

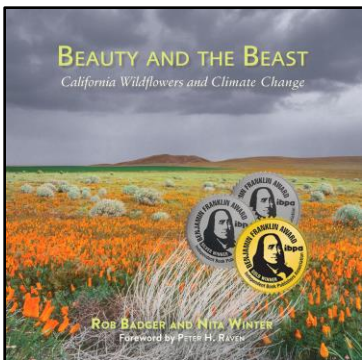
# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

### ZOOM PROGRAM

#### **Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change**

Tuesday, November 17, 2020  
7:00 - 8:15 PM



Enjoy a 27-year wildflower journey with internationally acclaimed conservation photographers Rob Badger and Nita Winter. For watching and more info, visit:

<https://www.cnpsd.org/events/2020/17/11/beauty-and-the-beast-california-wildflowers-and-climate-change>

People and their traditions Matter. Our right to free expression Matters. Conservation Matters. Native habitat Matters. Extinction Matters. Sustainability Matters. These are not mutually exclusive concepts and where these Venn diagrams overlay with each other, recklessness must be set aside for careful and thoughtful conversation. This is the way we find an equitable balance on how we use natural resources and how we temper humanity's drive towards exploitation in all its forms. Where the terms become non-negotiable is where compassion for life has left the goal of the debate and where reckless actions lead to devastation. The state CNPS is moving to formulate and codify concepts brought about by the challenges of our times. The Important Plant Areas Project is focusing on Southern California, and our Chapter is (President - Continued on p. 2)

### GARDENING WITH NATIVES

#### **Garden Committee (GC)**

Zoom Meeting November 11, 6:30-7:30 pm



Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*). Photo credit: Calscape.org.

**Planting Natives:** Fall is definitely in the air with Thanksgiving Day just around the corner! Many of you are probably busy planting your new natives from the recent CNPS-SD Native Plant Sale. If you missed the sale, remember you can order natives through Moosa Creek Nursery under "Retail Customers" in the tab bar. CNPS members receive a 10% discount by entering "CNPS" in the promo code box at checkout. Payment will be collected when you pick up your order at the partner nursery you designate. Other local (Garden Committee – Continued on p. 2)

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The newsletter will be arriving about the time the national election is called and I'd like to thank everyone who voted. Whatever direction we're going to take as a nation over the next few years will establish how we must face the challenges of the present and how we'll define our legacy that resides in the future. We're a Society that focuses on, endorses, and respects science. That means we endorse and respect each other intrinsically, and that we reject recklessness, especially where it Matters the most. Black Lives Matter. Indigenous

(President – Continued from p. 1)

contributing mightily to defining sensitive areas from the mountains to the coast. The resolution of the project brings context to each square kilometer across the entire State so that we might focus on preserving those sensitive areas most threatened with native floral disruption and extinction. We'll need data for Imperial County and verifiable iNaturalist posts will help protect those areas, too. Climate change and widespread development has been impacting the Imperial Valley heavily and more quickly than we can respond effectively to without assistance.

CNPS is also continuing the drive to implement equity in operations on the Staff and Chapter volunteer levels with plans that have been in the works since last year and really pushed into greater functionality since May. Keep a close eye on changes to Fremontia and know that Staff has added many new people this year to help in the important efforts being done across California.

Closer to home, we are delighted to complete a new version of our Fall Plant Sale. Given the extraordinary work and planning implemented by our team of volunteers, (including you if you were able to make a purchase!) we're going to be able to recover from the financial hit we took when quarantine was implemented months ago. A huge thanks to everyone involved, and now is a great time to jump in to help contribute to a potential Spring Plant Sale.

The Chapter needs your help in other ways, too, if you can give it. We have openings on the Board and the committees are seeking the innovation and creativity you can bring. CNPS members like you restore lands hit hard by invasive species, fight against developments that seek to recklessly profit at the expense of our wild lands, and seek to help teachers trying to keep up with quickly changing times with few resources. We need help with collecting survey data on public and private lands, and protecting the wild areas at home and in our back yards. We need help envisioning how we respectfully engage with people who have no idea the great value that native plants bring, nor how important they are to our sense of home.

Let's look back on this year and take some relief that we've made it this far. Not everyone did and we must remember them dearly. Together, we're going to make it through the pandemic and through this period of selfishness and ignorant vanity by fighting against recklessness and disrespect whenever possible along the way with science and with patience and respect.

~ **Justin Daniel**, President

PS: Respect also takes one form by planting natives in the front yard or on your balcony, too. It makes a statement that you endorse a place that can be shared.

(Garden Committee – Continued from p. 1)

nurseries who offer CNPS members a 10% discount include Mission Hills Nursery, Village Nurseries, and Tree of Life Nursery.

**Garden Member Shoutout:** One of our garden members, **Ed Piffard**, along with **Raul Sandelin** from Grossmont College, have produced a test TV video on YouTube called [Un-gardening with Ed](#). The goal is to create an educational TV series exploring ways to use native plants and wildlife to create eco-sustainable yet beautiful backyards and gardens. In this entertaining video, Ed talks about his pool to pond conversion inspired by his neighbor and CNPSSD Garden Committee co-chair **Judie Lincer**. Please visit the above link; after they receive 1,000 views, Ed and Raul can move ahead with finding sponsors and making this a real TV series.

**Fire Season:** In September the Valley Fire south of Alpine destroyed 17,665 acres and 30 homes. Our hearts and thoughts go out to our East County neighbors who lost their homes. Now that the "official" fire season has begun in San Diego County, we wanted to mention a couple of resources for creating defensible space around your home. The California Chaparral Institute has just updated their wildfire protection guide, [Protecting Your Home](#), as a free download. Another resource is the CNPS "Fire Recovery Guide," a 92-page booklet also free as a download at this link: [CNPS Fire Recovery Guide](#).

**In Closing:** We hope you enjoy the two featured native gardening articles this month by Garden Committee members, **Lee Gordon** and **Susan Lewitt**. We would also like to welcome everyone to our next **Zoom meeting on November 11th from 6:30-7:30pm**. If you are interested in attending the Zoom meeting or have questions about gardening with natives, please contact us at [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org).

~ **Judie Lincer, Nancy Levine & Christine Hoey**  
Garden Committee Co-chairs

## **Stabilizing and Beautifying Steep Slopes**

My house in Scripps Ranch backs up to a steep hill with a slope about as steep as it gets. Soon after I arrived 35 years ago, the homeowners association above ours proposed cutting down all the native shrubs on the hill above our property and replacing them with ice plant. I wrote a letter to them explaining that the roots of the native shrubs on the hill hold the soil together to help maintain slope stability and that killing the shrubs and replacing them with ice plant would weaken the hillside and possibly lead to catastrophic landslides—with my house right in the path! The association understood and dropped the subject. Around that time, my association cleared a brush management zone at the base of the hill. They routinely weed-whipped this zone every year for the next 25 years. Shrubs grew 6 inches in the rainy season, only to be whipped down to the ground every summer, producing an unpleasant and unattractive grassland of non-native ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*).

Below: Hillside in September 2009, fresh after weed whipping.



I got tired of looking at this eyesore hillside, so about a decade ago, I killed the grass with a post-emergent herbicide (Clethodim) and stopped the yearly weed-whipping. Shrubs that had hung in through 25 years of mistreatment, with long-established roots, now

grew quickly. Since large areas remained open, I started planting native shrubs in the gaps. To find native plants I liked, I walked around natural open spaces in the surrounding neighborhoods. I also began to irrigate the area monthly, each time depositing around 1 inch of water. This work of planting and irrigating has transformed the hillside in 10 “short” years.



The view in September 2020 from the same place as the 2009 photo. Shrubs in this photo include woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa* and *Q. berberidifolia*), and Ramona lilac (*Ceanothus tomentosus*).

Our local native shrubs provide superior slope stabilization because of their tough, extensive, and deep roots, most of



which are within a foot or so of the soil surface and reach out far beyond the shrubs’ driplines. Attesting to this is a 27-foot tall scrub oak with a 10-inch-diameter trunk growing higher up the hill about 75 feet from a well-watered grass lawn, which has enabled it to grow far larger than scrub oaks elsewhere on the hill. Extensive horizontal webs of native roots hold the

critical top layer of soil together to maintain the hill’s stability.

I trim the shrubs on the hillside into tree form by pruning the limbs closest to the ground. This not only makes the plants look better, but also makes it easier to maintain the ground under the shrubs, improving fire safety. Pruning branches at the bottom also spurs the plants to add growth at the top. I have been surprised at how quickly these shrubs have grown. In the next 10 years, I expect many to become 20- to 30-foot tall trees.



This scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*: left) was 3 feet tall in 2009 and is now 19 feet tall and 27 feet wide, a growth rate of 1.3 feet/year. Most of the scrub oaks on this hill grow more slowly, but they still grow rapidly enough to

become small trees in a decade.

~ Lee Gordon, CNPS San Diego Garden Committee member

## Easy-to-Grow Natives to Plant This Fall: Purple Chinese Houses and Blue-Eyed Grass

Did you by chance sow any annual native flower seeds this fall, and were any of them purple Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*)? You still have time here in our area. It is recommended to sow purple Chinese house seeds in late fall directly on the surface of finely raked, medium-to-rich, moist soil. Space seeds 12-18 inches apart and expect germination within 10-30 days. You can also start seeds in peat pots in a sunny area and transplant them when they are 6 inches tall.



Purple Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*).  
Photo: Calscape.com.

Purple Chinese houses are in the genus *Collinsia* (Family: Plantaginaceae), which has 30 species and varieties native to California, two of which are indigenous to my Clairemont and Mira Mesa neighborhoods: *Collinsia heterophylla* and white *Collinsia* (*C. concolor*), which is a rare variety attractive to native bees. It grows to 1½ feet tall with bluish-purple and white flowers in spring.

Purple Chinese houses can easily be found at native plant nurseries and CNPS native plant sales. It also grows around 1½ feet tall, with blue, purple and lavender flowers appearing in winter and continuing into early summer. This species does well in shade or sun, and its habitat includes meadows,

## CNPSSD BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

disturbed places, seeps and ponds, and it is also a fire follower. Although any type of sandy, loamy, or clay soil will work, this native plant does best in rich loamy soil. It is perfect for butterfly and bee gardens and thrives under oaks and with native ferns, as well as with *Clarkia* spp., *Sisyrinchium* spp., and other native annuals. It is found in areas below 1,000 meters throughout California, except in the deserts. Purple Chinese houses require minimal water once established and will easily reseed, giving you many seasons of beauty.

An easy-to-grow perennial to consider is blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), which occurs in California in meadows,



Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*). Photo: Calscape.com.

moist grass-covered areas, woodlands up to 8,000 feet in elevation; in chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities and the margins of wetland/riparian areas; and on forest floors of yellow pine forests and foothill woodlands.

Blue-eyed grass may look like a grass, but it is actually an iris (Family: Iridaceae). Growing usually 1 foot tall, it may reach as high as 2 feet. The small purplish to bluish, and occasionally white, flowers bloom from January to July. This perennial goes dormant in

the summer to prepare for the next growing season.

Blue-eyed grass grows best in level places with loamy, moisture-holding soil, topped with deep organic mulch. It may need some watering in dryer summers, even though it is dormant. Blue-eyed grass multiplies through self-sown seeds and can also be propagated by dividing its rhizomes.

This deer-resistant groundcover works well in butterfly gardens, but not in mass plantings by itself. Use this plant for borders, rock gardens, and wildflower meadows. Companion native plants that work well with blue-eyed grass include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), California brome grass (*Bromus carinatus*), deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*), purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*, aka *Nassella p.*), thingrass (*Agrostis pallens*), Douglas' sagewort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), spiny rush (*Juncus acutus*), and soft rush (*Juncus effusus*).

~ Susan Lewitt, CNPS-SD Garden Committee member

CNPS San Diego has eleven (11) members of the Executive Board whose term of service is two (2) years. Six members are usually elected in the even numbered years; 5 are elected in odd numbered years. However, this year we have an extra vacancy on the board so we need seven (7). Five current board members are running for another term. If you are interested in being a board member, or know a CNPSSD member who is, you can write their names in on this ballot. If you are writing in another person, be sure that person is willing to serve on the board.

Use the ballot that is included in this newsletter, or vote on-line at: [www.cnpssd.org/election](http://www.cnpssd.org/election) (Note: you must use this link - you cannot get to the election ballot by going to [cnpssd.org](http://cnpssd.org) and looking for it there).

Following are brief bios for the five people on the ballot:

**Cindy Burrascano:** I have served the chapter in various roles in the past: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Conservation Chairperson, Plant Sale Chairperson and Sale Table Chairperson and on the board for many years. I would like to continue to serve on the board.

**Torrey Neel:** I am in my fifth year on the board and have been scheduling the main speakers as our "Programs Chairperson". I strive to make our monthly meetings a welcoming place to share, learn and come together with native plant lovers across our County. Since COVID-19 has interrupted our in-person meetings, I have, with the help of Joseph Sochor (co-chairing), been getting up to speed on Zoom and online webinars for programing into the future. I have also been part of the Plant Sale Committee for the past two sales, which is our biggest fundraiser for the chapter, and it is all volunteer run. I would like to continue on the board. I find the work of advocating for and facilitating the use of our native plants challenging and rewarding.

**Andrea Rae:** I have been a member of CNPS for 3 years. We decided to replace our untamed front yard with a California native garden and found the chapter plant sale at the perfect time. My family enjoys volunteering at and participating in all the events - sales, tours, hikes, meetings, workshops, and all the chapter resources. Most of all, we enjoy the wild experiment of our native garden and all the creatures that it brings into our yard, including neighbors. Professionally, I am a CPA and have been serving the nonprofit business community in San Diego for 20 years. I am currently serving as the Treasurer of our Chapter and, if re-elected, I look forward to contributing my skills to the Board.

**Leon Scales:** With the practical appeal of California natives growing, as droughts get more frequent and severe and water gets pricier, we Southern Californians begin to cherish and take new pride in our extraordinary native habitat, to preserve what's in place and to plan and plant our own gardens to

embrace it. I'm learning how, and I want to see that everyone can. My working background was in administration, not botany - but I'm inspired by CNPS's accomplishments, recognize that it's the best vehicle for achieving its goals and hope to contribute to it in meaningful ways. I grew up loving San Diego natives. I grow them. I've volunteered to protect them. Now I hope to help our community do the same.

**Bobbie Stephenson:** I am currently the Chapter Secretary and Newsletter Editor. I have also served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Plant Sale Chairperson since I joined the chapter in 1978. I wish to continue on the Board to keep our members up to date on chapter activities and the botanical world. I worked as a Botanist/Biologist in San Diego County from 1982 until I retired a few years ago.

## HELP NEEDED: ONLINE PROGRAMS

Would you like to help develop or host CNPS-SD Live Online Programs? We are looking to expand our crew. Roles include Scheduling, Communications, Technology, Social Hour Host, Presentation Host, and Support. Please contact [programs@cnpssd.org](mailto:programs@cnpssd.org) if you would like to volunteer some time to help the chapter put on great online programs.

## BOARD MEETING

### November Board Meeting

**Wednesday, November 10, 6:30 – 9:00ish p.m.** The meeting will be via Zoom. To add an issue to the agenda, or to get the link to the meeting, please email [president@cnpssd.org](mailto:president@cnpssd.org).

### October Board Meeting Summary

To conform to the directive from the CNPS office, this meeting was held via Zoom. The Chapter Board voted to approve the following items:

- To accept the Quarterly Chapter Fiscal Report.
- To grant a one-year Manzanita level CNPSSD sponsorship to City Farmers Nursery, a San Diego small business enterprise, who, without payment by the chapter, allows our chapter to use their land and water, and provides access to their nursery, for our Propagation Committee to grow plants for our plant sale and other chapter projects.

Discussion items included how our sponsors can benefit from their sponsorships of the chapter; November Chapter Executive Board elections (see p. 3 and the ballot enclosed in this newsletter); the recent fall plant sale results; and potential nominations for CNPS fellowships. In addition, the Board members were notified that the Chapter Council Volunteer Recognition Committee at the state level has an opening, and that CNPS Student Grants are available (with deadline of Oct 31). Also, the CNPS Plant Collection Policy is being updated; Frank reported that basically three policies are being rolled into

one.

Torrey suggested that because the gold-spotted oak borer (GSOB) is still an issue, we should remind our members how to curb the infestation of this invasive species that is affecting oak trees, particularly in San Diego county. (See p. 6 & 9)

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary/Newsletter Editor

## Newsletter

Are you receiving a printed newsletter via US Mail, as well as our emailed newsletter via MailChimp? Please [email membership@cnpssd.org](mailto:membership@cnpssd.org) if you would like to stop receiving our printed mailing. This will save valuable resources - both paper as well as Chapter dollars. Know that copies of our newsletter can also found on our website at [www.cnpssd.org/newsletters](http://www.cnpssd.org/newsletters).

## CONSERVATION

### Conservation Committee Mtg

No Conservation Committee meeting in November.

### What Does Conservation Mean?

You voted, right? If not, consider this your engraved invitation to vote before (ideally) or on Election Day. Thanks! And please, if things get weird after the vote, insist on the rule of law by every means you can.

Now, making the halfway reasonable assumption that civilization doesn't fall apart in the next 90 days, I wanted to bring up a problem that has started cropping up this year and which, I suspect, will cause years, if not decades, of heartburn for the conservation community.

The problem is what conservation means in current politics. In the last few months, I have seen multiple examples of planners and agencies ready and willing to develop lands set aside for conservation. There seems to be a notion that lands are to be used for conservation only until a better use comes along. At that point, the conservation agreement can be scrapped and the land can be developed.

The problem is that this is the route to extinction. If 90% or 99% of a species' habitat is destroyed, the remaining few percent have to be preserved basically forever if we are to accomplish the goal of saving that species. Unfortunately, that's not the way politics work. If there's a problem, generally the answer is seen to be either a compromise—something along the lines of save "half the site" and give the other half to some really important use. Or, alternatively, the politicians count noses at events or emails on topics, and

go with whoever has the most, whether they make a good case or not. Or they follow the money.

As a result, we're dealing with a number of cases where lands allegedly set aside for conservation are basically up for grabs. I'll list a few below, but the thing to realize is that this phenomenon is not limited to San Diego County. Right now, the Marin CNPS chapter is dealing with similar issues.

Our first big example is Otay Ranch Village 14, where CDFW proposed to give away a chunk of the local ecological reserve in exchange for land of lesser quality. The reasoning was that the exchange land would preserve the local wildlife corridor. We're fighting this at the level of the state Wildlife Conservation Board, because it's a terrible precedent. Ecological reserves are supposedly the most protected tier of land that CDFW owns, and they're ignoring their own rules to push this land swap forward. If it turns out that CDFW will give up ecological reserves under pressure, basically no site owned by CDFW is safe from future development pressure. Intellectually, we've always suspected that this might be possible, but to see the agency cave so readily really was disheartening. The Wildlife Conservation Board wasn't happy about the deal either. They were going to re-hear it in late October, but that got pushed to December. We're hoping to defeat Village 14 and decertify the EIR, of course, but part of this fight is to get the state to stand with Governor Newsom's recent executive order and state that conserved means conserved, period.

A second example is Rancho Lilac, which you may have heard about a few weeks ago. This land was purchased by SANDAG as biological mitigation for development of SR-76. The dispute right now is whether the land should be assessed for biological resources, then have trails planned in areas where they won't cause damage, or whether, as Sup Desmond and the mountain biking community are pushing for, the area should be set aside for trails, and biology preserved as an afterthought. This gets at the heart of what mitigation means. It's often honored in the breach, but the notion is that if you damage something, you protect something else to make up for it. This only works if that something else is actually protected. Otherwise it's just damage and more damage. Unfortunately, SANDAG has decided (as of this writing) to go with the choice that gets the most emails and comments of support, not with the one that happens to follow regulations or the intent of the purchase.

And then there's the UTC park update. I recently sat through a presentation by City of San Diego planners about what they wanted to do with the parks. One of the things they proposed was to put commuter bike trails through Rose Canyon, something they've also proposed for Penasquitos Canyon. The logic is that a) there are already unpaved bike trails there, and b) traffic is too dangerous for cyclists on roads, and c) we need to cut down on car traffic, so why not put more bikes in parks where they're safe?

It was telling that, of the five plans the planner cited to govern her plan, the MSCP was not one of them. She wanted to

hand-wave away the conservation issues. Fortunately, the UTC Planning Board has other ideas and provided what would politely be termed "substantial feedback" on what she needs to do.

Bikes are not impact neutral, and there's a growing body of research about all the disruptions that bikes cause to wildlife. There's less research on the disruptions that bikes cause to plants, but people have gone back to cutting new trails on Del Mar Mesa, so I think it's a never ending problem every time enforcement lags. The bigger problem for the cyclists and the City is that parks typically are put in the worst locations. Peñasquitos Canyon, for example, floods quite regularly, and the bridges are designed to be easy to replace, not to be flood proof. It's a horrible place to put a commuter route because bikers would be either in harm's way or blocked during every storm and for weeks thereafter. Unfortunately, the current crop of City planners see only blank space and underutilized trails.

This is a chronic problem, really. It's not just about a bunch of well-off environmentalists (us) wanting our favorite birds and flowers around, it's that San Diego desperately needs wildlands for things like carbon sequestration and flood control. That, in turn, means that the human residents need to do things like learn to make room for bikes on roads, and the planners in turn need to learn to say no to development. If you're shaking your head that this will never happen here, unfortunately we're getting into a time when it has to happen here if we want this city to run on something other than petroleum products and unrestrained growth. It's not an easy choice, but that's where we are.

Hopefully, you voted to help make this choice a bit easier. Please keep doing so.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

## **GOLDSPOTTED OAK BORER (GSOB)**

Goldspotted oak borer (*Agrilus auroguttatus*) is an invasive pest contributing to the on-going oak tree mortality on federal, state, private, and Native American lands in many areas of San Diego County. Isolated areas of infestation have been confirmed in Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Because the GSOB is causing impacts to California oaks and communities, public and private organizations are working together in the research, education and outreach efforts related to GSOB management. For more GSOB information, see p. 9 and visit [www.gsob.org](http://www.gsob.org). Please copy and share the flyer, and post it on bulletin boards wherever you can in San Diego.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Demo Garden Seeks TLC from Volunteers

**Nov. 7 and Dec. 5; 8:30 am - noon**

Drivers eastbound on SR-94 who look to the right a moment before the freeway dips under Euclid Avenue can glimpse a green and golden patch of California native plants. It has a name: the **Demonstration Conservation Garden** (Demo Garden, for short).

The Demo Garden is the eastern-most ¼ acre of several acres of School District land between Millennial Tech Middle School and Euclid Avenue. The whole site is an outdoor environmental education project called Earth Lab. The Demo Garden germinated when a diverse group of landscape professionals, including several CNPS members, were gathered together by **Muriel King** in 2015-16.

Muriel is a Master Gardener who has a business designing succulent arrangements and small garden beds. She also has other green achievements: for instance, she has organized several, sizable community beautification and tree planting projects in southeast San Diego. The Demo Garden came into existence when **Leslie Reynolds**, director of Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek and the Earth Lab, asked Muriel to help create a place at the Earth Lab where kids and adults could get residential garden ideas for drought-tolerant planting that will not look like a desert.

Four mini-gardens were designed and installed in 2017. Two are 99% California native plants, and two are blends of other water-conserving species or fruit trees. **In 2016-17, CNPSSD provided a grant to help the Demo Garden by financing the purchase of native plants for "Succulent Extravaganza," "The Pollinator Garden," "Chaparral and Sage" and "Fragrance and Feathered Friends"**. The south boundary of the Demo Garden includes a double row of coast live oaks. Beyond the boundary, construction will begin on a new commercial district in November 2020. The row of coast live oaks will grow into a shady tunnel to separate the Demo Garden from the commercial buildings, as well as providing great habitat for insects and birds. The north edge, near SR-94, has elderberries, lemonade berries, and laurel sumac to screen it from freeway noise.

Since March 2020, Earth Lab has been in limbo, but in October 2020, Leslie and Muriel agreed to start up monthly maintenance work parties. Other co-planners for the care of the Demo Garden include **Cheryl** and **Chuck Pryatel**, who bring experience in environmental planning and gardening to the Earth Lab, and **Kay Stewart**, a private landscape architect and active CNPS

member. Other San Diegan horticulturists participating in Earth Lab projects include **Clay Tschudy** of San Diego Canyonlands, producers of the video series "A Growing Passion," several UCSD environmental educators, and members of the Ilan Lael Foundation.

The monthly maintenance work parties for volunteers will be done the first Saturday of each month, beginning **November 7, 2020**. Small groups of volunteers will learn to prune and groom the plants and work on trails. The group will replant areas as needed after redesign is provided by the creators or other talented professionals. **December 5, 2020**, will be the next work party.

The start time is **8:30 am** and the work parties will wrap up by noon. Please contact me for details, such as where to meet, what to bring, parking, etc. I hope to see you there!

~ **Kay Stewart**, [info@kaylarch.com](mailto:info@kaylarch.com)



## BRYOPHYTE IDENTIFICATION

**Chris Wagner's** bryophyte identification group has gone virtual! The group meets on Zoom, two Fridays per month, at **6 pm**. Dates and topics for the rest of 2020 are:

**November 6:** Introduction to Lichens.

**November 20:** Lichen terms.

**December 4:** Common and rare lichens of So. California.

For more information contact **Chris Wagner** at [mossgeek@yahoo.com](mailto:mossgeek@yahoo.com).



California wildflowers. Photo by Rob Badger and Nita Winter.



Left: Wildflowers in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Below: *Phacelia* and *Mimulus* species in the desert. Photos by Rob Badger and Nita Winter.



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### Cleveland National Forest Now Reopened (Mostly)

Since March the trails, facilities, and parking areas for Cleveland National Forest (CNF) have been closed to the general public due to the pandemic. As of October, they are mostly reopened with the exception of the burn areas around Corral Canyon to Espinosa Trail near Pine Valley, south of I-8. Some seasonal campgrounds will remain closed through the winter. Holy fire area in the Santa Anas is still closed as well. Finally, Three Sisters and Cedar Creek remain closed, mostly to reduce stressing Forest Service staff and SD County emergency services.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cleveland/home/?cid=fseprd821846>

Please use caution because some trails have not been maintained since March. Facilities like restrooms will be hit or miss. Conditions can change quickly in the mountains so prepare accordingly. Snow usually arrives in late December. Take particular care on the Pacific Crest Trail since there will likely be very few fellow hikers on the way. That said, the Laguna Mtns have a particular autumn beauty, and driving the S-7 from Lake Henshaw up Mt Palomar is always a great drive any time of year.

~ Justin Daniel, President and Field Trip Chair

### SD Natural History Museum

The Botany Department at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) is focused on botanical research on the native and naturalized plants in Southern California & Baja California. Part of their strength are online resources that include two major websites (listed below) that are devoted to providing scientific data on native plants. These websites are

linked to specimen collection databases, verified iNaturalist records, photographic archives, Baja California Botanical Consortium of multiple herbarium records, and other botany-oriented resources.

The websites provide access to regional synoptic collections, high res digital images of voucher specimens and types, published voucher-based lists of vascular plants, plant checklists, distribution maps, photos of landscapes, geographic search queries for records, and more. All of these online resources are completely open and accessible to the public and scientific communities. The development and maintenance of these databases and websites is performed by the Botany Department Database/Website Manager.

This year, SDNHM continues to face extreme economic challenges and in order to meet budgetary needs, SDNHM has had to cut general spending expenses for part-time employees, including the Database/Website Manager. While some funding has carried on work over the summer, most of the position is still not covered. They are asking for donations from friends and allies to help abate the expenses for this critical position so that they can maintain and continue developing the websites and databases associated with the Botany Department.

All proceeds benefit the Botany Department's operations for FY 2020-21. The SDNHM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible when properly filed. Inquire with the SDNHM for details.

With thanks for your support of the SDNHM,

~ Justin Daniel, President

SD PLANT ATLAS: [www.sdplantatlas.org](http://www.sdplantatlas.org)

BAJA FLORA LINK: [www.bajaflorea.org](http://www.bajaflorea.org)

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### **CNPS-SD Activities Calendar** **November 2020**

**10/7: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.5**

**10/14: Garden Committee Meeting via Zoom, p. 1**



# HELP STOP THE THREAT

Nonnative insects and diseases that can kill large numbers of trees can be transported long distances on firewood. Once transported to new areas, these insects and diseases can become established and kill trees.



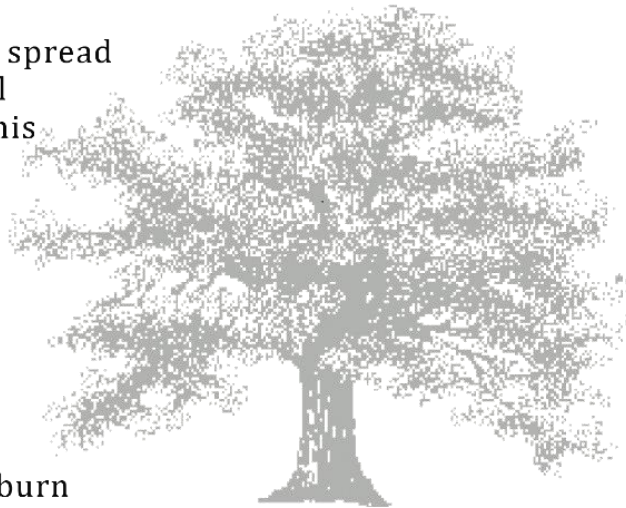
The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) is an invasive pest that was accidentally introduced to San Diego County on firewood. To date, it has killed tens of thousands of oak trees, affecting parks, woodlands, and residential areas. GSOB has the potential to kill oak trees throughout California.

## DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT

Keeping firewood local will slow the spread of GSOB. Help local, state and federal agencies in their efforts to contain this damaging pest by becoming informed.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Leave firewood at home- do not transport it to campgrounds or parks.
- Use firewood from local sources.
- Bring only what you'll need, and burn responsibly



**UC** University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**CE** Cooperative Extension, San Diego County

For more information visit:

**GSOB.org**

[firewood.ca.gov](http://firewood.ca.gov)  
[don'tmovefirewood.org](http://don'tmovefirewood.org)



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<https://www.cnps.org/membership>

\_\_\_ Student/Limited Income \$25; \_\_\_ Individual \$50; \_\_\_ Plant Lover \$120; \_\_\_ Supporter \$500; \_\_\_ Patron \$1,000; \_\_\_ Benefactor \$2,500; \_\_\_ Perennial Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at \$5/mo provide much needed predictable income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see <https://www.cnps.org/membership> to sign up for this membership level.

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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  
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