

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

## NO CHAPTER MEETING IN AUGUST

**Tuesday, September 24; 7 p.m.**  
**Room 101, Casa del Prado**  
**Balboa Park**

(Please note: This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of September and the meeting is in Room 101)

### Native Plants for Gardening and Landscaping

Carolyn Martus will show pictures of some of the plants that will be available at our plant sale in October and discuss some of their uses in landscaping situations.

**6:00-7:00 p.m.** California Native Plant Mini-Trade Show in lieu of natives for novices. Come and meet some of the local native plant landscaping resources. Bring your questions, get some free advice, and get your shopping list ready for the fall sale.

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

**7:30 p.m.** – presentation.

## BOARD MEETING

The Board did not meet in July 2013.

**Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** 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 Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4. Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you wish to discuss an issue, please email [president@cnpsd.org](mailto:president@cnpsd.org) to get your issue on the agenda.

### 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 at the home of **Susan Lewitt** on August 14 at 6:30 PM. Her home is at 5002 Melrose Road, San Diego, CA.

We've had some stellar news this past month: **Arne Johanson** has been selected as one of three finalists in the Cox Conserves Heroes grant program. Thanks to **Tish Berge**, who submitted the nomination, we look forward to gaining some well-deserved community recognition for Arne and his restoration work.

Here is the way **Greg Rubin** describes Arne: "Arne Johanson is one of my conservation heroes. For years he has been doing incredibly important work with very little fanfare. Arne is so modest, in fact, that few know of the significant contributions he is making to the health of our local ecology in the Escondido/Rancho Bernardo/Poway areas. While so much emphasis (and money) is thrown at replanting, Arne realized that the eradication of weeds is essential to the success of any ecological restoration project.

In fact, he came to the conclusion that if the sites are maintained weed-free, the ecology will often start to

recover on its own. Along the way he has pioneered procedures that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of his methods. Arne has applied this successful and cost effective approach to many acres of habitat, preventing their conversion to weedy, fire-prone "cow pasture" and ensuring ecological viability for many years to come.

A number of his sites are now park-like in their beauty and diversity, harkening back to a time when our ecology was so clean that Indians could comfortably walk barefoot for hundreds of miles. It is backbreaking, thankless work. It is a strategy that favors long term success over the instant gratification of "feel good" planting. New plants often fail because our extremely delicate, fragile native ecology is overrun by aggressive, non-native invasive plants unchecked by bio-controls. Arne is both commander and infantryman on the front line of the weed wars. His tireless efforts to re-establish our sense of regional identity and his contributions to our quality of life are deserving of recognition."

And, in other news, we continue to work on the [Fall Symposium](#), Natives for Novices and the 2015 Garden Tour. The Symposium is September 28th and the website will soon be taking reservations.

Email me at [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org) if you would like to be involved.

~ Susan Krzywicki, Native Gardening Chair



**Arne Johanson**, CNPS-SD Invasive Plant Chair

Announcing: The California Native Plant Society Educational Grant application period has opened. Proposals are due on Sept 30. Please see details on our webpage: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/grants.php>. There is a new online application system.

Announcing the 2013 San Diego  
**Native Gardening Symposium**  
Saturday, September 28  
Girl Scouts Balboa Campus  
1231 Upas Street, Balboa Park  
*Learn to garden with native  
plants, even if you are new!*  
[LearnNativeGardening.org](http://LearnNativeGardening.org)

## 2013 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. Dates are:
  - Sunday, August 18, 9:00-12:00
  - Sunday, September 22, 9:00-12:00
  - Sunday, October 6, 9:00-12:00

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).



Woolly blue curls  
(*Trichostema lanatum*)

# California Fusion

It was with great excitement, yet more than a little trepidation, that I sat down for the first meeting with the San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) staff (I'm finally getting past the impulse to call it Quail). They had done me the great honor of inviting me to help design their exhibit for this year's San Diego County Fair (I'm finally getting past the impulse to call it the Del Mar Fair). SDBG management wanted to create a display that was both memorable and a visual statement, and they wanted to do it with California native plants. What an immense challenge and opportunity!

It was to be an all-volunteer effort. Fortunately, SDBG has a really deep bench. We were able to find help in all the required areas, not the least of which were the project managers, **Peter** and **Margaret Jones**, who ran this operation as tightly as any military exercise (except with lots of kindness, good humor, and direct participation). They were incredibly well organized, which I believe was evident in the quality of the final product and the smoothness with which it came to fruition.

The first order of business was to develop the concept. I wanted it to be something that would absolutely explode people's pre-conceptions about native landscaping. I thought nothing could be farther from the standard paradigm than an Asian inspired landscape completely comprised of native plants! There was precedent for this, of course. I had a few Asian-style native landscapes under my belt, and had just included a how-to on this very subject in my new book. I also knew there was no shortage of candidate species -- in fact, it was hard to pick and choose from all the available options. The challenge was being able to find native plants in the sizes necessary for a realistic display. Rarely are natives available in anything over 1- or 5-gallon containers, which is normally the preferred size for new landscape installations. This was one of the most difficult obstacles that would plague us right up to installation week.

What really sets Asian-inspired gardens apart and defines them is their setting. I had seen other attempts that had fallen flat. To make this a standout we really needed to include as many elements as we could fit into a 32 foot square space, while still properly proportioned. Important elements would include water, rock, a bridge, fence, and of course, a Tea House. Lanterns, lighting, and a path would also be required. Finally, the plants had to be appropriate. Asian landscapes are more about structure than gaudy bright colors (perfect for natives), with lots of evergreen foundation with textural contrast and significant structure. Fortunately, with all of our

manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), California coffeeberry (*Frangula* [*Rhamnus*] *californica*), barberry (*Berberis* spp.), etc., plant selection was straightforward. Availability was not.

We determined rather quickly that a water feature would be too costly and hard to maintain. This became an opportunity to create an additional feature - a Zen garden, designed to mimic the appearance of water. Boulders would be used within this space to create islands, about which the gravel "water" would be rippled (with a homemade rake) to create the suggestion of movement. This is a uniquely Asian practice that would define the theme even better than if we had created a real pond.



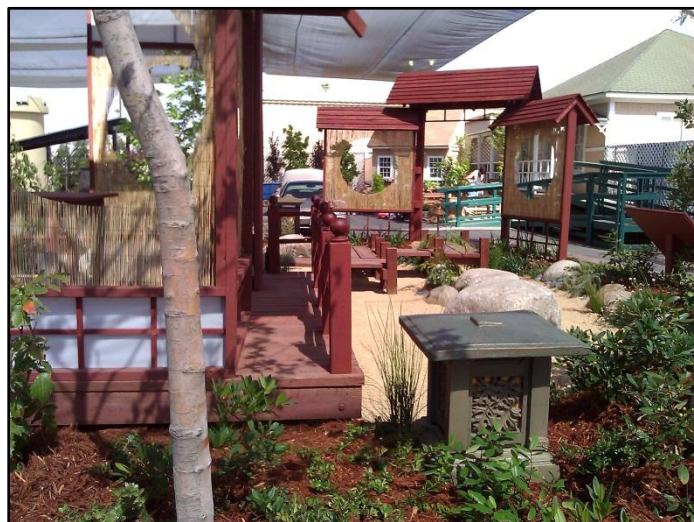
The Tea House with a bonsai lemonadeberry on the table and ceramic lantern in the foreground.

Photo by Margaret Jones.

Another challenge on this project was that we had to deal with a light pole right in the center of the display. Fortunately, I was able to use the pole as one of the corner posts of the Tea House. We also wanted to include an Asian-style fence, but we couldn't block the view. Therefore, all vertical elements included rush matting with large round holes as "windows" (a Chinese concept). Open lattices were also part of the panels. The fence and entrance gate were situated at one corner of the display, with an offset bridge leading from the gate to the corner of the Tea House deck. At this point I want to

acknowledge the extraordinary work of the volunteer carpenters from SDBG. They took two dimensional sketches and completely engineered this project into existence! They had to overcome many, many challenges, including a roof of many compound angles, delicate lattices, and rice paper panels that any child could have poked their fingers through and which completely melted when wet. They came up with the brilliant solution of using double sheet plastic for just the right opacity.

Peter and Margaret contacted **Laird Plumleigh** from Encinitas, who provided three of his priceless ceramic Asian-inspired lanterns for the display. Despite their obvious Eastern influence, they also incorporate local design elements, like black oak leaves (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Torrey pines (*Pinus torreyana*). They could not have been more appropriate for the theme of this exhibit. His foundry/studio in Encinitas is a magical place, centered around a Craftsman style home, beautiful gardens, and exquisite ceramic art that reflects the Art Nouveau and Asian influences.



Display photo by Greg Rubin.

I knew this project was under excellent management and its engineering and installation progressed as smoothly as any I've ever been involved with. The grading, mounding, and boulder work were just perfect (provided by KRC Rock along with the perfect Zen gravel). Where I lost a lot of sleep was in finding plants of suitable size and quantity. Many of the species had to be changed at the last minute to accommodate this reality (which also tells you of the depth of appropriate native species for this type of garden).

24" box redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) became 3 cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) and a sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), native juniper (*Juniperus communis*) groundcover became *Artemisia* 'Montara', brown-twig dogwoods (*Cornus glabrata*) turned into Catalina cherries

(*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*), and a bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) was transformed into a box elder (*Acer negundo*), a better substitute for Japanese maple as it turns out. In every instance, these substitutes turned out to be just as appropriate as the plants they were replacing. The grove of cottonwoods, for instance, stood like poplars with shimmering, delicate leaves, counterbalanced by the maple-like foliage and spherical seed balls of the sycamore.



Display photo by Greg Rubin.

'Golden Abundance' barberry was used as a colorful informal woodland hedge. 'Mound San Bruno' and 'Little Sur' coffeeberries created elegant massing. Big Trees Nursery in Poway loaned two huge 32" box manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos pringlei* ssp. *drupacea*), one of many mature specimens they have rescued from developments in Julian. Along with the *Artemisia* 'Montara', groundcovers included 'Carmel Sur' manzanita, beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), and "mossy" slopes of 'White Armada' armeria (*Armeria maritima*) cascading down to the Zen "pond". Many thanks to Tree of Life, Las Pilitas, and Moosa Creek Nurseries for their help and willingness to loan plants for the display. A special thanks to Moosa for providing most of the substitute large specimen trees and shrubs at the last minute.

Low voltage, highly efficient LED landscape lighting was used to accent the display in the evening hours. LED spot lights were set up in the Tea House to highlight one of our most amazing finishing touches, a bonsai lemonadeberry, loaned to us from one of the great local masters, **Phil Tacktil**. And finally, **Chris Garcia** handled all the very accurate and easy-to-read signage, as well as the magnificent large display sign, done in a stylized Asian watercolor format.

The hundreds of volunteer hours and months of preparation paid off on judging day, as the SDBG exhibit came away with the following awards:

- Mira Costa College Horticulture Dept Award
- San Diego Horticultural Society (SDHS) Nomenclature Accuracy Award
- SDHS Don and Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit
- Environmental Award
- Best Stonework
- Hardscape Feature Award 1st place
- Conceptual Landscape Plan Award 3rd place
- American Horticultural Society's Environmental Award
- Watersmart Landscape Award

~ **Greg Rubin**, Board Member

## Work Parties

### Snip and Clip at the Old Town Pre-contact Native Plant Landscape

**Saturday, August 10, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** We'll trim shrubs with other like-minded volunteer neatniks. August is still early enough in the year so the plants can form buds to burst into bloom when the rains arrive between October 2013 and June 2014.

The Native Plant Landscape illustrates some of the many useful plants that were part of the Native American daily life before the arrival of Europeans in the late 1700s. Weavers' rush (*Juncus textilis*), deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) and narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) continue to thrive under our care, so perhaps by next summer we can harvest some and learn how to craft objects with their slender stems and tubular blades.

The Old Town Native Landscape is at the far west end of Old Town State Historic Park, at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, opposite the Trolley/Train/Bus station. Come by trolley, bus or train, or if you drive, park for free in the shady lot at CalTrans across the street from the Native Landscape. Enter the CalTrans lot at Taylor and Juan Street, park, then recross and walk to the corner of Taylor and Congress and enter by the adobe sign. Bring gloves and hand tools if you have them and have sun protection and water on hand. Restrooms are nearby. Questions? Contact **Kay Stewart** at: [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org). See you there!

**Point Loma Native Plant Garden: August 3 and 18,**

**9:00 a.m. – noon.** Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month. For more info contact: [Richard@sandiegoriver.org](mailto:Richard@sandiegoriver.org).

## HABITAT RESTORATION

### San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Habitat Restoration Mini-Grant Report

The CNPS-SD awarded a Mini-Grant to the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (SELC) in 2012. The funds were used to support Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat (CRCH), SELC's community-based restoration program. The project aims to train and mobilize volunteers to perform habitat restoration in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve (SELER). The SELC, through its own resources as well as its network of supporting organizations, provided a match for contributions made by CNPS-SD.

Between July and December of 2012, SELC hosted a total of 31 community-based habitat restoration activities as part of the CRCH project. Over the grant term, project participants contributed 985 hours of service. Of the 346 community members who participated, 40% returned to participate in multiple events. A total of 43 cubic yards of invasive biomass were removed from the reserve; a large portion included annual weeds and *Acacia* shrubs. In place of these invasive species, CRCH participants installed 335 plants and pole cuttings in both coastal sage scrub and riparian scrub habitats.

The SELER contains a distinct diversity of habitats including six major vegetation types in its relatively small 1,000-acre area. CRCH implemented project activities in several of these habitats, including coastal strand, Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern coastal salt marsh, and southern riparian scrub. Volunteers conducted habitat restoration activities on a total 3.2 acres in the reserve.

The SELC would like to thank CNPS-SD for the generous Mini-Grant. The experience has taught a valuable lesson on how CNPS and SELC can work together to accomplish the mutual goal of conserving California's native plants. Project staff hope to continue to develop and enrich CNPS – SELC collaborations into the future. The SELC would like to extend an invitation to CNPS members to join the weekly Stewards Workshops. If you wish to participate in this ongoing project please contact [nick@sanelijo.org](mailto:nick@sanelijo.org).

~ **Nick Regoli**, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy



Lagoon Platoon volunteers pause during restoration activities as SELC Associate Biologist, Joel Kramer, points out differences between riparian and saltmarsh plants. Oct. 20, 2012.



Vertex Pharmaceuticals volunteer team joins the Lagoon Platoon to remove golden wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) alongside salt marsh in the Reserve, exposing a stand of native southwestern spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldiis*). Sept. 28, 2012.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

### A Year's Work

We reached the end of the rainy season and I am taking a hiatus from local restoration until the next rains. Here is a summary of what has been accomplished this year.

Artesian Creek (tributary of San Dieguito River that is part of County MSCP. Ownership is divided among different parties. I am guessing about 500 acres.) The entire area is now mostly native coastal sage and native riparian vegetation. Wildlife is abundant. Work continued on

spreading the native vegetation and shrinking the weed infested area. A west facing slope below the farm on Camino Santa Fe was largely turned to native - some 15 to 20 acres. In addition, weed control was extended into the old citrus orchard (3 acres). Some follow-up is being done downstream and on previously treated areas, no broom has been allowed to flower. Follow-up has been done on last year's stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) patch as well.

Bernardo Lakes (110 acre County MSCP open space). Effort here was concentrated on the previously treated areas. Native vegetation continues to take over as the weeds are reduced. The major focus of our effort was garland chrysanthemum (*Glebionis coronaria*). This weed was controlled everywhere outside the storm water recycling facility, which is inaccessible. Stinkwort has been spotted in a small patch.

Blue Sky Reserve (790 acres, California Fish & Wildlife & Poway MSCP). Blue Sky Reserve has largely recovered from the 2007 fire. Native vegetation has filled in throughout the reserve. The main weed problems that haven't been addressed yet include a few palms and pampas grass just below Ramona Dam. There are also a half dozen pampas grass and one palm in the spillway from Poway Lake. A few pampas grass (*Cortaderia* sp.) clumps have been treated in the main creek. Progress continues on the south facing slope by the trailhead. Stinkwort continues to be monitored, about 10 dozen have been found and none have been allowed to bloom. Since none have seeded in the past year these likely grew from the seedbank.

A major new weed infestation has been created by the cutting of a roadway through the creek by the Ramona Water District. The initial cut created a disturbed area that grew back with wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*) and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*). Also a new weed, poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), has been found in association with this disturbance. Presumably it was brought in with the grading equipment. No erosion control was done so silt from the cut then washed downstream filling pools and burying native vegetation. The weeds followed the silting until one quarter mile was affected prior to discovery. I spent the majority of my time trying to limit any further degradation by working from downstream up to the source, then from the edges near the source back into the creek toward the worst infestation. I estimate that it will take three more years to correct this problem.

Poway Lake (City of Poway begun 2012). Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) are the prime targets. Cut stump is used on the tamarisk. The cape ivy is being treated monthly with glyphosate. Half of the infestation has been eliminated. The other half is

# CONSERVATION

## Tradeoffs

mixed with poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and is coming along. Golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), wild artichoke/cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*) and fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) have been nibbled away at. These are in a lower priority area near the offices and archery range. While complete elimination is the ultimate aim, reducing the area of infestation a little at a time is the approach I am taking here.

Rattlesnake Canyon (810 acres begun in May 2012, City of Poway MSCP with various owners). Much of what was planned for this area was left undone. Instead, I responded to the creek issue at Blue Sky Reserve. Even so, one east facing slope (30-35 acres) was treated and a couple weed control passes were made from the trailhead (5 acres).

Lusardi Creek (County portion is 190 acres, other much larger portions are City of San Diego or private). Beth and I began artichoke control in the open space along San Dieguito Road. The open space consists of the County's Lusardi Open Space Park and grass lands of the City's Black Mountain Open Space Reserve. For some time we have looked at the daunting task of controlling the vast amounts of artichoke. The impetus was an opportunity to partner with a developer on a combined effort. We began at the west end, adjacent to Fairbanks Ranch, and began working east. This year we treated an area 0.35 miles by 0.2 miles or about 25 acres.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plant Chair

In July, I attended a summit meeting between CalFire, the Board of Forestry, and a coalition of environmental groups over CalFire's proposed Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP). Yes, that again. It was actually a productive meeting, in the sense that each side got to see that the others weren't two-headed, fire-eructating zealots. We were able to talk with each other, and perhaps there is a way forward that actually does something good for California. As I write this, I'm cautiously optimistic. The Board of Forestry is meeting August 8. The coalition will make a presentation on the VTP, and then we'll see what happens next. As an aside, "the VTP goes away and dies quietly" is not an option: CalFire is following a fairly sensible (for California) legislative mandate in doing this, so something will happen eventually.

But what to do?

This whole process is an example of tradeoffs. At the moment, CalFire wants to do all sorts of clearing under a vague set of "ecosystem health" goals. Bulldoze chaparral? It makes for a "healthier ecosystem." Yeah, that sort of thing.

How do you measure ecosystem health? The answer is you don't. The word is a bureaucratic nebulosity. Even if it was measurable, CalFire admitted that they don't have the people or the expertise to collect much in the way of environmental or ecological data.

Our group suggested that it would be better to focus on saving human lives and homes, even when it results in environmental damage. We want them to focus on the area within a few hundred feet of houses (aka defensible space), not the back country.

The science supports this. Back country clearances, with few if any exceptions, do nothing to stop the Santa Ana-driven fires that have resulted in the vast majority of home losses in southern California. The best defense against these monsters is for people to fireproof their buildings and the landscaping around them. This is something Greg Rubin talks about, and the data support him.

Getting back to the VTP, CalFire knows a lot about saving people and property. It makes sense to ask them to focus on what they're good at, even if it means sacrificing some native plants near homes. It's better than spending

### TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



**August 4; 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.

vast sums of tax money having people bulldoze the back country because it's "good for the environment," with no one any safer.

But there's another trade-off. Most fires start where there are homes of low density in wildlands. If we wanted to keep people perfectly safe, we'd depopulate the wildland urban interface and house everyone in concrete condos downtown. The number of fires would plummet, at least theoretically.

One activist (who really should know better) even suggested that this was a desirable solution. Sorry, I know it won't happen, and so do the firefighters. Worse, if people don't live out in nature, very few will ever learn to love it enough to protect it. Around here, living around nature means living with fire, and ultimately you and your neighbors are your own best defense. The house of your dreams is likely not fire safe, and you have to make tradeoffs if you want to live on the edge.

This is one of the downsides of being a conscientious conservationist. There are always trade-offs, just as there are always people who want to have it both ways and get everyone in trouble.

Power is another situation rife with tradeoffs. I agree that power plants cause problems, but I'm writing this on a computer. Of course I consume electricity. Since I'm in a townhome, I can't get solar, so I'm stuck with line power (who owns the roof over my head? It's not clear, and so no one will install panels on that roof). Should I use this computer to lobby against all new power plants in San Diego? That's what some people want me to do. I've been urged to work hard against every new power plant, every new solar installation, every new wind farm, and San Onofre. And unfortunately, I don't do hypocrisy very well. Some power plants, like the one proposed at the base of the Miramar runway, are truly bad ideas. Not a lot of people want planes crashing into power plants, especially when the resulting fireball will take out a freeway and a rail line. The fact that it would be built on a couple of vernal pools is just the rotten cherry on a stinking mountain of a sundae.

But what if they want to excavate a two-reservoir system, say, so that they can use solar and wind power to pump water uphill when there's surplus energy and let it run back through a generator when there's a need? That's harder to oppose. We simply don't have batteries big enough to carry the surplus from wind and solar. We need monster projects like this to store that surplus, or we need to be willing to live with brown-outs and put our refrigerators on battery power. Or we could use really dirty fossil fuel generators, those of us who can't put up solar panels. Unfortunately, all of these choices mean more environmental losses. It's a question of what is

least bad, not what's best.

That's my thought for August. Not pleasant and sunny but as we enter the season of flex alerts, droughts, and fires, we need to think about what's important, for us, our families, and the native plants around us. What tradeoffs are each of us willing to make?

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

## RARE PLANTS

### Changes in the California Rare Plant Ranking System

Many of our members who work with rare plants are familiar with the California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) 1A (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) and 1B (presumed extirpated [locally extinct] in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere). The system has been in place for decades and has worked fairly well but has only been applied to the top rank in the system. San Diego County has about 135 CRPR 1B species and no CRPR 1A species.

In July, the CNPS Rare Plant Program, California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), and Rare Plant Program Committee instituted a change in the California Rare Plant Ranking system that expanded the "A" and "B" ranking to CRPR 2 species. Now you will be seeing plants previously ranked as CRPR 2 now ranked as CRPR 2A and CRPR 2B. Under the newly adopted system, the definition for CRPR 2A is "plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere." The definition for CRPR 2B is "plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere." There are currently about 65 CRPR 2B species in San Diego County while no plants in the county fall under CRPR 2A. The change is largely for purposes of clarification in assisting with conservation of California species.

Regardless of the change, CRPR 2B plants, just like their CRPR 1B counterparts, continue to meet the definitions of Sections 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and it is mandatory that they be fully considered in the preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA. A more detailed discussion of the change and its rationale can be read at the CNPS website. Go to Rare and Endangered Plants at

<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/> and click on "Ranks 2a and 2B" on the left.

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist



# PROTECTING POLLINATORS OF NATIVE PLANTS

Native bees encompass over 10,000 different species in North America and are important pollinators not only for native plant species, but for agricultural crops and ornamental species. Read about native bees in urban gardens in a recent article at:

<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/repositoryfiles/ca6303p113-72518.pdf>.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation reports that about a month ago, the largest native bee kill ever recorded occurred in Wilsonville, Oregon. More than 50,000 bumble bees died when 55 linden trees were sprayed with the pesticide Safari to kill aphids in a Target store parking lot. This loss represents 300 wild bumble bee colonies. Massive bee kills are being reported from other areas, too. Incidents like these may be happening frequently.

The pesticide responsible for the Wilsonville bee kill belongs to a relatively new and controversial group of chemicals called neonicotinoids. **Neonicotinoids are highly toxic to bees.** Because neonicotinoids are long-lasting in plant tissues and can be found in flower nectar and pollen, and because they have been implicated in the global decline of honey bees, there have been growing concerns about their safety for pollinators

Neonicotinoid insecticides, with active ingredients like imidacloprid, dinotefuran, thiamethoxam, and clothianidin, can be purchased under various brand names and most have no warning about the potential hazard to bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Some of the brand names with neonicotinoids Merit, Actara, Platinum, Helix, Cruiser, Adage, Meridian, Centric, Flagship, Poncho, Titan, Clutch, Belay, Arena, Confidor, Admire, Pravado, Encore, Goucho, Premise, Assail, Intruder, Adjust, Calypso, and Safari.

Neonicotinoids are systemic chemicals, which are absorbed by the plant and dispersed through plant tissues, including pollen and nectar. Because they target nerve impulses in insects and other invertebrates, they are deemed "safe" since harm to humans and other mammals is minimal. The mode of action of neonicotinoid pesticides is modeled after the natural insecticide, nicotine. They act on the central nervous system of insects. Their action causes excitation of the nerves and eventual paralysis, which leads to death.

Neonicotinoids, especially imidacloprid (Merit®), are used extensively in our county. Greg Rubin suggests

trying other methods to control pests first and only use neonicotinoids as a last resort and for very specific reasons, rather than broadcast application.

To read more and learn about these insecticides visit: <http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/NeonicsInYourGarden.pdf>.

For more info from The Xerces Society visit: <http://www.xerces.org/2013/06/27/scientists-call-for-an-end-to-cosmetic-insecticide-use-after-the-largest-bumble-bee-poisoning-on-record>

**Please consider the bees when controlling pests in your garden.**



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@cnpsd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpsd.org).

## CNPS-SD Calendar for August 2013

- 8/3: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.5
- 8/4: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p.7
- 8/7: **Board Meeting**, p. 1
- 8/10: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.5
- 8/14: Gardening Committee Meeting, p. 1
- 8/18: Packaging and labeling seeds, p. 2
- 8/18: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.5

### Planning Ahead

- tbd: Plants of Lake Henshaw & Warner Springs vicinity field trip.
- 9/15: Last day for Plant Sale Pre-orders
- 9/22: Packaging and labeling seeds, p. 2
- 9/24: Chapter Meeting
- 9/28: Native Plant Gardening Symposium
- 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

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August 2013 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO**

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