



CALENDAR

Jan 7	Board Meeting
Jan 21	Chapter Meeting
Feb 4	Board Meeting
Feb 18	Chapter Meeting
Mar 4	Board Meeting
Mar 18	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 question for this newsletter is: **“What are some of your favorite native plants in winter and why?”**

Carol Bornstein: “Since this is front of mind due to a recent hike, I will respond with the genus *Ribes*. It’s wonderful to see the first flush of

green leaves emerge after the autumnal equinox, even if we haven’t gotten any rains yet. They, along with *Polypodium californicum*, signal that our California spring is getting underway. The ones I typically see around here are *R. malvaceum* and *R. speciosum*.”

Rama Nayeri: “I love using Cleveland Sage because even when it’s not in bloom, it’s still great to have due to the aroma.”

Greg Rubin: “Most manzanitas and currants are winter bloomers so give the garden lots of early color. Some of the manzanitas I like most for their fragrant flowers include Howard McMinn, John Dourley, Louis Edmunds, Paradise, Austin Griffith, Dr. Hurd, and *A. glauca*. *Ribes sanguineum glutinosum* is one of the most dramatic and floriferous of the currants.”

Tina Cremer: “Ceanothus and Manzanitas because they remain green and don’t have to be cut back.”

Laura Camp: “Manzanitas are in their glory in December and January. A few can start blooming as early as Halloween, and their white bell-shaped flower clusters pop in the winter light. Don’t make the mistake I did: two of my best manzanitas are in the backyard and hardly anyone sees the big show.”

Leon Baginski: “Epilobium. Mine are still blooming and add some color when everything else is finished.”

Ron Vanderhoff: “Plants that draw one closer and create some interaction are always my favorites and the *Ribes*, our wild currents and gooseberries do just that. The flowers are so intricate and detailed and often colorful that a passerby cannot help but slow down, stop and examine the plant for a few minutes. How many times have we all not done that? That’s great—and it creates a connection with nature, between the plant and the person, that is especially rich. And hey, *Ribes* are pretty, often bloom in January, and the hummingbirds LOVE them as much as we do.”

Antonio Sanchez: “Giant *Coreopsis*—love how the plants leaf out with the first few rains as if it was a desert plant, and how it is almost always flowering around Xmas. California fuchsia—love seeing the new orange-green growth come out of the ground like little worms.”

Greta Helphrey: “Just now I am loving my *Rhus ovata* (Sugarbush) in bloom; it’s the “winter color” in my SoCal garden. Of course, my ‘Roger’s Red’ grape never disappoints in December.”

Linda Southwell: “In the winter months I welcome the gentle bell-shaped flowers on my Howard McMinn and Lompoc manzanitas. And I love watching the Cleveland Sage and Ceanothus preparing for the promise of flowers in the spring.”

Dan Songster: “Besides most of the Manzanita and *Ribes* species mentioned, I also like the early bulbs including *Dichelostemma* sp. (Blue Dicks, School Bells), the red stems of the naked *Cornus sericea* (Red Osier or Red Twig Dogwood), and if a garden has room the canary yellow blooms of *Berberis nevinii* (Nevins Barberry) are a sweet late winter touch. Those along with the curious pipe-like flowers of *Aristolochia californica* (Dutchman’s Pipe), and a special treat at GWC Native Garden this year, the *Agave shawii* is in bloom right now!”

Our question for the next newsletter: “What native plants do you grow specifically for their fragrance in your garden?”

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

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, January 21: Big Stories from Tiny Fossils: Forest Canopy Change Over the Last 66 Million Years

Speaker: Dr. Regan Dunn



Vegetation is the context in which all terrestrial life lives and evolves and the structure of vegetation is key in ecosystem functioning. However, in paleoecology, reconstructing the mystery of ancient vegetation structure has been elusive. Our speaker will present newly developed methods for reconstructing ancient forest canopy structure in the fossil record using plant microfossils followed by forest canopy reconstructions for several key intervals in Earth history over the last 66 million years. These include disaster at the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) Boundary (66 Ma), greenhouse warming at the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (56 Ma), and linked climate and canopy change during the middle Cenozoic (52-10 Ma) in southern South America.

Dr. Regan Dunn is an Assistant Curator at La Brea Tar Pits and Museum. She is a paleobotanist whose research seeks to understand the interplay between climate, plants and animal evolution through time, specifically understanding vegetation and vegetation change. She studies phytoliths, pollen, leaf fossils and wood to reconstruct ancient vegetation structure and composition. She has a PhD in Biology from the University of Washington, a M.S. in Botany from the University of Wyoming, and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Colorado State University.

2020 dec 10

i sought solace
 i desired serenity
 i was not broken
 i didn't need healing
 i found peace
 i experienced wholeness
 i was not hurt
 but i needed nature
 the clouds billowed
 the breeze blew
 the dog walkers peacefully
 returned to their cars
 they did not steal my joy
 i watched coyote trot briskly up the trail
 i rounded a switch back &
 encountered a fresh young gopher
 snake
 i experienced awe
 i needed nature
 i am nature
 i experienced serenity

Canyon Trail
 James Dilley Preserve
 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
 Coyote
Canis latrans
 Gopher Snake
*Pituophis catenifer**
 Alas, sadly, dog walkers don't get it.

 chuck wright

Thursday, February 18: Designing Gardens in Harmony with Nature

Speaker: Carol Bornstein

Landscape professionals and home gardeners have the power to make a difference in conserving or restoring biodiversity by creating habitat for wildlife in urban areas. Residential, commercial, and public spaces are increasingly dedicated to this rewarding and vital endeavor to support birds, beneficial insects, and other wild creatures whose natural habitats are threatened by development, pollution, toxic chemicals, and the unchecked spread of invasive species. Some of the best California native plants for Southern California gardens will be featured along with important ideas for sustainably designing and tending these spaces.



Carol Bornstein is former Director of Living Collections at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where she oversaw development and care of the museum's 3.5-acre Nature Gardens. For nearly 30 years, she was horticulturist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Carol is co-author of the award-winning *California Native Plants for the Garden* and *Reimagining the California Lawn*. She has selected and introduced several popular cultivars for California gardens, including *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina' and *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* 'Silver Carpet' and she continues to share her knowledge of plants native to California and other mediterranean climate regions through her teaching, writing, and design work.

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in July and August. Until further notice, our meetings will be held remotely. Instructions for attending will be emailed prior to each meeting or check our website—occnps.org.

What's in Bloom—January

INLAND



Arctostaphylos glandulosa - Eastwood Manzanita
Our larger, upright Manzanita with a basal burl.
Favorite Place: Main Divide Rd., N of Hwy. 74



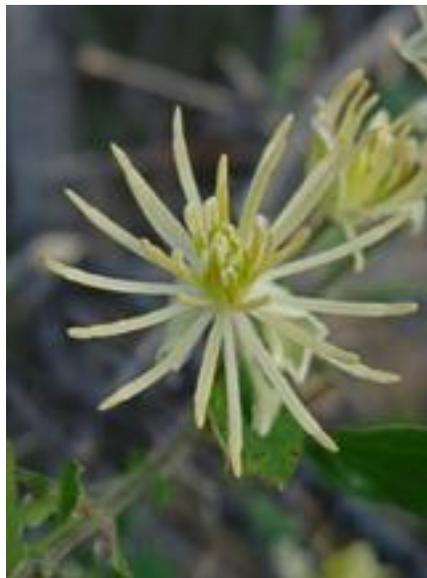
Arctostaphylos glauca - Big Berry Manzanita
A more shrubby and broad Manzanita with no basal burl.
Favorite Place: Main Divide Rd., S of Hwy. 74



Cardamine californica - Milkmaids
Look for it in the understory along moist, wooded trails
Favorite Place: The San Juan Loop Trail



Ceanothus megacarpus - Big Pod Ceanothus
White flowers. Both coastal and mountain populations.
Favorite Place: Aliso Peak, South Laguna



Clematis pauciflora - Virgin's Bower Vine
Our earliest clematis. Clusters of white flowers.
Favorite Place: Main Divide Rd. Santa Ana Mts.



Garrya flavescens - Ashy Silktassel
Incredible dangling tassels of flowers. Chaparral.
Favorite Place: Upper Silverado Canyon



Marah macrocarpa - Wild Cucumber
Common throughout. Starry-white flowers on long vines.
Favorite Place: Chiquita Ridge, Ladera Ranch



Pedicularis densiflora - Indian Warrior?
In the understory of chaparral, esp. chamise.
Favorite Place: San Juan Trail, Santa Ana Mts.



Ribes californicum - California Gooseberry
At slightly higher elevations.
Favorite Place: Upper Silverado Canyon

FOOTHILLS



Umbellularia californica - California Bay
In all our deep, moist mountain canyons.
Favorite Place: Any of the big mountain canyons.



Xylococcus bicolor - Mission Manzanita
One tiny OC population. For the highly adventuresome.
Favorite Place: Santiago Truck Trail, way out



Lathyrus vestitus - Pacific Pea
Beautiful pink flower trusses, reminiscent of a garden.
Favorite Place: Hot Springs Canyon

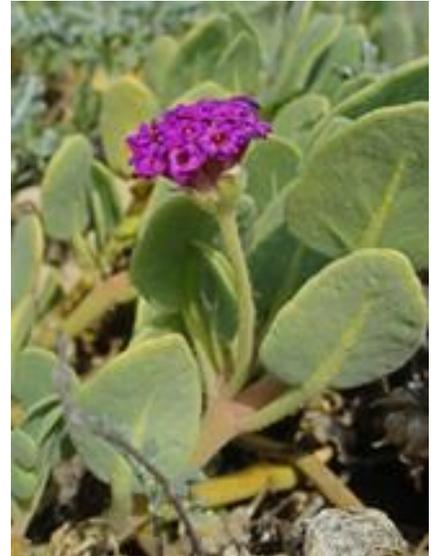
ALONG THE COAST



Mirabilis laevis - Wishbone Flower
Especially on rocky slopes.
Favorite Place: El Modena Open Space, Orange



Umbellularia californica - California Bay
In all our deep, moist mountain canyons.
Favorite Place: Any of the big mountain canyons.



Abronia maritima - Hairy Sand Verbena
Also at scattered sites of coastal dunes and beaches.
Favorite Place: San Clemente State Beach



Abronia umbellata - Beach Sand Verbena
At scattered sites of coastal dunes and beaches.
Favorite Place: San Clemente State Beach



Ceanothus megacarpus - Big Pod
Ceanothus
White flowers. Both coastal and mountain populations.
Favorite Place: Aliso Peak, South Laguna



Euphorbia misera - Cliff Spurge
A cool bluff top succulent more common in Baja.
Favorite Place: Dana Point Headlands



Peritoma arborea - Bladderpod
Especially on coastal bluffs and terraces.
Favorite Place: Upper Newport Bay

All photos and text by Ron Vanderhoff

BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

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Welcome to our new board members Lewis Marchand and Kevin Allison

Membership Team

Team Leader: Elizabeth Wallace
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 & eNews: 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, Kevin Alison
Acorn Grant: Sarah Jayne
Reviewers: Board of Directors

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