



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

**CHAPTER MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 21  
Casa del Prado Room 101  
Balboa Park**

**Presentation:  
How Argentine Ants Devastate  
Native Landscapes**

**by Greg Rubin**

It appears that Argentine ants and their symbiotic sucking insect partners may have been a key factor in high native mortality nearly as long as natives have been a popular gardening subject in California. Ornamental horticultural methods may have inadvertently promoted their spread over the years. Localized moisture saturation, rich organic soils, poor quality mulches, and high levels of disturbance are all factors that promote their spread. The ability of ants to fan out for hundreds of feet from a main colony means that even non-irrigated landscapes risk attack from neighboring yards. The ants create nests in the root balls of our natives, pulling away soil from the roots (often piled up around the base of the trunk). They then place scale and aphids all over the upper root system, which they tend like herds of cattle to harvest the honeydew waste product. Worse, they defend these flocks with their lives. Being underground adds an additional level of protection from detection, beneficial predators, and treatment. As if this wasn't bad enough, ants also have an affinity for spreading weeds. This has long been recognized with spotted spurge, but there are a multitude of other weeds they are spreading as well. This talk will cover how to recognize the problem, the damage ants do, the weeds they plant, and strategies to deal with these insidious pests.

**6:30 p.m. Natives for Novices.** "PLANT THIS -- NOT THAT" by Susan Lewitt. Talk will cover biodiversity and invasive plants.

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

**7:30 p.m.** – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

**NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

**For the native plant pollinator demo garden exhibit at the Fair!**

**June 3 – July 4** (each day that the SD County Fair is open); 12:30-5:30 p.m.; minimum 2.5-hr shifts. For the native plant pollinator demo garden exhibit at the east edge of the southernmost infield lake at the Fair. Each volunteer gets a **FREE TICKET** to the Fair and **FREE PARKING** at the 'Horse Park Equestrian Center' off



Via De La Valle, east of I-5, and accessible from opening to closing time during the entirety of the fair's run.

**NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

# BOARD MEETING



Greg Rubin, President and Founder of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc. is a licensed landscape contractor (C-27 No. 717147) who has been working with California native plants since 1985.

By 1993, Greg was able to transition out of his career as an aerospace engineer to devote all of his time to his successful and unusual landscaping business. His company has designed over 700 residential, commercial, and institutional native landscapes in Southern California. Specialties include year round appeal, low maintenance, water efficiency, rich habitat, and fire-resistance. Greg has been featured in a number of periodicals including the Wall Street Journal, San Diego Union Tribune and Los Angeles Times, and magazines such as Sunset, San Diego Home and Garden, California Gardener and Kiplinger's. Media coverage includes appearances on all of San Diego's local news outlets, CNN & MSNBC. Greg regularly gives presentations and workshops on native plants to conferences, garden clubs and other organizations throughout Southern California.

Greg is co-author, with Lucy Warren, of "The California Native Landscape: the Homeowners' Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance," published by Timber Press, 2013. This popular native horticultural literary work covers all aspects of native landscape design. He and Lucy now have a second book, "The Drought Defying California Garden", also published by Timber Press, now available in 2016. His website is: [www.calown.com](http://www.calown.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Terry Burke-Eiserling**  
**Matthew Pauchnick**  
**Ed Hessel & Wendy Wright**  
**Susan Hunter**

**Wednesday, June 1, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email [president@cnpsd.org](mailto:president@cnpsd.org).

## **Summary of May 4 Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Betsy Cory had emailed her resignation from the Board to the President and Bob Byrnes was designated by the Board to fulfill her term. We need a new outreach chairperson; Mike Gonzales will help with outreach until a new chairperson is appointed.

The Treasurer (Connie di Girolamo) recommended investing some of the Chapter funds. She and Board members Mike Gonzales and Bob Byrnes will meet with our investment advisor and provide their recommendation at the June 2016 Board meeting.

The President (Bobbie Stephenson) asked that everyone submit the volunteer hours they have spent during the CNPS fiscal year (April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016) so the annual report can be completed by June 1.

The Board decided that the chapter would have its Garden Native Workshop in fall 2016 and a garden tour in spring 2017. Both will be organized by the Garden Committee.

The Board decided to have a retreat this summer to work on the chapter's strategic plan.

The Board also resolved two minor issues so that the Board Handbook can be completed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, President



Pink chaparral current  
(*Ribes malvaceum*)



*Phacelia sp.*

## FIELD TRIPS

### Enjoy Nature's Gardens!

**June 19, Sunday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Palomar Mountain and Doane Valley Redux to See Green Gentians and Azaleas!** The bloom in Doane Valley/Palomar was quite magical in mid-May. We expect a very different flora to be in bloom in mid-June. Join us and see for yourself! Palomar Mountain attracts many visitors to its historic telescope, but plant lovers go for the many species of plants. The area has attracted the finest botanists in California since the early 1900's. A couple of examples: In late spring, along the road to the observatory, a field of 4' tall green gentians frames a spectacular view of the San Luis Rey River valley below. On the trail to Doane Valley, fragrant western azaleas, giant chain ferns, and Humboldt lilies thrive in the shade of western dogwood trees. The list goes on and on.

We will meet in Palomar State Park at the park entry kiosk and then set up a shuttle. Half of the cars will be left at the kiosk parking lot, and everyone will rideshare in the remaining vehicles and drive to the day parking lot in Doane Valley near the outdoor school. We will explore our way up Doane Valley, then along the ridge-line trail back to the parking lot. We'll end up back to the parked cars, and shuttle drivers back to the vehicles down in the valley.

The walk is a steady climb of around 1,000 feet over 3 miles, and though we go slowly the elevation is around 4,000' so it is a workout. Wear sun protection, good hiking shoes and long pants. Bring snacks, lunch, water, and your favorite plant field guide. You'll find it very handy with the array of plants we may encounter!

Directions: From I-15 take SR 76 east 20.7 miles to the Palomar Mountain South Grade (S6). Travel up the mountain for 6.8 miles until you come to a stop sign. Turn left and continue for a few yards. To the right you'll see a general store and a restaurant; turn left

onto the road just before the general store - that's State Park Road. Keep going for about 3 miles. You'll pass the park entrance/boundary sign. Then reach a stop sign and a small park kiosk. Pay \$8/car parking fees (bring cash - the system cannot take credit cards) and wait for our group to gather. Call 619-234-2668 (Kay, the leader) if in doubt - traffic may have us arriving a bit early or late, so please be patient.

If you want to ride-share from coastal central San Diego, meet at 7:20 a.m. at the parking lot behind Denny's Restaurant on Friar's Road just east of SR 163. We'll leave from there at 7:30 and head north. Questions? Contact **Kay** at [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org) or call 619-234-2668 after 6 pm the day before the field trip.

#### General Field Trip Information

Chapter field trips are free and generally open to the public. They are oriented to conservation, protection and enjoyment of California native plants, and we adhere to all rules and guidelines for the lands we are visiting. In our arid region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and steep terrain and during wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. **For questions about a particular field trip, please contact Kay at [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org).**

#### TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



**June 5; 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.

## CNPS Workshops and Professional Training

The Plant Science Training Program specializes in providing workshops for professional botanists, biologists, and ecologists to teach the skills and



provide the tools and resources for conducting sound scientific surveys for rare plants, rare plant communities, vegetation, and wetlands. Discounted registration fees are offered to CNPS Members.

**Pre-registration is required for all CNPS workshops.** If you would like to receive monthly updates about CNPS workshops, e-mail [breilly@cnps.org](mailto:breilly@cnps.org).

For information about CNPS's new Botanist Certification Program, visit: [http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/botanist\\_certification/](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/botanist_certification/).

Old Town with some of the crew. "Exposure to friendly soil bacteria could improve mood just as effectively as antidepressants." Compounds are inhaled and absorbed through the skin while you poke in the dirt, and act in the brain to release serotonin into the prefrontal lobe. You go home happy, even if you got blisters and dirt under your fingernails! And the Landscape looks prettier every month with our TLC.

The Landscape is at the corner of Taylor and Congress streets. Park for free in the shady Cal Trans lot on Taylor and walk to the landscape, the trees behind the welcome to Old Town sign at the corner. Bring water, gloves, sun protection, and your favorite weeding or pruning tools. Or share ours.

For info, contact Kay at [fieldtrips@cnpsd.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cnpsd.org).

## California Native Plant Link Exchange

<http://www.cnplx.info/>

CNPLX is a resource for people interested in gardening with California native plants. This website will help you select local native plants for any location in the state, and find out who sells them. For each plant that grows wild in California, there is a **plant information page** that shows the **availability** (nurseries that sell the plant) and **horticulture** (information about growing the plant).

CNPLX is based on native plant information from the Calflora Database (<http://www.calflora.org/>). CNPLX presents the information in a different way from Calflora, and includes information about which plants are available commercially. To get more in-depth information about particular native plants and where they grow, follow the links to Calflora, and explore.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Garden Native Workshop Saturday, September 10, 2016

We are planning our day-long Fall workshop (formerly symposium), so save the date! We will offer talks, hands-on sessions, and valuable information by native gardening experts. The Fall Plant Sale will follow the workshop in October (see below).



## NATIVE GARDENING

### Native Gardening Committee

**June 8.** Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Info: Mike Gonzales at [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org).

### Old Town Native Plant Landscape

**Saturday, June 11: Work Party - 1 to 3 pm. Tend the Old Town Native Plant Landscape and Go Home with a Smile!** Come enjoy others also enjoying the simple work of gardening, and wrap it up with a cold drink in

### Fall Plant Sale Saturday, October 15, 2016

Mark your calendars – the fall plant sale will take place on October 15 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 more volunteers. We work throughout the year planning the sale. Some jobs can be done on your own time while others require volunteers to work in groups. Some of the volunteer tasks include:

- Publicizing and promoting our sale, contacting news outlets, etc.

- Coordinating food: Setting up food for the volunteers on plant sale day, soliciting donations, etc.
- Packaging and labeling seeds.
- Propagating plants – help the plant propagation committee grow plants for the sale.

If you'd like to get involved with one of the chapter's largest fundraisers, please join us by sending an email to [plantsale@cnpsd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpsd.org).

**Pre-ordering information for this year's plant sale:** CNPS members are able to preorder plants and have them waiting for you on sale day. Details will be posted on the chapter's website at the end of August.

~ Carolyn Martus, Fall Plant Sale Chair

# CONSERVATION

## Conservation Committee

June 7. First Tuesday evening of each month. Contact Frank Landis at [conservation@cnpsd.org](mailto:conservation@cnpsd.org) for location.

## The Energy Politics of Climate Change (somewhat abbreviated)

"The main barriers to getting to 100 percent clean energy are social and political, not technical or economic." That's what Stanford engineering professor Mark Jacobson told some Congress members on November 15, 2015. You've probably seen similar quotes from other scientists, and I tend to think they are right: getting off fossil fuels is quite technically doable. At this point, our problem with fossil fuels is social, cultural, and political.

Since most of us are still paralyzed over the thought of doing anything, you know, personal, to combat climate change, I decided to use Dr. Jacobsen's proposal to rebuild California to show what is meant by politics in this case. In case you don't want to read further, the issue is that we're talking about a 30-year-long transformation of current civilization that's on the scale of, well, what we've done to California over the last 50 years or so. The pundits consider that kind of change so radical as to be politically infeasible. You be the judge.

To work. Jacobson put out a website, <http://thesolutionsproject.org/>, that shows how all 50 states can individually get all their energy from wind,

water, and solar power. He believes that California could get all its power for transportation, electricity, heating and cooling, and industry, from the following combination:

- Residential rooftop photovoltaic solar (PV) 7.5%
- Solar PV plants 26.5%
- Concentrated solar thermal power plants 15%
- Onshore wind 25%
- Offshore wind 10%
- Commercial and government rooftop PV 5.5%
- Wave devices 0.5%
- Geothermal 5%
- Hydroelectric 4.5%
- Tidal turbines 0.5%

(Source:

<http://thesolutionsproject.org/infographic/#ca>)

This also assumes, among other things, that we will need 44 percent less energy, due to the increased efficiency of using electricity and not losing energy through burning stuff.

That's not so scary, is it? Where are the politics? Well, as usual, the politics are in the details. We can start from our houses out, or we can start from the supplies in. Let's do both.

This idea assumes that *everything* will run on electricity. You may prefer to cook with natural gas, but, sorry, that's largely methane you're burning to make that delicious cake. You know, Porter Ranch gas leak methane? Scary greenhouse gas methane? So we'll cook with electricity, even if our baked goods don't taste right and sautéing takes forever on electric ranges. We'll drive electric cars too, although they may drive themselves by the time electric cars have more than half the range of gas cars. You may drive a 4WD truck for work, because that's how you get up those trails to survey plants, but yes, this future assumes that we'll have electric 4WD trucks, or the equivalent (Electric dirt bikes? Mules?) for your work and pleasure. Maybe there will be electric passenger jets, or maybe we'll take high speed train (by 2050, that is), but long distance travel will be as different from modern airports are from passenger liners. We'll see monster electric vehicles in all sorts of industrial and agricultural applications, from bulldozers and cranes to combines and tractors. The plan is that these will get invented over the next 20 years, but the end result is that heavy equipment will be totally different.

The future's starting to look a bit strange, isn't it? It's not as simple as bolting a two meter solar panel to your roof and everything's cool, it's about restructuring

cities, business travel, tourism, farming, industry, everything.

And that's where it gets political.

But first, let's look at that power supply: it's 49% solar power for us. Currently California's power supply is 4.2% solar (source:

[http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/total\\_system\\_power.html](http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/total_system_power.html) ). To get to a totally renewable future, we're talking about increasing all forms of solar power, including Ivanpah-style solar thermal plants, by eleven-fold. Still, solar capacity doubled in 2013, so such growth is certainly possible.

But should CNPS, and environmentalists in general, just roll over and let them build plants wherever? Of course not. State CNPS is quite busy working on trying to protect sensitive parts of the desert and parts of the western San Joaquin Valley from solar plants that will endanger more native plant species. I'm busier right now with other issues, but power plants are certainly on my radar as our chapter's conservation chair.

It's a complicated balancing act. How much do we fight to protect native plants from poorly designed solar and wind plants, but how much do we allow solar and wind plants to go in to protect native plants from climate change? You may well dislike having the view from your home destroyed by a bunch of turbines and solar panels, but how does the damage to your home's value from these power plants compare with the damage to your home's value from climate change? It depends, doesn't it? Climate change *probably* won't really start biting down for another decade or two (or hopefully never, if we embrace renewable energy), so in the short term your view may well be damaged. In the long term, you or the home's next owners get to keep the house rather than becoming climate migrants heading for British Columbia. But it's hard to think about the long term, isn't it?

And that's just your problem. Now think of California as a whole. That's a lot of personal and societal problems. Again, this is where politics come in. The state will change quite a lot in coming decades.

In May, I took a road trip, visiting national parks and driving up through the gold country and the Sacramento Valley. Along the way I had time to look and think. If you've ever driven along the more rural highways, you've probably seen those run-down little towns, with the obsolete, long-closed gas station, the closed little tourist shop, the run-down houses. Will these places get a new life as battery swap stations for electric vehicles? Then there's Yosemite and Death

Valley. Will electric RVs have the range to venture into these large parks? Will the parks have to create huge recharge or battery swap stations? Where will that power come from: in-park solar plants or big new power lines? Or will tourists have to take electric buses into the parks, just so they can recharge their personal vehicles on the edge of the parks, the places they can reach from the nearest town, where they can plug in? Will Panamint, Lone Pine, and Mariposa have to support big charging stations, to help tourists get all charged up for their visits?

It all gets very complicated, switching from fossil fuels to renewable electricity. Inevitably there will be winners and losers. Inevitably we're going to lose things we value. Inevitably we're going to have to adapt.

Inevitably it will get political. Pundits have declared portentiously that Dr. Jacobson's plan is unworkable, that there's no way that people will ever want to change that much. According to these talking heads, we're too set in our ways, too selfish, apathetic and greedy to sacrifice to make life better for our kids and grandkids.

Perhaps they forget that, in less than 50 years, the US went from horse-powered to gasoline powered. Or perhaps not. Perhaps they're right, and we'll take the Mad Max alternative, holding onto coal, oil, gasoline, and methane until the supplies run out and extremist warlords battle for the last remnants.

The thing is, by 2100, we'll be running on 100% renewable power. We will either be doing something like Jacobson's plan, using electricity from renewables, or there will be a few hardy survivors cooking on campfires in the ruins. Either way, we'll be running our society on renewables. The question is how much we're interested in changing, and in which direction. That's ultimately what the politics are about, even if, in the short run, it's about what you're cooking on, what you're driving, and what the view from your front room shows.

Now, if you want a real mess, let's talk about the future of water.

P.S.: You are going to vote, aren't you?

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Chair





## RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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

[enewsletter@cnpssd.org](mailto:enewsletter@cnpssd.org)

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



*Clarkia* sp.



Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*)

## RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

Steven Smith, Park Ranger with the City of San Diego, is looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to help restore areas of Tecolote Canyon. For more information, contact him at (858) 581-9961 or [sgsmith@sandiego.gov](mailto:sgsmith@sandiego.gov).

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### SD Natural History Museum Canyoneer Hikes - June

**Saturday, June 4, 9 am to noon, Cleveland National Forest.** Difficulty: Intermediate, 3 miles. Pacific Crest Trail - Garnet Peak, GPS N32.905644 W116.457394 .

**Sunday, June 5, 9 am to 1 pm, Palomar Mountain State Park.** Difficulty: Intermediate, 4 miles. Doane Pond, GPS N33.341765 W116.901381 .

**Saturday, June 11, 9 to 11 am, San Diego River.** Difficulty: Easy, 2 miles. Mission Valley, GPS N32.770753 W117.154683 .

**Sunday, June 12, 9 am to noon or 2 pm.** Volcan Mountain County Open Space Preserve. Difficulty: Difficult, 3 or 5 miles. Short hike to Five Oaks Trail or longer hike to the peak. GPS N33.105256

W116.602487 .

**Saturday, June 18, 10 am to noon.** Greenbelt (Shepard) Canyon. Difficulty: Easy, 3 miles. Tierrasanta urban canyon - GPS N32.833780 W117.101357 .

**Sunday, June 19, 6 to 7:30 pm. Mission Trails Regional Park.** Difficulty: Easy, 1 mile. Kumeyaay Lake - GPS N32.839002 W117.033748 .

**Saturday, June 25, 8 to 11 am. Rancho Mission Canyon Park.** Difficulty: Easy, 4 miles. San Carlos urban canyon - GPS N32.805508 W117.066063 .

**Sunday, June 26, 8 am to 12:30 pm. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.** Difficulty: Intermediate, 5 miles. Stonewall Peak Loop - GPS N32.959647 W116.579154 .

For more information on Canyoneer hikes check the online calendar at [www.sdnat.org/calendar](http://www.sdnat.org/calendar).

### POINT LOMA NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 9 – 11 am. Join fellow volunteers to help care for this beautiful city park in Point Loma! Gardening activities include planting, watering, weeding, trail maintenance and more! For more information and to RSVP please contact the San Diego River Park Foundation at (619) 297-7380 or [volunteer@sandiegoriver.org](mailto:volunteer@sandiegoriver.org).

### ERIOGONUM SOCIETY

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Sept. 16 to Monday, Sept. 19, 2016,** at the Desert Research Center near Baker, California. <http://www.eriogonum.org/>

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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, October 10 for the November newsletter, etc. Please submit items to [newsletter@cnpssd.org](mailto:newsletter@cnpssd.org)

### CNPS-SD Activities Calendar June 2016

- 6/1: **Board Meeting**, p.2
- 6/5: Tecolote Cyn field trip, p. 3
- 6/7: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.5
- 6/8: Gardening Committee Mtg, p. 4
- 6/11: Old Town Native Landscape, p.4
- 6/19: Field Trip to Palomar Mtn & Doane Valley, p.3
- 6/21: **Chapter Meeting**, p. 1

**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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June 2016 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora  
**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO**  
www.cnpssd.org [info@cnpssd.org](mailto:info@cnpssd.org)

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