



## CALENDAR

Nov 7 ..... board meeting  
 Nov 17 ..... Falls Canyon field trip  
 Nov 21 ..... chapter meeting  
 Dec 5 ..... board meeting  
 Dec 18 ..... chapter meeting  
 Nov/Dec.... BIEG events—go to occnps.org

## Native Gardeners Corner—

### Member's 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: "What is your favorite botanical sign that Autumn has finally arrived in your native garden, even here in southern California?"

**Chris Reed:** "Hands down my favorite is Fuchsia flower Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*). With warnings of red as bright as wild grape, the leaves turn cowhide brown. Lethal spikes on the stems become fully exposed. The whole plant makes believe it's truly dead—only to burst into glossy green and fiery red after the winter rains."

**Carol Bornstein:** "Although I don't have any *Polypodium californicum* in my own garden, but I always delight in seeing the bright green croziers emerge in Autumn, both in the wild and in garden settings such as here at the LA Natural History Museum's Nature Gardens and, for many years, at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Before even a drop of rain falls, they begin to appear and unfurl once the Autumnal equinox arrives."

**Nancy Harris:** "The Monkeyflower plants start perking up, berries start to form on my Coffeeberry and Lemonadeberry, and my Maidenhair fern begin to come out of dormancy."

**Ron Vanderhoff:** "Other than my annual dues renewal notice from CNPS, it is the sight of new, glossy little leaves beginning on my *Ribes speciosum*, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry. I know that soon I will have loads of bright red flowers and beautiful hummingbirds."

**Mark Sugars:** "All the Menzies' Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) in my yard started to bloom right after the equinox, so that would be a pretty dramatic way for fall to begin, if it becomes a habit for them."

**Antonio Sanchez:** "Love seeing all the different species and hybrids of Manzanitas flower at way different times, sometimes as early as October. It's a sign to start getting those fancy jackets out, start making tamales, and to start taking cuttings of your favorite manzanitas!"

**Brad Jenkins:** "California Buckwheat's white flowers, that

have been blooming prolifically since May, are now mostly shades of brown—seed packets for the birds."

**Linda Southwell:** "I know it's Autumn when the Buckwheat blossoms turn cinnamon-nutmeg, and the larger clusters on my Santa Cruz Island buckwehats become shades of burnt umber mixed with burnt sienna."

**Mabel Alazard:** "For me, Autumn is when the showy California fuchsias burst into bright orange-red tubular blooms to accent the buckwehats' browns."

**Chuck Wright:** "In the wilds of the Laguna Canyon, (not my garden...) you know that fall is really here when Coastal California Buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*

*ssp.fasciculatum*, turns from Rusty Red to Rich Mahogany. Also, not directly plant related—I know Fall has fallen when the migratory birds like Townsend Warbler pass

## Save the date!

The 2020 California In My Garden tour  
will take place on Saturday, April 18!

through, one of my favorite visitors."

**Dan Songster:** "Well, of course the Roger Red Grape turning scarlet is really something and the big payoff for all the trimming you have done over the months to keep the "beast" in check. Goldenrod, California fuchsia, desert willow, various gold bushes and gum plants (*Grindelia*, *Hazardia*, and *Isocoma* sp.) often start their blooms in midsummer and easily last into Autumn. Perhaps my favorite fall color is the buckwehats (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *E. giganteum*, *E. arborescens*, *E. cinerium*) that slowly change their creamy white blooms into pale orange, rust, and later chocolate colored inflorescences, coloring well into early winter."

Our question for the next newsletter: "Do you have any native garden New Year's Resolutions or plans for changing your garden this season?" Email your responses to Dan Songster at [songster@cox.net](mailto:songster@cox.net).

## B. I. E. G.—what does that mean? A Buckwheat In Every Garden!

Out of our goal of 1500, almost 500 buckwheat plants, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* 'Dana Point', have been given free to Orange County residents and are plotted on a map of Orange County at *iNaturalist*.

See the **OC Buckwheat Map** and **learn more** at [OCCNPS.org](http://OCCNPS.org).

**CONSERVATION**

Conservation Report author, **Celia Kutcher**, is experiencing some health difficulties and has resigned from the CNPS OC board after decades of loyal service to the chapter. Celia’s leadership presence in our chapter’s conservation activities will be sorely missed, and her involvement in every aspect of chapter business, from Invasive Plants to Outreach is an inspiration to us. We wish Celia well as she works on her recovery.

**Mike Evans honored with 2019 Horticulturist of the Year Award**

The *Southern California Horticultural Society* presented our very own Mike Evans with their most prestigious award at their meeting September 28, 2019, in a packed room at Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. To give an idea of the importance of this award, Theodore Payne was one of the early recipients.

Mike was selected for his many contributions to horticulture in the past 40+ years as nurseryman, designer, and conservationist, and for his work in community service. Educator and longtime member and supporter of CNPS, he promotes an honest approach to California horticulture, specifically in authentic garden design using native plants. Currently he is passing his knowledge on to the next generations—to those working at the nursery and as a professor in the horticulture program at Saddleback Community College.

Remember when it was hard to find native plants? Limited to CNPS chapter plant sales, the annual sale at RSABG, or a trek up to the Theodore Payne Foundation, we seldom found all the plants on our list. Mike Evans and Jeff Bohn and the amazing staff at Tree of Life slowly changed that. Its current success is a testament to their determination and foresight. But even when times were tough and sales were slow they reveled in a business that actually produced something meaningful, something important to the area, something that made them feel good about coming to work each day. They were producing a link with historical California, the California of the early ranchos and before—plants used for medicines, plants that supplied habitat, plants that thrived in our conditions. In short, plants that belonged here.

In addition to supplying plants for restoration, mitigation, and landscaping, Tree of Life Nursery is an institute of learning. Programs provided almost weekly include native plant selection, garden design, edible natives, native botany, planting instruction, watering, lawn replacement, and more. The nursery’s website is full of great information just as distinctive as Mike. His flair as a writer is found throughout. (He really should write a book!)

The nursery that Mike has created and nurtured is as welcoming as the owner. If you come on a special day you might find Mike grilling carne asada or strumming guitar with a friend, singing Mexican ballads. It’s old California meets new and makes the drive to Tree of Life Nursery so very worthwhile.

As a founding member of the Xeriscape Committee through Metropolitan Water District, Mike embraced and began promoting water conservation during the 1980s. For many years, he has been active in the California Botanical Society, and The Nature Conservancy. He served on the horticultural committee for the *Jepson Manual* project. Now Chairman of the Board, Mike is one of the original board members on the Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy, now The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the San Juan Capistrano Open Space Foundation. He is past president of the International Plant Propagators Society, and past president of the California Society for Ecological Restoration.

Mike and Tree of Life Nursery were honored to receive the Horticulture Award from the California Native Plant Society, the Native Perennial Award from OC CNPS, and the California Glory Award presented by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Mike has also been presented the Award of Honor by the International Plant Propagators Society.

—Dan Songster

2019 oct 18

kee kee kee  
 again & again  
 i hear the mournful cry  
 cooper’s hawk glides above in a river of air  
 no wing flaps necessary  
 the cries of wildness carry me  
 to wild places of wild things  
 wild flora & fauna  
 I fondly recall cries overhead  
 rustles & rattles underfoot  
 & buzzing in my ears  
 i feel the warmth of autumn’s day  
 i smell the mix of dust and sage  
 all sparked in my memory  
 by cooper’s cry overhead &  
 i look forward to placing my foot  
 on the trail of renewal &  
 the creation of more fond memories  
 kee kee kee

chuck wright

Recalled from Woodbridge, Irvine  
 Cooper’s Hawk  
*Accipiter cooperii*

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

### Thursday, November 21: All fired up! OCCNPS Botanists document the Holy Fire

**Speakers: Bob Allen, Fred Roberts, and Ron Vanderhoff**

The 23,000 acre Holy Fire in the Santa Ana Mountains burned much of the forest in August of 2018. Following the burn, a team of botanists from OC CNPS, including the members of our Rare Plant Committee, prepared a research proposal and petitioned the US Forest Service for Administrative Access and Collection Permits. One of only two groups that were granted entry to this fragile burn area, our volunteer experts performed over 25 ground surveys across rugged hillsides and up remote canyons, clocked over 200 field hours, plotted over 900 datapoints, documented over 260 taxa and collected dozens of herbarium specimens. Much of this forest had not burned in 60+ years, so this was a rare opportunity to add to the knowledge of our local flora. Bob Allen, Fred Roberts, and Ron Vanderhoff, our OC CNPS Rare Plant Committee, will share some of the highlights from their work and a few of their exciting discoveries.

**Bob Allen** is an entomologist, botanist, instructor, nature photographer, and author. He is a Research Associate in Entomology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Research Associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Co-author, with Fred Roberts, of *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains*, he also teaches at community colleges in Orange County.

**Fred M. Roberts** is the author of *Illustrated Guide to the Oaks of the Southern Californian Floristic Province* and co-author of *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains*. Once the assistant curator of the Herbarium at the Museum of Systematic Biology at U.C. Irvine, he has worked as a botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adding species to the endangered species list. He has spent the last 20 years as an independent botanical consultant, author, and artist.

**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.

**Ron Vanderhoff** is a lifelong southern California gardener and an inspiring and respected professional horticulturist who is especially fascinated with our native flora. Ron is the lead for our chapter's award winning Emerging Invasives Program. He is also our field trip coordinator, whose appetite for finding and identifying Orange County's native plants is contagious.

**Special Note:** Fred Roberts plans on bringing several of his wonderful native-themed tee-shirts for sale. They make great gifts!

### Thursday, December 19: 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.

### Larry Vierhielig--1940-2019

Larry was an Orange County Chapter member back when I started becoming involved more with chapter issues and projects in 1990. He was a quiet but dependable part of the chapter for years. When we had our annual plant sales at the UC Irvine Arboretum, Larry was always there, setting up and breaking down, and helping throughout the day. Meanwhile, his lovely wife Laurie always worked alongside my own Elizabeth at the cash register. (Laurie also provided delicious home-made treats at the chapter meetings.) Larry involved himself in all facets of chapter activities—setting up meetings and attending board meetings, and participating in all the planting and weeding days at any of the native gardens including the UC Irvine Arboretum, Fullerton Arboretum, and the Golden West College Native Garden. I remember him and Laurie always working with smiles and doing everything asked of them and more. We were happy to have such a great pair of people associated with our Orange County Chapter.

In 1996 Larry retired and he and Laurie decided to move to Nipomo where he became involved with starting the Nipomo Native Garden, a 12-acre native botanical garden that features the plant communities endemic to the Nipomo Mesa and Guadalupe/Nipomo Dunes. According to friend and fellow board member for the garden, Charlie Gulyash. Larry “. . . was always willing to help wherever he could, and was well known around the south county (SLO) on a first name basis. His passing left a big hole in many organizations and friends' lives, and will be remembered as a consummate volunteer and talented human being who it appeared, had memorized the Jepson Manual.” Charlie also added, “Larry, not surprisingly, was a fan of Star Trek's Spock. He would often part company by saying, “live long and prosper.” It seems that he did just that. (Larry's wife Laurie pre-deceased him by several years.)

—Dan Songster

P.O. Box 54891  
Irvine CA 92619-4891

November/December 2019

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### CNPS Membership Application

New member     Renewal

- Student/Fixed Income ..... \$25
- Individual ..... \$50
- Plant Lover ..... \$120
- Supporter ..... \$500
- Patron ..... \$1000
- Benefactor ..... \$2500

**Go Perennial!** Become a monthly sustaining member for as little as \$5 per month!

Organizations, please go to [cnps.org](http://cnps.org)

Affiliate with the **Orange County Chapter**.

The chapter newsletter, CNPS bulletin *Flora*, and the journal 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](http://www.cnps.org) to join or renew online.

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### BOARD MEMBERS

#### Officers:

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*

#### At Large:

*Chapter Council Rep*

**Brad Jenkins**    jenkinsbradc@gmail.com  
**Sarah Jayne**    sbjayne@cox.net  
**Thea Gavin**    gavinfam@aol.com  
**Laura Camp**    laura@treeoflifenuersery.com

**David Pryor**    davidpryor@gmail.com  
**Bob Huttar**    huttabob@cox.net  
**Jennifer Mabley**    jenpod@gmail.com  
**Dan Songster**    songster@cox.net  
**Ron Vanderhoff**    ronv@rogersgardens.com

**Elizabeth Wallace**  
**Matt Garrabone**

#### 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:* open  
*Members:* open

#### Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC)

*Team Lead:* Dan Songster  
*Plant Sale:* Dan Songster, Laura Camp  
*Garden Tour:* Terri LePage, 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, 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:* Elizabeth Wallace  
*Publications:* Brad Jenkins, Jennifer Mabley  
*Website:* Rich Schilk

#### Grants Team

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