere and has a moderate degree of threat to its continued existence in California.



Wand-like branches of desert fragrance (*Hymenoclea monogyra*)

One wonders about its distribution that extends in isolated pockets from north of the San Diego River and Jamul down to Tecate. It has been mentioned that *Ambrosia* seed was used by native people in some parts of their ranges and maybe that is why it occurs in pockets as an artifact from previous dispersal. However, why would it not be more widespread because it appears to do well where it is found? To be impartial, I should mention that its scent is not universally loved by all. The lead botanist at the Natural History Museum, you all know who I mean, stated that it was not his favorite. I once heard one person state that it smelled like "potty." Well, to each his or her own.

I was reminded of this plant by Erin Bergman and Fred Sproul who prepared a staff discussion of it for an office workshop. When they brought samples in from the Montezuma Road location, the odor quickly brought my thoughts back to Baja California in 1974. Though it is not really common here, if one drives out Highway 94 in the late spring, one can approximate the effect of the fragrance of my ride in San Vicente in the 1970s.

~ **Tom Oberbauer**, President



Desert fragrance flowers

# New Native Landscape Book Soon to Hit the Shelves!

## The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance

By Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren

Water shortages and water rationing are commonplace throughout California, rendering expanses of lawn and thirsty, nonnative plants unsustainable. Unfortunately, these remain the most popular choices for homeowners for two main reasons: the misconception that native plants are more difficult and the false assumption that exotic plants are more beautiful than their native counterparts.

*The California Native Landscape* addresses both concerns by teaching homeowners how to succeed with natives and showing them how lush, colorful, and thriving their landscape can be. The authors stress the importance of smart garden design and combining the right plants to promote the natural symbiosis that occurs within plant communities. This new book also has cutting-edge information on the crucial role that natives play in creating fire-resistant landscapes, refuting the myth that natives are more fire-prone than nonnatives.

With its unique combination of proven techniques, environmental wisdom, and inspiring design advice, this is an essential resource for all California gardeners who want to create a beautiful, ecologically appropriate, and resource-conserving home landscape.

The book will be hardcover, about 304 pages and will be 7 x 9.5 inches. It will have about 265 cover photos and 10 drawings.

CNPS-SD Board Member and Author Greg Rubin is the owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design, a recognized leader in the field of native plant design, which specializes in creating stable, sustainable, ornamental, low-input gardens with substantial habitat and wildlife value. Greg's business has been the subject of articles in *Kiplinger's*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. He regularly gives presentations on native plants to organizations in California.



Buy the book at a chapter meeting or reserve it by sending a note to Cindy Burrascano at the address below or to [booksales@cnpsd.org](mailto:booksales@cnpsd.org). The book is \$38.00 and you can pay for it a Chapter Meeting.

Or you can have the book shipped to you for \$5. If you want it shipped, please send your name and address and a check or money order for \$43.00 (\$38.00 + \$5) to Cindy at the address below.

Mail the form to: CNPS-SD – Cindy Burrascano  
C/O San Diego Natural History Museum  
P.O. Box 121390  
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

## GARDENING COMMITTEE

The Gardening Committee met on January 9th at the home of Clayton Tschudy. Our current plants are to develop a public garden - Dave Flietner has been looking at locations to determine feasibility. Next month, we will start to narrow down candidates and look for funding and volunteers to help. Please join us if you are interested in helping with a high-concept design native garden here in San Diego.

We are also continuing the Natives for Novices talks - the monthly half-hour session at chapter meetings. These seem to be well-received. Future topics will probably include "gardening for butterflies," Jake Sibley's gardening experience in North Park, Will Johnson helping us with Irrigation Maintenance issues and others. Please let Sue Marchetti know if you have ideas for, or can volunteer to talk at, "Natives for Novices" - send an email to [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org).

Also on the agenda is some planning for gardening seminars for our members. Stay tuned for more info on how this will be organized.

And, please join us for our **next meeting: February 13th at 6 p.m.** The location will be announced shortly, so email [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org) to be on the announcement list.

I wanted to thank all of our gardening volunteers for their outstanding work in 2012. The Garden Tour was a big success and we look forward to additional events and continued Natives for Novices topics for all of our enlightenment. Great team effort!

~ Susan Krzywicki, Native Gardening Chair



Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*)

# NATIVE GARDEN WORK PARTIES

## Old Town Native Plant Landscape Work Party, Saturday, February 9, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Did you also finally plant your natives at home? Come plant some more in Old Town!

I finally dug into my home garden and added some 1-gal plants from the fall plant sale. You too? So now that we're warmed up, let's plant more into the Old Town pre-contact native plant landscape. This small park of native plants includes many of the plants that were used by the Native Americans who lived in this region before contact with Europeans. Some years from now, these plants could be harvested for basketry workshops.

Our volunteer work has reduced the exotic grasses and weeds enough that we can now spread medicinal, edible, and beautiful wildflower seeds and expect them to grow. We can also finish planting the big meadow areas with deergrass, giant ryegrass, and some yucca and agaves. Without those exotic grasses and other weeds to overwhelm them, these native plants will thrive, as the days get longer and warmer.

The landscape is located at the northwest corner of Old Town State Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets. If you come by bus, trolley, or train, just cross at the corner and follow the path to where we will be gathering near the sycamore trees. If you drive, you can park in the lot at Taylor and Calhoun, or park in the CALTRANS parking lot across Taylor Street - cross at the Juan Street traffic light and walk a couple hundred feet south along Taylor Street to join us. Wear sun protection and bring gloves and weeding tools if you have them. If not, we have some to share. Bring bottled water if you prefer that to the drinking fountain. If it rains, some of us will come anyway, wearing good raingear, and you will be welcome. Restrooms are nearby.

Questions? contact Kay at [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org)

**Point Loma Native Plant Garden:  
February 2 and 17, 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](mailto:Richard@sandiegoriver.org) for more info.

## INVASIVE PLANTS

### Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*)

Having seen *Dittrichia graveolens* (stinkwort) in a vernal pool recently, I was reminded to write an article for the newsletter concerning what I learned at the CalIPC Working Group on *Dittrichia* that was led by David Bakke (U.S. Forest Service) and Rachel Brownsey (U.C. Davis). Stinkwort was first reported in California in 1984 near

San Jose and has spread to 37 counties around the state. It was reported growing up to 4,500 feet elevation in Plumas County. In San Diego County it has been observed from coastal North County to the Mexican border.

In many northern California counties stinkwort is largely a roadside weed and it is speculated to have some soil moisture requirements. Here in San Diego County, I have seen it growing in brush clearance zones at the top of a slope adjacent to houses in Mira Mesa and along a trail well outside of the drainage area in Carroll Canyon, but in my experience, the majority of plants are in the bottom of ephemeral drainages. It tends to grow in disturbed areas (like ephemeral drainages and openings in riparian areas) and appears not to be shade tolerant. The plant has been reported growing in the transition zone of salt marshes and I have seen it in vernal pools. We do not have a clear understanding of its distribution in the state and people were asked to report occurrences to Calflora.

Plants can germinate anytime from fall to spring. They grow through the spring and exponential growth from July through September. Flowering seems to be tied to photoperiod and plants are not known to bloom until August, which give managers an opportunity for control during later in the season. Yellow dandelion-like flower heads are about the size of a dime. Seed production and viability are high and the seed do not go dormant. Based on studies at UC Davis, seeds are viable for at least two years with the majority of seeds germinating in the same year as dispersal.

In terms of management, pre-emergent herbicide application during October to December was recommended. Contact dermatitis has been reported in humans and livestock have died after eating it. Based on my own experience, one should always wear gloves and long sleeves if pulling out plants. Cutting off top growth in the spring or early summer will just cause regrowth. Once you see a flower though, seeds will be produced even if the plant is pulled or the flower heads are cut off the stalks, so bag any plants with flowers or flower buds and remove them from the site. Dispose of them in your garbage, not in your green waste container or your home composter. Hand pulling, (or hoeing, as roots are shallow) can be conducted May to July with post-emergent herbicide treatment from March to June, although Milestone™ herbicide use was only partially successful, killing about 75% of the plants. Normal roadside maintenance activities may actually promote *Dittrichia* because early spring weed treatment reduces competition for the resprouting stinkwort. East Bay Regional Park District torches stinkwort in July and August after they mow it. At the workshop, recommendations on when to mow were conflicting; some said to mow in August and treat resprouts with herbicides afterward and others reported that mowing or weed-whacking in June was somewhat successful. After mowing, growth is more prostrate as one would see with star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) or tocolote (*Centaurea melitensis*). Mulch or weed mats should be tried.

~ Cindy Burrascano





The invasive stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*).



Feathery plumes carry stinkwort seeds long distances.

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' ACTIVITIES

**San Diego Wild Mushroom & Fungus Fair.** Sunday, February 17, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Sponsored by the San Diego Mycological Society.

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botany Society.** Monday, February 11, 10 a.m. "History of Plant Collecting and Floristic Discoveries in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park" by Dr. Jon Rebman, curator of botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The public is invited. Free. A day before, the Dr. Rebman will give a field class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on plant identification and collecting in the park. The class starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. For Anza-Borrego Foundation members, the fee is \$45. For non-members it is \$55. Register by calling 760-767-4063 or visiting Anza-Borrego Foundation's website at [theabf.org](http://theabf.org). The class is limited to 18 participants. A high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended.

**Carlsbad Watershed Network Meeting.** Nan Sterman of Plant Soup Inc. presents: Bye-bye Grass! Tuesday, February 12, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Agua Hedionda Discovery Center, 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad. Learn more about Carlsbad Watershed Network at: [www.carlsbadwatershednetwork.net](http://www.carlsbadwatershednetwork.net)

**San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Education Program Wildlife Walk.** Saturday, February 9, 9 to 11 a.m. Santa Inez trailhead (For directions visit [sanelijo.org/santa\\_inez](http://sanelijo.org/santa_inez) and more details are at [www.sanelijo.org/walks](http://www.sanelijo.org/walks)).

**San Elijo Lagoon Platoon Community Coastal Sage Scrub Planting.** Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m. – noon. Santa Carina trailhead (directions: [sanelijo.org/santa\\_carina](http://sanelijo.org/santa_carina)). Register at [www.sanelijo.org/restoration-events-signup](http://www.sanelijo.org/restoration-events-signup).

### San Elijo Lagoon Weekly events:

- Lagoon Platoon Stewardship Training, every Wednesday 9 a.m. – noon. Location varies. Email [joel@sanelijo.org](mailto:joel@sanelijo.org) to join.
- Guided Nature Walks. Every Saturday 9– 11 a.m. San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center, 2710 Manchester Avenue, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. More details at [www.sanelijo.org/walks](http://www.sanelijo.org/walks).

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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, March 10 for the April newsletter, etc. Please send submittals to [newsletter@cnpssd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpssd.org).

## CNPS-SD Calendar for February 2013

- 2/2: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.8)
- 2/3: Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)
- 2/6: Board Meeting (p. 2)**
- 2/9: Old Town Work Party (p.8)
- 2/13: Gardening Committee (p. 7)
- 2/17: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p.8)
- 2/19: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 2/24: **Field Trip.** Carmel Mountain Preserve and Torrey Pines Extension (p.3)

### Planning Ahead

- 3/2: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 3/3: Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk
- 3/6: Board Meeting
- 3/9: Old Town Work Party
- 3/10: Field Trip. Torrey Highlands & Crest Canyon.
- 3/16: Native Plant Sale, Tree of Life Nursery
- 3/17: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 3/19: Chapter Meeting
- 3/24: Field Trip. Wrights Field, Alpine

**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**

San Diego Chapter  
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum  
P. O. Box 121390  
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 1522  
San Diego, California



February 2013 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO**

www.cnpsd.org

info@cnpsd.org

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Tom Oberbauer.....president@cnpsd.org  
Jonathan Dunn.....vicepresident@cnpsd.org  
Tom Beltran.....secretary@cnpsd.org  
Connie di Girolamo.....treasurer@cnpsd.org  
BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpsd.org  
(858) 578-8040  
FIELD TRIPS (MEMBERS): Kay Stewart...fieldtrips@cnpsd.org  
(619) 234-2668  
NATIVE GARDENING: Susan Krzywicki.... gardening@cnpsd.org  
NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpsd.org  
(619) 269-0055  
RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Frank Landis...raresurvey@cnpsd.org  
(310) 883-8569  
MEMBERSHIP: Mike Evans.....mikeevans@cnpsd.org  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Greg Rubin.....gregrubin@cnpsd.org

**CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE**

Dave Varner.....chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org  
(619) 630-4591

**RARE PLANT BOTANIST**

Fred Roberts.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org  
(760) 439-6244

**APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

CONSERVATION: Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpsd.org  
(310) 883-8569  
FIELD TRIPS (PUBLIC): Paul Hormick.....fieldtrips@cnpsd.org  
HOSPITALITY: Betsy Cory.....hospitality@cnpsd.org  
(619) 656-8669  
INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson.....invasiveplants@cnpsd.org  
(858) 759-4769  
LIBRARIAN: Pat Fishtein.....pfshtein@cox.net  
PLANT PROPAGATION: Jim Wadman.....propagation@cnpsd.org  
619-294-7556  
PLANT SALE-FALL: Carolyn Martus.....plantsale@cnpsd.org  
PLANT SALE-SPR: Kristen Olafson....springplantsale@cnpsd.org  
POSTER SALES: James Rader.....postersales@cnpsd.org  
PROGRAMS: Claude Edwards.....programs@cnpsd.org  
(619) 282-8687  
PUBLICITY: Pat Fishtein.....publicity@cnpsd.org  
(619) 280-8234  
PUBLIC OUTREACH: OPEN.....publicoutreach@cnpsd.org  
VEGETATION: Anna Bennett.....vegetation@cnpsd.org  
(559) 443-9233  
WEBSITE: Mary Alice Kessler.....webmaster@cnpsd.org