

CNPS Approved Board Meeting Minutes
San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
July 11, 2012 6:36PM to 8:28PM – Audubon Offices, 4010 Moreno Blvd.

Board Members Present: Tom Beltran, Cindy Burrascano, Connie di Girolamo, Jonathan Dunn, Mike Evans, Susan Krzywicki, Frank Landis, Greg Rubin, Bobbie Stephenson, Kay Stewart

Announced Absences: Tom Oberbauer

Unannounced Absences: None

Guests: David Varner, Chapter Council Representative CNPSSD

Jonathan Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:36PM

Approval of Minutes: Frank Landis moved to approve the June 6, 2012 board meeting minutes as amended. Suzan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

Treasurer's Report: Chapter Treasurer Connie di Girolamo presented the board with the June 2012 treasurer's report. A \$93.00 check from CNPS state was included in income. The check was for "membership incentives". Connie asked about the \$5,000 grant to the San Diego Plant Atlas since she had not included it in the treasurer's report. Connie was informed that the May 2, 2012 board vote to grant \$5,000 to the plant atlas was valid and that the board reiterated that the vote was valid at the June 6, 2012 board meeting. Connie said that she would now include the \$5,000 grant as an approved expenditure. Frank Landis moved to accept the June 2012 treasurer's report. Cindy Burrascano seconded. The motion passed unanimously (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

Action Items:

- Kay Stewart moved to have an August 2012 board meeting in order to continue discussion of the garden tour. Kay Stewart will check with Audubon San Diego to ensure that the conference room will be available. Bobbie Stephenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained)

Discussion Items:

- Bylaw Update – the discussion of bylaws modification was tabled until the next board meeting.
- Recon Nursery Spring Plant Sale – Susan Krzywicki raised the issue of having a spring plant sale at Recon Nursery. The nursery has had spare, good quality plants. Susan suggested that we use Recon rather than Tree of Life (TOL) in Orange County, because Recon is local. Cindy Burrascano said that it would be a good idea if we can come up with the volunteers. Kay Stewart mentioned that we'd had spring plant sales with TOL, who had made substantial donations to CNPSSD. One of the considerations is that we don't want to jeopardize our long standing relationship with TOL. The fall plant sale includes product from all of the nurseries, not just TOL.

Susan will discuss the issue with Wes Hudson and raise the issue again when more information is available.

- *Fremontia* – Bob Hass, editor, reported that there are still some editions left. Kay Stewart pointed out that *Fremontia* is a couple years behind on the edition dates. This is confusing, especially when people and/or articles are quoted yet the quotes are recent. Kay would just like *Fremontia* to abandon the practice and begin using current dates. David Varner said that this issue has come up at chapter council and that Bob makes a good defense for the current practice. However, David doesn't totally understand it. He will bring the issue up again. Susan Krzywicki said that Bob mentioned that he will be caught up in early 2013.
- Boy Scout Mini Grant – Tom Oberbauer is following up on this issue and he will update the board at the next board meeting.

Committee Reports:

- County General Plan – Kay Stewart reported about the San Diego County General Plan amendments. EHL is suing the County because a letter of change was submitted by Supervisor Ron Roberts on the day that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to exempt 56 landowners from fees associated with zoning amendments to the General Plan. Specifically, Supervisor Robert's change letter would include the \$1.56 million cost of the appeals in the next budget. The total acreage of the excepted properties was approximately 16,000 acres. EHL considers lack of public comment on the change to be illegal, a violation of the Brown Act.
- Conservation – Frank Landis reported about the conservation committee. Frank reported about the Del Mar Mesa. Right now, the whole area is closed until the City of San Diego finishes a management plan, which should come out this fall. Frank doesn't think that the management plan will work so the question is, "at what point should CNPS oppose the plan?" Frank thinks that a large portion of the mesa will be fenced off, no access to anyone. Frank's experience is that fences will be cut open. He would like to see a study to see if it will work but doesn't anticipate that happening. CNPS's issue is the vernal pool plants. The vernal pools will not be protected even with fencing, the City's preference, because there is no monitoring.
- Rare Plants – Frank Landis reported that he is still working on reports, including maps, for Silver Strand State Beach. The habitat is rare but there are very large populations of "rare" plants, so many plants that some people were skeptical.
- Garden Tour – Susan Krzywicki reported that there was a garden committee meeting within the last couple weeks. The subject was the garden tour for the coming year. Kay Stewart and Dave Flietner suggested that the garden tour become a quasi independent entity. Money would be given to CNPS under some kind of cooperative agreement. Susan read a letter from Clayton Tschudy:

"Dear Board Members,

With the practical experience gained in the organization of the 2012 Tour it has become clear that while the CNPS Gardening Committee members had the passion and expertise to launch the regional gardening native regional gardening event, maintaining such a complicated and intense

event over many years on volunteer liberal loan and with a minimal budget is impractical. The committee recognizes that the volunteer and conservation focus character of CNPS is incompatible with paying the principal tour organizers in building relationships with corporate sponsors. With these considerations in mind, the committee believes that the best solution for keeping the tour afloat is to have it in a separate nonprofit whose mission is in line with management and financial structures necessary for the long term success of the event. A quorum of the garden committee has reached unanimous consensus that due to the main challenges facing the tour organization, future iterations of the San Diego Native Garden Tour could be organized through an environmental nonprofit organization whose primary mission is the promotion of native plant horticulture in San Diego. The committee requests that the board vote to endorse this change of venue for the Garden Tour. Also the committee asks that the board approve a formal affiliation between the San Diego Chapter of CNPS with a new and independent nonprofit created to house the tour. The committee would like CNPS San Diego to maintain a close relationship with this new organization housing the San Diego Native Garden Tour so that the tour can continue to utilize some of the chapter's resources and that would be access to the mailing list and a few things like that and in return would provide a helpful annual donation to CNPS San Diego. The committee would like to recommend that Wes Hudson be named as CNPS liaison to the new tour organization. Wes would report directly to the gardening committee regarding ongoing tour details. Thank you for considering our request on behalf of the gardening committee.

*Clayton Tschudy
Director of the CNPS/Hunter Industries San Diego Garden Tour
and Owner of Tschudy Ecological Designs.”*

Frank commented that getting CNPS state to say, “Oh no, here’s another chapter that is breaking away to form a separate group” should be the very first order of business before we discuss a formal affiliation. Bobbie Stephenson added that the history behind Frank’s comment was that the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club wanted to be a separate CNPS chapter but CNPS state said “No”. Thus, the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club was formed. The fact that the new nonprofit would have a significant number of CNPS San Diego board members might be a problem for CNPS state. Jonathan Dunn raised the issue that sharing the chapter mailing list might be another problem as well, due to privacy issues. Connie suggested that the nonprofit could buy space in the chapter newsletter to advertise the event. However, the postal service has limitations on placing flyers in the newsletter, perhaps because CNPS is a nonprofit. Kay Stewart voiced her concern that the new nonprofit would be a competitor to CNPS for memberships. David Varner would like to know how the new nonprofit would retain a native plant focus. No motion was made to move on this issue this meeting. Several board members expressed a need for more information about what

the new nonprofit wants from CNPS. Susan will prepare a report for the next board meeting to address some of these issues with the understanding that CNPS would not take action until the September board meeting. Susan would have to start the 2013 garden tour planning before the September meeting or the event could not be planned nor could sponsorships be secured in time.

- Chapter Council – David Varner reported on chapter council. The June chapter council meeting was in Berkeley. Daniel Gluesenkamp is the new CNPS Executive Director. He will start as Executive Director in August. The next chapter council meeting will be in Santa Cruz, the second weekend of September. David welcomed others to attend the meeting with him since it's an excellent opportunity to learn more about the organization, especially if anyone is interested in being on the state board. State elections are coming up and board members are actively being recruited. The Center for Biological Diversity has requested that CNPS provide a list of plants for listing. David reiterated that CNPS state is running a deficit for the year but had cut \$80K from the budget and \$50K of Bilisoly funds will be used to close the gap. Another plea was issued to the chapters to increase membership and to improve member retention. Kay Stewart mentioned that San Diego chapter membership chairperson Adrienne Heinzelman has requested help. She needs help sending notes to members with the objective of retaining members with renewal notices. David reported that there was a break-out session at chapter council to share experiences about membership, such as, name badges and putting names in print. David also reported that the January 2012 conservation conference proceeds totaled \$22,000.
- Books and Posters – Cindy Burrascano reported that Jon Rebman's book, *Baja Plant Field Guide (3rd Edition)*, has arrived.
- Newsletter – Bobbie Stephenson reported that there will be an August newsletter. She reminded everyone to get their newsletter submissions to her since she forgot to send notices.
- Website – No report available
- Invasive Plants – No report available
- Field Trips – Kay Stewart will provide a newsletter summary for two field trips that she did not include in the last article. Kay is starting to plan the 2013 field trips and she requests that people submit ideas.
- Programs – Mike Evans reported that he had not purchased a laptop yet for Programs chairperson Claude Edwards at chapter meetings. He will probably order it from Amazon.com for \$469 and another \$89 for MS Office software. Frank Landis reported that the current projector needs a new projection bulb. However, we do not have a replacement and it will cost \$300 to buy one. Frank would like to know if we should have a spare but wants to discuss at a future meeting. Tom Beltran suggested that for a couple hundred more dollars, a new projector could be purchased.
- Fall Plant Sale – Connie di Girolamo mentioned that she'd been in communication with Carolyn Martus. Flyers will be printed; a number of them will go to the *San Diego Botanical* newsletter. A good number of them will go to the chapter newsletter and the rest will be distributed to a variety of places. About 30 poster sized announcements will also be printed. Some will be brought to the next general meeting and the rest will be sent out in September. Credit cards will be accepted again at the event. Carolyn still needs volunteers.

Frank Landis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28PM. Connie di Girolamo seconded. The motion passed unanimously (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).