



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY *San Diego Chapter Newsletter*

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting
“Cultivating Your Inner Scientist”
Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 pm
Featuring Renee Murphy



Spring is here! Environmental scientist **Renee Murphy** will lead a discussion on building sustainable native habitats by observing details within your space. Preparation will guide you to a successful and fulfilling growing experience. Through community and education, we will learn together.

As a native plant educator, Renee shares her passion for sustainable gardening and restoration and hopes to inspire others to grow involved in their communities and get their hands dirty.

Register at this link: [“Cultivating Your Inner Scientist”](#) or type bit.ly/ngc3-8 into your search bar. **Sign up early - space is limited to 100 attendees.**



Matilija Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*).
Photo credit: **Christine Hoey**

8th Annual Native Garden Tour “Circling Back to Nature”

Saturday, April 9, 2022

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

For tickets, go to:

<http://cnpssd.org/events>

After a two-year hiatus, the CNPS San Diego Chapter is pleased to present an exciting lineup of native gardens for the **Circling Back to Nature - California Gardens of East County Garden Tour**. Spend the day exploring and learning from these gardens that illustrate habitat plants, dry streambeds, adjacent natural areas, pool-to-pond conversions, water catchment devices, slope gardens, charming water features, bridges, sculptures and more.



Tickets are \$30 and go on sale Tuesday, March 1 at

<https://ticketstripe.com/gardentour2022>

or

<http://cnpssd.org/events/2022/gardentour>

For questions, please contact Judie Lincer or Christine Hoey at gardentour@cnpssd.org or call 619-277-1490.

PAID CONTRACT POSITIONS with CNPS-SD

CNPS-SD is seeking paid independent contractors: **SOCIAL MEDIA ADMINISTRATOR & EVENT CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR** for the Fiscal Year between May 2022 and April 2023. If you are interested, check out cnpssd.org/jobs and reach out to personnel@cnpssd.org by March 31, 2022. We look forward to having your valuable assistance on our team!

Hugel Planting



The NGC's **January Hugel native planting** at the home of **Lee and Debbie Gordon** successfully installed over 40 native plants including willow mint seedlings. Roof drains funnel rainwater to the bioswales surrounding the

hugels. This will recharge the hugels with water requiring less irrigation for the native plants to thrive. After planting was complete, Lee took the group on a guided tour of his native hillside to see mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), fuchsiaflower gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), bush rue (*Cneoridium dumosum*), and California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*) in bloom.

More Spring Garden Tours...

In person spring garden tours are back this year! While some showcase only native plant landscapes, other tours are beginning to include at least a few native gardens. See the spring garden tour listings below and mark your calendars:

- **March 27: Carlsbad Native Plant Garden Tour** Free! Call 760-439-2473 for more information.
- **April 30: Point Loma Garden Walk**
<https://www.pointlomagardenwalk.com/>
- **March 26: Peaks & Valleys of Poway**
<https://sdhort.org/Tours>
- **April 16 & 17: Bringing Back the Natives Virtual Garden Tour**
<https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>
- **April 23 & 24: Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour** <https://www.nativeplantgardentour.org/>
- **April 30: Bernardo Gardeners Garden Tour.** Featuring the native garden of **Dennis Mudd**. This native plant guru is converting his property into a nature reserve. His 3-acre garden is a sample of what can be achieved with native plants in our geographic location. Fruit and flowering trees are scattered throughout the landscape, as well as a few chickens. The patio area features a unique and innovative rainwater collection system, as well as how you, too, can grow native plants! See page 9 of this newsletter for ticket info.

- **May 7: Mission Hills Garden Walk**
<https://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org/>
- **May 14: La Jolla Secret Garden Tour**
<https://lajollahistory.org/events/secret-garden-tour-of-la-jolla-and-secret-garden-boutique/>

Monarch Butterfly Gardens



Monarch Butterfly on Purple Sage (*Salvia leucophylla*). Can you tell if this is a male or female? (Hint: it's all about the spots). Photo credit: **Christine Hoey**.

Did you know you need to plant at least seven native milkweed plants to provide enough food for Monarch caterpillars? They are hungry little cats, and all that food supplies enough energy to make their chrysalis.

Join the NGC

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!



Happy Spring Native Gardening!
Christine Hoey

Blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*). Photo credit: **Christine Hoey**.

Overlooked Native Plants for the Native Garden

Ribes speciosum –
Fuchsia flowered gooseberry
By Lee Gordon

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

About a decade ago, my youngest daughter and I were exploring the chaparral on the hill above my house, and we came upon a small clearing. There stood two majestic fuchsia flowered gooseberries, in all their glory. These gooseberries made the clearing so beautiful, we have called it the secret garden ever since.



This fuchsia flowered gooseberry is as pretty today (mid-February 2022) as it was ten years ago when we discovered it in the secret garden.



Fuchsia flowered gooseberries are showoffs. Shiny green leaves appear in fall as a harbinger of the rainy season. The rains produce red fuchsia-like flowers, sometimes as early as December, but more typically in February, March, and into April. Plentiful bright red flowers contrast with the deep green leaves to produce a striking display, a show that lasts for months. The grand finale arrives as berries replace the flowers, and the leaves that were forest green turn scarlet red. The plant is still a showstopper! As the leaves start to fall, the berries ripen to a translucent red, and birds know it is time to eat.

The Ribes family (Grossulariaceae) includes both gooseberries and currants. The difference is that gooseberries are spiny while currants have no spines. Watch out for those spines! These are some of the sharpest and most painful spines of all our native plants. Place plants where you can see the show but keep them off the beaten path. You can handle them with leather gloves, but only gingerly. With moderate pressure, the sharp spines penetrate leather. When I prune mine, I move the cut branches to the barrel with the lopper, not my fingers!



In our gardens, gooseberries play the role of a medium-sized foundation shrub during the growing season. If you place them in front of taller evergreen plants, the gooseberry fades into the background when it goes deciduous in the dry season. Most of the plants I have seen in open spaces grow in full sun. They can tolerate some shade, but they bloom better in the sun.

I irrigate my plants once a month with 1" of water. The plants in the secret garden get no supplemental irrigation, and they are about as showy as the ones I water. They all go deciduous in the dry season whether irrigated or not, and they reliably return in the fall. Keep in mind that the secret garden faces north on the hill, which is the gooseberry's favored habitat. In other exposures, irrigation may be necessary. However, if you water them too often, you could lose them.

Gooseberries can be grown from seed. Seeds stratified at 55°F germinate in a couple of weeks. You can simply sow seeds in the fall or keep them in pots outdoors starting around October. They volunteer on my hill and I weed them out. You can pull small seedlings with bare fingers before the spines harden. You can pull larger seedlings by grabbing them just at ground level, below where the spines start. You can also dig up seedlings a few inches tall, shake off the dirt, and transplant them into pots. Transplanted seedlings keep growing like nothing happened. You should be able to get plants at local nurseries, or from native plant nurseries.

When we discovered the gooseberries in the secret garden, my daughter was so enamored that she found a small park bench to put there. When the gooseberries are in bloom, hummingbirds are always there, too. I love to sit and watch them dance around as they feed on the flowers.



Leaves turn red at the end of the season as the berries ripen (left).



Seedlings like the one shown above pop up near my plants. At this size, they are easy to weed out. They also transplant readily to pots or to other locations in your garden.

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

March 2022 Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 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@cnpsd.org.

February Board Meeting Summary

The board approved the following:

- 4 scholarships for the SDSU Field Botany of San Diego course.
- The social media administrator and one on-line events promoter advertisements.

- The contracts for Christine Hoey and Judie Lincer to run the 2022 native garden tour.

Other items discussed by the board included: the March 5 CNPS Chapter Council meeting; Master Right of Entry Permit for City of SD undeveloped spaces; results of the winter plant sale; the 2022 garden tour; and Native Plant Week in April. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

OAKS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Part 2: Postponed to April

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Meeting

Contact conservation@cnpsd.org for meeting information.

The Other Stuff: Faults and Sand

Since I'm working on the Cottonwood Sand Mine EIR, having just finished commenting on the De Anza Natural NOP, I figured it's time to admit something a little weird: not all the issues I deal with in my letters are the CNPS topics of native plants, conservation, and wildfire. Here's what happens, and here's what I try to do about it.

Let's talk about the Rose Canyon earthquake fault. It comes ashore in La Jolla, then crosses I-5 about 700 feet south of the junction with SR-52 by Marion Bear Park. From there it runs under or parallel to the I-5 to disappear under Old Town.

CNPS doesn't comment on earthquake risks, because they aren't native plants. However, if someone asks me whether it's a good idea to build three more lanes from I-5 to the 52 east, one of the things I'm going to point out is that this proposed four-level interchange will be built right on top of the most dangerous fault in San Diego County. And next to the train line, the trolley line, a creek, and a wildlife corridor. Maybe not so smart to have so much concentrated right there?

But I'll make those comments as a private citizen, not as the CNPS-SD conservation chair. I don't know of an activist group that works on earthquake hazards, and when I spot an earthquake or other orphan hazard, I point it out, as a separate, non-CNPS section in the letter.

Turns out De Anza Cove is about 500 feet from the Rose Canyon Fault. And the City's working on a programmatic EIR for the northwest corner of Mission Bay (again!). While I was commenting on that NOP, I saw the new fault maps, and grew perturbed enough to google. That's how I found that there was a 2014 ShakeOut scenario for a major Rose Canyon earthquake, and the Mission Bay shore could be actively dangerous.

The problem is soil liquefaction: when you shake mud or sand just right, it starts acting like a liquid, and you, or your car, or a building can sink in. Once the shaking stops, you're trapped. If there's a big earthquake in Rose Canyon, there's a high risk of liquefaction on all the shorelines around Mission Bay. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't visit Mission Bay, as the danger is miniscule on any given day. If, however, you plan to build a long-term shoreline facility, you need to deal with the liquefaction risk. Hopefully, this time City Planning will realize that it's a problem across the entire site and analyze it up front, rather than punting the problem to individual projects. Hopefully.

Once again, I made my fault-finding comments on de Anza as a private citizen. While I'm not a geologist, I was getting my degree in environmental science at UC Berkeley in 1989 when the Loma Prieta quake hit. Soil liquefaction was a problem then, especially in San Francisco's Marina District, and we learned about it.

Then there are sand mines, which are not my favorite things to deal with. They tend to bring out the worst in people, so I generally stick to commenting for CNPS about CNPS issues.

A bit of background: yes, there's a lot of sand in the world. However, if you want to put that sand in Portland cement (the binder for concrete), not just any sand will do. If the sand grains are too round, they make for weak concrete. That rules out most desert sand, where the wind has tumbled the grains for untold centuries. Instead, you want sand that was washed by water, which has angular grains that lock against each other. However, unrinsed ocean sand has too much salt on it, and salt causes the kind of fascinating, concrete-rotting chemical reactions that makes buildings fall apart.

Unfortunately, the best cement-grade sand comes from rivers. Or, if you want to use a lot of energy and make a lot of noise, you can pulverize the local granodiorite into sand. So, sand mines are either in or near rivers, or they involve pulverizing hard rocks, and either way there's noise. This is why anyone well-off enough to fight a sand mine going in next to them does so. They're easy to hate, and whenever an EIR shows up for one, I get sucked into reading it, with others' assuming that CNPS-SD will join the fight against.

But that's only half the story. A house like mine has a concrete foundation, concrete patio, concrete sidewalk, and a concrete driveway. That's around of 100 tons of concrete, about one-third of which is sand.

This is where we get into a little problem. We want to go on a building spree to build carbon neutral, infill development, more transit hubs, deal with the housing shortage, and so forth. The cheap way to do this is with a lot of concrete, and that in turn requires a lot of mined sand.

To paraphrase one anti-sand mine group, yes, we need more sand, but do we have to mine it next to them? Well, mining it in County emits about 25% or less of the greenhouse gases emitted from getting it outside the County. The further sand is

carried, the more it pollutes. So, if we're trying to cut GHGs, in county is better.

And there's also the environmental justice component. There's a 2017 report out (SR 240 from the California Geology Survey) that goes into the County situation. What jumps out is how many of the exhausted sand mines are on tribal land. My house may very well be on Kumeyaay sand. But other environmentalists want me to join with a bunch of reasonably well off, mostly non-Kumeyaay people, to stop sand mines being built on degraded land near them? Environmental justice is about equal treatment. If sand needs to be mined, shouldn't everyone share the mining burden equally? Or should wealthier communities shift the burden to poorer communities and increase greenhouse gas production in doing so?

Or maybe we can use less concrete? Readapt existing coastal neighborhoods to house more people with minimal rebuilding? Drat, I'm out of space.

Anyway, this is why I prefer earthquakes to sand mines. And I prefer native plants to both.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Chair

APPRECIATION FOR THE SEED & BULB TEAM

I'd like to take a moment to thank some of our wonderful Seed Team volunteers who put in hours of work behind the scenes to keep our chapter's seed sales going both online at www.canativeseeds.com and for in person sales!

First, I want to thank all of our many seed donors, in particular **Justin Daniel** and **Lee Gordon** who always donate so many different (and clean) hard to find seeds. I am also thrilled that **Vince Scheidt** is now focussing on propagating and acquiring native bulbs and corms for our sales - bringing lots of different corms and their seeds to our efforts with an eye on expanding new ones.

Ondina Moehl started helping print and make our labeled envelopes for filling with seed in Jan 2020 and in 14 months has made over 10,000 packs! Most of those packs are filled and sealed by our partner mother/daughters from the National Charity League Seaside Chapter this year save one fun outdoor sorting party hosted by **Judie Lincer**. Then all on-line orders are shipped out by **Cathy Long**, who recently reached a milestone of shipping out her 1,000th order!! We've also managed to sell at 2 events this year. I am happy to announce that **Karen Parke** has taken the lead on our in-person sales, and am thankful to those that help staff the busy tables. **Find us on April 9th at the Water Conservation Park along with the Book Sales at the Garden Tour this year.**

www.canativeseeds.com wouldn't be as beautiful without the continual help of updating plant descriptions and photos by **Bonnie Nickel** and **Joseph Sochor**, nor the in-person table quite the draw without the bookmarks made by **Craig Denson**. And a shout out to our behind-the-scenes treasurer **Andrea Rae** for keeping track of all these transactions!

Thank you also to the many other members who have helped the Seed and Bulb efforts this past year who have made an impact in their own way. Our chapter's efforts on selling local San Diego seeds has filled an important niche in our local gardening communities, contributed to some of the free seed libraries popping up, become an important source of funding for the chapter, and is an important social network for seedy friends! I am looking forward to less COVID and more opportunities to get together more often this year. As always, please contact us if you would like to get involved at seedsandbulbs@cnpssd.org.

~ **Cindy Hazuka**, Seed and Bulb Team Coordinator

IN THE FIELD

Corte Madera Mountain By Tom Oberbauer



Back in January of 1978, I hiked up onto Corte Madera Mountain with a friend, Tom Scott (now with UC Berkeley and UC Riverside), who had been studying Golden Eagles in San Diego County. Bald Eagles were wintering at Corte Madera Lake. After postponing the hike due to rain, that was a good rain season, we drove out to Corte Madera Lake, which was accessible because Tom Scott had a key, and we hiked up the north side of Corte Madera Mountain on a little used trail. The trail climbed through a woodland of mostly coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), but also Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*), as well as Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*). It was foggy going up and the view was obscured.

Years pass and situations change. Corte Madera Mountain is vulnerable to fire and most of the mountain burned in the 1970 fire. Coulter pine acts like it has serotinous cones. The large, heavy cones become scorched and blackened but the scales separate to allow the bright red seeds and wings to be released. The seeds land on bare mineral soil due to the fire, with no easily desiccated duff help the next generation sprout and begin to grow.

Coulter pine trees live quite a long time, likely hundreds of years, but many don't get that chance. Before the 1970 fire, the density of trees visible from Interstate 8 was higher than it is

now, but trees did generate and grow after 1970 and continue to grow now.

As one drives east of Alpine and east of the junction with SR 79, one can look to the south and see the pines growing on the ridge top of this sky island mountain.

For a long time I had considered hiking Corte Madera Mountain from the standard trail that leaves from the southeast on the Lake Morena side. However, different little factors seemed to postpone the hike and other issues prevented any such adventures for quite a while. I had hoped to hike it in 2020, a good rainfall season, but that did not happen. One of my biggest fears for the mountain almost came to become fact when the Valley Fire started west of Japatul Road. It burned through an area in which I was conducting vegetation surveys a week after I was there, around replaced power poles where vegetation restoration had taken place, burning through areas that were scheduled for surveys the following week. It stubbornly burned for a number of days and crept its way toward Corte Madera Mountain. A fire on the mountain now would not only destroy the pine forest still recovering from the 1970 fire, it would set back a hike through any type of real forest by decades. I was heartened to see that the fire was stopped after burning through the Pine Creek Wilderness on some mesa lands, but it did not reach Los Pinos Mountain with its sky island forest of Coulter pines and it did not hit the south slope of Corte Madera Mountain.

Even though 2021, the year of my recent hike, was dry and most locations received 50% or less of normal precipitation, vegetation in much of the County did not seem overly stressed, probably partially due to the fact that the rainfall seasons of the previous two years were relatively normal. In addition, snow fell multiple times above 3,500 feet and the precipitation came at opportune intervals to allow for vegetation to grow and not appear too drought stressed in mid spring at the time of this hike. I was determined to climb it in 2021 before there were any more fire scares.

In early May 2021, I drove with my son Paul out onto Buckman Springs Road. It was a warm day but we started early and were at the trail by 7 am or shortly after. The access road is a long, wash boarded stretch with a decomposed granite surface that also carries vehicles heading toward the Corral Canyon OHV Area. At a hairpin turn several miles in, a small parking pull-out exists for those who want to hike the area.

The morning was still cool but we knew it was going to warm up quickly. The trail began in a shaded canopy of oaks, and involved walking along a dirt road that appears little used. The oaks seem to have suffered through the 20-year drought that the entire county has been suffering. Numbers of trees were dead standing or dead fallen. However, the vegetation was still quite interesting.

The canyon bottom was filled with coast live oaks and western sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*), with large specimens growing in an actual gallery forest, though some had died. Mixed into

the woodland were some interesting annuals and herbaceous perennials like purple and white flowered Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), and stiff branched birds beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus*) with flowers that look like a baby birds' mouths, dark blue Parry's larkspur (*Delphinium parryi*), the brownish flowered California peony (*Paeonia californica*) with finger like leaves, the prostrate lobe leaved Pacific sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), and the twining wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*) that has green somewhat maple shaped leaves and that climbs over other vegetation and small shrubs. Other shrubs included the orange tube flowered summer bush penstemon (*Keckiella ternata*), the silver leaved canyon silk tassel bush (*Garrya veatchii*), the typical deerweed (*Acmespon glaber*), and the yellow flowered, ever present yellow yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). Additional larger shrubs included point leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Eventually the trail left the road and continued almost straight west, emerging from the oak forest into dense chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) dominated chaparral. Also mixed in was cup-leaf lilac (*Ceanothus perplexans*) but also clusters of scrub oak (*Quercus x acutidens*) and blue flowered Ramona lilac (*Ceanothus tomentosus*). Other plants include mountain bluecurls (*Trichostema parishii*), wild hyacinth (*Dipterostemon pulchella*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), and in some open areas grand lotus (*Acmispon grandiflorus*; below).



The soil was red and adjacent to Los Pinos Mountain that exhibited all of the characteristics of gabbro soil as it was approached to the left or the south. It is a cone shaped peak, has few boulders, and has an extensive cover of dark chaparral but also clusters of Coulter pines in groves on the peak and especially the north slope. The trail we were traveling intersected another road in a saddle where the road formed a central intersection with one road proceeding north into the Corte Madera Ranch, one going south up to the top of Los Pinos Mountain by heading around its west side, one proceeding straight west to eventually loop around to the west side of Corte Madera Ranch, and one that went up what was apparently a fire break that passed directly up to the peak of Los Pinos Mountain.

As one approached the intersection, the south face of Corte Madera Mountain came into view. While it is not a sheer vertical cliff face like Half Dome in Yosemite, it has a strong, abrupt cliff face that is nearly 600 feet (190 meters) tall. A sign near the intersection indicated the importance of cliff faces for raptors, including Golden Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. In fact, while it is a popular location for rock climbers, it is shut down seasonally so that the raptors are not adversely affected while nesting.

Just west of the intersection the first Coulter pines were encountered. The elevation is high enough that rainfall can support the trees. Where I grew up east of El Cajon, my grandmother had a Coulter pine that was never watered and utilized only rainfall for growth. It was a bit stunted looking but it was densely packed and was famous to us as a place where Great Horned Owls roosted during the day. We received about 17 inches of rainfall on average yet this tree and nearby clusters and lines of Arizona cypress (*Hesperocyparis arizonica*) could survive without supplemental water, though some of the cypress on the more exposed slopes did not do as well over time.

I would estimate the average precipitation in this place would be like Pine Valley or a bit more, roughly 20 inches, but who knows what average is anymore since the 20-year drought has continued with many places receiving 25% less than the long term mean for more than 20 years. These pines appeared to be in good condition. A number of their cones were on the ground, massive, heavy and spikey, even more massive than others I have seen on Black Mountain and parts of the Cuyamaca Mountains. The trail to the peak turned and followed the Corte Madera Road for a few hundred meters and several sharp curves before it headed off to the west up the mountain. Interestingly, even though it has been a dry rainfall season, ponded water still stood on the road bed with the red soil creating orange mud. Near where the trail turned off toward



the peak, more annuals were present including ball gilia (*Gilia capitata*) with its pale lavender ball shaped inflorescences, purple clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*; left) with its dark maroon

colored, four petaled flowers, California thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *californicum*), coast baby star (*Leptosiphon parviflorus*; right), with small, bright yellow star shaped flowers that grew in small but dense clusters, some areas of white pincushion (*Chaenactis artemisiifolia*), and patches of the feathery green leaved white-



flowered yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*; left, photo credit: Calscape) plants not yet in flower. Whenever I see *Achillea*



millefolium, I am reminded that it has what may be the most widespread distribution of any plant in the world and was used by the native people for a wide variety of treatments for ailments. I saw it in Tierra

del Fuego at the tip of South America, but it may have been introduced

there. There was also a showy patch of golden ray pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta aurea*; right) with its bright yellow orange flowers the size of a quarter, each with



numerous ray flowers. That plant in particular is always a treat to see with the interesting flower heads that vary in size and number of flowers. This is where the real climb began. It was along a series of steep climbs that moved nearly straight overall but with small squiggles as one climbed to the northwest. It had steep and rocky sections and was mostly out in the open chaparral, again. It continued to climb until it reached a relatively high level and then turned northward at a large split boulder with a somewhat picturesque appearance with a view above the Corte Madera Valley. We reached trees here, both *Quercus agrifolia* and *Pinus coulteri* but also canyon



live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) and a bit farther on Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*). The trail did some odd things where it cut along old logs and had some steep stretches where old decaying oak leaves made it a bit slippery. Its route was not perfectly clear at all times but if one paid attention, it was no problem. It continued to climb through the north facing wooded slope with glimpses

through the trees of the green meadow and lake in the valley below. Then, unexpectedly, the trail dropped in elevation, going steeply down toward another saddle where it leveled off and again, passed out into the open chaparral composed here of *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* dominated vegetation. In fact, the 1970 vintage chaparral was so thick and tall that it obscured views of the valley to the north.

The trail gradually climbed back through open, gentle terrain and reached another high point in more, dense, *Arctostaphylos* dominated chaparral before it turned south and cut down a shallow valley and up again toward the peak. Up on top of the flatter areas before the last shallow valley, scattered pines grew directly out of the chaparral, and again, this chaparral is tall. At 50 years old, it is now mature and the trail cuts through it like a narrow trough. The light and the view across this rolling top land was pleasant with the occasional trees as individuals or with a few others. One gets the feeling that it is much higher in elevation than it is with the open, scattered trees in the dense chaparral, similar to the feeling of climbing on the upper slopes of Mount San Geronio in the San Bernardino Mountains. The forest may have been more dense before the 1970 fire. The mature chaparral was more than 2 meters tall in places with chamise and *Quercus x acutidens*. The trail ended at the peak that was a series of large boulders. It was the top of the cliff face drop off. The views from the peak were mostly southward and westward, over deep valleys clothed with heavy, dark chaparral and oaks in the drainage bottoms. Los Pinos was a raised cone shaped mountain with groves of pines and a lookout tower on its top, another sky island refuge for pine trees.



Creeping sage (*Salvia sonomensis*), a plant found in a number of locations in San Diego County skipping down from Central California, was in full flower (left). This low growing plant is partial to gabbro soils but not restricted to it.

At one point near the saddle between the hilltop with the most pines and the more open stretch to the peak, there was a large shrub with bright green, fresh growth, the color of *Quercus kelloggii* (California black oak) when it puts out new leaves. It was clearly not that because the leaves were only

lightly lobed and notched. It was *Quercus x palmeri* (left) that is a hybrid between *Quercus kelloggii* and *Quercus wislizenii* (Interior live oak). It is a beautiful shrub with a color that I noticed from a distance, and the leaves are, in fact, generally deciduous in the fall and winter. I have seen it a few locations near Hell Hole Canyon County Preserve and El Cajon Mountain in San Diego County, but it is not very common. In most places,



it grows where the parents, *Quercus kelloggii* and *Q. wislizenii*, are not present or at least not common.

The walk back down and through the forest seemed to pass quickly and presented a different perspective. I never have a problem walking back the same way I came because I always see things differently and usually find different things. However, once we were back down on the part that left from the intersection, the distance still seemed far. The oaks in the bottom provided welcome shade after the open chaparral stretch but the fatigue from walking so long seemed to be setting in and I was realizing how many trees really have died from drought and extreme circumstances like the Goldspotted oak borer. It is still really beautiful but sad to see old and large trees die.



Corte Madera Mountain

Other blooming species observed included prairie flax (*Linum lewisii*) and showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*).



CNPS EVENT

Aromatic Plants for the Garden Webinar: Thursday, March 3, 2022, 5:30 pm. CNPS is offering free monthly native gardening webinars for novices to experienced native gardeners. There is always something new to learn. To sign up, visit this link: <https://www.cnps.org/gardening/webinars>

CNPS 2022 CONFERENCE

Rooting Together Restoring Connections to Plants, Place & People



Dates: October 20-22, 2022, with workshops and field trips on October 18 & 19.

Location: The DoubleTree by Hilton in San Jose. **Find more info at:** [Conference Home - CNPS Conference](https://conference.cnps.org/) or <https://conference.cnps.org/>

The call for presenters is open. **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022.** [Call for Presenters - CNPS Conference.](#)

Topics are:

Plant Science	Conservation
Horticulture	Education

For sponsorship opportunities, visit: [Sponsorship-Opportunities - CNPS Conference](#). Registration for the conference will open in May 2022.

PLANT ARTICLES

Sunflowers' invisible colors help them attract bees and adapt to drought

The ultraviolet colors of their flowers not only attract pollinators, but also help the plant regulate water loss. University of British Columbia. ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 18 January 2022:

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/01/220118104153.htm

Just what is a 'resilient' forest, anyway?

What does a 'resilient' forest look like in California's Sierra Nevada? A lot fewer trees than we're used to, according to a study of frequent-fire forests.

University of California - Davis. "Just what is a 'resilient' forest, anyway? Study finds resilient, frequent-fire forests have far fewer trees." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 20 January 2022.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/01/220120140714.htm.

Earth BioGenome Project begins genome sequencing in earnest

The Earth BioGenome Project is a global effort to map the genomes of all plants, animals, fungi and other microbial life on Earth. The EBP is entering a new phase as it moves from pilot projects to full-scale production sequencing.

University of California - Davis. "Earth BioGenome Project begins genome sequencing in earnest: 3,000 genomes expected to be sequenced by the end of 2022." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 17 January 2022.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/01/220117165548.htm.

Note from the Editor: This is not a complete listing of articles that pertain to native plant species. I review the ScienceDaily listing regularly and list pertinent ones here. If you know of other articles about native plants or issues that relate to native plants that might be of interest to our members, please send the link to newsletter@cnpsd.org. Thanks!

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Bernardo Gardeners Club Garden Tour

Saturday, April 30, 2022; 10 am – 3:30 pm

A self-guided tour of 6 exciting local gardens; cost \$30 per person. One of the gardens, by **Dennis Mudd**, features 3 acres of native plants. The owner of this garden won the "San Diego Home and Garden" Garden award in 2014. The tour will also include vendors at each location.

Tickets available to purchase at:

Poway: **Walter Andersen Nursery**, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA 92064.

Escondido: **El Plantio Nursery**, 1322 San Pasqual Valley Rd. Escondido, 92027

• **Online:** BrownPaperTickets.com

• **Order the tickets by mail** – order must be received by April 15. Send check payable to: Bernardo Gardeners Club, c/o Renee Garza, 11686 Jocatal Ct., San Diego, CA 92127 (Be sure to provide the return address for mailing).

• **Tickets may be purchased at any of the tour homes.** (cash or check).

EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2022

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 March 10 for the April newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar March 2022

3/2: Board Meeting via Zoom, p.3

3/8: NGC Presentation via Zoom, p.1

Check the CNPS-SD website for activities and/or events that may have been scheduled after this newsletter was completed: <https://www.cnpsd.org/events>

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.

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



NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2686
San Diego, CA

March 2022 Newsletter

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

www.cnpsd.org info@cnpsd.org facebook.com/cnpsd instagram.com/cnpsd twitter.com/cnpsd
youtube.com/cnpsd.org

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Justin Daniel.....president@cnpsd.org
VICE PRES: Leon Scales.....vicepresident@cnpsd.org
TREASURER: Andrea Rae.....treasurer@cnpsd.org
SECRETARY: Bobbie Stephenson.....secretary@cnpsd.org
Cindy Burrascano.....cindy.burrascano@cnpsd.org
Bob Byrnes.....bob.byrnes@cnpsd.org
Christina Clark.....christina.clark@cnpsd.org
Christine Hoey.....christine.hoey@cnpsd.org
Sheila Kirschenbaum.....sheila.kirschenbaum@cnpsd.org
Frank Landis.....frank.landis@cnpsd.org
Torrey Neel.....torrey.neel@cnpsd.org

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Frank Landis.....chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

Email DISCUSSION GROUP

Craig Denson, Moderator
To join, email: CNPSSanDiegoDiscuss+subscribe@groups.io

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

Fred Roberts.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org
(760) 712-7604

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpsd.org
(858) 342-5246

CONSERVATION: Frank Landis.....conservation@cnpsd.org
(310) 883-8569

E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kendra Saad.....announcements@cnpsd.org

FIELD TRIPS: OPEN.....fieldtrips@cnpsd.org

GARDEN TOUR:tour@cnpsd.org

HABITAT RESTORATION: Arne Johanson..... (858) 759-4769 &
Bob Byrnes.....habitatrestoration@cnpsd.org
HOSPITALITY: Kye Ok Kim.....hospitality@cnpsd.org
INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson(858) 759-4769 &
Bob Byrnes.....invasiveplants@cnpsd.org
LIBRARIAN: OPEN.....librarian@cnpsd.org
MEDIA: Joseph Sochor.....media@cnpsd.org
MEMBERSHIP: Bonnie Nickel &
Jasmine Duran.....membership@cnpsd.org
NATIVES FOR NOVICES: Torrey Neel
.....nativesfornovices@cnpsd.org
NATIVE GARDENING: Christine Hoey
.....nativegardening@cnpsd.org
NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpsd.org
(619) 269-0055
ON-LINE ARCHIVING: Birda Hussey Nichols
ON-LINE INQUIRIES: Don Rideout.....info@cnpsd.org
PERSONNEL: Justin Danielpersonnel@cnpsd.org
PLANT SALES:plantsale@cnpsd.org
POSTER SALES: OPEN.....postersales@cnpsd.org
PROGRAMS: Torrey Neel, Joseph Sochor,
Kendra Saad.....programs@cnpsd.org
PROPAGATION: Amy Huie.....propagation@cnpsd.org
PUBLICITY: OPEN.....publicity@cnpsd.org
PUBLIC OUTREACH: OPEN.....publicoutreach@cnpsd.org
RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Frank Landis & Justin
Daniel.....rarsurveyS@cnpsd.org
SEEDS & BULBS: Cindy Hazuka.....seedsandbulbs@cnpsd.org
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:
Jasmine Duran.....volunteer@cnpsd.org
WEBMASTER: Tim Thornton.....webmaster@cnpsd.org

