

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

January 16, 2024

In-person meeting

Casa del Prado Rm 101, Balboa Park

7:00 Browsing & Socializing

7:30 Meeting and Presentation

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Presentation

Creating an Annual Wildflower & Bulb Meadow By Edmond Piffard

Edmond Piffard is a professional artist, but his real passion is nature and native plants. He was inspired to create his own native plant garden after visiting the now defunct "Flower Hill" at the Theodore Payne Foundation in the early 1990s, and has been trying to learn their secrets ever since. In particular, he wanted to recreate what the landscape of annuals looked like before the arrival of invasive weeds in the 1500s. The chaparral plants were relatively easy to



establish, but the annual wildflower and bulb meadow turned out to be both a very difficult challenge and a magical reward. It is a project few native gardeners attempt and fewer still stay with and succeed. He says he has made nearly every mistake, but over the years has gained a knowledge and

insight that he wants to impart to as many native plant gardeners as possible and to convince them that it is absolutely worth the effort!!

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

Welcome winter and the quiet beauty of native gardens at rest. We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season as we look forward to the slower pace in January. There will not be a garden committee meeting this month as Silke and Christine focus their attention to planning the 2024 native garden tour. However, garden maintenance at Bird Park and Zoro Canyon will continue this month. Come join us for some outdoor fresh air in the native garden! **Bird Park Workgroup** sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/ohXgmjcQ7obuVUBQ6>

CNPS San Diego 2024 Native Garden Tour



Mark your calendars for the 10th Anniversary of the CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour on April 6 & 7. We have a special tour planned featuring the beautiful native gardens of Poway, La Jolla, Del Mar and Solana Beach areas. **Early bird tickets go on sale starting January 1, 2024.** For more information and tickets, go to cnpssd.org

A Busy December...

In partnership with **Moosa Creek Nursery** our first **Native Plant Wreath-Making Workshop** was a huge success. It sold out

quickly and 27 participants enjoyed a morning of selecting a wide variety of plant cuttings for creating their holiday wreaths.

Instructors **Maryanne Bache** and **Carol McKie Manning** brought pre-made native grapevine wreaths and fresh cuttings from their own gardens. **Silke Gathmann**, **Andria Califf**, **Louise Russell**, **Christine Hoey** and **Leo Hernandez** collected over 42 different varieties of plant material from Pt Loma, La Jolla and Ranchita the day before the workshop. (Photo credits: Silke Gathmann, Andria Califf, Christine Hoey).



For the holidays, our monthly meeting became a mini winter garden tour combined with a **December Native Plant and Seed Exchange**. Over 70 people visited four La Mesa gardens enjoying refreshments while exchanging plants and seeds. Our garden hosts included **Judi Lincer**, **Jim & Corie Julius**, **Caroline & Mike Harrod** and **Patti & Charles Turkle**. A design charrette was held for garden host **Jim Julius** who recently lost his native garden due to a drain field replacement. With the help of garden committee members and **Greg Rubin**, we brainstormed design ideas and plant list suggestions.

The garden committee welcomes all novice and experienced native gardeners. A separate monthly email is sent out to committee members with meeting announcements, volunteer activities, workshops and early bird sign-ups that don't always make it into the Chapter newsletter. If you love gardening with

California native plants and would like to join the Garden Committee (GC), click on this link:

<https://forms.gle/L356FhDbvrWCWzmd8> We would love to see you!

Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann
Garden Committee Co-chairs

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

January Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 – 9:00ish pm via Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, or to get the link to the meeting, please email president@cnpsd.org.

December Board Meeting Summary

In last month's election, **Sundeep Amin, Sherry Ashbaugh, Bob Byrnes, Justin Daniel, and Silke Gathmann** were elected by the membership to serve on the Chapter Board for 2024.

The Board approved the following:

- Chapter Board officers for 2024: Justin Daniel for president, Cindy Burrascano for vice president, Andrea Rae for Treasurer, Bobbie Stephenson for Secretary.
- To increase the Chapter's scholarship fund to \$4,500 to cover 5 scholarships for the SDSU Extension Field Botany of San Diego County class in spring 2024.
- A Mini Grant to the Paradise Hills Native Garden for up to \$500 to have permanent signs made for the garden.

The Board discussed some conservation issues; the spring 2024 Native Plant Garden Tour; the March 2024 Chapter Council Meeting to be held in San Pedro; the Chapter's fall plant sale that will be held at Liberty Station on October 12, 2024; and future native plantings around buildings at MCAS Miramar. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

PROPAGATION COMMITTEE

Saturday, January 6: Cuttings Workshop

Friday, January 19: Winter Weeding Workshop

10 am to ~1 pm

Heavy rain will cancel the event.

Tecolote Nature Center
5180 Tecolote Rd
San Diego, CA 92110

Sign up for updates and Committee announcements by emailing propagation@cnpsd.org and requesting to be added to the contact list.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 2

6 – 8 pm; via Zoom

Send a request for the link to conservation@cnpsd.org.

The Conservation Committee has three major components:

- Careful and insightful evaluation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and planning / development documents.
- CNPS representation on board and action committees for planning boards, wildlife boards, habitat conservation plans, and other regional advisory boards.
- Evaluating sites for potential restoration and obtaining rights of access, developing resource management plans, and engaging our other Committees to collective action.

OUTREACH NEWS

CNPS-SD at the San Diego Environmental Film Festival

On November 18th, the Public Outreach Committee represented our chapter at the Block Party for the environmental film festival, during a tabling event that Saturday evening.

This was the second annual film festival, and showed films from across the world on a variety of environmental topics. The festival included an All-Day Screening Event on Saturday and was co-sponsored by the Environmental Studies Program within the John Muir College of UC San Diego.

The tabling event held during the Block Party provided attendees a chance to dialogue with NGOs focused on aspects of environmental justice and climate action. The event was described as having "the aim of inspiring, educating, and motivating people towards climate action, environmental protection, and social good."

Public Outreach Committee members **Sherry Ashbaugh** and **Rachel Powers** had the opportunity to engage with students and film attendees to discuss the many virtues of native plants. They were assisted by Habitat Restoration Committee Co-Chair **Bob Byrnes**, who was able to explain how and why CNPS San Diego does invasive species removal work. If you are interested in seeing what films were shown this year and last year, visit this link: <https://sdeff.org/>.

~ **Sherry Ashbaugh**,
Public Outreach
Committee Chair



Left: **Bob Byrnes** and **Rachel Powers** at the tabling event.

Photo credit: Sherry Ashbaugh

IN THE FIELD

Waterfall - Devil's Jump Off

By Tom Oberbauer

(Photos by the author)

For the first two weeks of January 2023, we had a really impressive set of storms associated with Atmospheric Rivers. They first hit Northern California but eventually worked their way down to our County. They caused significant flooding in Northern and Central California but they created a snowpack that was equivalent to a normal seasonal total, especially in the southern Sierras where they needed it the most. For the last week of the storms, predictions had been 3-4 inches of precipitation in our mountains and 0.75-1.5 inches along the coast. However, amazingly, the storms went on to the point that Cuyamaca Lake received nearly nine inches and Palomar Mountain 11 inches for the final storms, bringing the total to 18 inches for the two-week period for Cuyamaca with Palomar nearly 20 inches.

This created conditions that were favorable to the flow of waterfalls in San Diego County. Years ago, in the late 1990's, I had hiked down to see Cedar Creek Falls, which flows into the San Diego River Canyon. On the way down, I passed Mildred Falls. However, I had seen the formation called Devil's Jump Off on maps but not in person. Fortunately, an on-line source showed an image of water flowing in it and also a place to view it.

On January 18, a day after the rains stopped, I drove out to the east end of San Diego Country Estates. The morning was frosty and skies were clear. After parking the car, I began walking up an old fire road to the north. The first part was a consistent climb that grades up from the end of the paved road. As it climbs, the road curves to the east and one begins to get a view of the deep San Diego River gorge. Since it was only a couple of days since the rain stopped, I could hear the roar of waterfalls, probably Cedar Creek Falls, and the San Diego River itself. It was a view of a green countryside, but one does not normally think about how deep the canyon is until you see it from above.

The vegetation as the old road climbed consisted of interior versions of Coastal Sage Scrub. The nearby vegetation was a representative of the *Salvia apiana* (White sage) provisional association with the white sage and its strongly scented, gray colored leaves as the dominant. *Mirabilis laevis* (Four o'clock) with its magenta flowers still open was also present. It is called Four o'clock because its flowers close down during the day but are open in the morning, and evening after four. Other elements of this association were *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Flat topped buckwheat), and *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush).

The rains had an effect on the shrubs because the *Artemisia* had put out its new leaves, but they were still early and the plants had not fully recovered from the summer drought. *Hesperoyucca whipplei* (Chaparral yucca) and *Malosma laurina* (Laurel sumac) were also present. *Brickellia californica*

(California brickellbush), with its almost heart-shaped triangular leaves (below), was growing on the steep rocky areas.



Opuntia littoralis (Coast prickly pear) was also growing in a few places. One often forgets how prevalent these cacti are in coastal and inland areas. Unfortunately, weedy species were also present including the widely spread *Sisymbrium irio* (London rocket), and the undesirable *Cenchrus setaceus* (Crimson fountaingrass) that has spread everywhere after being used broadly as a landscape ornamental in the 1960s and 1970s.

As I walked along, not only could I hear the water in the San Diego River gorge, but also small creeks and trickling streams were flowing along the way. *Phacelia* seedlings, probably *Phacelia distans* (Wild heliotrope), as well as *Lupinus hirsutissimus* (Stinging lupine), with its large finger-like leaves and stems with tiny prickly hairs, were also growing there.



Liverworts were also present, including *Asterella californica* (California perianth liverwort) above and *Targionia hypophylla* (Orobush-seed liverwort) at right.

As the trail climbed, it turned from east to north and then the vegetation transitioned into Chaparral. It became the *Adenostoma fasciculatum* – *Xylococcus bicolor* (Chamise – Mission Manzanita) Association with *Ceanothus perplexans* (Cupped leaf ceanothus) as the dominants. *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast live



oak) grew along a few of the small rivulets that were flowing. *Rhamnus ilicifolia* (Holly leaf redberry) was in locations where *Quercus X acutidens* (Torrey's hybrid scrub oak) and *Ceanothus tomentosus* (Woolly leaf ceanothus) and *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* (Eastwood manzanita) all grew together.



Cuscuta species on a shrub.

Wrentits called their long twitter as I walked by and California thrashers were making low, burbled chatters from the shrubs as well. A light breeze was cool but the sun was warm, long ago burning off the remnants of frostiness. *Plagiobothrys collinus* var. *fulvescens* (California popcornflower), a small popcorn flower like a *Cryptantha*, with green star shaped rosettes were growing on the dark, moist soil (below).



A boulder, three to four feet in diameter had broken loose and fell across the road that has a forest service marker number but appears little used and is now completely blocked by the boulder. *Quercus engelmannii* (Engelmann oak, below) grew in scattered locations on the upper part of the road.



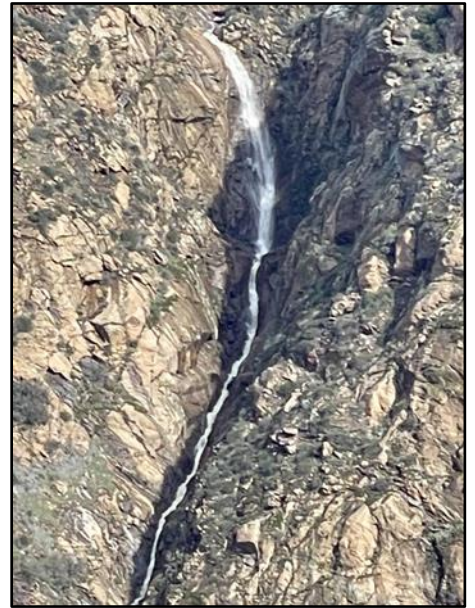
In order to get to a vantage point to see the Devil's Jump Off, I had to leave the road and cut across the chaparral to get to the north slope of this mesa-like ledge. From there, the view directly north showed the Devil's Jump Off roughly a quarter mile away across a deep canyon. The entire formation with Devil's Jump Off appears like a large rock block with a notch cut



out of its side. The entire structure composed of granitic rock is roughly 1,600 feet high. When I was first able to see it, a line of white water dropped down through the notch in the shadow of the rock feature.

Left: Devil's Jump Off with snow on Volcan Mountain in the distance.

I could hear the rushing water. However, scales were deceptive here. It was difficult to comprehend how far the drop really was. The instant drop of water appears to be around 400 feet, but the entire white-water cascade, at least in the main nearly vertical down flow, was 800-900 feet and the white



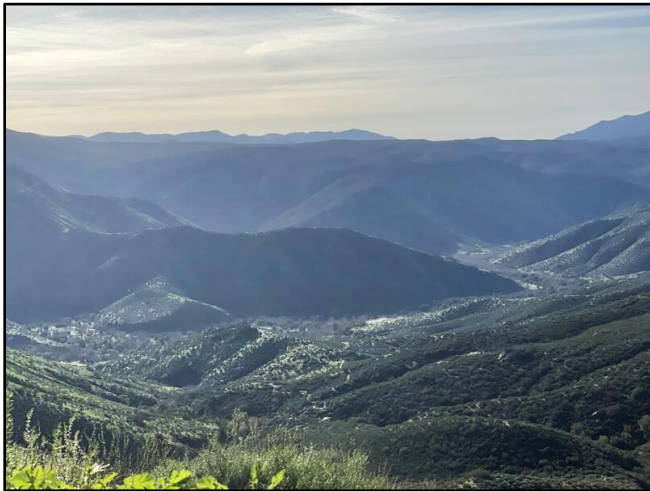
water extended down farther, but in more of a series of cascades than a steep, vertical drop. Though it was not possible to approach it closely, even zooming in with a cell phone camera captured the water flow and slow-motion shear face drop of the upper part. The view was also framed by snow-dusted Volcan Mountain to the north east. At least a portion of the falls themselves, or possibly the entire structure, is on private land adjacent to forest service land, so it was not possible to approach the falls from the top. However, their location makes it difficult to get close anyway. The creek that flows into Devil's Jump Off is referred to as Dye Creek that flows through Dye

Canyon. The watershed for these falls is not very large extending up into Witch Creek and parts of the Santa Ysabel area. The other interesting geographic feature is that Devil's Jump Off is on the west side of the San Diego River gorge while Mildred Falls, another notable drop, is located almost directly across on the east side of the San Diego River gorge, possibly in the same rock formation that has been cut by the San Diego River gorge. Mildred Falls will be discussed in a future article.

With the small source of the waterfall, it is not likely that it flows very long following heavy rain storms, but if there was a succession of storms, as there were in early 2023, it could conceivably flow for quite some time. In any case, with the drought of the last 20 years, its flow has not been a common occurrence and being able to see it first hand is quite an experience.



San Diego River gorge and Cuyamaca peaks with a dusting of snow.



San Diego River gorge.

RECENT RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

How forests smell -- a risk for the climate?

Plants emit odors for a variety of reasons, such as to communicate with each other, to deter herbivores or to respond to changing environmental conditions. An interdisciplinary team of researchers carried out a study to

investigate how biodiversity influences the emission of these substances. For the first time, they were able to show that species-rich forests emit less of these gases into the atmosphere than monocultures. It was previously assumed that species-rich forests release more emissions. The Leipzig team has now been able to disprove this assumption experimentally. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/12/231213112553.htm>

California redwoods 'killed' by wildfire come back to life with 2,000-year-old buds

New buds are sprouting through the charred remains of California redwoods that burned in 2020, suggesting the trees are more resilient to wildfires than thought.

<https://www.livescience.com/planet-earth/plants/california-redwoods-killed-by-wildfire-come-back-to-life-with-2000-year-old-buds>

OTHER CNPS ACTIVITIES

CNPS 2024 Workshops

For information and registration, visit:

<https://www.cnps.org/education/workshops>

Workshop topics include:

- Rare Plant Survey Protocols
- Vernal Pool Plants
- Introduction to Plant Identification
- Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé
- Sensitive Natural Communities on the North Coast
- Grass Identification: An Introduction

CNPS Orange County Chapter Thursday, January 18, 2024

Plants of Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

<https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2023/12/18/2024-jan-18-meeting-plants-of-whiting-ranch-project/>

A CNPS OC and UCI Herbarium Project

Public Meeting starts 7:30 pm

In-Person at:

Norman Murray Community Center

24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo

Doors open 6:45 pm

Zoom Viewing Option: Register @

[zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrdUctqD8sGdBsD6w9KpqchFhb8UHBrt3](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJwrdUctqD8sGdBsD6w9KpqchFhb8UHBrt3)

CNPS Bryophyte Chapter SO BE FREE 28

**March 29, 2024 @ 4:00 pm –
April 1, 2024 @ 10:00 am**

Join the Bryophyte Chapter for their annual foray and meeting, SO BE FREE, to be held this year in the Santa Rita Mountains,

south of Tucson, AZ. The main focus is on mosses, liverworts and hornworts, but they welcome experts on other groups as well. They will have field trips to a variety of habitats, plus evening slide shows, as well as keying sessions with microscopes, and a workshop for beginners.

Details and registration here:

<https://chapters.cnps.org/bryophyte/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2023/11/Flyer-SOBEFREE-2024.pdf>

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

ABDSP is currently looking for enthusiastic botany volunteers to act as stewards for one of the most botanically fascinating regions in the state! General tasks include invasive plant management, rare plant surveys, herbarium work, and leading plant walks for the public.

Prospective volunteers will participate in a free, 12-week certification course that will improve their understanding of botany, ecology, and management of rare and invasive plant species.

Volunteers will contribute to the mission and work of the ABDSP Botany Department. Those who graduate will be officially designated as a member of the Anza-Borrego Botany Society, a group of plant enthusiasts specializing in the preservation and interpretation of our local flora. The course will take place every Monday from January 15 to April 1, 2024 at the UCI Reserve from 9 am to 3 pm.

If interested, please contact Syd Wagner at sydney.magner@parks.ca.gov

Lichen and Bryophytes of Torrey Pines, An Update

A Presentation by Chris Wagner

January 13; 9 – 10 am

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

334 14th Street, Del Mar CA 92014

(free parking on roads)

Learn what interesting species Torrey Pines has! Ongoing surveys have discovered many new species and habitats of lichens and bryophytes. Come learn why knowledge of these species are so important.

Theodore Payne Foundation

Native plant gardening classes for January and February 2024 are listed here:

[Classes & Workshops | Theodore Payne Foundation](#) or
<https://theodorepayne.org/learn/classes-workshops/>

Center for Plant Conservation

National Meeting in San Diego

May 2-3, 2024

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is thrilled to host the 2024 National Meeting May 2-3, 2024 with sessions taking place at both the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance—a CPC Participating Institution and the host institution for CPC's National Office headquarters.

For 40 years, CPC and its ever-growing network of Conservation Partners have been at the forefront of botanical breakthroughs—pioneering scientific research and techniques, utilizing cutting-edge technologies and methodologies, and innovating solutions and best practices—all to advance our shared mission to save rare and endangered plants from extinction. This year's meeting theme, Conservation Innovation: Harnessing Technology to Advance Rare Plant Conservation, celebrates CPC's milestone 40th anniversary and our network's innovative spirit that drives our collective conservation efforts and success stories. For more information, visit:

[2024 CPC National Meeting - Center for Plant Conservation \(saveplants.org\)](https://2024.cpcnationalmeeting.org/) or https://saveplants.org/national-meeting/?mc_cid=f7f104c8dc&mc_eid=bb2fe8e999

Native Plant Week April 13 – 20, 2024

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@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar January 2024

- 1/2: Conservation Committee, via Zoom, p.5
- 1/10: Board Meeting, via Zoom, p.3
- 1/6: Propagation Committee, p.3
- 1/16: Chapter Meeting, in person, p.1
- 1/19: Propagation Committee, p.3

(<https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/>)

Please check www.cnpsd.org for activities that may have been scheduled after this newsletter was prepared.

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



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January 2024 Newsletter

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

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Kendra Saad.....kendra.saad@cnpsd.org
One position open

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Justin Daniel.....chaptercouncil@cnpsd.org

Email DISCUSSION GROUP

Craig Denson, Moderator

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

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

Christina Clark.....rarebotanist@cnpsd.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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