



CNPS

ORANGE
COUNTY
CHAPTER

California Native Plant Society

occnps.org

July/August 2018

CALENDAR

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month **except in July and August**. Our next meeting will take place on **September 20**.

Native Gardeners Corner—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. The question for this issue: **What is your favorite aspect of summer in your native garden?**

Linda Southwell: "Monarch caterpillars munching on milkweed, Marine Blue butterflies dancing on buckwheat blossoms, and imagining possibilities for the fall planting season."

Nancy Harris: "My front and backyard are both small, each with a large Canary Island Pine. The landscape has evolved into a tapestry of California natives, each pushing to claim their space. Beach Strawberry, Aster Chilensis, Irises (purple, lavender and white), some large rocks, Santa Barbara Daisies, California Fuchsias, and Yerba Mansa bloom at different times during summer to keep me and the wildlife happy."

Brad Jenkins: "Flowers from buckwheats, California fuchsia, golden bushes—and all the pollinators buzzing around these plants in the sun. Plant growth slows, so maintenance minimizes to finding one relatively cool part of each month to water, and maybe deadheading those golden bushes (and maybe not, if I go on vacation.)"

Rama Nayeri: "I have a patio garden so my plants are all in pots. My favorite aspect of the garden during the summer is sitting out on the bench with a hot cup of tea smelling the Cleveland Sage."

Leon Baginski: "Insects!!!!!! Summer brings out scores of pollinators to my Eriogonum, pale and tiger swallowtails to my Rhamnus and Prunus with eggs and caterpillars, hover fly larvae munching on my aphids, golden eye lacewing flying graciously around the yard at night. Too many critters to list and so many to see!!!"

Laura Camp: "I love the green lush leaves of Western Sycamore and other deciduous plants, and the myriad bird activity."

Dennis & Susan Keagy: "We just like working in our garden which probably does more for us than we do for it. So no one seasonal aspect really stands out, but after the spring flower season ends summer means clean-up time. We leave the flower seeds for the birds, trim back plants for renewal (re-exposing ground and rocks), then chill, only needing to put down a little water from time to time as most of our natives are naturalized."

Celia Kutcher: "My favorite summer aspect is that my garden requires no water & very minimal maintenance."

Mark Sugars: "Almost every day this summer, it seems, at roughly the same time of day, a pair of Lesser Finches—but whether actually mating or merely dating, I don't know—have been showing up, and perching on the flower stalks of the White Sages and Black Sages in my front yard, and feasting on Salvia seeds for a while, before flying off."

Dan Songster: "My favorite part of summer in the native garden is the late afternoons when the sun is dropping, temperatures start to cool (we hope) and the silvery foliage colors of many plants tend to glow! These include both sagebrush (*Artemisia californica* and *A. tridentata*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), Catalina snowflake (*Constancea nevinii*), and conejo buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*). Good time for fragrance in the garden as well!"

Our question for the next newsletter with planting season approaching: **"Which native plant do you desire to grow but had the least success with & why do you still want to grow the darn thing?!"**

CONSERVATION

COAST TO CLEVELAND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

The OC Board of Supervisors gave final approval, 3-1, to the West Alton Parcel Development Plan despite long and steadfast opposition to the Plan by an enviro coalition spearheaded by Laguna Greenbelt. OCCNPS has long been a member of the coalition and is a signatory to the coalition letter opposing the development.

The Plan puts about 900 dwelling units (5-story condos) on about 45 acres at the northwest corner of Irvine and Alton Blvds. See Exhibit 1.3 (p. 11 of 266) and other maps in <http://www.ocgov.com/civica/x/filebank/blobload.aspx?BlobID=75748>.

The site:

4 abuts the southern end of the 900-acre FBI property, which is de facto wildlife corridor connecting to National Forest and Central NCCP Reserve lands.

5 straddles the West Alton Segment of the Irvine Wildlife Corridor, which connects southward, ultimately to Coastal NCCP Reserve lands.

The Plan leaves only a narrow gap (pinch point) to allow wildlife passage between the FBI parcel and the West Alton Segment. Such a pinch point is a possibly severe obstacle to the Corridor's purpose: to allow wildlife passage (= gene flow) between the Central and Coastal parts of the NCCP Reserve. *The whole corridor must be functional to work.*

The corridor's proper functioning is not only essential for OC's wildlife, but also for protecting the hundreds of millions of dollars of OC taxpayer funds that have been invested over decades into our wilderness parks and other open space.

The County had previously agreed to designate the West Alton site as wildlife corridor, so why is it now placing land uses adjacent to the corridor that would jeopardize its success?

DUNES AND PLOVERS IN NEWPORT BEACH

Despite heavy human use of the City of Newport Beach's 8-plus miles of ocean-front beach, a couple dozen acres of native dune vegetation still exist near the jetty (southerly end) and near the Santa Ana River's mouth (northerly end). These dune areas meet the Coastal Act's criteria for Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). The dunes near the jetty are home to a population of Western Snowy Plover (WSP), a small shorebird that is ranked as Federal Threatened and a California Species of Special Concern.

Coastal Commission staff has repeatedly advised the City that ONE plan, that includes ALL of the City's beachfront, is a Coastal Act requirement. Instead, the City seems set on doing a series of plans for the different areas of its beach.

The City has recently issued a draft WSP Management Plan that covers only the +/- 25 acres of dunes near the jetty where most of the plovers roost: newportbeachca.gov/trending/projects-issues/snowy-plover. The Plan is due to be up for approval at the Coastal Commission hearing in August, despite its not complying with the stated requirement as well as being otherwise flawed. Stay tuned.

OC TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE:

In 2015, OCCNPS joined Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks (FHBP) and other groups in drafting a sample OC Tree Preservation Ordinance. The impetus was that OC does not and has never had a county-wide ordinance aimed at protecting native trees on unincorporated lands.

The groups' draft Ordinance was submitted to the OC Planning Dept. in 2016. There, it was folded into the overall Zoning Code Update project, *Orange is the New Green*, then getting underway. (The comprehensive update's intent is to make the county's policies and practices "greener": more sustainable and environment-friendly. See:

ocpublicworks.com/gov/pw/ds/planning/projects/orange_is_the_new_green.asp)

The Zoning Code Update, including the Tree Preservation Ordinance, has been examined at a series of Planning Commission workshops beginning in early May.

OCCNPS' specific comments on the Ordinance:

- 1 Clarification of the types of native oaks and other species and how they grow.
- 2 Suggestions for additional preservation categories.
- 3 An annotated list of OC's 34 native tree species (including oak hybrids).

FHBP et al had many comments as well. Contact celia552@cox.net for copies of the letters and list.

The "workshops" consisted of the Commissioners discussing the Ordinance's provisions in the presence of the few members of the public in attendance. There were defined Public Comment periods during which attendees had 3 minutes each to comment on the Ordinance.

Discussion among the Commissioners revealed that:

- They felt a lack of focus in what the Ordinance should cover, both which tree spp. and what area(s).
- The Silverado-Modjeska Specific Plan area (which is conventionally zoned despite being in a Specific Plan) is the only Specific Plan or Planned Community area that has big old oaks on large parcels of private land, and that doesn't have a Habitat Conservation Plan or similar that addresses the oaks' preservation. The suggestion was made to add oak preservation to the Sil-Mod SP, rather than institute a county-wide ordinance that in practice applies almost solely to the Sil-Mod area.
- Specific-Plan and Planned-Community areas are excluded from the Ordinance's provisions because they already have Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) or similar, which are "tailored" to their sites. The HMPs' mitigation measures and/or design requirements were set up as part of their areas' development processes. The HMPs are essentially contracts with USF&W and/or CDFW, and difficult to remove in favor of the Ordinance.

The more they discussed the details and ramifications of the Ordinance, the more the Commissioners realized that it should be a stand-alone and not part of the Zoning Code, and sought to remove it. However, County Counsel advised that the Ordinance is part of the Zoning Code "package" that the Board of Supervisors handed the Commission, so cannot be removed until the "package" is returned to the Supervisors for their vote. So the Commissioners directed staff to cease further work on the Ordinance, on the grounds that it was taking too much time and focus away from consideration of the rest of the Code.

The Summer After the Canyon 2 Fire
(near Barham Ridge)

Charred shrub silhouettes
sprout fluffy skirts:
laurel sumac, chamise,
lemonade berry, scrub oak
look ready to dance if
it ever rains again.

Whole hillsides of salvia
and artemisia evaporated
in the flames; now
mustard ugliness
hides the work
of gophers readying
slopes for rain.

Prickly pear flatten
their scorched ears
to the ground,
listening for rainsteps
or the return
of cactus wren chatter.

Thea Gavin

The Commissioners did direct staff to seek answers to several specific questions. The answers were presented to the Commission on June 27, see ocpublicworks.com/ds/planning/hearing/pln_comm/pcmeeting, "Att. 4 Tree Preservation Ordinance (Follow-up Response)"; the two attachments are pertinent maps. See also the community plans and maps at: ocpublicworks.com/ds/community_plans.

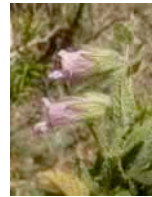
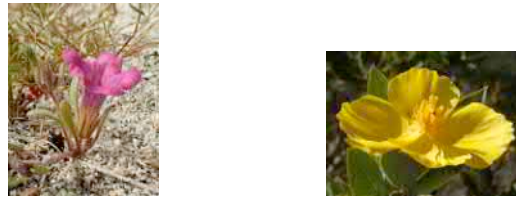
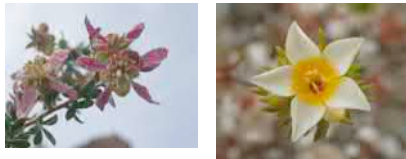
The Zoning Code Update is due to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in September. Stay tuned for what happens next with the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

Some rare plants seen on our field trips this spring. . .

Whitewater Preserve, Riverside County—April 1

Crossosoma bigelovii, Whitewater Canyon Preserve,
Leptosiphon lemmonii, Whitewater Canyon Preserve
Nama demissa var. demissa, Whitewater Canyon Preserve



All photographs and plant IDs by **Ron Vanderhoff**. Visit his Facebook page to see lots more.

Catalina Island, April 28-29

Dendromecon harfordii, Whites Landing Overlook
Dudleya virens ssp. hassei, Avalon Boat Pier to Pebbly Beach Rd.
Lepechinia fragrans, Middle Ranch
Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. floribundus, Whites Landing Overlook
Perityle emoryi, Avalon Boat Pier to Pebbly Beach Rd.
Ribes viburnifolium, Middle Ranch,

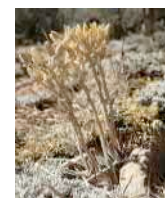
To the Top of OC; Modjeska and Santiago Peaks, Santa Ana Mountains—May 27

Viola sheltonii, N Main Divide Rd, below Santiago Peak, Santa Ana Mts.
Dudleya cymosa ssp. pumila, Santiago Peak, Santa Ana Mts.



Pebble Plains and Cushenbury Canyon, San Bernadino Mountains—June 10

Castilleja cinerea, N. Hwy 38, 225 E. Canyon Rd. Fawnskin,
Erigeron aphanactis var. congestus, Baldwin Lake Eco. Reserve,
Hymenopappus filifolius var. lugens, N. Hwy 38, 225 E. Canyon Rd. Fawnskin
Dudleya abramsii, Baldwin Lake Eco. Reserve



Book Review: *Plants in Our World: Economic Botany* by Beryl Brintnall Simpson and Molly Conner Ogorzaly

So...after umpteen years of going on CNPS hikes or planting natives in your garden, you have decided that you want to get serious about studying plant science. What book(s) can you buy?

One option: a book that I consider the classic botany text, Peter Raven's *Biology of Plants*. The 7th edition runs well over \$100, but with the section on ecology available online only. On the other hand, the 6th edition—complete in one volume—can be had for about \$60. This is a very thorough treatment, beautifully written and illustrated.

I recently discovered a different textbook—one that has tugged at my heartstrings. It is *Plants in Our World: Economic Botany*. There are plenty of other works on botany out there, but none as charming and delightful as this. It includes all the topics found in a college text, but does so much more. Here you will find extensive coverage of plant use for food, alcohol, drugs, poisons, textiles and numerous other topics. Also included: a vast amount of historical and cultural material, along with an extensive collection of archival photos, sketches and diagrams. Although the text is written for an upper division biology or botany class, it is accessible to the general reader. The layout of the book invites casual browsing. In fact, the 4th edition would make an excellent coffee table book.

The best part—in my opinion—is a series of numbered boxes containing short narratives. For example, how can you resist this title: "Preventing Legumes from Tooting their Own Horn." It discusses exactly what the title suggests.

NOTE: Amazon offers two versions of this book: the hardcover, black-and-white 3d edition (2001), which I got for under \$7.00, and the newer, expanded, all-color, paperback 4th edition (2014), costing less than \$64. Either one is worth owning.

—Joan Hampton