



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

**Tuesday, October 20
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park 7:00 p.m.**

**Wildcrafting Local
California Native Plants**

by Marya Nash

Wildcrafting is the practice of harvesting plants from their natural or "wild" habitat for food or medicinal purposes. It applies to uncultivated plants wherever they may be found. Ethical considerations are often involved, such as protecting endangered species. Ms. Nash will speak about and share her passion for foraging and wildcrafting with us, focusing on local native plants. She will also bring some samples of useful local native plants and may bring prepared dishes for people to sample.

6:30 p.m. – Natives for Novices, topic TBD.

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

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

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!

Cash, check or credit card accepted.

FIELD TRIP

**Indian Flats & 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 a.m. at the parking lot behind Denny's on Friar's Road just east

~ Kay Stewart, Field Trip Chair

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 7, 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@cnpsd.org to get your issue on the agenda.

September Board Meeting Report

As many of you heard at the September Chapter meeting, our Chapter President David Varner had to leave the Chapter to move to Colorado. At the September Board Meeting, the Board elected **Bobbie Stephenson** to finish 2015 as the Chapter President and **Tom Oberbauer** has become the Vice President for the remainder of the year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ann Andrews
Emily Asbury
Marianna Benedict-Bacilla
Lee BenVau
Dagmar Helgager
Mark Perino

Lloyd Stark
Adam Taylor
Mary Todd
Kendall Trout
Kristiana Watkin

CNPS-SD EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

CNPS San Diego has eleven (11) members of the Executive Board whose term of service is two (2) years. Six members are elected in the even numbered years; 5 are elected in odd numbered years. This year, we will elect five members to the Board. The Chapter election will be held at the November 17 Chapter Meeting. Members may bring their ballots to the November Chapter meeting or mail completed ballots to be received by CNPS-SD before November 17. The Nominating Committee will count the ballots at the November Chapter meeting. Ballots received after November 17 will not be counted.

You are invited to consider being a candidate for the Board if your membership in CNPS is current. Submit your request to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Chapter Vice President Tom Oberbauer (vicepresident@cnpsd.org), along with a short statement of your qualifications and interest no later than **October 10, 2015**. The ballot and candidate statements will be included in the November newsletter.

The five candidates with the most votes will be elected. They will take office at the Executive Board Meeting in January 2015. If you have any questions about serving on the Board, feel free to contact any of the current Board Members for additional information.

NATIVE GARDENING

Native Gardening Committee

October 14. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact **Mike Gonzales** at gardening@cnpsd.org for info.

Old Town Native Plant Landscape Partners in Grime

Saturday, October 10: Work Party - 1 to 3 p.m.

Come help us get rid of skulking weeds to prepare for planting with the cooler days and longer nights. Bring gloves, sun protection, water, and your favorite

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



October 4; 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.

weeding tools, or borrow our tools. Park in the giant shady parking lot at Cal Trans across Taylor Street from the native plant landscape.

Questions? Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org. The Landscape 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).

Sunset Cliffs Garden Update

Planting Event

We hope to get a jump on El Nino with the first fall planting event at the Sunset Cliffs Native Garden the weekend of **October 24 - 25**. Saturday will be devoted to site preparation -- breaking up the compacted dirt, and mixing in the topsoil, spreading the mulch. We will be going at it from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but we are only looking for volunteers to come by for a couple of hours.

Sunday will be the fun stuff -- planting and watering -- and how much we are able to do will be based on the success of our work on Saturday.

CNPS members are welcome to just swing by and join in, but it would help us plan the event if you let us know when you intend to come. To do so, go to SunsetCliffsGarden.org and hit the "Participate" and "Volunteer" links. In the comment section just say when you'll be coming.

Our garden is located west of the intersection of Adair St. and (1250) Sunset Cliffs Blvd. We'll continue planting through the fall and winter until we get it all in. Help us kick off the planting season in a big way!

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

~ Dave Flietner

FALL PLANT SALE PREP

Seed and Bulb Work Group

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.

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

October 6. First Tuesday evening of each month. Contact **Frank Landis** at raresurvey@cnpsd.org for the location.

Fall Fundraiser for Conservation

My humble apologies, but this is going to sound like public radio pledge week. We need your help to replenish the Legal Fund for the Conservation Committee, given the plethora of bad projects in the pipeline. The money will only be used for legal costs, not normal conservation activities.

This year, we will be raising funds for the Legal Fund at our Fall Plant Sale, so please donate to the Legal Fund when you buy your plants. Think of it as a way to protect the seed sources for the plants in your garden. You can also donate at chapter meetings, and we're working on setting up online donations.

In case you're concerned that we're contemplating some lone ranger lawsuits, don't worry, we aren't. CNPSSD only gets involved in legal action after both the chapter executive board and the state CNPS litigation board vote to go forward. We normally take legal action as part of a broader coalition, and I see no reason to change this pattern.

Still, we live in an era when money is considered speech. Our funds are paltry compared with those of developer, so our voice is weaker. We advocate for public input into all projects and environmental issues, and as CNPS, we speak especially for California's native plants. We need to speak more loudly, and that takes

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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

enewsletter@cnpsd.org

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

money.

Why donate now? Here are some issues we are currently involved in:

- **Lilac Hills Ranch.** As you heard, this problematic development in the unincorporated county cleared the County Planning Commission on a 4-3 vote and is headed for the Board of Supervisors. If it passes, it will gut the County General Plan rules, and there will be dozens more big projects in the undeveloped parts of San Diego. The issue here is less the rare plants on Lilac Hills Ranch, and more getting the County to follow that multimillion dollar General Plan they created and to thereby limit sprawl. Sprawl hurts native plants.
- **Vernal Pool HCP.** The City of San Diego has to create a new Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the City's vernal pools, after they lost a court battle on the way they implemented the last HCP. CNPSSD was part of the last battle, and if this next HCP heads to litigation in 2016, we need to do our share again. This is our fight.
- **Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP).** This is properly a state issue, but it's the one that's most likely to end up in court the way things are currently going. We're going to be affected by it, and we're going to have to chip in to fight it. CalFire wants to set up a streamlined program for funneling many millions of dollars into large vegetation clearance projects that they allege will keep developments safer from fire.

The VTP illustrates a bigger problem that CNPS has with CalFire. The VTP EIR, which first appeared in 2013, is the worst EIR I've ever had the misfortune to read, and that's saying something. It was incomplete and virtually unreadable, and it was effectively the last environmental review the VTP would get. It proposed to create a streamlined environmental review process with little or no public input. After getting the rubber stamp and money from CalFire, a contractor could bulldoze a mile-wide strip around your subdivision, and you'd have no way to stop it.

There are two problems here. One is there's no science that says that enormous fire breaks work. Santa Ana winds will blow embers up to a mile, and while they're talking about 1.5 mile-wide fire breaks (stop and think about that—bare dirt to the horizon), they won't clear them every year, so that enormous area will grow fast-burning grass and weeds when it's not cleared. Instead, the science increasingly says that how you build your home and how you landscape around it are the key factors in keeping it safer from

fire. Certainly small fire breaks allow firefighters to get in and fight small fires, but there's no evidence that enormous clearances keep people or homes safe. The contractors do make a lot of money for clearing the land, though, and that leads to the bigger problem with CalFire.

I was at the State CNPS Chapter Council meeting in Ft. Bragg in September, as it's the annual conservation meeting for CNPS. On the first day, we spent two hours on an introduction to CEQA and environmental impact reports (EIRs), to help get newbies oriented, and two hours on something I didn't know about, Timber Harvest Programs (THPs).

Here in San Diego, we don't deal with THPs, but they're a big deal in northern California, where they govern how logging is done by the big lumber companies. Legally, they are equivalent to EIRs, but they are run by CalFire, and perhaps as a result, THPs are nothing like EIRs.

THPs seem designed to make public input impossible. The documents are not publicized, they are partially hand written, disorganized, unsearchable (they are scans of paper documents), there's little mechanism for public input, no requirement for up-to-date surveys or good science, the maps are incomplete, and so on. These documents, which can run many hundreds of pages, are prepared by the timber companies and sent to CalFire for rubber stamp approval. Public inputs are routinely dismissed, and the only way to fight them is to build a coalition and seek a political solution in the state legislature.

Currently, the Dorothy King Young CNPS Chapter is fighting a huge "Dogwood" logging plan for the floodplain of the lower Gualala River in Sonoma County. The area proposed to be logged contains perhaps a dozen rare plant species, as well as populations of Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets (an interesting detail, because the forester in charge was responsible for logging the Headwaters Forest back in the 1990s). You can read more about that in the Dorothy King Young's Calypso Jul-Aug 2015 newsletter, which is available at <http://www.dkycnps.org/archives.html>.

CNPSSD is not part of the Dogwood logging conflict, but we very much need to look at the way CalFire works with the timber industry. People who had read the VTP and listened to the description of THP practices saw many similarities between the VTP and THPs, and those similarities are in the way CalFire deals with environmental documents. They seem to want to be the deciders, they want to work with industry, they

do not want their authority challenged, and public input is treated at best with suspicion.

It's really worth thinking about this. For all the many and valid complaints about CEQA, it's far more transparent than the THP process, even if the latter is claimed to be equivalent to CEQA in the face of all evidence.

Unfortunately, we're seeing THP-style problems creeping into CEQA documents. There is a push for streamlining and standardization; outdated science has become enshrined in City and County biological ordinances, and not just in San Diego; planners, agency folk, and consultants are pressured to bow to industry needs, and some of them (including some CNPS members who have worked with these bureaucracies) question the need for public involvement, seeing it as a needless hassle. Moreover, the planners and agency people are routinely overworked and often undertrained, and many projects get rubber stamped.

But CalFire wants to take this to new levels. With the VTP, they want to institute a whole new level of review for fire clearance that is pretty clearly structured on their THP program, with documents designed to frustrate public involvement rather than invite it.

It could get even worse. The push to sequester carbon and fight climate change seems to be turning into a new industry, complete with a push for THP-style review of massive reforestation projects and compost spreading operations, probably overseen by CalFire, the Board of Forestry, and/or Cal Recycle.

I personally support carbon sequestration through reforestation and putting carbon into the soil, but *it has to work*. If trees get planted, they have to survive at least 100 years to make any difference in the climate, and spreading compost and mulch without proper controls in place can easily spread diseases, pests, and weeds. We can't afford big, dumb, streamlined industrial operations. They're what got us into this mess in the first place.

CNPS has enormous amount of expertise about native plants. We need to have our expertise heard, and nowadays that takes money. I don't like begging for funds any more than you like being solicited, but in this case it's serious. We need you to donate to the CNPSSD legal fund. Any amount is welcome, and you can donate at the plant sale. Thank you for any help you can give.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

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

October 3 & 18, 9 – noon. Work Party. Usually the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Contact: Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

41st Annual Southern California Botanists Symposium

Back to the Flora: A Journey Through Southern California

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
at Pomona College, North Seaver Auditorium. For info
visit: <http://www.socalbot.org/symposia.php>.

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

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar October 2015

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- 10/4: Seed and Bulb Work Group Mtg, p.3
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- 10/17: **Fall Plant Sale**
- 10/20: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1
- 10/24-25: Sunset Cliffs Planting Event, p.3

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

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October 2015 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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