

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

#### **CHAPTER MEETING**

Tuesday, July 20; 7 p.m. Room 104, Casa del Prado Balboa Park

## Protecting and Restoring Sensitive Vegetation Communities in the San Dieguito Watershed

by Leslie Woollenweber

The San Dieguito Watershed is the fourth largest in San Diego County, stretching from the Volcan Mountain Ridge north of Julian to the ocean between Del Mar and Solana Beach. Largely undeveloped and comprising large areas of protected open space, the watershed provides wonderful examples of mixed conifer forest, oak woodland, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, freshwater wetlands and intertidal marsh. From Englemann oaks to short-leaved dudleya, many special status, rare and endemic plants can be found here.

Non-native plant and animal species, human encroachment and catastrophic wildfire also threaten the watershed's most fragile vegetation communities. Stakeholders across the region are cooperating in large-scale efforts to battle invasives, restore wildlife habitat and preserve rare plant populations. The presentation will describe the beautiful natural landscapes from the headwaters of the San Dieguito River to the beach, great places to experience scenic vistas and wildflowers, and the multi-million dollar effort to protect the special nature of the San Dieguito River Valley.

Leslie Woollenweber is of Conservation Programs with the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and has worked for the Conservancy for five years. She chairs the San Dieguito Invasives Management Group, oversees the Conservancy's large-scale

invasive plant removal projects and supervises its youth-oriented volunteer program that has a focus on habitat restoration.



Restored habitat at in the San Dieguito watershed.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. They are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month except August in the Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

**7:00 p.m.** – refreshments, book browsing, socializing.

**7:30 p.m.** – presentation.

#### Going Native

ITV will show a segment on Sustainable Gardening featuring the California Native Plant Society Old Town Garden. The Sustainable Landscapes Episode called "Going Native" is going to air July 8th at 6:00 pm on ITV - Channel 16 in San Diego.

#### PREZ SEZ!

#### **Gardeners Who Grow Into Conservationists**

San Diego chapter member **Jean Kaiwi** and I emailed each other about how to build a bridge from those who love native plant gardening to those who work in conservation. We traded thoughts on how to help even the baby-step beginners (who are just awakening to the joy of the beauty of California plants in their yards) to sooner or later take the mental leap to understand that California - and not just California, but the Earth - is their, our, garden. When that happens, a gardener starts to actively support conservation, while still enjoying learning to care for a personal space.

I talked with Garden Co-Chair **Susan Krzywicki** about how so many of us enjoy native gardening. We love supporting nature near our homes, in a humble and sweat-inducing way. Conservation also supports nature, but in the wildlands, farther away. Sometimes it involves dirtunder-the-fingernails - restoration, invasive plant eradication -, and often it involves writing and speaking, to reach agreements and financial deals to help the flora. But both of these activities, gardening and conserving, prove the wonderful fact that we can nurture our living world.

CNPS was founded in the conservation of a treasured wild landscape, but has always understood that gardening is a gateway to the wider view of humankind's place in nature. Do you want to learn more? Fremontia and The Bulletin are the voices of CNPS. Read them to learn facts written and shared by, kindred spirits. The most recent issue of Fremontia told about conservation, continuity, communication, gardening, protecting advocating. It talked about the people who do this, and it all encouraged me and gave me hope.

We grow more skillful gardening with natives by challenging ourselves, sharing learning. Conservation is like gardening: doing it well requires sharing with a community to have the best chance of getting it right, and stretching as individuals to develop the confidence to pursue difficult goals. **CNPS** is our community, and confidence is what we gain by supporting eachother.

Thanks for being a member.

~Kay Stewart, President

#### **BOARD MEETING**

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **July 6** at 6:30 at the San Diego Audubon office at **4010 Morena Boulevard**, **Suite 100**. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena. Board meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of the month.



CNPS-SD Board Officers at a recent Board Meeting. Front row: Treasurer Connie Di Girolamo, Secretary Tom Beltran. Back row: Vice President Tom Oberbauer, President Kay Stewart.

#### TO All Members

Please update the chapter membership chair, Adrienne Heinzelman (858) 761-7007 or membership@cnpssd.org, with your most current phone number and email address so you can be informed of events and activities that you might enjoy. If we can't reach you, we can't tell you about it!

HELP WANTED: Energetic Member needed to sell beautiful CNPS Posters to regional gift/book shops and nature-related facilities. Help our chapter raise funds and share knowledge of our fabulous flora with the public. A positive attitude is all that is required; no botanical expertise is needed. Help is available to get you started.

Contact president@cnpssd.org

#### NEWSLETTER

Each month the Newsletter Committee provides CNPS-SD members with news about what's happening in the chapter and in our local world of native plants with reports from CNPS-SD committees, newsworthy items, and sometimes a featured article in the newsletter. We invite participation in the newsletter – do you have an article you have been thinking about writing or some bit of news that would be interesting to our members? Send it in! Drawings and photos to publish in the newsletter are also appreciated, but make sure photos have good contrast since the newsletter is printed in black and white. Do you like our newsletter? What would you like to see more of (or less of)? Let us know what you think or give us suggestions by sending a note to <a href="mailto:newsletter@cnpssd.org">newsletter@cnpssd.org</a>. Thanks!

~Bobbie Stephenson, Newsletter Editor

## TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



**July 3**. 9:00 a.m.-noon.

Kay Stewart leads this free public walk from the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center. From I-5, take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote Drive exit and go east. At the end of Tecolote Road, continue up the driveway and beyond the ballfields to the Nature Center. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of each month.

#### **CONSERVATION**

We won one! In this space, we were going to ask you to talk with your San Diego City Council members about a change in the Land Development Code. However, the city agreed to the changes before the July meeting, so there's no need to contact them.

Sometimes the good guys win. Happy July!

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Committee

Do you want to see your newsletter in color or be able to quickly access the links provided? If so, have your newsletter delivered directly to your computer terminal instead of through snail mail! Just send the name on your mailing label to <a href="mailto:enewsletter@cnpssd.org">enewsletter@cnpssd.org</a>.

## CNPS Conservation Conference UPDATE

January 12-14, 2012 Town and Country Resort and Conference Center, San Diego

Noted Botanist, Peter Raven, to be keynote speaker!!!



For four decades, Dr. Raven headed the Missouri Botanical Garden, an institution he nurtured into a world-class center for botanical research and education, and horticultural display. He retired as president in 2010 and assumed the role of president emeritus and consultant through 2014. Described by *Time* magazine as a "Hero for the Planet," Raven champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and is a leading advocate for conservation and a sustainable environment. Find out the latest information about the conference by visiting www.cnps.org/2012

**Public Day:** Help is needed to coordinate Public Day, which is when San Diegans are invited to attend the Conference for free. This is our opportunity to exhibit CNPS to the rest of our community! We would like to offer youth and adult education opportunities, ethnobotanical workshops, and more. But we can only do it with your help! Please get in touch with **David Varner** for info about how to help at confluence.dv@gmail.com 619-630-4591.

**Fund Raising:** Any person, company, or organization that would like to sponsor, exhibit, or donate to the conference please email Josie at mailto:jcrawford@cnps.org.

#### **Call for Abstracts**

"Conserving and restoring the roots of California's richness" is the theme of the 2012 conference. The Conference Program Committee will be accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations until **August 4**, 2011. Submit all abstracts for Contributed Talks and Posters to: **http://ice.ucdavis.edu/conferences/cnps/2012** The webpage includes guidelines and instructions for submission.

#### **RARE PLANTS**

#### The Ramona Grasslands: A Wealth of Rare Plants Protected

You may have heard that June 3, 2011, the County of San Diego opened four miles of trails at the Ramona Grasslands, a 3,500 acre preserve situated along the flats and gentle rolling hills of the Santa Maria Creek watershed west of Ramona. The preserve appears at a glance to be typical non-native grassland but includes stands of native bunch grass and vernal pools. Something you may not have heard is that among these habitats grow eight species listed in the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory.

For San Diego County, the number of rare species isn't particularly special - rare plants abound in San Diego County - but there are some especially important populations at the Ramona Grasslands. One of the more interesting finds, hiding among the annual grasses on small patches of bare alkaline soil, is Parish's saltbush (Atriplex parishii), a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1 species. Before 1994, no one had seen this plant anywhere since 1974. A draft Proposed Rule to list it as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act was withdrawn before publication in 1993 "because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not list extinct species." A small population was found at Hemet the following year. A second population was found nearby a short time later (although that one apparently has been extirpated). Around 2005 a third population was found at the Ramona Grasslands. Despite the fact that it is still not listed, Parish's saltbush remains one of California's most endangered species. And Parish's saltbush isn't the only rare saltbush here. Coulter's saltbush, a CRPR 1b.2 species, is found in similar habitats.

The Ramona Grasslands supports the largest populations of southern tarplant (*Centromadia australis* ssp. *parryi*) in San Diego County; it is another CRPR 1B.1 plant. This locality is more significant today then a few years ago because the largest coastal population that was found at San Dieguito Lagoon was largely decimated by the estuary restoration at Del Mar.

The grasslands are also home to San Diego County's largest population of the round-leaved filaree (*California macrophyllum*; see photo), a CRPR 1B.1. species. A white-flowered member of the geranium family (Geraniaceae), this native filaree is known from fewer than a dozen locations south of Los Angeles County and only four in San Diego County.



The fruit of large-leaved filaree, one of the rare plants found at the Ramona Grasslands. Photo by Fred Roberts

Federal and State endangered species are also represented by a single population of San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*).

In addition to these special species, other rare and sensitive plants include vernal barley (*Hordeum intercedens*), small-leaved morning glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), and graceful tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata* ssp. *virgata*). Now that the trails are open, go have a look. At the right time of year and with a bit of luck, you might even see one of these treasures.

~Fred M. Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist

#### **Rare Plant Surveys**

The active dune plant surveys are over for the spring. Now that I'm adding up the numbers, they are rather staggering.

We found between 714,283 and 933,172 dune plants. These numbers are what you get when, on one weekend at Silver Strand, a group finds fields of rare plants and has to estimate their numbers to the nearest 10,000 or 100,000, while on another day, another group walks over a tiny treasure of a dune at Torrey Pines and counts every single plant. The bottom line is, we saw a *lot* of plants out there.

Averaging among low and high population estimates, we found approximately 10,000 Robinson's peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*), 39,370 Nuttall's lotus (*Lotus nuttallianus*), 768,722 coastal woollyheads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *denudata*), 4,414 Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), 327 red sand verbena (*Abronia maritima*), 63 spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*), and 827 woolly seablite (*Suaeda taxifolia*). Note that the first four species are all CNPS list 1B sensitive species, while the last three are list 4. There are certainly more of the last four out there, but we didn't see them at all sites.

because we were too busy with the first four.



Nuttall's lotus (Lotus nuttalianus)
© 2010 Vince Scheidt (CalPhotos)

Where did we go? Silver Strand State Beach, Silver Strand Elementary, Fiesta Island, Black's Beach (which has a nice population of red sand verbena), Torrey Pines State Reserve, Cardiff State Beach, and Batiquitos Lagoon.

Thanks to all who participated! In descending order of time spent in the field, these industrious volunteers are: Zarina Hackney, Neil Bouscaren, Paul Hormick, D. Gail Delalla, James Soe Nyun, Margaret Fillius, Fred Roberts, David Varner, Marty Blake-Jacobsen, Tim Chumley, Linda Pardy, Alicia Omilid, Cindy Burrascano, Kye Ok Kim, Marty Blake-Jacobson, Mike Gonzales, and Jessie Vinje. Collectively, we spent over 152 hours on the sand. Not bad!

Finally, there is an excellent chance that we will repeat this survey next year. People at State Parks were hoping that we could survey more beaches, but due to restrictions imposed by least terns and snowy plovers nesting, we could not get to some very nice sites. I am in talks with State Parks. Hopefully, next winter we will be able to go to even more beaches.

~ Frank Landis, Rare Plant Survey Chair

#### Willowy Monardella and Jennifer's Monardella

In June the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced a proposed rule to address new taxonomic information regarding willowy monardella, a plant that has been federally listed as endangered since 1998. At the time of listing, willowy monardella was identified as *Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*, one of several subspecies of *Monardella linoides*. New taxonomic information indicates the currently listed entity actually consists of two separate species — willowy monardella (*Monardella viminea*) and Jennifer's monardella (*Monardella stoneana*), named for San Diego plant ecologist and CNPS-SD member,

Jennifer Stone<sup>1</sup>.

Although both plants are members of the mint family (Lamiaceae) and have woody bases with aromatic leaves, they differ in leaf width, bract length and width, and flower cluster width. Some of the occurrences identified as willowy monardella in the Service's 1998 listing rule and in the November 8, 2006, critical habitat designation are actually Jennifer's monardella.

Willowy monardella is restricted to three watersheds north of Kearny Mesa in San Diego County. Jennifer's monardella occurs further south in San Diego County, in the vicinity of Otay Mesa, Otay Mountain, and Tecate Peak.

The Service assessed threats to both species and determined that willowy monardella should remain listed as endangered and is now proposing to revise its 2006 critical habitat designation for the species; however, their review indicated that Jennifer's monardella does not require such protection under the Endangered Species Act. The Service.

The proposed rule can be viewed online at <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-09/pdf/2011-13912.pdf">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-09/pdf/2011-13912.pdf</a>. Comments on the proposed rule are due to USFWS by **August 8, 2011**.

#### ~Bobbie Stephenson, Newsletter Editor



Jennifer's monardella (*Monardella stoneana*).

Drawing by Fred Roberts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jennifer was a vital member of the San Diego Chapter of CNPS, serving as President in 1999 and contributing energetically to the chapter's activities, particularly the plant sale. She lost her fight with cancer in 2000.

#### **INVASIVE PLANTS**

We have just finished the most recent wet season weed removal/habitat restoration period. **Mike Briggantic** is a key contributor, who provides his knowledge and efforts a consistent two days a week, at Artesian Creek and Lusardi Creek.

Artesian Creek is a parcel belonging to the San Dieguito River Park. We stepped in last year to remove a serious broom infestation in this difficult to access area. This approximately 40 acre area is now largely weed free and the natives have returned in spectacular fashion. We will have to return here for at least five years due to the viability of the broom seed, but now it is wonderful to be there.

Lusardi is a new County open space reserve. Part of it was burned in 2007 and we began our efforts this year. In the first six months we were able to treat about 75 acres. Mike and I began on a south facing hillside and then moved on to other areas which we were able to connect together. **Beth Mather** and **Phil Cheney** are recent participants contributing to our success.

While these two areas represent our most recent successes, we also continue our efforts at Blue Sky Reserve, Bernardo Lakes County OS, Poway Lake and Lake Hodges. All of these areas are in our plans for the upcoming dry season.

We utilize the Bradley Method to restore these areas by preserving (and spreading) the existing native vegetation with almost zero planting. Our effectiveness depends to large extent on the beginning condition of each place. We have managed to do 20 acres a year in a highly degraded place and 200 in a year in a better place.

~**Arne Johanson**. Invasive Weed Chair

Cal-IPC's 20th Annual Symposium Granlibakken Resort, Tahoe City Invasive Plants and Ecological Change, Wednesday - Friday, October 5 - 7, 2011

Registration is now open! Save Money by registering before Sept. 2. A Pre-Symposium Field Course offering field techniques for recording and reporting invasive plants will be held on Tuesday, October 4. Presentations will be at the Granlibakken Resort on Wednesday — Thursday, October 5 and 6. Field trips around and over Lake Tahoe will be held on Friday, October 7. Sessions address ecological change, statewide invasive plant

prevention progams, science, management, and policy interactions, climate change in the Sierra Nevada, laws and regulations related to herbicide application, and engaging discussion groups. For information visit <a href="http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index/php">http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index/php</a>.

#### **GARDENING AND RESTORATION**

#### Our **Fall Plant Sale** will be held on:

#### Saturday, October 15

The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers to help organize and host this year's sale. No plant experience is necessary, but we need organized individuals with good communication and basic computer skills. Specific tasks are needed for our fall plant sale. The time commitment depends on your schedule. If you can help, please contact the Fall Plant Sale Committee at plantsale@cnpssd.org.

~ Carolyn Martus, Fall Plant Sale Chair

Seed and Bulb Team work groups will meet at the Tecolote Nature Center on the following days to package seeds and bulbs for the Fall Plant Sale:

Sunday, July 17, 2011 from 9-12 and Sunday, August 14, 2011 from 9-12

To RSVP or get directions, please contact akahuie@gmail.com.

HELP – SPACE WANTED: year-round dry storage for plant sale info stands in eight (8) boxes, each 3'-4" long by approx. 1'-6" wide/high. They are very heavy but with strong people to lift them, can be stacked two or three deep, needing less floor space. They are essential for the October plant sale. Others will help transport to and from the plant sale. Contact plantsale@cnpssd.org

#### **Gardening Committee**

#### Now Planning the 2012 Garden Tour!

July 7 (Thursday), 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Cardiff-by-the-Sea Public Library, 2081 Newcastle Avenue, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA 92007. Directions: from I-5 take the Birmingham Drive exit and drive toward the beach. Turn left on Newcastle. The library is at the corner of Newcastle Avenue and Liverpool Drive).

The Gardening Committee is taking a long-range view of the upcoming Garden Tour. 2012 may seem like a long way off but we are getting started now. If you would like to participate in the planning or offer your garden for the tour, please get in touch with us. Gardens containing at least 80% California natives can be submitted to be considered for inclusion in the tour. If your native garden is in good shape, please apply! We will need a good number of volunteers to help with logistics. Volunteer docents, who have a good familiarity with native garden plants, will be needed to lead guided tours of the gardens. Contact Clayton Tschudy (tschudyecodesigns@gmail.com; 858-774-7692) or Susan Krzywicki (619 318 4590; Susankrzywicki@mac.com).

Please volunteer for this exciting opportunity and help us make the First Annual Native Plant Garden Tour in San Diego County a success!

~ Susan Krzywicki, Gardening Committee Co-chair

#### **Garden Work Parties**

**Old Town State Park Native Garden: July 9 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Old Town Native Plant Garden work parties are always the second Saturday of the month. Come pitch into the care and nurturing of this physical link between San Diego's past, present, and future. Enjoy the company of other people who think it is fun to get at least a little sweaty helping grow a sample of the natural world that exists beyond San Diego's neighborhoods.

Bring sun protection and your favorite gloves and weeding tools, or dig weeds using the gloves and tools that we provide. The garden is located at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, across from the train/trolley/bus depot at the very west end of Old Town State Historic Park. Come by public transit, or if you drive, free parking is in the lot next to the garden at Calhoun and Taylor Streets. When you see the trees, you know you are almost there! Questions? Contact **Kay Stewart** at president@cnpssd.org.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: July 17, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. (No work party on July 2). Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Contact <a href="mailto:Richard@sandiegoriver.org">Richard@sandiegoriver.org</a> for more info.

#### **Landscape Architecture Program**

In the new Landscape Architecture degree programs at NewSchool of Architecture and Design in San Diego students learn about California native plants in a core sequence of professional coursework. The class encourages students to see native plants as part of a system that includes soil types, natural water sources, and related species. And, of course, the use of native plants in the garden has been gaining more attention in recent years, as communities and property owners see the value of designing with drought-resistant and wildlife-friendly native species. Local plant biologist John Messina is teaching the course. Many class sessions are spent in the field. It's important for landscape architects to understand the functioning and value of natural systems, especially as cities grow and the eco-urban edge becomes more complex and challenging for native species. Please contact program chair Leslie Ryan at <a href="mailto:lryan@newschoolarch.edu">lryan@newschoolarch.edu</a> for further information about the program and curriculum.

### CNPS-SD CALENDAR JULY 2011

7/3: Tecolote Canyon Public Walk (p.3)

7/6: Board Meeting (p. 2)

7/7: Gardening Committee Meeting (p. 7)

7/9: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)

7/17: Seed and Bulb Packaging (p.6)

7/17: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)

7/20: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)

"I go to Nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more."

John Burroughs

(April 3, 1837 – March 29, 1921) American Naturalist and essayist important in the evolution of the conservation movement in the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	
Student or Limited Income \$25;Individual \$45;Family or Library \$75	
Plant Lover \$100;Patron \$300;Benefactor \$600;Mariposa Lily \$1,500	
Name(s):	_
Address:	_
Phone: e-mail:	_
Mail check payable to "CNPS" to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.	

#### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter C/o San Diego Natural History Museum P. O. Box 121390 San Diego, CA 92112-1390 Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage PAID San Diego, California



July 2011 Newsletter

#### Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

#### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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