

**DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes of the San Diego Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society at Scripps Miramar Ranch Carmel
Valley Public Library**

September 2, 2009 6:00-8:00

Board members present: Tom Beltran, Sandra Feiock, Dave Flietner, Diane Green, Hank Kraus, Carolyn Martus, Carrie Schneider, Kay Stewart

Announced Absences of Board Members: Cindy Burrascano, Peter St. Claire

Unannounced Absences of Board Members:

Guests: Marty Foltyn, Adrienne Heinzelman, Arne Johansen, Mary Alice Kessler, Jason Sundberg

Previous Month's Minutes: Dave Flietner moved to approve the April minutes as corrected. Carrie Schnieder seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Flietner moved to approve the July minutes as corrected. Carrie Schnieder seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Sandra Feiock): The board was presented with a financial report as of August 31, 2009. She answered questions from the board on various issues.

New Business-

Action Items

- Dave Flietner nominated Kay Stewart to the board of directors, Adrienne Heinzelman as membership chair, Jason Sundberg as seed collection chair, Anna Bennett as vegetation chair, Dave Di Donato as liaison to Children in Nature Network, Frances Dormer as representative to SD Botanical Foundation, and Carrie Schnieder as liaison to Canyon Coalition. Carrie Schnieder seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Crest mini-grant application was presented by Kay Stewart, who volunteered to be the liaison to Crest for the mini-grant. The goal is to plant natives around the structure that is currently at the site. The mini-grant application is for plants, mulch, and an irrigation system. They will include us on a recognition plaque and have our brochures available on site. Carolyn Martus moved to give Crestridge \$500 for their submitted mini-grant (Appendix A), to be given by reimbursement of supplies upon CNPS receiving an invoice, good until October 1, 2010. Dave Flietner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

- The membership committee goals and objectives were presented by Adrienne Heinzelman.
- The seed collection committee goals and objectives were presented by Jason Sunberg.
- The possibility of a plant propagation committee proposal was brought up by Dave Flietner.
- 2010 Board Elections were discussed. Diane Green will not be running for another term. Others will notify Carolyn Martus or Dave Flietner at a later date.
- The December member meeting will have a volunteer recognition and slide show.

- Dave Flietner discussed the gardening committee.
- Marty Foltyn discussed the upcoming State CNPS meeting and events.
- Carrie Schnieder discussed the conservation committee. Has been mainly dealing with a city stormwater maintenance plan and energy projects in the desert.
- Hank Kraus discussed upcoming programs.
- Carolyn Martus discussed the upcoming plant sale.
- Mary Alice discussed the website and email lists.
- Kay Stewart discussed field trips.
- The hospitality committee is making banners for the monthly meetings.
- The following committee chairs are still open- publicity, public outreach, education.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Board (total of 11): Tom Beltra(2010), Cindy Burrascano (2008), Carrie Schneider (2008) , Sandra Feiock (2009), Dave Flietner (2008), Diane Green (2008), Hank Kraus (2008), Carolyn Martus (2008), Peter St. Clair (2009), Kay Stewart (2009)

Liaisons:

- *Canyon Coalition- Carrie Schnieder*
- *Children in Nature Network- Dave Di Donato*
- *City of San Diego Open Space Advisory Committee- Peter St. Clair (Carrie Schneider is alternate)*
- *Conservation Resources Network- Dave Flietner (Jeannine Ross is alternate)*
- *EarthShare- Peter St. Clair*
- *San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation- Frances Dormer*
- *San Dieguito River Park Citizen's Committee- Deborah Debow (Don Miller is alternate)*

Appendix A- Crest Mini- Grant Application

CNPS San Diego Mini-Grant Application

Project Title: Straw Bale Visitor Kiosk Completion Project

Sponsoring Organization: The Earth Discovery Institute at Crestridge Ecological Reserve

Contact Name: Cathy Chadwick **Phone:** (619) 277-3605 or (619) 437-7989 **Email:** chadgroup@cox.net **Website:** www.earthdiscovery.org

Type of Project: Conservation & Education

Amount Requested \$650 **Total Project Cost** \$9,000 (not including labor/details below)

Other Funds Sources (Group/ \$):

- Earth Discovery Institute/\$2,500
- KRC Rock/ Discount on building materials; value of \$2,500
- Friends of Crest/\$1,000
- Alpine Rock and Block/In-kind building materials; value of \$300
- Crest Kiwanis Club/\$250
- Native Plant Connection/Discount on plants; value of \$200
- DalTile/Donation of tile for mosaic work; value of \$200
- RCP Block and Brick/Discount on building materials; value of \$150
- Individual Donors/\$400

Volunteer Hours/Types of Volunteers: Urban Corps of San Diego/12 person crew with 2 expert supervisors, 20 hrs/wk. May-November 2009 to provide all required labor.

CNPS Board Liaison: Kay Stewart

Describe the purpose of the project:

Earth Discovery Institute (EDI) at Crestridge/Visitor Kiosk Completion Project

History of the Kiosk: *Designed by internationally renowned artist James Hubbell, the visitor kiosk is a straw bale structure intended to demonstrate sustainable building techniques. In 2002, under the direction of James and Drew Hubbell, and straw bale building expert, Bob Bolles, the original kiosk was constructed by young adults from the San Diego Urban Corps and community volunteers. (The mission of the Urban Corps of San Diego is to provide job training and educational opportunities to young adults, which assists them in becoming more employable, while protecting San Diego's natural resources and instilling the importance of community involvement.) In the fall of 2003, with the kiosk nearing completion, the Cedar Fire struck the community of Crest. Over eighty percent of the 3,000 acres of Crestridge burned, and sadly, the kiosk was lost to the fire. Insurance funds allowed us to re-gather the crew of artists, builders, youth and community members and rebuild the structure. However,*

with increasing of costs and the passing of time, the funds were not sufficient to complete the project.

Purpose of the Kiosk: Currently, all students who visit Crestridge on school science field trips (3,000 2nd -7th graders annually) enter the kiosk and learn about the concepts of insulation for energy savings and the use of sustainable building materials to preserve natural resources. When completed, the kiosk will also feature solar elements to emphasize energy conservation and techniques. The kiosk is also an integral part of the site's resources to communicate with neighbors and recreational users who make daily use of the area. The kiosk is located at the most heavily used entrance to the reserve, so has tremendous potential for community education. It is also located adjacent to the Native Plant Demonstration Garden, which encourages water-wise and habitat-friendly landscaping and teaches students the value of native habitat and concepts related to ecological systems. Displays and materials for distribution will be incorporated into the finished building and regular 'open' hours will be established for visitors. EDI is currently partnering with the San Diego Natural History Museum to develop interpretive signage for the central area of the reserve that includes the kiosk and the demonstration garden.

2009 Kiosk Completion Plan: An infusion of funds to the San Diego Urban Corps prompted them to offer EDI at Crestridge the support of their program with 4 days per week of assistance starting in May. Three different crews have worked at Crestridge in successive 6 weeks sessions. An ongoing Urban Corps crew will begin work at Crestridge in September for the succeeding 12 months. Major Project Elements:

- Install pavers for interior flooring (Completed!)*
- Replace stone pathway damaged by fire (Underway)*
- Continue stone as patio around building (Underway)*
- Install bench next to kiosk and adjacent to Native Plant Demonstration Garden*
- Build rock retaining wall and steps around side and back of building (Completed!)*
- Install landscaping & irrigation around kiosk*
- Install skylight*
- Install solar panel and battery to provide electrical power*

How does your project promote the mission of CNPS? The mission of the Earth Discovery Institute is to conduct ecological preservation that is intertwined with innovative education programs, creating unique models of both, and building a corps of stewards who understand, value and protect the environment. The Earth Discovery Institute at Crestridge sponsors education addressing California state curriculum standards for science for approximately 3,000 elementary and middle school students each year. EDI also coordinates restoration in the 3,000-acre Crestridge Ecological Reserve in support of the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

The kiosk completion project supports and extends EDI efforts to educate students and the recreational users of the reserve about conservation and the importance of native habitat... a mission very much in sync with the CNPS mission to "increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, conservation, and restoration." Urban Corps youth (18-24 year olds) will learn the value of native plants as well as the skills required to plant and sustain them. Once complete, the kiosk and a proposed entry sign with brochure dispenser will both

be excellent places from which to distribute CNPS literature. EDI currently distributes CNPS brochures as well as several CNPS educational flyers at its semi-annual native plant sales.

How would funds supplied by CNPS be spent? CNPS grant funds would be spent for plants (\$200), mulch (\$200), recycled edging board (\$150) and irrigation supplies (\$100) to install landscaping around the kiosk, blending the area with the adjacent Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

What evidence of project implementation will project proponent provide CNPS? Please provide the date of each item. Before/after photos and narrative description of completed landscaping near kiosk by December 1, 2009. Site visits would be welcomed before, during and/or after completion of the project. EDI staff would happily make a presentation at a CNPSSD general or board meeting describing the completed project. EDI will also include CNPS on a displayed list of organizations and individuals who have provided assistance for the project. EDI and CNPS volunteers will jointly design a sign that is satisfactory to both organizations.

I agree to refund the full amount granted by CNPS-SD in the event that the project is not completed as stated or if we fail to provide the deliverables listed above.

Cathy Chadwick August 20, 2009 Project Coordinator Earth Discovery Institute

Crestridge Straw Bale Visitor Kiosk

