



CALIFORNIA IN MY GARDEN—Saturday, April 13 from 10 AM to 4 PM

FREE tour of 15 gardens across the county—Brea, Yorba Linda, Orange, North Tustin, Tustin, Trabuco Canyon, Laguna Hills, and San Clemente—select your destinations! Large gardens and small, new gardens, mature gardens and gardens in transition—great ideas for all situations! Pick up tour brochures at the March chapter meeting, Green Scene, or register at occnps.org after March 15.

CALENDAR

Mar 2..... Border BioBlitz
Mar 7..... board meeting
Mar 21.....chapter meeting
Mar 24.....field trip
Apr 4..... board meeting
Apr 6..... Green Scene
Apr 7.....field trip
Apr 13..... **Garden Tour**
Apr 14.....field trip
Apr 18.....chapter meeting
Apr 20.....field trip
May 2..... board meeting
May 5.....field trip

Native Gardeners 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.

The request for this edition is:

"If you could be a native plant in another life, what would you choose to be and why?"

Pam Vallot: "I would be a manzanita. Ever since my first trip to the mountains and getting up close to them I became enamored with them! Though they can be tricky to grow, a few have stuck it out with me, now going on 17 years, with many more gracing my landscape. They are a sight for sore eyes and a balm for my city-tired-out spirit."

Rama Nayeri: "I would be a Dudleya. I can survive in sun or shade, with minimal care. I need little water and I can even live indoors by a window. Thus I can live anywhere."

Sima Bernstein: "A manzanita. Everything about it is beautiful. The foliage, the flowers, the structure and the colour of the bark. And it is good for the environment."

Ron Vanderhoff: "I would be a coast live oak tree because I would have lots of birds, lizards, insects and other wildlife to keep me company. I would give some shade to the plants and animals beneath me and I would withhold carbon and provide oxygen for the atmosphere while I nourish the soil. I would be big and tall, so as to see over the land, but most of all I would be magnificent and live to be 500 years old."

Leon Baginski: "Dudleya pulverulenta. I would "live forever" and nothing wants to eat me!!"

Amy Litton: "A Coast Live Oak is what I'd love to be! These trees anchor an entire community and provide resources for hundreds, maybe even thousands of species! And they're so beautiful, too!"

Dori Ito: "If in some alternate reality I were to be reborn (or re-sprout rather) as a California native plant, I would definitely be an Island Bush Poppy! After all, how could you resist my perennial cheery countenance, my happy yellow flowers blooming often all year round? The touch of grey will make my foliage unique and interesting. And you may find that I like to grow into a tight neat shape or take branching detours every which way, or even open up my many arms to the sky! I'll never be boring! And I wouldn't even mind a (ouch) trim now and then, as I will come back refreshed and surprisingly young again. An interesting life indeed!"

Sarah Jayne: "I'd be a Western Sycamore, tall and crooked, beloved for deep shade in the summer, begrudged for litter all fall, populated by birds and bugs. Planted near a stream and I'll be happy for a long, long time."

Dan Songster: "I would be a simple California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Despite drought or soil conditions I thrive, have a long blooming season and have many friends that visit me. Small birds love to leap into my low and tangled branches for security and to eat my seeds and I have many butterfly friends especially from the hairstreaks and the blues and I enjoy the company of many beetles, flies, moths, wasps, and bees. I can even be a host for California Dodder (*Cuscuta californica*)! I am always busy with life—I am a party!"

Our question for the next newsletter: **"What natives do you use successfully in your parking/median strip?"**

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

CONSERVATION

HERBICIDE USE IN LAGUNA HILLS

The City of Laguna Hills is doing a one-year test, at two city parks, of the efficacy of organic-based herbicides. The testing is in response to lobbying by a community group to discontinue the use of synthetic herbicides on all city-maintained properties (OC Register, 1/28/2019). See video of the 1/27/2019 City Council meeting:

<http://lagunahillsca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1444&Inline=True>, Staff Report item 6.3.1.

Laguna Hills is fully developed and has several maintained city parks. A few small areas of natural vegetation remain in the city; the largest and most important is a 1/2-mile reach of Aliso Creek that crosses the city from I-5 to Paseo de Valencia. This reach still runs in a natural channel—the only almost-unmodified stretch of channel between Portola Parkway (north of I-5) and Alicia Parkway/Aliso-Woods Canyons Wilderness Park (south of I-405). In other words, this still-natural 1/2 mile is just about in the middle of about 10 miles of creek bed that has been modified to at least some degree.

The reach's riparian vegetation is the usual mix: invasive non-natives such as palms, arundo, pampas grass, etc, and native willows, mule fat, cattails and such. The Aliso Creek Bikeway/Trail runs along the west side, the Avila Trail along the east side; houses line the upland edges.

A multi-agency/NGO collaborative team has a long-term project underway to remove all arundo from the entire 19-mile length of Aliso Creek. It is one of the largest restoration projects in Orange County history. See

<http://ygf.f92.myftpupload.com/aliso-creek-habitat/>

The agency or jurisdiction in charge of managing this 1/2-mile remnant of natural creek is not readily discernable. If the city is in charge, and the use of synthetic herbicides is deemed not allowable, restoration of this reach—hence the rest of the creek—will be that much harder.

ACTION NOW: If you live in or near Laguna Hills, contact the City to find out what entity has jurisdiction over this 1/2-mile of Aliso Creek, and what management/restoration plans there may be. Plan to speak at a City Council meeting (see how-to at website, above), to encourage the continued use of synthetic herbicides as a necessary tool for invasive-plant management in areas of natural vegetation, such as this 1/2-mile of Aliso Creek. It would be useful to cite CNPS' Policies on Herbicides and on Integrated Weed Management (<https://www.cnps.org/conservation/policies>), and OCCNPS' position on herbicide use—which is more specific to OC conditions. Ask Celia Kutcher for details regarding our position. And thank you!

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

2019 FEB 20

it's mid-february
valentine's reds and pinks
have come and gone
but surprises await along the trail
hidden beneath gooseberry and sage
a blackened branch from previous wildfire
sprouts forth a blaze of color
and sensuous folds
fungi
most brilliant of yellow-orange
atop the scorched black limb
recalls a more distant holiday
halloween
and aptly called witch's butter
fruiting fungi bursting forth
from much needed winter's rain
not to eat this luscious treat
but a feast for the eyes
a blaze of holiday color
for this winter's celebration
chuck wright

Tucker Wildlife
Sanctuary
Harding Truck Trail
Witch's Butter,
Dacrymyces
chrysospermus

Literally translated
Dacrymyces
means "tear-
fungus" perhaps in
reference to how
the mushroom

oozes tear-like from its substrate. *Chrysospermus* means "having yellow seeds.

According to Celtic legend, witches were notorious milk and butter thieves. The sudden appearance of jelly fungi marked where she had dropped or stashed some of her creamy loot. Finding this mushroom near one's home meant the house was hexed. The only way to remove the curse was to pinprick the mushroom and drain its gel. This caused the thieving witch such pain, she was forced to appear and remove the spell. In Scandinavia, witches butter was believed to be vomit from a



2019 Native Plant Field Trips—March through November

Most field trips are free and open to all, but read the trip outlines for parking/entrance fees or pass requirements and *be sure they fit your physical abilities*. OC CNPS field trips are focused on the interpretation, identification, appreciation and conservation of our diverse flora and the ecosystems they support.

Trips change! Always check www.occnps.org/explore for more current information.

Rain cancels – check the website after 7 pm the evening before the trip for final updates.

Saturday, March 2: Border BioBlitz 2019 with San Diego CNPS

Orange County CNPS will pair with San Diego CNPS for a botanical “BioBlitz” of the immediate California side of the U.S. Mexico border. This is a one-day collaborative citizen-science effort to record as many species as possible along a 1 kilometer stretch on each side of the U.S.-Mexico border. Teams of independently organized researchers and community members will be documenting the stunning biological diversity of the borderlands at several key sites. Our OC/SD CNPS site will be one of the best areas along the entire border, the Western edge of San Diego County! Lots of rarities and interesting plants.

You do not need to be a plant expert! We will be working as a teams and the more eyes the better! More information on the Border BioBlitz can be found here:

<http://nextgensd.com/border/border-bioblitz-2019/>

To join the discovery, all you need is to do is email fieldtrips@occnps. Carpooling, meet-up times and other details will be provided via return email.

Physical difficulty: Moderate. Bring good walking/hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, wildflower book/notepad, water and a sack lunch. You will need a smartphone with the iNaturalist app (free for [Android](#) or [iOS](#)). Water and restrooms are not available. Full day, but early departures are ok – do as much as you can. Team leaders: Ron Vanderhoff (OC CNPS) and Justin Daniels (SD CNPS).

Sunday, March 24: Casper’s Wilderness Park

Casper’s Wilderness Park is the Jewel of the Orange County Park system, including 8,000 acres and a wide array of habitats. This walk will head up the Loskorn Trail to the East Ridge Trail, then back again by way of the Starr Rise and Bell Canyon trails for a distance of 3.5 miles. Warning: the Loskorn Trail is steep and narrow with steep drop-offs in places. There will be an optional side trip up the Quail Run Trail to look for Palmer’s Grapplinghook (*Harpagonella palmeri*) on the West Ridge Trail. Possible wildflowers at this time of year include *Clematis pauciflora* (Ropevine), *Dodecatheon clevelandii* (Padre’s Shooting Star), *Harpagonella palmeri* (Palmer’s Grapplinghook), *Lasthena gracilis* (Slender Goldfields), *Paeonia californica* (California Peony), *Caulanthus heteropyllus* (San Diego Jewel Flower), *Camissoniopsis strigulosa* (Sandysoil Suncup), *Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum* (Sonora Everlasting), and lots of Lupines. Near the top of the Loskorn trail there should be a variety of ferns, bryophytes and *Dudleyas*.

Meet at 8 AM at the end of Casper’s Park road near the

windmill. Directions: From 5 freeway, exit Ortega Highway, and go east 8 miles. The entrance to Casper’s is prominently marked on the left. There is a day use fee of \$5 per car or free with an OC Parks Pass. Maps and directions are available at the entrance kiosk as well. Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen. Bring hiking poles if you use them and plenty of water. Restrooms and water at the trailhead, but not on the trail. Leader: Diane Etchison/Laura Camp.

Physical Difficulty: Moderate, approximately three and a half miles on trails. Bring hat, sunscreen, camera, wildflower book/notepad, water and hiking shoes. Porta-potty at the staging area. Plant Intensity: Moderate. Time: About 3 hours.

Sunday, March 31: Elsinore Peak and South Main Divide Road (the second of our two trips with San Diego CNPS)

Elsinore Peak is the southern most of the Santa Ana Mountain peaks and offers an unusual habitat of grasslands with some coastal sage scrub and chaparral. The area near the peak is further unique due to its volcanic history and unusual foundation of basalt rock. The specific stops for our visit will depend upon current conditions and the season’s always unpredictable bloom. We may explore the area just below the peak for spring wildflowers (*Fritillaria biflora*, *Ranunculus*, goldfields, *Alliums*, *Calochortus*, *Clarkia*, *Collinsia*, popcorn flowers, monkeyflowers, lupines, peonies, *Sanicula* and more). Then, we may visit the site along S. Main Divide Road of the 2013 “Falls” fire, or another location depending upon the wishes of the group. Following the burn, this was the best wildflower show in the area, with large displays of fire-following plants, including thousands of Fire poppies - *Papaver californicum*, *Chorizanthe*, *Delphinium*, *Penstemons*, *Caulanthus*, *Emmenanthe*, *Lupinus* and others. Meet 8 AM at the parking lot at Bravo Burgers, 31722 Rancho Viejo Rd., San Juan Capistrano (just off Hwy 74 near Int. 5). Free and open to all. Bring trail shoes, hat, sunscreen, water and lunch if desired. Leader: Ron Vanderhoff. *This trip requires a USFS Adventure Pass!*

Physical Difficulty: Moderate. Bring hat, sunscreen, camera, wildflower book/notepad, water and hiking shoes/boots. No water or restrooms. Plant Intensity: moderate to high, especially wildflowers. Time: Approx. 3 hours or more depending on the group.

Sunday, April 7: Driving Tour of the Irvine Ranch Natural *Physical Difficulty: Moderate, some uphill walking.***Landmarks—CNPS Members Only, RSVP required.** *May include bouncing around on uneven roads. Plant*

The Irvine Ranch Conservancy will offer its tenth annual CNPS tour of the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks with hosts Matt Garrambone and Ron Vanderhoff, as well as many IRC volunteers. Details of the visit are not yet final. However, we may visit portions of the Canyon 2 fire and make a “post-fire recovery” to areas such as Weir, Blind or even Gypsum Canyons.

Matt and the incredible IRC docents will once again offer CNPS a rare private trip through the natural areas of The Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks. CNPS members will visit some of OC’s most important and best protected natural resources.

This is a driving tour, on conservancy vehicles, along uneven dirt roads and nearly a full day trip. Portable **restroom availability at beginning and end only.** This trip is strictly limited to the first 20 CNPS members. RSVPs should be made through a non-public page on the **IRC Let’s Go Outside activities page.** Directions to the parking and starting location will be available during the registration process. This will be an 8:30 AM start and approximately a 2:30-3:00 PM finish.

Physical Difficulty: Easy, but includes lots of bouncing around on rough dirt roads. Short to moderate walking distances. Plant Intensity: Moderate to high, especially wildflowers. Time: Approx. 6-7 hours.

Sunday, April 14: Audubon Starr Ranch Limited Attendance, CNPS Members Only

Starr Ranch Sanctuary is a 4,000 acre preserve nestled in the foothills between Casper’s Park, the Cleveland National Forest and the developments of Dove Canyon and Coto de Caza, and operated by the National Audubon Society. For this very special visit we will board sanctuary vehicles and travel with ranch staff to various areas of the property in search of interesting plants of the grassland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral and oak woodland plant communities within the sanctuary. This trip is limited to 15 CNPS members.

Starr Ranch Sanctuary offers volunteer, educational and research opportunities for all age and experience levels. The natural resources here are well preserved and protected. Sandy DeSimone lovingly handles all the land management, research and education on the property while Pete DeSimone oversees infrastructure, web cams and administrative work. Sandy’s innovative approaches to wildlands management are extraordinary and will be explained and demonstrated during the visit. For more information about the ranch visit **www.starranch.org/** and for a complete plant list of the property visit **www.starranch.org/flora.html**.

Limited restroom and water availability. Picnic tables are available, so bring a picnic lunch to enjoy following the tour. ***This trip does require advance registration and is limited to CNPS members, please visit this website*** for registration instructions approximately 30 days prior to the event. ***Once registered, a confirmation, including driving directions, a release form and other details will be returned to the first 15 RSVPs who are CNPS members. This will be an 8 AM start.***

Intensity: moderate to high. Time: About 3+ hours.

Saturday, April 20, 10 - 2: Wildflower Showcase, Irvine Ranch Conservancy Seed Farm Open House—RSVP through IRC website

The Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Irvine Ranch Conservancy invite you to join them as they celebrate Orange County native wildflowers at the Conservancy’s native seed farm. This event is a great way to learn more about the work each chapter is doing to conserve, protect, and restore native wildflowers and habitats in Orange County. The 8-acre native seed farm currently grows 45 local plant species, each providing seed used to support local ecological restoration. Expect many of them to be in full bloom for this event, which will begin with brief presentations from OC CNPS and Conservancy staff, followed by a picnic lunch. After lunch, guests are invited to stroll the grounds at their own pace, or join a guided walking tour on which they will learn about some of the amazing local flora being grown on the farm. The chapter will also be presenting on various local engagement opportunities. If you enjoy native wildflowers, good people, and outdoor fun, this event is for you! Attendance is limited. RSVP at **www.letsgooutside.org** about one month before the event. Directions and additional details will be forwarded upon confirmation.

Physical difficulty: Easy to moderate. Bring good walking/hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, camera, wildflower book/notepad, and perhaps water. Water and restrooms are available near the parking area. Approx. 3 hours. Leader: Matt Garrambone.

Coming up . . .

Sunday, May 5: Joshua Tree National Park

Sunday, May 12: Crystal Cove State Park, the Coast with Dave Pryor

Saturday, May 18: Christianitos Creek and the San Clemente Burn Site

Sunday, May 19: Soquel Canyon, Chino Hills State Park

Sunday, May 26: O’Neill Regional Park

Sunday, June 2: Temple Hill and Hobo Ridge from Moulton Meadows Park

Sunday, June 16: Santiago Oaks Regional Park

Sunday, July 21: San Jacinto Mountains

Sunday, November 17: Falls Canyon Seasonal Color Trip

Some trips are tentative and not all details are final, but **occnps.org** is the place to find all the information.

Volunteer opportunities . . .

Channel Islands Restoration is working to remove invasive plants from the backcountry of the Los Padres National Forest and we need your help!

For more information about CIR and our restoration and work sites, please visit our website at **cir.web.org**

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, March 21: Small Botanical Bites—Bits and Pieces of Orange County Botany!

This information-packed evening will take us on a variety of botanical mini-excursions led by local experts. The speakers will have exactly 8 minutes to deliver their message before handing the stage over to the next presenter. Speakers and their topics are:

Mike Simpson—Popcorn Flowers of Orange County

Mike will talk about the popcorn flowers (in the broad sense) that occur in our county, a few impending name changes, and one taxonomic resurrection! **Dr. Michael Simpson** recently moved up to OC from the San Diego Chapter. He co-authors *Cryptantha* for the Jepson manual, is Professor Emeritus at San Diego State University, and is the author of the textbook **Plant Systematics**, in its 3rd edition.

Bob Allen—Allen's Daisy

Named in 2007 by D.J. Keil for one of his former students, this subspecies of *Pentachaeta aurea* is only the second plant that is found in Orange County and nowhere else. **Bob Allen** is a local botanist, entomologist, photographer, and writer. He is the co-author of **Wildflowers of Orange County** and the discoverer of this particular *Pentachaeta*.

David Pryor—A Botanical look at Rabbit Island in Bolsa Chica

Rabbit Island within the full-tidal section of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, is transitioning from fresh to salt water regimes with an incredible response by the plants there.

David Pryor, current OC-CNPS board member, former Senior Environmental Scientist at California State Parks, currently volunteers as the Senior Scientist with the Bolsa Chica Conservancy.

Ron Vanderhoff—Holy Fire Native Plant Recovery

A very early look at what is happening floristically on the burn scar in south east end of the county. **Ron Vanderhoff** is a current OC-CNPS board member, serving as field trip chair, Invasive Plant chair and Rare Plant committee member.

Lana Nguyen—Rebounding Bulbs in San Onofre State Beach

A rare population of *Brodiaea filifolia*, thread-leaved brodiaea, found at San Onofre State Beach many years ago by Fred Roberts, is growing in numbers in a big way, thanks in large part to weed control. **Lana Nguyen** is the Environmental Scientist with the California State Parks—Orange Coast District.

Rebecca Crowe—UC Irvine Herbarium's revival

Under the direction of Dr. Peter Bowler with Rebecca Crowe at the helm, the UCI Herbarium is active again with a focus on making specimens accessible, both online and in person, and supporting research and teaching. Requests for tours, visits, and inter-herbarium loans are now welcomed.

Rebecca Crowe is the UCI Nursery, Arboretum and Herbarium Manager. A Sonoma State grad, earning a B.A. in Environmental Studies with minors in Biology and Studio Art, she is currently wrapping up her MS in Ecology and Evolution at San Francisco State University.

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.

Thursday, April 18: Beautiful, Fire-safe AND Native Landscapes!

Speaker: Greg Rubin

Far from being "fire bombs" a native landscape might actually contribute to fire safety around your home. It's all in the approach. Greg Rubin has extensive experience with native landscapes that have been involved in major fire events without the loss of a single home even where, in many cases, neighboring homes were lost. A few basic considerations may actually help a native landscape become quite fire resistant. Greg will explore these factors, which include design, irrigation, maintenance, and proper thinning techniques for existing chaparral, with photos of actual case histories. He will also examine ways to deal with the aftermath of fire such as erosion and weed control, and whether "restoration" is required or not.

Greg's track record with fire-resistant native landscapes has led the United States Navy to award his company a 5-year research grant to scientifically test various methods of fuel modification, including thinning regimes and native garden design. Greg will share some preliminary results of the study. Although one could never guarantee that a native landscape will save a home in a fire event, experience has shown that contrary to popular opinion, a native landscape may actually be a sensible and environmentally responsible way to achieve defensible space around homes.

Greg Rubin, president and founder of **California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.**, is a licensed landscape contractor (C-27 No. 717147) who has been working with California native plants since 1985. By 1993, Greg fully transitioned out of his career as an aerospace engineer to devote himself to his successful and unusual landscaping business. His company has designed over 700 residential, commercial, and institutional native landscapes in Southern California. Specialties include year-round appeal, low maintenance, water efficiency, rich habitat, and fire-resistance.

Greg has been featured in many publications and on TV. He regularly gives presentations and workshops on native plants throughout Southern California.

Greg is co-author, with Lucy Warren, of **The California Native Landscape**, Timber Press, 2013. This popular book on native horticultural covers all aspects of native landscape design. He and Lucy now have a second book, **The Drought Defying California Garden**, also published by Timber Press in 2016. His website is: www.calown.com.

P.O. Box 54891
Irvine CA 92619-4891

March/April 2019

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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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, Terry LePage

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, Kent Henry, Robin Huber

Communications Team

Team Lead: open
Publicity: open
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eNews: Laura Camp, Bob Huttar
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