

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter



Winter Native Plant Sale

January 22-23

Sat. and Sun., 9AM-3PM

Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119



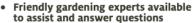


- Shade trees
- Water wise shrubs
- Seasonal flowers
- Native bunch grasses
- · Cacti and succulents
- · Bee-friendly groundcovers









· More details to come!



Visit www.cnpssd.org facebook.com/cnpssd/





Proceeds support both the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, both CA registered 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

Check the CNPS-SD website for activities and/or events that may have been scheduled after this newsletter was completed:

https://www.cnpssd.org/events

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting Tuesday, January 11, 7:00 pm "New Innovations and Plants in Native Landscaping" By Greg Rubin

In keeping with the New Year, NGC member, author and native plant landscape designer **Greg Rubin** will



be joining us for the evening to talk about what's new in native gardening - from new technologies & new native plants to new ways to treat pathogens. Greg's

talks are always engaging and informative, so bring your native garden questions to the meeting!

Register at this link: "New Innovations and Plants in Native Landscaping" or go to cnpssd.org/events.

Sign up early - space is limited to 100 attendees.

Bird Park Update



Photo credit: Christine Hoey.

The Bird Park Fundraiser "Plants & Stream Beds - The Finishing Touch" on December 4th was a big success!

NGC members **Greg Rubin** and **Leo Hernandez** with *California's Own Native Landscape Design* started off the workshop with a talk about how to evaluate the plant's root ball, and best practices for installing and watering new native plants.

Under Greg and Leo's guidance, work began with adding the finishing touches to the dry stream beds, followed by planting natives and mulching. By the end of the workshop, the group created a beautiful native habitat including DG (decomposed granite) paths to "invite" people into the garden. Through CNPS chapter support and our fundraising efforts, we were able to cover the costs for plants and materials.

One last item that is still on our wish list is to purchase a *water feature for birds and pollinators* to make Bird Park a true native habitat. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation towards a water feature, go to: <u>Bird Park Donations</u> or scan this QR code with your camera.



Please stop by Bird Park (located on 28th St & Thorn St. 92104) anytime to watch this native habitat grow!

NGC December Holiday Brunch



Photo credit: Christine Hoey.

The NGC ended the year with an in-person potluck brunch at Bird Park on December 11th. What a spread of great food and coffee *donated by Starbucks in Golden Hill*. After eating, we all took a tour of our newly planted Adopt-A-Plots and the natives looked like they were settling in nicely (except for the bunnies nibbling on the yarrow (*Achillea* sp.) and purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*). Everyone won a raffle prize with the **Grand Prize Native Wreath made by Leo Hernandez won by Lucy Warren!**



Left: Christine Hoey and Lucy Warren. Photo credit: Silke Gathmann.

We would like to thank the following people for their generous raffle donations:
Cindy Hazuka, Cindy Burrascano, Susan Gotlieb,
Torrey Neel (Neel's Nursery) and Leo Hernandez.

Native Garden Tour 2022 Update

Good news! There will be an in-person CNPS-SD Native Garden Tour on **Saturday**, **April 9**, **2022**. This one-day tour will include select gardens from the canceled East County 2020 tour. **Christine Hoey**, **Judie Lincer** and NGC volunteers will be involved with directing the tour, so stay tuned for more details and early bird tickets!



Photo credit: Christine Hoey

If you love gardening with California native plants and would like to join the Native Garden Committee (NGC), sign up here: Join NGC. A separate monthly email is sent out to members with meeting announcements, volunteer activities, workshops and early bird sign-ups that don't always make it into the Chapter newsletter. We would love to see you!

May your New Year be filled with abundant beautiful natives, pollinators, and bees!

Christine Hoey and Tish Berge

Overlooked Native Plants for the Garden

Bush rue (Cneoridium dumosum)

Text & photos by **Lee Gordon** CNPS-SD Native Garden Committee

This is fifth of a short series on some of our local native plants that are superb for our gardens, but that are largely overlooked.

Bush rue (*Cneoridium dumosum*), is one of our common small shrubs, found in San Diego from the coast into the foothills. Bush rue is found in a few locations to the north, but it is otherwise a truly local San Diego native. Even now, after our long dry summer and fall, most of the plants growing in our open spaces remain green.

Our local wholesale nurseries report that most of their bush rue are destined for habitat restoration rather than our San Diego native gardens. It seems that few of us are aware of how nicely bush rue works in our gardens. Two of our most prominent native plant landscape designers know better.

Clay Tschudy (executive director of San Diego Canyonlands, https://www.sdcanyonlands.org) and Greg Rubin (owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design, http://www.calown.com) have long appreciated bush rue as a backbone plant in their designs. Both design native gardens on a foundation of evergreen plants, and bush rue serves that purpose well. Bush rue is a slow growing but sturdy shrub, 3-4 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide, reaching full size in 3-5 years. It fits nicely between ground covers and full-size shrubs to add vertical interest to our gardens. I have seen some in our open spaces as tall as 6', but their slow growth makes it easy to keep them the size and shape you want. Clay adds that their moderate size suits them particularly well for smaller gardens.

Because bush rue grows in locations from the relatively cool moist coast to hot dry hills and valleys, it is adaptable to a wide range of irrigation. They do not need much water to stay vibrantly green. Watering them a few times during the hot season may be all it takes. They look good on my hill with a monthly 1 inch. The most important consideration is to avoid irrigating them too often. Bush rue grows better with neglect than it does with too much water.



Left: This 3' tall, 4' wide bush rue has grown here since I first began to pay attention. It has never been trimmed. It is at the edge of where I water, & soil receives around 1/2" of water monthly.

Once established, bush rue stays green with no water at

all, but as the dry season progresses, the green dulls. Fall or winter frost can turn the foliage a lovely yellow/orange. Bush rue needs full sun to be happy. I have lost plants in shadier sites.

Bush rue produces abundant scented white flowers as soon as rains end our long dry season. They bloom most often in January, but irrigated bush rue can have flowers almost any time of the year.

A few months after flowering, bush rue displays colorful quarter inch berries that look like small oranges. In fact, bush rue is a member of the citrus family.

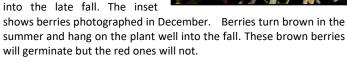


Left: Bush rue blooming in December 2014 after good early rains. It is usually one of the first plants to bloom in the rainy season.

Right: Colorful bush rue berries come in shades of red, yellow and green. The plant holds them in the air through the summer, where they bake

chocolate brown in the sun. They do not germinate until after they turn brown.

Bush rue berries can be found on plants



Later in the summer and fall, the berries turn chocolate brown, and then they are ready to germinate. Moist stratification at 55°F produces radicles in two to four weeks. I transplant the seeds when the roots appear, but you can probably get seeds to grow in well-watered pots left outdoors during the cool season.

One caution is that oils from bush rue foliage can be phototoxic. Phototoxicity can be a property of oranges and other citrus as well, and it causes some of us to blister after exposure to the plant followed by exposure to the sun. This affects relatively few people, but bush rue has caused both Greg and Clay to get blisters. I am not affected. If you are worried about it, handle the plant with gloves and wash the gloves when you are done. Greg and Clay both place bush rue away from pathways to prevent casual contact. This sounds to me like a great opportunity for a border of willowy mint planted in front of the bush rue!

Next month: Scrub oaks

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

January Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 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.

Election Results

Bob Byrnes, Justin Daniel, Sheila Kirschenbaum, and Frank Landis were nominees on the November ballot and all were elected. The chapter currently has ten board members and needs one more. If you are interested in helping run the chapter, please contact Leon Scales at: vicepresident@cnpssd.org.

December Board Meeting Summary

The board approved the following:

- Increasing the Propagation Committee budget to \$1,000.
- The Quarterly Budget for the last quarter of this fiscal year (April 1 March 30).
- The following slate of officers for the 2022 calendar year: Justin Daniel, President; Leon Scales, Vice President; Andrea Rae, Treasurer, and Bobbie Stephenson, Secretary.
- Providing 4 full scholarships to low-income earners and 4 half scholarships to students who sign up for the Field Botany of San Diego County class.
- Accepting the proposal submitted by Christine Hoey and Judie Lincer for an in-person Spring 2022 garden tour.

Other items discussed by the board included the results of the chapter election, a mini-grant request for an Audubon Society style Native Seed Library, when/if in-person meetings should begin in Balboa Park, the January 2022 Winter Plant Sale, and improving coordination among committees and the board. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

~ Bobbie Stephenson, Chapter Secretary

HABITAT RESTORATION

Beacon's Beach Bluff Restoration Project

Beacons Beach in Encinitas is located on a fairly steep sandstone bluff. Due to decades of human disturbance and natural erosion, the slope lost most of its native vegetation, and nonnative weeds took over. Recently the city council decided to undertake revegetation of the slope with native species in order to stabilize the bluff, increase coastal bluff habitat, and beautify the trail leading down to the beach. Although the slope was dominated by non-native species, a few natives managed to

maintain a foothold. As part of the project, existing native plants are being protected, including coast sunflower (*Encelia californica*), chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) and California boxthorn (*Lycium californicum*). Jayme Timberlake, the city's coastal zone administrator, designed the project and is overseeing its implementation. The project is supported by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and designed in consultation with California State Parks, Dudek, Habitat Restoration Sciences, Inc., and Nature Collective



Installation, which took place in November 2021, included 700 one-gallon plants (one shown at left) and hydroseed. At the end of the first year of growth, the site will be reevaluated and additional planting or hydroseed will be used where necessary. For more information contact jtimberlake@encinitasca.gov.

~ Don Rideout, Member

The project fact sheet can be viewed here –

https://encinitasca.gov/Portals/0/City%20Documents/Documents/Projects/ACTIVE/Beacons%20Restoration%20Fact%20Sheet 11.2.221.pdf?ver=2021-11-03-111738-547

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Meeting

Contact conservation@cnpssd.org for meeting information.

Good Grief. 2022?

Another year disappeared somewhere. So, what does 2022 hold?

I'm looking out my window at my neighbor's majestic queen palm. Its fronds overhang my roof, while its trunk is wrapped in Christmas lights. It's a festive sight, and with the rain, I don't have to fret about it catching fire and raining embers down on my roof for a while. And people wonder why I advocate for

more native plants in gardens, even though I'm supposed to be fighting CEQA battles?

Now, I'm not actually going to ask my neighbors to lose the palm, because they're nice people (they put up with me, after all) and it's a nice enough tree. But it does symbolize the problems we deal with in San Diego.

One problem is that most people haven't a clue. At a recent meeting about updating the County native plant regulations, a member of the public went off about how firestick plants (*Euphorbia tirucalli*) were really dangerous and we shouldn't be promoting these "natives." Various people calmly told the person that firesticks are African plants, and no, none of us native plant nerds supported planting them.

It's a common example, but after 50 years of CNPS-SD, that's where we are right now. It's not worth getting depressed about it either, because the problem is different than we think.

San Diego residents (including me) mostly moved here from somewhere else. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, for example, grew up in Arkansas, as I found out when I talked with him. There's nothing wrong with where he grew up, except that it doesn't have 1,700 native plant species packed in with 3.3 million people, the way San Diego County does.

Most San Diego transplants therefore don't understand that what works wonderfully in a place like, say, Arkansas can cause problems here. Indeed, I suspect most of the new arrivals are rather homesick anyway, and they'd rather either recreate a garden from memory, or go out in the woods, drink beer and have a campfire like they did back home. It takes time and effort to explain why campfires and tree swings are forbidden here, especially in local urban parks.

Perhaps our chapter can figure out how to educate all those new arrivals about all the problems they moved into. Any ideas about how to do that?

It's not an idle question. The County is moving ahead with updating its native plant landscaping ordinances, and we're facing the predictable blowback and misinformation against it, about how a bunch of environmentalists are going to force everyone to rip out their landscaping to plant weeds and brush, just to give more business to their favorite nurseries and landscapers.

The answer of course (ahem in the back!) is that we're not doing any of that. I'm not going to force anyone to cut down their palm trees, although their insurance carriers might. We're just trying to give people more options.

The pitch for growing natives isn't that they're more beautiful, for beauty is subjective. It's that we need plants that are more multifunctional.

The queen palm out my window is too well-pruned to even have a bird's nest in it. It functions as eye candy and a small amount of sequestered carbon. The Mexican fan palms across the street are at least swarming with finches, so they perform

another ecological function—nesting habitat—even though they're weeds.

But if you want multifunctional, add some unsprayed native oaks, Catalina cherries, or Torrey pines to this coastal urban setting. If you believe Doug Tallamy, you start to get a lot of insects and spiders, which in turn feed insectivorous birds and their chicks. So, plants like these (yes, Catalina cherries, too) are not just homes for bird feeder habitués, they help feed a bigger community of animals and help ameliorate the wildlife food desert that is a modern city or suburb. Properly maintained, the oaks and cherries at least are fairly fire resistant (another function), which helps protect the home. And they all use a lot less water (another function).

So, which do you want, the eye candy or the general store? That's actually a serious pitch for native landscaping going forward. We're looking at present and future developments and redevelopments that have smaller backyards, that face daunting fire insurance premiums if they're anywhere near the wildland urban interface, that need to be water conserving, that need to host trees and large shrubs to sequester carbon, and which support insects and birds to help slow extinction and widen the remaining wildlife corridors a bit.

It's difficult to do all this with non-native plants, especially in a small space. But we already know how to do it with natives.

This still has a long list of challenges. We've got to get the County to write and adopt the guidelines, and then we've got to implement them. In our chapter, we need to start figuring out how to reach out to educate all the people who will listen. We also need to get better at small gardens and urban trees. It's exciting to do parks and big gardens, but that's not where the need is. And you don't want someone like me, who thinks that liverworts and grasses are beautiful, to be the point person on getting homeowners excited about planting natives in their homes and HOAs. That's your job.

So that's one thing to do in 2022.

Another is that the North County MSCP (ncMSCP) rides again. Yay or something! If you remember last December's column, this is another project That Is Rocket Science, and I'm afraid it's being treated as an exercise in fulfilling legal obligations under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESAs). That's a mistake, because we need the ncMSCP to work on the ground, not just on paper or in the courts and hearing chambers.

Here's an example of the problem: they want to protect mountain lions, because the southern California mountain lions are likely to be listed under an ESA. That's great! How do you protect a mountain lion? Well, if you want to do it right, you protect the ecosystem that they depend on, including especially the mule deer. Those who know the South County MSCP know that it protects the coastal mule deer population. This isn't because mule deer are a listed species, it's because coastal mule deer absolutely require wildlife corridors, so this was done as a way to keep coastal wildlife corridors open.

Now imagine an MSCP that declares mountain lions protected, but does not protect their main food source (mule deer), or the chaparral and woodland both need (vegetation that's too common)? Do you think it will successfully protect mountain lions? I don't. But some in County Planning are just looking at fulfilling their legal requirements, not at doing the hard work of getting all the living parts of this MSCP to survive together for the next 50 years.

Another example are the Nuttall's scrub oaks, summer hollies, and other rare, long-lived, slow growing plants on the CRPR 1B list. They're not listed under any ESA, so the County wants to ignore them. Problem is, when and if they get listed, it's going to take many decades to see if any efforts to save them are working. So, isn't it better to put them in the MSCP now, so that occasionally someone tries to keep them from getting listed?

Nope. There's no legal requirement for that. Instead, they want to focus only on plants that are already listed. I'm really wondering how to reach the planners who are doing this. How do you get them to realize, at a deep level, that they're not pushing papers, that what they're writing will have real effects, possibly really bad effects?

Part of the problem may be that some (many?) of them were educated outside San Diego. Like all the other transplants, they have little idea what they've gotten into. They may come from a state that has fewer people than does San Diego County, and a state flora that's not much larger than our county flora. Or maybe they don't know any botany at all. But they're here to solve our problems for us and to help save the world. How do we educate them?

Yes, that's our job too. Welcome to 2022.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

CONTRIBUTE A STORY

The articles and stories in our chapter newsletter come from our members and friends. Have an idea for an article or story on a native-plant-related topic? Please write it up and send it to newsletter@cnpssd.org.

RELATED READINGS

'Super Trees' May Help Save Houston ... and Beyond

Live oaks and sycamores are the top ranking of trees that mitigate effects of pollution, climate change. Statisticians are sharing strategies to identify 'super trees' for urban areas that help mitigate pollution, flooding and heat.

 $\frac{\text{https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/12/211209201458}}{\text{.htm}}$

Scientists Solve the Grass Leaf Conundrum

The mystery of grass leaf formation has now been unraveled using the latest computational modelling and developmental genetic techniques.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/12/211209142548 .htm

Climate-Only Models Likely Underestimate Species Extinction

To accurately predict species' distributions and risk of extinction, models must include more than just climate, according to new research.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/12/211209133924 .htm

IN THE FIELD

In early December, the desert offered a great escape from the foggy and chilly December days in our interior valleys. Since no flowers could be expected this time of the year, we selected the Volcanic Hills with their interesting geology and colorful rocks as our destination. To our surprise many of the inconspicuous

shrubs were in bloom, such as desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*).





California barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*) was present; sometimes unusually tall (here about 6'2") and sometimes extremely branched (we counted 24 shoots in this clump).





So, the escape worked out beautifully - with a clear-blue sky and (at least for me) T-shirt temperatures;

~ Jürgen Schrenk

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CNPS Bryophyte Chapter

The special bryophyte issue of *Madroño*, A West American Journal of Botany, published by the California Botanical Society (CBS), Volume 68, Issue 3, 2021, is now available. Order here https://calbotsoc.org/order-issues/#bryoflora

Introduction to Bryophytes Workshop Saturday, March 12, 2022

Mishler's Virtual Workshop, "Introduction Bryophytes," is a good complement to "SO BE FREE," the symposium described below. At the March 12 (9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00) workshop, Brent Mishler will lead a virtual workshop, "Introduction to Bryophytes," hosted by the Jepson Herbarium. This is a virtual reincarnation of the famous inperson Jepson workshop offered every other year since 1994, and like its predecessors will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about the evolution, ecology, and systematics of mosses, liverworts, and hornworts. It will also cover introductory topics on how to identify them. Given the virtual format, we will not be able to have the hands-on microscope sessions and field trip we have traditionally included, but we will cover some useful techniques through demonstrations.

Find more info at:

https://bryophyte.cnps.org/index.php/newsletter

26th Annual SO BE FREE March 25–28, 2022!

This year's SO BE FREE will take place in the stunning Mojave Desert—while the desert might not be the first destination you associate with all things bryological, the Mojave supports a number of fascinating and resilient bryophytes, if you know where to look! Our home base for this excursion will be the Desert Studies Center in historic Zzyzx, CA. Nestled amongst several natural springs on the edge of a dry soda lake, Zzyzx and its surrounding habitats has been a draw for humans and wildlife for thousands of years. The Desert Studies Center is also situated within the Mojave National Preserve, where we will explore habitats hosting desert mosses and liverworts.

For registration and fees for SO BE FREE, visit:

https://bryophyte.cnps.org/images/pdf/2022 SBF Flyer.pdf.

Liverworts and Hornworts of San Diego County

Andy Pigniolo will give a talk on the Liverworts and Hornworts of San Diego County to the Torrey Pines Docent Society on Saturday, **February 12, 2022** at 3 p.m. at the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. The event is free (with parking fee) and open

to the public. Meet at the pavilion area near the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Lodge and upper parking lots. For more information and updates, please email Andy at lagunaenv@aol.com

Northern California Botanists Online Symposium January 10-11, 2022

The Northern California Botanists will host its 11th botanical symposium on **January 10-11, 2022** with optional workshops on January 12th. The 2022 Symposium will be online.

The 2-day schedule of presentations by working botanists will include sessions on: The Power of Pollination: Habitat, Conservation, and Plant Interactions, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ethnobotany, Great Basin Restoration Approaches, Riparian Vegetation Restoration from Theory to Practice, New Discoveries, Now the Good News, and a Poster Session. Our Keynote Address by Dr. Frank Kanawha Lake is titled "Indigenous Knowledge and Ethnobotany: Tribal Understandings and Connection of Plants and the Environment".

Workshops on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 will be online and include:

Workshop 1: Features of the Consortium of California's CCH2 Data Portal by Katie Pearson, Project Manager for the California Phenology Network.

Workshop 2: Tracking Plant Population Change using Calflora by Cynthia Powell, Executive Director of Calflora.

See more info at: http://www.norcalbotanists.org/

Registration rates: \$75 Member, \$105 Non-Member; and \$40 Students. Register at:

http://norcalbotanists.org/symposia/symposium2022 registra tion.htm

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 January 10 for the February newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpssd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar January 2022

1/5: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.4

1/11: Native Gardening Committee Meeting, p.1

1/22-23: PLANT SALE, p.1

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

https://www.cnps.org/membership					
Student/Limited Income \$2	25;Individual \$50;Plant Lover \$120;Supporter \$500;Pat	tron \$1,000;			
Benefactor \$2,500;Perenni	al Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at \$5/mo. provide much ne	eeded predictable			
income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see					
https://ww	vw.cnps.org/membership to sign up for this membership level.				
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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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January 2022 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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