



CALENDAR

Jan 9.....	board meeting
Jan 16.....	chapter meeting
Feb 6.....	board meeting
Feb 20.....	chapter meeting
Mar 5.....	board meeting
Mar 19.....	chapter meeting
Apr 18.....	GARDEN TOUR

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: **"Do you have any New Year's native garden resolutions or plans for changing your garden this season?"**

Robert Huber: "Complete the updating of my backyard native garden in

time for the OCCNPS, *California In My Garden* tour in April. Taking the Theodore Payne garden tour two years ago is what inspired me to go native in the first place."

Rama Nayeri: "I resolve this coming year to actually do something with my garden. It is currently a blank slate of 100 square feet of concrete with some empty pots."

Susan Krzywicki: "I am in love with the idea of simply maintaining my garden—no new projects! Putting the monthly maintenance calendar into effect, paying more attention to small changes and small tasks to romanticize my space, and observing and living with the garden more."

Linda Southwell: "My New Year's native garden resolutions: Pull weeds early and often, enjoy the (hopefully) plentiful Spring blooms, and resist the temptation to put new plants in the ground after the season of rain has ended."

Orchid Black: "I resolve to actually plant all the plants I buy at plant sales. Also, to consider the mystery of hügelculture."

Nancy Harris: "Even though I have no open space left in my garden, I purchased two 4-inch *Eriogonum* 'Dana Point' (Buckwheat) at Roger's Gardens being showcased with the "A Buckwheat in Every Garden" program by CNPS and TOL. 'Dana Point' grows rounder, greener and tamer than the straight species. Well, I squeezed those babies into my garden and hope they grow for the wildlife."

Chuck Wright: "Just to continue to thin out the non-natives and nurture the natives."

Alan Lindsay: "Weeds! Every year about this time I am resolute to get a head start on the weeds! This year, with the early rains, I'd better get started. Well—as soon as I take care of a few other chores."

Dan Songster: "No new year resolutions that will benefit my garden except to hike more often for the garden inspiration only our wildlands can provide."

Our question for the next newsletter: **"Which of our native silver or gray leaved plants is your favorite?"**

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

Be a Buckwheat Ambassador in the New Year—

Last summer, OCCNPS board members created a buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, giveaway campaign titled "A Buckwheat in Every Garden" to introduce native plants to Orange County homeowners. Fourteen hundred 'Dana Point' buckwheats were given away and more than 1,000 addresses were plotted on the buckwheat iNaturalist map.

OCCNPS is continuing "A Buckwheat in Every Garden" until the end of February 2020. Roger's Gardens will be sponsoring buckwheat giveaways, and the SJC Garden Club has a giveaway event planned for January 20, 2020.

We have 1,000 four-inch buckwheats to distribute in January and February. OCCNPS is looking for "Buckwheat Ambassadors" who can help distribute plants to environmental groups, north county garden clubs, churches, city events, etc. If you are involved with a group that you think may be interested in "A Buckwheat in Every Garden," contact us at buckwheat@occnps.org.



2020 CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Join us for another exciting year of OC CNPS field trips, led by native plant experts. We've added a little something for everyone this year, from children to experts, easy to strenuous, close by or further afield.

We are still putting the final touches on many of these trips, so please visit our website for up-to-date information, pictures and all the trip details.

Sunday, January 12: **Fungus Foray at Oak Flat**, San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. RSVP REQUIRED, afternoon trip

Sunday, January 26: **Microflora**: Exploring mosses, liverworts and miniature plants. Near Whiting Ranch

Sunday, February 9: **Anza Borrego Desert State Park**

Sunday, February 23: **El Moro Canyon**, Crystal Cove. TENTATIVE.

Sunday, March 1: **The Bell View Trail**, near Robinson Ranch.

Sunday, March 15: **Vail Lake** Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (East of Temecula).

Sunday, March 22: **Caspers Park** on the Juañeno Trail and Mesa Loop

Sunday, April 5: **Driving Tour of Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks**. TENTATIVE DATE. CNPS Members Only, RSVP.

Sunday, April 12: **Santa Rosa Plateau** vernal pools.

Sunday, April 26: **Upper Santiago Canyon** BioBlitz and Survey. CNPS Members Only. TENTATIVE.

Sunday, May 3: **Coal Canyon**, Northern Santa Ana Mts. CNPS Members Only. TENTATIVE.

Saturday, May 9: **O'Neill Park Family Day**.

Sunday, May 17: **Black Star Canyon**, Santa Ana Mts.

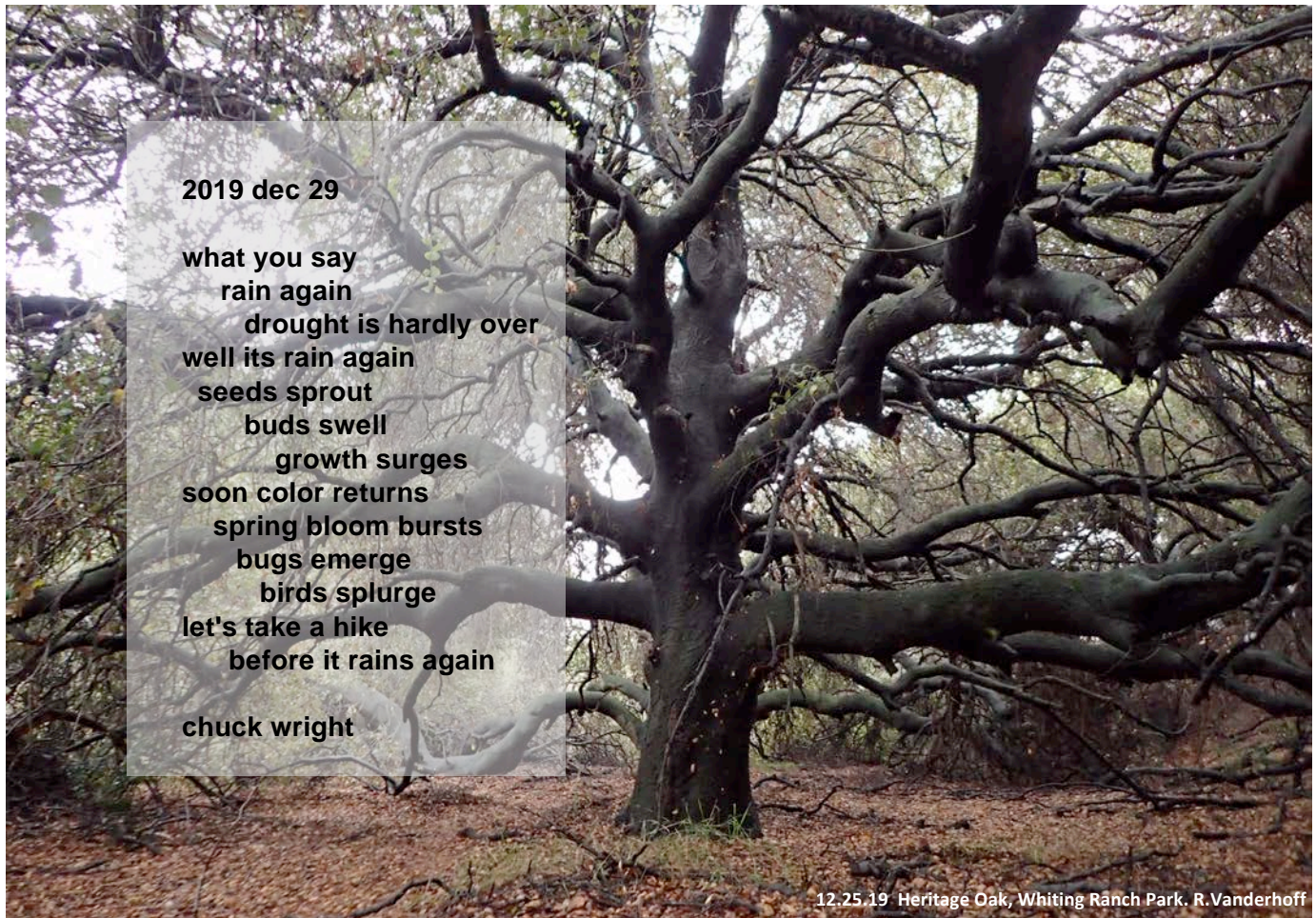
Sunday, June 7: **Running Springs**, San Bernardino Mts.

Saturday, June 14: **James Dilley Preserve**, Laguna Coast Wilderness.

Sunday, June 28: **UC Irvine Herbarium** and Mini Workshop. TENTATIVE.

Sunday, July 12: **Upper Newport Bay**, TENTATIVE.

Sunday, October 18: **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**, Claremont.



2019 dec 29

what you say
rain again
drought is hardly over
well its rain again
seeds sprout
buds swell
growth surges
soon color returns
spring bloom bursts
bugs emerge
birds splurge
let's take a hike
before it rains again

chuck wright

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, January 16: Grasses of California (with an emphasis on southern California species.)

Speaker: Travis Columbus



California is home to a wonderful diversity of native grasses, with 60 genera and 267 species. Collectively they occupy a wide range of elevations and habitats, including estuaries, vernal pools, sand dunes, and alpine fell fields. Representing seven of the 12 subfamilies of the grass family (Poaceae), they vary greatly in form, size, duration, and flowering time. Dr. Columbus's

presentation emphasizing southern California species will include an overview of grass morphology and terminology, images of many species, and insights into their diversity and ecology.

Travis Columbus is Professor of Botany, Claremont Graduate University and Research Scientist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden since 1994. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Range Science, New Mexico State University and his Ph.D. in Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley.

His research focus is on grasses (Poaceae) with emphasis on subfamily Chloridoideae and, more recently, exploring *Eriogonum* (buckwheats) and relatives (Polygonaceae). In addition to fieldwork, he employs cutting edge methods and data to discover the phylogenetic relationships among species, describe new genera and species, improve the classification, and gain insights into processes of diversification and biogeography.

Many amateur botanists don't even want to think about identifying grasses. Dr. Columbus will unlock some of the mysteries of that large plant group and reveal the enormous variety and—yes—beauty to be found there.

Thursday, February 20: Adventures in Southern California Plant Conservation

Speaker: Nick Jensen

With more than 6,500 native plants, California is among the most special places on Earth. It is the most diverse U.S. state and has been selected as one of the world's 36 Biodiversity Hotspots. More than 30 percent of the state's plants are considered endemic and more than 35 percent of the state's flora is considered rare and is included in the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory. It is projected that by 2016, California's population will grow by more than 30% and Southern California will add more than 6 million new residents. Native plants and their habitats will come under increasing pressure in the coming decades from this urbanization, as well as climate change, recreational impacts and a whole host of other threats.

Nick will lead us on a tour of some of the most spectacular ecosystems in the region, focusing on two places, Tejon Ranch and Paradise Valley, where large-

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.

scale development projects threaten irreplaceable habitats. These projects, and others, serve as bellwethers for how our flora will fare in the coming decades. This period will mark a turning point for the state's biodiversity. Nick will show us a path through which California continues to be a conservation leader while growing gracefully.

Nick Jensen is acting Conservation Director for CNPS, following Greg Suba's departure. He earned his B.S. degree in environmental horticulture at UC Davis, and recently completed his Ph.D. in botany at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden/Claremont Graduate University. As a graduate student, Nick produced the first flora of Tejon Ranch. He has worked for CNPS, as a Vegetation Program Assistant, and Rare Plant Program Director, as well as for the U.S. Forest Service, Chicago Botanic Garden, and the private consulting industry. An avid Botanist, teacher and volunteer for many California native plant organizations he has also served on the Board of the Southern California Botanists and as its president in 2015-16. Nick is a fellow of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation in recognition of his leadership as an environmental scientist and in his free time, he enjoys cooking, hiking, rock climbing, climbing, and photographing wildflowers, activities that are often not mutually exclusive.



NOTE: Nick was awarded our Chapter's Charlie O'Neill Grant in both 2014 and 2015 for his work at Tejon Ranch.

Holy Fire Botanical Report and Plant Surveys Now Available

The OC CNPS Rare Plant Team has submitted their 2019 Holy Fire summary report to the U.S. Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest. Ron Vanderhoff, Fred Robert and Bob Allen, with assistance from Rebecca Crowe, Michael Simpson, Jonathan Frank and James Bailey logged over 35 visits and 200 field hours. The extensive effort assembled 1,443 plant records and nearly 300 herbaria collections, including several new county and Santa Ana Mountains records.

The full report and the detailed plant data can be found on the OCCNPS.org site under the header *Native Plants & Flora*. Then click on *Holy Fire*.

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January/February 2020

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, **Flora**, and the journal *Fremontia* are included. Membership is tax deductible, minus \$12 for the journal. 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

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, 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

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Reviewers: Bob Allen, Celia Kutcher, Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff
Acorn Grant: Sarah Jayne
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