



SAN DIEGO AND ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTERS

California Native Plant Society
NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, March 8, 2014

9 AM to 4 PM

Talks for Different Garden Situations

- 9:30 AM Attracting Songbirds, Butterflies, and Hummingbirds to Your Garden — Connie Beck
- 10:30 AM Disappear Your Water Bill With Drought-Tolerant Native Plants — Will Johnson
- 11:30 AM Easy and Stunning Accent Plants: Native Dudleyas and Grasses — Jeremy Sison
- 1:30 PM Arctostaphylos and Ceanothus: California's Iconic Evergreens — Mike Evans

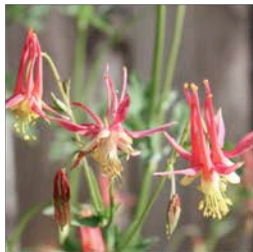
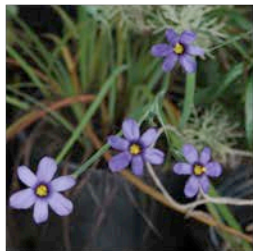
Member Sale Day! CNPS members will receive a free plant or seed packet and a 10% discount on plant purchases. Join or renew at the sale.

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www.cnpssd.org or www.occnps.org



Native Gardener's Corner—Members' Tips, Tricks, and Techniques

This column is a regular newsletter feature offering chapter members and local experts a chance to briefly share information on many things related to gardening with natives. Answers are listed in the order received.

Our question for this Newsletter is **"How have you made your yard more bird friendly?"**

Bob Allen—"I plant Salvias. When they go to seed, the birds arrive in flocks to eat the seeds. The bushtits and goldfinches especially like them."

Ron Vanderhoff—"Two bluebird boxes, a wren house and two water pans do it, in additions to an array of native plants. Ribes and Penstemons for the hummers."

Trude Hurd—"I have made my yard more bird friendly by listening to what the birds want! Most important is clean, shallow, moving water. I have two shallow bird baths and one rock fountain that are constantly used for drinking and bathing. Next is a variety of California natives and fruit trees, (including leaving a dying peach tree that the Nuttall's Woodpeckers love.) I left an area of bare dirt to wet in spring when the Black Phoebe needs mud for her nest under the neighbor's eaves. I don't use any poisons that harm wildlife, so there is an abundance of birds, butterflies, native bees, 2 lizard species, and even slender salamanders. It's the birds' yard and they are letting me enjoy it!"

Curt Craft—"Hands down the best feature in my garden has been the bird bath. All kinds of birds use it and often multiple species at the same time. Keeping it fresh and clean is a priority."

Christianne Shannon—"Three points play a crucial role in my garden: bushes tangled, tall, and full, leaf litter allowed to accumulate, seed is brought out daily, and water drips for a few hours each day in three bird baths. Seed-feeders and baths are placed close enough to the bushes in which the birds can retreat when a predator is appearing. Leaf litter harbors insects and spiders for the birds that like to scratch for them. All this works very well for me—there are lots of birds."

Celia Kutcher—"By planting natives that hummingbirds love: Galvesia speciosa & Epilobium 'Catalina' especially. And all kinds of natives, which attract all kinds of insects, that attract all kinds of insect-eating birds."

Orchid Black—"Water features have been the key to increasing birds on any site, especially ones with drippers or recirculating pumps."

Charles Wright—"Our tiny condo yard is a haven for birds. I initially fed with black sunflower and niger seed but quit; what a mess and it attracted rats, raccoons, opossums. Now I use plant cover and water. The plants give small birds a place for preening after a bath and a place to land when coming into the yard. I have also placed perches around the yard, sticks wired to metal stakes in the ground near the raised bird bath. This bird bath is on a timer with the sprinkler system and floods and refreshes the water daily. It also has a small fountain pump which the hummers especially like. I follow Bob Allen's advice and I do not have a tidy yard; I

01-17-14

it takes so little
to invite a bird
our condo front patio
is barely 10 feet square
but my tiny fountain
seemingly hidden
is water enough for
hummers
black phoebes &
others

it's a drop in
sip & sip
splash & splash &
away
&
in no time at all
another does the same

of course a window lets
you enjoy this
in & out event

chuck wright

purposely leave leaf litter and twigs on the ground where the California towhee and white crowned sparrows like to forage."

Jennifer Beatty—"Food, water and shelter have attracted birds to my yard, and their numbers have increased in the nearly five years since I began planting natives. The coastal sage scrub shrubs have grown and provide important shelter. The garden is full of birdsong as the birds search for seeds and bugs to eat. The hummingbirds also find nectar in some native flowers. It is enjoyable to watch several different types of birds fly to the fountain to splash, drink, and bathe. There are quite a few types of plants in the garden so that there will be something to eat (and something flowering) year-round. Native birds need bugs for protein, especially during egg-laying season, and a native garden helps keep them well fed. Bluebird houses are placed again this year in hopes of new babies. Other native birds make their nests around the property, and I'm making sure not to trim trees and shrubs where birds may soon be nesting. Spring is on its way.

Dan Songster—"I know having plants that provide a food source for the birds is important, as well as having water somewhere in the garden. But sometimes overlooked is the dense structure of plants where many species of birds can shelter and feel comfortable. These can be things like lemonadeberry, hollyleaf cherry, California sagebrush, Nevin's barberry, coffeeberry, toyon, and many of the sages and buckwheats. It's a bonus that many of these natives are also lovely and easy to grow and well as provide seeds for the birds."

Thanks to all who responded! **Next issue's question: "During the drought stress of the last two years which native plants have survived the best for you and which ones have given up the ghost?"**

Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Please remember to keep replies somewhat brief so we can include most of the responses!

CONSERVATION NEWS

PARKS FORWARD: OC is home to 7 units of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR):

- 5 State Beaches: Bolsa Chica, Huntington, Corona del Mar, Doheny and San Clemente. Each of these is each relatively small in acreage, has little or no connection to any wildland area, and is very popular with the beach-going public.

- 2 State Parks: Chino Hills and Crystal Cove (which also has beaches). Both these units have considerable natural acreage that is an important element in OC wildland preservation and connectivity.

San Onofre State Beach/Park is just over the line in San Diego Co., but OC enviros consider it part of OC. It has the very popular Trestles surfing beach, as well as considerable natural acreage that is an important element in OC/SoCal wildland preservation and connectivity.

In 2012, facing a budget crunch, the DPR planned to close 70 of its 280 parks statewide, including Chino Hills SP. But a series of embarrassing revelations showed that DPR had accumulated about \$53 million total in a couple of secret funds, while deferred maintenance costs had risen to exceed \$1 billion.

These troubles prompted the launch, in 2013, of the volunteer Parks Forward Commission (PFC), charged with analyzing and overhauling the park system to make it more sustainable over the next century. The PFC's website, parksforward.com, contains much background, information and commentary on the factfinding that PFC has been doing.

Last fall 10 public workshops were held statewide to get stakeholder input into what's wrong with the parks and the DPR, and what to do to fix them. The workshops are archived at cal-span.org/cgi-bin/media.pl?folder=CPFI. The workshop in OC was held on Oct. 16, 2013. It is instructive to compare and contrast the concerns of stakeholders in the 10 areas. Compare also the public comments during the PFC's most recent meeting, at cal-span.org/cgi-bin/media.pl?folder=CPFC.

Several CNPSers statewide have noted that the PFC needs to be encouraged to include in their recommendations how better to manage the "under served" community of plants and animals that are the foundation of most State Parks. A CNPS letter to that effect is in process.

SADDLE CREST CONTINUES

Developer Rutter Santiago LC's appeal is now in the "briefing phase." Rutter's brief, detailing why they think the Superior Court's finding for the petitioners (our side) should be overturned, was filed at the beginning of the year. Our side's attorneys are preparing a brief in response. As of this writing, a hearing date has not been set.

See the Nov-Dec 2012, Jan-Feb, Sept-Oct and Nov-Dec 2013 Newsletters, and references therein, for background on OCCNPS/CNPS involvement in this lawsuit and its preceding actions, and how the development would set a very damaging precedent.

Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and Rural Canyons Conservation Fund continue to spearhead the environmental coalition (which also includes Audubon California, CNPS, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks) on this side of the battle.

ACTION NOW: Please donate to help defend the Superior Court's ruling, at fhbp.org/programs/saddlebackcanyons.html.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

FIELD TRIPS

These are the field trips scheduled for March and April. Please go to the website, occnps.org, for complete details and any last-minute changes. Note: Bolded trips below require special attention.

Sunday, March 2—The Fossil Reef and Plants of Sheep Hills, Laguna Hills

Sunday, March 16—Fairview Park Restoration and Vernal Pool

Sunday, March 23—Elsinore Peak and S. Main Divide Road

Sunday, March 30—The Santa Rosa Plateau

April TBD—Driving Tour of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy—keep an eye out on the website. (Members Only)

Sunday, April 13—Donna & Richard O'Neill Land Conservancy. Reservations required—please visit www.rmvreserve.org to register. Limited—sign up early!

Saturday, April 19—The Plants of Casper's Wilderness Park

Sunday, April 27—A Botanical Expedition into Lucas Canyon, San Mateo Canyon Wilderness

This is not a typical field trip, but a focused and serious botanical visit to a seldom-visited location rather deep in the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. The hike into Lucas Canyon is about four miles and includes uphill, downhill, and switchbacks. Once in the canyon, we will likely continue another two to three miles. We will document the flora, apply coordinates to important records, and take voucher samples as needed. Then we will hike back out. Lucas Canyon is a well-watered, fairly deep East-West facing canyon. Leader: Ron Vanderhoff.

This will be a small group. **If you are interested in participating, please send an email to Ron Vanderhoff**

(rvanderhoff@sbcglobal.net) for additional details. Long hike, difficult. Seldom explored, but with lots of potential.

Physical Difficulty: Strenuous. Plant Intensity: High. Time: All day.

Sunday, May 4—Bolsa Chica State Beach

CNPS 2014 Workshops**Registration:**

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

March 11-12 Rare Plant Survey Protocols - A Scientific Approach

Taught by Heath Bartosh, Aaron Sims, with a lecture by Roxanne Bittman

Location: CDFW Yolo Bypass Visitors Center Davis and West Sacramento

Cost: CNPS members \$310; Non-members \$345

March 13: Online Tools for botanists and biologists,

Taught by Roxanne Bittman, Sandra Summers

Location: Office of Training and Development, Sacramento, CA

Cost: \$150 (may be taken together with workshop above or separately)

April 1-2: Introduction to Plant Family Identification

Taught by David L. Magney

Location: Casitas Springs, Ventura County

Cost: \$310 CNPS members; \$345 non-members

April 15-17: Spring Flora of the Eastern Mojave: a Focus on Five Formidable Families

Taught by Jim Andre and Tasha LaDoux

Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, Mojave National Preserve, eastern Mojave

Cost: CNPS members: \$360; non-members \$395

April 29-May 1 Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations

Taught by John Willoughby

Location: UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, Santa Cruz, CA

COST: CNPS members: \$395; Non-members: \$430

May 27-29: Herbarium Specimen Collecting for Floristic Work - still tentative

Taught by Nick Jensen and Heath Bartosh

Locations: Tejon Ranch Conservancy, Lebec and Tehachapi Mountain Region, Kern County

Cost : CNPS members: \$360 non-members \$395

Early June, Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé Workshop - TBA

Taught by Julie Evens and Jennifer Buck-Diaz

Location: Orange County, CA

Cost: Members \$330; Non-members \$365

Sept, Vegetation Rapid Assessment, Shasta or Tehama County - TBA**GARDEN TOUR MAY 3**

Garden descriptions will be posted on the website by April 5. As usual, you'll have to pick and choose which gardens to visit as they are spread out over the county. Many of the gardens are new to the tour while others are returning after several years' absence.

Once the gardens are posted, you may register on the website to receive directions. For those who prefer, a SASE may be sent to OCCNPS, PO Box 54891, Irvine CA 92619-4891

North County Folks Take Note...

Two chapter meetings will take place at the **Fullerton Arboretum** this year: Our **Chapter Celebration on June 19**, and the **November 20** meeting. Anyone interested in organizing more meetings in north county?

Welcome our new Membership Chair

Dori Ito has taken on the responsibility of Membership Chair from **Laura Camp** who is now president of the State CNPS Board of Directors. (Thank you, Laura, for many years of devoted service!) If you have attended a chapter meeting, you know Dori from her cheerful manner at the membership table, greeting and affixing nametags to all who attend. She will continue in that role, and keep tabs on the membership roster.

CALENDAR

March 2	Field trip, Sheep Hills, Laguna
March 6	Board meeting
March 8	Plant Sale, TOLN
March 8-9	Chapter Council, RSABG
March 16	Field trip, Fairview Park
March 20	Chapter meeting
March 23	Elsinore Peak & S. Main Divide Road
March 30	Field trip, Santa Rosa Plateau
April 3	Board meeting
April TBD	Field trip, IRC driving tour members only
April 13	Field trip, O'Neill Land Conservancy
April 12-13	Green Scene
April 17	Chapter meeting
April 19	Field trip, Caspers Park
April 24-27	South Coast Plaza Garden Show
April 14-21	California Native Plant Week activities
April 27	Field trip, Lucas Canyon
May 1	Board meeting
May 3	Garden Tour
May 4	Field trip, Bolsa Chica

California Native Plant Week—
April 13 - 20

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except in July and August. Unless otherwise stated, meetings take place at the Duck Club in Irvine. Doors open at 6:45 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

Thursday, March 20: Inviting California to Dinner: Old and new ways to use native plants in your garden and your meals

Speaker: Antonio Sanchez

With all the talk of local food and saving water during the drought, why not turn to native plants to do both! Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's Antonio Sanchez will lead us along that path with a unique and informative talk on edible natives. Of course the more common edible natives like Miner's Lettuce (salad green) and Wild Grape (edible grapes) will be included, but Antonio will also introduce us to some of the more obscure but equally useful native plant foods like Salbush (edible and tasty roasted seeds) and Cleveland Sage and local onions (combined to make a delicious California pesto!). We will even be treated to samples of California pesto and other unique dishes, along with recipe cards and a list of the easiest edible natives to grow in your garden.



Nursery Production Manager at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Antonio Sanchez guides the propagation and growing of native plants for restoration and sale at Grow Native Nursery. Antonio has worked at various native plant institutions across the state, including Theodore Payne Foundation, Cal Flora Nursery, and Nopalito Native Plant Nursery.

Thursday, April 17, 2014: Banning Ranch and Fairview Park: Conservation and Restoration

Speakers: Terry Welsh and Barry Nerhus

There are always plant related issues and efforts swirling around in Orange County. Here is a look at two local projects presented on the same night, one attempting to conserve a Banning Ranch and another to restore and improve Fairview Park.

Banning Ranch: Banning Ranch Conservancy has been involved in an effort to purchase and preserve the entire Banning Ranch as open space. In this first talk of the night Terry Welsh will update us on biological resources found in the Ranch, the Banning Ranch Conservancy's recently released Vision Plan, and a discussion of the Banning Ranch Conservancy's recent legal victory reversing the City of Newport Beach's 2012 approval of the proposed 1375-home development planned for Banning Ranch. There will also be an update of recent issues before the California Coastal Commission that have significance for Banning Ranch.

For the last 15 years Terry Welsh, M.D., has led the effort to preserve the entire Banning Ranch as open space. He formed the Sierra Club Banning Ranch Park and Preserve Task Force in

Directions to the Duck Club

The Duck Club is located in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary next to the IRWD water treatment facility. Access is off **Campus Drive**. To get there:

From Jamboree, go south on Michelson to Harvard Avenue. Turn **right** on Harvard. At University Drive turn **right** again. At Campus, turn **right** and stay in the **far right lane**, which leads to the **right turn** to the Duck Club.

From Culver, pass Michelson and continue on to University. Turn **right** and continue to Campus Drive.

When leaving, it's **right turn only** onto Campus. See our website for a map & other info.

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause or activities of organizations that use the District's facilities. The facilities are made available as a public service

1999, and has served as president of the Banning Ranch Conservancy, an independent 501c3 non-profit land conservancy, since 2008. The mission of the Banning Ranch Conservancy is clear: The Preservation, Acquisition, Conservation, and Management of the entire Banning Ranch as a permanent Public Open Space, Park and Coastal Nature Preserve.

Fairview Park: Barry Nerhus will spend the second half of the program describing the ongoing habitat restoration projects at Fairview Park. Over 40 acres of habitat have been restored, including riparian, coastal sage scrub, grassland, oak woodland, and wetland. The talk will also highlight the success of wildlife using the site, the process and progression of the habitat restoration project, and community involvement.

(Note: The first restoration project and experiments there were instituted by Robb Hamilton and supported both financially and physically by OC-CNPS back in the late 1990's after the vernal pools were found and documented by our chapter's botanists!) Barry Nerhus is the Founder and President of Endemic Environmental Services, Inc. He is an ecologist who focuses on habitat restoration, wildlife biology, and their applications to conservation and has been involved with many local non-profits in Orange County. He is the founder of the Orange County Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology as well as the Institute for Conservation Research and Education. He has a B.S. in Biology from UC Irvine and is completing his M.S. at Cal State Long Beach studying the biology of western pond turtles.



Terry Welsh, MD



Barry Nerhus

CNPS Membership Application

New member Renewal

- Individual\$45
- Family\$75
- Plant Lover\$100
- Patron\$300
- Benefactor.....\$600
- Mariposa Lily\$1500
- Student/Limited Income\$25
[Organizations, please go to CNPS.ORG]

Affiliate with the **Orange County Chapter**.
The chapter newsletter, CNPS Bulletin, and *Fremontia* are included. Membership is tax deductible, minus \$12 for *Fremontia*. Make check payable to CNPS and send to: **CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816**
Join or renew online: go to www.cnps.org click on **Join CNPS**

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Contact Information and Teams

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Dan Songster 949 768-0431 songster@cox.net

Secretary **Nancy Heuler** 949 559-1757 nheuler@cox.net

Treasurer **Jennifer Mabley** 949 855-2112 jenpod@gmail.com

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Dori Ito doriinthegarden@gmail.com

Celia Kutcher 949 496-9689 celia552@cox.net

Ron Vanderhoff ronv@rogersgardens.com

Membership Team:

Team Lead: Dori Ito

Volunteer Coordinator: Diane Wollenberg

Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley

Hospitality: Sarah Jayne

Greeting: Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty

Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster

Programs: Dan Songster

Audio-Visual: Bob Allen, Dan Songster

Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC):

Team Lead: Dan Songster

Plant Sale: Dan Songster

Garden Tour: Sarah Jayne, Cathie & Mike Nayeri

Field, Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty, Rama

Plant Science Team (Research OC):

Team Lead: Bob Allen

Rare Plants: Dave Bramlet, Fred Roberts

Interest Center: Bob Allen

Conservation Team (Protect OC):

Team Lead: Celia Kutcher

Invasive Plants: Henry DiRocco

Explore Team (Explore OC):

Team Lead: Ron Vanderhoff

Field Trips: Ron Vanderhoff

Field Trip Logistics: Rich Schilk

Communications Team:

Team Lead: Nancy Heuler

Publicity: Nancy Heuler

Newsletter: Sarah Jayne

eNews: Laura Camp & Rachel Whitt

Publications: Jennifer Mabley

Website: Rich Schilk

Education Team:

Team Lead: Sarah Jayne

Educational Grants: Sarah Jayne

School Gardens: Sarah Jayne



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March/April 2014

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