



California Native Plant Society

Orange County Chapter

January/February 2010

CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Chapter Meetings..... | 1 |
| President's Message..... | 2 |
| Native Gardener's Corner..... | 2 |
| Conservation Report..... | 3 |
| Garden Tour 2010..... | 4 |
| Orange County is Special..... | 4-5 |
| Nature Writings..... | 5 |

CALENDAR

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Jan 7..... | Board Meeting |
| Jan 21..... | Chapter Meeting |
| Feb 4..... | Board Meeting |
| Feb 13..... | Field Trip |
| Feb 18..... | Chapter Meeting |

WEED AND SEED:

Location, Time, Contact

UCI Arboretum; Thursdays 10-1; Celia Kutcher, 949-496-9689

Golden West College; Tuesday & Thursday, 10 – 1; Dan Songster, 949-768-0431

Fullerton Arboretum; any day, 8:30-12; Chris Barnhill

Irvine Open Space; irvineranchwildlands.org

Bolsa Chica; 3rd Saturday; 714-846-1114

Upper Newport Back Bay; 4th Saturday; contact Matt Yurko murko@coastal.ca.gov

Orange County River Park; Tuesdays 10 – 1; call 714-393-3976

Chapter meetings are held at the Duck Club in Irvine on the third Thursday of the month, September through June.

Directions to the Duck Club:

Driving south on the 405, exit on **Jamboree**, turn right. Left on **Michelson** to 3rd signal. Right on **Riparian View**. Pass the IRWD water treatment plant. Follow signs to Audubon House and the Duck Club.

Driving north on the 405, exit on **Culver** and turn left. At the second signal, **Michelson**, turn right. Continue on Michelson to third signal, **Riparian View**, turn left toward the IRWD treatment plant and follow signs to The Duck Club. [Thomas Guide to Orange County, page 859 J-7]

CHAPTER MEETINGS

January 21, 2010--Restoration, Past and Future at the Bolsa Chica Mesa

6:45 PM doors open

7:15 PM Planting Natives feature: **Top 10 Native Plants for the Garden**

7:30 PM Main Program: **Kim Kolpin, Director, Bolsa Chica Stewards**

Focusing on the Mesa portion of the Reserve, Kim will give an overview of the history of Bolsa Chica, the issues and circumstances that have resulted from the property's former uses and the restoration plan currently being designed, which will involve the establishment of multiple habitats with help from the community. Kim will discuss the future nursery design and the challenges faced by the project. The presentation will include historical photos, maps, current photos and conceptual design drawings.

For more information on Bolsa Chica and the restoration plans that Kim will present to us in person, please see the article on **page XXX**, another in the chapter's "Orange County is Special" series.

Kim Kolpin is one of the founding members and director of the Bolsa Chica Stewards, the restoration team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. For eleven of the past fourteen years of the organization's history, Mrs. Kolpin has led all of the group's activities. As director, she and landscape architect Guy Stivers are currently designing the Lower Bench restoration project for the Bolsa Chica Mesa. Mrs. Kolpin is also actively engaged in other Bolsa Chica Land Trust projects and issues. As a result of her work at Bolsa Chica, Mrs. Kolpin began a California native plant garden design firm in spring of 2008. Sage Landscape Designs now brings drought tolerant native gardens to homeowners in Southern California. She lives with her husband and three children in Huntington Beach.

Thursday, February 18, 2010—Native Trees for Urban Gardens

6:45 PM: Doors open

7:15 PM: Planting Natives feature

7:30 PM Main Program: **Lili Singer**

Trees are the heart of the landscape, and there's a native tree for every size garden. In addition to beauty, shade, and color, trees provide habitat for native wildlife. Learn which tree species are right for your garden, how to plant and keep them healthy, and how to select companion plants. This illustrated lecture will include helpful handouts.

Lili Singer is a horticulturist, educator and garden writer (most recently for the LA Times, and the special projects coordinator for the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants in Sun Valley, CA. Many of us remember that she published and edited two award-winning periodicals, *The Southern California Gardener* and *The Gardener's Companion*, and for more than a decade hosted "The Garden Show," a live call-in radio program on KCRW-FM. A southern California native herself, this engaging and knowledgeable speaker lives and gardens on one-third acre of tree-shaded land in Van Nuys.

IN MEMORIAM

Visit our website at occnps.org

IN MEMORIAM

Jan van der Sloot, a leading OC coastal environmental activist, passed away suddenly last November. He was a founder of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, a board member and a founder of the Ocean Outfall Group, a leader of Stop Polluting our Newport, and active in all environmental issues along Orange County's northern coast. Preservation and restoration of native habitat were always part of his interest.

Jan, a dermatologist, had a strong science background and could be counted on to get to the heart of a matter with the relevant policy. Officials respected his input as honest and well thought out. As Coastal Commissioner Sarah Wan said at his memorial, "Jan always showed up with the smoking gun. When he spoke, the Commissioners always listened very closely, as he came prepared with the facts and the photos."

Jan and I worked on a range of environmental issues. We took many walks to look at native plant sites and he was like a kid in a candy store. The last project we collaborated on was the plan to integrate appropriate Coastal Sage Scrub and Channel Island plants more fully into the proposed City Hall Park Site in Newport Beach. Rik Katzmeier and I will continue these efforts as the project moves forward.

It will be difficult to match Jan's example of selfless dedication. He always implied that anything one did on a project was incredibly valuable. He almost unfailingly kept his cool, even when called a "weed park lover."

His family deserves credit for sharing Jan with us, because he was always underway on one effort or another. He was very proud of them, his roses, and his cats.

—Laura Curran

President's Message

Your fees for membership in CNPS go directly to the state organization. Why should you continue your membership in CNPS, and why is important for others to join?

Here are just a few highlights of 2009 and plans for 2010:

- Tara Hansen assumed the executive director post in early January, just in time for the highly successful Conservation Conference that was held that same month. Tara has quickly taken the reigns and has moved our programs forward in all areas, showing exceptional vision and organizational skills.
- Greg Suba filled the long-vacant and much-needed role of conservation director in June, and has tackled the complex issue of desert energy development and its impact on native plant populations and the environment. He has shown great ability to bring together many interests, to weigh and consider, and to communicate with us.
- Jack Tracey, as part of his role as development director, initiated a monthly eNewsletter. If you have an email address, you should make sure you are receiving this easy to read and informative publication. Read the latest issue at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/publications/news/200912.php>
- The Manual of California Vegetation 2 was published in 2009, and the Vegetation Program has been involved in

several plant surveys on a contract basis, adding to our knowledge of plant communities in our state.

- The cnps.org website has been revamped, including a new section on native plant gardening.
- The Education Program is working on the next Conservation Conference, which is planned for 2012 in San Diego (convenient for us!) and, along with the Rare Plants and Vegetation Program is initiating a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt in 2010, which will put amateur with experienced botanists to search for known rare plants in sensitive areas.

The next ten years will be a crucial decade for CNPS to grow membership, which has been holding steady between 9-10,000 members for quite some time. Do you have a friend or colleague to introduce to CNPS? In the coming months, we hope to continue to communicate why your membership is so important to the environment and to the preservation of native plant communities. You should be proud to be part of CNPS, and we are all very grateful for your continued support.

—Laura Camp, President

Native Gardeners' Corner—Member's Tips, Tricks, and Techniques

This column offers chapter members a chance to briefly share information on many things related to gardening with natives. The question for this issue was; "***Which native plant would you confidently recommend for use in clay soil?***" The answers are arranged as received and as you can see, are wide ranging!

Gene Ratcliffe—I vote for *Festuca californica* (California Fescue), a great evergreen grass that does well in heavy clay and even part shade, midway in size between the *Nassella*s and *Muhlenbergia*.

Celia Kutcher—Best shrub for clay soil on slopes within a few miles of the coast: *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonadeberry). Best for clay soil flatlands: *Nassella* spp (Needlegrass species). & some other bunchgrasses. But it depends on how clay-ey & how alkaline.

Alan Lindsay—The soil in my garden is clay, hard as a rock when it is dry. I have a just one Chamise that thrives no matter what I do to it. It's been stepped on and broken, gone without water for an entire summer, and it keeps coming back. I believe its botanical name is *Adenostoma fasciculatum* var *prostratum*, which Tree of Life sells as *Adenostoma fasciculatum* 'Nicolas.'

Visit our website at ocnps.org.

Mine has never gotten more than 3 feet high with a spread of 6 feet. The bloom is nothing to rave about but is abundant for a couple of months and its foliage is always dark green.. I think this prostrate Chamise is overlooked as a landscaping plant, especially in clay soil.

Sarah Jayne—The quick answer is Deergrass, *Muhlenbergia rigens*. Mine was planted in 1992, reached its present size (about six feet in diameter—admittedly a little too large for its allotted space) very quickly, and carries on year after year with practically no attention save an occasional haircut from underneath. The "soil" is adobe. This makes a wonderful accent plant.

Nancy Heuler—*Fragaria chiloensis* and/or *Fragaria californica*.

Greg Rubin—Some outstanding performers in clay include Baccharis 'Pigeon Point', Erigeron glaucus (Beach Daisy), many Sages (S. leucophylla, S. brandeegii, S. spathacea, S. apiana), many Buckwheats (Eriogonum sp.), Manzanitas (Arcostaphylos) such as 'Louis Edmunds', 'Sunset', 'Carmel Sur', 'Austin Griffith', 'Dr. Hurd', 'Howard McMinn', California Lilacs (Ceanothus) like 'Joyce Coulter', 'Frosty Blue', 'Blue Jeans', 'Ray Hartman', 'Yankee Point', as well as California Fuchsia (Epilobium, Zauschneria sp).

Gabi McLean—I have good draining soils but I did give several natives to my son in Corona who had only very heavy clay soil. The one that survived best was *Salvia apiana*. He also grew several cacti *Opuntia* that did well.

Dennis Keagy—Our front, back, and side yards are naturalized 10 year old natives. We found that the best native plants are the ones that might have grown locally in our Irvine soil—right under our feet. Those choices include: lemonadeberry, toyon, black sage, ceanothus, encelia, buckwheat, sugar bush, coyote bush, deergrass, scrub oak, monkeyflower, fuchsia flowering gooseberry, redbud, bladderpod, (and several annuals).

Dan Songster—Though normally I stand on the sidelines and watch, I cannot resist mentioning the Ribes nation. Whether Gooseberries or Currants I find most of them (excepting straight R. sanguineum) do surprisingly well in clay. Many add a very welcome mid winter flowering, which is attractive to hungry hummingbirds and in fall, delicious berries for birds and me! Oh, and did anyone mention Coffeeberries? Wonderful.

Thanks to all who responded! **Next issue's question: ??????????????????**

Send replies to Dan Songster at Songster@cox.net and please be brief so we can include them all!

CONSERVATION REPORT

CNPS Chapter Council (CC) approved the proposed new NATIVE PLANTS AND FIRE SAFETY (NPFS) policy on Dec. 5. The NPFS is now under consideration by all CNPS Chapters as a Working Draft Policy. Any interested member is welcome to comment on the proposed policy; comment period will end on Feb. 3. ACTION NOW: Contact Celia Kutcher, celia552@cox.net, for a PDF of the policy. Your comments can be discussed with her and/or our CC Delegate Nancy Heuler, nheuler@cox.net. We will forward them to the NPFS policy-sponsor committee, where they will become part of the input that refines the policy. The Final Draft of the policy will go to the CC for adoption at the March 2010 meeting.

In your comments, focus on the essential points of the policy. Does it state CNPS policy clearly, and describe the Intent adequately? What specific information can you offer that will help support the Rationale and science-basis for the policy? If you foresee any significant potential legal or fiscal implications of this policy for CNPS please describe them.

Most of the specific guidance that CNPS will provide to agencies and insurers will be in the Implementation section; your suggestions on those guidelines will be helpful. Keep in mind that the specifics of influencing pre-fire fuel management will be different than those of influencing fire control actions. As a starting point in thinking about Implementation, existing law and CalFire regulations can be a useful standard. A summary: PRC-4291 now requires 100 ft of clearance/defensible space, the first 30 ft lean and green and the next 70 ft to 100 ft thinned, trimmed, limbed up and free of continuous fuels both horizontal and vertical. Also see "Homeowner's Guide to Firewise Landscaping" pamphlets (grass, shrub, & timber versions) at <http://www.thenet411.net/index.php/education/publications>; they can be downloaded as PDFs.

SAN MATEO WATERSHED: The San Mateo Creek Conservancy (SMCC) has been formed to advocate for the creek and the now-protected estuary at its mouth. They are concerned about effects the proposed Marine Corps (USMC) Sierra One Training Area will have on the creek and estuary. The Area is to be sited on the former agricultural land in the creek's 1.5-mile-long flood plain, just across I-5 from the estuary, and is intended for "heavy equipment and assault breacher vehicle training".

The Training Area has been proposed for some time—since well before the Coastal Commission turned down the toll-road extension that would have run alongside the site. The proposal is still under internal USMC review; an EA (= EIR) is scheduled to be issued in mid-2010.

The proposed training site is easily visible and audible from San Mateo Campground, the houses and trails along the ridge in adjacent San Clemente, and I-5. It seems odd that the USMC would consider putting such a facility where the public could be so aware of it.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

[As always, you may contact Celia at celia552@cox.net if you have questions or would like to become actively involved.]

Orange County leads the Way!

We are fortunate to have an active leadership group in the Orange County chapter, on both the chapter and at the state level.

For the last two years since I have been Orange County chapter president, I have attended the quarterly Chapter Council meetings, the gathering of representatives from each chapter. I'm

Visit our website at ocnps.org.

still learning about the amazing diversity of work that is happening because of CNPS. These Orange County members (maybe others, too!) are making a difference at the state level:

- Brad Jenkins, past board president and current board treasurer
- Sarah Jayne, past Chapter Council secretary, active with the Membership Committee and current board secretary
- Dan Songster, member of the Horticulture Committee
- Celia Kutcher, actively attending Chapter Council meetings for many years, working to draft the state fire policy, and providing valuable input on multiple issues
- Nancy Heuler, Orange County chapter representative on the Chapter Council for 2009
- Fred Roberts and Dave Bramlet, participants in the Rare Plants program
- Rich Schilk, working with his counterparts on standardizing and upgrading web-based outreach for chapters
- Laura Camp, Chapter Council secretary for the past year, joining Sarah and Brad on the state board in 2010 (3 mem-

bers from our chapter!), member of the Horticulture Committee

We welcome more involvement in the chapter, and the opportunities are numerous and rewarding at the state level, too. Please talk to any board member if you have an interest to share in gardening, conservation, membership, administrative, field trips, just to name a few!

—Laura Camp

2010 Garden Tour—Saturday, May 8, 2010— Water-saving plants your neighbors will love

The garden selection process continues through February. We're still looking for front yard lawn conversions that have been in the ground for at least one year. We'll be happy to take a look and let you know if it fits our guidelines for this tour. We're also looking for volunteers to act as hosts at the gardens on tour day so be thinking about that too.

Sarah Jayne, at sbjayne@cox.net or see me at the chapter meetings.

ORANGE COUNTY IS SPECIAL: The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, located just north of Huntington Beach right along the coast, is one of the few remaining coastal wetland/upland ecosystems left in Southern California. Following more than a century of human use and abuse, the multiple environments at Bolsa Chica have been experiencing restoration efforts on several levels. The newly restored wetlands have transformed a past oil field into thriving marine and shore bird nesting habitat. Restoration of the habitats above the water line have also found success, and a much larger effort is about to begin.

In 2006 the Lower Bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa was purchased by the State for \$65 Million and title transferred to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Since that time, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the non-profit organization which worked tirelessly for the Mesa's protection, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with DFG and has been hard at work developing a unique and state-of-the-art restoration plan for the 120 acre Lower Bench called CPR (Community Promoted Restoration) For The Mesa.

For the past 14 years, the Bolsa Chica Stewards, the Restoration Team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust has been working on the habitat restoration of the sliver of Mesa owned by the State prior to 2006. Re-establishing Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub to the Mesa's western edge has prompted the return of the California Gnat Catcher to the Mesa, amongst other wildlife species desperate for native habitat. A volunteer driven effort, to date more than 18,000 one-gallon container stock have been planted by over 8,000 volunteers from all corners of the community.

The Mesa, like all of Bolsa Chica, is unique, controversial, and impacted by multiple and severe stressors which makes its restoration more than a simple challenge. However, the need is great and over the course of the next decade the Bolsa Chica Stewards will be creating five native habitat zones on what is now 120 acres of predominantly non-native invasive European grasses. The largest, most important, and hardest to accomplish will be a 65 acre native grassland/coastal prairie. An amazing on-site nursery system will be producing the more than 60,000 native plants and hundreds of pounds of seed necessary for the job all while being zero-runoff, zero-emissions, and off the grid.

Some of the most important aspects of the project are the opportunities that will be present for the community to participate, for educational purposes and to actually be a part of the healing of this land. It is our intention to follow through on what Reed Noss wrote about Bolsa Chica, "One of the potentially greatest values of the Bolsa Chica Mesa is as an educational resource to the human community of Orange County and beyond. ...We are not aware of anyplace in southern California better suited for this educational opportunity."

Please visit our website at www.BolsaChicaLandTrust.org or call us at (714) 846-1001 for more information.

—Kim Kolpin, Director, Bolsa Chica Stewards

Do you have a special place that you enjoy in Orange County? Send your stories to the newsletter editor, sbjayne@cox.net, and share the joy of the outdoors. Orange County is special!

NATURE WRITINGS

11-14-09 Dilley

stained glass comes in many forms

Visit our website at www.occnps.org

is found in many places
 i find mine beneath the autumn sycamores
 morning sun streams through
 gentle breezes quake leaves
 making a kaleidoscope of

ochre

orange

yellow-green

stained enough for me

morning light

morning breeze

morning right

chuck wright

Please send your three-line glimpses, *Poemsis trilineata*, (or your longer works) to **theagavin@sbcglobal.net**. Visit Thea's website at **www.theagavin.com** .

