



## CALENDAR

May 3	Board Meeting
May 6	Fossil Reef, Sheep Hills Field Trip
May 12	Wildflower Showcase IRC
May 17	Chapter Meeting
May 27	Santa Ana Mountains Field Trip
June 3	Temple Hill, Moulton Meadow Field Trip
June 7	Board Meeting
June 10	Pebble Plains & Cushenbury Canyon F T
June 21	Chapter Celebration
July 8	Chapter Board Planning Meeting

## Native Gardeners Corner—Tips, Tricks and Techniques

This regular newsletter feature offers 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 native for foliage fragrance?**

**Nancy Harris**—"At Shipley Nature Center, we planted a triangle shaped plot outside the gate on park property with lots of Winifred Gilman Sage which is a cultivar of *Salvia clevelandii*. People walking down the driveway were smelling the lovely aroma 20 feet away and coming into Shipley to ask what the plant was. (We sold many plants that way—sort of like baking chocolate cookies when trying to sell a house.) Unfortunately, for whatever

reason, the Winifred Gilman was not as sturdy as plain Cleveland Sage so we lost all of them within a year. Now, I claim the latter plant as the best aroma."

**Linda Southwell**—"For lovely smells in my garden, especially after a good rain, I like any of the salvias, especially White Sage, Cleveland Sage, and the sweet smell of Japatul Cleveland Sage. I have California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) planted just inside my front gate for its welcoming aroma. Other favorites are Desert Lavender, and any of the Monardella mints (both Coyote and San Diego species)."

**Rama Nayeri**—"My favorite is *Salvia clevelandii*. I love it because it not only smells nice but you can bring the leaves indoors and put them in a vase. You can even dry the leaves and use them in the dryer."

**Laura Camp**—"My very favorite is Pitcher sage, *Lepechinia fragrans*; I am a total sucker for that one. But there are so many and varied. The minty San Miguel Savory (rare plant from Santa Ana Mountains) and the many Monardellas are all delightful and are great garden plants. There is nothing like sage smell in the garden—my visitors always comment on Cleveland and Black sage. The smell of California!"

**Leon Baginski**—"Salvia spathacea, *Stachys bullata* and *Yerba buena*. So many Salvias to choose from but then again I even like *Trichostema laxum* (Turpentine weed)!"

**Brad Jenkins**—"Favorite, as in one?! Ha ha ha... Enchanting Woolly Blue Curls smells citrus-herb to some people while having overtones of bubble-gum to others. San Miguel Savory leaves have an uplifting mint aroma for the nose and flavor as a tea. Good old cowboy cologne California Sagebrush refreshes the mood of many of us while hiking on trails (and my wife's dog smells great after a dash through the backyard brush.) Catalina Perfume, thick leaf Yerba Santa, Monardella mints..."

**Chuck Wright**—"Cowboy cologne, California Sagebrush, *Artemisia californica*, would have to be my favorite as it would with many folks. My favorite smell would be Coastal Sage Scrub just after a rain and my favorite mystery smell would have to be California Everlasting, *Pseudognaphalium californicum*, because of the variety of responses: citrus, maple syrup, as starters, and that it changes with time on your hand."

**John Gossett**—"Ribes viburnifolium, or Catalina Perfume, brings to

mind a cedar chest with a fresh lemon or two stored among the keepsake blankets and quilts."

**Mike Evans**—"In the wild places: Creosote. In the garden: Woolly Blue Curls."

**David Churchhill**—"I know it's not pure native but my *Verbina lilacina* De La Mina is heavenly in the spring bloom."

**Elizabeth Wallace**—"I love *Myrica californica* for foliage fragrance. I cut branches from and make a wreath for my front door. Their slightly spicy, woody fragrance wafts in the house when the front door opens."

**Ron Vanderhoff**—"Probably overlooked by most, *Salvia spathacea* has an amazing foliage fragrance. It is fruity and intoxicating and is especially obvious when the plant is being watered."

**J. Mark Sugars**—"Salvia apiana, White Sage. No contest."

**Sima Bernstein**—"It has to be White Sage."

**Greta Helphrey**—"Trichostema lanatum is my absolute favorite for fragrance, but has proven a short-lived beauty in my garden. I keep trying! Meanwhile, I am still learning to make *Salvia spathacea* at home in shady, well-mulched corners of my garden. But *Salvia clevelandii* is bullet-proof and always redolent. Great in the garden in even the worst summer heat and anytime in a bouquet. Plus, I bake with it."

**Kathy Sturdevant**—"hmmmm.... I used to think Pozo Blue Sage, but that might have been eclipsed by Hummingbird Sage... That would be my garden plant choice. For hiking, I can't resist the *Artemisia californica*."

**Mary Arambula**—"Two stand out—Cleveland Sage and 'Canyon Gray' Artemisia."

**Alan Lindsay**—"Immediately *Prunus ilicifolia* ssp *ilicifolia* popped into my mind. The crushed leaves of the Holly Leaf Cheery give off a pleasing almond-like scent"

**Celia Kutcher**—"All the sages & mints, especially Willowy monardella (*Monardella linoides* ssp *viminea*)."

**Dori Ito**—"Number one for me is the Hummingbird sage, *Salvia spathacea*. If you can get past the tactile unpleasantness of its sticky leaves, you will be rewarded with the fruitiest, slightly citrusy, sweetest, most wonderful scent

in the California native world. That being said, don't even get me started on all the runner ups..."

**Susan Krzywicki**-“I’m still in love with the scent of Salvia (Sages). When I teach, it is the easiest one for students to relate to, so I love it for that: an entry point for new learners.”

**Dan Songster**-“My favorite scent comes from the leaves of *Ribes malvaceum*, Chaparral currant. I remember a pleasant moment long ago spent sitting between two of them in the GWC Native Garden and quietly breathing in their fragrance. Of course the Pitcher Sages—*Lepechinia* species, are also wonderful. Someone once described the scent as a cross between pineapple and horse sweat. Well, I like it!”

Our question for the next newsletter is: **What is your favorite aspect of summer in your native garden?**

## CONSERVATION

### PROPOSITION 68:

This measure, on the June 5 ballot, would authorize the State of California to sell \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds to fund parks, natural resources protection, climate adaptation, water quality and supply, and flood protection. Details are in the Official Voters information Guide.

The OC enviro community supports Prop. 68, not least because it could provide funding to purchase lands and do restoration that is vital to the missions of several OC groups, including but not limited to:

- 1 Banning Ranch Conservancy: potentially, preserve all 401 acres of Newport Banning Ranch.
- 2 Bolsa Chica Land Trust: finalize acquisition of the 28.2-acre Ridge and Goodell properties (a very important Native American heritage site), and provide funding for projects that are much-needed for sustainable habitats within Bolsa Chica.
- 3 Hills for Everyone: potentially, thousands of undeveloped acres along the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor are eligible for funding for purchase. Matching funding is available for some of them.
- 4 Laguna Greenbelt: support preservation and restoration of the 6-mile-long Coast to Cleveland Wildlife Corridor.

2018apr19

luke skywalker

han-solo

x-wing fighters

had to be inspired by the daring

antics of swallows

swoops and banks

twists and turns

into and out of sight

before the brain registers what it has seen

what's the point of capturing pixels

they're here and gone

what you record is more blue sky

and more blue water

or with luck a brown blur amidst the blue

Annie Dillard calls it a “Now you see it, now you don't”

x-wing fighter morphs to swallow

or is it the other way around

a dizzying air show free for the watching

a swallow song for sure

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

Barbara's Lake

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

STAR WARS, 1977, George Lucas

Annie Dillard, PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK

chuck wright

### TRABUCO DISTRICT, 1: FUELS MANAGEMENT

The draft Decision Notice for the South Main Divide and Greater El Cariso Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA) was issued on April 22. There is a 45-day objection period, see

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/43960\\_FSPLT3\\_4291155.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/43960_FSPLT3_4291155.pdf).

The EA details the Trabuco Ranger District's proposal to treat vegetation along South and North Main Divide Roads and Long Canyon Road in order to mitigate the potential effects of wildfires. The treatments will cut down or masticate most of the chaparral and limb up the larger oaks in a zone up to 300 ft. wide along the roads. North of Ortega Hwy, treatment will be done along most of the Long Cyn. Rd.-Main Divide Rd. loop. South of Ortega, treatment will be done along Main Divide Rd. from the Hwy. to the Forest boundary. The cut material will be piled, allowed to dry awhile, then chipped or burned. Herbicide will be sprayed to limit the chaparral's regrowth.

OCCNPS has commented several times on this Fuels Management project, through its several iterations over several years. We contend that such wholesale chaparral removal opens the roadsides to increased invasion by non-native weeds, that quickly become flashy fuels that tend to burn faster than the chaparral and act as wicks to lead fire deeper into intact native vegetation. We will object, again, to this decision.

### TRABUCO DISTRICT, 2: THE PRESERVE AT SAN JUAN

The OC Board of Supervisors approved this project on April 10. It calls for 72 1-acre lots for executive houses on about 80 acres of the 580-acre inholding, located just south of El Cariso Village and west of Ortega Hwy. The project proposes that the remainder of the inholding (mostly steep slopes and a canyon) will become part of District lands.

The Endangered Habitats League, Sea and Sage Audubon, and OCCNPS have all opposed this development, in its various iterations, for a decade or more. Sadly, none of us have the resources to take the next step of opposition, a lawsuit. —**Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair**

## Chapter Meetings

**Thursday, May 17: California Public Lands, Our Incomparable Treasures**

**Speaker: Dr. Allan Schoenherr**



California, the most populous state, has more officially designated wilderness than any state outside of Alaska. According to the California Protected Areas database, 52% is public land and 46.7% of California is classified as “protected.” We are fortunate to have within our boundaries some of the most spectacular national and state parks in the U.S.

By dividing the state into natural biotic provinces, this presentation will illustrate through a series of photographs what makes our state’s natural landscape a treasure of great value—one worth visiting, investigating, and protecting.

Dr. Schoenherr, Emeritus Professor of Ecology, taught a variety of ecology classes at Fullerton College and UC Irvine. He also taught extension courses on desert biology for UC Riverside and Cal State San Bernadino. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from USC and his doctorate from Arizona State University. He is a long-time CNPS member

A lover of the outdoors, Dr. Schoenherr has traveled, hiked, and photographed all over the world. He is the author of the widely used reference book, *A Natural History of California* (UC Press, 1995) the second edition of which has just been released. He also wrote *Natural History of the Islands of California* (UC Press, 1999) and *Wild and Beautiful: A Natural History of Open Spaces of Orange County* (Laguna Wilderness Press, 2011). A limited number of copies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *A Natural History of California* will be available for sale and the author will sign.

**Thursday, June 21: Summer Solstice, Chapter Celebration, and Watering Native Plants**

**Speaker: Mike Evans**

Get the most out of the longest day of the year by joining us for an evening of friends and plant-related activities. Start with Rich Schilk’s annual bird walk around the preserve at 6 PM. Doors open at 6:45 for potluck refreshments. We encourage regular attendees to bring a savory or fruit dish to share. Everyone may bring family and friends. We will have a flower activity table, opportunity drawing, continuous slide show (send your great pics of chapter events to Celia Kutcher, [celia552@cox.net](mailto:celia552@cox.net)) and other amusements.

Mike Evans of Tree of Life Nursery will highlight the evening with a talk about watering our native plants! Adapted to grow in a land that receives practically no summer water, they grow in plant communities based on soils, exposure and other environmental factors. Unless we use local native species that are perfectly suited for our site when we design and build natural gardens, we will need to judiciously apply water in the summer. Even the rough and tumble local natives will look cleaner and greener with a little irrigation. Watering native plants is quite simple, but a few classic mistakes will often result in sick plants and sad gardeners. Learn how to water right and avoid those costly mistakes. You will have healthy plants and you will be a happy gardener.

Mike Evans is president and founder of Tree of Life Nursery, which has been in business over 35 years propagating and growing approximately 400 varieties of California native plants on 40 acres near San Juan Capistrano. Mike is a great ambassador for native plants, an engaging speaker, and sincere friend of the Orange County Chapter of CNPS. Over the years he has accumulated an astounding breadth of knowledge about growing our native plants. Bring your questions and don’t miss this talk!



**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.



### From tiny acorns . . .

Recipient of a 2017 Acorn Grant from our chapter, Buena Park Junior High teacher Brian Travis and his students have created an oasis in a concrete desert.

Surrounded by concrete on all sides, Mr. Travis and his students in the SADL Up tutorial class decided to do something about it last year. They looked around campus for a place to start and decided on a plot of land behind the office that was barren dirt. They envisioned a place to sit and enjoy nature, a place where nature could surround them. So with Mr. Travis’s help, the students worked out a plan and began to look around for the money to accomplish their plan.

In February last year they applied for our chapter’s Acorn Grant for School Gardens and were funded in late spring. Work on the project was slow but steady, but at last they can finally say “Mission Accomplished!” and look toward other projects, including more native habitat.

Now that students and staff see the positive impact the garden has had in the school community, they are looking forward to spreading the seeds of nature to all parts of their concrete landscape. This project represents the first such garden in the school’s history and it will definitely not be the last.

For students who worked on the project, it was a rewarding experience as reflected in their comments. “I enjoyed helping to plant and learn new stuff!” “...meeting and working with new people that I’ve never met before to create something beautiful for our school!” “...I made new friends, grew stronger, and learned how to work as a team.” “I learned about how native plants are important to our ecosystem.”

Now all the students can enjoy a touch of California nature in this little oasis in the concrete desert.

P.O. Box 54891  
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## May/June 2018

### FIRST CLASS MAIL

#### May/June Field Trips

For complete details, go to [occnps.org/explore](http://occnps.org/explore)

##### **Sunday, May 6—Fossil Reef & plants of Sheep Hills, Laguna Hills**

Fossil Reef is a unique 17-million-year-old preserved portion of a submerged tropical reef. The unique geology and limestone soil supports a small colony of Orange County's only population of *Astragalus pomonensis* along with other interesting plants. This easy walk will be led by Josie Bennett and Ron Vanderhoff. See the website for time and location.

##### **Saturday, May 12—Wildflower Showcase, Irvine Ranch Conservancy Seed Farm Open House**

Cancelled by rain on an earlier date, 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. Registration at [letsgooutside.org/activities](http://letsgooutside.org/activities) is required for this special event.

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

This day-long driving trip will seek out plant specialities unique to the higher elevations of the county. Rocky, rutted roads require high-clearance SUVs or trucks. Contact leader Ron Vanderhoff at [rvanderhoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvanderhoff@sbcglobal.net) if interested and available.

##### **Sunday, June 3—Temple Hill from Moulton Meadow Park**

Experience a unique and rapidly disappearing coastal chaparral plant community. Go to [occnps.org/explore](http://occnps.org/explore) for time and meeting place.

##### **Sunday, June 10—Pebble Plains and Cushenbury Canyon**

These two locations in the Big Bear area offer a wealth of interesting plants. The quartzite pebble soils of Pebble Plains and Cushenbury Canyon's rocky carbonate soils support many uncommon and rare species. A trip for early risers, leader Diane Etchison will meet participants at 6:30 AM at the Park&Ride at 2555 Tustin Avenue, Orange.

#### BOARD MEMBERS

##### Officers:

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Secretary*  
*Financial Committee*

<b>Brad Jenkins</b>	<a href="mailto:jenkinsbradc@gmail.com">jenkinsbradc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sarah Jayne</b>	<a href="mailto:sbjayne@cox.net">sbjayne@cox.net</a>
<b>Thea Gavin</b>	<a href="mailto:gavinfam@aol.com">gavinfam@aol.com</a>
<b>Laura Camp</b>	<a href="mailto:laura@treeoflifenuresery.com">laura@treeoflifenuresery.com</a>
<b>Brad Jenkins</b>	
<b>Jennifer Mabley</b>	

##### At Large:

*Chapter Council Rep*

<b>David Pryor</b>	<a href="mailto:davidpryor@gmail.com">davidpryor@gmail.com</a>
<b>Jutta Burger</b>	<a href="mailto:jburger04@gmail.com">jburger04@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bob Huttar</b>	<a href="mailto:huttarbob@cox.net">huttarbob@cox.net</a>
<b>Celia Kutcher</b>	<a href="mailto:celia552@cox.net">celia552@cox.net</a>
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<b>Dan Songster</b>	<a href="mailto:songster@cox.net">songster@cox.net</a>
<b>Ron Vanderhoff</b>	<a href="mailto:ronv@rogersgardens.com">ronv@rogersgardens.com</a>

##### 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**  
*O'Neill Grant:* Jutta Burger  
*Reviewers:* Bob Allen, Celia Kutcher, Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff  
*Acorn Grant:* Sarah Jayne  
*Reviewers:* Board of Directors