



**CALENDAR**

Nov 5..... Board Meeting

**Nov 9 – 14: Membership**

**Celebration & Plant Sale at TOLN**

Nov 19..... Chapter Meeting

Dec 3..... Board Meeting

Dec 17..... Chapter Meeting

**Native Gardener’s 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: **“What plants and plant materials do you use to decorate your home for the winter holidays and how?”**

**Thea Gavin:** “I love making wreaths and centerpieces using toyon berry branches (from my garden) mixed with white sage sprigs. Native plant color and perfume!”

**Greg Rubin:** “Toyon is of course a real go-to plant for wreaths and anything else you would typically use holly for. You can add oak stems with acorns, dried yarrow for color, and sometimes you might even be able to include some goldenbush or epilobium for late color. Wild grape vines also make wonderful woven wreaths, and can serve as the base into which you can stick the aforementioned plants. Finally, cut manzanita stems look fresh for quite a while, and can help create some foundation for flower arrangements or wreaths. I also like to make a potpourri of Cleveland sage, Artemisia sp., and Clinopodium sp. (Yerba buena).”

**Nancy Harris:** “Of course, Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) with its beautiful red berries and glossy dark green leaves is a must for me. Also, pine tree branches and pine cones can't be beat.”

**Laura Camp:** “My favorite greens, year-round, are *Ribes viburnifolium*, for their fragrance, reddish stems, and shiny round leaves that last for months. In winter holidays I like to add any native conifers I can get my hands on.”

**Dee Epley:** “With vines, pruners, gloves, & long sleeves you can get going. I use *Vitis* ‘Roger’s Red’ since some of the vines grow well beyond 15 ft. They are wonderful for many types of wreaths; my newest endeavor is a spiral of vines around a large/cheap tomato cage. I hope to then remove the cage & decorate. I need to plant some Toyon to add Calif color. Still, it is fun to make them and good exercise during C-19.”

**Tina Cremer:** “I like a wreath of White Sage (*Salvia apiana*), Nevin’s Woolly Sunflower (*Constancea nevinii*), with Hollyleaf Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia ssp ilicifolia*) as an accent.”

**Leon Baginski:** “Love to make wreaths with natives. Learned how at a Hilda Evans workshop at Tree of Life nursery. I use *Vitis californica* vines as the wreath base and then splice in cuttings of my natives to add texture, color and scent to finish it off. Cypress, sage, toyon berries etc. As good as it gets!!”

**Ron Vanderhoff:** “My family thought I was crazy, but several years ago I began decorating all my Christmas presents I put under the tree with native plant paraphernalia. I first wrap the presents with recycled pages that I tear from oversized magazines showing plants or beautiful natural scenes. I also use jute twine instead of ribbon. Then, I add a bounty of locally collected sycamore leaves, toyon berries, assorted seed-heads, interesting twigs, cones and

**Fresh-snapped oak in Limestone Canyon**

*eight years after the Santiago Fire*  
*Oct. 3, 2015*

Old oak, once the runway  
of upside-down nuthatches:  
you are no longer  
umbrella, but bench.  
So I sit.

From your scorched  
puzzle of bark  
pink crumbs of sawdust  
tumble into tiny piles.

You are still home.  
It is always time  
to begin something new.

Thea Gavin

so forth. The end result is beautiful under a fresh Christmas tree and makes Christmas morning even more special.”

**Dan Songster:** “I borrow much from the garden at Golden West College including Toyon of course but also Tecate Cypress and Incense Cedar boughs. I have used small branches of *Mahonia (Berberis) aquafolia* in vases for that holly look and for dried arrangements, cones from our Bishop pine (*Pinus murricata*). Though not native to southern California I also use the live plants in pots of Lawson Cypress (dwarf form ‘Elwoodii’) and the golden form of Monterey Cypress.”

**NOTE:** Every December, Tree of Life Nursery offers a wonderful wreath-making workshop using native plants. This year will be a little different: Stay tuned for a potential virtual wreath class and a statewide Best Native Wreath contest arranged by CNPS!

Our Question for the Next Newsletter: **“What are some of your favorite native plants in winter and why?”**

Email your responses to Dan Songster at [songster@cox.net](mailto:songster@cox.net). Please remember to keep replies brief so we can include most of the responses.

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

### Thursday, November 19: Southern California Fire and Chaparral—Science vs. Myth

**Speaker: Rick Halsey**

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in July and August. For the foreseeable future, our chapter meetings will be remote only. Specific instructions for attending will be sent out prior to each meeting.



Once home to the California grizzly bear and where the last California condors were able to hold off extinction, chaparral remains one of the most misunderstood and underappreciated ecosystems on earth. Questions abound. Fire is certainly a part of its history, but to what extent are fires needed today? How does intact chaparral help preserve what is left of California’s priceless biodiversity? What are the important differences between fires in forests and those occurring in chaparral? What role has climate change and human interaction had on chaparral diversity and the risk of too frequent fires?

Join us as Rick Halsey of the Chaparral Institute makes sense of the southern California jigsaw puzzle that includes our cities and towns, chaparral ecosystems, and the increasing threat of devastating fires.

Richard Halsey is a noted teacher, writer, and photographer who has been researching California chaparral for over three decades, and is the founder and director of the California Chaparral Institute. A popular speaker, Halsey has given hundreds of presentations concerning chaparral ecology and how communities can adapt to fire-prone environments. Halsey has authored numerous publications concerning chaparral ecology, including his awarding winning book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*.

### Thursday, December 17

#### Potpourri—Speakers to be determined

Virtual treats? Cardboard cookies? Zoom punch? This certainly won’t be our usual year-end celebration, but it will be a surprise. “Invitations” will go out in early December.

## Now accepting applications for the O’Neill Grant!

The Charlie O’Neill Grant, established in 1993, is awarded annually to a graduate or junior/senior-level undergraduate student planning to conduct field research related to California native plants. Awards range from \$500 to \$1000 based on the number of applicants and the quality and merit of their proposals. A grant award is presented as a lump sum and may cover items such as supplies, equipment, and travel costs not covered by other sources of funding. It also includes a one-year membership in CNPS.

By accepting funding, grant recipients agree to provide a one paragraph synopsis of their work to be posted on the OC-CNPS website at the start of the project and a copy of the final project results, in the form of a report, thesis, dissertation or newsletter article. Any publication should acknowledge the Orange County Chapter CNPS. If the project is of strong local interest, the grant recipient may be invited to present at a local chapter meeting.

**Proposals are due by January 6, 2021; grants will be awarded by February 4, 2021. Please go to [occnps.org/education/grants.html](http://occnps.org/education/grants.html) for complete information**

**December is OCCNPS board election month!**

Two well qualified candidates have joined our slate: Kevin Alison and Lewis Marchand.

Kevin accumulated horticulture experience in a variety of environments, desert to tropic, before resettling in his native Orange County. He is now a Production and Research specialist at Tree of Life Nursery where his main focus is in-vitro methods of propagation to combat poaching of rare dudleya species. Last year’s recipient of the O’Neill Grant, he recently completed a Masters in Conservation and Restoration Science at UC Irvine

Lewis Marchand, a professional accountant, is candidate for the Treasury position. A longtime camper and hiker with a concern for the environment, he also has an interest in homeowners association issues. He looks forward to joining the board and helping to further the goals and activities in supporting the environment in California.

Members will be asked to vote on the slate at the December chapter meeting prior to the program.

**ELECTION SLATE**

Elections will take place before the presentation at the December meeting.

| Position                       | Present Board             | Proposed Board                |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President                      | Brad Jenkins (20/21)      | Brad Jenkins (20/21)          |
| Vice-president                 | Ron Vanderhoff (20/21)    | Ron Vanderhoff (20/21)        |
| Secretary                      | Sarah Jayne (20/21)       | Sarah Jayne (20/21)           |
| Treasurer                      | Laura Camp(20)            | <b>Lewis Marchand (21/22)</b> |
| Member 5                       | Dan Songster (20/21)      | Dan Songster (20/21)          |
| Member 6                       | Jennifer Mabley (20/21)   | Jennifer Mabley (20/21)       |
| Member 7 (Chapter Council Rep) | Dave Pryor (20/21)        | Dave Pryor (20/21)            |
| Member 8                       | Elizabeth Wallace (20/21) | Elizabeth Wallace (20/21)     |
| Member 9                       | Matt Garambone (20/21)    | Matt Garambone (20/21)        |
| Member 10                      | Rebecca Crowe (20/21)     | Rebecca Crowe (20/21)         |
| Member 11                      | Chris Ethington (20)      | <b>Kevin Alison (21/22)</b>   |
| Member 12                      | open                      | <b>Laura Camp (21/22)</b>     |
| Member 13                      | open                      | open                          |
| Member 14                      | open                      | open                          |



There will be some plants that are rarely available, such as *Monardella macrantha*, *Xylococcus bicolor* and *Dendromecon harfordii*. Come early for the best choices!

The retail nursery features wide pathways for safe distancing. It has also been spiffed up with new signs on all the plants and interesting plant placements. And don’t forget Casa La Paz for those special gifts.

If the Chapter Recognition and Plant Sale has been your traditional renewal time, please go to CNPS.org to renew!



*Monardella macrantha*

It’s Planting Time again! And it is also the time for the BEST selection at Tree of Life Nursery. Shopping for plants during this Sponsorship Week will not only give a head start on the planting season, but also support local CNPS chapters. What a deal!

### The Plant Quiz

Can you name these uncommon recent discoveries from Orange County? Warning—they're difficult! All were discovered in the past 90 days. Give up? The answers are at the end of this newsletter.



#1 Huntington Beach Aug 9. 2nd O.C. location, 1st record since 1970s.



#2 Yorba Linda Sept. 17. About 7-8 prior O.C. records.



#3 Rancho Santa Margarita Sept. 10. 3-4 prior O.C. records



#4 *Calflora* hint: There's a nice big one at 33.63906, -117.43278. (Do the little cones belong here?)



#5 Lake Forest Sept. 11. 3rd record since 1930s.



#6 Laguna Beach Sept 3. 2-3 prior O.C. records, all at the Laguna Lakes.



#7 Costa Mesa Oct. 1. 4-5 records since 1930s.



#8 Tiny floating aquatic plant. About 5 prior O.C. records.



#9 Smallest flowering plant on earth. 2 prior O.C. records



**BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES****OFFICERS:**

*President* Brad Jenkins [jenkinsbradc@gmail.com](mailto:jenkinsbradc@gmail.com)  
*Vice-president* Ron Vanderhoff [ronv@rogersgardens.com](mailto:ronv@rogersgardens.com)  
*Secretary* Sarah Jayne [Sbjayne@cox.net](mailto:Sbjayne@cox.net)  
*Treasurer* Laura Camp [campsjc@mac.com](mailto:campsjc@mac.com)  
*Chapter Council* Dave Pryor [davidpryor@gmail.com](mailto:davidpryor@gmail.com)

**AT LARGE:**

Rebecca Crowe [rcrowe@uci.edu@uci.edu](mailto:rcrowe@uci.edu@uci.edu)  
 Matt Garrambone [msgbone@mac.com](mailto:msgbone@mac.com)  
 Jennifer Mabley [jenpod@gmail.com](mailto:jenpod@gmail.com)  
 Dan Songster [songster@cox.net](mailto:songster@cox.net)  
 Elizabeth Wallace [eltwallace@gmail.com](mailto:eltwallace@gmail.com)

**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 Leads:* Diane Etchison, Jonathon Frank  
*Field Trips:* Kent Henry, Robin Huber, Ron Vanderhoff

**Communications Team**

*Team Lead:* open  
*Publicity:* open  
*Newsletter & eNew:* Sarah Jayne  
*Publications:* Brad Jenkins, Jennifer Mabley  
*Website:* Rich Schilk

**Grants Team**

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

**ANSWERS TO THE PLANT QUIZ:**

- 1 Glycyrrhiza lepidota - wild licorice
- 2 Sparganium eurycarpum - broadfruit bur reed
- 3 Najas marina - marine water nymph
- 4 Hydrocotyle moschata - musk pennywort
- 5 Hydrocotyle umbellata - marsh pennywort
- 6 Lindernia dubia - false pimpernil
- 7 Eustoma exaltatum - catchfly prairie gentian
- 8 Lemna gibba - gibbous duckweed
- 9 Wolffia columbiana - Columbia water meal

The Plant Quiz was composed and all photographs were taken by **Ron Vanderhoff**.