



CALENDAR

- May 2.....board meeting
- May 5..... Joshua Tree field trip
- May 12..... Crystal Cove field trip
- May 16..... chapter meeting
- May 18..... Christianitos Crk field trip
- May 19..... Chino Hills field trip
- May 26..... O'Neill Park field trip
- Jun 2..... Temple Hill field trip
- Jun 10..... Santiago Oaks field trip
- Jun 13..... board meeting
- Jun 20..... Chapter Celebration

“... sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.”

—Wm. Shakespeare, Richard III, Act I, Sc. 4

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: **“What natives do you use successfully in your parking/median strip?”**

Ron Vanderhoff: “*Achillea millifolium* (yarrow) works well for me. It grows low, fills in slowly, is durable and can handle some footsteps and dog spray. I have a blend of colors, including the normal white, but including shades of pink and apricot.”

Pam Vallot: “There have been a myriad of plants out there, but five pink fairy dusters have lasted the longest, though they do reseed themselves. They look their best when they flower, late winter to early summer. At one end I have a nice Sand Mesa Manzanita. Next to it, in my neighbor’s small strip, I put a real beauty, Santa Monica Mountains Manzanita. At the other end of the strip, I added the unusual and rare La Purisma Manzanita, way cool! The rest is a work in progress!”

Ed Kimball: “*Ambrosia pumila* (San Diego ambrosia) has done very well on our parking strip and survives foot traffic.”

Alan Lindsay: “I use plots of *Carex pansa* and *Carex praegracilis* separated by alternating plots of decomposed granite (DG) of equal length. Plots are about 6 foot long. Both Carexes require some water and trimming. I keep them about 6 inches high. Not so successful is a plot of *Agrostis pallens*, San Diego Bentgrass.”

Greg Rubin: “Well, if the strip is wide enough then *Bacharris* ‘Pigeon Point’ is good—dense and green and can even take a bit of foot traffic. For narrower parkways, there is another *Bacharris* now called ‘Pozo Surf’ that is low but not as wide IF you can find it. I also like *Arctostaphylos* ‘John Dourley’ if the water is moderate. For trees, both *Chilopsis linearis* and *Quercus engelmanni* are good for a fairly narrow growth habit.”

Dan Songster: “Sedges for their grass-like green and ability to tolerate foot traffic, (*Carex pansa* for instance). Blue-eyed grass, our only iris native to OC. If stepping stones or other “walkthroughs” are made part of the design then the number of plants opens up considerably with taller bunch grasses, low Ceanothus forms, as well as *Epilobium* (California fuchsia) for their low form and summer blooms. The smaller buckwheats like ‘Dana Point’ can also be good as long as the parkway is not too narrow.”

Our question for the next newsletter: **“Thinking of the good rains we received this winter, what native wildflowers have been unexpectedly spectacular in your garden this past spring?”**

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

Too Steep for Me

Brief bold
 wildflowers line
 the trail: paintbrush,
 dudleya, floating
 mariposa lilies—
 no railing or rope
 for my own what-ifs:
 all these drop-offs, ledges,
 exposure, cliffs.

Thea Gavin

OCCNPS to work with Xerces Society to help Monarch Butterflies

Populations of monarch butterflies have plummeted in recent years, with multiple causes. The Xerces Society asks that we all document sightings of wild monarch butterflies in all stages, in addition to native milkweed plants growing in the wild. Bob Allen is the liaison between our two societies.

To report sightings, visit the website, make a (free) account, then submit your records.

<https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org>

For more information,

<https://xerces.org/2019/03/12/citizen-scientists-help-western-monarchs/>

CONSERVATION REPORT

BUCK GULLY

At our April 18 general meeting, President Brad Jenkins related news that an illegal trail had been cut down a steep, coastal-sage-covered slope in Buck Gully Reserve, a 254-acre nature park in the City of Newport Beach. The 700-foot-long trail, apparently cut on or about March 29-30, was discovered by a park patrol on March 31. Board Member Matt Garrambone, who as Project Manager and Ecologist for the Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) has oversight on IRC's management and restoration work in Buck Gully, informed us that the evident perpetrator has been identified and made to understand just how seriously the City, county, state and federal resource agencies take the doing of such illegal work in a publicly owned nature reserve.

On April 23 the OC Register published an article on the issue: *Illegal Trail Cut Through Nature Reserve*. (pp. A3-4) The article outlines how and why the Buck Gully Reserve was formed, that it has two extensive legal trails that are popular with hikers and nature-watchers, and what actions and next steps may be taken to repair the damage. City officials estimate that it could take years for restoration to be complete.

The article goes on to relate that the illegal-trail problem is not unique to Buck Gully. Most other South County communities have had trouble with illegal trail-cutting in their natural open spaces. Conversations with natural-lands managers and OC Parks staff reveal that illegal trails are a continuous problem in all OC's natural lands.

OC's Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP; <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/nccp>, <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/Orange-Coastal>) and various Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs; <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/hcp.pdf>, <https://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/HCPs/SoOrangeCoSubRegionHCP.html>) underpin the management and restoration of OC's nature-reserve lands. The NCCP and HCPs are clear that the main purpose of those lands is to be and to remain as natural open space and habitat for native plants and animals. Human access is restricted to designated trails, to keep the reserve lands from being loved to death by hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts.

So, the questions remain:

1. How to get those who cut illegal trails to know that the above land-management regulations exist?
2. And to understand that the regulations apply to ALL, including them?
3. And that they may face significant financial and legal consequences for ignoring the regulations?
4. And that the environmental cost of their trail-cutting may be significantly more than whatever fines and reparations they may pay, and that full restoration may take decades.

The entrances to Buck Gully, as for all OC's reserve lands, are generally well-supplied with informational/educational signage about why they are reserved and what activities may take place therein. Knowledgeable reserve staff patrols the lands regularly. Trained docents repeat the informational and educational message as they lead regular group hikes along the designated trails. What else can be done to get the message across?

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair



Carrizo Plains

Dan Songster

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, May 16: Conserving California's plants through Seed Conservation

Speaker: Naomi Fraga



Proper seed storage programs like the one at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden help protect our most threatened plants from extinction, conserve material for habitat restoration, and serve as source material for research as well as for living collections at botanic gardens for increased public education and appreciation.

Naomi Fraga is one of the RSABG botanists who work closely with a wide variety of agencies and partnering institutions to seed bank the native plants of California and the California Floristic Province. She and her associates are trained in making high quality, well documented, genetically representative seed collections while having the least possible impact on wild populations.

There are two collaborative seed conservation programs that Naomi is associated with through Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. First is the California Plant Rescue, or CaPR, which is a collaborative of not-for-profit botanical institutions working under the auspices of the Center for Plant Conservation to conserve the wild species of California and the California Floristic Province, primarily through field work and long-term seed bank collections. Second is Seed LA, an effort to develop regional seed collections to enhance restoration efforts in the greater Los Angeles area.

Both programs serve to ensure that our State's rare plant seeds are properly collected, cleaned, stored, and are available for use by appropriate agencies for decades to come. In addition to discussing these two collaborative seed networks, Naomi will discuss the role of seed conservation in the bigger picture of conserving California native plants.

Naomi Fraga, PhD, serves as Director of Conservation Programs at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden where she provides leadership for the Conservation Program and directs the field studies program. In this capacity she works closely with federal, state, and local agencies to provide information needed for on-the-ground management including baseline botanical surveys, monitoring, and developing conservation strategies and management guides for plant species. Her research interests include plant geography, conservation biology, pollination biology, and rarity in endemism. Naomi is also currently serves on the board of Southern California Botanists, California Botanical Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists and the Amargosa Conservancy. Naomi completed her PhD in Botany at Claremont Graduate University in 2015 and holds a M.S. in Botany from Claremont Graduate University and a B.S. in Botany and Biology from California Polytechnic University, Pomona.

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.

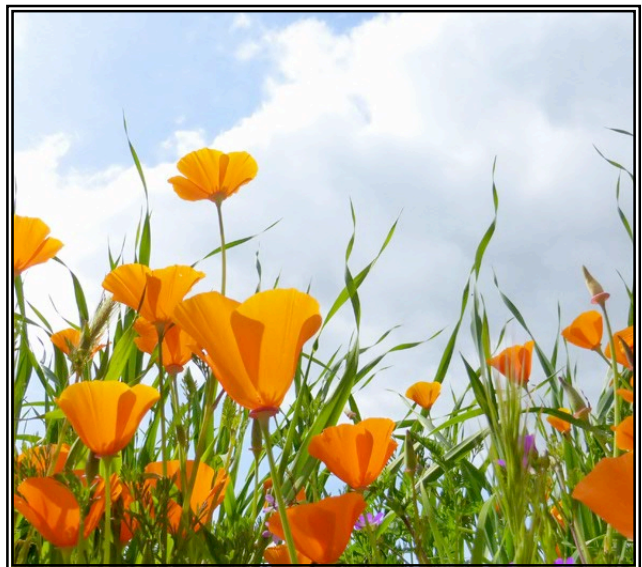
Thursday, June 20: Chapter Celebration—SuperBloom and the Year in Review!

What a year we have had with proper rain and the resulting incredible field of blooms! Many of us were not able to get to all the locations to see those lovely flower shows. Our June meeting will offer a second chance to enjoy some of the far-flung displays, with mini presentations from different parts of the state.

You are invited to bring a few of your great shots from the sites you visited and the flowers you have seen to commemorate one of the best springs in recent memory. (Please keep it under 5 minutes—bring you images on a thumb drive.)

You may start the evening with a walk around the preserve at 6 PM. If you're bringing a treat to share, you may drop it off at any time. Doors will officially open at 6:45 for potluck refreshments and the slide show of the year's chapter events so ably assembled by Celia Kutcher. (If you have pictures to add to that show, send them to celia552@cox.net.)

Everyone is welcome—bring family and friends. We will have a flower activity table, a short opportunity drawing and other amusements to celebrate this year of flowers.



Walker Canyon poppies

Dan Songster

P.O. Box 54891
Irvine CA 92619-4891

May/June 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

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
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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