



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

## CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, June 18; 7 p.m.  
Room 104, Casa del Prado  
Balboa Park

### Presentation

## Native Plants at the San Diego Botanic Garden by Dave Ehrlinger

The natural areas at the San Diego Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Botanical Gardens) include southern maritime chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and riparian areas. These and some of the significant species will be presented. Other native plant-related features here include our native plant garden, "California Gardenscapes," the Fire Safety Garden, and our newly renovated Native Plants, and Native People Trail. Recently developed educational materials will be presented. The challenges of invasive species and their control will be described. Future plans include involvement with the Center for Plant Conservation working with state and federally listed species such as Del Mar Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*), Encinitas baccharis (*Baccharis vanessae*) and Orcutt's hazardia (*Hazardia orcuttii*) as well as habitat restoration. The mission of the Center for Plant Conservation is to conserve and restore the imperiled native plants of the United States to secure them from extinction.

**Dave Ehrlinger** (B.A. Geography, B.S. Horticulture) has been Director of Horticulture at SDBG for ten years. During this time he has been involved in the development of the native plant garden, fire safety garden and natural area management. He previously was involved in the design and management of several native plant gardens in the Midwest.

6:30 p.m. **Natives for Novices:** "What Not To Plant and What To Remove" by **Susan Lewitt**.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.



Bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurentiacus*)



California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and young lemonadeberry fruit (*Rhus integrifolia*)



White-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*)

Photos taken at the San Diego Botanic Garden on April 1, 2013 by Bobbie Stephenson, CNPS-SD Newsletter Editor.

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

## BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, June 5, 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). Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month. Future 2013 Board Meeting dates are July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.

**Directions:** 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).

## Please VOTE!

Please see the enclosed ballot to amend the chapter bylaws and vote accordingly. Thanks!

## FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

April 28: Native, Introduced, and Restored Flora of San Elijo Lagoon, **Elizabeth Venrick** and **David Varner**, Leaders

I knew the fieldtrip would be interesting when, ten minutes up the Solana Hills trail, **Jim Roberts** pointed out the white-blossomed Fremont's deathcamas (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*) growing up through the dilapidated chain link fence that I was straddling. Interesting not only because I had never seen the plant here and did not know it occurred in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, but also because I was busy pointing out the waving blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) and brilliant golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*) scattered around me. Apparently my years of botanical observation in the reserve, and more specifically, my once-per-week-for-the-last-two-months visits to the Solana Hills trail, did not comprehensively prepare me for this fieldtrip! So it goes with botanical interest: the closer you look the more you discover! What more might turn up when walking this same trail with 15 other CNPS members? As it turned out, a lot! The 150-strong plant list that my fieldtrip partner and long-time CNPS member, Elizabeth Venrick, and I made was only a starting point for this Sunday morning crew.

Fifteen novice, amateur, and some quite skilled, native plant enthusiasts met at the Solana Hills trailhead in Solana Beach on Sunday 28 April. We made introductions and proceeded up to the high point on the trail amidst chaparral vegetation. There we recognized chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), wart-stemmed ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), and mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), and took in a beautiful view of the entire lagoon. As we descended toward the lagoon, we passed some oaks (that escaped our categorization tendencies!), summer holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*), and a geometrically juxtaposed example of white sage near black sage with a hybrid white-black sage (*Salvia apiana* x *S. mellifera*) in-between (thanks again, Jim)! We passed some areas containing horticultural artifacts – a reminder that Ecological Reserves are a relatively new phenomenon. At the low point on the trail we walked to the edge of the salt marsh and then looped back to inspect the north-facing steep slopes between Solana Beach and the reserve. On these shaded slopes we found sea dahlia (*Leptosyne maritima*), Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), canyon clarkia (*Clarkia epilobioides*), and lance-leaf dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*).

I think I can speak for everyone who attended that we really enjoyed the flash-mob-botanical community that we created that Sunday morning. Thanks to my fearless and locally-experienced co-leader, **Elizabeth Venrick**, for helping develop a great plant list for the fieldtrip and sharing her historical perspective on conserving San Elijo Lagoon. Thanks to **Kay Stewart** and the Fieldtrips Committee for organizing and supporting this fieldtrip, and much appreciation for all the participants, who made for great conversation and fun botanical exploration – looking forward to doing it again next year! For those who did not make it, you can tour it yourself anytime: [www.sanelijo.org/solana\\_vista](http://www.sanelijo.org/solana_vista). Please join us next year!

~ David Varner

## Did you know . . . ?

...e-newsletters are available for the asking. Be a good steward of the environment's valuable resources (both paper and dollar). You will get your newsletter early with beautiful color photos. Email your request to [newsletter@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org)

...the Chapter has copies of Greg Rubin's new book, The California Native Landscape, available to purchase for \$38. We can mail it to you for \$5 more (total \$43). Email Cindy at [booksales@cnpsd.org](mailto:booksales@cnpsd.org) to reserve your copy.

...the Fall Plant Sale will be Saturday, October 12, 2013!

# REQUEST FOR INFO

On the May 11 plant walk at Batiquitos Lagoon, led by **Michael Murphy** and **Adrienne Heinzelman**, we spotted this granddaddy fish hook cactus (*Mammillaria dioica*) on the bluff above the trail. Unfortunately it was not in flower, but it must have over 30 heads on it.



Fish hook cactus (*Mammillaria dioica*).  
Photo by Don Rideout.

Are others aware of such large specimens? There is another question I would like to pose to CNPS members in relation to my photo of *M. dioica*. Some cactus fanciers describe Mammillarias as short-lived, at least in cultivation. However, for such a large clump to form would seem to require many decades. It seems to me that Mammillarias in the wild must be quite long-lived. Does anyone have an estimate of the age of a clump such as this one? Please respond to [don@rideouts.net](mailto:don@rideouts.net). Thanks.

~ Don Rideout

## NEW MEMBERS

**Welcome** to our new San Diego Chapter members who joined during February, March and April 2013!

**Joyce Gamez**  
**Marie Meek**  
**Carolyn Mills**

**Shirley Moors**  
**Dinna & Chad Morris**  
**Kirstin Skadberg**

### TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



**June 2; 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.

# CONSERVATION

## Vegetation Conservation?

State CNPS polled our chapter board about a list of issues and how important we thought those issues were. One of the needs was "Develop and promote legislation for protecting rare plant alliances." San Diego County already has policies to this end, yet I put this as a low priority for our chapter. It's a topic that I've continued to think about, because ultimately, there's no easy answer.

One counter-example I've talked a lot about was running into two city of San Diego employees out at Del Mar Mesa. They were tasked with mapping the "mule fat riparian scrub" in the area so that it could be used as a mitigation bank. Neither of them were botanists, neither of them really knew what mule fat looked like, and all they had to work from was Jim Lightner's flora. As a result, one of them was busily counting sticky monkeyflowers on a south facing slope well above the creek, in preparation for calling that mule fat riparian scrub. If you look at Lightner's book, you will see that, in winter, both plants actually have similar-shaped leaves, strange as this sounds.

That's the ugly end of vegetation conservation, where it's done by people with little or no training, no support, and no oversight. Such ignorance seems to be widespread. For example, agencies from the Cal Fire to the Forest Service seem to be unaware that there is a National Vegetation Classification Standard (<http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/vegetation>), that CNPS' *Manual of California Vegetation Second Edition* complies with this standard, and that older systems such as the WHR or Holland (1986) do not.

But there are problems on the scientific end as well. One is known in ecological circles as the Gleason vs. Clements debate. Clements popularized the idea of plant communities as entities, that grew, matured, died, and reproduced as if they were super-organisms. This is where the word "climax community" comes from, and where the idea of "succession" comes from. This idea of a community as some greater whole pops up all the time. To pick one example I'm quite familiar with, many people, when they encounter mycorrhizae for the first time, think that they're the secret infrastructure that wires a plant community together into a superorganism.

Gleason, conversely, thought that vegetation was a continuum. Each plant grew where it could in the environment, and the patterns we saw were due to environmental factors influencing which plants dominated in each vegetation type. He was shouted down by the Clementsians to the point where he changed fields and went into plant taxonomy, but the interesting point is that most of the rigorous studies (starting notably with *The Vegetation of Wisconsin*) demonstrated that he was right. Certainly, interactions between species matter, but

there's little evidence of sharp, multi-species community boundaries without corresponding environmental boundaries. Sure, plant species change when you step from a hillside into a marsh, but it's extremely rare to see a bunch of species stop at one line on a slope. Usually such a boundary is a sign of past disturbance, or the presence of an old fence that stopped grazers. More often, a plant species trickle across the boundaries, and the patterns on the hills are composed of a few dominant species. Mycorrhizae, rather than being the circulatory system of a superorganism, are a bunch of subterranean subcontractors that pipe nutrients to the plant roots around them in return for carbohydrates. There's little evidence that their communities are any more circumscribed than are those of the plants above.

Note the terminology: Clementsians favor plant communities, Gleasonians (or those who don't want to pick a side) favor vegetation. While the words signify different sides in the old debate, they are synonyms. Certain agency folk favor "vegetation community," an ugly neologism that makes no sense (a community of vegetations?), and they persist even after we tell them that vegetation is a neutral term. I'll be happier when I see that term discarded, but I digress.

Ultimately, if we start saving rare vegetation types, this is what we're saving: repeating patterns of dominant species. Does this make sense?

The answer depends on what your goal is. If your goal is to save all plant species, sensitive or not, the answer is pretty clearly no. Gleason talked about gradients in the environment. Each species has a range of conditions it can tolerate and a few conditions it prefers. Therefore, if you want to maximize the number of species in a particular location, you maximize the number of local gradients.

I did my PhD in one such high gradient system. Midwestern oak savannas have intense gradients of sun to shade because they are composed of a loose canopy of oaks with clearings between them. The clearings contain prairie plants, the oak canopies shelter woodland plants, and the dappled shade and partial sun in between harbor plants that show up nowhere else. Such savannas are notoriously unmappable. They don't consist of repeating patterns of homogeneous vegetation, and they don't have dominant species, either. Yet they contain more species than do either prairie or oak forest. Gleason was right.

A similar situation exists on Del Mar Mesa. The vegetation there is huge maritime chaparral (the Tunnels) and a mesa top of chamise chaparral on mima mounds with vernal pools in the hollows between them. Where are most of the plant species? Around the chamise. The dappled shade and mound topography provides a complex of light and moisture gradients. As a result, there are a lot more species among the chamise. However, according to San Diego policy, chamise chaparral is much less desirable than maritime chaparral. If it weren't for the vernal pools, the City would have no reason to conserve the chamise at all.

This is one key point: saving rare vegetation types won't

necessarily save anything other than the dominant species for which those types are named. There's no reason to think that rare vegetation types contain any more species than do common types. I certainly agree that rare vegetation is worth saving, but this won't automatically save the 90 percent of plant species which are not dominant and don't show up exclusively in those rare types.

There's a second problem here, the conflict between gradient and polygon. Remember, Gleasonian vegetation ecology is all about gradients, and highly diverse vegetation has a lot of gradients (sun to shade, moist to dry, etc). That's not something you can capture in a polygon. Polygons are supposed to be homogeneous areas that you draw a line around, and it's very difficult to use GIS to capture gradients. This is one reason why savannas are so hard to map. Certainly, you can map an area as having a lot of gradients, but where do you draw the edges?

Still, GIS techs get told to map vegetation polygons, and land managers may get told to keep certain types of vegetation on the landscape within certain polygons. If they do this, after a while, the vegetation within each polygon may become uniform. In the absence of disturbance, gaps go away and gradients even out. There's room for fewer species, and the landscape loses diversity. The manager may get blamed for it, but the problem is as much ideological as biological. You get what you manage for, and if you mandate that the world is composed of homogeneous polygons, after a while, that's what you'll have.

So, do we propose to save rare vegetation types or not? Right now, I'm skeptical. While there are trained botanists out there going begging for jobs, there's little interest in the regulatory community in hiring them or even in bringing their knowledge into the management process. If a municipality gets tasked with mitigating for the take of a rare plant community, they're more likely to send out whoever's standing around to flounder in the field than they are to employ a botanist with real training in plant ecology. Given these issues, I'm not sure how much good mandating conservation of rare vegetation types is going to do. If I wanted to start towards that goal, I'd first pass a law mandating that all agencies have to use vegetation classifications that comply with national standards, and work forward from there. Most of them haven't even gotten that far.

Vegetation science isn't rocket science, but it does take training, and part of that training is learning the long history of the Gleason/Clement dispute. If nothing else, remember that diversity loves gradients, and vegetation maps simplify gradients when they don't miss them entirely. Never mistake the map for reality.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Chair

# DESERT ON THE COASTAL SIDE OF THE MOUNTAINS

San Diego County doesn't just have plants growing from more northern locations, it has plants from the drier landscapes south in Mexico, and plants that normally grow in the desert east of the Peninsular Ranges have been found on the coastal side of the mountains. A few really interesting plants that fall into these types of distributions include *Rosa minutifolia* (small-leaved rose), *Hazardia orcuttii* (Orcutt's hazardia), *Viguiera purisimae* (La Purisima sunflower) and *Justicia californica* (chuparosa).



Small-leaved rose  
(*Rosa minutifolia*).  
Photo from  
calphotos.berkeley.edu

Orcutt's hazardia  
(*Hazardia orcuttii*).  
CalPhotos - Photo by  
Keir Morse



The normal range of *Rosa minutifolia* is from Ensenada south to near San Fernando in Baja California, Mexico. In some areas, it is the dominant vegetation. The flowers are pretty and pink on top of a very scratchy, dark colored, stiff branched shrub with small compound leaves. However, it grew disjunctly<sup>1</sup> in one large clone on Otay Mesa in San Diego County. It was a patch or thicket of brambles several meters across at the top of a small canyon. It has since been removed, cut into pieces and used to create vegetative cover in the vernal pool restoration preserve that is located west of Brown Field on Otay Mesa. The word is that two more plants have been found on the lower slopes north of Otay Mountain.

*Hazardia orcuttii* is another Baja California plant that showed up in San Diego County in one small population though it consisted of more plants than the three roses. Many people are familiar with the saw-toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), a low growing shrub in the Sunflower family that has sharp edged crinkly

leaves and non-descript yellow flowers that appear in the fall. *Hazardia orcuttii* looks similar except that the leaves are smooth edged, not serrate, and somewhat resinous. I found it on the edge of a housing development when I was reviewing the environmental document for the project; it had not been included in the report. I recognized that it was something unusual and took it down to the Natural History Museum and showed it to Dr. Reid Moran. He knew immediately that it was *Hazardia orcuttii* but in those days it was called *Haplopappus orcuttii*. In fact, I had seen it before on one of Dr. Moran's field trips to the Sierra de San Pedro Mártir in the mid 1970's. We stopped at a turn off called La Joya along the toll road to Ensenada and it was growing there, about as far north as it had previously been known. Since the discovery in Encinitas, *Hazardia orcuttii* was also transplanted into preserve habitat though I believe a portion of the original population may still exist in its natural location. Dr. Moran suggested that I submit it as a note to Madroño (Oberbauer, 1981).

The occurrence of *Viguiera purisimae* in San Diego County is one of the natural wonders. It grows typically in the desert of Central Baja California, hundreds of miles to the south. In 1997, Scott McMillan and Mark Dodero discovered it growing in patches in a remote portion of northern Camp Pendleton. It has distinctive silver-gray leaves with yellow composite flowers. No one would have ever expected it to occur there since it is growing so far north of its typical range and the conditions are so different. Rainfall at Camp Pendleton is probably twice as much as in Central Baja California and occurs during a different season; Central Baja California gets occasional summer rain, but very little rain falls in the summer at Camp Pendleton.

The other disjunct plant species discussed here represents plants that normally grow in the desert but were found on coastal slopes. *Justicia californica* is well known in our deserts, with its bright red flowers that attract hummingbirds giving it the common name of chuparosa or colloquial Spanish for hummingbird. In the desert they are attractive shrubs with bright red tubular flowers. For years I had heard about some yellow-flowered *Justicia* growing in the area of the San Diego River where it comes out of El Capitan Dam in El Monte Valley. They were supposedly growing on the south-facing slope on the north side of the valley. As one of those things that you put off, I never took the opportunity to drive out there and look for them. However, this spring, Scott McMillan told me about coming across a number of *Justicia* shrubs in full flower. I did take the opportunity this time and went to see them. They are a dominant in the vegetation on the south-facing slope and I did find one or two that had yellow flowers, though there was still a tinge of orange in them. They also have been found on the south-facing slope on the road to San Diego Country Estates, southeast of Ramona. They bring the color of red into *Artemisia californica* dominated vegetation, something that is different than anywhere else, at least around here.

<sup>1</sup> A taxon with a **disjunct distribution** is one that has two or more groups that are related but widely separated from each other geographically. The causes are varied and might demonstrate either the expansion or contraction of a species' range.



Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) – red flowered shrub (above); yellow flowered shrub (below), both from Lakeside. Photos by Tom Oberbauer.



A couple of other species growing west of the mountains are normally associated with the desert. Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), commonly found in the desert, is also found in quite a few coastal canyons. With its green stick stems, small leaves and yellow composite inflorescences that lack ray flowers, sweetbush is found in a number of the cismontane river valleys. Cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), with slender needle-like leaves and scaly appearing inflorescences, that is so common in the desert has been found in Mission Valley in the past.

One thing that the study of fossil plants has shown, particularly the studies by Tom VanDevender on woodrat middens, is that individual species move independently of each other. The particular species that compose a plant community are together in only a snapshot in time and they may not always have been together in that manner. Sometime in the distant past, the *Justicia* sage scrub may have been much more widespread on the coastal side of the mountains. In a similar manner, the *Hazardia orcuttii*, the *Viguiera purisimae* and the *Rosa minutifolia* may have been dominants in the vegetation of coastal San Diego County sometime in the past. As more information has been collected from woodrat middens, shell middens, and lake bed deposits, the story of when it would have been drier in the past has become more complicated. It is sufficient at this point to say that sometime between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago, there was a warm and dry spell that allowed plants to move northward and around the mountains from the deserts to be prevalent on the

coast, and these plant populations that we can still find in San Diego County are remnants from that past dry time. While you can always find things from the north and the south wherever you study plants, San Diego County again has the most interesting combination of environments to harbor such interesting disjuncts. The other fact is that you never know what you are going to find growing wild in San Diego County. Keep your eyes peeled everyone.

~ **Thomas Oberbauer**

Oberbauer, Thomas A. 1981. Noteworthy Collections: *Hazardia orcuttii*. Madroño 28(1):38.

## MANY THANKS TO ROXANNE BITTMAN

In April 2013, **Roxanne Bittman** retired from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Well, mostly retired. I hear she still drops by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) offices regularly. We will also still likely see her name pop up on the Rare Plant Forum.

I first talked with Roxanne via phone circa 1985 while I worked in the herbarium at UC, Irvine. At the time she was working for The Nature Conservancy. Roxanne wanted to know if I would be willing to review the status of Orange County endemic, *Dudleya stolonifera*, Laguna Beach liveforever. No funding available of course. Roxanne's request inspired me to a life-long series of rare plant reviews, including those I am currently conducting.

I am sure some of you are asking, Roxanne who? In a sense, Roxanne was an honorary member of the San Diego Chapter and perhaps every chapter of CNPS in California. Roxanne played a leading part in plant conservation often unseen by the average CNPS member. Roxanne was the ever-present backbone to the botanical side of the CNDDB, both defending it from politics and doing her best to keep the mountain of rare plant information flowing into the CNDDB of high quality, often personally contacting the source for clarifications. You will find her thoughts and her common sense opinions laced throughout many discussions and decisions about rare plant ranking in California.

In 1986, Roxanne was hired by CDFG in the Natural Heritage Program's CNDDB. Throughout the following 27 years, Roxanne remained a constant at the CNDDB. She was always ready to talk about rare plants when we needed her. Without doubt, Roxanne played an important part in San Diego County rare plant conservation. Roxanne, I just wanted to say thanks on behalf of the chapter for nearly 30 years of Service on our behalf.

Kristi Lazar (former CNPS Rare Plant Botanist) has now been given many of the responsibilities Roxanne left behind.

~ **Fred Roberts**, Rare Plant Botanist

## Multiple Species Conservation Program Annual Public Workshop

The 2012 Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Annual Public Workshop will be **Tuesday, July 16, 2013, 9 a.m. to noon**. The workshop will be held at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom (near the Air and Space Museum) and will include presentations and an MSCP Community Fair, and will conclude with a Ranger led hike, for anyone who would like to go, through a native canyon close to Balboa Park. This format is slightly different than previous years in order to allow for the hike and MSCP Community Fair (poster session with 15-year celebration cake and refreshments). Presentations, which will start at 9 a.m., will be condensed to approximately 10 minutes for each agency and jurisdiction while allowing for questions and answers at the end of the presentations. The agencies and jurisdictions involved in the MSCP look forward to seeing you there!

**Everyone is invited!**

## FALL PLANT SALE

**Saturday, October 12**

**Mark your calendars!** The CNPS-SD fall plant sale will be on October 12 at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. **The plant sale committee is always looking for help. Some jobs can be done on your own time while others work in groups. Following is a list:**

- **Growing and watering plants at the City of San Diego's nursery near Balboa Park**
- **Publicizing and promoting our sale, contacting news outlets, etc.**
- **Coordinating food coordinator - set up food for the volunteers on plant sale day, solicit donations, etc.**
- **Packaging and labeling seeds**

If you'd like to get involved with one of the chapter's largest fundraisers, please join us. Plant Sale Committee Chairs are Carolyn Martus & Mary Kelly; contact them at [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org).

### Pre-ordering plants for this year's plant sale:

**CNPS members - preorder your plants and have them waiting for you on sale day! Details and information will be posted on the chapter's website at the very end of August and preorders are due by September 15, 2013.**

# GARDENING WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVES

## Gardening Committee

The Gardening Committee will be meeting on May 15th at the home of Will Johnson - by the time you read this, the meeting will be over - but we will meet again on **June 12** at 6:30 p.m. Email me at [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org) and I'll send you the location, once it has been determined.

We've got a full agenda as we gear up for several events: the Fall Native Gardening Seminar, supporting the Fall Plant Sale, the Sunset Cliffs Linear Park Project, and others.

But first, I'd like to share with you a letter from **Steve Miller**. He has been a CNPS member for several years and he wrote me this letter which states his views on why the Garden Tour is so important to helping us preserve our native plant heritage.

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Native Gardening Chair

## Why have a Garden Tour?

Letter dated 11 April, 2012. The latest controversy with the Board of Forestry's Vegetation Treatment Program EIR represents, in part, an example of the increasing disconnect between science and the public. Only a small portion of the population has enough of an understanding of ecology to recognize the egregious error such a policy represents, and the potentially devastating impact to both California habitat protection and fire prevention. While I was relieved news of this controversy was finally starting to appear in local media, I worry that the story does not connect with enough people within our region and our state, particularly those who reside in the coastal urban cores. I understand the challenge of trying to scale the stucco-lined towers of suburban solitude and don't pretend to know the best approach. The Trojan horse that penetrated my gates, however, came in a black one gallon pot.

I have a Ph.D in Biology and as such am well above the baseline of understanding of the general public, but at a research institution it is ironically very easy to disassociate the biology inside the cells under the microscope from the biology outside the concrete walls. Ironically, I was first introduced to the idea of using natives in the garden while listening to a radio program in the lab one day. From that moment on, I wanted to learn about these plants I could put in the garden that would not only save water but attract diverse wildlife. I found my first natives in a small section of one of my local nurseries, and I am fairly certain I killed most of them. My first failures led me down various avenues to learn more about growing natives and other sources of a wider

diversity of plants, including CNPS, which I joined only to be able to take part in plant pre-orders during the fall sales. While I began to increase my experience with native gardening and my exposure to a greater diversity of plants residing in nearby undeveloped lands, I still had an insular focus on my own yard.

That changed with the 2012 San Diego Native Garden Tour, which I decided was to be my first volunteering with CNPS. The tour meant to me an opportunity to not only expand my knowledge of the diversity of native plants found in San Diego and their natural and garden niches, but also impart what I have been learning to people who might not have thought about native plants--in their yard or otherwise--until then. It also sprouted my interest to participate in other CNPS activities, from the weekend plant hikes to volunteering at the Old Town Pre-European Native Garden. When I put that first plant in the ground, I soon began to care not only about whether that plant lived, but about how much mustard, pampas grass, tree tobacco, fountain grass, chrysanthemum, tamarisk, and countless other scourges on our landscape I can see as I drive into the lab in the morning. The more I see the same plants in my own back yard as exist in the canyons and hillsides, the more I care about the collective health and wellbeing of all of them.

The job of preservation of the California native flora is only made more difficult the less the general public is aware of its splendor. In the urban environment where most Californians reside, the majority of floral splendor of any kind is experienced in a neighborhood garden setting. Therefore, native gardening-related events with the potential to reach out to San Diegans across the county, like the Native Garden Tour, can only increase the reach of CNPS to a larger number of people who will learn to care about areas beyond their gardens, too.

~ **Steven Miller**

## Book Signing Party a Success!

What a lovely afternoon and evening it was – April 27th at the home of Sue Marchetti, longtime CNPS member and Master Gardener. Her back garden is native, and we set up a pretty party area for the book signing duo: Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren. Their book, *The California Native Landscape* (Timber Press), is that rare treat: written by our own local CNPS members and filled with great information.

Gardening with natives is close to all of our hearts - the benefits of gardening combined with the conservation ethos is a winner for all. And this book party celebrated that. Close to forty people came through the garden over the course of a beautiful fade from dusk to evening. People talked plants, bought the book and made new connections.

As a special treat, Sue showed off her secret garden - a native nookery on a nearby property that flowed down the

hill towards a fabulous Mission Bay vista. Everything from toyons to monkeyflowers were represented.

Some of our guests were CNPS chapter members, some were native gardening enthusiasts, and all were welcome. Over some nice wine, fresh lemonade and snacks, we exchanged ideas and exclaimed over the beauty of nature and our heritage in a cultivated space.



Thank you to all who attended and to the team who put this event together: **Sue Marchetti, Tara Hoffman, and Cindy Burrascano.**

~ **Susan Krzywicki**, Native Gardening Chair

# NATIVE GARDEN WORK PARTIES

**Old Town Pre-contact Native Plant Landscape Work Party, Saturday, June 8, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

The Native Plant Landscape is at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, opposite the train/trolley depot. Come by bus or trolley, or park for free in the CalTrans parking lot on Taylor across the street from the Landscape. Cross at Juan Street and walk toward the trolley station on Taylor until you are at the trail through the trees at the park entrance monument. 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 Stewart** at: [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org). See you there!

**Point Loma Native Plant Garden: June 2 and 16, 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.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

- *Rachel Carson*



# INVASIVE PLANTS

## Management Priorities for Invasive Non-native Plants: A Strategy for Regional Implementation, San Diego County, California

The Conservation Biology Institute (CBI), Dendra, Inc., and California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), working under a contract with SANDAG, have been working with land managers in developing the State's first strategic plan for management and monitoring of invasive plant species on a regional level. The strategic plan identifies priorities for near-term management and monitoring of 29 species in San Diego County on a regional basis. The document is intended to be a starting point for review and refinement, as land managers learn more about the distribution and impacts of invasive plants and how best to control them, recognizing that priorities and funding will change over time. A subsequent document will suggest an organizational framework for long-term implementation of the recommendations. AECOM mapped the locations of invasive plants in the County. The Management Priorities for Invasive Non-native Plants *A Strategy for Regional Implementation, San Diego County, California* can be viewed at: [http://www.sdmmp.com/Libraries/Strategic\\_Plans/CBI\\_Strategic\\_Plan9-10-12s.sflb.ashx](http://www.sdmmp.com/Libraries/Strategic_Plans/CBI_Strategic_Plan9-10-12s.sflb.ashx)



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### Southern California Botanists

**Sunday, October 20, 2013.** Save the Date! 39th Annual Southern California Botanists Symposium. "Origin and Relationships of the California Flora: Was Raven Ravin'?" Pomona College, Seaver Auditorium, Claremont CA. Co-sponsored by Pomona College. For more information, visit [www.socalbot.org](http://www.socalbot.org)

### San Elijo Lagoon

**June 8, Saturday:** Educational nature hike 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Meet at the Santa Carina trailhead (directions: [SanElijo.org/santa\\_carina](http://SanElijo.org/santa_carina)). More details at [www.SanElijo.org/walks](http://www.SanElijo.org/walks). Traverse coastal sagebrush with trained docent-naturalists.

**June 15, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – noon:** San Elijo Lagoon Platoon Community Restoration Event. Invasive plant removal. Location TBD. Register at [www.sanelijo.org/restoration-events-signup](http://www.sanelijo.org/restoration-events-signup)

Volunteer to maintain restoration sites while learning hands-on restoration techniques from Conservancy biologists. Afterward, you'll observe native species growing in the wild as we lead a nature hike along reserve trails.

**June 19, Wednesday, Summer Evening Walk,** 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Educational nature hike. Santa Carina trailhead (directions: [SanElijo.org/santa\\_carina](http://SanElijo.org/santa_carina)). Register at [SanElijo.org/eve-walks](http://SanElijo.org/eve-walks). Explore the reserve as day becomes dusk. Follow Conservancy docents amidst the fragrance of sage-scrub on a warm evening as they search for mule deer emerging from afternoon naps and night herons fishing for breakfast.

### Weekly events at San Elijo Lagoon:

**Lagoon Platoon Stewardship Training.** To join, email [joel@sanelijo.org](mailto:joel@sanelijo.org)

**Guided Nature Walks.** Every Saturday 9 – 11 a.m. San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center, 2710 Manchester Avenue, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. [www.SanElijo.org/walks](http://www.SanElijo.org/walks).

## Earth Discovery Institute

Camp Crestridge for children 8-12 years old. Hiking, plant identification, animal track identification, habitat restoration and arts & crafts. One session in June and one in July. For more information visit: <http://earthdiscovery.org/index.php/camp-crestridge>

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 June 2013

- 6/1: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.8
- 6/2: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p.2
- 6/5: **Board Meeting**, p. 2
- 6/8: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.8
- 6/12: Gardening Committee Meeting, p. 7
- 6/18: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1
- 6/16: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.8

### Planning Ahead

- Aug/Sept, date tbd: Plants of Lake Henshaw & Warner Springs vicinity
- 9/15: Last day for Plant Sale Pre-orders
- 10/12: Fall Plant Sale

## 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



June 2013 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

[www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

[info@cnpssd.org](mailto:info@cnpssd.org)

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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

### **CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE**

Dave Varner.....chaptercouncil@cnpssd.org  
(619) 316-0499

### **RARE PLANT BOTANIST**

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

### **APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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