

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

April 16, 2024

In-person

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

University of California's Natural Reserve Sites in San Diego County by Isabelle Kay

Isabelle Kay will give an overview of each of the four San Diego Reserves and the challenges of their management in the increasingly urbanized milieu of western San Diego County and an increasingly variable climate. These sites are: the Dawson-Los Monos Canyon, Elliot Chaparral, Kendall-Frost Marsh, and Scripps Coastal Reserves. She will highlight examples of their roles as educational, research, and community resources, and then propose some directions for continuing collaboration with the CNPS.



Isabelle Kay has been the Academic Coordinator and Manager for the University of California's four Natural Reserve sites in San Diego since 1989. (She landed the position thanks to attending a CNPS meeting where the position was announced.) The sites, together with 37 other reserves throughout the state, the mission is to protect and provide

examples of California's diverse ecosystems for university-level teaching, research, and public service that will contribute to the understanding and wise stewardship of the Earth and its natural systems.

CNPS-SD NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

**The CNPS San Diego 2024
Native Garden Tour
is Just 5 Days Away!**



Happy April 1st! Just a friendly reminder that there are only 5 days left until the *10th Anniversary CNPS San Diego 2024 Native Garden Tour*. Get ready to soak up some sunshine, warm weather and immerse yourself in the splendor of beautiful native gardens bursting with vibrant blooms. The garden owners have spared no effort to ensure your visit is a delightful experience!

Visit **Calscape** founders *Dennis & Pam Mudd* in Poway on Saturday and *Jim Smith* in Del Mar on Sunday to explore their visionary gardens firsthand. Plus, don't miss out on the exclusive 15% discount on native plants offered by **Moosa Creek Nursery** at gardens **8 & 18** throughout the weekend. **Neel's Nursery** will also be open both days - look for their BOGO coupon in the tour booklet.

Experience a touch of artistry as you browse through a curated selection of native plant and nature inspired artwork and crafts at select gardens. And for young enthusiasts, be sure to catch **EcoArts Kids Children's Art** featuring themes of native plants and animals on display at select gardens Sunday.



Photo by **Jeremy Howard**.

Seeds for Sale During the Tour:

During the tour, the CNPSSD Seed and Bulb team will have seeds on sale at these locations:

Saturday April 6, 9 am - 4 pm:
11855 Caminito Sanudo, San Diego, CA 92131

Sunday April 7, 9 am - 2 pm:
14295 Recuerdo Dr. Del Mar 92014

Featured Events Included with Your Ticket:

There is still time to sign up for a docent guided tour of the **Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center** demonstration garden representing local plant life from 2,000 years ago. Explore the trails, native huts, grinding holes (metates) and the culture of Poway's First People. **RSVP at aransom@poway.org** or call 858-668-4781. *Space is limited.*

Enjoy coastal native garden views on a guided tour of **Native Del Mar Garden** by founder and creator *Tyden Chinowsky*. This garden began as his Bar mitzvah project and has expanded with help from fellow students and family. Truly beautiful! **April 7, 11 am. natedelmar.org/** Tickets are still available at the link below and can be **picked up at any Will Call Garden**. For more information, visit <https://chapters.cnpss.org/sandiego/native-garden-tour-2024/>

CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour **Tickets**

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

The Garden Committee March Meeting - Our Largest Yet!



Photos by **Christine Hoey**.



Special guests, biologist **Dr. Reinhard Witt**, founder of the German [Naturgarten e.V.](https://naturgarten.org/) (<https://naturgarten.org/>) and Architect **Katrin Kaltofen**, known as "[Die Naturgartenplaner](https://naturgartenplaner.de/gemeinsam/)" (<https://naturgartenplaner.de/gemeinsam/>) from Regensburg, Germany, presented their talk, "*Biodiverse Community Green Spaces*" captivating an audience of over 50 members. Their engaging talk shed light on the pivotal role of community involvement in cultivating native plant ecosystems within neighborhood communal spaces including innovative rooftop gardens.

We will not be meeting in April to take time to plan for the next big planting at Bird Park...see below.

Bird Park Native Garden Expansion Workshop Coming Up!



The city of San Diego has installed new irrigation in our next two "feather" plots at Bird Park. Landscape plans are ready to go with plant lists in hand. After April 20, stay tuned for the Bird Park Workshop to expand our native demonstration garden in Balboa Park that will include another dry stream bed, sitting boulders, DG paths and more.

Photo by **Christine Hoey**.

**Plant a Tree, Get \$100
Be WaterWise New Rebate Program:**



Increasing tree canopy is crucial for lowering temperatures and mitigating climate change impacts. Metropolitan Water District's new rebate program offers incentives for planting up to five trees in residents' and businesses' turf replacement projects. Many of the recommended trees for this program are native to California making them well suited to the region's climate and ecosystem. For more information, go to:

<https://www.bewaterwise.com/tree-rebates.html>

*Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann
Garden Committee Co-Chairs*

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

April Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 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.

March Board Meeting Summary

The Board approved the following:

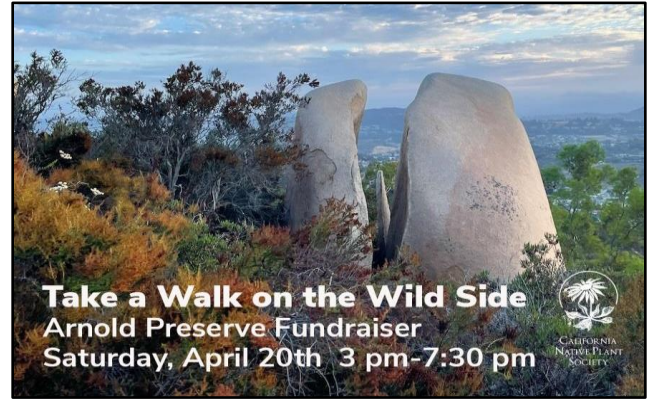
- An additional scholarship for the cost (\$895) of the spring field botany course be awarded to a student.
- The plant/animal pairs articles being used for the garden tour to remain on the CNPSSD website as educational documents and that \$1,200 from the Native Gardening Restricted Fund be transferred to the NGC budget.
- Authorization to add another scholarship, acknowledging irregularities in the requirements and requiring a presentation/sharing of the work to the chapter.

The Board discussed: the website update; Urban Corps training sessions; change of coordinator for the North Park Storage Unit (Sherry Ashbaugh to be the primary and Christine Hoey to be the alternate); the state CNPS directory update; the upcoming Native Garden Tour; the Arnold Preserve fundraiser; activities for Native Plant Week; potential locations for the fall plant sale; upcoming chapter meeting presentations; and NGC activities at Bird Park.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

ARNOLD PRESERVE FUNDRAISER



Experience Nature and Philanthropy at Arnold Preserve Fundraiser Event "Take a Walk on the Wild Side"

We invite nature enthusiasts and philanthropists alike to join us for an unforgettable fundraising event, "Take a Walk on the Wild Side," on Saturday, April 20, from 3:00 to 7:30 pm. Arnold Boulder Mountain Preserve promises an extraordinary experience as guests explore this private nature sanctuary and botanic garden alongside CNPS experts.

Event Highlights:

- Guided Nature Walks: Embark on guided tours through pristine coastal sage scrub and chaparral.
- Networking: Connect with fellow nature enthusiasts while enjoying delicious food and drinks.
- Silent Auction: Bid on exciting items, with all proceeds supporting the fundraising goal.

Trail Difficulty: Trails suitable for all fitness levels, ranging from easy to challenging.

Help Us Reach Our \$10,000 Goal:

Your support will contribute to the conservation of vital ecosystems in our community.

Tickets for the event are available for \$100 per person, with the option to make a donation if unable to attend. Space is limited, so attendees are encouraged to reserve their spot early.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side Tickets

For more information and to purchase tickets or donate, visit cnpsd.org/take-a-walk-on-the-wildside.

Proceeds from the event will support CNPS San Diego's Miramar



Vernal Pool Preserve Phase II "Take Down the Dirty Dozen" project. Twelve eucalyptus trees (left) posing a threat to the vernal pools' ecosystem will be removed and replaced with California native trees allowing the affected pools to return to their original glory.

The Chapter Needs Your Help

The Chapter is run by volunteers and we need more! Please contact Justin Daniel (president@cnpssd.org) if you can help. We especially need:

- One Board Member
- Programs Chairperson (to arrange programs for the chapter meetings)
- Natives for Novices Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Archiver
- Education Chairperson
- Publicity/Email Announcements Coordinator (to send out Mailchimp notices)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 2: 6 – 7:30 pm

The committee generally meets the first Tuesday of every month online via Zoom and in person from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Send a request for the link to conservation@cnpssd.org.

PROPAGATION COMMITTEE

Sign up for updates and Committee announcements by emailing propagation@cnpssd.org and requesting to be added to the contact list. This month's committee dates are **April 12** and **27**.

FIELD TRIPS

For more info and to sign up for the field trip, go to: <https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/>

Torrey Pines State Beach
Saturday, April 6; 8:00 to 11:00 am

LEADER: John Caffrey

DIFFICULTY: Moderate with an option to cut the length by descending the paved road back to the parking lot.

DISTANCE: 5 miles (8 km).

PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to Novice, Professionals are welcome every time!

ACCESS: Open to all, no charge for field trip.

REQUIRED FEES: Parking lot has a fee or park along Carmel Valley Road (free) but arrive by 7:30 am to get a convenient spot and walk the beach to the south lot.

AMENITIES: Restrooms are available at the south parking lot and porta potties at the mesa top.

DOGS: Not allowed.

[EXTREME TEMPS above 90F [32C] or forecast for Heavy Rain / flash floods Will Cancel]

Our route will first be along the beach to Flat Rock. There will be peregrine falcon nests along the cliffs above us. Then up to Yucca and Razor Points and finally the Guy Fleming trail. You can

skip a portion(s) of the route, if it gets too long. This event is limited to ten attendees and no guests because the Reserve does not allow large groups. If another organizer wants to join us, I can open it up to more people. There will be plenty of wildflowers to dazzle and many native plants. Bring sunscreen, hat, snack, water, camera or cell for iNaturalist.

BIOBLITZ

Campo Border Bioblitz
Shockey Truck Trail
Thursday, April 18; 9 am – 2 pm

<https://www.meetup.com/san-diego-county-native-plant-discoverers-meetup/>

The 2024 Border BioBlitz is in service of the SD Natural History Museum's Community Science efforts and the broader focus on environmental issues at the international border between the US and MX. The trip itself will be fairly slow-paced at first and geared to take records as we slowly make our way down Shockey Truck Trail and any accessible side paths to near the Border wall where we'll have lunch and turn around. The dominant habitats we'll walk through is desert transitional big sagebrush scrub and mixed manzanita / scrub oak / redshanks chaparral.

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE (Rocky areas, long distance) 4.0 miles roundtrip (6.5 km)

PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Amateur to Professional

ACCESS: Open to all, no charge for field trip. Driving access is paved to the parking area, though winter storms are taking their toll on rural infrastructure. High clearance and AWD are recommended.

REQUIRED FEES: None.

AMENITIES: Restrooms and services are available at nearby businesses around Campo.

DOGS: Not recommended due to sensitivity of the location for Border Patrol and high chance of rattlesnakes.

WHAT TO BRING: Come prepared for the trail and the weather from morning to early evening. Wear layered clothing and wear sturdy and armored shoes (boots are recommended). Bring plenty of water & sunscreen. Bring your own lunch and snacks! **[EXTREME TEMPS above 90°F [32°C] or forecast for Heavy Rain / flash floods Will Cancel]**

TRIP DESCRIPTION: This area is adjacent to the International Border with Mexico; it is just east of Campo and while it has been built up with the border fence, it is still abuzz with activity from Border Patrol and migrants crossing the border. **The environment has not been studied very well so we'll be documenting what plants and animals we see for the Border Bio Blitz Project. Record taking is with iNaturalist and uses other tech and apps.**

Many rare plants are found in this area including the Jacumba milkvetch (*Astragalus douglasii* var. *perstrictus*), pride of California pea (*Lathyrus splendens*), and southern jewelflower

(*Streptanthus capestris*). Mid-April will be fantastic for blooms almost anywhere, especially the high desert areas like Campo.

FOR ANYONE WILLING & ABLE TO OFFER CARPOOLING, PLEASE MESSAGE THE GROUP TO COORDINATE. I can suggest a few great places to carpool if anyone is amenable and willing to set one up.

~ Justin Daniel, Chapter President

Save the Date: Corte Madera Mountain BIOBLITZ, May 11.

More at:

<https://www.meetup.com/san-diego-county-native-plant-discoverers-meetup/>

OUTREACH NEWS

Native Plant Week April 13-20, 2024

It's that time of year again! We have added a day on either end of the state CNPS schedule for Native Plant Week 2024. Our chapter events schedule to date is listed below. Check our new chapter website at <https://chapters.cnps.org/sandiego/> where we will be adding more events and further details.

Friday, April 12 - Propagation Committee: Nursery tour at Cabrillo National Monument with Patricia Simpson.

Saturday, April 13 - Public Outreach Committee will be at Pechanga Earth Day (Tribal outreach event closed to public).

Tuesday, April 16 - Chapter general meeting: See page 1.

Thursday, April 18 - Field Trips Committee: Border Bioblitz at Campo: See page 6

Saturday, April 20 - CNPS San Diego Chapter Fundraising event at Arnold Preserve in Poway: See page 6.

You can also participate in online events organized by state level CNPS; see this link <https://www.cnps.org/california-native-plant-week> and check daily for new releases every day of Native Plant Week 2024.

~ Sherry Ashbaugh, Public Outreach Committee Chair

City Nature Challenge (CNC) April 26 - 29

CNPSSD members are invited to participate in the 2024 CNC, an annual event that encourages people to get outdoors and enjoy nature by photographing all types of organisms and posting them on iNaturalist. People can participate on their own by taking photos anywhere in the county and posting them during the three days of April 26-29. For those who would like to participate in an organized event, there are a number to choose from in a variety of locations, including San Diego River Park, Tijuana Slough, and Batiqitos Lagoon. A detailed listing of events is available on the SD Museum of Natural History website (<https://www.sdnhm.org/education/community-science/city-nature-challenge/city-nature-challenge-events>).

Volunteers at the museum will be identifying the thousands of observations.



Although billed as a competition between cities, the real purpose of CNC is to get more people outdoors to observe and appreciate nature. Families and children are especially encouraged.

For those new to iNaturalist, a video tutorial is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVJAZzXw8qI>

Questions can be directed to Don Rideout (don@rideouts.net).

Public Outreach Committee Updates

On February 23, I had the pleasure of tag-teaming a presentation to the Rotary Club of Del Mar-Solana Beach with Gardening Committee Co-Chair **Christine Hoey**. We discussed native plants and gardening on an introductory level to club members during their meeting at the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center.

Our outreach booth at this year's Bird Friendly Home and Garden Fair during the 2024 Bird Festival at the Marina Village Conference Center was well staffed by volunteers **Susan Lewitt** and **Jessica Lyle**. The fair included several partner organizations including the Xerces Society's San Diego Bee City USA, represented by CNPS member **Bonnie Nickel**. **Mike Acevedo** from the San Joaquin Valley CNPS chapter was also there to share his work with the California Bluebird Recovery Project.



Left: **Susan Lewitt** talking about native plants at the San Diego Bird Festival.

Right: **Jessica Lyle** chatting with attendees.

We also participated in Family Nature Day again this year, on March 2 at Mount Helix Park in La Mesa. The weather was terrible...the wind and rain made for a slow start to the event, but attendees started arriving via the shuttle in mid-morning.



Many thanks to **Theresa Desy** and **Rachel Powers** for braving the wind and rain; you gals were troopers!

Our native plants class at the Golden Door Country Store on March 9 was lightly attended but everyone who came for the class received a packet of our outreach materials, and had a chance to talk to yours truly as the presenter, or to Chapter President **Justin** and **Erika Daniel**. The weather was beautiful on this Saturday, and the outdoor deck was a very nice location. Attendees also enjoyed a staff discount on purchases at the store. We hope to partner more with the Golden Door Spa on future classes. Our poster for the upcoming 2024 Native Garden Tour was on full display at the store for all to see.

Please join us on **Saturday, April 27, for C Street Keeps It Green**, with The Downtown Property and Business Improvement District, otherwise known as the Downtown Partnership Clean & Safe program. This will be an indoor tabling event at 333 C Street from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. If you can help at our table, email me at sherry.ashbaugh@cnpssd.org. Thanks in advance for helping spread the word about why native plants are so wonderful.

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

IN THE NATIVE GARDEN

Paradise Hills Native Garden

From Urban Blight to Native Habitat Garden

by **Wes Janssen**
photos by the author

At the headwaters of the south fork of Paradise Creek, beneath a layer of clay topped with fill dirt, rests the 1960s era Paradise Landfill, capped and covered in 1968 after slightly more than a year's use by the County of San Diego. The site was included in an annexation by the City of San Diego, becoming the 5-acre centerpiece of Paradise Hills Community Park. It would be nearly 20 years before science-based regulation and accepted best practices would establish that no irrigation system could be used on the site; prior to that turf grass recreation fields were attempted. Concerns about ponding, subsidence, and releases of landfill gas (LFG) would end irrigation on the site, which was then left to cricket players willing to play on dirt, remote controlled aircraft hobbyists, touring carnival trucks, and invasive pest plants. Some of these usages proved a challenge to the maintenance of the site's hydrology. It fell to minimally managed *Amaranthus* species and pest species including bull mallow (*Malva nicaeensis*), bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*) and worst of all, puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*). A roughly circular quarter mile walking track was added. Apart from toyon and lemonade berry allowed to persist beyond the landfill's southern perimeter, virtually none of the native flora found in the immediately adjacent south fork drainage of Paradise Creek were present.

Stepping back, did you note the humorously oxymoronic name Paradise Landfill? The name being assigned to a waste deposit at a headwater area of a creek system that feeds directly into San Diego Bay, suggesting—likely unintended—things paradoxical and problematic.

The good news here, is that the site has been largely problem free for many years. Comparatively minor but ongoing hydrology and pest issues can be mitigated and managed. Environmental Services monitoring finds that no LFG releases have been detected for quite some time, and the City's IPM (Integrated Pest Management) department has recently initiated a program to eventually eradicate a significant puncture vine problem.

Paradise Hills Native Garden

Today a loosely ring-shaped native plant demonstration garden encircles the covered landfill.



Its journey into existence is described below.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has long recommended revegetation of covered landfills, particularly with plants native to the site's bioregion and climatic conditions. The reasoning is obvious – native plants can be selected to establish quickly with minimal hand watering, to then require no supplemental irrigation system, and to reestablish habitat for native pollinator species and wildlife, generally. Candidate covered landfills are those sites no longer experiencing problems like subsidence or landfill gas emissions. The results at sites revegetated with native plants, including sites that have incorporated native trees, have demonstrated that this treatment enhances "integrity and protectiveness" on the cover (find Fact Sheets at www.epa.gov; other research papers are also easily located). Early concerns of tap roots penetrating the anaerobic clay cap are largely discounted absent weaknesses within the cap, with that condition not evidenced given an absence of LFG emissions. Additionally, many plant species are lateral rooters that will not approach the

cap, and lateral roots can reduce erosion and contribute to the stability of the surface. Too few suitable sites have been revegetated in this way. Many stabilized covered landfills should be included in urban greening and rewilding programs.

Which brings us back to Paradise Landfill. In 2017, area residents brought a proposal to San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department, with sketches and EPA recommendations in hand, to create a xeric native plant demonstration garden at the site. The City was mildly receptive to the idea but expressed that the project would have to be funded and staffed by a non-government entity and be subject to the terms of a Right of Entry to initiate and maintain the project. In 2019 a non-profit entity was created to apply for grants and to undertake the work, Paradise Gardeners, a member organization of California Garden Clubs Inc. Paradise Hills Native Garden was born in late 2020.

The nature of the site proscribes any significant structures including any construction or planting that would require digging more than 22 inches deep, and all digging must include monitoring for LFG—and there cannot be any type of irrigation system. These limitations do not preclude the revegetation/rewilding treatments recommended by the EPA. Being a covered landfill, even if considered fully stabilized for accepted practical purposes, with tires and batteries interred below, the project obviously cannot be defined as being a restoration. However, the all-native plant garden, now roughly 2 acres of the 5-acre site, might be described as phytoremediation or as rewilding.

The garden is most precisely five closely related constituent gardens, each with a different emphasis, one being a Kumeyaay Ethnobotany Garden. Kiosks with interpretive sign panels are located in separate areas and metal plant signs list sizes, water requirements, dormancies, pollinators hosted, etc. Signage in the ethnobotany garden explains how the area's first peoples used plants for food, medicine, tools, fuel, and materials.



Interpretive kiosk (left) and Ethnobotany kiosk 2023 (below).



To its west and southwest, the site extends well beyond the former landfill's perimeter, lending spaces for trees.

These demonstration areas now feature young stands of *Quercus* (oak) and *Hesperocyparis* (cypress) species, *Fraxinus velutina* (Arizona ash), *Prunus ilicifolia* (holly leaf cherry), *Adenostoma sparsifolium* (red shanks). Sycamore (*Platanus* sp.) and poplar (*Populus* sp.) have not been included as it was thought the site was too dry; in fact, the atmospheric rivers of the region's 2023 and 2024 winters, sandwiching the unusually wet summer of 2023, have kept much of the garden wetter than ideal for more than a year, and counting. Mitigation strategies have reduced plant loss in the areas most impacted by excess water.

Plants found in the abutting canyon watershed, undisturbed and preserved within the Multiple Species Conservation Program, are now also found in Paradise Hills Native Garden, including *Salvia mellifera* (black sage), *Peritoma arborea* (bladderpod), *Diplacus puniceus* (Sticky monkey flower), *Acmispon glaber* (deerweed), *Opuntia littoralis* (coast prickly pear), *Sambucus mexicana* (blue elderberry), *Sisyrinchium bellum* (western blue eyed grass), *Dudleya edulis* (fingertips), *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Encelia californica* (bush sunflower), *Bahiopsis laciniata* (San Diego County viguiera), many plants indigenous to the location prior to the mid-1960s.

Grants and other donations have provided about \$80K for the project, and the value of in-kind donations—including a badly needed on-site secure storage unit from Parks and Rec—yield a total to date investment in the garden of about \$100K. The garden is now a University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener Association of San Diego County demonstration garden.

Visitors to the garden will immediately notice the large and uninteresting area at the center of the former landfill, but will also note the Engelmann oaks (*Quercus engelmannii*) added to the parking area. While that center area is not part of the present demonstration garden, it too could be safely and effectively revegetated with native plants. The City's Environmental Services Department and the City Attorney's office would need to be persuaded, and that is not a lobbying effort Paradise Gardeners is positioned to undertake a lead in. Any individuals or entities inclined to take on the effort are encouraged to do so. The City of San Diego aspires to rapidly expand urban forest canopy, might a regionally appropriate version of Miyawaki forest (an afforestation technique for cultivating fast-growing groves of native plants) be studied, perhaps as someone's post graduate research? Pilot copses that might potentially be replicated on other stable urban former landfills? For this novice observer, highly xeric *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon), *Rhus integrifolia* (lemonade berry), *Xylococcus bicolor* (mission manzanita) and *Hesperocyparis forbesii* (Tecate cypress) seem obvious candidate species. Among other possibilities, *Quercus agrifolia* (coast live oak) seems conspicuous.

Visitors to Paradise Hills Native Garden should walk the entire outer pathways around the project. Interested individuals are

invited to become involved as volunteers. Two community work days are scheduled each month. More information about the project and about contacting Paradise Gardeners is found at www.paradisegardeners.org.



IN THE FIELD

Maidenhair Falls

By Tom Oberbauer

(Photos by the author)

Since I had so much success seeing the Cedar Creek, Devil's Jump Off and Three Sisters waterfalls this season, I thought I would try for Maidenhair Falls in Hellhole Canyon, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, in February, 2023. Years ago, I started out on a hike there but time and weather kept me from completing it. It is apparently a 2.5 miles hike into the falls. The trail begins at the large parking area with restrooms at the bottom of Montezuma Grade.

The initial portion of the hike is along the side of a broad, open bajada that gradually rises. Not far up the trail, what appears to be a mock grave site has a marker and a body-sized pile of rocks and a small sign that states "They did not bring enough water." It is amusing, but it is a serious message for much of the year. In San Diego County, the season that I am writing this, I know of four people who died on the trails that I hiked this season and recent years, with two of them heat and dehydration issues.

Ground cover consisted of *Cryptantha* species and *Euphorbia*, maybe *E. polycarpa* (Sand mat). *Physalis crassifolia* (Ground cherry) with small yellow flowers was growing along the trail. *Condea emoryi* (Desert lavender) grew in the wash areas and was in full flower being actively visited by honeybees. *Salvia columbariae* (Chia) was growing as well with deep blue flowers in little headlike clusters. Additional plants encountered include *Justicia californica* (Chuparosa) with its red hummingbird pollinated flowers, and *Chylismia claviformis* (Brown eyed evening primrose), with delicate nickel sized cream-colored flowers with brown centers, growing on flat areas. It is common on coarse sandy soils. *Nama demissa* (Purple mat) was just beginning to flower in this area.

Beautiful stands of *Cylindropuntia bigelovii* (Teddy bear cactus, below) were growing along the flat areas.



While it looks picturesque in the morning light, its decayed stems, joints and loose balls of spines are all over the ground and ready to penetrate any shoe or carelessly placed body part.



Cylindropuntia ganderi (Gander's cholla; above), was also present, along with *Fouquieria splendens* (Ocotillo) with green stems at that time, and healthy looking *Larrea tridentata* (Creosote bush) shrubs.

Encelia farinosa (Brittlebush), which other years in this area have flowered profusely, were just beginning to bloom. *Malperia tenuis* (Brown turbans) and the ever-present *Perityle emoryi* (Rock daisy, below), with yellow-centered white flowers appeared on the rocky areas.



As the trail climbed into the narrower canyon and the rocky hillsides came closer, the vegetation began to change. The green leafy *Trixis californica* (American threefold; below) with yellow flowers appeared on the rocky areas.



Many of the open areas had cover of *Schismus barbatus* (Mediterranean grass) and *Erodium cicutarium* (Redstem filaree) that must have been stimulated by the fall rains in September from tropical storm Kay, but now were turning brown though the soil was still damp beneath the surface. These non-native species are part of the problem for creating conditions to carry fire in the desert when native plants don't typically build up flammable thatch. *Phacelia distans* (Wild heliotrope) was beginning to flower among some of the shrubs. A few *Eschscholzia parishii* (Parish's poppy) appeared as the canyon narrowed, along with *Peritoma arborea* (Bladder pod, right) with its yellow flowers.



Eventually, I reached the first *Washingtonia filifera* (California fan palm) trees. Other vegetation included *Ambrosia salsola* (Cheesebush). These initial palms did not have skirts of dead leaves that extended to the ground but the skirts did remain farther up the trees, indicating that a fire at some point in the relatively distant past had burned the lower dead leaves. Palms



are so different than other types of trees in this area that it is difficult to believe that they are actually a part of the native vegetation having evolved to capitalize on spring like water sources. Leafless *Salix* (willows), probably *S. lasiolepis*, were growing in some of the areas near the palms along with *Senegalia greggii* (Catclaw acacia). The trail deteriorated to the point that much of the traverse was climbing over boulders of varying sizes. It took some thought to determine the best routes in many areas. Water appeared in the stream; the same water that flowed over the waterfall upstream. *Echinocereus engelmannii* (Hedgehog cactus) was growing in the rocks in some locations but it was far from being ready to flower. *Rhus ovata* (Sugarbush) was growing there, as well, and *Marah macrocarpus* (Manroot, Wild cucumber), with its somewhat



maple leaf shaped leaves, was crawling over some shrubs. *Prunus fremontii* (Desert apricot, left) was flowering with its creamy white petals.

Phoradendron californicus (Acacia mistletoe) was growing in clumps of orange and red stems and berries attached to *Senegalia greggii*. Leafless *Platanus racemosa* (Western sycamore) were also present with their leaves still on the ground nearby. The route passed through more and more palm groves ranging from a couple of trees to a dozen. A small abandoned bird nest, consisting of nicely woven palm fibers in a neat cup (below), was in one of the *Prunus fremontii* shrubs.



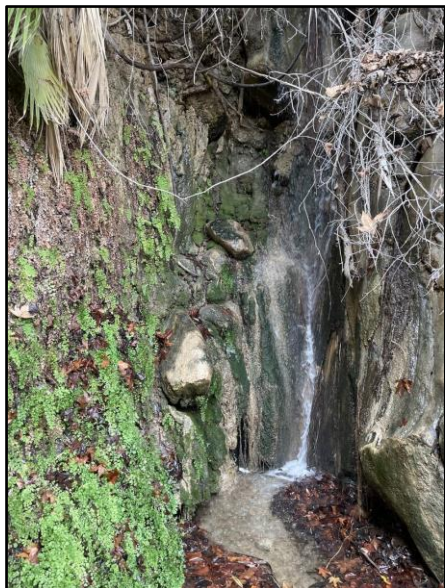
Even *Dudleya lanceolata* with its narrow, pointed leaves was growing there near *Myriopteris covillei* (Covilles lip fern), a dark green fern with beadlike bumps on the leaves.

After passing through several more leafless deciduous sycamores and willows, and dried up *Vitis girdiana* (Wild grape) vines, one can enter a small grotto-like area. You have to

step around the water that is flowing on the ground. The falls themselves are on an arced wall that has major patches of *Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maidenhair fern). It grows with the appearance of a purposefully planted wall in a botanic garden house. It is a natural patch of ferns, in a very picturesque location. It must be really interesting to see it during summer when the trees are all leafed out.

While the falls does not have the grandeur of the Cedar Creek and Three Sisters waterfalls, it has an intimate protected hollow of the landscape.

The rain has been copious this season. The falls were a gentle cascade of spraying and splashing water, approximately 20 feet high. Still photographs do not do it justice because the spray and sheet parts are not very



visible. Even so, it was a very interesting little wet area with flowing water and any time that occurs in the desert, it is a wonderful thing.

One other interesting thing is that I have been known by coworkers as an attractor of ticks. I find them more than most people do. On my hike to the falls, I wore a double layer of socks, long pants, hiking boots and gaiters to keep stickers and pebbles from flipping up into my boots. While I don't remember even brushing through vegetation, when I went home and prepared for a shower, I found a tick crawling on my ankle inside of the double layer of socks, my boot, my long pants and gaiters. I suppose it was looking for a bighorn sheep since they are the major mammals where I was hiking, or maybe a rabbit or rodent.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Wildflower Hotlines

Anza-Borrego Desert

[Bloom Reports from the Anza-Borrego Desert: 2023-2024 \(tchester.org\)](https://tchester.org) or <https://tchester.org/bd/blooms/2024.html>
and
<https://borregowildflowers.org/pages/blooming.html>

Theodore Payne

Hear weekly recorded wildflower reports at the Voice of the Wild Flower Hotline, at **(818) 768-1802 ext. 7**. New reports are released every Friday, March through June! All locations are on easily accessible public lands and range from urban to wild, distant to nearby.



Henderson Canyon Photo by **Silke Gathmann**.

Moosa Creek Nursery

Spring Fling!

Saturday, April 13; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

27201 Coolwater Ranch Road

Valley Center CA 92082

Moosa Creek Nursery will be open to the public for One Day Only! CNPS-SD will be selling seeds at this event.

The San Diego Natural History Museum

7th Annual State of Biodiversity Symposium

Thursday, April 18; 5-9 pm

This symposium, convenes conservationists, land managers, scientists, students, the interested public, and a diverse panel of conservation leaders to understand current opportunities

and threats and share knowledge about biodiversity in our region. For more info, visit:

<https://www.sdnhm.org/calendar/state-of-biodiversity/>

Oceanside Native Plant Garden Tour **Sunday, April 21; 2 pm**

See over 18 native plant gardens in the Historic Seaside Neighborhood of Downtown Oceanside! Plant experts and neighborhood locals will lead a 1.5-mile walking tour to see these wonderful front yard gardens. Meet at 2 pm in the St. Mary School parking lot at 515 Wisconsin Ave. in Oceanside. The guided walk is **free**. Kids will be selling lemonade and cookies along the route. St. Mary Star School is one block east of the 101 Cafe near Coast Highway and Wisconsin St. The Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association and Buena Vista Audubon Society are the sponsors of this 2024, 20th Annual Tour. Maps will be given out on the day of the tour. Maps can be printed (legal size) from this link if anyone wants to go on their own: <https://bvaudubon.org/plant-club/>

Native Plant Week **April 13 – 20**

Beyond our chapter, additional events sponsored or hosted by partner organizations will also help spread the word about native plants. Here are a couple more events we know of, as of the date this newsletter was prepared:

April 13 - 10 am to 2 pm - Seed Starting Workshop, hosted by Paradise Gardeners at Bay Terraces Senior Center; some time will be spent on native trees. This event also features a plant sale, with some native plants, as a fundraiser. More info at: <https://paradisegardeners.org/events/>

April 20 - 9 am to noon; Free. Lemon Grove Arbor Day/Earth Day event at Treganza Park at 3200 Main St., Lemon Grove. <https://www.lemongrove.ca.gov/parks-events/> .

Desert-Wise Landscape Tour **Sunday, April 21**

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association's annual Desert-Wise Landscape Tour provides desert dwellers and visitors a day to enjoy the beauty and creativity of several local hi-desert desert gardens. Hosted by homeowners, the Tour's sites showcase the beauty of native and drought-tolerant plants and demonstrate low water use techniques. Many sites include hardscape enhancements with artful sculpture. Info at: https://www.mbconservation.org/dwl_tours

Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) **National Meeting in San Diego** **Thursday & Friday, May 2-3**

The CPC is thrilled to host the 2024 National Meeting with sessions taking place at both the San Diego Zoo and the Safari Park in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance—a CPC Participating Institution and host institution for CPC's National Office headquarters. For more information, visit:

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

Julian Wildflower Show **May 3 & 4; 10 am - 4 pm**

The Julian Woman's Club will be hosting the 98th annual Wildflower Show at the Woman's Clubhouse (2607 C Street, Julian, CA). **Attendance is free.** Donations and sales are greatly appreciated, with proceeds going to the scholarship fund, and to support our community. For additional information visit <http://www.julianwomansclub.org/> .



The water districts serving San Diego county will select one **residential** WaterSmart landscape for the award. Applications must be submitted by **May 10, 2024**. See <https://landscapecontest.com/> for information.

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

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar **April 2024**

- 4/2: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4**
- 4/6-7: CNPS-SD Native Garden Tour, p.1**
- 4/6: Field Trip to Torrey Pines State Beach, p.4**
- 4/10: Board Meeting, via Zoom, p.3**
- 4/12: Propagation Committee, p.4**
- 4/16: Chapter Meeting, p.1**
- 4/18: Campo Border Bioblitz, p.4**
- 4/20: Take a Walk on the Wild Side Fundraising Event, p.3**
- 4/27: Propagation Committee, p.4**
- 4/27: Outreach Committee at C Street Keeps It Green, p.6**

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

Please check <https://chapters.cnps.org/sandiego/> 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): _____

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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

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April 2024 Newsletter

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

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BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Justin Daniel.....president@cnpsdd.org
VICE PRES: Cindy Burrascanovicepresident@cnpsdd.org
TREASURER: Andrea Rae.....treasurer@cnpsdd.org
SECRETARY: Bobbie Stephenson.....secretary@cnpsdd.org
Sundeep Amin.....sundeep.amin@cnpsdd.org
Sherry Ashbaugh.....sherry.ashbaugh@cnpsdd.org
Bob Byrnes.....bob.byrnes@cnpsdd.org
Christina Clark.....christina.clark@cnpsdd.org
Silke Gathmann.....silke.gathman@cnpsdd.org
Christine Hoey.....christine.hoey@cnpsdd.org

One position open

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Justin Daniel.....chaptercouncil@cnpsdd.org

Email DISCUSSION GROUP

Craig Denson, Moderator

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

RARE PLANT BOTANIST

Christina Clark.....rarebotanist@cnpsdd.org

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AUDIO/VISUAL: Erika Daniel.....avtech@cnpsdd.org

BOOK SALES: Cindy Burrascano.....booksales@cnpsdd.org

CONSERVATION: Justin Daniel.....conservation@cnpsdd.org

EDUCATION: Open

E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:announcements@cnpsdd.org

FIELD TRIPS: John Caffery.....fieldtrips@cnpsdd.org

HABITAT RESTORATION: Arne Johanson & Bob Byrnes

.....habitatrestoration@cnpsdd.org

HOSPITALITY: Erika Daniel & Mary Kiss.....hospitality@cnpsdd.org

INVASIVE PLANTS: Arne Johanson . & Bob Byrnes

.....invasiveplants@cnpsdd.org

LIBRARIAN: Cindy Saylor.....librarian@cnpsdd.org

MEMBERSHIP: Open.....membership@cnpsdd.org

NATIVES FOR NOVICES: Open.....nativesformovices@cnpsdd.org

NATIVE GARDENING: Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann

.....gardening@cnpsdd.org

NATIVE GARDEN TOUR: Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann

.....gardentour@cnpsdd.org

NEWSLETTER: Bobbie Stephenson.....newsletter@cnpsdd.org

ON-LINE ARCHIVING: Open

ON-LINE INQUIRIES: Don Rideout.....info@cnpsdd.org

PERSONNEL: Bobbie Stephenson.....personnel@cnpsdd.org

PLANT SALES:plantsale@cnpsdd.org

POSTER SALES: Open.....postersales@cnpsdd.org

PROGRAMS: Open.....programs@cnpsdd.org

PROPAGATION: Justin Daniel & Anthony DePaul.

.....propagation@cnpsdd.org

PUBLICITY: Open.....publicity@cnpsdd.org

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Sherry Ashbaughpublicoutreach@cnpsdd.org

RARE PLANT SURVEYS: Justin Daniel.....reresurvey@cnpsdd.org

SEEDS & BULBS: Cindy Hazuka.....seedsandbulbs@cnpsdd.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: Emily Sluimanmedia@cnpsdd.org

SPONSORSHIPS: Sheila Kirschenbaum & Sue Joyce

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Open.....volunteer@cnpsdd.org

WEBMASTER/ONLINE MEDIA: Tim Cart.....webmaster@cnpsdd.org