

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

**Tuesday, September 15
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park 7:00 p.m.**

“Plant Community” Garden Design by Clayton Tschudy

Clayton Tschudy will discuss garden design by natural plant community focusing on plants available at this year’s native plant sale. Design, installation, and maintenance protocols will be presented, followed by a lively discussion focused on specific plants including species from the following genera: *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita), *Ceanothus* (California lilac), *Fremontodendron* (flannelbush), *Trichostema* (woolly bluecurls), *Salvia* (sage), *Eriogonum* (buckwheat), *Diplacus* (=Mimulus; monkeyflower), *Carex* (sedge), *Solidago* (goldenrod), *Epilobium* (=Zauschneria; California fuchsia), *Platanus* (sycamore), *Quercus* (oak), and many more. Bring your questions! This is your chance to plan ahead and make the right choices for your native landscape.

Clayton is a board member of CNPS San Diego and the Director of Horticulture and Exhibits at the Water Conservation Garden, a 6-acre demonstration xeriscape garden on the campus of Cuyamaca College. The Water Conservation Garden was created during the last drought in the late 1990’s, and features a 15-year old Coast Live Oak woodland, and a new Native Habitat Exhibit featuring plant community-based design elements, and a wetland section fed entirely by rain water. Clayton has been designing native landscapes throughout California for over 10 years and studied botany at Humboldt State University.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Native Plant Landscaping Symposium September 19, 2015

Join us for a day of learning at the beach! CNPS and Scripps Institution of Oceanography are teaming up to host some of California’s most knowledgeable native landscaping experts. You’ll learn to:

- * Choose the best native plants and designs for your yard
- * “Ditch Your Lawn”
- * Attract pollinators
- * Enrich your soil for a thriving edible garden
- * Use your natives’ edible and medicinal properties
- * Combine native landscaping with permaculture
- * And more!

In addition to cutting your water use by 50% or more, natives can help you reduce or eliminate pesticide use, fertilizers and amendments, pruning, *and even weeding*. So why wait? Come discover the secrets of California’s original drought-tolerant plants!

Where: Sumner Auditorium, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8625 Kennel Way, San Diego, CA 92037

When: Saturday, September 19, at 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$35. *Seating is limited so advance purchase is recommended.*

Website for tickets and more information:
www.gardennative.org/symposium .

FIELD TRIP

Indian Flats and vicinity of Lake Henshaw

Sunday, October 4. 8:30 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m.

Trip Leader: Fred Roberts

The area around Indian Flats Campground is not frequently visited by botanists, especially in the fall. However, the region offers many interesting fall-

blooming plants. This is the easiest place to find the beautiful, state-listed endangered Mojave tarplant (*Deinandra mohavensis*). The other specialty, primarily found along sandy roadsides east of Lake Henshaw is Warner Springs lessingia (*Lessingia glandulosa* var. *tomentosa*), locally endemic California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 plant. It is known only from the Valle de San Jose surrounding Lake Henshaw. We will see both of these plants and possibly a good deal more following July's summer rainfall in the area. The road to Indian Flats is a narrow, winding paved road, which should present a number of opportunities to stop and botanize on the way to the campground. On the way home, we should have an opportunity to see San Bernardino aster (*Symphotrichum defoliatum*).

Bring lunch, water, and sun protection. Vehicles should have an Adventure pass. Several roadside stops will be made, which may involve short walks. At Indian Flats Campground, there will be a short hike of about a half mile (we may have to walk into the campground depending on its current use).

The group will meet at the SR 76 park and ride at the northwest corner of the SR 76/I-15 interchange at 8:30 (Thomas Guide map 1048 H2). It is about 45 minutes to an hour to the Lake Henshaw area.

If you want to ride-share from coastal central San Diego to the I-15/SR-76 junction, meet at 7:45 at the parking lot behind Denny's on Friar's Road just east of SR 163.

Questions? Email fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

~ Kay Stewart, Field Trip Chair



Warner Springs lessingia (*Lessingia glandulifera* var. *tomentosa*). Photo from Calflora.net .

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 – 9:00 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@cnpssd.org to get your issue on the agenda.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bruce Cobbledick

Cindy Daverin

Joe DeWolf

Paul Gaughen

Catherine Heany

and Art Heany

Rita-Maria Kafalas-May

Mollie Martinek

Maureen Ostrye

Suzanne Slupsky

Nicholas Soroka

and Pamela Stricker

Nikki Valentine

Terrain Landscape



Mojave tarplant (*Deinandra mohavensis*). Photo from Calflora.net .



San Bernardino aster (*Symphotrichum defoliatum*). Photo from Calflora.net .

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



September 6; 8 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. 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.

NATIVE GARDENING

Native Gardening Committee

September 9. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact **Mike Gonzales** at gardening@cnpsd.org for info.

Old Town

Native Plant Landscape

Leave your Mark at the Old Town Native Plant Landscape!

Saturday, September 12: Work Party - 1 to 3 p.m.

Once again, the cadre of weeders known as Partners in Grime will be grubbing out whatever weeds try to grow in the Native Plant Landscape. You can leave your mark by helping out. We hope to have a very clean site after the September work party. What could be better when we'll be planting healthy new native plants from the chapter's Fall Plant Sale in October?

The Landscape is seen by tens of thousands of visitors to Old Town State Historic Park. It is located at the corner of Taylor and Congress streets across from the train/trolley/bus depot. Free parking in the big shady parking lot across the street at the Caltrans building (otherwise known as the Temple of the Automobile).

Questions? Contact **Kay** at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org

Sunset Cliffs Garden Update

Climate change has been good to us the first half of the summer. The monsoon rains in July renewed the plants and made the **Garden Stewards'** job that much easier. The sea dahlias (*Coreopsis maritima*) seemed to bloom forever, followed briefly by California daisy (*Encelia californica*). We're hoping the goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) will be next.

In anticipation of an El Nino winter, we'll start our fall planting with a "jack-hammer free" event on **Sunday September 27, 11 a.m.** to around **3 p.m.** **Lee Gordon** has propagated bushrue (*Cneoridium dumosum*) for us and they're really big and anxious to get in the ground. Through September, the Garden Stewards will be watering to soften up the ground in the planting areas. On Sunday, we will roto-till, mix in topsoil, plant, and mulch. If enough volunteers show up, we will also re-dig a bed where all the California sagebrush

(*Artemisia californica*) died and try replanting. If we really have a good turn-out we could also auger a few holes and plant a few other 3- and 5-gallon container plants. So please mark your calendars and join us at the corner of (1350) Sunset Blvd at Adair St.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to **Lauren Chin** who has donated a generator to the project! This will be a great boon, giving us the flexibility to do as much digging as volunteers have time and energy for, freeing us from marathon sessions in order to squeeze our money's worth from a rental fee. Thank you, Lauren!

To learn the latest on this project, check the website: www.sunsetcliffsgarden.org.

~ Dave Flietner

Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Casa del Prado Theater Courtyard, Balboa Park

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CNPS members

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. everyone

See enclosed flyer for more info!

Pre-orders: by Sept. 16, \$100 min; pick up after 2 p.m. Fri and during the sale on Sat. Cash, check or credit card. Find more pre-order info and the preorder spreadsheet at: www.cnpsd.org.

FALL PLANT SALE PREP

Seed and Bulb Work Group

The Seed and Bulb Work Group will meet at the following times and places (note new location) to clean, package and label seeds and bulbs for the CNPS-SD Fall Plant Sale:

Date: **Sunday, September 20, 2015**

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Location: Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, 12108 Industry Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

Date: **Sunday, October 4, 2015**

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Location: Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, 12108 Industry Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

If you have any questions, please contact **Amy Huie** at akahuie@gmail.com. We welcome new volunteers and look forward to seeing you at a Seed and Bulb Work Group meeting!

RARE PLANTS

Update on Round-Leaved Filaree (*California macrophylla*)

The first time I saw round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*) was on a dry slope in the Temescal Valley in neighboring Riverside County in 2001. It wasn't in bloom and my focus was on Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*). Not too many years later, when I started teaching classes about rare plants and working on rare plant book projects, I realized that round-leaved filaree was largely missing from my photo collection. About 2006 I started actively seeking it. Unfortunately, the Temescal Valley site had been bulldozed so I had to look elsewhere.

There are few sites in San Diego County and they generally are not that easy to access. Finally, in April 2011, I received access permission to visit the Ramona Grasslands site. I arrived a bit late in the season and was unable to photograph a flower with all five petals intact. That year we heard Andy Sanders had found a new site near Nichols Road at Lake Elsinore in Riverside County. We found a few plants but they were in fruit.

The following year I returned to the Ramona Grasslands again but a bit earlier in April. There were plants with petals but never 5 petals. No plants were seen at Nichols Road.

So where else could I get this photograph? Likely due to the dry conditions, visits to the Nichols Road site each year since 2011 have not yielded plants. There are only three recent and reliable sites beyond the Ramona Grasslands in San Diego County: north of the Otay Valley, Rancho Jamul, and Hollenbeck Canyon. Riverside County offers six more but most are in difficult to access locations. Orange County has none. There are two more sites south of the San Gabriel Mtns. in Los Angeles County. Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties have only a handful of sites.

After eight years of trying to get a good photo, I still didn't have one. This is a testament as to how uncommon this plant is in southern California.

Not surprisingly, at least to southern California botanists, the plant sported a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B.1. A clay soil endemic, round-leaved filaree is a member of the geranium family (Geraniaceae). It is a white-flowered, 5-petaled annual. The leaves are rounded in outline (hence the name). The fruit, typical of its family, forms a short linear cylinder. The reason I had much trouble with the Ramona site was that in addition to

blooming early (there were still plants in April but March is a better month), the plant has a specific diurnal cycle as well. Round-leaved filaree blooms early in the morning and can lose its petals by 8:30 a.m.

Not everyone thinks of this as a rare plant. In mid-May, a Rare Plant Status Review was released to the CNPS Rare Plant Forum along with a proposal to downgrade round-leaved filaree from 1B.1 to 4.3.

So what gives? How is a plant that is so rare that even experienced botanists have trouble finding it end up losing its coveted 1B status? We can become regionally centric about our plants. Round-leaved filaree is found over a wide range of California from the Sacramento Valley and the Coast Ranges south into northwestern Baja California. It happens to be very scarce in southern California and more common elsewhere, not necessarily an unusual pattern in the plant world. The CNDDDB includes 162 occurrences for round-leaved filaree. That is a LOT of sites.

Overall, the plant has been considered widespread but rare where found. New incoming data has challenged that belief. The epicenter for the plant appears to be Tejon Ranch where it has literally been found by the hundreds of thousands.

The botanists on the Rare Plant Forum quickly formed sides. Those with experience with the plant in southern California and the Bay area argued the plant is too rare to downgrade. Those working in the southern interior Coast Ranges and Tejon Ranch wondered if it even ranked rare plant status. As the debate continued, one thing clearly stood out. We don't know as much about this plant as we would like. Fully two-thirds of its reported locations are based on old herbarium collections or have unknown habitat quality and threat status trends. Fully one-third of the sites and most recent reports, come from only three counties: Kern, San Luis Obispo, and Colusa. This is one of those interesting situations where the plant appears to be widespread over a small portion of its range but 1B seems pretty appropriate elsewhere.

At the end of June, it was determined that round-leaved filaree will remain a CRPR 1B plant. Its threat extension has been lowered from 0.1 (seriously threatened) to 0.2 (moderately threatened). An effort will be made to reduce that two-thirds unknown trend load and review things again in a year. Whether it weathers that review is yet to be seen.

As for my photograph, I finally did get a few individuals with five petals this last winter. You guessed it, on Tejon Ranch, where if you are there in the right season, you

will find this plant.



Round-leaved filaree
(*California macrophylla*).

~ Fred Roberts
Rare Plant Botanist

Mt. Laguna Aster (*Dieteria asteroides* var. *lagunensis*)



Mt. Laguna Aster (*Dieteria asteroides* var. *lagunensis*)
flowering along Sunrise Hwy in August 2015. Photograph by
Mike Evans, CNPS-SD Board Secretary.

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

September 1. First Tuesday evening of each month.
Contact **Frank Landis** at raresurvey@cnpsd.org for the location.

Who Should Live on the Edge?

It's a busy fall for developments. I'm not sure why, whether it's the 18 year development cycle some talk about or whether it's due to money fleeing some crashing stock market and looking for other investments. Whatever the case, there are developments being proposed everywhere. This is a great time to get active

in conservation, if you don't want to see every big ranch paved with idiot 'burbs.

Last week I got to sit through the first five hours of a County Planning Commission meeting on Lilac Hills Ranch, which is proposed for a couple of farm parcels up in Valley Center, not quite two miles off the I-15. If one believes the 2011 General Plan, the property is zoned for around 100 homes, but that's not what Lilac Hills Ranch proposes. They're proposing 1,743 homes, a middle school, a small commercial downtown, and a senior living facility for about 500 people, with a 200-bed extended care facility for dementia patients. There are two windy two-lane roads serving this site, and it's in a high fire risk zone.

Normally, this wouldn't have made it through County Planning and Development Services, but this developer is clever. He called his development green, using the National Green Building Standard (NGBS). The County General Plan specifies that green means that it complies with LEED-ND (for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-Neighborhood Development). The developer hired a consultant to persuade the County planners that NGBS was equivalent to LEED-ND. They took the bait and recommended that the project be approved.

I'll get back to the difference in acronyms in a moment, but I sat in a packed meeting room. On one side were a bunch of grim looking, generally older Valley Center residents, along with some weather-beaten members of rural planning districts. On the other side were a bunch of fresh young faces with Lilac Hill Ranch stickers on their shirts, signs to wave, and free bag lunches in their stomachs. The developer had bussed them in to pack the hall, and the ones people talked to don't live in Valley Center. Interesting tactic, that.

Okay, acronym soup, and it's important, because the fate of rural San Diego may rest on it. According to the testimony I heard, the key difference between LEED-ND and NGBS is that LEED-ND asks if the green development is displacing agriculture. If it is, it can't be LEED-ND certified, and the development can't happen. NGBS applies to any development, no matter where it is. You can build a NGBS-compliant mixed use town in the middle of any farm, and get the certification. The two codes aren't equivalent, and the County planners looked quite stone-faced as commenter after commenter detailed the problems with their decision.

What the planners had recommended was a classic example of leapfrog sprawl, building a new town the size of Del Mar off in the middle of nowhere. This is what the 2011 General Plan had sought to avoid with smart

growth, in-fill, and LEED ND planning. Their staff was all set to gut that and approve sprawl.

Lilac Hills Ranch will go to a second Planning Commission meeting in September (and kudos to the commissioners for sitting there far longer than I could manage. Talk about sitzfleisch). Then it will go before the Board of Supervisors. I, of course, will be there to testify about how sprawl hurts native plants, and it would be good to have company.

If Lilac Hills Ranch is approved, there are something like 40 other leapfrog sprawl developments out there to shred the County General Plan's smart growth initiative. It will make San Diego look like LA, only with less water and worse roads. You might want to consider stopping this before it rolls towards you, which is why I ended up sitting next to a rancher from Campo who could see the writing on the wall. Now is the time to stop it.

But that's not the end of this story. The thing that really bugged me was that senior living facility and the 200 bed "dementia" facility attached to it.

Lilac Hills Ranch is in a high fire danger zone. How would you evacuate 5,000 people, a school, and especially those seniors? The road leading to the senior facility is barely more than a driveway, and a steep and twisty one at that. People living on the road had pictures showing how a semi-trailer totally blocked the road as it drove up.

For me, it's personal. I've got an uncle who lives in an extended care home, although it's much smaller and well inside town. Moreover, my father was totally disabled, and we did live out in the Santa Monicas, out on the Wildland Urban Interface, the infamous WUI.

When I grew up, we worried about fires every fall, because getting my bed-ridden father down the steps and down the steep driveway was always a major undertaking, and doing it in a hurry would have been very difficult (he was bigger than I am). Fortunately, we never had to. My parents did get cut off by one fire, but due to topography, they survived, while I was stuck outside the canyon until the fire was controlled.

As I sat at that meeting about Lilac Hills Ranch, I kept trying to visualize how you could evacuate 200 largely disabled people out of a facility, with a fire blowing in and fire engines clogging the road. I don't think they could do it. That design really and truly pissed me off, because it felt like they were housing frail people in harm's way, just because society wants to warehouse the elderly somewhere out of sight of the cameras, and this looked like a good money maker.

Now this isn't a CNPS conservation issue, but it is a CNPS

issue. So far as members go, I'm one of the young whippersnappers, and most CNPS members are much older than I am.

One thing I've learned in my years at CNPS is that I'm never, ever going to tell a plant lover when they're too old to enjoy the back country, when they're too old to give up their precious home, out there on the WUI edge. But it is a problem for everyone to think about.

How do you feel about senior centers out on the WUI, in high fire areas? This isn't the first one I've seen, just the worst so far. On the one hand, living in the WUI is living closer to nature, but on the other, the WUI can turn dangerous very quickly in a fire, faster than some people can respond. How do you weigh these risks? If you're talking to some clueless urbanite, how do you convey the risks, especially to people looking for a peaceful home for their elderly relatives to spend their last days in?

At this point, I'd like to hear suggestions. Since CNPS has a large number of older members, it's something I hope we can talk about. I'd love more feedback about when I need to speak up as the Conservation Committee chair, whether and when it's my place to point out that a development simply isn't safe for the people the developer thinks will live there. CNPS does have an official fire policy, and this is something that affects our members. When should we speak up about who should live on the WUI edge?

If you have any ideas, email them to me at conservation@cnpsd.org. And if you don't like those developments, come sit with me in a meeting. We can talk.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

PROPAGATION

Contact **Jim Wadman** at propagation@cnpsd.org for information on the next propagation work group meeting at the City Farmer's Nursery.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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

newsletter@cnpsd.org

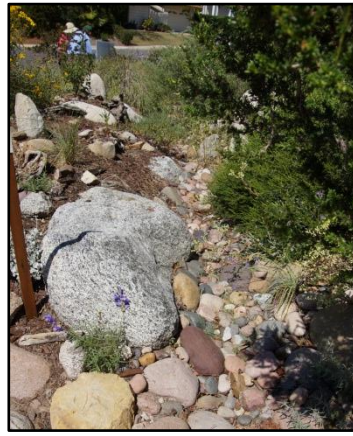
If your email address has changed from what we have on record, please let us know.

A Few Photos from the 2015 Native Garden Tour

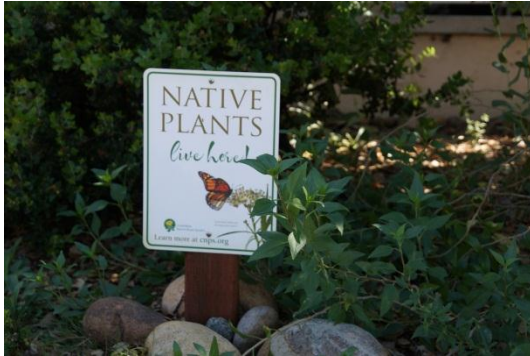
Photos by Bobbie Stephenson



Bush monkeyflower
(*Diplacus aurentiacus*).



Vic and Pete Caswell's dry streambed.



Native plants live in Carrie Schneider's yard!



Bush poppy
(*Dendromecon rigida*)



Connie and Pete di Girolamo's native plant garden.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

24th Annual Cal-IPC Symposium
San Diego Convention Center
October 28-31, 2015

plus a special conference on:

Habitat Conservation Planning
October 29, 2015

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php>

Point Loma Native Plant Garden

September 5 & 20, 9 – noon. Work Party. Usually the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Contact: Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

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, September 10 for the October newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org.

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar September 2015

- 9/1: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.3
- 9/2: **Board Meeting**, p.2
- 9/6: Tecolote Cyn field trip, p. 2
- 9/9: Gardening Committee Mtg, p. 4
- 9/12: Old Town Native Landscape Work Party, p.5
- 9/15: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1
- 9/19: **Native Plant Landscaping Symposium**
- 9/20: Seed and Bulb Work Group Mtg
- 10/4: Field Trip to Indian Flats and vicinity of Lake Henshaw
- 10/4: Seed and Bulb Work Group Mtg
- 10/17: **Fall Plant Sale**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

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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September 2015 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

www.cnpssd.org

info@cnpssd.org

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: David Varner.....president@cnpssd.org
(619) 316-0499
VICE PRES: Bobbie Stephenson.....vicepresident@cnpssd.org
(619) 269-0055
SECRETARY: Michael Evans.....secretary@cnpssd.org
TREASURER: Connie di Girolamotreasurer@cnpssd.org
Cindy Burrascano..... (858) 578-8040; booksales@cnpssd.org
Mike Gonzales.....programs@cnpssd.org
Frank Landis.....(310) 883-8569; raresurvey@cnpssd.org
Sue Marchetti.....nativesfornovices@cnpssd.org
Tom Oberbauer.....tom.oberbauer@cnpssd.org
Kay Stewart.....(619) 234-2668; fieldtrips@cnpssd.org
Clayton Tschudy.....clayton.tschudy@cnpssd.org

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

David Varnerchaptercouncil@cnpssd.org
(619) 316-0499

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

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

GARDEN NATIVE (Native Garden Tour)

Hei-ock Kimdirector@gardennative.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpssd.org
(858) 578-8040
CONSERVATION: Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpssd.org
(310) 883-8569
EDUCATION: OPEN
FIELD TRIPS: Kay Stewart.....fieldtrips@cnpssd.org
(619) 234-2668

HOSPITALITY: Betsy Cory.....hospitality@cnpssd.org
(619) 656-8669
INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson...invasiveplants@cnpssd.org
(858) 759-4769
LIBRARIAN: Patricia Fishtein.....librarian@cnpssd.org
LOST & FOUND: Patricia Fishtein.....librarian@cnpssd.org
MEMBERSHIP: Connie di Girolamo.....membership@cnpssd.org
NATIVES FOR NOVICES: Sue Marchetti.....nativesfornovices@cnpssd.org
NATIVE GARDENING: Mike Gonzales.....gardening@cnpssd.org
NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpssd.org
(619) 269-0055
OLD TOWN NATIVE PLANT GARDEN:
Peter St. Clair.....OldTownLandscape@cnpssd.org
PLANT PROPAGATION: Jim Wadman...propagation@cnpssd.org
619-294-7556
PLANT SALE-FALL: Carolyn Martus.....plantsale@cnpssd.org
PLANT SALE-SPR: OPEN.....springplantsale@cnpssd.org
POSTER SALES: OPEN.....postersales@cnpssd.org
PROGRAMS: Mike Gonzales.....programs@cnpssd.org
PUBLICITY: Pat Fishtein.....publicity@cnpssd.org
(619) 280-8234
PUBLIC OUTREACH: Betsy Cory.....publicoutreach@cnpssd.org
PUBLIC WALKS: Paul Hormick.....publicwalks@cnpssd.org
RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Frank Landis...raresurvey@cnpssd.org
(310) 883-8569
VEGETATION: Anna Bennett.....vegetation@cnpssd.org
and Kayo Valenti.....vegetation@cnpssd.org
WEBSITE: Mary Alice Kessler.....webmaster@cnpssd.org