



CALENDAR

Jan 4	Board Meeting
Jan 14	Fungus Foray FT
Jan 18	Chapter Meeting
Jan 21	Bryophytes FT
Jan 30-Feb 3	CNPS Cons, Conf.
Feb 8	Board Meeting
Feb 15	Chapter Meeting
Feb 23	Baker Canyon FT
Mar 1	Board Meeting
Mar 4	Portuguese Bend FT
Mar 9-11	Chapter Council
Mar 11	Casper's Park FT
Mar 15	Chapter Meeting
Mar 17	Wildflower Showcase, IRC
Mar 18	Celebration at Panhe
Mar 25	Chino Hills FT
Apr 1	Whitewater Preserve FT
Apr 5	Board Meeting
Apr 7	Garden Tour

Native Gardeners Corner—Tips, Tricks and Techniques

This column was first published in the January/February 2010 issue. The subject is timely as despite the absence of rain, we are still in prime planting season. The question was: **"Which native plant would you confidently recommend for use in clay soil?"**

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 Nassellas 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 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.' 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.

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 (*Arctostaphylos*) 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* family. 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: **Which native culinary plants and edibles are your favorites?** (Yes, this was supposed to be the topic for this issue, but...) Send replies to Dan Songster at Songster@cox.net.

After the Burn

Lomas de Santiago, 2008

The March after fire
whole hillsides blaze
orange—
poppy pyrotechnics.

Gaunt laurel sumac
crown-sprouts a red skirt,
sheds her charred past.

Blue lupine reunion,
bush mallow's pink sprays—
and you—anything new?

Thea Gavin

CONSERVATION

WELCOME to Nick Jensen, CNPS' brand-new SoCal Conservation Analyst! His job is to bolster the efforts of the SoCal chapters' volunteers, participate in ongoing collaborative planning efforts with CNPS' partner organizations, and form new coalitions to ensure inclusion of underrepresented and non-traditional partners. He is the lead CNPS staff person covering conservation advocacy across the 11 Southern California Chapters. This area covers 10 counties and is home to 25 million Californians (64% of the state's population), with an additional 3 million people in Baja California, Mexico. A BIG job!

VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM

The CA Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (= CalFire) has reissued the DEIR for its proposed Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP), which aims to "treat" (with

prescribed fire, mastication and/or herbicides) for “fire resistance” every bit of California’s State Responsibility Lands (SRL)—including in OC.

OC’s SRL are mostly the unincorporated areas in the foothills: i.e. our Wilderness and Regional Parks and Reserve areas. “Treatment” seems to mean cutting and maintaining fuelbreaks along every ridgeline. This is contrary to research that shows that the presence of a fuelbreak, in and of itself, doesn’t stop a fire from spreading; a fuelbreak’s main value is in giving firefighters a place to group (Syphard et al, 2012).

A map showing OC’s SRL is Appendix A2.9 in

[http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_\(vtpeir\)/](http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_(vtpeir)/). The map has to be enlarged at least 400% to see the squiggly gray lines that denote the proposed fuelbreaks. Such extensive vegetation manipulation would result in:

1. Islands of CSS and chaparral in a matrix of grassy/weedy strips of fuelbreak.
2. A huge habitat disruption and loss for the myriad birds, insects and small animals that live within CSS and chaparral.
3. A huge increase in disturbance, wide open to invasive non-natives.

OCCNPS is among the several signatories on the strong, detailed critique of the VTP DEIR by the Endangered Habitats League. State CNPS and several other chapters, as well as many other CA enviro groups, are also each doing extensive comment letters. Hopefully all these comments will convince CalFire to finally come up with a VTP that is truly based on current research on fire behavior, fire ecology, and on the reality of CA’s many and varied native habitats.

SANTA ANA MTS: The proposed final EIR

(http://www.ocpublicworks.com/ds/planning/projects/the_preserve_at_san_juan) has been issued for the “Preserve at San Juan,” a residential development planned for the inholding that touches Long Canyon Road, just west of Ortega Hwy, south of El Cariso Village. The staff report and date for the OC Planning Commission’s public hearing (tentatively, Jan. 24, 1:30 PM) are available from kevin.shannon@ocpw.ocgov.com.

Such a project is a VERY poor choice for that site, and the EIR has numerous problems including numerous errors in its native-plant information.

ACTION NOW: If you are familiar with the site’s native plants, our Conservation Chair (celia552@cox.net) would very much appreciate your input!

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

LOCALLY RARE PLANTS GET A KICK

As some of you are aware, Orange County has a list of Local Concern plants. It is mostly unofficial, and doesn’t even have a worn wisdom tooth of regulatory backing, but we do have a list. The list was largely developed by myself, Dave Bramlet, and Rick Riefner over a decade ago and the latest version appears in *Vascular Plants of Orange County, an Annotated Checklist*, which I wrote in 2008. The list we developed includes 14 species. More recently, I have been including “San Diego ground-cherry”, an apparently undescribed species of *Physalis*, on this list as well. One of the original 14, ashy spike-moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*), regained its status of CRPR 4 and again appears in the CNPS online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/inventory/).

Locally Rare Plants are plants without other official conservation status that are found in low numbers on a local rather than regional scale, though some of these species would remain of concern at broader scales, such within southern California as a whole. While the species might be distributed widely across California, or perhaps in one or more regions (think Coast Ranges, Central Valley), they are scarce in our area. Often they are known at the county level from fewer than five sites. The reasons could be a combination of factors: limited habitat locally; loss of habitat (think of anything once found widely on the coastal plains of Orange County!); and other factors. Often plants that would likely qualify for a locally rare list are near their ecological or geographical edge.

The biggest problem with a Local Rare plant category has been getting agencies and jurisdictions to actually use it. It is often hard enough to get consultants to even consider CRPR 4 plants much less a plant that doesn’t even appear in the Inventory. Ventura County has been the exception, where Dave Magney, the current Rare Plant Director, has done a considerable amount of work convincing the county to give consideration to Locally Rare plants.

That is all changing. The Locally Rare plant concept got considerably more attention in 2016 when CNPS initiated a program that may ultimately get these plants the attention they deserve. The CNPS website (www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/locally_rare.php) offers a detailed explanation of what a locally rare plant is, some history,

Continued on page 4

2018 Field Trips

Our field trips are focused on the interpretation, identification, appreciation, and conservation of our diverse flora and the ecosystems they support. Field trips are *free and open to all* except where noted, but read the trip outlines for parking/entrance fees or pass requirements, and meeting times, and **always be sure they fit your physical ability**. Complete details of each trip are posted on our website at occnps.org/explore and for final updates always visit the website after 7 pm the evening before a trip.

Sunday, January 14—Fungus Foray at Oak Flat with Joanne Schwartz

Oak Flat is at the western edge of the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, accessed by a private locked gate of Hwy 74. This seldom visited area is a spectacular oasis of grasslands surrounded by mature live oak woodlands. Since mushroom are particularly dependent upon winter rainfall, the date of this trip may be adjusted to fit conditions.

Sunday, January 21—The “Other” Plants: Bryophytes of the San Juan Loop Trail

Led by **Paul Wilson**, founding member of the CNPS Bryophyte Chapter. The San Juan Loop Trail is a 2.3-mile path that loops around the back of a hill and past San Juan Fall, a 15-foot drip. It passes through a moist, cool canyon that should provide plenty of bryophytes for us to examine.

Friday, February 23—Baker Canyon, Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks

Baker Canyon is a very special place accessible to the public only through docent-led events. The focus of this walk will be California Lilacs (*Ceanothus*) of which there are at least three species in the area.

Special registration

Sunday, March 4—Portuguese Bend and the Palos Verdes Peninsula

Our first field trip to this exciting area, this trip will be led by Neil Uelman of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. A highlight will be an exploration of the Forrestal Canyon area, home of the only mainland colony of the very rare Catalina Island *Chrossosoma*.

Sunday, March 11—Casper’s Wilderness Park

Casper’s Wilderness Park is the jewel of the Orange County Park system, including 8,000 acres and a wide variety of habitats. This walk will head up the Loskorn Trail to the East Ridge Train, then back again by way of the Starr Rise and Bell Canyon trails for a distance of 3.5 miles, with many possible wildflowers on the way.

Saturday, March 17—Wildflower Showcase, Irvine Ranch Conservancy Seed Farm Open House

This event is a great opportunity to learn about the work that OC CNPS and IRC are doing to conserve, protect, and restore native wildflowers in Orange County. IRC’s 8-acre native seed farm currently grows 45 local plant species, each providing seed used to support ecological restoration locally.

Special registration

Sunday, March 25—Water Canyon Natural Preserve, Chino Hills State Park

This trip will explore one of the most scenic and remote parts of the park. Located in the southeast arm of the park, a hiking-only trail heads upstream through a rugged, steep-walled canyon and winds through a riparian woodland lush with willow, sycamore, oak, and the protected native walnut trees.

Special registration

Sunday, April 1—Whitewater Preserve with the Wildlands Conservancy

This area blends species from the lower Sonoran Desert with those from the higher elevation Mojave Desert, with a few Chaparral plants thrown in, making this a botanically fascinating location. Other botanical hotspots in the area are Big Morongo Preserve, Palm Canyon, Tahquitz Canyon or Andreas Canyon.

Sunday, April 8—Driving Tour of the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks

This all day trip will be the ninth annual CNPS tour of the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks and provides a rare opportunity to get a close-up view of the hills we see in the distance every day.

CNPS members only, limited numbers, special registration

Sunday, April 15—Audubon Starr Ranch

Starr Ranch Sanctuary, a 4,000-acre preserve in the foothills between Casper’s Park and the Cleveland National Forest, is operated by the National Audubon Society. This special visit will tour in sanctuary vehicles in search of the interesting plants that may be found within the sanctuary.

CNPS members only, limited numbers, special registration

Sunday, April 22—San Onofre State Beach: Trestles and the San Mateo River

This two-part trip will first visit the mouth of the San Mateo River the at world-famous Trestles to check beach and estuary vegetation there. This will be followed, for those who wish, by a trip on the other side of I-5 to the Christianitos 2017 wildfire scar, where annual fire-followers may be blooming.

Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29—Catalina Island with the Catalina Island Conservancy

An overnight trip to the back country of Santa Catalina Island, hosted by the Catalina Island Conservancy.

Special registration, limited numbers

Saturday, May 5—Fossil Reef and the Plants of Sheep Hills, Laguna Hills

Fossil Reef is a unique 17-million-year-old preserved portion of a submerged tropical reef. Forty-eight species of fossil marine vertebrates have been recorded here. Extending for six miles across Saddleback Valley, this is one of the few spots where this limestone deposit is exposed. The unique geology and limestone soil provide for some interesting and unique plant life.

Sunday, May 27—To the Top of OC: Modjeska & Santiago Peaks, Santa Ana Mountains

This *probable* trip will depend upon interest. The roads to the top are rocky, with lots of ruts and require careful driving. Only high clearance SUVs or trucks should consider this. But if sufficient people with proper vehicles join in, there are many plant specialties in Orange County that can only be seen at these higher altitudes so it's definitely worth the effort.

Special registration

Rare Plants, continued

how this might play out with CEQA (yes, you actually can protect species without an official conservation status, if you can make a good argument for it), and a number of links to read up on the subject or what existing lists look like.

A call for interest and participation went out to rare plant botanist and other knowledgeable botanist in August 2016, announcing a coordinated effort to put together locally rare plant lists across the state. This last summer, another meeting was held via phone where participants laid out some ideas on what the program should look like and shared some of their experiences with locally rare species. The main point taken from that meeting was that Locally Rare Plants should have a ranking system similar to that of the current Inventory system, which is based on Nature Serve. A lot of other details are still being worked out. What will qualify as a Locally Rare plant? How much veracity should go into the qualifying criteria? How much should statistics play in qualifying a plant? (there were some fairly technical people at the meeting and you could tell, they could come up with some very analysis-heavy criteria, but there was also stress that local expertise could be just as important, which is good as most of us will not be able to contribute much to the complex math-driven analysis! And it won't be necessary for most qualifying plants). Regardless how lists are generated, it will be important that inclusion of a species is strongly defensible. The more robust the analysis, the more likely other counties and jurisdictions across the state will follow the County of Ventura's lead.

Hopefully, the program will start taking form in 2018. Expect opportunities to contribute to an updated Orange County Locally Rare Plant list soon.

—Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Committee

Weed Warrior Days at Starr Ranch

Volunteering is a great way to enjoy beautiful Starr Ranch while contributing to the preservation of one of Orange County's last natural areas. No experience is necessary and training and tools are provided. If interested and available, please contact Liz Reikowski at ereikowski@audubon.org.

Scheduled days are:

January 6 & 20

February 10 & 17

March 10 & 24

April 7, 14, & 28

Work most days is from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

April dates only are from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.



Chapter Meetings

Thursday, January 18, 2018: What I know so far about Dudleya...and can share in under an hour!
Speaker: Kelly Griffin



Kelly Griffin has been focused on the genus *Dudleya* on and off for nearly three decades and admits to still being perplexed by them. In spite of, or perhaps because of that, he is still studying them. This program will share the beauty and complexity of this wonderful group and we will be shown plants we have probably not seen before. He hopes to impart some of the fascination he feels for this group and

increase your knowledge of these mostly Californian and Baja Californian plants.

As a function of his work at Altman plants, Kelly Griffin is charged with finding and creating new and different plants. Kelly's hybrid aloes and agaves are well known in the industry and are collected by enthusiasts.

Kelly is a manager of Succulent Plant Development for Altman Plants, the largest producer of succulent plants in the country. His inclination has been towards Agaves, Aloes, Echeverias, and Dudleyas but there are many more plants that have garnered his attention. As part of his life's work, he has introduced many succulents and created many cultivars that have been nudging their way into gardens and patios.

Although Kelly's area of study in college was physics, his love of plants continued to steer him towards horticulture as a career. He has travelled extensively worldwide documenting plants and collecting seed and pollen for propagation and hybridization.

Thursday, February 15, 2018: Mariposa Lilies of the Southern California Floristic Province
Speaker: Fred Roberts

The mariposa lilies (genus *Calochortus*) are a perennial favorite to serious botanist and the casual hiker alike. It is hard to simply pass one by. There are about 70 species found in western North America from British Columbia south to Guatemala, and they occur in forest, scrublands, grasslands, meadows, and desert. We are fortunate here in California to be at the center of mariposa lily diversity.

The mountains, foothills, and coastal regions of southwestern California and northwestern Baja California, Mexico, offer 15 species and a number of varieties. Some are rare, others simply pretty. Tonight our speaker will give us a tour of this delightful genus of plants, showing off a diversity of colors and form from

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

Directions: The Duck Club is located in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary next to the IRWD water treatment facility.

From the Jamboree exit of the 405: Heading west, turn south (left) on Michelson. Turn right on Harvard. At University Drive, turn right and stay in the far right lane. At Campus, turn right and stay to the right. Take the next right into the wildlife sanctuary. At the closed gates, turn left into the parking lot. The Duck Club is in the center, restrooms on the left, Audubon House on the right.

From the Culver exit: Heading toward UCI, pass Michelson and continue on to University Drive. Turn right on University. Turn right onto Campus and turn right into the wildlife sanctuary.

the all white globe-shaped white fairy lantern (*C. albus*) to the brilliant orange of the desert mariposa (*C. kennedyi*), the variable reds and whites of butterfly mariposa lily (*C. venustus*), to the Weed's mariposa lily (*C. weedii*).

Fred M. Roberts, author of *Illustrated Guide to the Oaks of the Southern Californian Floristic Province* (1995) and co-author of *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains* (2013) has been working with native plants since high school. He was the assistant curator of the Herbarium at the Museum of Systematic Biology at U.C. Irvine for nine years, worked as a botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, primarily adding species to the endangered species list, and has spent the last 17 years as an independent botanical consultant, author, and artist. His specialties include the flora of Orange County, oaks, lilies and their relatives, and rare plants of southern California.



P.O. Box 54891
Irvine CA 92619-4891

January/February 2018

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**. To join or renew online go to www.cnps.org click on **Join CNPS**.

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Membership Team

Team Leader: Laura Camp (interim)
Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley
Hospitality: Sarah Jayne
Greeters: Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty
Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster
Volunteer Activities: Elizabeth Wallace
Programs: Dan Songster
Audio-Visual: Bob Allen, Thea Gavin, Bob Huttar

Conservation Team (Protect OC)

Team Lead: Celia Kutcher
Members: open

Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC)

Team Lead: Dan Songster
Plant Sale: Dan Songster, Laura Camp
Garden Tour: Mabel Alazard, Jennifer Beatty, Dori Ito, Sarah Jayne

Plant Science Team (Research OC)

Team Lead: Bob Allen
Rare Plants: Dave Bramlet, Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff

Invasives Team

Team Co-leads: Ron Vanderhoff, Jutta Burger
Members: Bob Allen, Thea Gavin, Celia Kutcher, David Pryor, Dan Songster

Explore Team (Explore OC)

Team Lead: Ron Vanderhoff
Field Trips: Diane Etchison, Jonathon Frank,

Communications Team

Team Lead: open
Publicity: open
Newsletter: Sarah Jayne
eNews: Laura Camp, Bob Huttar
Publications: Brad Jenkins, Jennifer Mabley
Website: Rich Schilk

Grants Team

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Reviewers: Bob Allen, Celia Kutcher, Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff
Acorn Grant: Sarah Jayne
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