



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

**Tuesday, January 21; 7 p.m.
Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park**

City Heights Vision: An Urban Community Connected to Science, Conservation, and the Natural World

City Heights is primed to become a national model of community-based revitalization that is uniquely grounded in education, environment, and recreation arising from a highly urbanized, densely populated, low-income, and nature-deficient community. While this area faces significant challenges, its assets are immeasurable. City Heights is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the nation and is host to rich cultural resources.

Two major projects will affect this vision: the “**Living Lab**” and the “**City Heights Canyon Loop Trail**.” The Living Lab will be located at the head of Manzanita Canyon and provide a focal point where people from the community engage in authentic science and conservation to understand how the world works and how they can make a difference. The Loop Trail will seamlessly integrate the urban and natural environments through a connected neighborhood and canyon trail system.

Carla Pisbe (Environmental Stewardship Coordinator) is responsible for developing and implementing initiative components, working with partners, and conducting evaluations. She holds a B.A. in Politics and Latin American Latino Studies. Carla began her involvement with Ocean Discovery Institute as a student in Ocean Leaders in 2004. She uses her knowledge and fluency in Spanish to build meaningful relationships with the community members and ensure relevance of program

content. Under her leadership, community ownership of City Heights Canyon has increased, with the majority of volunteers from the local community and the number of volunteers participating in more than one event increasing by 20% since 2004. With the Ocean Discovery Institute, Carla has led high school students in real-world research, studying the wetland ecosystems in Baja California.



Carla Pisbe

6:30 p.m. – Natives for Novices: “Strategies for Germinating Seeds” by Lee Gordon.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you wish to discuss an issue, please email president@cnpsd.org to get your issue on the agenda.

ELECTION RESULTS

In November the membership elected the following members to serve in five positions for 2014/15:

Connie di Girolamo
Frank Landis
Kay Stewart

Clayton Tschudy
David Varner

At the December Board Meeting, **Mike Evans** was appointed to finish the term left vacant by **Susan Krzywicki**.

2014 FIELD TRIP PREVIEW

Explore Nature's Gardens

Identifying plants, for me, is like doing crosswords is for other people. The big difference is, I get to work on my puzzles under the open sky with the birds singing and some friends are along to help figure out the answer.

San Diego is a huge county, with over 1,500 wonderful native plants growing in wildly different beautiful places. If you come on CNPS field trips this year, a bonus is that you'll enjoy time with CNPS members. Most of us feel joy and awe when we see the bounty of native vegetation, and the extraordinarily different species that thrive together and support all kinds of animals. Who knows, you might also get ideas for wonderful plant combos for your garden.

This year, thanks to your requests, we will start off each field trip with a fifteen minute mini-class for those who want a little coaching. We'll go over some aspect of plant identification that will help with the species we hope to see that day. I've found that Lightner's 3rd edition of Flora of San Diego is a fine starter's botanical guide, and the author included terminology and sketches to help us all. The more advanced botanists can ramble around the trailhead and locate some flora to lead us to, while the rest of us are getting up to speed.

Trips in the planning stages are:

- **February:** Endangered Habitats League's (EHL's) South Crest Property, with the opportunity to see as many as four State and Federally-listed or sensitive species (San Diego thornmint [*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*], variegated dudleya [*Dudleya variegata*], Parry's tetracoccus [*Tetracoccus dioicus*] and Dehesa beargrass [*Nolina interrata*]), plus chocolate lily [*Fritillaria biflora*], as well as a firsthand account of an ongoing grassland restoration research project.
- **March:** Otay Mountain, see many plants only found in this southerly part of the County, and rare cypress trees.
- **March:** Plum Canyon, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, an extraordinary transect through desert flora.
- **April:** Warm Springs Mountain, old montane mixed conifer forest on top; we may camp out.
- **April:** Calavera Preserve, Oceanside, a botanical treasure house worth revisiting (last seen 2012).

- **May:** North Side of Palomar Mountain, relict riparian species in canyon habitats.
- **May:** Check in on Cuyamaca Rancho State Park conditions in reforestation areas and undisturbed areas.
- **June:** McCain Valley, Cottonwood Campground, perhaps camp out. Desert/mountain transition, four species of oaks, desert species of currants), at least five species of rare plants. Do it before wind turbines are built here.

Do you have a special place you'd like to share with other CNPS members? Contact **Kay Stewart**, fieldtrips@cnpsd.org.

Tour de Plants

Hey, Bicyclists/Plant Lovers! One of our public hikes this spring is going to be no hike at all, but rather a bike tour. Some fine Saturday morning, we are going to ride a loop of perhaps 5 miles near a lake or some other interesting habitat, stopping at several places along the way to find the native plants (which someone will have previously scouted out), and ending up at a brewery. Or some equally relaxing venue! So the plants will be good. The biking will be good. The beverages will be good. Even the name will be good—The Tour de Plants! All we need now are **suggestions for the best location** for this new venture. It should be mostly flat because there will be some novice bicyclists among us. Members, wrack your brains and email suggestions to hospitality@cnpsd.org. Thanks!

~ **Betsy Cory**, Hospitality Chair



TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



January 6; 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Tecolote Nature Center on the first Sunday of the month. 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.

Volunteers Needed to Lead Public Outreach Hikes

Spring is right around the corner, and once again we will be sponsoring our public outreach plant hikes. If you would like to lead a hike or two, help in leading a hike or two, or just train to be a hike leader, contact **Paul Hormick** at 619-297-2957 or fieldtrips@cnpsd.org. All it takes is a little enthusiasm, and you can do it!

NATIVE GARDENING

Call for Articles on Members' Native Plant Gardens

The CNPS Horticulture Program has begun running a series of articles in the CNPS Bulletin on native plant gardens of CNPS members. The first one appeared in the Oct.–Dec. 2013 issue on page 7. Depending on the response, this series could become a regular feature in the state newsletter. The purpose of the series is to inspire others to create their own native plant gardens, or to add natives to an already existing garden.

If you have a native plant garden you feel is special and beautiful, and if you would like to share it with others in CNPS, **send us an inspiring article draft of 575–600 words.** We hope you'll include your experiences with the garden, as well as just describing what's there. Also include two high-quality photos (in jpg format, not close-ups) that show off your garden, and one-sentence captions for each. Send your submission to **Susan**

Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, at skrzywicki@cnps.org. If we feel your article can be published, we will work with you through the editing process until it's in a final form. We look forward to hearing from a number of CNPS members!

The San Diego Schoolyard Habitat Gardens Network

In recent years a movement has emerged throughout the United States to create schoolyard habitat gardens as outdoor learning environments (OLEs). As natural resources come under increasing threat and the need for environmental education reaches a crisis point, educators throughout the country have risen to meet the need by advocating for nature gardens at their schools. Native gardening at schools in San Diego County has been going on informally for decades, often spearheaded by interested teachers, Master Gardeners and CNPS volunteers, but the formal movement to integrate sustainable gardens into local schools as teaching spaces is relatively new in our area.

Three years ago local environmentalist and educator Dr. Anne Fege, working with a score of interested local professionals launched the San Diego Children & Nature Network (SDCaN) through the San Diego Audubon Society. This collaborative has worked to bring together educators, landscape architects, and ecologists to produce integrated plans and curricula for native, sustainable, OLE gardens. Drawing from the experience of the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University, Dr. Fege has used the *collective impact model* of network building to convene a vibrant team around this effort. Last year I was privileged to be brought into the team as a consulting biologist and habitat garden design lecturer, and this year I have helped SDCaN to launch an exciting new program, the San Diego Schoolyard Habitat Network.

The Schoolyard Habitat Network is simply a growing network of schools in our County that have, or wish to create, native gardens with the intention of using them as OLEs. All interested educators, parents, and community members are also welcome. The network began with a meeting this summer at the wonderful Walk In Beauty garden at Montgomery High School, a 15-year-old, 1-acre garden designed by instructors Theresa Acerro and Robert Boyd that today contains mature chaparral & riparian habitat areas. A second meeting of the network took place this past month at High Tech High in Liberty Station. The gardening constraints at this location are severe, but nonetheless, biology instructor Dr. Jay Vavra, with the help of community members and student scientists, has installed successful coastal sage scrub and wetland garden borders around the school.

I have been mentoring four honors students at High Tech High as they use these border gardens for two science projects, studying the productivity of native species for food production, and the habitat value of natives for butterflies. These bright students have been a pleasure to work with, and it's exciting to help develop sophisticated curricula for school gardens. While early nature education is vitally important for teaching basic concepts and instilling values for nature and conservation, the work being done at High Tech High demonstrates how native school gardens provide the opportunity for advanced project-based instruction that bridges the gap between the school laboratory and the natural world.

If you are interested in joining the Schoolyard Habitat Garden Network, please feel free to email tschudyecodesigns@gmail.com for more information. Our meetings are full of exciting local activists, educators, and students, and take place at campus gardens around the County. If you already manage a school habitat garden and I have not been in touch with you, please email me!

San Diego Children & Nature Collaborative:
<http://sdchildrenandnature.org/wp/>

Montgomery High School Native Garden:
<http://nativeplants-geo.org/>

Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University: <http://www.naturalearning.org/>

~ Clayton Tschudy, Gardening Committee Chair

Work Parties

Point Loma Native Plant Garden

January 4 & 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. Contact: Richard@sandiegoriver.org

Old Town Pre-contact Native Plant Landscape

Q: What has 150 fingernails and dirt under every one?
A: Fifteen Old Town Native Plant Landscape Volunteers who didn't wear gloves!

When: Saturday, January 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Where: Corner of Taylor and Congress Streets.

Park at CalTrans across the street and walk to the entry sign and under the trees. Bring gloves and weeding

tools, and a sun hat if it's sunny, rain coat if it is raining. The Pre-Contact Native Plant Landscape is thriving under our tender tending. I lost my wedding ring by weeding without gloves, so now I advise wearing gloves. Questions? email Kay at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

INVASIVE PLANTS

In December I walked an area of some thirty acres. Last summer, June 2013, a few of us treated thousands of artichoke here. How is it now? Maybe a hundred weeds are re-sprouting along with a similar number of new seedlings (very treatable in our next pass). More importantly, in certain cleared spaces California adolphia (*Adolphia californica*) has made an appearance. Elsewhere, little Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) have germinated. Not bad for a first effort in this area! We can now work this patch in a more detailed fashion while also pushing east into the next patch.

These small incremental successes are what we are all about. One year limits the problems. The next few years we foster recruitment of native species, until we get a completely natural area.

If you have an interest in restoring open spaces, come and participate or just come to visit our special places and sense the satisfaction that comes with bringing them back to life. Contact: invasiveplants@cnpssd.org or call 858-759-4769.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plants Chair

Save the Date

**CNPS San Diego and Orange County
Chapters' Spring Plant Sale and
Membership Day
Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano
Saturday, March 8, 2014,
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

We need help with booth set up and take down, staffing the membership table, and guiding people with their plant purchases. If you would like to be involved in the spring sale, please contact Kristen Olafson at:

springplantsale@cnpssd.org

CONSERVATION

Trailsquatting?

If you're not familiar with trailsquatting, don't worry, it's a word I just made up (although googling shows I'm not the first) to try to describe an all-too-frequent activity by mountain bikers, for example at Del Mar Mesa, East Elliott in Mission Trails, and the San Marcos Highlands Development site. The land is owned by someone else, but bikers go in and make trails. They then fight to have all their trails recognized as permanent, if the land is owned by a public agency, or mourn when their trails are bulldozed if the site is developed.

Effectively, this is akin to the idea of squatter's rights, "a method of gaining legal title to real property by the actual, open, hostile, and continuous possession of it to the exclusion of its true owner for the period prescribed by state law." Squatting on vacant property has always been a problem for the property owners, but now it seems like the mountain bikers are trying to make their trails permanent by using many of the same tactics, including bogus legal arguments, even threats of violence against others who try to exclude them.

I should point out that, while there is a legal process whereby squatters can deprive homeowners of their ownership to an otherwise vacant house, no law that I'm aware of allows squatters to occupy mitigation lands and develop them for their own use. This land is supposed to be set aside for nature in perpetuity, so building trails on it does not give the trailsquatters any ownership rights whatsoever.

Should bikers be kicked out of all conservation areas? In an ideal world with lots of vacant land for them to create trails on, absolutely. Unfortunately, we don't live in that ideal land, and the idea of preserves untouched by humans in the middle of cities is unworkable. Besides, trailsquatting, as real a problem as it is, is a symptom of a bigger issue.

The fundamental problem here in San Diego is that the municipalities didn't follow the sensible design promulgated by the United Nations Biosphere Reserves. These areas are supposed to follow a three layer design. Core areas are securely protected sites for conserving biological diversity. They are set aside for non-destructive research and other low-impact uses, such as education. Buffer Zones surround the cores and are supposedly compatible with sound ecological practices, including environmental education, recreation, and applied and basic research. Finally, Transition Zones

contain human inhabitants who work together to manage and sustainably develop the area's resources. These are transitions between the biosphere reserve and the outside world.

Too many of the reserve areas in San Diego have no buffers, let alone a transition zone. For example, on Del Mar Mesa, there are homes within a few hundred yards of the vernal pools, and bike paths connect the two. In this landscape of naked ecological cores, there's no buffer zone where people can carve their trails, no place for kids to be stupid out in nature without consequence, so they can learn and grow up to be responsible adults, no transition between suburbia and remnant ecosystems, and even less education about why preserves were set aside in the first place.

The solution isn't to drive the mountain biking community out, not that there's much political will to do that. However, land managers can certainly adopt landlord tactics when it comes to dealing with unauthorized development of any sort on preserve lands.

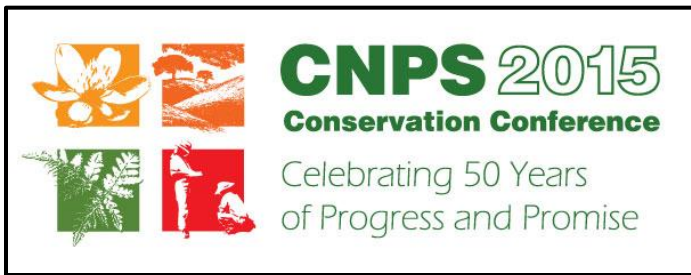
In the longer term, outdoorspeople of all stripes, bikers, hikers, and botanists alike, need to realize that, thanks to development, we've all been packed into tiny outdoor spaces in San Diego, naked core preserves in far too many cases. Many of these spaces were set aside as preserves for the last remnants of formerly widespread wild species. We have to learn to treat these places as community centers, not wilderness areas. They're not places where we can cut trails, pick plants, or camp with abandon. Instead, we're going to be constantly rubbing elbows with other people, and we're going to be disturbing the plants and animals that live there unless we're very careful.

It's going to take a lot of time and education to understand how to live in these cramped new parklands, but we have to live with what our leaders' pro-development ideology has wrought, perhaps encourage them to buy up buffer land if it's ever available. Still, there's no reason to support any groups' attempt to build structures and claim ownership of these areas. They were set aside for far more than peoples' selfish enjoyment.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair



Wart-stemmed ceanothus
(*Ceanothus verrucosus*)



- Arts Committees (Botanical Arts, Landscape Art, Photography, Poetry reading, and Music) – 2-3 people each
- Audio Visual coordinators – 2 people
- Silent and live auctions and Drawing - up to 5 people
- Media and Publicity – 2-4 people (1-2 should be local to San Jose or Bay Area)

If you have interest or just curiosity about any of the above, contact **Josie Crawford** at jcrawford@cnps.org or call (916) 447-2677, for complete job descriptions for each position.

CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference Offers Registration Rebates to Volunteers

Most of you received the “Save the Date” postcard in the mail recently and know that we are knee-deep in planning the Big Party, the 50th Anniversary year kick-off event: the CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference: 50 years of progress and promise! It will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton in San Jose, **January 13-17, 2015**. Workshops and field trips will be Tuesday and Wednesday (January 13 and 14) and the scientific conference will be Thursday through Saturday (January 15-17). We have lots of space for this conference with almost the entire hotel to ourselves – meeting rooms galore and sleeping accommodations all in one building. We even have our own disco bar with stage and sunken mosh pits. It’s plush and easy.

This event takes a village to put together! Several hundred volunteers contributed their knowledge and talents for the last two conferences and we will need lots of help this time, too. If you would like to get in on this high energy event we have lots of opportunities for participation. Help make this an event to remember by lending your talents, be they herding cats, planning a field trip, presenting your research, or expressing your love of native flora through the arts.

There are great registration rebates available for volunteers. If you jump in on a planning committee and put in 32 hours or more over the next year, you may ask for a full rebate. If you take a smaller commitment or volunteer during the conference you will be eligible for a partial rebate. All volunteers must be current CNPS members.

Right now assistance is needed for several key planning committees. These committees and tasks could be done by people from the San Diego Chapter:

- Outreach Committee – 2 people
- Volunteer Coordinator – 2 people



The Ceanothus in the County will be blooming soon. Here is the “pseudo-native” *Ceanothus* “Sierra Blue” in a garden setting, with non-native *Opuntia* sp. and native white sage (*Salvia apiana*) in front. Photo by Jürgen Schrenk.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park’s 2014 Botany Certification Course

January 6 – March 24, 2014 in Borrego Springs.

The 12-week course will be held on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the State Park’s Visitor Center at the west end of Palm Canyon Drive. The course will focus on desert plants and how they are influenced by climate, geology and geography, and how they interact with their pollinators. The required textbook is “California Desert Flowers” by Sia and Emil Morhardt.

Students will learn how to identify desert plants by participating in interactive classroom activities and extensive field work. The course instructor is Judy

Ramírez. She will be assisted by Botany Society members Kate Harper (plant adaptations) and Arie Korporaal (geology). Both Harper and Korporaal will lead field trips.

Environmental educator Pat Flanagan will lead a class session on pollination, and other Botany Society members will teach students about common Anza-Borrego Desert plant families.

There is no charge for the course, but participants are expected to volunteer a minimum of 60 hours per year for at least two years. Botany Society volunteers mount herbarium specimens, lead nature walks, assist in classroom and field instruction, and participate in plant surveys and collections, and also in non-native plant control. Enrollment in the course is limited.

Interested people should email Ramírez at Judy.Ramirez@parks.ca.gov or call 760-767-1261.

Eriogonum Society

(www.eriogonum.org)

This organization sounds interesting. Its objectives are:

- Enjoying and promoting the use of these plants in the garden.
- Enjoying and evaluating Eriogonums in the wild.
- Assembling, developing and sharing information on the propagation, cultivation, identification and distribution of the Eriogonum species.
- Providing a seed exchange to distribute Eriogonum species seed for use in gardens.
- Protecting rare and endangered species of Eriogonums.
- Advancing the overall understanding of Eriogonums from a scientific perspective.

In September 2013 the Eriogonum Society had their fourth annual conference and meeting in Farmington, New Mexico. The 2014 annual conference will be June 20-22 in Twin Falls, Idaho.



California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*). calphotos.berkeley.edu

San Diego Mycological Society

<http://www.sdmyco.org/>

January 24, 6:30 p.m., Casa del Prado Room 104 (Note: Not meeting the first Monday of the month as usual.) The presentation will be "Mycorrhizotopia: Fungi are the puppet masters of the world" by Britt Bunyard, PhD.

Learn about plants and their mushroom partners, the mycorrhizal fungi. Britt's presentation is for general audiences, and does not require prior scientific knowledge. The discussion will cover the latest understanding of how plants grow. In most, if not all, cases, plants enter into obligate partnerships with mushrooms and other fungi. Put another way, some fungi farm plants for a living. Find out why most of our treasured edible mushrooms are not able to be cultivated and how this knowledge will increase your chances of success in finding them in the forest!

Save the Date for the San Diego Mycological Society 16th Annual Mushroom Fair on February 16th, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. See website for more information.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, March 10 for the April newsletter, etc. Please send submittals to newsletter@cnpsd.org.



CNPS-SD Calendar for January 2014

- 1/6: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p.2
- 1/8: **Board Meeting**, p. 1
- 1/4: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.4
- 1/11: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.4
- 1/21: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1
- 1/18: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party, p.4

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
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January 2014 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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