

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Room 104, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park

6:30 p.m. – Natives for Novices.

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

7:30 p.m. – Presentation.

May 20, 2014

More info on p. 2

Natives for Novices: "Planting Natives in Containers" by Sue Marchetti.

Presentation: "What is a native plant? When did it arrive? How do we know?" by Dr. Norrie Robbins

June 17, 2014

More info on p. 2

Natives for Novices: "Animals in a Native Garden: Predators, Prey, Pests and Pets" by Steve Miller

Presentation "Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains"
by Bob Allen and Fred Roberts

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

Chapter Council Meeting and Baja Fieldtrip!

Mark your calendars and get your passport in order! CNPS is going to Baja California on Saturday, May 31! The Chapter Council is a meeting of Chapter Delegates from across California who hold quarterly council meetings to discuss current issues and make decisions guiding the direction of CNPS. San Diego and Baja California chapters are teaming up to host this Chapter Council, and all CNPS members are invited to participate. Enjoy fieldtrips to destinations on both sides of the border on Saturday morning, as well as a *Focus on Baja* program and social/mixer in Imperial Beach in the afternoon and evening. Members are also invited to attend Sunday's Chapter Council meeting, during which delegates conduct CNPS *business*. For more information, see p. 3.

BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 7 and June 4, 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.

Chapter Meeting Presentations

May 20, 2014

“What is a native plant? When did it arrive? How do we know?” by Dr. Norrie Robbins

Palynologists such as Dr. Norrie Robbins have a different view about native plants. Dr. Robbins studies the fossil spores and pollen grains of prehistoric plants in sedimentary rocks of different ages. These studies reveal that forests and plant species are ever-changing in response to climatic factors, diseases, tectonic changes, rising and falling sea levels, etc. Studies of more recent (historic) plant pollen and spores from cores drilled into soft sediments postulate on when “early people” may have arrived to our region, how they used and impacted native plant communities, and how these communities continued to change with the arrival of Europeans and other people. At this presentation, Dr. Robbins will examine questions exploring the relationship between native plants and “early people” such as: Did people arrive to California in boats 40,000 years ago planting seeds and plants from their homelands along the seashore that were important to their subsistence? Did the well-studied people who arrived in California 13,000 years ago plant seeds from their homelands to ensure important medicinal plants would be available to them? These questions are likely to spur lively discussions on what constitutes true “native plants” in our region.

Dr. Eleanora (Norrie) Robbins is a geologist, now adjunct faculty at San Diego State University, retired from the U.S Geological Service. As a Mesozoic palynologist, Dr. Robbins studied the ever-changing plant communities in deep oil-exploration wells from the Atlantic Ocean. When she retired to San Diego, Dr. Robbins wanted to learn about the native vegetation and then became interested in the questions that will be discussed at this presentation.



Dr. **Norrie Robbins** with a native willow stem.

June 17, 2014

“Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains” by Bob Allen and Fred Roberts

Bob and Fred have been hunting Orange County wildflowers for 10 years, collecting a vast array of stunning images for the county's first comprehensive wildflower guide. The result: “Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains,” is 500 detail-packed pages loaded with more than 2,000 photos of some 700 species, extensive scientific descriptions and anatomical graphics.

In a bold new approach, this field guide presents wildflowers of cismontane southern California and some of the associated wildlife (guilds), making it much more than a traditional wildflower guide. It includes sections on geology, geography, flower parts, scientific names, plant communities, field safety, and places to go wildflower-watching, all accompanied by photographs and illustrations. In addition to common and not-so-common wildflower species, it presents rare plants not found in other field guides such as Munz's onion; Braunton's milkvetch; Encinitas baccharis; small-flowered morning-glory; heart-leaved pitcher-sage; chaparral beargrass; Allen's daisy; Hammitt's clay-cress; big-leaved crownbeard; and several unique button-celery, brodiaeas, mariposa lilies, spineflowers, tarplants, live-forevers, monkeyflowers, monardellas, navarretias, and phacelias. Guilds include milkweed, cactus, California sycamore, California buckwheat, California lilac, yucca, and cattail. Associated species include insects such as monarch butterfly, goldenbush borer beetle, snowberry clearwing moth, and native bees; and birds such as coastal California gnatcatcher, cactus wren, Anna's hummingbird, and phainopepla. The book (2013) is in paperback with durable cover; 10 x 7"; 500 pages; 2,300 color photos, 363 illustrations, 1 regional map, and 11 trail maps.

Fred Roberts (left) and **Bob Allen** at a book signing. Fred is a botanist, photographer, and artist specializing in plants of Orange County, oaks, rare plants, and lilies and their relatives. He is also the Chapter's Rare Plan Botanist. Bob Allen is an instructor, photographer, and entomologist / botanist who specializes in pollination.



CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING & ACTIVITIES

May 31 – June 1, 2014

Chapter Council Meeting and Baja Fieldtrip!

How can you get more involved to make this the best new CNPS event of the season, you ask? Let's deliver some hospitality to visiting Delegates!

- Provide food for the events: As co-hosts, San Diego will be providing food and refreshments for the Chapter Council meeting. We would love home-made contributions from members, and we are seeking meal catering and cocktail-hour sponsors. Our Hospitality Chair, Betsy Cory, is organizing this effort. Please contact her (hospitality@cnpsd.org) if you'd like to help!
- Host a Delegate in your home: Please consider inviting a visiting Chapter Delegate to your home to stay for the weekend. It makes for a more enriching experience for Delegates, increases the state-wide CNPS network, and maybe the invitation will be reciprocated! Contact David Varner (chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org) if you want to host!



Here are photos of some plants that may be seen on the Baja field trip. (left) Baja California buckeye / Parry's buckeye (*Aesculus parryi*), endemic to northern Baja California, with Shaww's agave (*Agave shawii*) in the foreground. Photo by **Anna Bennett**, CalPhotos. (below) Golden-spined cereus (*Bergerocactus emoryi*). Photos © Neal Kramer, CalPhotos.



To attend any of the following events, please:

REGISTER by Wednesday, May 21

at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/admin/cc/index.php>, the Chapter Council webpage. More details about each event are posted on this website.

Here is the schedule and details about how to participate:

Saturday, May 31

- **Baja Fieldtrip to El Salto:** 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; more details below.
- **Imperial Beach Fieldtrip:** tour the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) and nearby RECON Native Plant Nursery, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; more details below.
- **Focus on Baja program** at TRNERR, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.; more details below.
- **Social/Mixer + Dinner** at TRNERR, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 1

- Chapter Council business meeting at TRNERR, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Baja Fieldtrip: El Salto

Saturday, May 31. Please note there will be some fees involved with this trip (van rental, entrance fees, lunch). Meet at San Ysidro parking lot (32.546194, -117.030130) near the trolley stop and border crossing at 7:30 a.m. We will walk across the border (bring passports!) where rented vans will pick us up and drive us south to the fieldtrip site between Rosarito and Ensenada. El Salto, a little south of La Misión, is an important destination for hikers and rock climbers. This private ranch offers a trek through Oak Woodland, Chaparral, and a Riparian corridor with some amazing Maritime Succulent Scrub beauties. Some of the species we will encounter are coast live oak (*Quercus laevis*), Baja California buckeye, *Prunus illicifolia*, *Bergerocactus emoryi*, *Dudleya britonii*, *D. edulis*, and possibly the narrow endemic *D. formosa*. Although many species will be dormant, we will have spectacular views of the headwaters of La Misión Creek and a stunning vista of the dry waterfall. We will return to the border in time to get back to TRNERR by 3 p.m.

South San Diego Fieldtrip: TRNERR and RECON Native Plant Nursery

- **Saturday, May 31.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. at TRNERR (32.575028, -117.125662) for a guided tour of this important research reserve, followed by a tour of the nearby RECON Native Plant Nursery by Patrick Montgomery. Bring a lunch or there will be an opportunity to stop at an Imperial Beach restaurant between sites.

Focus on Baja Program

Saturday, May 31, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at TRNERR Training Room. The afternoon will feature young and important Mexican researchers on the topics of "The importance of fog in the Coastal Sage Scrub," "New delimitations for the California Floristic Province in Baja California," "Potential distribution of exotic species," "Flora and conservation of Coastal Dunes," and an a headlining talk by Dr. Jose Delgadillo (BCMEX Herbarium curator) on a "Comparative study of Coastal Sage Scrub with other Mediterranean regions in Europe and South Africa."

After the talks will end we will have a mixer, followed by dinner and ending with a social event, so we can meet the Mexican academics and fellow Baja Chapter members. Please join us!

A special thanks to Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve for hosting CNPS Chapter Council - it is an ideal location to welcome the Baja Chapter!

~ **David Varner**, SD Chapter Council Delegate
~ **Cesar García**, BC Chapter Council Delegate

EXPLORE NATURE'S GARDENS – FIELD TRIPS

Artesian Creek Watershed

Sunday, May 11, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Restoration of the Artesian Creek Watershed with Arne Johanson. Most of the Artesian Creek watershed, which feeds into the San Dieguito River downstream from Lake Hodges, was highly degraded before it burned in 2007. Arne Johanson, our leader for this field trip, has been restoring the open space vegetation in a large part of the undeveloped lands of the watershed, to reduce exotic invasives and promote the growth of native flora. Much of this beautiful place has been restored to healthy habitats (coastal sage, riparian and fresh water marsh)

since then. Various stages of succession growth can be seen throughout. Many special plants are growing now, including wart-stem lilac (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) in the northern part and California spineshrub (*Adolphia californica*) in many places. With more rain, herbaceous species could be blooming by May, too.

After he retired from the computer industry, Arne studied habitat restoration at the University of Maryland. With this expertise, he carried out projects with the USDA and NOAA in Maryland, before moving back to San Diego. He started his first local 110-acre project in 2004. Arne uses recruitment (Bradley Method) as his preferred methodology, due to its effectiveness. Using this approach Arne has found he is able to restore 75-100 acres per full-time-equivalent-person per year. This is amazingly cost-effective compared to other strategies that are used to attempt to restore appropriate native flora and suppress exotic species.

Our day will start with a short walk to look at a terribly disturbed landscape that illustrates just how bad this area can be without good management, and then we'll take a moderately steep but short hike to a viewpoint of the watershed and the creek, where Arne can explain the scope of the restoration project. Returning to our vehicles, we will drive to a gated road and consolidate our group into as few vehicles as possible. We'll be able to walk via short hikes into several actual project sites. High clearance is necessary and 4WD would be a bonus, but if need be we will park short of a difficult stretch of road, and walk more, if we lack 4WD's.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. near 9050 Maranatha Drive, San Diego, CA 92127, just north of Camino Del Sur, approximately four miles west of I-15. The address is for the Maranatha School. Park along the street, not in the school parking lot. We will have a short brush-up on botanical terminology before we start the first leg of our fieldtrip at the north end of Maranatha, next to the water treatment facility.

Wear good hiking boots and long sleeves and pants since we will be walking into some areas with California spineshrub and other spiny shrubs. Bring water and snacks, and binoculars will be useful to see distant sites. The group size will be limited to 25, so please RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpsd.org as soon as you can to guarantee a spot in this field trip.

Cold Stream and Stonewall Peak

Sunday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plants of Cold Stream and Stonewall Peak with Jim Roberts, leader. Stonewall Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is the headwaters of Cold Stream. CNPS member **Jim**

Roberts, a self-taught botanist who has contributed to many plant i.d. projects over the past ten years, will share his knowledge of Cold Stream's rich flora. Jim has photographed many of these plants in flower, including *Mentzelia montana*, *Hosackia oblongifolia*, *Delphinium hesperium*, and *Viola purpurea*. To see the collections, use the SDplantatlas database for atlas squares M20, M21, and N21. Jim found that **Larry Hendrickson**, a botanist at California State Parks, who has led chapter field trips many times, has collected many of those species for the herbarium.

We will do an out and back hike no more than 3 miles one-way, depending on our pace. We will be on a trail with rustic steps, and a gain/loss of 500 feet, but at botanizing pace that should be easy. We'll have lunch before turning around. At that point, if anyone in the group wants to can hike the rest of the 8-mile loop trail described in Jerry Schad's *Afoot and Afield in San Diego County* (all editions) as the "Stonewall Creek and Soapstone Grade Loop" while the rest of us retrace our path.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the paved parking on the east side of Hwy 79 at mile 7.3 in the heart of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park along the stream channel south of Paso Picacho Campground. Look for a sign that says West Mesa and a signboard at the trailhead. This area will accommodate at least 10 cars. If we need it, a smaller pull-off a short distance south will take a few cars.

If people want to ride-share from central San Diego, meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind Denny's on Friar's Rd., just east of Hwy 163, or at 8:00 a.m. at the Fuerte/Severin exit off I-8 at the Park-n-ride on the south side of I-8.

Wear footwear with ankle support, sun protection, bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, and gear appropriate for the weather. No RSVP required, the more the merrier.

Rain at your home at 7 a.m. will cancel the field trip.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project

Thursday, May 29, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Observe reforestation on Cuyamaca Peak with UC Riverside group on a field trip to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project. The trip will include a stop at Cuyamaca Peak to observe the extent of the 2003 Cedar Fire, a short hike into the last remaining stand of mature sugar pine in San Diego County, and visits to a variety of site preparation and planting polygons from the first seven years of the restoration project.

Visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27166 for information about the Reforestation Project. Participants should provide their own transportation, although we will carpool once on the site. Be prepared for moderate hiking and bring your lunch and water.

To register for this field trip go to this web page: <http://ucanr.edu/reforestationwebinar/>. You'll find the registration button below the list of three field trips on the right side of the web page. There is no charge for the field trip.

Below is page 1 of flyer. Go to link for page 2 with the detailed schedule for the day:

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/files/187138.pdf> .

For further information please contact Richard Harris at rrharris2464@sbcglobal.net or 707-685-5508.

We hope to learn how the many native plants in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park are being protected and conserved as an essential component of any reforestation effort, and as part of the companion project which intends to remove down lumber and understory shrubs under the remaining Sugar Pines in the conviction that it this will improve the chances of these trees' survival, since these trees are the only remaining sources of seed from this southerly population. Other CNPS-SD members may also have questions that could be discussed at this field trip, so I hope those of you who are interested will attend also.

If you register, and want to ride share from central San Diego County or from northern San Diego County, please send a note to fieldtrips@cnpsd.org and I'll help coordinate participants to share a ride together.

Rain at 7:00 a.m. wherever you live will cancel the trip.

McCain Valley & Cottonwood Campground

Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. through Sunday, June 8, 4:00 p.m., McCain Valley and Cottonwood Campground, Desert Transition Flora with Tim Cass. We will travel to the BLM McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area in southeast San Diego County where our leader, **Tim Cass**, has been a botanist for decades with a deep knowledge of this part of the county. He will lead us to examples of transition areas with oak woodland and dense chaparral at the higher elevations and high desert transition at lower elevations. On Saturday, we will take McCain Valley Road north of Old Hwy 80, which is a well-maintained dirt road, and explore several drainages as we drive northward. Our last stop of the day will be Cottonwood Campground with sites in an oak woodland where those who want to will camp overnight. Sunday morning we will explore

west of the campground to the toe of the mountains, and then go to the Desert Overlook to explore the desert transition in the afternoon, then return to San Diego.

Despite being close to the desert, McCain Valley is likely to have comfortable temperatures due to its high elevation. Cottonwood Campground is at the highest end of the valley, with oak woodland which help keep temperatures moderate. McCain Valley is being developed as an enormous wind farm, following the installation of a large looping arm of the Sunrise Powerlink, which has scarred the landscape and introduced invasive exotic species of plants. The natural resources are being altered as a result, so our chance to explore it while there are still intact populations of many fascinating plants is worth the long drive. A checklist from past field trips will be provided, noting rare species of herbaceous plants and species of oaks not seen farther west.

Directions: I-8 east to the Ribbonwood Rd exit (#65) south to Old highway 80. Go east on Old 80 to just past McCain Valley Rd on the right at mile 28.5 where we will assemble. From there we will travel north on McCain Valley Road, eventually reaching Cottonwood Campground.

If you want to ride share from central San Diego, meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of Denny's on Friar's Road east of HWY 163 or at 8:30 a.m. at the Fuerte/Severin exit off I-8 at the Park-n-ride on the south side of I-8.

For Saturday only, bring lunch and water. For both days, bring camping gear including cook stove, drinks and food. The campground has toilets. Overnight fees are reasonable. The stars will be spectacular. **Please RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpsd.org if you plan to camp, so we can reserve sites for all.**

Rain at 7:00 a.m. wherever you live will cancel the trip. Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org for information.

General Field Trip Information: Everyone is welcome. We use botanical terms, keys and photos to try to identify plant we don't know by sight. We'll start the trips with a short brush-up on terms that will help identify the plants we expect to find that day. **Rain at your home at 7:00 a.m. will cancel a trip.** Call Kay at 619-917-2668 if in doubt.



TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



May 4 and June 8; 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.

For Everyone – Spring Hikes in May

May 10, 10:00 a.m. Manchester Trails. Michael Murphy and Beth Mather lead. From I-5 exit Manchester and head east. Manchester becomes El Camino Real; stay on El Camino Real, turn right on Calle Ryan. Meet at the end of Calle Ryan. Encinitas (Thomas Guide 1167, G2). Call 858-663-1497 if you need more information.

May 24, 10:00 a.m. San Diego River Estuary. This walk is especially easy and will include rare and endangered species. Bring your binoculars, as there are lots of birds in the area. Paul Hormick leads. Go west on I-8 till it ends at Sunset Cliffs Blvd; continue on Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Turn right on West Point Loma Blvd and follow it down toward the beach. At Voltaire turn right into the beach parking area. We will meet at the grassy area just east of the parking lot. Ocean Beach (Thomas Guide 1267, J5). Call 619-297-2957 if you need more information.

No Public Hikes in June.

INVASIVE PLANTS

May and June are ideal for the control of artichoke. Last year we treated 30 acres. We plan on doing as much this year. If you have an interest in open spaces, come and visit our special places. Maybe you will want to get involved and sense the satisfaction that comes with bringing places back to life. Contact: invasiveplants@cnpsd.org or 858-759-4769 for more information.

Vegetation Surveys

Saturday, May 31, 8:00 a.m.

Otay Ranch Preserve-Salt Creek

CNPS members, please join the vegetation survey group at the Otay Ranch Preserve near Lower Otay Lake in Chula Vista. We will meet near Hunte Pkwy and Exploration Dr. The group will be conducting a rapid assessment/*relevé* survey in maritime succulent scrub, a rare plant community in southern California.

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 29. To RSVP or request more information, email **Anna Bennett** and **Kayo Valenti** at vegetation@cnpsd.org. The group will be limited to 6 people. The exact survey location will be provided upon RSVP.

Saturday, June 21, 8:00 a.m.

Otay Ranch Preserve-Little Cedar Cyn

CNPS members, please join the vegetation survey group at the Otay Ranch Preserve near Little Cedar Canyon in the San Ysidro Mountains. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. near Otay Lakes Rd and Minnewawa Truck Trail. The group will be conducting a rapid assessment/*relevé* survey in rare chaparral habitats that occur on metavolcanic soils.

Please RSVP by Thursday, June 19. To RSVP or request more information, email **Anna Bennett** and **Kayo Valenti** at vegetation@cnpsd.org. The group will be limited to 6 people. The exact survey location will be provided upon RSVP.

Books Available at the Chapter Meeting

James Lightner got in his shipment of "Parry's California Notebooks 1849-51" and "San Diego County Native Plants in the 1830s" and the books will be available at our next chapter meeting. "Parry's California Notebooks" is a wonderfully annotated book transcribing Parry's notebooks and letters from his 1849-1951 California travels with Lightner's notes on historical facts, plant identifications, and context. You'll enjoy reading this little gem. Laura Sullivan at the Iowa State University Library scanned the Parry notebooks for the project and the Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden provided access to Torrey's letters. Lightner reports,

"Parry's cursive was admirably legible", which is critical to being able to produce a book such as this. Towards the beginning of the book is a description of a trip out of San Diego eastward and I knew he was describing a southern route based on the plants encountered, not along the San Diego River as I originally suspected. As Lightner states in his preface, "Parry became the first American to paint a comprehensive picture of the natural environment of the San Diego region. Botanically the descriptions of his many hikes could serve well today".

"San Diego County Native Plants in the 1830s" is the document Lightner put together and presented at a lecture to the chapter last year. It includes information from Thomas Coulter (1832), Thomas Nuttall (1836), George Barclay and Richard Hinds collections (1839). It is a great booklet for both those who attended the meeting and those that missed it. Lightner provides some context to the time, a description of the collecting trips and some of the species documented as well as a list of the species collected (some specimens were lost), and a robust notes section with many references for this work.

I am also trying to get Kevin Connelly's *Gardener's Guide to California Wildflowers* for the next meeting. I thought the book was out of print but it is available through the Theodore Payne Foundation. Thank you, Kay, for continuing to mention the book so that I went looking again.

~ **Cindy Burrascano**, Board Member & Book Sales

CONSERVATION

Call to Action on Del Mar Mesa, starting May 12

Yes, I need your help, starting May 12. It turns out that there are four potential developments slated for the east end of Del Mar Mesa. One of them, for a road extension, relies on a site development permit first obtained in 2000. The more I look at it, the more problems I see, not just for native plants, not just for the Del Mar Mesa Preserve, but also for the people in Torrey Highlands.

If you have been reading this column for any length of time, you've read my rhapsodies about Del Mar Mesa. The Preserve is south and west of Camino Del Sur and Highway 56. It's the biggest stand of old-growth chaparral left on the coast south of the Elfin Forest near Morro Bay, and it contains the largest Nuttall's scrub

oaks (*Quercus dumosa*, a sensitive species that only grows within 8 miles of the coast) I've ever seen, with giants that grow up to 40 feet tall. This is chaparral you can walk under, on trails called "The Tunnels." On top of the Mesa there are vernal pools, which contain the endangered San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*) and San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*), in among some old and open chamise chaparral, which harbors a lot of other species. The combination of old chaparral and vernal pools is unique in California. Around the chamise are patches of cryptogamic soil crust that support some of the rarest lichens in California. Last year, the lichenologist Kerry Knudsen found *Catillaria glauconigrans*, which hadn't been seen in California since 1900, growing on a Nuttall's scrub oak in the east end of the Preserve. In fact, biologists concur that the eastern side of the Preserve is the richest area, and San Diego City Parks plans to protect it by closing trails in the area. Unfortunately, that end is where all the development is slated to go.

The problems start with the original development plan. Back in the 1990s, the plan was to connect Camino Del Sur up to Park Village Road through Del Mar Mesa. In 2000, the City Council passed a site development permit to build a two lane version the road. Carmel Mountain Road would also extend across the Mesa top to meet up with Camino Del Sur.

None of these roads have been built yet. To be fair, there is a safety reason for them. Both Park Village and the developments at the southern end of Carmel Mountain Road have only one way in and out. In a fire, the proposed roads would give people two ways out, so they would not get trapped. This idea was used to sell the roads.

When they came up with this plan, Highway 56 and Camino Del Sur didn't exist, nor did any of the development in Torrey Highlands where I now live. Del Mar Mesa Preserve didn't exist either. Park Village existed, but everything north of it was undeveloped.

Fast-forward to 2014. Camino Del Sur is a four lane road its entire length and it regularly gets jammed for blocks around Highway 56. There's a high school here, just as there is an elementary school down in Park Village where Camino Del Sur would end. They're talking about building Camino Del Sur as a two-lane road that can be expanded into a four lane road, but that's a recipe for traffic jams. A two-lane road to connect two neighborhoods to the freeway, with extra narrow sidewalks to minimize habitat loss? I don't think so. The new road would become the major feeder from Park Village and Carmel Mountain Road to Highway 56. In the last EIR on the road they actually designed a four-lane

highway built for 55 mph speeds. Since the road would be heavily used by children (especially where it ends at Park Village Elementary), they also decided they needed to install a bunch of traffic lights to slow cars down to minimize accidents. High speed with lots of stops. Does that make sense?

More importantly for CNPS, Deer Creek is now a perennial creek with water running a foot deep right now, probably due to urban runoff. I've never seen it run dry in the five years I've lived here. There are cattail stands along it, along with willows and other riparian plants.

They plan to fill in the Deer Creek channel on the northeastern edge of the Preserve and run a culvert under the road for the water. Where they want to fill in the canyon is most of an acre of cattail and willow wetlands, all watered by the creek. While they are supposed to consult with the Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) when they want to fill in a perennial stream, none of this was done that I can find, probably because the creek was only an intermittent stream when the plans were made.

The road fill also goes onto areas that were purchased as mitigation for other developments. Normally, if you destroy a mitigation site, you're supposed to mitigate twice that land somewhere else. There's no sign the City has plans to do so.

While the road goes through the edge of the City lands in the Preserve, it runs right along the edge of lands now owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS did not own that land when the road was approved, but received them as mitigation. This area contains some of the best cryptogamic soil crusts and a natural vernal pool. If the road goes in, all of this will be within 100 feet of the road, subject to increased vandalism and possible fire clearance.

Then there are the developments. The smallest parcel is a square, surrounded on three sides by the Preserve, owned by the Catholic Church. Originally, it was supposed to be a church, but they built their church elsewhere, and they're considering selling it for an office development called Santa Fe Summit IV.

The rest of the property was privately owned, but part was sold and now there are two potential developments: Rhodes Crossing and Merge 56. These are supposed to be mixed residential and commercial lots. Merge 56 will be along Deer Creek, while part of Rhodes Crossing will be up against the vernal pool preserve owned by CDFW, the land that contains the best vernal pools on the Mesa and the endangered San Diego mesa mint. Again, this will increase vandalism and possibly require fire

clearance of vernal pools.

The current owner told me that he wanted to put a wildlife underpass under Camino Del Sur on his property, so that animals could travel freely to Darkwood Canyon to the east. This is great, because Darkwood Canyon is part of a wildlife corridor that connects up to Black Mountain. Unfortunately, it's not clear whether the underpass design was approved, or whether there's money for it. Would it get built?

One more thing, and then I'll tell you what you can do. Is all this development necessary right now? Well, I live about three blocks from the Preserve. The mall across the street from me has five empty storefronts, some of which have sat vacant for years, and one restaurant has changed hands four times in the last two years. There are two commercial lots sitting vacant right next to the Preserve. When I looked on Zillow, we have a higher percentage of foreclosures and pre-foreclosures than does San Diego as a whole. I don't think Torrey Highlands particularly needs more development right now. We have surplus capacity. There's no need to rush development here.

So if you don't like the thought of creating a traffic-jammed, potentially unsafe road on the edge of the Preserve, and especially if you hate the idea of trashing the Preserve through careless development, here's what you can do to help.

I'm sending out a letter in early May to the City and the agencies. Once they've received that letter, after May 12, you can:

- Contact the mayor of San Diego's office and the City Council (the development is in Lorie Zapf's district 6, while the Preserve is in Sherri Lightner's district 1) and ask them to pull the site development permit for the southern extension of Camino Del Sur, which was originally called "Camino Ruiz North and South." If they want to build those roads, they should build them to meet the needs of the 21st century, not a 1990s vision from before Torrey Highlands even existed. They need to look at current conditions, create a supplemental master environmental document that considers all of the CURRENT cumulative environmental impacts of these proposed projects, and build them right if they build them at all. They need to make proper space for Deer Creek and its wetlands (bridge, not fill), they need a wildlife corridor to Darkwood Canyon (underpass or not) and they need to make the Preserve their highest priority. It is one of the jewels of San Diego City Parks, and their own people have been working to preserve it for years. Neither the Preserve nor Deer Creek existed when the City created with the original plan, and both

have become very important now that the Carmel Valley is largely built over.

- Consider contacting the San Diego Diocese. Ask them to consider whether their property on Del Mar Mesa might better be used for conservation, rather than an office set into the Preserve.
- Finally, please donate to the CNPS-SD legal fund. I'm afraid we'll need it this year.

Believe it or not, this is the short version. Email me at conservation@cnpssd.org if you want more information. Although Google doesn't have the Preserve boundary accurately mapped, you can see the area at: <http://www.google.com/maps/@32.94756,-117.1532349,15z>.

~ Frank Landis, Board Member & Conservation Chair

NATIVE GARDENING

Spring Plant Sale and Membership Event Report

We had a successful spring plant sale and membership event for the San Diego and Orange County CNPS chapters this year! San Diego Chapter members **Connie Beck, Lee Gordon, Will Johnson, Kristen Olafson, Marsha Rold,** and **Jim Wadman** partnered with more than 12 Orange County Chapter volunteers for the event, held at Tree of Life Nursery (TOLN) on Saturday, March 8.

Connie and Will did double duty as volunteers, giving presentations and guiding people with plant purchases. Connie spoke about attracting birds and butterflies to your garden, while Will discussed how to reduce your water bill and find beauty with native plants. There were two additional presentations: *Dudleyas* and grasses as accent plants by **Jeremy Sison**, and California's iconic "evergreens"—*Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus*—by Mike Evans (of TOLN). Each presentation was attended by at least 20 people, and volunteers noted that some people came specifically to attend the presentations.

A membership table was set up at the nursery entrance and staffed by volunteers who asked visitors if they were CNPS members and, if not, provided information about the benefits of membership. Both chapters offered bonus items for new and renewing members, and TOLN offered additional incentive items, such as a free plant to all members who made a purchase. Eight people joined or renewed their membership through the San Diego

Chapter, while Orange County signed up eight new members and five renewing members.

The weather was sunny and warm, and although the rain the Saturday before was much needed, volunteers were glad of the ideal weather for the event. Attendance was steady throughout the day, and volunteers were kept busy helping people choose plants as well as providing native plant gardening and landscaping advice. Connie commented that there were so many “nice people buying beautiful plants.” One visitor who was returning to Southern California after residing in Australia for several years prompted an interesting discussion about merging plants from the two Mediterranean environments. A few people needed reassurance that adding native plants to their garden did not mean they needed to get rid of all their other plants. Once again, education was a major component of the day.

This was the third year that the San Diego and Orange County chapters partnered for the event. As always, one of the highlights was meeting and working with our colleagues from Orange County. One of the Orange County volunteers had her toddler grandson, Henry, assisting with the day’s activities. Henry made it clear that he greatly admires California poppies. We hope to bring him into a CNPS leadership role soon!

~ Spring Plant Sale Committee

Fall Plant Sale

Mark your calendars, the fall plant sale will take place on Saturday October 18th, 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. It’s a great way to meet people who have an interest in native plants and get more involved with the chapter. Following is a list but there are more so just contact us if you want to get more involved:

- Packaging and labeling seeds
- Growing and watering plants at a nursery near central San Diego
- Publicizing and promoting our sale, contacting news outlets, etc.
- Food coordination: Setting up food for the volunteers on plant sale day, solicit donations, etc.

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.



Marsha Rold (right), a San Diego chapter volunteer, helps a buyer locate plants at Tree of Life Nursery.

Work Parties

Old Town Native Plant Landscape

Saturdays, May 10 and June 14, Old Town Native Plant Landscape Work Party 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please come help us tend the plants at the Native Plant Landscape. This mini-park incorporates many plants that were found in this region when the Spanish arrived in 1769, with a focus on those that were useful to Native American people.

We will weed and will prune some plants. We may relocate some rocks, if enough people can bring wheel barrows.

You can borrow our garden tools and gloves, or bring your own. Sun protection and bottled water will help.

The landscape is opposite the Old Town Trolley/Train depot, corner of Congress and Taylor Streets. If you drive, there is free parking in the shady Cal-Trans lot across Taylor Street from the landscape.

Questions? Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden

May 3 & 18, June 7 & 15, 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



RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

To receive your newsletter via email, please contact us at:

newsletter@cnpsd.org

Save the environment by not receiving a paper copy. AND your newsletter will be in **COLOR** and have embedded links!

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sage and Songbirds Festival

May 3, 2014; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Alpine Creek Town Center
1347 Tavern Road, Alpine

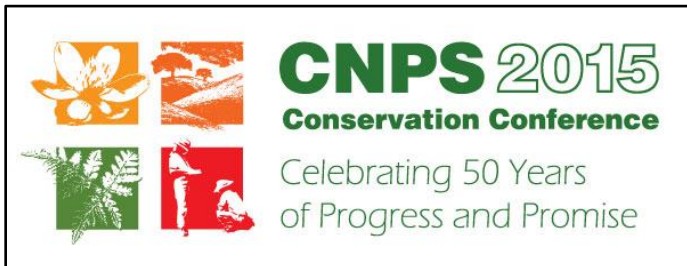
The 17th Annual Sage & Songbirds Festival will be held in a brand new venue--in the heart of Alpine--with all the popular attractions of years past! It will be a ONE-DAY Festival instead of two days, for the first time ever. The festival will include a butterfly release; live hawks, owls, hummingbirds, and lizards; educational exhibits; opportunity drawings; entertainment and more.

Jepson Botanical Workshops

June 19th - 22th: [The Flora of the Sierra San Pedro Mártir](#)
For more information, please visit:
[Jepson Herbarium: www.ucjeps.berkeley.edu](http://www.ucjeps.berkeley.edu)

MSCP Annual Report Workshop Tuesday, July 22, 9 a.m.

The MSCP Annual Report Workshop will be held at the County Hearing Room, County Operations Center. The agenda will include Agency and Jurisdictional MSCP updates from USFWS, CDFW, Cities of SD and Chula Vista, and the County of San Diego. More information will be included in the July newsletter.



Sibaropsis is a monotypic genus of flowering plants in the Brassicaceae (mustard family) containing a single species, Hammitt's clay-cress (*Sibaropsis hammittii*). Hammitt's clay-cress is endemic to southern California, where it is known from only two locations in the Peninsular Ranges: the Santa Ana Mountains of Riverside County and Viejas Mountain and nearby peaks in eastern San Diego County.



Hammitt's clay-cress grows in grassy habitat in openings in chaparral alongside purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), generally in moist areas in heavy clay soils. This species and its genus were first described to science in 1997. Photo is from SDNHM.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally 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 May/June 2014

- 5/3: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 5/7: **Board Meeting**, p. 1
- 5/4: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p. 5
- 5/3: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 5/10: Public Walk, Manchester Trails, p. 5
- 5/11: Field Trip to Artesian Creek, p. 4
- 5/18: Cold Stream/Stonewall Pk Fld Trip, p. 4
- 5/18: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 5/20: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 2
- 5/24: Public Walk, SD Flood Control Channel, p. 5
- 5/29: R. Cuyamaca Reforestation Fld Trip, p. 6
- 5/31: Vegetation Surveys, p. 5
- 5/31-6/1: **Chapter Council Meeting & Fld Trip**, p.3
- 6/1: Tecolote Canyon Walk, p. 5
- 6/4: **Board Meeting**, p.1
- 6/7-8: McCain Valley/Cottonwood Cmpgrnd, p. 6
- 6/7: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 6/15: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party
- 6/17: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 2
- 6/21: Vegetation Surveys, p. 5

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family or Library \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____ Mail check payable to

“CNPS” to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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May/June 2014 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

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GARDEN NATIVE (Native Garden Tour)

Hei-ock Kimdirector@gardennative.org

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