



CALENDAR

- 11/3.....SCB Symposium
- 11/8.....Board Meeting
- 11/15.....Chapter Meeting
- 11/18.....Fall Color Field Trip
- 12/6.....Board Meeting
- 12/20.....Chapter Meeting
- 1/3/19.....Board Meeting
- 1/17/19.....Chapter Meeting

Native Gardeners Corner—Members’ Tips, Tricks, and Techniques

This column is a regular newsletter feature offering chapter members and local experts a chance to share information related to gardening with natives.

The request for this edition of the newsletter is: **“What native shrubs or trees do you grow (or want to grow) that will provide food for the bugs that feed the majority of our nesting birds?”**

(Note: This question is based on the concept that almost 90% of nesting birds feed their nestlings on insects NOT seeds regardless of the birds “normal” diet. Check

<http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/gardening-for-life.html>)

Leon Baginski: “That’s an easy one. If you want to feed birds you have to go with plants that are host to many different insects. Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) and coast live oak are my go to plants for insects galore and therefore birds galore. Woodpeckers, jays, bush-tits, wrens, towhees, and a host of others picking off insects by the bushel. Can’t go wrong with those two.”

Nancy Harris: “I planted a small Toyon in the front yard two years ago and it took off. In the fall it produced flowers, which turned to very small white berries and I was expecting to have a bumper crop of beautiful red berries for Christmas like we get at Shipley Nature Center. Well, apparently, insects nibbled on all the white berries and no red berries appeared. Same thing this year. Since my Toyon is the only one within a mile from Shipley, I think all the insects close by must feed on it. Therefore, insects for bird food instead of berries!”

Laura Camp: “I observe the most bug-gleaning activity by birds on my low shrubby plants: buckwheat, San Diego sunflower, but especially sages.”

Dan Songster: “Oaks are well known for the insects they harbor and the birds that love to feed on them. Alder and *Prunus* species are also good. Willows are great though much too big for most home gardens, but many of the smaller plants provide places for spiders and other insects to live and feed. Deerweed attracts several insects including several of our local butterflies like Hairstreaks and Blues to lay their eggs where their larvae will later feed. And just think of my Coast Goldenbush—an insect magnet!

Most important for providing bugs for birds is no routine use of insecticides! Let the various bugs flourish and you will see lizards and birds move into your yard and raise their families. Also, it seems that the less drought-stricken a garden is the more succulent vegetation there is for bugs to eat, so a bit of judicious watering to keep plants robust may also serve to keep the bugs and birds happy.

Our question for the next newsletter is: **“What native plants have you used successfully in containers?”** Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Anyone may respond.

CONSERVATION

CHINO HILLS: ESPERANZA HILLS, AGAIN!

On Sept. 25, the OC Board of Supervisors voted, 4-1, to approve, for the third time, the 340-unit Esperanza Hills housing development proposed for 470 acres of steep hills abutting Chino Hills State Park. This approval is despite that the Board’s previous two approvals of the project were overturned in the Superior Court (2015, 2017), and that the overturnings were upheld by the Appeals Court (2015, 2017).

The re-re-approved project is essentially unchanged from what the courts rejected. It has the same very severe access and fire safety problems. It has increased known impact on gnatcatchers, due to new studies of their populations onsite. Impact on gnatcatchers strongly implies impact on Coastal Sage Scrub, adding to the CNPS nexus of impacts to the site’s populations of Branton’s Milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*, CRPR 1B.1) and Intermediate Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus weedii intermedius*, CRPR 1B.2).

Due to the new information on the site’s gnatcatcher population, the EIR should have been recirculated and a new public comment period held. This was not done, thus the new approval is in violation of CEQA.

Still

When the dry wind
calls down the canyon
red-tailed hawk
steps out for a soar—
wings half-folded
she kites in the blue
as I watch from below
beak to the blast
hair like needle-grass.

Thea Gavin

See <https://mailchi.mp/6ab871d3f54f/four-supervisors-approve-esperanza-hills-project?e=088f2c3a5a> for details & links. CNPS/OCCNPS has been a co-litigant on this issue, which continues to be spearheaded by **Hills for Everyone** and **Protect Our Homes and Hills** (POHAH, a Yorba Linda citizens group).

TREE ORDINANCE:

OC's new Tree Ordinance continues to wend its way through the approval process, being discussed at Planning Commission meetings with public input. The current version is reasonable:

- 1 The major species covered are clearly stated. (OCCNPS submitted an annotated list of all 37 tree species native to OC.)
- 2 Trees that must be removed are required to be replaced according to a stated ratio. The option of paying "in-lieu" fees has been removed.
- 3 DBH allowances are smaller, which means that more trees are covered.
- 4 The replacement ratio is increased.
- 5 The minimum replacement size is now smaller, hence more realistic.
- 6 It is required to coordinate with the nursery that will grow the replacement trees prior to starting a project that will require replacement trees.

The ordinance clearly states that it applies only to the Silverado-Modjeska Specific Plan area. Rationale for the limitation is that SMSP is the only Specific Plan that did not incorporate tree ordinance-like provisions when originally set up. The other Specific Plans' "tree ordinances" when set up incorporated agreements with the wildlife agencies and others. The Commission's sense is that all those agreements would have to be renegotiated if replaced with a county-wide ordinance. Regardless, some residents of the other Specific Plan areas feel that a uniform county-wide ordinance should be instituted.

The ordinance is included in the deliberations for the revised Zoning Code ("Orange is the New Green", http://www.ocpublicworks.com/ds/planning/projects/all_districts_projects/orange_is_the_new_green) because of its sustainability aspects. And, it's felt that there's a better chance of its getting approved and that it would be more enforceable if adopted as part of the Code.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

Field Trip Finale...

Sunday, November 18: Fall Color Trip: Harding Canyon, Santa Ana Mountains

Enjoy the relaxing calmness and fall color of the beautiful and biologically rich Harding Canyon creek trail. An interesting mix of coast sage, chaparral and riparian woodland highlight this species-rich walk. A short walk up the Harding Truck trail leads to the canyon that should be mostly dry this time of the year. A nice diversity of trees can be found including California Ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), Arizona Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*), and Big-leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). There will also be a chance to see a few uncommon shrubs such as Nevin's Bricklebuch (*Brickellia nevinii*) and Fish's Milkwort (*Polygala cornuta var. fishiae*).

Meet 9:00 am at the parking lot just right of the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary, obeying the signs of appropriate parking in the area. Take E. Santiago Canyon Road from either the N or S and turn onto Modjeska Canyon Road leading directly to the parking lot.

Leaders: Jonathan Frank and Ron Vanderoff

Physical Difficulty: Moderate. Bring hat, sunscreen, camera, wildflower book/notepad, water and hiking shoes/boots.

Limited water or restrooms. Plant Intensity: moderate. Time: About 2.5 hours.

O'Neill Grant!

We are now accepting applications to our annual grant for student research on local native flora. This year advanced undergraduates are also eligible!

The Charlie O'Neill Grant is awarded annually to a graduate or junior/senior-level planning to conduct field research related to biology, ecology, floristics, taxonomy, ethnobotany, of native plants. Awards range from \$500 to \$1999 based on the number of suitable applicants and the relative quality and merit of their proposals. Grant awards are presented as a lump sum and may cover items such as supplies, equipment, and travel costs not covered by other sources of funding and include a one-year membership with CNPS.

All proposals considered for funding must directly support the mission of CNPS, which is to "conserve native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants." Preference will be given to proposals that include study of species occurring within Orange County, but all will be given full consideration.

Please visit occnps.org/education/grants for complete details. Application deadline is **December 21st***

***Jutta Burger**, formerly with IRC, has taken a position with CalIPC and has moved to Berkeley. She will, however, head the **O'Neill Grant team** one last time. The Board of Directors is deeply appreciative of all Jutta's contributions to our chapter during her tenancy as a board member and will miss her greatly both officially and personally.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, November 15: So Many Manzanitas, So Little Time—the Diversity and Ecology of Manzanitas.

Speaker: Tom Parker



Manzanita's center of biodiversity is in the California Floristic Province, where they are the rock stars of woody shrub diversity. In fact only one species of *Arctostaphylos* grows elsewhere—on the rim of a volcano in Guatemala. Ranging from the Sierra Nevada to coastal bluffs along the Pacific, from temperate rainforests along the North Coast to arid mountain slopes in Southern California, a wealth of manzanita species and subspecies can be found in an astonishing array of environments. Why are there so many manzanitas? It is key adaptations that allow this iconic shrub of California to grow in such diverse regions of our state.

Learn the secrets of manzanitas from Tom Parker, author of the **Field Guide to Manzanitas** with Michael Vasey and Michael Kauffmann. Mr. Parker is also the lead author for the treatment of the genus *Arctostaphylos* in both the **Jepson Manual, 2nd Ed.**, and the **Flora of North America**, so he knows his little apples!

With beautiful photographs from Jeff Bisbee, the field guide provides stunning details of leaf, berry, inflorescence, hairs, and other key characteristics that assist in distinguishing between species and subspecies. A limited number of copies will be for sale.

Thursday, December 20: It's Your Turn!

On this evening we turn over the mike and screen to you, our audience. This is your opportunity to share a favorite flower, voyage, habitat, experience—what ever you can relate even remotely to native plants—locally or anywhere in the world!

A plant, a picture, a poem, a PowerPoint—choose your own format. But remember, **5 minutes** is the limit! (and we have a time keeper.)

Following a long-standing tradition, our board members will provide a festive spread on the hospitality table. If you would like to share something tasty, you are welcome to bring it along.

2019 Garden Tour—Saturday, April 13



is the date for the Orange County chapter tour of gardens featuring California native plants. Interesting landscape and hardscape design, unique plant collections, attractive habitat plantings, problem-solving designs—we're on the prowl now for gardens with ideas to share. Contact us at; we will be delighted to visit your garden and discuss what is involved in being on the tour. Past garden tour participants have all found it a tiring but enjoyable experience.
gardentour@occnps.org

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.

2018JUN09

under the hot blazing sun
we trudged across the grassland
waves of grain in a sea of tan
but ... wait... lumps of dark brown
glistening iridescent green cast over the brown &
a painfully red neck & head with
a whitish beak dangling flesh & fur

we arrived not by range rover across african plains
no african safari here
rather irvine and laguna beach
nearby
but in my head replayed a 50's african safari
With osa johnson his wife and crew
black and white TV rabbit ears and all
however close to my childhood dream of
"real" adventure
this adventure was real— a mere 13
minutes from my irvine home
wildness of survival
realness of the moment
no TV image
this was real time
with real turkey vultures (tv)
eating real wild food
under a hot blazing sun
along a hot dusty trail
just minutes away from home

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
On the road from Barbara's Lake
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*
It might have been the fellow from Mutual of
Omaha too long ago...

chuck wright

(this seemed a fitting companion to Thea's poem. The ed.)

P.O. Box 54891
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November/December 2018

FIRST CLASS MAIL

CNPS Membership Application

New member Renewal

- Student/Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family \$75
- Plant Lover.....\$100
- Patron.....\$300
- Benefactor\$600
- Mariposa Lily\$1500

[Organizations, please go to cnps.org]

Affiliate with the **Orange County Chapter**.
The chapter newsletter, CNPS bulletin **Flora**, and the journal **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** or go to www.cnps.org to join or renew online.

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Dan Songster songster@cox.net
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Elizabeth Wallace

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: Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff

Invasives Team

Team Lead: Ron Vanderhoff
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