



CALENDAR

Sep 5	board meeting
Sep 19	chapter meeting
Sep 28	UCANR event
Oct 3	board meeting
Oct 5	Acorn Day event
Oct 5	SoCal Botanist Symposium
Oct 12	SmartScape Laguna Beach event
Oct 17	chapter meeting
Oct 26	Members' Day at TOLN

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 newsletter is: **“What was the saddest loss of a native plant you have experienced in your garden?”** (Read and weep!)

Pam Vallot: “I had a beautiful full grown Sentinel Manzanita that died due to me putting too thick a layer of gorilla mulch, and too close to the trunk. Dieback set in and kept going! Nowadays I often take up a lot of the mulch in a rainy season and am way more careful with it.”

Alan Lindsay: “I have planted several Santa Cruz Island Ironwoods (*L. floribundus* ssp. *aspleniifolius*) over the years and none have lasted long enough to bloom. Finally, one lasted long enough to bloom two years in a row. I thought I had found the secret but then it started to die. I tried everything to keep it alive; nothing worked. It was a sad day when I conceded that it wouldn't survive so with chainsaw and loppers I removed it.”

Celia Kutcher: “The saddest loss in my garden is of a 12x12-foot Frangula ‘Eve Case’ in late spring 2018. It was at least 15 years old, had been slowly looking poorly for a couple years, which I thought was due to the drought. Then it rather suddenly dropped its leaves, struggled to put out a few new ones, then just dried up. When we dug it out, there were lots of root mealies on the underground trunk and major roots. Now there is a great big hole in my landscape, that will only slowly, partially, be filled by a *Prunus ilicifolia* planted fall 2018.”

John Gossett: “For the second time I’ve killed an innocent Toyon. I will not buy another. All are safer for it.”

Ed Kimball: “We had a beautiful Ceonothus “Concha” which was located on a side of our front yard near our neighbor’s picket fence. It died after a very short life and our neighbor admitted, too late, he watered it at least once per week.”

Susan Krzywicki: “I love Tecate Cypress. A couple of years ago, one of mine, growing along the edge of a cliff, blew over in a storm and for days dangled horizontally over the cliff face. Not only was it dramatic, but heartbreaking. This specimen was about 20 feet tall, smelled wonderful and made a beautiful habitat plant. I dug it out, and kept the big chunk of the trunk. A year later, my friend Julie Serences (Xerces Society expert) and her husband, carted off the piece, and returned to me a beautiful pen whose body is made of the clear pale wood. What a treasure!”

Stephanie Pacheco: “My saddest loss was when my coast oak tree (about 14 years old) died this year. I had great plans for sitting under that oak tree to watch wildlife in the shade when I was older. The oak consultant I hired said it had an oak canker that might have come in when I originally bought the tree. I didn’t have the heart to pull the tree down, especially since the dead oak still shaded my San Diego Yerba Buena and that Yerba would have probably died in full sun. The birds are fine with the perch, live or dead. I hope to attract a woodpecker once the insects take over (though I doubt I will be so lucky). Over time, perhaps all that will be left is a mid-size stump, but so far the native plants are quite happy growing below. I also saved eleven oak seedlings that the “mother” oak left behind, which in time, will be reduced to one oak (which is all I have the room for).”

Rama Nayeri: “I experimented with growing various Dudleyas, Coyote Mint and Japatul Cleveland Sage indoors. The Dudleyas did well and most are at the kitchen windowsill. The Japatul C. Sage did not live more than a month or so. The Coyote Mint was a big hit with my two cats. I had no clue that cats love eating Coyote Mint.”

Dan Songster: “At the Golden West College Native Garden, so far it has been the loss of a valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) that was removed because it was dying from the Polyphagus shot hole borer (and so providing a nursery for the larvae, etc). We have also lost a mature *Cercocarpus traskii* and a mature redbud. Currently we are treating our large sycamore and several oaks for the borer and the fungus it inoculates the trees with, including our original coast live oak planted by myself in 1975. If we lose that beautiful and well-structured tree it would be more than sad, nearly tragic.”

Our question for the next newsletter: **“What is your favorite botanical sign that Autumn has finally arrived in your native garden, even here in southern California?”**

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

In The Foothills

by Sarah Bixby-Smith

Summer is the earth's siesta.
 The tawny grasses sleep against
 the hill,
 And native shrub and tree
 drowse on, content,
 Victors in an age-long fight
 Against the sun.

The blossoms of the buckwheat
 Have been burned a rusty brown,
 The threads of orange dodder
 In tangled skeins are spread;
 All the green of weed and bush
 Is grayed and dull,
 Close covered by a flimsy veil of
 dust.
 The thirsty sun in the hot, pale
 sky,
 Glares on, unhindered,
 While the hazy mountains stand
 aloof,
 Dim dreams.

At night from off the sea,
 The fog, a cool gray sister,
 Moves among the sleepers,
 And life stirs,
 But sleeps again by day
 Until the long-gone rain returns.

Gently one day the clouds will
 hover
 Over the land,
 And soft, in the night, a raindrop
 will fall,
 And another,
 And another.
 The skies will cry for joy . . .

From *The Sagebrush Garden*
 by Sarah Bixby-Smith, 1924.

CONSERVATION

DO YOU LIVE IN THE ALISO CREEK WATERSHED? OCCNPS HOPES YOU CAN BE OUR LIAISON WITH OC PUBLIC WORKS' NEW PLANNING PROCESS!

A new planning process, the Aliso Creek Watershed Collaboration Group, is underway. The process formally began with a meeting on July 18. Additional meetings are scheduled for August 29 and October 16. As OCCNPS liaison, you would attend these and future meetings, have input as appropriate, and be our contact point. Interested? Contact jenna.voss@ocpw.ocgov.com and/or Andrew.McGuire@ocpw.ocgov.com to request to be on the distribution list. Ask to be sent the materials that have resulted from the process thus far. Map: [h2oc.org/show-me-my-watershed/.](http://h2oc.org/show-me-my-watershed/))

OCCNPS was invited to participate as a stakeholder because we have participated in some of the previous planning efforts for portions of the watershed. Unlike many of the other stakeholders, we don't have specific projects to promote. Our best input would be:

- Advising on native plants and habitats for the many individual projects that it will take to complete the restoration.

- Advising on native landscaping to replace the invasives in the developed landscape, and to assist with education of homeowners on why it is important to do so.

OCCNPS has suggested that the planning cover the entire watershed, rather than just a part. Decades of development in the northern watershed, especially above I-5, contribute much of both the storm-event and dry-weather nuisance flows that trouble the lower watershed, especially within Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

OCCNPS REPS ATTEND ENVIRONMENTAL ROUNDTABLE WITH REP. PORTER, 45TH DIST.

On August 22, Chapter President Brad Jenkins and Conservation Chair Celia Kutcher joined representatives of 11 other leading OC enviro groups at an Environmental Roundtable with Rep. Katie Porter, House Dist. 45; see map on our website.

Rep. Porter discussed, especially, current legislation relating to climate change and to protecting and strengthening the U.S.' bedrock environmental laws from attempts by the current administration to weaken them. All attendees agreed that these two issues are of primary importance, to OC and the rest of the country.

Additional topics with particular OC relevance:

- Ocean protections, plastics, desalination.
- Open spaces and wildfire preparedness, shot hole borers and the hope for federal funding to help homeowners and local jurisdictions deal with them.
- Pollution, and dealing with the nuclear waste at San Onofre.

Throughout, Rep. Porter displayed an in-depth knowledge of the relevant laws, policies, current legislation, and OC's issues. Many of the attendees were also very knowledgeable.

The event reinforced that OCCNPS is a voice in the OC enviro chorus. We "sing" about plants and habitats, others "sing" about other aspects of OC's natural world, and/or about laws and policies. All the songs combine to form a strong and united pro-environment voice.

We thank Sea and Sage Audubon for organizing the event.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

California In My Garden 2020 will focus on gardens in the greater Huntington Beach area. If you would like to offer your garden for the tour, please send your contact information to the Garden Tour Committee at gardentour@ocnps.org.

Coffee in the Garden | Summer

Garden Ambassador Stephanie Pacheco

Date: Sunday, September 15

Time: 8:30 am – 10:30 am

Location: Fountain Valley

Reserve your spot at cnps.org/events

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, September 19: Nature Restoration Landscaping—the Biomimicry Approach

Speaker: Dennis Mudd



This presentation is focused on helping people restore nature in their gardens by building a garden full of living organisms. These gardens function more like a natural eco-system than most common landscapes and are composed of

indigenous plants, insects, birds and other animal life. Mr. Mudd will discuss best practices for nature restoration landscaping, including selecting plants that naturally belong in the location where they'll be grown, which tend to be healthier, longer-lived, and do a better job of supporting indigenous animal life. Biomimicry approaches to irrigation, as well as mulching, pest and weed control will also be discussed. Dennis Mudd is a self-taught native plant enthusiast who founded Calscape in 2010 with the goal of enabling small-scale nature restoration efforts in California. He will demonstrate the Calscape web site, which is a powerful tool for helping Californians figure out which plants naturally belong in their garden, where to buy them and how to keep them healthy—anywhere in the state! In 2014, Mr. Mudd donated Calscape to the California Native Plant Society and is currently leading development of the site in partnership with CNPS and the Jepson eFlora group at UC Berkeley. Calscape is now the largest California native plant web site with over two million unique users. Mr. Mudd is also currently the co-director of the Smart Food Foundation, a non-profit that provides healthy food, cooking and nutrition education to low-income communities in San Diego. He is also an avid mountain biker on the UC Cyclery racing team. Previously, Dennis was the co-founder and CEO of the digital music companies Slacker and Musicmatch. His native garden in Poway won the San Diego Home and Garden's Garden of the Year Award in 2012.

Thursday, October 17: Horticultural valor in the native garden—be bold!

Speaker: Mike Evans

With the on-going disappearance of small specialty nurseries, and the simplistic, homogenous "look" apparent in current ornamental garden design, native plantings are proving to be among the only unique, truly diverse gardens being made. Now is the time to be bold! We can write garden narratives that showcase both natural gardens and good horticulture.

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.



Mike is the founder and president of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, which has been producing and selling California native plants for over 40 years. Winner of the Southern California Horticultural Society 2019 Horticulturist of the Year Award, Mike has a deep

range of experience in native plant production, design, landscaping, and ecological restoration. He also writes extensively for the nursery's website and blog, and recently led two years of horticultural training for the garden staff at Disneyland. Tree of Life promotes a style of authentic horticulture, specifically the concept of appropriate landscaping with native California plants.

Come visit our table at the following events:

UC ANR* Urban Living Education Expo

Saturday, September 28, 9 – 2

1706 Irvine Blvd., Irvine

—Kid's activities, demonstrations, informative talks, experts on hand, and much more.

*University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

Acorn Day

Saturday, October 5, 10 – 2

O'Neill Regional Park

—Free, family-friendly event with many activities for children.

Laguna Beach Smart-Scape

Saturday, October 12, 8 – 2

Water District Headquarters, 306 Third Street

—10th Anniversary of the water-wise landscape event.

Food truck, information from vendors and enviro groups.

And . . . Member Day at Tree of Life Nursery!

Saturday, October 26, 9 – 4

—Planting Season has arrived! Come early, stay late, renew memberships, and **BUY PLANTS!**

P.O. Box 54891
Irvine CA 92619-4891

September/October 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**

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/E-Mail _____

Please charge my Visa Mastercard

Acct # _____

Exp date _____

Signature _____

Phone # _____

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@treeoflifenuresery.com

David Pryor davidpryor@gmail.com
Bob Huttar huttarbob@cox.net
Celia Kutcher celia552@cox.net
Jennifer Mabley jenpod@gmail.com
Dan Songster songster@cox.net
Ron Vanderhoff ronv@rogersgardens.com
Elizabeth Wallace
Matt Garrambone

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: 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, 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: Elizabeth Wallace
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